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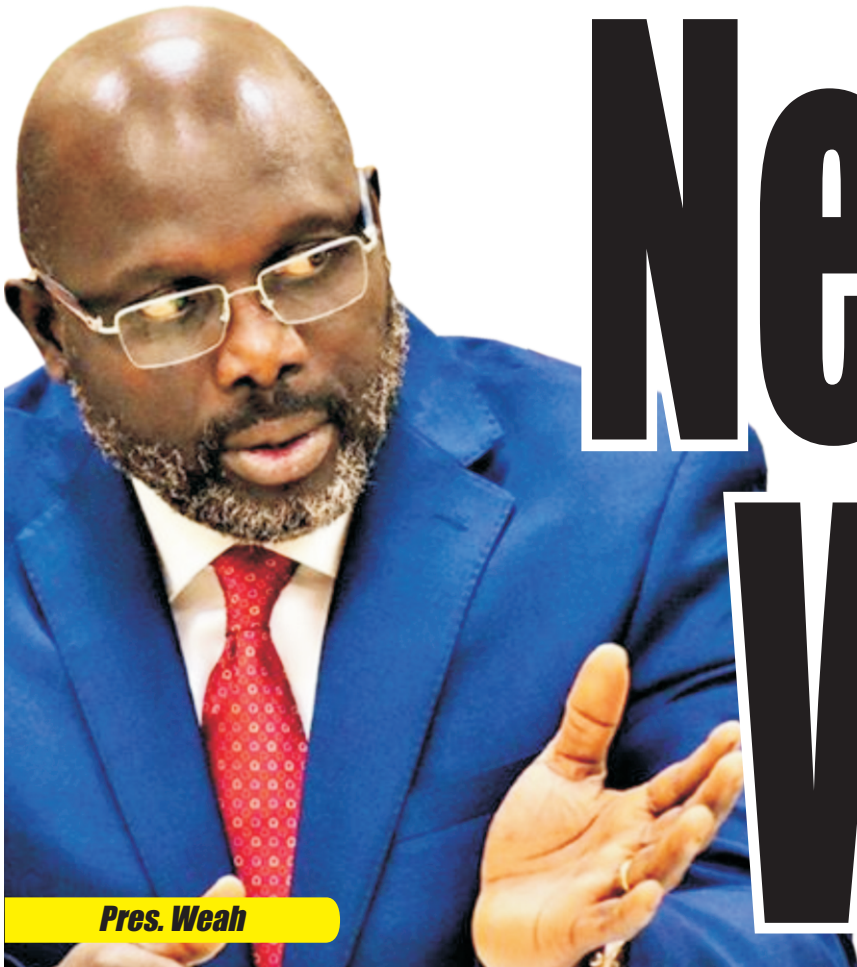
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Continental News

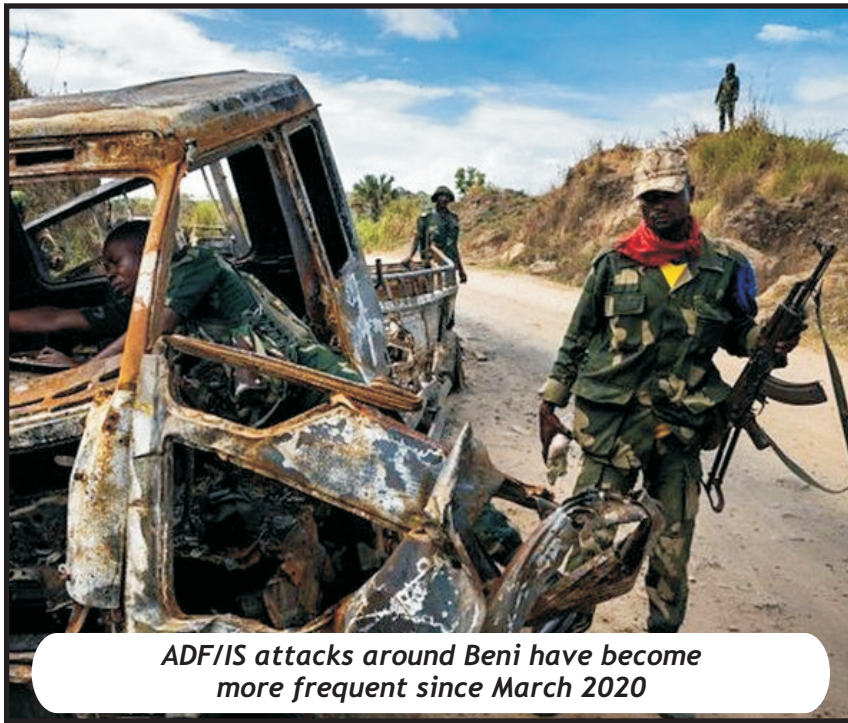
Islamic State has expanded into Central Africa

The eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo has long been a cradle of rebel activity, often the spill-over of conflict in neighbouring Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda.

Among the most notorious groups now operating there is Uganda's Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

The Islamist militant outfit was formed in the 1990s and primarily concerned itself with domestic grievances within Uganda. But after re-emerging in DR Congo, its activity has taken on a more global jihadist dimension, with attacks increasingly being claimed in the name of the Islamic State (IS) group. The ADF was created in northern Uganda by former military officers loyal to former strongman Idi Amin.

It took up arms against Uganda's long-serving President, Yoweri Museveni, alleging government persecution of Muslims. After its defeat by the Ugandan army in 2001, it relocated to



ADF/IS attacks around Beni have become more frequent since March 2020

North Kivu province in the DR Congo.

Following a period of low-level activity, the ADF re-emerged in 2014 with a series of attacks on Congolese civilians. Musa Seka Baluku became leader in 2015 following the arrest of his predecessor Jamil Mukulu.

Baluku reportedly first pledged allegiance to IS in 2016.

But it was not until April 2019 that IS first acknowledged its activity in the area, when it claimed an attack on army positions near the border with Uganda.

This statement marked the announcement of IS's "Central Africa Province" (Iscap), which would later include Mozambique. While there are indications that IS has co-

opted the ADF, IS has never publicly mentioned it by name in its propaganda. In September 2020, Baluku claimed that the ADF had "ceased to exist".

"At present, we are a province, the Central African Province, which is one of many provinces that make up the Islamic State," he said. Local media still attribute attacks to the ADF. According to the UN's refugee agency, the UNHCR, the ADF has killed about 200 civilians and displaced nearly 40,000 others in Beni since January 2021. The rebel group also targets government and UN troops.

Since the emergence of IS in DR Congo, the frequency of attacks has increased.

Iscap's attacks take place in ADF territory, centring on North Kivu's Beni territory, with occasional forays into neighbouring Ituri Province. The vast majority of these are on military targets, but the deadliest attacks are on Christian civilians. Iscap's most significant attack so far appears to have been the October 2020 jail break in Beni that led to the escape of over 1,000 prisoners. The conflict in eastern DR Congo has often touched off ethnic tensions, but the involvement of IS risks adding a sectarian dynamic. DR Congo is predominantly Roman Catholic, and the church is a key player in the country. Muslims comprise about 10% of the population.

The Muslim community in Beni has become increasingly vocal against the rebel group, but this comes at a cost. BBC

The Nobel Peace Prize winner who went to war

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was once widely praised outside the country for his reforming zeal but that image was shattered in the months leading up to his first electoral test.

His journey from darling of the international community to condemnation has been swift.

Bagging the Nobel Peace Prize in October 2019 for

finally bringing an end to the 20-year stalemate with Eritrea cemented his international status. But the war in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region has meant a rapid reversal.

He became prime minister in 2018 at the age of 41, taking on the job against the backdrop of anti-government protests. His youthful energy and beaming smile offered hope.

Mr Abiy's governing Ethiopian People's Revolutionary

Democratic Front (EPRDF) coalition was deep into its third decade in power and had been dogged by accusations of repression and human rights abuses. This included the locking up of opponents and silencing of journalists.

The EPRDF had overseen speedy economic growth but many felt excluded from its benefits.

This feeling of marginalisation, particularly among the country's largest ethnic group, the Oromo, fuelled a wave of demonstrations. Mr Abiy, an Oromo himself, was promoted to the top job and immediately set about addressing concerns in a dizzying period of reforms.

He released thousands of political prisoners, lifted restrictions on the independent media and invited the country's once-banned opposition groups back into the country from exile.

He backed a woman to become president, created gender parity in the cabinet and established a ministry of

Ramaphosa insists on need for vaccine patent waiver



South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa has reiterated the need for a patent waiver to allow Africa to manufacture its own Covid-19 vaccines.

The president told the BBC that the continent's destiny was now in its "own hands" as many countries report a surge in virus cases. Only about 2% of the continent has been vaccinated so far with some countries facing vaccine shortages.

"There's been great assistance but we need more, we need more assistance but we also need more demonstration of solidarity, those who are more capable should help those who are less

capable," President Ramaphosa said.

The South African leader who was a guest at the just-concluded G7 summit said the continent wants to manufacture its own vaccines for the more than 1.2 billion people.

"We also came with a proposal about the waiving of the WTO Trips [Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights], measures or process, that we now want to manufacture vaccines on our own," he said. President Ramaphosa said South Africa was in a "desperate situation" with coronavirus cases rising and hospital beds filling up. He said the continent had been left behind on vaccination. BBC

peace. The crowning achievement was the peace deal with Eritrea and the reopening of the common border.

Mr Abiy toured the country and spoke about bringing the multi-ethnic country together. He devised a new political philosophy - medemer - aimed

at fostering a sense of national unity in the face of ethnic divisions. He also wanted to celebrate that diversity. He enjoyed widespread popularity, partly as a result of the dramatic changes in the country, but part of his appeal was also his personal story. BBC



EDITORIAL

Tampering with justice undermines peace

SOME OFFICIALS OF the judiciary, including the Liberia National Police that is under the Ministry of Justice last week confirmed the release of murder suspect Sampson F. Pennue on bail in Grand Gedeh County in a crime that is non-bailable under the laws of Liberia. But nobody accepts responsibility.

SUSPECT SAMPSON F. PENNUE, commander of the National Security Agency (NSA) in Grand Gedeh allegedly shot dead Deputy Police Commander Alexander B. Saye in the county on November 27, 2020, but how he was reportedly bailed out and by whom is the 62 million dollar question, particularly so after the Liberia National Police in Grand Gedeh County formally charged Suspect Pennue with Murder for the killing of late DCP Saye.

POLICE SAY THE charge is in keeping with Chapter 14 Sub-chapter A, Section 14.1 of the Revised Penal Code of the Republic of Liberia after the accused “criminally” and “intentionally” shot and caused bodily injury on the person of victim Alexander B. Saye with a 9mm pistol thus, resulting to his death.

COINCIDENTALLY, A BROTHER of the deceased, John B. Saye, alarmed over radio last week Thursday, 10 June 2020 in Monrovia that Suspect Sampson Pennue has been released. Unfortunately, the news came just as judicial officials converged last week for a three-day conference that highlighted excesses by courts and lawyers in dispensing justice.

ALTHOUGH EVERYBODY CLAIMS innocence, including Solicitor General Symah Cyrenius Cephas, Police Inspector General Patrick Sudue and Grand Gedeh County Attorney Cllr. J. Adolphus Karnue, but how could the 7th Judicial Circuit Court in the county where the case is assigned, release a murder suspect against the law?

THE ISSUE UNDER discussion is nothing but a clear attempt by some officials sitting somewhere to temper with the administration of justice for selfish interest. Are those involved saying the life of the late DCP Alexander B. Saye was less important than Suspect Sampson Pennue?

THE LATE ALEXANDER Saye was killed in active service, so it behooves the State to deliver justice not only to the Police that he worked for but to family and friends.

HOWEVER, NEWS THAT the suspect has been bailed out in a murder case is sufficient reason for concern. Justice is crying out in the wilderness. Someone should listen and correct the wrong immediately.

IF OUTCOME OF last week's judicial conference in Monrovia would have any significant impact on the workings of the justice system of Liberia, the murder case involving Suspect Sampson Pennue is a litmus-test for building public confidence in the judiciary.

WHOEVER LET OUT Pennue should return him immediately so that he may have his day in court to exonerate himself of murder, as charged by the Police and to walk out publicly a free man under the law rather than sneaking out under the cover of darkness, as we are hearing.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

By Adair Turner

The Upside of Population Decline

LONDON - China's recently published census, showing that its population has almost stopped growing, brought warnings of severe problems for the country. "Such numbers make grim reading for the party," reported The Economist. This "could have a disastrous impact on the country," wrote Huang Wenzheng, a fellow at the Center for China and Globalization in Beijing, in the Financial Times.

But a comment posted on China's Weibo was more insightful. "The declining fertility rate actually reflects the progress in the thinking of Chinese people - women are no longer a fertility tool."

China's fertility rate of 1.3 children per woman in 2020 is well below replacement level, but so, too, are fertility rates in every rich country. Australia's rate is 1.66, the US rate is 1.64, and in Canada it is 1.47. In all developed economies, fertility rates fell below replacement in the 1970s or 1980s and have stayed there ever since.

When the US rate returned to just above two from 1990 to 2005, some commentators hailed America's greater dynamism and "social confidence" versus "old Europe." In fact, the increase was entirely due to immigration, with Hispanic immigrants initially maintaining the higher fertility rates of their less successful countries of origin. Since 2000, the US Hispanic fertility rate has fallen from 2.73 to 1.9, while rates for white people have been well below 2.0 since the 1970s and for black people since around 2000.

Only in poorer countries, concentrated in Africa and the Middle East, are much higher birth rates still observed. In India, all the more prosperous states - such as Maharashtra and Karnataka - have fertility rates below replacement level, with only the poorer states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh still well above. And while the national rate in 2018 was still 2.2, the Indian National Family Health Survey finds that Indian women would like to have, on average, 1.8 children.

A half-century of evidence suggests that in all prosperous countries where women are well educated and free to choose whether and when to have children, fertility rates fall significantly below replacement levels. If those conditions spread across the world, the global population will eventually decline.

A pervasive conventional bias assumes that population decline must be a bad thing. "China's falling birth rate threatens economic growth," opined the Financial Times, while several comments in the Indian press noted approvingly that India's population would soon overtake China's. But while absolute economic growth is bound to fall as populations stabilize and then decline, it is income per capita which matters for prosperity and economic opportunity. And if educated women are unwilling to produce babies to make economic nationalists feel good, that is a highly desirable development.

Meanwhile, arguments that stable or falling populations threaten per capita growth are hugely overstated and, in some cases, plain wrong.

True, when populations no longer grow, there

are fewer workers per retiree, and health-care costs rise as a percent of GDP. But that is offset by the reduced need for infrastructure and housing investment to support a growing population. China currently invests 25% of GDP each year on pouring concrete to build apartment blocks, roads, and other urban infrastructure, some of which will be of no value as the population declines. By cutting that waste and spending more on health care and high technology, it can continue to flourish economically as the population declines.

Meanwhile, a stable and eventually falling global population would make it easier to cut greenhouse-gas emissions to avoid climate change, and alleviate the pressure that growing populations inevitably place on biodiversity and fragile ecosystems. And contracting workforces create stronger incentives for businesses to automate, while driving up real wages, which, unlike absolute economic growth, are what really matter to ordinary citizens.

In a world where technology enables us to automate ever more jobs, the far bigger problem is too many potential workers, not too few. China's population aged 20 to 64 will likely fall by around 20% in the next 30 years, but productivity growth will continue to deliver rising prosperity. India's population in that age band is currently growing by around ten million per year and will not stabilize until 2050.

But even when the Indian economy grows rapidly, as it did before the COVID-19 crisis, its highly productive "organized sector" of about 80 million workers - those working for registered companies and government bodies on formal contracts - fails to create additional jobs. Growth in the potential workforce simply swells the huge "informal sector" army of unemployed and underemployed people.

True, fertility rates far below replacement level create significant challenges, and China may well be heading in that direction. Many people expected that after the one-child policy was abolished in 2015, China's fertility rate - then around 1.65 - might increase. But a look at the freely chosen birth rates of ethnic Chinese living in successful economies such as Taiwan (1.07) and Singapore (1.1) always made that doubtful. Other East Asian countries such as Japan (1.38) and Korea (1.09) have similarly low fertility.

At those rates, population decline will be precipitate rather than gradual. If Korea's birth rate does not rise, its population could fall from 51 million today to 27 million by 2100, and the ratio of retirees to workers will reach levels that no amount of automation can offset.

Moreover, some surveys suggest that many families in low-fertility countries would like to have more children but are discouraged by high property prices, inaccessible childcare, and other obstacles to combining work and family life. Policymakers should therefore seek to make it as easy as possible for couples to have the number of children they ideally want. But the likely result will be average fertility rates well below replacement level in all developed countries, and, over time, gradually falling populations. The sooner that is true worldwide, the better for everyone.

OPINION

By Jayati Ghosh

The Fickle Charms of Private Global Finance

NEW DELHI - Once again, emerging markets are on the capital-flows roller coaster - one no less dizzying for being so familiar. And once again, the highs and lows of financial-market swings in these economies are mostly generated by external forces, not national policies. But the possibility that even the smallest domestic mistake could send them into a tailspin still looms large.

The past 18 months have provided ample evidence of this. According to the Institute of International Finance, total capital flows to emerging markets fell by 13% in 2020, to \$313 billion. But this headline figure conceals sharp changes, from a dramatic decline in March 2020 to a recovery in the following month and significant volatility thereafter.

These flows have remained strong so far in 2021, at \$45.5 billion in April and \$13.8 billion in May, mostly to finance the purchase of emerging-market debt securities. While total global debt fell by \$1.7 trillion, to \$289 trillion, in the first quarter of 2021, emerging-market economies' debt increased by \$600 billion, to \$86 trillion.

So, the good times are back for such economies, right? Well, not really. True, rich countries' rapid and massive monetary-policy response to the pandemic-induced downturn certainly played a role in reviving capital flows to the developing world. But as the equally huge fiscal expansion in some advanced economies (especially the United States) takes hold and bolsters the economic recovery, fickle global capital may well look for greener pastures there. That will once again result in financial rationing that penalizes economies with higher perceived risk.

Of course, it is misleading to talk of emerging markets as a homogenous group. China is now such an outlier - not only because of its economic size and strength, but also because of its effective control of the pandemic - that it really should be treated separately. While some countries, like Poland and the Philippines, have used their greater fiscal space and stronger balance-of-payments positions to provide more support to their economies, others, including Argentina, Egypt, and Turkey, face the difficult task of ensuring recovery while dealing with macroeconomic imbalances and a major debt overhang. Then there are countries like India and Mexico, which face no immediate external constraints but whose inexplicable fiscal reticence is holding back economic recovery.

Emerging economies regard capital-market integration as a way of obtaining more and cheaper access to private international finance to fund domestic investment and public spending. But this gives rise to a number of contradictions and concerns.

For starters, open capital accounts generate both inflows and outflows, meaning that a country may not always benefit from net inflows. Malaysia's capital outflows have generally exceeded its inflows over the past decade, so savings have migrated abroad in net terms. And the volatility of such flows, combined with policymakers' obsession with self-insurance through high foreign-exchange reserves, increasingly means that even net recipients of foreign capital don't really dare to spend it. India, for example, has significantly boosted its forex reserves during the COVID-19 crisis - the volume recently exceeded \$600 billion - in the mistaken belief that this is an indication of economic strength.

Large forex reserves are extremely expensive, because countries typically park them in safe assets like US Treasury bills, which provide low rates of return. This adds to the more general problem of significant wealth transfers between emerging and advanced economies. Moreover, the yield differentials between emerging economies' gross external assets and their higher-yielding external liabilities often generate large outward income transfers. Turkish economist Yi Imaz Akyüz, formerly of the UN Conference on Trade and Development, has estimated that in 2000-16, such inadvertent transfers to advanced economies amounted to 2.3% of the combined GDP of the G20 emerging economies each year.

On the other hand, emerging-market economies' greater engagement with and exposure to global financial markets does not really enable them to undertake such spending. In fact, it can actually act as a damper on necessary fiscal expansion, owing to policymakers' constant (and realistic) fear of credit-rating downgrades and capital flight. Even the need to spend more on mounting climate-change threats, for which current adaptation efforts are completely inadequate, is ignored because of such pressures.

The pandemic and the current revival of capital inflows into emerging markets are intensifying the contradictions. Many emerging markets and developing countries already face looming debt problems, which will only worsen as they borrow more during the pandemic. The private sector in lower-income countries has contracted much more debt than the public sector has, but governments rightly worry that they will have to step in and guarantee those loans when the going gets tough. Even when debt held by foreigners is denominated in domestic currency, this does not guarantee stability, because sell-offs and capital-flow reversals driven by changing investor perceptions can lead to currency devaluations and domestic banking crises.

OP-ED

By Adam Thomson

Does NATO Have an Arms-Control Brain?

LONDON - Under Donald Trump, NATO was lucky just to stay alive. Indeed, in 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron warned that the alliance was becoming "brain-dead."

With NATO leaders holding their first in-person meeting with US President Joe Biden this week, America's allies are breathing a collective sigh of relief. But NATO must still show that its brain, not just its brawn, is adequate to the problems it faces. To that end, arms control would be an intelligent pace to start.

NATO has a proud record on the issue. It advanced its first nuclear-disarmament proposal in 1957, at the United Nations Disarmament Conference in London. Even in the worst period of the Cold War, it sought to negotiate mutual and balanced force reductions with the Warsaw Pact. In 1987, it supported US President Ronald Reagan in negotiating the US-Soviet ban on intermediate-range nuclear missiles, which in turn enabled member states to reduce the number of nuclear weapons committed to NATO's defense. These arsenals are now down by more than 85% since the end of the Cold War.

But more recently NATO has appeared to be missing in action on arms control. Its secretary-general, Jens Stoltenberg, can only go as far as NATO's 30 allies let him. He insists that "arms control is in NATO's DNA." But the alliance has been treating the issue as though it were an afterthought rather than a guiding principle. Stoltenberg's speech at a NATO conference on arms control in October 2019 points to what has gone wrong.

First, Stoltenberg urged NATO allies to preserve and implement the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty - the cornerstone of international nuclear restraint. In this area, NATO members have not been backing their words with action. On the contrary, the United Kingdom, for example, has just lifted the ceiling on its nuclear weapons arsenal, which will make it much harder for NATO's other nuclear powers (and those protected by them) to argue that they are upholding the spirit of the NPT.

Second, Stoltenberg called on NATO members to adapt nuclear-arms-control regimes to new realities. But the only guidance he offered was reactive: the alliance should respond "in a defensive, measured, and coordinated way to the new Russian missile threat." With no new ideas, NATO has responded to repeated Russian arms-control proposals either with silence or by rejecting them out of hand. This position hardly bolsters the alliance's image either at home or internationally. Why not pursue the moral high ground by making arms-control overtures to the Kremlin, or at least explaining what's wrong with the Russian proposals?

To be sure, Stoltenberg's third point was that NATO needs to modernize the framework governing Russian, NATO, and other European non-nuclear military activities (the so-called Vienna Document). And in 2020, the alliance introduced sweeping proposals, only to be stonewalled by Russian representatives. But almost nobody knows this happened, because NATO does not advocate loudly enough for arms control to command any credibility on the issue.

Finally, Stoltenberg pushed for new rules and standards for emerging technologies. Well, it has been nearly two years since his speech. Where are NATO's proposals?

NATO leaders say they are keeping the door open for meaningful dialogue with Russia, yet the alliance has not offered any serious ideas of its own. Instead, it prefers simply to wait for Russia, thereby handing the initiative to the adversary.

I count Stoltenberg as a friend, and I know that he would go further if NATO members would let him. Trying to build a consensus on arms control among 30 allies with different views is an unenviable task. But now that NATO has a chance to breathe again, it has no excuse for not "walking the talk."

Moreover, nuclear-arms control is back in fashion: the US and Russia have agreed to extend the New START Treaty for another five years, and the Biden administration has expressed a desire to pursue more arms-control measures. In the past, arms-control negotiations have been one of the most reliable areas for finding common ground with Russia.

To revive that tradition, European NATO allies must share some of the intellectual burden with the Biden administration. By definition, arms control is win-win for all who participate in it. When done well, it delivers more stability, better deterrence, less risk, and lower costs.

With this in mind, NATO needs to put arms control at the heart of the new Strategic Concept that it plans to launch next year, so that the ongoing increases in European defense spending do not become fuel in a new arms race. It should create a Division of Arms Control to facilitate fresh thinking about the future of the process and the risks and opportunities associated with new technologies. And it should start an inclusive dialogue between nuclear haves and have-nots around the world.

Rather than forever circling the wagons, NATO needs to develop its own ideas so that it can respond credibly to its adversaries' proposals and restore its leadership role. Reviving the arms-control agenda is a key to the alliance's collective defense - and to proving that it has recovered from its near-death experience.

SPECIAL

ARTICLE

The Centennial Party and China's Great Changes

By Chinese Ambassador to Liberia
H.E. REN Yisheng

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of China (CPC). In 1921, the CPC was born under the background of the Chinese nation's internal and external troubles, unprecedented social crisis, and the Chinese people living in dire straits. This is an epoch-making event that breaks ground in China. Over the past 100 years, the CPC has continuously won major victories in revolution, construction, and reform, and led the Chinese people to achieve an unprecedented great leap from continuous decline to a fundamental change in fate and continuous progress towards prosperity and strength.

For more than 70 years as a ruling party, the CPC has created the "two miracles" that Chinese people are proud of, namely, the miracle of rapid economic development and the miracle of long-term social stability that are rare in the world. On the one hand, China has only spent decades in completing the industrialization process that Western developed countries have traversed for hundreds of years, especially in the short period of more than 40 years after the reform and opening up, China has got rid of poverty and become the world's second largest economy. In the past 40 years, the average annual contribution rate of China's economic growth to world economic growth has reached about 18%. Last year, China's GDP exceeded one hundred billion yuan, accounting for more than 16% of the world's total, and its contribution to global economic growth was as high as 35%. China is the world's largest manufacturing country, the largest trader in goods, the largest foreign exchange reserve country, and the second largest foreign direct investment destination and source country. It has become the number one engine of world economic growth.

On the other hand, unlike some countries in the world that frequently experience political turmoil, regime changes, economic fluctuations, social divisions, the spread of violence, continuous shootings, and the spread of epidemics, the overall situation of China's society has maintained long-term stability and has become one of the most secure countries in the world. From a global perspective, it is not uncommon for a country and society to develop rapidly and maintain social stability during a certain period of time, but it is rare for a country like China to develop rapidly and maintain social stability over a long period of time.

The creation of the "two miracles" stems from the strong leadership of the CPC. The CPC now has more than 91 million members and is the largest



political party in the world today. 2021 is the first year that China will implement the "14th Five-Year Plan" and start a new journey of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way. Standing at a new historical juncture and on a new level of economic aggregate, China's economy will continue to be stable and far-reaching. Under the leadership of the CPC, the people of all ethnic groups in China are making unremitting efforts to achieve new and higher goals.

The CPC has been full of vitality for a century since its establishment, the main reasons of which is in the following: persist in not forgetting the original intention and keep in mind its mission; uphold the people's supremacy and win the support of the people; insist on seeking truth and being pragmatic, never stop opening up and reforming; unite the party and the people by innovating thoughts and theories; attach great importance to the party's organization building, absorb and train party members and cadres; promote self-revolution, adhere to strict governance of the party, and maintain integrity; persist in taking into account both domestic and foreign interests, with both an independent consciousness and a global perspective.

The rapid rise of China has not only benefited the Chinese people and greatly changed China, but also made important contributions to the development and progress of human society. China's achievement of eliminating absolute poverty in 2020 means that the world's most populous country has achieved the poverty reduction goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule. The United Nations Secretary-General Guterres spoke

highly of it, saying that China has made the greatest contribution to global poverty reduction in the past 10 years. The success of China's development has boosted the confidence of developing countries in achieving prosperity, and expanded the path for developing countries to realize modernization. It provides experience and reference for those countries and nations in the world that both want to accelerate their development and maintain their own independence to take a path that suits their own national conditions.

At the same time, China yearns for world unity and promotes the building of a more peaceful and beautiful world. General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward a series of important propositions, advocating the joint construction of the "Belt and Road", advocating the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind, calling for changes in the global governance system, and building a fair and just new international order, etc. These important ideas fully demonstrate the historical responsibility of the CPC as the world's largest party and China as a responsible major country. A research report released by the World Bank shows that the full implementation of the "Belt and Road" initiative can lift 32 million people out of moderate poverty, increase global trade by 6.2%, increase trade by economies along the route by 9.7%, and increase global income by 2.9%.

China-Africa relations have a long history, and the friendship between the two sides will last forever. The Chinese people will never forget that it was the African brothers who carried China into the United Nations, and we have always and selflessly supported and helped the development of African countries. A rapidly rising China will bring important development opportunities to Africa. China will continue to uphold the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith and the principle of pursuing the greater good and shared interests under the framework of the "Belt and Road" initiative and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, support Liberia and other African countries to strengthen capacity building, give priority to solving the "three major development bottlenecks" of lagging infrastructure, shortage of talents, and shortage of funds, accelerate the process of industrialization and agricultural modernization, achieve win-win cooperation and common development, and make greater contributions to building a community with a shared future for mankind without poverty but common development.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah hails strong ties with France

-Following visit by French Foreign Minister

President George Manneh Weah has expressed appreciation on the efforts of the French Embassy accredited near Monrovia, together with French companies and non-governmental organizations,

economic recovery, especially as they create jobs and present new opportunities for employment,” President Weah said at a program marking the laying of the foundation stone of the Alliance Française Institute on 11 June 2021.

“I am informed that the

enjoy,” he added.

President Weah said he remains confident that, given the diversity and strength of “our relationship,” Liberia and France will continue to engage and explore wide-ranging areas of increased cooperation.

“Be assured, Your Excellency, that Liberia remains committed to our shared values; including the advancement of democracy, global peace and security, international prosperity, and the promotion of gender equality, among others. And, like France, we will remain steadfast in championing the cause of humanity, and advocating for social justice and the exercise of inalienable rights without precondition,” he added.

He mentioned the recent successful initiation of collaboration between the French financial development institution PROPARCO (Promotion et Participation pour la Coopération Économique) and ECOBANK Liberia, which has resulted in the first French-backed bank guarantee to a Liberian bank in the tune of Ten Million United States Dollars.

According to President Weah, this is a significant development which is very welcome, because it has the potential to give a major boost to the Liberian private sector in its efforts to secure

► CONT'D ON PAGE 11



eager to develop and sustain a new relationship with Liberia.

“In this regard, my Government is pleased to note that French investment interest in Liberia has grown rapidly and in an encouraging manner. These investments are making significant contributions to our

French Business Club is already active in Monrovia, and provides helpful advice to new French investors in Liberia. French NGO's, such as MSF-France, Action Contre la Faim, and Medicin Du Monde, for example, are already playing a useful role. Their work in Liberia speaks to the cordiality of friendship that Liberia and France continue to

MFDP and partners end workshop in Buchanan

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) with support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has climaxed a three - day awareness and training workshop on the National Aid and NGO Policy of Liberia and the Liberia Project Dashboard to “Enhance National Data Capacity and Coordination Mechanisms in Project Management and Results Tracking in Liberia”, according to a press release.

Held in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, the intent of the exercise is to improve Aid Management System and Data Quality and Accessibility in Liberia, generate feedback from users of current test version on the basic features of the Dashboard including data entry, accessing data, and navigation

key sectors over the years.

He noted that the importance of the workshop is to acquaint stakeholders with the major tenets of the national Aid and NGO policy of Liberia, its roles in the management and coordination of external assistance vis-à-vis their respective functions of each stakeholder in ensuring the fulfillment of that role.

According to him, it will also promote an in-depth discussion among stakeholders to generate feedback on their respective roles as described on the basic features of the current test version of the Liberia Project Dashboard including data entry, data access and manipulation as well as the navigation functionalities.

“I am saying this because, many of us when we come to these programs, it is good for us to listen and learn what is



functionalities, sensitize public users, including Local and National Government, Development Partners, NGOs, CSOs, private sectors, media and the general public, according to a press release.

Moreover, it is to acquaint stakeholders with the major tenets of the National Aid and NGO Policy of Liberia, its roles in the management and coordination of external assistance vis-à-vis their respective functions of each stakeholder in ensuring the fulfillment of that role.

The Assistant Minister for External Resources and Debt Management at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Barcon Vah thanked the United Nations Development Program and other Development Partners for the level of support in capacity building and other

required to achieve at the end of the training, knowing the importance and objective of the program”, he added.

For his part, the National Program Specialist from UNDP, Sidiki A. Quisia accepted the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning's commendations on the role of UNDP in terms of support to the drafting, finalization and implementation of the National Aid and NGO Policy.

He said UNDP appreciates the relationship between the Government of Liberia since 1977 when the agency first arrived in Liberia. The Standard Basic Agreement (SBAA) between UNDP and the Government of Liberia clearly stipulates the different role of each party at that time.

This also spells out the different nature of interaction,

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Citizens disappointed in local officials -over Covid food

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong

Several aggrieved citizens of Wainsue Town in Jorquellah District #3 have expressed disappointment over the recent distribution of the Government of Liberia Covid -19 stimulus food package in the area.

The aggrieved citizens, some of them young baby mothers, accused the town's leadership and the district commissioner Washing Bonah of allegedly selling the rice.

They told journalists that less than 50 households received the rice in Wainsue, leaving out others, including the most vulnerable people.

The citizens in a very angry mood termed as frustrating the alleged actions of commissioner Washington Bonnah and the town chief Korto Tokpah to have sold rice that were

intended for them.

“We are not happy at all, what they have done to us is evil. How can you take the rice and sell them, leaving out those who need to benefit?” Patience

Kwenah, one of the citizens angrily said.

“Let the County Authorities come in now or they will hear that we have done another thing about our rice in this town. Those

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah rallies stakeholders to battle child labor

President George Manneh Weah has called on all relevant actors and stakeholders to coordinate efforts and mobilize the needed resources to ensure that no child is a victim of child labour or involved in hazardous work.

"Against this backdrop, I call on all of the relevant actors and stakeholders to coordinate efforts and mobilize the needed resources, and with the support of the public, to ensure that no child is a victim of child labour or involved in hazardous work," he said in observance of the World Day Against Child Labour Saturday, 12 June 2021.



According to him, Liberia has signed many international conventions including the UNICEF's Child Rights Convention (CRC), the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.

Added to these is the endorsement and launch in 2019 of the Liberia's National Action Plan Document (NAP) for the Elimination of the worst forms of Child Labour that aims at ensuring that children are shielded from activities that are detrimental to their physical, social or psychological well-

being, Mr. Weah added.

As Liberia joined the world over in observance of this year's World Day Against Child Labour (June 12), with the Global Theme: "Act Now to End Child Labour", President Weah said the Government of Liberia recognizes that the worst forms of child labour and other hazardous work done by children deprive them of their dignity, rights to education, health, well-being and protection.

"As emphasized in the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), it is clear that through relevant line Ministries such as the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Health, and in partnership with

have been trafficked and are exposed to the worst forms of child labour such as work in hazardous environments, slavery, or other forms of forced labour, illicit activities such as drug trafficking, prostitution, and involvement in domestic work and in armed conflict.

President Weah continued that the incidence and impact of child labour on the children's fundamental rights and national development is one of the major concerns of the Government of Liberia, saying child labour is a cross-cutting issue that violates the fundamental rights of children emphasized by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). He stated that the International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the First World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL) in June 2002 under the theme "A Future without Child Labour" as a way to highlight the plight of these children.

"The day, which is observed on June 12 of each year, is intended to serve as a catalyst for the growing worldwide movement against child labour, reflected in the huge number of ratifications of ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour and ILO Convention No. 138 on the minimum age for employment," he said.

According to him, the global pandemic (COVID-19) has profoundly affected the world of work, stressing that in addition to its threat to public health, the economic and social stability, the long-term livelihood and well-being of millions were also negatively impacted resulting to more child laborers.

"Children's participation in the labour force is endlessly varied and infinitely volatile, responding to changing market and social conditions. Experience shows that a combination of economic growth, respect for labour standards, universal education and social protection, together with a better understanding of the needs and rights of children, can bring about a significant reduction in child labour," he noted.

the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other relevant humanitarian agencies, the Government of Liberia can achieve her objectives in the fight against child labour," he noted.

President Weah said millions of girls and boys throughout the world are engaged into child labour and are victims of human trafficking, specifically child trafficking, that have placed them into child labour.

According to him, these works have deprived them of adequate education, health, leisure and basic freedoms, thereby undermining their potential growth and development as well as their ability to gainful employment.

He added that more than half

Monrovia, Houston to establish sister city ties

By Lewis S. Teh

A four-member delegation from Taxes, the United States of America is in the country under the auspices of the Monrovia City government to hold talk with Mayor Jefferson T. Koijee and subsequently tour Monrovia and its environs.

Addressing a news conference Monday, June 14, 2021 at the Monrovia City Hall, the head of the delegation and honorary council of Georgia, Ambassador Cynthia Lynn Blandford said the purpose of the visit to Liberia is to assess Monrovia and hold bilateral talk with the city government in order to establish sister-city agreement for close cooperation.

"Our visit is to segment the establishment of a sisterly city relationship that will foster mutual benefits that will find solutions to the challenges

University of Liberia under the then President Dr. Amos C. Sawyer before obtaining a scholarship to travel to the United States, so let me be clear, this is my home."

She said the visit here is also to encourage and publicize existing exchanges between the two cities so they can grow to benefit a cross section of their respective citizens.

Besides, we are going to be working very closely with the Mayor for both Africans and Americans to come back to this country, because this is our country and we must therefore tell our own story, she added.

Ms. Blandford further explained the purpose of the sister-city relationship is to generate operation of the cities, serve as a conduit for information, and to identify things in the two cities that can generate connection, social



that engulf the two cities.

To provide financial or in kind support to community-led programs that advance the aim of the sister-city relationship, and to further promote key priorities that are relevant to the two cities", Amb. Blandford explained.

She applauded the Government of Liberia through Mayor Koijee for what she terms ongoing wonderful work for the people of Liberia, saying "We're being watching you and the government and we are excited for the wonderful job [you] continue to do for the great people of this country."

Amb. Blandford described herself as a Liberian that once lived in Yekepa, Nimba County, and had worked in Liberia for over 40 years, saying, "I taught schools and even attended the State-run

partnership so this is just the beginning.

Also making remarks, international trade development council Mr. Val Thompson, who delivered a special message on behalf of the Mayor of Houston, said the mayor is very excited to seeing the sisters city relationship comes to fruition, and it is an extra feeling to visit Liberia, and be part of the country's development efforts through the sisters city relationship that is set to be established.

"The Mayor of Houston in the state of Texas had asked me to convey his appreciation to you for the interest taking in establishing sisters city relationship".

In response, Mayor Koijee extolled the delegation for coming to Liberia for an

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Français

L'ancienne Présidente Sirleaf se félicite de la promesse de 500 millions de doses du vaccin de la Covid-19

L'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a salué la promesse du président des États-Unis, Joe Biden, de livrer 500 millions de doses du vaccin de la Covid-19 dans le monde.

« L'idée est très bonne, mais il y aura un problème d'approvisionnement », a-t-elle dit.

Pour Mme Sirleaf, les développeurs de vaccins auront du mal à fournir suffisamment de doses de vaccin.

Biden a révélé jeudi son plan qui consiste à fournir un demi-milliard de doses de Pfizer à environ 100 pays au cours des deux prochaines années. Environ 200 millions seront distribués cette année et l'objectif est de vacciner le monde entier d'ici fin 2022.

Le président américain a annoncé son plan dès son arrivée au Royaume-Uni pour le sommet du G7 à Cornwall.

« Nous pensons que c'est une réponse très opportune, très significative », a déclaré l'ex-présidente libérienne à

ITV News.

Mme Sirleaf : « J'aurais aimé qu'il y ait une discussion sur sa distribution, mais cela peut certainement être réglé. Nous espérons que cela concernera en particulier les pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire qui sont loin derrière malgré le fait qu'ils aient répondu très bien à la pandémie.

« C'est un bon geste. Je pense

qu'il y en a quelques autres qui ont fait la même chose pour s'assurer que nous ayons les vaccins dans les pays qui en ont besoin.

« Il est inacceptable qu'en Afrique seulement 2% de la population qui a soigné soient vaccinés. »

Parlant du programme

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President Sireaf

Assassinat d'Elhadj Doura : Un béret rouge de la garde présidentielle se confesse...

CONAKRY - Accusé « d'association de malfaiteurs, enlèvement, séquestration, complicité, recèle, abstention délictueuse, blanchiment de capitaux », un béret rouge de la Brigade de la Sécurité Présidentielle (BSP), une unité d'élite de l'armée guinéenne, a fait une confession inédite, ce lundi 14 juin 2021. L'agent a reconnu avoir participé à

l'enlèvement et à l'enterrement de l'opérateur économique Elhadj Abdourahmane Diallo. Appelé à la barre par le Président du tribunal criminel de Dixinn, aujourd'hui, deuxième audience du procès des présumés ravisseurs et assassins d'Elhadj Doura, Oumar Barry agent de la Brigade de la Sécurité Présidentielle (BPS) a dans sa déposition, relaté les faits, détaillant amplement le

rôle qu'il a joué dans ce crime.

« Le jour de l'enlèvement d'Elhadj Doura, (Mardi 4 décembre 2017 ndr), j'étais avec mes amis dont Elhadj Mamadou Diallo (le chef du gang). Ce jour, on était allé danser dans une boîte de nuit à Lambanyi, appelée le QG. Dans les environs de 23h, Elhadj Mamadou Diallo nous a amené dans un hôtel à Nongo où nous avons passé la nuit. Parce que selon lui, ils avaient des étrangers chez eux. Donc, on ne pouvait pas aller dormir là-bas. A 4h du matin, il m'a réveillé pour me dire que son père est malade, de l'accompagner pour l'envoyer chez son guérisseur à Entag. J'ai pris la voiture on est allé jusqu'à Bambéto précisément à Marifala où deux autres personnes nous attendaient. On les avait pris dans notre véhicule et on a continué à Hamdallaye. C'est moi qui conduisais la voiture. Arrivée dans le quartier Hamdallaye, ils sont descendus de la voiture, j'étais garé derrière une cours. Deux minutes après, ils

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Éditorial

Ce que le Président Weah pense du tribunal des crimes de guerre pour le Libéria

La réponse du président George Manneh Weah à la préoccupation du représentant du comté de Lofa, Clarence Massaquo, concernant la nécessité d'établir un tribunal des crimes de guerre et crimes économiques pour le Libéria afin d'éradiquer l'impunité indique clairement qu'il n'a aucunement l'intention de poursuivre les personnes qui ont commis des crimes odieux pendant la guerre civile. En tout cas les victimes de la crise ne peuvent plus compter sur l'administration Weah pour que justice leur soit rendue.

Le représentant du comté de Lofa, Clarence Massaquo, s'exprimant ce week-end dans le district de Foya, dans le comté de Lofa, a rappelé au président Weah que les Libériens sont blessés parce qu'ils ont perdu des proches, y compris des parents, donc l'impunité ne devrait pas faire obstacle à la situation des responsabilités et à la justice. Le législateur de Lofa, comme de nombreux Libériens, souhaite que la recommandation de la Commission vérité et réconciliation concernant les poursuites judiciaires soit mise en œuvre.

« Je sais que ce n'est pas courant de dire ça. Mais Monsieur le Président nous avons le rapport de la CVR, quelles que soient les formes qu'elles prennent Monsieur le Président, ceux qui sont dans ces charniers ne sont pas ici aujourd'hui de leur propre gré. Nous demandons justice », a-t-il plaidé.

Mais le président, par la façon dont il a répondu au législateur, considère la question du tribunal des crimes de guerre comme une discussion farfelue sur l'agenda de son gouvernement. Il a ainsi demandé aux Libériens de plutôt continuer à vivre en toute impunité au nom de la paix.

Les Libériens, tant au pays qu'à l'étranger, aspirent à la justice et à juste titre, en particulier étant donné que les chefs de guerre et autres auteurs de crimes ne cessent de montrer publiquement qu'ils n'ont aucun remords au sujet des atrocités qu'ils ont commises pendant la crise qui a décimé des familles et brisé des rêves.

La plupart des acteurs clés de la guerre sont de retour au gouvernement, y compris l'Assemblée législative. Ils bénéficient d'une immunité totale en dépit des recommandations faites par la Commission vérité et réconciliation. Il s'agit par exemple du célèbre chef de guerre, le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, chef de l'INPFL, du représentant Dr. George S. Boley, chef du Liberia Peace Council, de Sekou Damate Conneh, chef LURD, et du professeur Alhaji G.V. Kromah, chef de l'ULIMO-K, entre autres.

En fait, le sénateur Johnson, un fidèle allié politique du président Weah, continue de se vanter qu'aucun tribunal des crimes de guerre ne viendra au Libéria et nie publiquement qu'il a commis des atrocités pendant la guerre, c'est aussi le cas pour le Représentant Boley et pour Sekou Damate Conneh.

Ainsi, lorsque le président Weah appelle les Libériens à s'asseoir autour d'une table ronde pour discuter de la façon de faire avancer le pays plutôt que d'appeler à un tribunal pour crimes de guerre qui pourrait renvoyer le Libéria aux jours sombres, vous pouvez comprendre que la justice va nous échapper continuellement, tant que cette administration est au pouvoir.

Cependant, la Sainte Bible dit que la voix du peuple est la voix de Dieu. Les Libériens ne devraient jamais abandonner le combat. Ils devraient continuer à faire pression pour la mise en place d'un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et économiques malgré le manque apparent de volonté politique de ce gouvernement.

L'histoire a prouvé à maintes reprises que la volonté du peuple finit par l'emporter malgré les tentatives de réprimer leurs opinions et de piétiner leurs souhaits exprimés de justice, qui est le pivot sur lequel reposent la paix dont le président a parlé, le développement et toutes les autres entreprises humaines positives.

Français

L'anciennePrésidente Sirleafse

Covax et des messages avant le sommet du G7 pour distribuer des vaccins aux pays les plus pauvres, elle a déclaré: “Mais ce n’est pas tout. Ce ne sont que des promesses , et c’est bien d’avoir despromesses, mais comment passer de la promesse à l’action réelle ?Quel temps leur faudra-t-il pour sortir ces vaccins ? Qu’en est-il de la situation de l’approvisionnement?”

Sirleafa posé la questionde savoir comment passer de l’engagement à l’action réelle. Elle a prévenu que même avec la promesse de fournir des vaccins à tout le monde, il y aura un problème d’approvisionnement : « Nous savons que les produits pharmaceutiques n’auront pas assez pour répondre aux besoins des pays riches autant qu’ils se sont engagés à redistribuer, alors nous il faut faire plus.”

Assassinat d’Elhadj Doura :

m’ont appelé en me disant d’approcher la voiture. Elhadj Mamadou Diallo et les autres tenaient le vieux et ils l’ont fait monter dans la voiture. Après, on a pris la direction d’Entag mais depuis notre départ de l’hôtel, Elhadj Mamadou Diallo communiquait à chaque instant au téléphone. Arrivée à Sankoumbaya, Elhadj Mamadou Diallo m’a dit que le guérisseur de son père se trouvait à Sonfoniah. Donc de continuer directement là-bas. Il m’a indiqué la route jusqu’à ce qu’on soit arrivé derrière une cours. Ils ont fait descendre le vieux et l’ont fait entrer dans la cours. Ensuite, Elhadj Mamadou Diallo m’a donné 50 mille Gnf pour mon transport. Je lui ai dit : non ton père est malade je ne prends pas l’argent. J’ai pris 20 mille Gnf et je lui ai restitué les 30 mille Gnf. Et moi je suis reparti en les laissant là-bas. Lors l’enlèvement on était au nombre de 4 personnes, Elhadj Mamadou Diallo, moi et deux autres personnes », a expliqué l’accusé à la barre. Le béret rouge reconnaît aussi avoir participé à l’enterrement de l’opérateur économique décédé à Maférinyah selon lui, 10 jours environs après son enlèvement.

« Avant l’enlèvement, Elhadj Mamadou Diallo m’avait demandé de l’aider à avoir un

Elle a poursuivi: “Nous devons voir l’octroi de licences volontaires afin que les pays africains qui ont la capacité puissent commencer un processus de vaccination locale et de fournir aux gens plus rapidement et si cela ne fonctionne pas, nous parlons également de la renonciations à la propriété.

“Peu importe ce que nous faisons, nous avons également besoin que les systèmes nationaux soient pris en compte. Si les paysn’ont pasde système de livraisonquifonctionne, quisoit bien organisé pour atteindre les zones rurales, alors tout le discours sur la vaccination de l’ensemble de la population mondiale d’ici la fin 2022 ne resteraqu’un discours.”

Elle estime que l’objectif de vacciner tout le monde d’ici 2022 est “un défi de taille” et une “approche très agressive”, vu le manque d’infrastructures dans certains pays.

logement à Maférinyah pour un chinois parce que selon lui, il était dans un projet de construction d’une usine de conserve. Il avait dit qu’il était prêt à payer jusqu’à 500 mille Gnf le loyer. C’est ainsi que j’ai négocié pour lui une case d’un grand à moi à Maférinyah et il a pris la case. Et environs 10 jours après, El hadj Mamadou Diallo m’a appelé, on s’était rencontré quelque part dans une buvette pour boire du vin blanc jusque tard la nuit. Ensuite, il m’a demandé de l’accompagner où ils étaient logés. Arrivée sur les lieux, j’ai trouvé un vieux couché. J’ai demandé à Elhadj Mamadou Diallo qui c’était. Il m’a dit que c’était le vieux qu’on était allé chercher à Hamdallaye. Je lui ai dit : ton père ? Il a répondu : non, on l’avait pris pour l’argent mais il est mort, il faut qu’on l’enterre la nuit-là même. C’était vers 4h du matin.Je leur avais fait savoir qu’on ne pouvait pas l’enterrer la nuit au cimetière et de m’attendre pour que je puisse informer les sages de la localité. Ils m’ont dit non que si on ne l’enterrait pas cette nuit, ils allaient partir et me laisser là-bas avec le corps. C’est ainsi que nous sommes allés creuser au bord d’une rivière et l’enterrer avec les habits qu’il portait. Je ne sais pas s’ils l’avaient lavé ou pas. Ce sont cinq (5) personnes qui avaient participé à l’enterrement : Elhadj Mamadou Diallo, Ibro, Zimbabwe, moi et une autre personne », a-t-il ajouté.

COMMENTAIRE

By Adair Turner

Les avantages du déclin démographique

LONDRES - Les chiffres de son recensement, récemment rendus publics par la Chine, montrant que sa population avait presque cessé de croître, ont donné lieu à toute une série de mises en garde quant aux graves problèmes qu’allait connaître le pays. « Ces chiffres annoncent pour le parti des temps sombres » commentaitThe Economist. Ils « pourraient avoir de désastreuses conséquences » écrivait Huang Wenzheng, chercheur au Centre pour la Chine et la mondialisation de Pékin, dans le Financial Times.

Mais un commentaire, posté sur le réseau social chinois Weibo voit mieux les choses : « La chute du taux de fécondité reflète en réalité les progrès de la pensée du peuple chinois - les femmes ne veulent plus être des instruments de fertilité. »

En Chine, le taux de fécondité était en 2020 de 1,3 enfant par femme, soit très en dessous du niveau naturel de remplacement des générations, mis il en va de même de tous les pays riches. Le taux de fécondité est de 1,66 en Australie, de 1,64 aux États-Unis, de 1,47 au Canada. Dans toutes les économies développées, le taux de fécondité est tombé, dès les années 1970 ou 1980, à des niveaux qui ne permettent pas de remplacer les générations, et il est depuis demeuré stable.

Lorsqu’aux États-Unis le taux de fécondité est remonté au-dessus de 2, entre 1990 et 2005, certains commentateurs ont salué le dynamisme de l’Amérique et la « confiance sociale » qui s’y manifestait à la différence de la « vieille Europe ». En réalité, cet accroissement était exclusivement le fruit de l’immigration, les immigrants hispaniques ayant conservé les taux de fécondité élevés de leur pays d’origine, dont la réussite économique était bien moindre. Depuis 2000, le taux de fécondité des populations hispaniques aux États-Unis est passé de 2,73 à 1,9, tandis que celui des populations blanches est tombé bien en dessous de 2 depuis les années 1970, suivi, aux environs de l’année 2000 par le taux des populations noires.

Seuls certains pays pauvres, concentrés en Afrique et au Moyen-Orient, connaissent encore des taux de natalité très élevés. En Inde, les États les plus prospères - comme le Maharashtra et le Karnataka - connaissent tous des taux de fécondité qui les placent en dessous du niveau de remplacement des générations ; ils ne sont nettement au-dessus de ce niveau que dans les États plus pauvres du Bihar et de l’Uttar Pradesh. Et si le taux de fécondité national était encore de 2,2 en 2018, l’enquête nationale sur la famille et la santé révèle que les femmes indiennes souhaiteraient avoir, en moyenne, 1,8 enfant.

Les données collectées pendant un demi-siècle peuvent permettre de penser que dans tous les pays prospères où les femmes sont éduquées et libres de choisir d’avoir ou non des enfants, les taux de fécondité tombent significativement en dessous du niveau de remplacement des générations. Si la condition féminine suit partout la même évolution, la population mondiale finira par décliner.

Par un préjugé répandu, on considère souvent que le déclin démographique est un problème. « La chute du taux de natalité en Chine menace la croissance économique » opine le Financial Times, tandis que dans la presse indienne, des commentaires se réjouissent que la population de l’Inde surpasse bientôt celle de la Chine. Si la croissance économique, en termes absolus, est vouée à chuter lorsque la population se stabilise puis diminue, c’est en revanche le revenu par habitant qui détermine la prospérité et crée des perspectives économiques. Que les femmes éduquées n’aient pas envie de produire des bébés pour satisfaire les nationalistes économiques, voilà une évolution tout à fait souhaitable.

En revanche, les arguments selon lesquels une population stable ou en déclin constitue une menace pour la croissance par habitant sont largement exagérés et, parfois même, parfaitement faux.

Certes, lorsque les populations n’augmentent plus, le nombre d’actifs décroît relativement à celui des

retraités, et la part des coûts des soins de santé dans le PIB augmente. Mais tout cela est compensé par une diminution des besoins d’infrastructures et des dépenses de logement induites par la croissance démographique. La Chine consacre aujourd’hui 25 % de son PIB chaque année à couler du béton pour bâtir des immeubles d’habitation, des routes, et autres infrastructures urbaines, dont certaines n’auront plus de valeur lorsque la population aura diminué. En réduisant ce gaspillage, et en dépensant plus dans les soins de santé et la haute technologie, le pays peut poursuivre son épanouissement économique alors même que sa population décline.

Sans compter qu’une population mondiale stabilisée puis déclinante faciliterait la diminution des émissions de gaz à effet de serre, ralentissant ainsi le changement climatique et allégeant la pression qu’une population qui augmente exerce inévitablement sur la biodiversité et des écosystèmes fragiles. La contraction de la main-d’œuvre renforcera l’incitation à l’automation des entreprises tout en poussant à la hausse les salaires réels, ce qui, somme toute, compte réellement pour les citoyens ordinaires, contrairement à la croissance économique en termes absolus.

Dans un monde où la technologie nous permet d’automatiser toujours plus d’emplois, le problème est d’avoir trop de bras, bien plus que de n’en pas avoir assez. La part de la population chinoise âgée de vingt à soixante-quatre ans diminuera probablement de 20 % au cours des trente prochaines années, mais la croissance de la productivité permettra que la prospérité poursuive son progrès. La population indienne augmente actuellement dans cette tranche d’âge d’environ dix millions de personnes chaque année et ne se stabilisera pas avant 2050.

Pourtant, quand bien même l’économie indienne renouerait avec une croissance rapide, comparable à celle qu’elle connaissait avant la crise du Covid-19, son « secteur organisé », extrêmement productif, qui emploie environ 80 millions de personnes - travaillant pour des entreprises déclarées ou pour des organismes publics avec un contrat officiel - ne parviendrait pas à créer des emplois supplémentaires. La croissance de la main-d’œuvre potentielle ne fait que renforcer les effectifs de l’énorme « secteur informel », sans emploi ou sous-employés.

Certes, des taux de fécondité très inférieurs au niveau de remplacement des générations créent des difficultés non négligeables, et la Chine pourrait prendre ce chemin. Beaucoup prévoyaient qu’après l’abandon de la politique de l’enfant unique, en 2015, le taux de fécondité des femmes chinoises - qui se tenait alors autour de 1,65 - augmente. Mais il suffisait de considérer les taux d’une natalité librement choisie des populations chinoises dans les économies prospères comme Taïwan (1,07) et Singapour (1,1) pour en douter. D’autres pays d’Asie orientale connaissent de faibles taux de fécondité, notamment le Japon (1,38) et la Corée (1,09).

À un tel rythme, le déclin démographique est plus brutal que graduel. Si le taux de natalité n’augmente pas en Corée, la population passera des 51 millions qu’elle compte aujourd’hui à 27 millions en 2020, et le nombre des retraités par rapport à celui des actifs connaîtra une augmentation telle qu’aucune automation ne pourra le compenser.

En outre, certaines enquêtes d’opinion permettent de penser que nombre de familles dans les pays où les taux de fécondité sont bas aimeraient avoir plus d’enfants, mais en sont dissuadées par les prix de l’immobilier, les difficultés à faire garder ses enfants, et toutes sortes d’obstacles empêchant de concilier vie professionnelle et vie familiale. Les responsables politiques devraient donc s’efforcer de permettre aux couples d’avoir le nombre d’enfants qu’ils souhaitent. Mais il est probable qu’il résulte de telles politiques des taux de fécondité moyens très en dessous du niveau de remplacement des générations, du moins dans tous les pays développés, et, avec le temps, une diminution démographique graduelle. Plus vite cette dernière deviendra réalité dans le monde entier, mieux nous nous en porterons, tous.

President Weah Makes Appointments in Government



Monday, 14th June 2021

Monrovia, Liberia - The President of Liberia, H.E. Dr. George Manneh Weah on Monday, June 14, 2021, made additional appointments in Government.

Those appointed include:

National Human Rights Commission

Cllr. Dempster Brown	Chairperson
Atty. Pela Boker Wilson	Commissioner
Cllr. Charles Kear Harris	Commissioner
Atty. Mohammed E. Fahnbulleh	Commissioner
Mr. Pindarous W. T. Allison	Commissioner

National Commission on Higher Education

Dr. Micheal Sleweon	Director General
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Liberia National Lotteries Reginald Nagbe	Director General
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Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Angel R. Banda	Assistant Minister/Small Medium Business
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Ministry of Labor

Ruth Baryogar	Assistant Minister/Manpower Development
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Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)

Dave Zackely	Deputy Director General for Administration
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Mittal Steel Parent Company

Thomas Grupee	Board Member
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Ministry of Transport

Gertrude J. D. Williams	Assistant Minister/Administration
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Liberia Maritime Authority-Foreign

Emmanuel Reeves	Senior Deputy Commissioner-Finance
Margaret Ansumana	Senior Deputy Commissioner-Legal
Joseph Nimley Toe	Deputy Commissioner-Registration

General Auditing Commission

P. Garwa Jackson	Auditor General
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Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission

Cllr. Edwin Klah Martin	Chairperson
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Central Bank of Liberia

J. Alyosius Tarlue Jr.	Executive Governor (reappoint)
Dr. Musa Dukuly	Deputy Governor/Economics Policy (reappoint)

Ministry of Agriculture

Lealea Andrews	Deputy Minister/Technical Services
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Civil Service Agency

Onika Smythe Jackson	Deputy Director for Human Resource Management & Policy
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Governance Commission

D. Karn Karlor	Commissioner for National Integrity Systems
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Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission

Aretha M. B. Divine	Deputy Executive Director-Administration
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National Commission on Disabilities

Daintowon Domah Pay-Bayee	Chairperson
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Liberia Broadcasting System

Tetee Gebro	Deputy Director-General/Administration
Sorbor George	Deputy Director-Broadcasting
Jallah Grayfield	Deputy Director-Public Affairs
Tapenty Young	Deputy Director-Technical Operations

The appointments are subject to confirmation by the Honorable Liberian senate where applicable.

OPINION

By Gordon Brown

Vaccines for All or Vaccine Apartheid?

LONDON - The G7 summit starting on Friday will mark the first time that world leaders have met in person for almost two years. It is Joe Biden's first such meeting as US president and Angela Merkel's last as German Chancellor. The gathering will also be the first test of what UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's oft-quoted "Global Britain" slogan actually means.

remember little more than well-choreographed leaders' photo opportunities. But on rare occasions, a G7 can bring meaningful policy breakthroughs. So it was in 2009 when, in consultation with African leaders, the Italian-hosted G8 broke new ground on international development. In introducing this session, I remember recounting fellow leaders of the story of a Rwanda schoolboy caught up in the genocide of the 1990s and now immortalized in the Kigali Genocide Memorial museum, where, in a section devoted to children, one can find his photograph and a plaque that reads:

David, age 11

Ambition: to be a doctor

Favorite sport: football

Favorite hobby: making people laugh

Death: by mutilation

Last words: the UN are coming to save us

In his idealism and innocence, David believed the international community would save him and his mother. We didn't. David's story was repeated by US President Barack Obama and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. We agreed that the international community had done too little to help people in mortal danger, and



our communiqué announced our intention to do much more.

Once again, a life-and-death issue, and the costs of inaction, should be at the forefront of the G7's agenda. Our failure so far to build on the development of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines with a plan to immunize the whole world is unacceptable. Already, 3.8 million people around the world have died from

COVID-19. Some 80,000 more are dying every week. And it is not an exaggeration to state that the G7's members will decide who is vaccinated and safe and who remains unvaccinated and at risk.

In the last few days, the United States has offered to supply 500 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to developing countries, and may offer more. The United Kingdom is expected to offer 100 million doses. Others will respond, too.

But the numbers being discussed fall short of the 11 billion doses needed. We need a continuous flow over the next few months and beyond to meet Johnson's pledge to vaccinate the whole world by the end of 2022. Achieving this requires guaranteed funding and pooled purchasing that in turn leads to new manufacturing capacity and a secure pipeline of vaccine supply on every continent. And we need a decision to finance all of this now if we are to avoid the familiar vicious circle whereby the world fails to underwrite the costs and we fall short of the vaccination supplies we need.

The omens for the world's poorest countries are not yet encouraging.

The vast majority of the 2.5 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses produced so far have gone to the richest countries. Sub-Saharan Africa has received less than 2%. As a result, only 2% of the region's population has had a first vaccine shot, and only 0.2% are fully immunized. The Anglican archbishop of Cape Town, Thabo Makgoba, calls this "vaccine apartheid." And today, with African rates of COVID-19 infection rising by an estimated 25% per week, the world's poorest countries face two problems that perhaps only the G7 can resolve. First, they cannot contain the spread of the disease if they have to wait in a queue this summer and autumn for leftover Western doses, most of which won't arrive until next year. Second, they cannot reach Western levels of immunization or protect themselves with testing and protective equipment without more financial support: \$16 billion more is needed this year, and upward of \$30 billion in 2022.

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New faces in Weah government

New faces have surfaced in President George Manneh Weah's government in its fourth year based on additional appointments he made on Monday, 14 June. Some of the appointments are subject to confirmation by the Liberian Senate where applicable, according to the Executive Mansion.

At the National Human Rights Commission, President Weah has appointed Cllr. Dempster Brown as chairperson; Atty. Pela Boker

National Commission on Higher Education; and Mr. Reginald Nagbe, Director General, Liberia National Lotteries.

Angel R. Banda is also appointed Assistant Minister for Small Medium Business, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Ruth Baryogar, Assistant Minister for Manpower Development at the Ministry of Labor; and Dave Zackely, Deputy Director General for Administration, Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA).

Mr. Thomas Grupee is appointed Board Member, Mittal

Deputy Governor for Economics Policy; and at the Ministry of Agriculture, appointed Lealea Andrews, Deputy Minister for Technical Services; Onika Smythe Jackson, Deputy Director for Human Resource Management & Policy, Civil Service Agency; D. Karn Karlor, Commissioner for National Integrity Systems, Governance Commission; Aretha M. B. Divine, Deputy Executive Director for Administration at Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement



Wilson, commissioner; Cllr. Charles Kear Harris, commissioner; Atty. Mohammed E. Fahnbulleh, commissioner; and Mr. Pindarous W. T. Allison, commissioner.

Mr. P. Garswa Jackson is appointed Liberia's new Auditor General at the General Auditing Commission (GAC); Cllr. Edwin Klah Martin, new Chairperson, Liberia Anti - Corruption Commission (LACC); Dr. Micheal Sleweon, appointed Director General at the

Steel Parent Company; Gertrude J. D. Williams, Assistant Minister for Administration, Ministry of Transport; and at Liberia Maritime Authority, appointees include Emmanuel Reeves, Senior Deputy Commissioner for Finance; Margaret Ansumana, Senior Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs, and Joseph Nimley Toe, Deputy Commissioner for Registration.

At the Central Bank of Liberia, President Weah has reappointed current Executive Governor J. Aloysius Tarlue, Jr.; reappointed Dr. Musa Dukuly,

Commission; and Daintowon Domah Pay-Bayee, Chairperson, National Commission on Disabilities.

And at the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS), President Weah has also appointed Ms. Tete Gebro, Deputy Director-General for Administration; Mr. Sorbor George, Deputy Director for Broadcasting; Jallah Grayfield, Deputy Director for Public Affairs and Tapenty Young, Deputy Director for Technical Operations.

Cont'd from page 6

relationship, what roles UNDP has in the development process of Liberia and what role the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning or the Government of Liberia had to support UNDP operations in Liberia.

"We still stand on that and improvement has taken place

Cont'd from page 7

assessment and to hold talk with him for sister city relationship.

Koijee welcomed the decision, saying "For us, our interest is to keep knocking on the doors of our partners to seek opportunity to improve the livelihood of our people and the nation at large. We want to assure you that we will work with you

MFDP and partners

over time. We also hope to see this going on for the future", Mr. Quisia said.

The National Aid and the NGO Policy Development, and the recalibration of the PAPD are now charting the new course of development assistance to Liberia.

Moreover, UNDP is at the

vanguard globally to promote Global Partnership for Development Effectiveness. This platform is committed to the Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda and Addis Ababa Actions to make Aid effective for the recipient countries. -

Press Release

Monrovia, Houston to

and reciprocate in kind, because we think these agreements will help strengthen us".

Members of the delegation include Mr. Val Thompson, International Trade Development Council, city government of Houston; Dr. Denise Adjei, Corporate Etiquette and International Protocol Consultant, Houston city; Bill Littlejohn, Retired

Municipal Court Judge, Houston city, and Amb. Cynthia Lynn Blandford, Head of delegation and Honorary Council for Georgia.

Monrovia City was founded in 1822. Today, it serves as the economic, financial and cultural center of Liberia.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Battle for UL

Starts from back page

staffers' issues, recalling how at some point he lobbied with previous UL administration to address staffers' transportation issues.

Additionally, Mr. Seituah vowed to work with UL administration to ensure that those working with the university as contractors will replace others who have been pensioned as a way of changing their status from contractors to employees.

Also speaking, presidential candidate Ms. Mettie Kollie asked voters to vote right by electing her, saying she needs the golden key so that she and her team can make the difference.

"Our leadership will ensure that the rights and welfare of this organization will be worked on at all times. It's for this cause that we have come to ask that you vote us into power to reunify the University of Liberia Staff Association, help develop the skills of ULSA workers," she said.

Madam Kollie stated that her leadership will invite some vendors to come and teach the needed ULSA staff some new business skills such as the production of soap, clorox, delta and some detergent so that they do not rely on only their monthly salaries from UL.

Additionally, Ms. Kollie said her team will work with

administration on the vetting process of insurance companies for UL support staff.

She vowed to ensure transparent financial reports for the association, as well as talking with UL administration to obtain a permanent office site for ULSA, among others.

For his part, presidential candidate Adolphus Gbowee promised to make a change if elected president of the association, appealing to his colleagues that he needs their votes.

"This is the right candidate for you people and this is the time for that change," he said, assuring voters that if he is elected, he will unite members of the organization and also talk to UL administration about the need to have a cafeteria for support staff.

Madam Nancy Crusoe and Yamenah K. Jalloh, rival candidates for Secretary General post have each committed to carry out effective secretarial duties if elected by the association; while Madam Josephine David - Ross pledged to ensure transparency in handling the groups finances of the association if elected. Mr. Emmanuel Martin Weah, candidate for Assistant Secretary General position said he will make sure that all ULSA records are organized, when elected.

Citizens disappointed

Cont'd from page 6

people who are calling themselves Leaders cannot continue to treat us in this manner," she continued.

They wondered why they were treated in such a manner, when they always commit themselves to development and other activities in the town.

The citizens are therefore beseeching the intervention of the county's leadership to remedy the situation

When contacted, Wainsue

town chief Korto Tokpah and Commissioner Washington Bonnah denied the allegation, stating that the rice was given to those who were enlisted.

Commissioner Bonnah furthered that at no point in time did he or authorities of the town sell rice in the town; thus describing the COVID-19 stimulus package food distribution in Wainsue as the most transparent, since the start of the COVID-19 stimulus package in Liberia.

Weah hails strong

Cont'd from page 6

funding from financial institutions.

He stated that Liberia as a Member State of ECOWAS conducts cross-border trade on a daily basis with its French-speaking neighbors, stressing that it is very important that as many Liberians as possible should have the opportunity to learn to speak French.

"It is in this spirit that I am personally pleased that the Alliance Française Institute, which was re-opened in 2020, is now being further upgraded with its own purpose-built facilities. And today, I proudly join the French Europe and Foreign Minister and the rest of you here to lay the historic cornerstone of its foundation," he noted.

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Battle for UL staff leadership



Candidates seated for UL staff debate

By Winston W. Parley

Candidates for various support staff leadership positions are engaged in tense intellectual battles at the University of Liberia (UL), seeking to market their platforms to potential voters across the university's campuses ahead of voting day, 24 June 2021.

The first of a series of

debates that are scheduled to be held as part of the University of Liberia Support Staff Association (ULSA) electoral processes took place on the university's Capitol Hill Campus on Monday, 14 June, and the second debate is due to be held on the Fendall Campus on Tuesday, 15 June 2021. The process is being spearheaded by the Elections Commission (EC) of ULSA.

Out of seven candidates that

took part in the first debate on Monday, four were females, inclusive of presidential candidate Ms. Mettie Kollie; Madam Nancy Crusoe and Yamenah K. Jalloh, candidates for Secretary General post; and Madam Josephine David - Ross, candidate for the financial office.

The three male participants on Monday included presidential candidates Mr. Lawrence F. Seituah and Adolphus Gbowee; and Mr. Emmanuel Martin Weah, candidate for Assistant Secretary General position.

Commencing the debate for the presidential candidates, Mr. Lawrence F. Seituah pleaded with voters to grant him a favor to elect him as their president which will enable him to push their welfare and other issues before the UL administration.

He said over the past 17 years he has worked with UL, he has been passionate about

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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Covid restrictions extended but some sporting events to be exempt

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden has confirmed that the final four Euro 2020 matches at Wembley and Wimbledon will be staged at 50 per cent capacity, despite coronavirus restrictions being extended until July 19.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the postponement of step four of the government's roadmap, which was due to take place on Monday June 21, will allow for more people to receive

their second vaccine before further easing of restrictions takes place.

The proposed extension will be reviewed to see if action can be taken two weeks sooner on Monday July 5.

"We will continue to pilot events such as Euro 2020 and some theatrical performances," said Johnson on Monday, indicating they will be allowed larger crowds than under the restrictions currently in place elsewhere as part of the research programme.



The Culture Secretary confirmed later on Monday evening that the next phase of the Events Research Programme will include "up to 20 events that will allow audience numbers to return close to full capacity".

The last-16 match of Euro 2020 on June 29, along with the semi-finals and final in July being hosted at Wembley will be staged at 50 per cent capacity, meaning around 40,000 fans will be in attendance.

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