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TRULY INDEPENDENT

VOL.11 NO. 071

MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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STORY
P11



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Continental News

Chad claims win over rebels after president's death

The military in Chad has claimed victory against northern rebels following weeks of fighting.

The conflict against Libya-based rebels threw the country into a crisis when President Idriss Déby died after being wounded on the frontline last month.

The military takeover under the leadership of Mr Déby's son has been condemned by the opposition and civil society groups, leading to protests.

The rebel group says it is not aware of an end to the fighting.

However a victory parade took place through the streets of the capital, N'Djamena, on Sunday, aimed at boosting the popularity of the Chadian

military at a time of great uncertainty in the country. Some onlookers cheered on Sunday as soldiers returned from the frontline in a parade of tanks and armoured vehicles.

At an army base, journalists were shown dozens of people said to be captured rebels.

Chad is reputed as having

one of the best-trained and best-equipped armies in West Africa, and is one of the Western-backed "G 5" countries fighting Islamist militants in the Sahel region. The rebel group, Front for Change and Concord in Chad (Fact), crossed the border from Libya into Chad in April to take a stand against President Déby's 30-year rule.

It is not clear if Fact is still a threat to the military junta now running the country, and a spokesman for the group

said it was not aware of an end to the fighting, reports the Reuters news agency.

As the BBC's Africa editor Will Ross reports, the public was told a few weeks ago that the rebel group had been defeated - only for the fighting to resume.

In recent weeks protests demanding a return to civilian rule have been violently broken up by the security forces. In the latest of these, 10 people were injured including one person who was shot in the capital on Saturday. BBC



Sunday's parade was an attempt to boost the army's popularity at a time of great uncertainty

Collapsed gold mine kills at least 15 in Guinea

At least 15 people have been killed by a landslide at a clandestine gold mine in Guinea's north-eastern Siguiri region.

Overhanging rocks collapsed on Saturday morning, crushing some victims and burying others inside the mine. A government

very badly suspended, gave under," Djanko Dansoko is quoted as saying by news site Guinee360. There are hundreds of unofficial "artisanal" mines around Siguiri, where gold is laboriously panned by hand and safety standards are low. This particular site is near the village of Tatakourou, about 40km (25 miles) from the city centre of

Zulu royals back new king after family feud

The eldest son of South Africa's late Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini has been chosen as successor to the throne, amid a bitter family feud.

Prince Misuzulu, 46, was named in the will of Zulu Queen Mantfombi Dlamini-Zulu - his mother - who died unexpectedly last week.

Some family members openly voiced disapproval on Friday and the prince had to

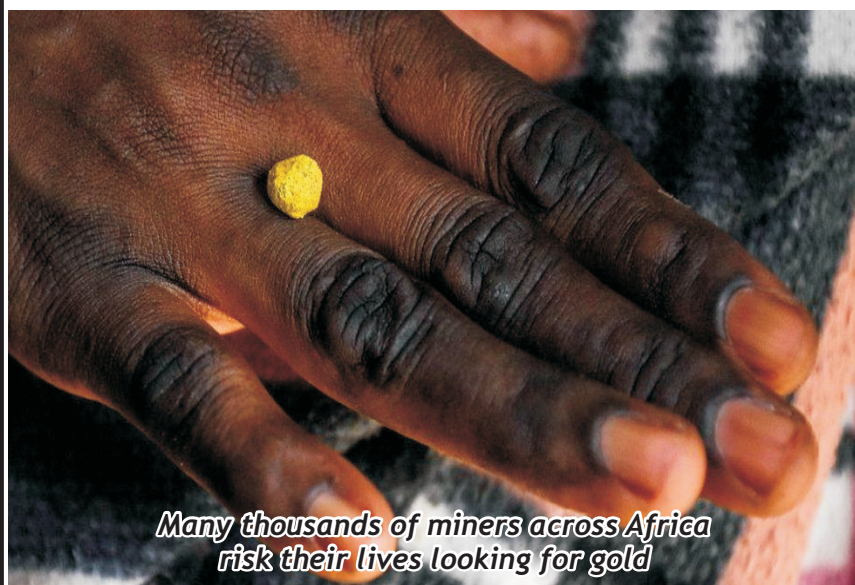
be led away by armed security. On Saturday, the family held a press conference to say he had their support. South Africa's Sunday Times reports that the new leader's brother, Prince Thokozani, stood up to question the recognition of Prince Misuzulu as heir during Friday's reading of the will of the queen. He was reportedly shouted down by other relatives.

The reading took place at the

KwaKhangelamankengane Royal Palace on Friday evening, and was televised.

At a press conference on Saturday, Zulu traditional prime minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi assured reporters the family had since come together and pledged their loyalty to the new king, according to TimesLive. Queen Dlamini-Zulu was buried earlier on Friday in a private ceremony in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province.

She had been appointed regent of the Zulus, South Africa's largest ethnic group, after the death of her husband the king in March. The throne does not have formal political power and the monarch's role within broader South African society is largely ceremonial. But the Zulu monarchy remains hugely influential, and has a yearly taxpayer-funded budget of more than \$4.9m (£3.5m). King Zwelithini, who died from diabetes-related complications at the age of 72, had six wives and at least 26 children. But he picked Queen Dlamini-Zulu as his



Many thousands of miners across Africa risk their lives looking for gold

spokesman has said the "exact circumstances and causes of the tragedy" will be investigated.

A local Red Cross official said two women were among the dead and that it was likely more bodies would be found. "This site is already mined by machines. The miners had struck too far in. That's how the earth, being

Siguiri.

Seventeen miners were killed in a landslide in Guinea two years ago, and a dozen more nine months later.

The search for gold attracts clandestine miners from Mali, Senegal and other West African countries. BBC



Prince Misuzulu (centre) called for unity at his mother's memorial service

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successor because she was the only wife with royal blood.

The queen's death, at 65, has triggered a power struggle over the succession.

The royal family has dismissed rumours that she

was poisoned as a misunderstanding. The cause of the queen's death is yet to be announced.

Prince Misuzulu is now expected to lead the Zulu nation of about 11 million people. BBC

EDITORIAL

Conduct COVID test with care

THE EXPERIENCE OF going to check for health status at a COVID-19 testing center can psychologically scaring, especially, if result is delayed without any explanation.

THIS WAS THE experience of an American-based Liberian family who had travelled here and had booked a return ticket with Air France last week Friday, 7 May but could not leave due to delay result from the testing center in Congo Town despite having gone thru all the formalities.

MR. JAMES KOKULO Fasuekoi and daughter Younger Fasuekoi missed their flight at the Roberts International Airport in Margibi County not at their negligence but on account of result of test Younger had taken days earlier could not be produced in time by the testing center, subjecting them to inconvenience, humiliation and losses.

WORST OF ALL, security authorities at the RIA demonstrated highest level of indiscipline towards fellow Liberians visiting home, clearly portraying an image that was unnecessary for the country.

GETTING RESULTS FROM the testing center has posed problems for many travelers - both Liberians and foreigners. Several staffers have been suspended and the head of the National Public Institute of Liberia Dr. Makosa Falleh dismissed for tempering with test results.

IN THE CASE of the Fasuekoi family, their daughter's test result was not tempered with, but it was perpetually delayed that she had to go for a new testing, causing her to miss her flight last Friday, and incurring extra cost.

THOSE MANNING OUR public institutions should learn to exercise due diligence to stop creating embarrassing impression for those they serve. Younger, who has been out of Liberia for over a decade, is finally leaving with regret for the experiences she and her farther were subjected to both by airport security and authorities of the COVID Testing Center.

THIS SHOULD NOT have happened if only, little care were taken to do the right thing. This was not done. Instead, they were left along to solve their disappointment.

IT IS HARD time those at the testing center in Congo Town take their job seriously and serve the public with much attention in order to achieve the right result. We cannot serve haphazardly and expect to get the outcome correct.

LASTLY, THE AIRPORT is the first entry to the country, so security officers deployed there should always demonstration outmost professionalism at all times to portray a positive image of not only the country, but the government of the day under which they serve.

COMMENTARY

By Brigitte Granville

France's Culture War Intensifies

LONDON - By laying a wreath on Napoleon Bonaparte's tomb on the 200th anniversary of his death, French President Emmanuel Macron has stepped further into the fray of the country's escalating culture war. Can France's rifts be healed, or is the country really headed, as some predict, toward "deadly civil war"?

Napoleon's legacy has long been divisive. His admirers laud his role in creating the modern French state; his detractors condemn him as a colonizer who enslaved millions. But the issue has become particularly incendiary today, in the aftermath of the publication last month of an open letter by 20 retired generals.

According to the generals, France is in a state of "disintegration," owing to several "deadly dangers," including "Islamism and the hordes of the banlieue" (poor, immigrant-dominated suburbs surrounding French cities). An anti-racism movement that "despises our country, its culture and traditions" represents another such danger.

Dire predictions of France's impending dissolution are not new. In his 2015 novel *Submission*, the author Michel Houellebecq imagined the formation in France of an Islamic government, backed by the old secular left, following the narrow electoral defeat of an insurgent white-nationalist movement.

But the French establishment has always been quick to dismiss such narratives. "France," proclaimed then-Prime Minister Manuel Valls after *Submission's* release, "is not Michel Houellebecq... it is not intolerance, hatred, and fear." Likewise, France's current prime minister, Jean Castex, has offered the "most categorical condemnation" of the generals' letter.

Yet much of the country disagrees. Thousands of active and retired soldiers have affixed their names to the letter, and in an opinion poll conducted for LCI (a state-owned news channel), a clear majority of respondents (58%) supported the generals' jeremiad. Among the letter's specific assertions, the one that drew the most support (86%) was that "there cannot and must not be any town or neighborhood where the laws of the Republic are not enforced."

This reflects the popular perception that police steer clear of the banlieue, where violence erupts periodically. In November 2005, three weeks of nightly riots - triggered by the accidental deaths of two black youths fleeing from police - drove then-President Jacques Chirac to declare a state of emergency. Now, many believe that the banlieue are primed for another eruption, and that the authorities are not doing nearly enough to prevent it.

Of course, that is not the only problem French people have with the police. Last year's Black Lives Matter (BLM) demonstration in central Paris showed that the "anti-racist forces" the generals decry are convinced that immigrants and people of color are disproportionately subjected to police brutality. This is no insignificant group: despite a ban on gatherings of ten or more people, tens of thousands of protesters participated.

To those on the other side of the barricades, however, it can seem like immigrants and people of color are somehow monopolizing victimhood. After all, French police have a long history of brutality against white protesters - including,

notably, during the riots of May 1968. More recently, the *gilets jaunes* (Yellow Vests) protests - which are conspicuously mentioned in the short open letter - left about a dozen dead.

In fact, for BLM's French critics, the *gilets jaunes* provide a particularly compelling counter-argument. The protesters largely comprised the white working poor, often from small-town and rural France. Squeezed by ever-higher taxes and ever-weaker public services, they took to the streets in 2018 to demand change - and were met with repression.

Shared grievances - low living standards, high unemployment, and police violence - could provide common ground, as they all reflect the French state's failures. But popular narratives that demonize the "other" mean that conditions of scarcity are more likely to cause further resentment and division.

For example, many *gilets jaunes* regard the young people from immigrant communities as coddled welfare spongers who break the law with impunity. At the same time, those who are on the fringes of society, even in spatial terms, and lack opportunities to escape difficult, often-violent conditions, may find themselves increasingly resentful of their community and country.

Such an environment can become an incubator for fanatical Islamism. No more potent fuel for a culture war can be imagined than the all-too-frequent deadly attacks accompanied by cries of "Allahu akbar," like those recently carried out against worshippers in a Catholic Church in Nice and a policewoman in a town southwest of Paris (to name two examples).

Few in France are happy with the country's political leaders, which is why successive presidents have failed to win re-election. To break this pattern next year, Macron will probably have to survive another polarizing run-off against the far-right National Rally leader, Marine Le Pen, who expressed her support for the generals' letter, though the rightward shift in popular sentiment could produce another challenger.

To improve his chances in this race, Macron will have to make himself stand out from the rest of the field, by reaffirming the distinctively "universalist" French ideal of citizenship - one that, unlike multiculturalism, transcends racial origins and religious belief.

On a more practical level, Macron would do well to redirect more of the country's vast public spending away from the bureaucracy and toward the most basic functions of the state - beginning with the criminal-justice system. France's police force is far from perfect, but it cannot be expected to improve without adequate resources, which are woefully lacking today.¹

Macron should also make concrete conciliatory gestures to those on both sides of the culture war. For example, a commitment to "zero-tolerance" policing in the banlieue could appease one side, while progress toward de-criminalizing drugs could appease the other, by reducing the potential perils of such enhanced policing.

With his speech commemorating Napoleon's death, Macron apparently is seeking to confront all aspects of the emperor's divisive legacy. How he manages that characteristic balancing act could reveal much about his ability to keep France's simmering culture war from boiling over.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

OPINION

By Volker Perthes

Sudan Opens for Business

KHARTOUM - Investing in Sudan may sound like a strange idea, given that the country has long been marred by civil war and intercommunal conflict, crippled by sanctions, and, until recently, ruled by a president facing an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court (ICC). Nonetheless, the French government has invited Sudan's political leadership, as well as other world leaders, to an investment conference in Paris on May 17, and there are good reasons to believe it is the right move.

Much has changed in Sudan since April 2019, when a popular uprising toppled President Omar al-Bashir. The country has been removed from the US Department of State's "Sponsors of Terrorism" list, and it has begun to cooperate with the ICC. With the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund both acknowledging Sudan's progress on economic reforms, the country is moving closer to qualifying for debt relief.

Currently, Sudan is governed by a transitional administration under a power-sharing agreement between the military and a broad civilian coalition of party and civil-society representatives. Though the arrangement is hardly a marriage of love, it offers a model of pragmatism in a region that sorely needs it.

The power-sharing agreement is intended to shepherd Sudan through a 39-month transition period that will end in late 2022, after the launch of a constitutional drafting process and parliamentary, presidential, and regional elections. Against all odds and predictions, the country's experiment in military-civilian cohabitation has survived for more than a year and a half, owing largely to personal commitments from Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and the chairman of the Sovereignty Council, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

Emerging from 30 years of dictatorship and 65 years of almost continuous civil war would pose a challenge for any new government. In Sudan's case, the most important step toward peace so far has been the October 2020 Juba Peace Agreement between the government and a wide-ranging group of rebel movements from Darfur and beyond. These groups are now represented in both the Sovereignty Council - which acts as a collective head of state - and in the cabinet. And negotiations with the most relevant party not to have signed on to the agreement, the Abdel Aziz al-Hilu faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North, are set to begin on May 25.

Moreover, the transitional authorities have made progress in rejoining the international community through the adoption of agreements and treaties such as the Convention Concerning Forced or Compulsory Labor. They are also working diligently to design a federal system that will accommodate the country's specific political needs (with plans for a major conference on the issue this month). Other important items on the agenda, such as forming a Transitional Legislative Council, are overdue, but it is hoped that they will be taken up soon.

True, hurdles to a lasting peace remain. The Sudanese state and its security institutions are severely understaffed, underequipped, and overwhelmed by the task of coping with unresolved intercommunal conflicts and criminal militias. And the economic challenges are even more daunting.

But this is to be expected in a country that has undergone a revolution and then a pandemic. Economic conditions in the first two years after the revolution included annual inflation above 300%. Under these circumstances, Sudan's financial situation has deteriorated considerably, such that bread and fuel queues cost household members hours at a time.

Nonetheless, the government has pursued important economic reforms, not least lifting fuel subsidies and floating the currency. It is working closely with the IMF to fulfill conditions for debt relief. With the support of the World Bank and the World Food Programme, the government has launched a cash-transfer program to shield the most vulnerable segments of the population from the effects of economic restructuring.

Putting Sudan on the path to sustainable development will require more than humanitarian and development aid. The country desperately needs private investment, and at the conference in Paris, the government will have a chance to present its projects to the private sector. With domestic reforms underway to improve Sudan's investment climate, there are real opportunities emerging in infrastructure, regional connectivity, agriculture, food industries, and electricity.

Just imagine a future in which Sudan's harbor in Port Sudan is connected by road and rail to Darfur, and from there to landlocked Chad, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic. Sudan's mango harvest, one of the largest in Africa, could be juiced and exported directly to Europe.

Long-term investment in Sudan is increasingly looking not just possible but highly lucrative. An African country with massive potential is opening up for business. The smart money should get in now.

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OP-ED

By Jayati Ghosh

Next Steps for a People's Vaccine

NEW DELHI - The Biden administration's decision to stop opposing a proposed COVID-19 waiver of certain intellectual-property rights under World Trade Organization rules is a welcome move. The US Trade Representative acknowledges that "the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic call for extraordinary measures." While affirming that it "believes strongly in intellectual property protections," the Biden administration, "in service of ending this pandemic, supports the waiver of those protections for COVID-19 vaccines." Already, the US decision may be persuading other rich-country holdouts in Europe and elsewhere to follow suit.

While the rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines was a truly impressive achievement, it has been tarnished by constraints on global vaccine supply and the related inequities in distribution. As of May 4, less than 8% of the world's population had received even one dose of any COVID-19 vaccine, while just ten rich countries accounted for 80% of all vaccinations. The reason is not just that rich countries have been buying up all available doses; it is also that there simply have not been enough doses to go around.

But this scarcity itself is largely artificial. Vaccine production has been limited by pharmaceutical companies' refusal to share knowledge and technology. Though the companies producing the approved vaccines have benefited from public subsidies and publicly funded research, they nonetheless have taken advantage of patent protections to maintain a monopoly, limiting production to their own factories and a select few other companies to whom they have granted licenses.

These patents are enshrined and enforced internationally through the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which allows for action to be taken against countries that provide compulsory licenses allowing "someone else to produce a patented product or process without the consent of the patent owner." It is this threat of legal action that led a majority of WTO members to propose a temporary waiver for COVID-19 drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other technologies needed to fight the pandemic. And yet, even this minor step has been blocked in the WTO TRIPS Council, because (mostly) rich countries have been prioritizing big pharmaceutical companies' interests over global health.

A waiver has become all the more urgent with the coronavirus on the rampage across South America and India, where a near-complete breakdown of overstretched health services is resulting in a catastrophic loss of life. Worse, the rapid spread of the virus has already given rise to dangerous new variants. We absolutely must vaccinate as many people as possible before vaccine-resistant variants emerge.

Temporarily waiving IP rights is essential, but it is only the first step. A waiver agreement would address the previously insurmountable legal side of the problem. But much more will need to be done to make a "People's Vaccine" universally available as soon as possible.

The next step is to push for concrete measures to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology. From Canada to Bangladesh, many potential vaccine producers with the required facilities have so far been denied the licenses and technical know-how to proceed. Not a single pharmaceutical company has joined the World Health Organization's voluntary facility for sharing technology, the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP).

Governments in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere, having given large subsidies to develop the approved vaccines, can and should pressure the companies to share the knowledge that public money helped provide. We know this can be done, because the Biden administration has already persuaded Johnson & Johnson to share its technology with Merck to boost domestic production of its single-dose vaccine. Surely the other companies that have benefited from public support could be pressured to do the same with producers around the world.

In the meantime, the TRIPS waiver could increase vaccine production in other ways as well. Moderna, which relied almost completely on US government funding, has already declared that it will not enforce its patent. But its mRNA vaccine uses some knowledge that it has licensed (and paid for) from other companies, which could in turn sue any other producer using the same technology.

The TRIPS waiver would eliminate this possibility, allowing production to be scaled up rapidly. With Moderna now indicating that it will produce three billion doses in 2022 alone, the mRNA vaccines are apparently quite amenable to expanded production. They are also said to be easily adapted to account for new variants.

The case for public production of such vaccines is clear. "For less than the US government spends on the COVID-19 response daily," notes the health advocacy organization PrEP4All, "it can build a facility to produce enough mRNA vaccine manufacturing capacity to vaccinate the entire world in one year, with each dose costing only \$2."

The case for public production becomes even stronger when one considers that private vaccine producers have little financial incentive to meet current global needs. Once the pandemic is contained, the demand for vaccines is likely to revert to much lower "normal" levels. To win the race against the virus, we must build and deploy public manufacturing capacities in the US and other countries. And when COVID-19 is brought to heel, these facilities should be maintained for future pandemics.

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Central Bank of Liberia

Department of Finance
Central Office
MONROVIA LIBERIA
WEST AFRICA



Firm Wanted to Conduct Survey Across Liberia

BACKGROUND:

The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has since 2009 joined the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) leading Liberia financial inclusion journey that has recorded a lot of achievements. The first National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS 2009 – 2013) for Liberia was implemented and followed by the second (NFIS 2014-2018) which was implemented, and outcomes reported. Implementation of the new strategy (NFIS 2020-2024) is now ongoing.

The overall goal of the current NFIS is to increase access to formal financial services for the population (aged 15 years and older) from 35.7 percent (as at 2017) to at least 50 percent by 2024. The current NFIS is anchored on three (3) strategic pillars: i. Access to Financial Services and Credit, ii. Digital Financial Services and iii. Consumer Protection and Financial Capability. Implementation of this NFIS in the context of the three pillars is conducted through various planned activities and key results framework indicators. One of said activities is a comprehensive financial inclusion survey that includes a full assessment of the financial inclusion environment taking into consideration the interests of gender, youth and rural community dwellers. This demand and supply sides survey will form a new baseline for Liberia's financial inclusion landscape, to facilitate effective implementation and monitoring of the new National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS), launched in 2019 as approved by the Cabinet.

Owing to the above, the CBL is seeking to contract the services of a firm to conduct demand and supply sides financial inclusion survey across Liberia. The firm will work with the NFIS Secretariat, the Financial Sector Development Unit (FSDU) of the CBL.

Invitation/Request for Proposal

This Request for Proposal is intended to hire the services of a well-qualified professional institution that has the requisite experience to conduct a Financial Inclusion Survey in the 15 counties of Liberia.

The Central Bank of the Republic of Liberia has received a grant from the Alliance for Financial Inclusion and intends to apply the proceeds from this grant towards the execution of the assignment as captioned above. The assignment covers the 15 counties of Liberia and is expected to be conducted during 60days.

Major factors that will influence a Selection are as follows:

- 1) Understanding of the assignment;
- 2) General qualification and suitability for the task;
- 3) Experience in the specific assignment; and
- 4) Key staff credential and experience adequate for the execution of said assignment.

This invitation or Request for Proposal is opened to all firms who have potentials and, desire to work with the Central Bank of Liberia. Interested institutions are requested to submit sealed proposals in two separate envelopes (Technical and Financial), addressed to the General Support Services Department on the 7th Floor of the main office of the CBL Building: Provision of Financial Inclusion Demand and Supply Side Baseline Survey in Liberia delivered into the tender box in the procurement section. Electronic submissions are **not allowed**.

Request for Proposal can be picked up from the Procurement section on the 7th floor of the Central Bank of Liberia Head Office from Monday to Friday at 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Kindly address your Proposal to the below address:
Deadline of submission is Friday, 26May, 2021 at 2: 00 PM.

Francis Leo Yancy, Sr.
Director
General Support Services Department

Pregnant women not reporting for HIV test

-National AIDs Control Program alarms

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland Co.

An official of the National AIDs Control Program in Maryland County has alarmed about low turnout of pregnant women at various health center in the County.

The Clinical Method, Faith Bardio, made the observation during a one day EMTCT advocacy meeting in Pleebo, Maryland County Electoral district#2.

The EMTCT advocacy meeting was held at the Pleebo Health Center on Saturday, May 8, 2021. It brought

Control Program (NACP) to reduce spread of the virus.

According to her, the increase cases are mostly being observed due to refusal of pregnant women to visit health centers during early pregnancy.

The clinical method disclosed that several cases of HIV and AIDs these days are mostly from mother to child due, to failure of some pregnant women to know their status.

She stressed that the situation is becoming worrisome because the



together zonal leaders, religious leaders, including both Muslims and Christians, Community Health Assistants (CHAs), Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), Partner In Health Representative, Pleebo Health Center Administrator, rural women heads, and the media, among others.

Mr. Bardio lauded citizens for the huge turnout, noting that the meeting was intended to dialogue on increased HIV cases despite efforts by the National AIDs

National AIDs Control Program (NACP) has put several measures in place to protect mother- to- child transmission.

She said there are other pregnant women who have visited the health center and were tested of the virus but refused to go for treatment.

The added that health workers have been encouraging citizens, mostly pregnant women to always visit health

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS (Petroleum Products)

IFB No.:UL/SBA/NCB/001/20/21

1. The University of Liberia through the Government of the Republic of Liberia has received budgetary allotment from the National Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and intends to apply portion of it towards the procurement of Petroleum Products.
2. The University of Liberia now invites sealed bids from eligible registered bidders for the supply of Petroleum Products for the Fiscal Year 2020/2021
3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA) and approved by the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC), and is open to all eligible bidders in the Country.
4. Specifications and Quantity:

LOT # 1:

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS	SPECS	QUANTITY	MODE	CONTRACT TYPE
Diesel	AGO	1 gallon	COUPON	FrameWork Contract
Gasoline	PMS	1 gallon	COUPON	

LOT# 2:

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS	SPECS	QUANTITY	MODE	CONTRACT TYPE
Diesel	AGO	1 gallon	Pump & Truck Supply	FrameWork Contract

5. Qualification requirements include:
 - a) Past Performance records including the names and contact numbers of at-least five (5) clients.
 - b) Valid GOL Business Registration and Tax-Clearance with Business Activities Code No. G4661
 - c) Must be registered with the PPCC Vendor Registry
 - d) List of stations or sub-stations within Monrovia
 - e) At least one(1) station along the Red-light to Fendall highway(Applicable only to LOT#2)
6. A set of bidding document in English can be obtained by interested bidders for a non-refundable fee: US\$50(Fifty United States Dollars beginning April 26-May 24, 2021 from 8:AM- 4:PM.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Securing declaration valid for 90 days after the opening of bids.
8. Sealed Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00pm May 24, 2021 and bids will be opened in the Administrative Conference Room (AC1-01), Right wing of the Administrative Complex, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow:
In the upper left corner of the envelop, print:
"SEALED BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS"
REF: IFB No.:UL/SBA/NCB/001/020/021
Below is the bid reference number, print the bidder's address.

In the middle of the envelop, print the address below:

**Procurement Department
University of Liberia
Fendall Campus
Liberia**

Note: that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Signed:

DIRECTOR

Procurement Department
University of Liberia

Approved:

VP/ADMINISTRATION
University of Liberia

Weah tours Sinoe, breaks



grounds and dedicates projects



Français

Nigeria : la vague des kidnappings d'étudiants touche tout le pays



Au Nigeria, les kidnappings sont en forte augmentation. Plusieurs universités prennent désormais des mesures pour tenter d'assurer la sécurité de leurs étudiants, réduisant les horaires de cours ou fermant les dortoirs. Alors qu'une trentaine d'étudiants ont été libérés, mercredi 5 mai, dans l'État de Kaduna,

d'autres sont toujours captifs.

Après deux mois de détention, les vingt-sept étudiants enlevés à Afaka le 11 mars 2021 ont finalement retrouvé leurs familles ce vendredi. Leur libération avait été annoncée mercredi 5 mai par les autorités de l'État de Kaduna. Dix autres de leurs camarades avaient déjà été libérés, suite au versement de rançons par leur famille.

L'inquiétude des familles est vive

Mais d'autres jeunes sont toujours retenus en otages dans l'État de Kaduna : seize étudiants de l'université de Greenfield enlevés le 20 avril sont toujours captifs. L'inquiétude de leur famille est vive, alors que cinq de leurs camarades ont déjà été

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Journaliste, un métier à haut risque au Sahel

Le travail de journaliste est de plus en plus dangereux dans plusieurs pays du Sahel. Exerçant souvent avec la peur au ventre, nombre de journalistes racontent la difficulté d'un métier à haut risque.

Ces journalistes racontent la difficulté de continuer à informer malgré la propagation djihadiste et les agissements criminels, la quasi impossibilité d'accéder

à de vastes étendues de territoire et à certaines sources, ainsi que les pressions et les intimidations multiples, qu'elles viennent du pouvoir ou d'ailleurs, sans parler du manque de moyens de la profession.

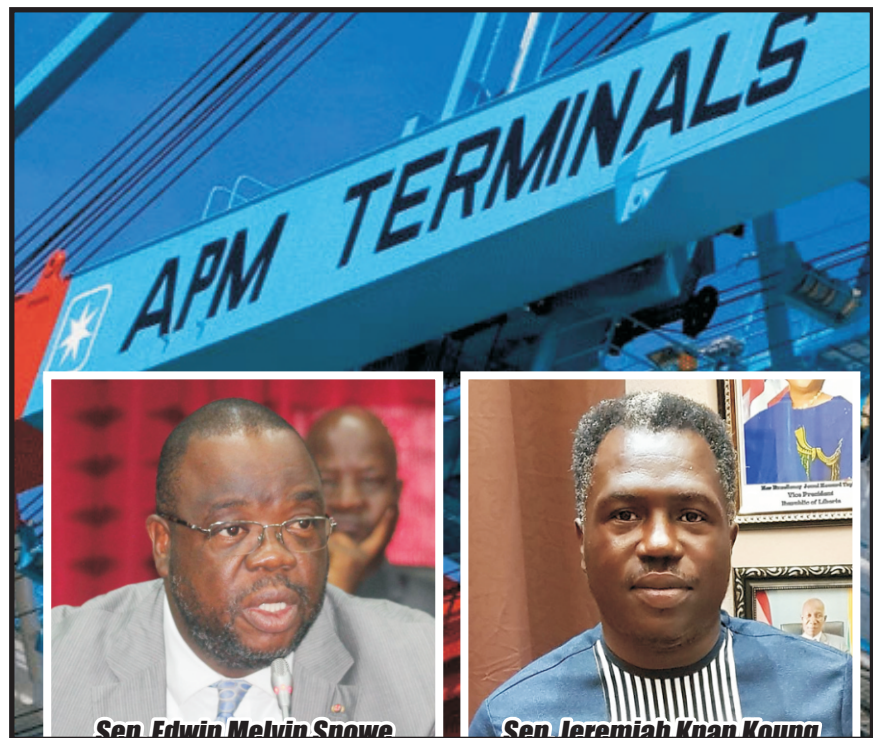
Les poussées djihadistes et les agissements criminels sont les principales causes du départ de journalistes étrangers. Les locaux évoquent quant à eux une menace permanente et la

peur de l'enlèvement. "Beaucoup ont quitté la zone parce qu'ils pensent qu'ils ne sont pas en sécurité. Malheureusement ça impacte sur le travail même du journaliste parce que quand tu quittes, la radio est abandonnée. Il y a beaucoup de radios qui sont fermées du fait de l'insécurité", déclare Abdoul-Kader Idi, un journaliste nigérien.

Tourner sa langue

Au Niger, où les attaques contre des civils se sont multipliées depuis le début de l'année, le responsable d'une radio communautaire ayant requis l'anonymat reconnaît qu'il vaut mieux "tourner mille fois sa langue avant de parler." Ce que confirme Moudi Moussa, responsable du Syndicat Autonome des Travailleurs de l'Information et de la Culture (SYNATIC) du Niger. "Il y a certaines questions qui concernent par exemple la région de Diffa (Sud-Est nigérien où sévit Boko Haram), c'est d'ici, de

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Le président Weah est dégoûté

Les fonctionnaires de l'administration Weah semblent tromper le peuple et le président qui s'en rend compte au fur et à mesure qu'il visite le pays.

Récemment, dans le comté de Grand Cape, le président Weah a été désagréablement surpris en se rendant compte que le sénateur Varney Sherman et d'autres législateurs du comté n'ont pas de domicile ou de lieu pour accueillir une délégation officielle dans le comté qu'ils représentent.

Maintenant dans le comté de Grand Bassa, le président Weah n'était pas que déçu, il était littéralement bouleversé par le fait que les responsables du comté, y compris le surintendant et les législateurs, n'avaient aucun lieu pour le recevoir à part une mairie mal tenue. Il a terminé la troisième étape de sa tournée nationale déçue.

M. Weah : « Regardez ceci, regardez ceci, regardez ceci, regardez autour de vous, regardez ceci et regardez-nous, regardez-nous (décrivant à quel point ils étaient magnifiquement habillés par rapport à l'infrastructure dans laquelle ils étaient assis et l'environnement). Parfois, il faut que nous ayons une conscience et ayons honte de nous-même.

Cet endroit ne représente rien. Vous ne pouvez pas être les représentants des gens et recevoir le Président et l'ensemble du gouvernement ici. Ce n'est pas possible ».

Jetant un regard autour de la salle dans laquelle se tenait la réunion, il a déploré que l'endroit ne soit pas adapté à un tel rassemblement et que même leur propre vêtement contredisait tout.

Les fonctionnaires doivent savoir que la réalité contredit toujours la fausseté. La vérité est que la tournée nationale du président n'a pas été une surprise. Elle était prévue pour 2020, mais elle a été reportée en raison du COVID-19 et d'autres engagements officiels.

Même avant le début de cette tournée cette année, elle avait été officiellement annoncée. Nous sommes donc également surpris que les surintendants de comté et les législateurs ne se soient pas suffisamment préparés à accueillir le président et son entourage.

Le surintendant du comté de Grand Bassa, Janjay Vakpah, la sénatrice Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence et ses collègues législateurs du comté veulent-ils nous dire qu'ils n'ont pas trouvé de peinture à Buchanna, la capitale provinciale, pour donner à l'hôtel de ville une cure de jouvence pour la réunion du président Weah avec les citoyens ? Comme c'est décevant !

Les législateurs ne devraient pas se concentrer sur leurs projets personnels seulement, il faut qu'ils pensent aussi à leurs électeurs, il faut qu'ils pensent aussi à leur comté qu'ils représentent, en particulier lorsque le président effectue une visite officielle. Il doit être reçu et hébergé dans le respect et l'estime réservés à la présidence.

À quoi bon de se vêtir très élégamment et se promener partout pendant que les villes, les villages, les comtés et les personnes qu'ils représentent restent dans des conditions épouvantables. Ce n'est pas du leadership mais de l'hypocrisie !

River Gee, Grand Cape Mount et Grand Bassa, c'est la même histoire : négligence et infrastructures mal gérées et délabrées au point qu'on a l'impression qu'elles ne sont pas des lieux qu'ils représentent en tant que leaders. Pourtant, les membres du pouvoir législatif libérien décident chaque année du budget national et distribuent le gâteau national, s'attribuant même des parts plus importantes.

Il est temps qu'ils changent leur style de leadership en plaçant les personnes et les lieux qu'ils représentent au-dessus de leurs intérêts personnels pour démontrer le véritable leadership qu'on attend d'eux.

Français

Nigeria : la vague des kidnappings

abattus par leurs geôliers. Pourtant, le gouverneur local se veut inflexible face aux demandes des groupes armés - Nasir El Rufai applique strictement une politique du « no négociation, no ransom » - pas de négociation, ni de rançon et prône la méthode forte contre les ravisseurs.

Dans le sud du pays aussi
C e t t e v a g u e d e

kidnappings ne se limite pas uniquement au nord-ouest du Nigeria. En fin de semaine, ce sont des étudiants de l'université d'Abia, située cette fois dans le sud du pays, qui ont été capturés dans l'attaque d'un bus. Selon les autorités, un seul est toujours détenu avec d'autres passagers, les autres ayant réussi à s'échapper.

Journaliste, un métier

Niamey, qu'on les traite de peur d'exposer donc les confrères qui sont là-bas sur place. C'est dire carrément qu'effectivement le métier de journaliste est un métier à haut risque dans ces zones, notamment d'insécurité."

"La vie d'un journaliste au Sahel n'est pas toujours gaie, même à Bamako : barbelés autour de la maison, précautions à prendre dehors", constate Serge Daniel, le correspondant dans la capitale malienne depuis plus de 25 ans de Radio France Internationale (RFI) et de l'Agence France-Presse (AFP). L'assassinat d'une journaliste et d'un technicien de RFI en 2013 a marqué les esprits. Pourtant la situation est peut-être plus dangereuse aujourd'hui qu'au début de la poussée djihadiste dans le Nord en 2012, assure-t-il.

Menace permanente

Au-delà des risques courus en déplacement, les journalistes locaux évoquent le sentiment d'une menace permanente. Le rédacteur en chef de la télévision privée malienne Renouveau TV, Bréhima Sogoba, rapporte que certains de ses correspondants, par crainte des représailles, renoncent à signer leurs reportages. "Pour les journalistes internationaux, c'est aussi une question d'approche. Ils sont aujourd'hui la cible de ces hommes armés non identifiés, de ces groupes armés, présumés terroristes, contrairement aux journalistes maliens."

C e m e r c r e d i , l e

journaliste Olivier Dubois est apparu dans une vidéo où il dit avoir été enlevé à Gao, dans le nord-est du Mali. Ce journaliste aguerri de 46 ans, qui vit et travaille depuis 2015 au Mali, avait arrangé un rendez-vous avec le commandant d'un groupe djihadiste de la région, Abdallah Ag Albakaye. Il a été vu pour la dernière fois alors qu'il embarquait dans une voiture avec plusieurs hommes.

Fin avril, deux reporters espagnols, David Beriáin et Roberto Fraile, ainsi que l'Irlandais Rory Young, président d'une ONG de protection de la faune sauvage, ont été tuées au Burkina Faso alors qu'ils se trouvaient avec une patrouille antibraconnage. Leur mort "vient encore rappeler combien on peut être exposé dans notre métier", confie le journaliste reporter d'images burkinabè SalifZangre. "Cela n'entame pas notre volonté de couvrir l'actualité", assure-t-il, mais en prenant toutes les précautions possibles.

Vicissitudes de la presse

Le Burkina Faso figure au 37e rang du classement mondial de la liberté de la presse 2021 de Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), le Niger au 59e et le Mali au 99e. RSF décrit même le Burkina Faso comme "une des réussites du continent" en la matière. Mais l'organisation évoque les vicissitudes de la presse dans les pays sahéliens : insécurité l a r g e m e n t r é p a n d u e , restrictions de mouvement et sanctions imposées par les autorités au nom de la lutte contre les djihadistes, tours de vis justifiés par la pandémie de Covid-19.

Continuer à rapporter une

COMMENTAIRE

Par Brigitte Granville

La guerre culturelle s'intensifie en France

LONDRES - En déposant une gerbe sur le tombeau de Napoléon Bonaparte à l'occasion du 200e anniversaire de sa mort, le président français Emmanuel Macron s'est encore impliqué davantage dans la guerre culturelle qui monte dans le pays. Les plaies françaises peuvent-elles être pansées, ou bien le pays prend-il réellement le chemin, comme certains le prévoient, d'une « guerre civile mortelle » ?

L'héritage de Napoléon est de longue date un facteur depuis longtemps un facteur de dissension. Ses partisans louent son rôle dans la création de l'État français moderne ; ses détracteurs le condamnent comme un colonisateur qui a asservi des millions de personnes. Mais la question est devenue particulièrement explosive ces derniers temps, à la suite de la publication le mois dernier d'une lettre ouverte par vingt généraux à la retraite.

Selon ces généraux, la France est dans un état de « désintégration », en raison de plusieurs « dangers mortels », dont « l'islamisme et les hordes de banlieue » (des banlieues pauvres et habitées majoritairement par des immigrants autour des grandes villes françaises). Un mouvement anti-raciste qui « méprise notre pays, sa culture et ses traditions » représente un autre danger de ce genre.

Les sombres pronostics d'une dissolution imminente de la France n'ont rien de nouveau. Dans son roman de 2015, Soumission, l'auteur Michel Houellebecq imaginait la formation en France d'un gouvernement islamique, soutenu par l'ancienne gauche laïque, suite à la défaite électorale par quelques voix d'un mouvement nationaliste-blanc insurgé.

Mais l'establishment français a toujours été rapide à rejeter ce genre de discours. « La France », a proclamé le Premier ministre de l'époque Manuel Valls suite à la publication de Soumission, « ce n'est pas Michel Houellebecq (...), « ce n'est pas l'intolérance, la haine et la peur. » De même, l'actuel Premier ministre français, Jean Castex, a présenté la « condamnation la plus catégorique » de la lettre des généraux.

Pourtant, une grande partie du pays n'est pas d'accord. Des milliers de militaires actifs et à la retraite ont signé cette lettre et, dans un sondage d'opinion mené par LCI (une chaîne d'information publique), une nette majorité des répondants (58 %) ont apporté leur soutien à la lamentation des généraux. Parmi les affirmations spécifiques de la lettre, celle qui a le plus attiré l'attention (à 86 %) était « qu'il ne peut et ne doit pas y avoir de ville ou de quartier où les lois de la République ne sont pas respectées ».

Cela traduit la perception populaire selon laquelle la police se détourne des banlieues, où la violence éclate périodiquement. En novembre 2005, trois semaines d'émeutes nocturnes - déclenchées par la mort accidentelle de deux jeunes noirs fuyant la police - ont conduit le président de l'époque, Jacques Chirac, à déclarer l'état d'urgence. Aujourd'hui, bien des gens estiment que les banlieues sont prêtes à exploser de nouveau et que les autorités en place sont loin de faire de leur mieux pour empêcher ce phénomène.

Bien sûr, ce n'est pas le seul problème qui oppose les Français à leur police. La manifestation Black Lives Matter (BLM) de l'année dernière dans le centre de Paris a montré que les « forces anti-racistes » dont les généraux font état sont convaincues que les immigrants et les personnes de couleur sont victimes de manière disproportionnée de brutalités policières. Ces effectifs sont loin d'être négligeables : malgré l'interdiction de rassemblements de dix personnes ou plus, des dizaines de milliers de manifestants y ont participé.

Face à ces barricades, cependant, il peut sembler que les immigrants et les personnes de couleur monopolisent d'une manière ou d'une autre le statut de personnes considérées comme autant de victimes. Après tout, la police française a une longue histoire de

brutalité contre les manifestants blancs, notamment lors des émeutes de mai 1968. Plus récemment, les manifestations des Gilets jaunes - explicitement citées dans la courte lettre ouverte - ont fait une dizaine de morts.

En fait, pour les critiques français du BLM, les Gilets jaunes constituent un contre-argument particulièrement convaincant. Les manifestants comptaient en grande partie dans leurs rangs des travailleurs blancs pauvres, souvent originaires de petites villes et de la France rurale. Étouffés par des impôts toujours en hausse et par des services publics toujours plus faibles, ils sont descendus dans la rue en 2018 pour exiger le changement - et ont été accueillis par la répression.

Les griefs communs - faible niveau de vie, chômage élevé et violence policière - pourraient fournir un terrain d'entente, car ils reflètent tous les échecs de l'État français. Mais les récits populaires qui diabolisent « l'autre », signifient que les conditions de pénurie ont toutes les chances de susciter davantage de ressentiment et de division.

Par exemple, de nombreux Gilets jaunes considèrent les jeunes issus des communautés immigrées comme des parasites de l'aide sociale qui enfreignent la loi en toute impunité. Dans le même temps, ceux qui sont en marge de la société, même en termes d'espace, et qui n'ont aucune chance d'échapper à des conditions difficiles et souvent violentes, peuvent éprouver un ressentiment croissant à l'égard de leur communauté et de leur pays.

Un environnement de ce genre peut devenir un incubateur d'islamisme fanatique. On ne peut imaginer un stimulant plus puissant pour une guerre culturelle que les attaques meurtrières trop fréquentes accompagnées de cris de « Allahu akbar », comme celles récemment menées contre des fidèles d'une église catholique de Nice et contre une policière dans une ville du sud-ouest de Paris (pour ne citer que deux exemples).

Peu de Français sont satisfaits des dirigeants politiques du pays, raison pour laquelle les présidents successifs n'ont pas réussi à être réélus. Pour sortir de ce schéma l'année prochaine, Macron devra probablement survivre à un nouveau revers polarisant contre la dirigeante d'extrême-droite du Rassemblement national Marine Le Pen, qui a exprimé son soutien à la lettre des généraux, bien que l'évolution à droite du sentiment populaire puisse faire sortir des rangs un nouveau rival politique.

Pour améliorer ses chances dans cette course, Macron devra se démarquer des autres candidats en lice, en réaffirmant l'idéal de citoyenneté typiquement français « universaliste » - un idéal qui, contrairement au multiculturalisme, transcende les origines raciales et les convictions religieuses.

Sur un plan plus pratique, Macron ferait bien de rediriger une plus grande partie des importantes dépenses publiques du pays loin de la bureaucratie vers les fonctions les plus élémentaires de l'État - à commencer par le système de justice pénale. La police française est loin d'être parfaite, mais on ne peut s'attendre à ce qu'elle s'améliore sans ressources adéquates, qui lui font cruellement défaut à l'heure actuelle.

Macron devrait également faire des gestes conciliants concrets à destination des deux camps de cette guerre culturelle. Par exemple, un engagement en faveur de la « tolérance zéro » dans les banlieues pourrait apaiser un camp, tandis que les progrès vers la décriminalisation de la drogue pourraient apaiser l'autre, en réduisant les risques potentiels d'un renforcement des effectifs de police dans cette optique.

Avec son discours commémorant la mort de Napoléon, Macron cherche apparemment à répondre à tous les aspects de l'héritage clivant de l'empereur. Sa manière de réussir ce numéro d'équilibriste pourrait bien révéler sa capacité à empêcher la guerre culturelle latente en France d'éclater au grand jour.

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Oxfam pays UL gender students' registration fees

By Winston W. Parley

Oxfam in Liberia has announced a cheque of US\$6,964.00 to pay gender students' registration fees, to facilitate two fundraising activities and to support in curricula review and the purchasing of few equipment for the Honors College of Gender Studies and Research at the University of Liberia (UL).

Launching the fundraiser for the construction of proposed facilities for the Honors College on Friday, 7 May on UL Capitol Hill Campus, Mr. Eugene Beleto, Oxfam Liberia Acting Country Representative said Oxfam is happy to join the efforts of UL and partners to be part of the fundraising program geared towards mobilizing resources for the construction of a college facility.

active citizenship to change policy and practices across cutting all Oxfam's areas of invention in Liberia.

According to Mr. Beleto, women in Liberia are still extremely affected by poverty and they are grossly underrepresented at all levels of politics, adding that gender-based violence is yet and a lot affecting them in common, including sexual assault and domestic violence.

"Today we are here to recognize the efforts of the college of Research and Gender Studies in Liberia and it is no doubt that you have contributed to the sustained growth of gender improvement in the country," he added.

Additionally, Mr. Beleto suggested that the Honors College of Research and Gender Studies of UL is an integral part of the university that must be supported to ensure that gender

College of Engineering at the University of Liberia, said the proposed academic complex contains a ground floor and two floors up which have 14 offices, 16 classes, research laboratories, advocacy center, IT Center, eight bathrooms, two conference rooms, students' common room, teachers' lounge and two outstanding rooms for future use.

According to Mr. Senegbah, the proposed facilities also include two sets of students' dormitories for males and females which contain 15 rooms each, and that each of the rooms is designed to accommodate two students.

UL Vice President for Academic Affairs Prof. Dr. Moses Zinnah who represented UL President Rev. Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson said the Honors College of Gender Studies and Research is making a lot of impact already in terms of its vision.

"I know you will hear a lot about this college but I was reading just the name of this college itself and three things come to mind, that we are here to nurture and to train scholars and honors students," Dr. Zinnah said.

For her part, Madam Benetta Joko Tarr, UL Vice President for Administration, serving as Guest Speaker said the vision of the Honors College is to create a platform for excellent academic education in interdisciplinary research and gender studies.

She said the college's goal is to empower students with research, knowledge and skills needed to solve critical national issues including gender equality and advocacy.

Mr. Del - Francis Wreh, Executive Director, Liberian Macroeconomic Policy Analysis Capacity Building Project (LIMPAC), Ministry of Finance, said, the Honors College is very critical, revealing that three of the honors graduates that are into the Civil Service Agency as Research Analysts are found to be far excellent when compared with those that were in the agency.

He assured the college of LIMPAC and Finance Minister Samuel Tweah's full support toward research, and further made a commitment for the payment of registration fees for 100 students who are supposed to enter the Honors College but are facing challenges with registration fees.

Mr. Amenjor Senegbah of the



"So towards the effort of this new academic program, and on behalf of Oxfam in Liberia including its Executive Affiliate - OGB, and its Partner Affiliate - ODK with funding from the Danish Government (Danida), Oxfam has a cheque of \$6,964.00 USD," Mr. Beleto said.

Mr. Beleto indicated that the US\$6,964.00 cheque is intended to be used to pay gender students' registration fees, to facilitate two fundraising activities and to support in curricula review and the purchasing of few equipment for the college.

Mr. Beleto explained that Oxfam works with partners and other stakeholders to promote women's empowerment and gender equality, so that women can claim their rights and participate equally in decision making, promoting

equity and women economic empowerment are not downplayed.

Oxfam's announcement of the US\$6,964.00 cheque came over the weekend as the University of Liberia launched the first fundraiser for the construction of proposed facilities for the Honors College of Research and Gender Studies at the university.

The targeted facilities to be constructed are the academic complex, four faculty housing units to lodge those playing key roles in the college and students dormitories.

The project is estimated at a grand total of US\$2.2m which is divided into four categories to include US\$51,228 as general mobilization or materials needed for construction; US\$1.6m for an academic complex; US\$154,980 for faculty housing and US\$340,116 for dormitories.

Family demands apology

Starts from back page

explain; I was so angry that I pulled the luggage out of the terminal", he explained.

Mr. Fasuekoi took his daughter for a second test at the testing center opposite Sophie in Congo Town after result of the previous test carried out couldn't be accounted for there saying, "I decided to escort my daughter because I couldn't trust her along with them."

Younger narrates: They directed me to Sophie in Congo Town where we paid 100 Liberian dollars each for masks. A man interrogated me and I told him I was traveling on May 7, 2021. The next day we met a lady who gave me a form to fill. She directed me to a red counter and I was told to pay US\$75.00, then to the white counter - a man and his family there directed to the window."

"We may request for

were Amos F. Gborie, Deputy Director, Division of Environmental and Occupational Health; Mr. Fahn Taweh, Deputy Director, National Public Health and Reference Laboratory and Jonathan G. Ender, Chief of Office Staff to Dr. Masoka Fallah.

The trio issued a negative COVID-19 traveler's certificate to Ms. Skeeter T. Wilson, who was bundled out an airplane on Sunday August 2, 2020, by Liberian Immigration Service officials after authorities discovered that the certificate which she was bearing was forged.

According to information gathered by this paper, Ms. Wilson was tested positive and through the Incident Management System (IMS) treatment protocol was informed about her positive results and placed under treatment. In less than a week, a



compensation for the stress imposed on us. We are considering a lawsuit because of the embarrassment we were subjected to. I will be in contact with the Embassy (U.S.) here along with my lawyer", Mr. Fasuekoi disclosed.

In 2020, a Liberian-born American Ms. Skeeter T. Wilson COVID-19 test result was tempered with staffers which led to Lawyer representing the legal interest of Ms Wilson writing authorities of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia on inquiry about his client's COVID-19 status

The scandal led to suspension of at least three officials of the Institute and subsequent investigation and dismissal of the its former director general Dr. Masoka Fallah.

The suspended officials

certificate under the signature of Dr. Makosa Fallah was issued to the patient that she's negative.

But Dr. Fallah who did not deny that his signature was on that certificate claims that it was rather his chief of office staff Jonathan G. Ender who affixed his electronic signature on the document without his knowledge.

"This matter came to my attention on Friday (August 7)." Dr. Fallah told the New Dawn on Sunday August 9. "I never even knew that this was happening under my nose." He added.

A similar situation involved Professor Dr. Alaric Tokpah who was declared COVID-19 positive after he had previously received certificate under the signature of Dr. Fallah informing him that he was negative. -Story by Jonathan Browne

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Shameful and sad

By Othello B. Garblah

Greenville, Sinoe County: -President George M. Weah has described as shameful and sad reports of protracted land disputes between the people of Sinoe and Rivercess Counties.

Speaking in Juarzon Statutory District, Sinoe County on Saturday President Weah lamented how shameful it is that Liberians are fighting over parcels of land that they don't even know the real owners.

He said the only people that can fight over land are those who register it at the archives.

"We don't need to be fighting and killing each other over something that we can solve. The constant trouble in

15 counties to see what to do to develop the country cannot be turned over to the other county because those lawmakers are making trouble against each other it's sad and is wrong. It's very wrong," he added.

The land dispute between the two counties is reported to have started in 1962 and was reactivated on January 25, 2010 with a letter from Rivercess county former superintendent, Wellington Geevon Smith, now senator, complaining to the central government that Sinoe's then-superintendent Milton Teahjay, also now Senator was causing commotion when he ordered a police checkpoint in the area to be removed because he concluded that it was a part of Sinoe.

As a result, former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf established

dialogue. We are trying to develop our country, to build our roads and you are still fighting over land. So when we building the road the land you are fighting over should we jump over it?

Sinoe people your wake up. This is an era of peace. The Government of Liberia will not work with anyone that try to bring trouble in this country.

We need to continue the peace. So you see those little issues about land, we need to resolve it so that it may not affect our country.

I listened to my Uncle Zarzar, (he says) the land they put some people behind the river, they put some people on the land, it's the same place; nobody wants to put you outside of Liberia. So let us



President George M. Weah

Sen. Wellington Geevon Smith

Sen. Milton Teahjay

Sinoe is wrong. Look at the children. If we the elders cannot unit ourselves it is sad," Weah said.

Mr. Weah recounted how during his last county tour in the Southeast, the people of Mayland could not turn him over to the people of Grand Kru because of similar land dispute for which they are still at loggerheads.

"The Last time I left Maryland, am going to Sass Town, the Marylanders could not hand me over to the Sass Town People because of this same land business. Lawmakers from the other side could not cross the boundary. I had to walk through a buffer Zone. How can a President that visiting

an inter-ministerial committee with members from key government institutions. The purpose was to calm the tension that had ensued as a result of Teahjay's action.

The committee reported that the act creating Rivercess inferred that the disputed area was within the territorial confines of Rivercess.

Warning Sinoe against trouble

President Weah still speaking in Juarzon warned the people of Sinoe against propagating troubles.

Weah: "The people of Sinoe, you see when you are looking for trouble and you have not seen the trouble, you don't know how bad the trouble can be. We need to be peaceful and we need to

resole this land issue the right way.

You see politics, my people, my family, politicians have their own interest. It might not be the general interest of everyone. So those that come to you with the general interest of all of us, your need to listen to them. Some people believe that where they will have 10,000 votes they are taking it from them of course they will raise alarm, but why will they want to sacrifice you for their own benefit-think twice especially you young people. Do not allow anyone to drag you into land dispute problem. You have a future; you need to be at tentative. We should not be fighting about land business."

Businesswoman's lifeless body discovered in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong County

The dead body of a woman identified as Maidusue Sirleaf was on Wednesday afternoon, 5 May discovered in Mansaisue Village, Salala District.

Maidusue was reportedly killed by an unknown person.

The deceased's father, Amadee Sirleaf informed the NewDawn newspaper that Madusue's body was found near a kitchen around the Nyafor Creek.

Mr. Sirleaf said his daughter had left their village, Kpakoloquoyah farm and had gone to Mansaisue Market to

purchase goods for sale when she met her untimely death.

"She left soon [this] morning to buy food and nonfood items, but since she left, we didn't see her alive again," he said.

According to him, a fifteen man coroner jury setup to examine the body established

Pregnant women not

Cont'd from page 5

centers in order to know their HIV status.

"We want to encourage you as heads of your various areas, to talk to your people that are refusing to visit the health facilities to stop because the health centers were built for patients", Madam Bardio urged.

She warned those pregnant women who are refusing to go check their health status that it's so risky for their unborn children.

She said fear of death shouldn't serve as obstacle for people not visiting health facilities for HIV and AIDS test.

She mentioned that the virus can't kill if one is tested and starts to receive treatment regularly.

The clinical method however used the one day meeting with citizens to call on community dwellers to avoid stigmatizing and discriminating people living with HIV and AIDS.

At the same time she commended other citizens who are always visiting the health facilities for medication and to know their health status.

According to her, the National AIDS Control Program has setup a new policy that includes HIV and AIDS compulsory test, once a patient visits the health center.

Rev. Samuel Dennis, Sr of the First Assembly of God Church in Pleebo Sodoken district thanked Madam Faith Bardio and the Ministry of Health for organizing the one day health meeting.

He noted the meeting will motivate religious leaders to inform the various congregations about HIV and AIDS.

He stressed that although others are yet to believe the disease exists, but it was spelled out in the Bible so, churches will inform their members about the new policy from the National AIDS Control Program (NACP).

Similarly, the Imam of Pleebo, commended the health team for including Muslims on the awareness.

Imam Bah stressed that it has been difficult for the Muslim community to be involved in activities in the district but now their involvement will help to reduce increase in cases because the information will go across the various mosques.

He then recommended for regular awareness on community radio stations to educate citizens that HIV and AIDS don't kill if one lives on the medication.

Mrs. Bestsy Wallo, President of Maryland Women, said although it's wrong for a pregnant woman to stop visiting the health centers, but health workers should treat them with care.

She said it's so frustrating that a pregnant woman will leave her house from the morning hours to come to the health center and later go home without being treated.

Mrs. Wallo said such thing alone can make a pregnant woman not to even think of returning to the health center but again. However, she encourage her fellow women to always visit the health facilities and "our health workers, please keep our people information as secret", she added.

The Maryland County women president continued that she welcomes the new policy from the National AIDS Control Program but hoped it will help in reducing the increased cases of HIV and AIDS or STD in the country.

Meanwhile, it has been noted that since 1986 when the first case of HIV and AIDS was discovered in Liberia, statistics from Liberia's demographic health survey has shown that about 1.5 percent of Liberia's population is HIV-positive, with 60 percent of those being women or girls.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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that Maidusue was murdered with a sharp instrument, most likely a cutlass.

"Looking at the marks on her, she was killed with cutlass and that's just what the jury reported to us. This is a complete wickedness because I have not seen what kind of offense she did to the dower (s) of the act," he added.

Mr. Sirleaf described the situation as troubling and heartbreaking and wants the alleged perpetrator pursued and brought to justice.

Meanwhile, Police in Bong have launched an

investigation into the gruesome murder of Maidusue.

For her part, Salala District Representative Moimah Briggs Mensah expressed sadness over the situation and called for speedy investigation into the matter.

Rep Mensah speaking to journalists via telephone described the killing of women in Bong as alarming and is therefore recommending capital punishments for murderers and rapists to discourage the acts.—**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

Family demands apology from Covid-19 testing center



Mr. Fasuekoi and his daughter Younger look in frustration at the RIA

An American-based Liberian family, is demanding apology from authorities of the COVID-19 Testing Center in Congo Town for delaying test result that caused them to loss their booked flight on Friday, 7 May, incurring US\$800.00 extra expense.

Professional and award-winning Liberian Photo-

Journalist James Kokulo Fasuekoi and his daughter Younger Fasuekoi have been visiting Monrovia where the latter celebrated her natal day with family members.

But Younger received an urgent call to return to the U.S. and had booked a flight onboard Air France on Friday and when she and her dad arrived at the Roberts International Airport in

Margibi County, result of COVID-19 test they had paid (US\$75.00) for days earlier, was not available thus, began their nightmare.

Airport security became very aggressive and intimidating, subjecting them to humiliation.

Addressing a news conference in Paynesville Saturday, 08 May, Mr. Fasuekoi narrated in frustration that he had persuaded his daughter, who has been out of Liberia for over a decade, to visit home for the first time only to encounter such an unpleasant experience with airport security that saw her being physically assaulted by one of the officers in his presence.

He said they were prevented from checking in at the airport, and stood for more than three hours. "We arrived at RIA and were informed that we didn't have COVID-19 certificate. We contacted one of the heads of the COVID team why the delay in the result after she had taken the test, they couldn't

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Baggies down as Sam Allardyce suffers first PL relegation

Arsenal sent West Brom down with a 3-1 win at the Emirates Stadium as Sam Allardyce suffered relegation from the Premier League for the first time in his career.

The Gunners, 10th in the Premier League table ahead of kick-off and playing for little more than pride after their Europa League exit on Thursday, took the lead when the excellent Bukayo Saka, playing at left-back, crossed for Emile Smith Rowe to volley

home (29).

Arsenal doubled their advantage soon afterwards when Nicolas Pepe cut inside from the right flank and curled a stunning effort beyond the outstretched Sam Johnstone (35), but they had some nervy moments after that.

West Brom pulled a goal back in superb style when Matheus Pereira broke forward from inside his own half and, with Arsenal defenders backing off him, fired a diagonal shot into the corner (67).

West Brom's direct approach



caused them problems, with Kyle Bartley and Semi Ajayi firing long passes over their defence at every opportunity and Pereira twice going close from outside the box, curling one spectacular effort a few inches wide.

Callum Robinson threatened too, sending a looping shot against the crossbar after latching onto a diagonal ball in behind, and while the assistant belatedly raised his flag for offside on that occasion, it served as another warning for the hosts.

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