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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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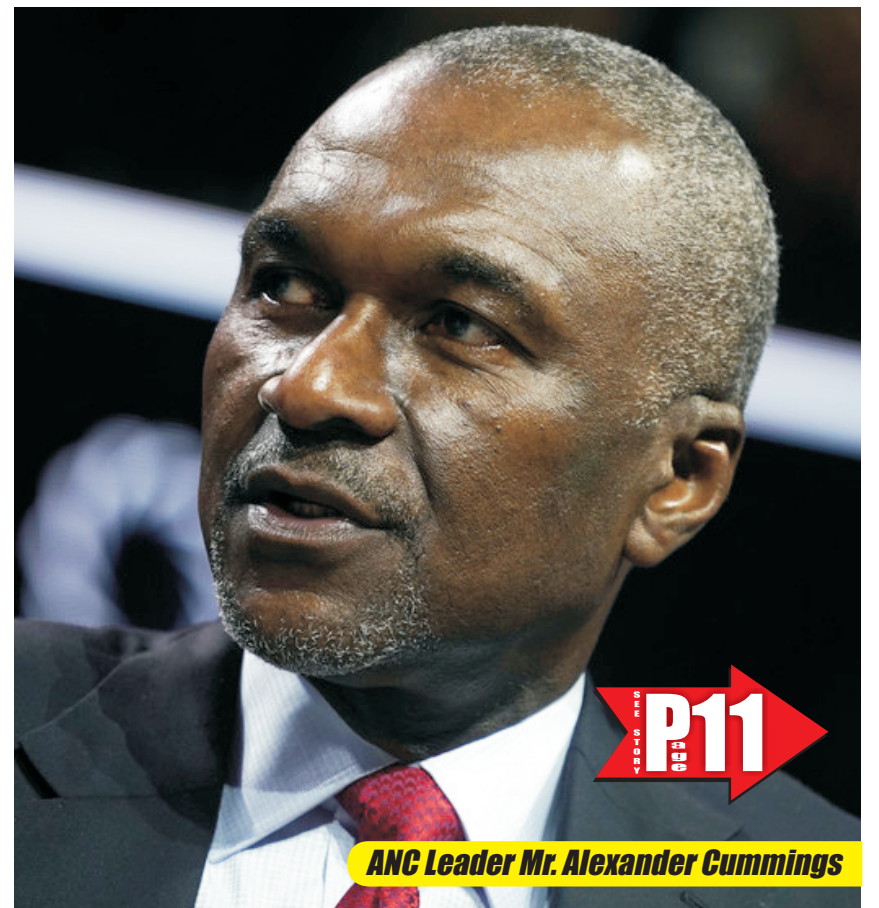
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Stoking tribal fears and divisions

-Cummings lambasts senate



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Continental News

First Covid case among foreign teams at Tokyo Games

A member of Uganda's Olympic squad has become the first to test positive for Covid-19 on arrival in Japan for the competition due to start on 23 July.

The event was postponed last year, but is now going ahead despite a fresh wave of Covid-19 cases in Japan.

Uganda is also experiencing a surge in cases,

which forced the government to tighten lockdown measures on Friday. The unnamed Ugandan was part of a nine-member squad who had all been fully vaccinated, reports said. The group - who included boxers, coaches, and officials - had also tested negative before leaving Uganda.

However, one of them tested positive on arrival at Tokyo's

Narita airport on Saturday, and was quarantined at a government-designated facility, Japanese officials were quoted by local media as saying.

The rest of the squad left by chartered bus for Osaka, in western Japan, where they are to train ahead of the Games. The Ugandans were the second group of foreign

athletes to arrive for training ahead of the competition. The Australian women's softball squad arrived on 1 June.

Foreign spectators have been banned from the Olympics. A decision is expected to be taken on Monday on whether to allow domestic spectators. Having no spectators at the Games is the "least risky" option, Japanese medical experts have said.

But other Japanese officials have indicated they want domestic fans to attend if possible.

Tokyo reported 376 cases of Covid and one death on 20 June, 72 more than a week ago, the privately owned The Asahi Shimbun newspaper reported.

Polls in local media suggest public scepticism about the Games taking place remains high amid a slow vaccine roll-out. Only about 16% of Japan's population has received a

Covid-19 vaccination dose so far, according to Reuters news agency.

Officials and volunteers working on the Games started receiving vaccinations on Friday.

In Uganda, President Yoweri Museveni announced a ban on road travel, except for vehicles carrying tourists, and workers in emergency and other essential services.

He also closed schools, universities and places of worship for 42 days.

The restrictions were necessary because of a "more aggressive and sustained growth" of the virus, Mr Museveni said.

Over the last three weeks, the daily number of people testing positive had risen from less than 100 to more than 1,700, he said. "We are experiencing very high hospitalisation rates and deaths for Covid-19 patients among all age categories," the president added. BBC



Rupert Wingfield-Hayes takes a look at how the athletes' village hopes to mitigate the risk of Covid

Ethiopian elections prompt online misinformation

As Ethiopia prepares for parliamentary elections on Monday, some online users have been posting misleading content and claims. Access to social media in Ethiopia is relatively low compared with elsewhere on the continent but its use is rising rapidly, particularly around events such as national elections.

Just days before the vote, Facebook shut down accounts

which it said had been posting misinformation. It's been one of the most widely shared pieces of fakery during the election campaign - an audio recording, apparently of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, allegedly leaked from a top-level meeting of the ruling party. The prime minister can be heard saying he would "rather die" than leave office. The recording was originally posted by Kello Media, an online news service based in

the United States, claiming it was authentic.

My Abiy's office subsequently released a statement saying the audio was a fake and that it had been "put together by drawing on different unrelated remarks made by the prime minister".

The BBC's Amharic language service has analysed the audio and identified distinct jumps, as well as variations in volume and audio quality, strongly suggesting it had been manipulated.

Three separate sections of the audio were traced back to previous public recordings of Mr Abiy. This is a rather more far-fetched claim but highlights the tensions between Ethiopia and its neighbours over a vast new dam built on the Blue Nile in Ethiopia. It's one of Abiy Ahmed's proudest achievements, but the filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and its impact on water flow downstream has been highly controversial.

A Facebook page operating from Egypt has been posting unverified claims about the row, including one that Ethiopia plans a nuclear

Swiss court finds Liberian guilty of war crimes

He was sentenced to 20 years for crimes including murder and rape. Around 250,000 people were killed in Liberia's two conflicts between 1989 and 2003, and many thousands more fled.

Switzerland recognises the principle of universal justice, meaning suspects accused of high-profile crimes elsewhere can be tried in its courts.

The trial was the first under a 2011 Swiss law that allows prosecution for war crimes committed anywhere in the world. It also marked the first time war crimes charges have been heard by a Swiss civilian court.

Kosiah, 46, was a former rebel commander, who fled to Switzerland before being arrested there in 2014.

The 20-year sentence includes the six years he has already served in detention. He was detained after a civil rights group, Civitas Maxima, presented the



Swiss attorney general with evidence of his involvement in war crimes, including the deliberate killing of civilians, sexual violence, abuse of corpses and acts of cannibalism.

The court in the southern Swiss city of Bellinzona found him guilty of 21 out of the 25 charges that he originally faced. These included: The crimes took place while he was fighting with Alhaji Kromah's United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy rebel group against Charles Taylor's troops in the remote Lofa County in the 1990s. Liberia endured two bouts of brutal fighting from 1989 to 1997, after which Taylor became president, and 1999 to 2003. BBC

attack on Egypt.

"It is very strange that there are dozens of news [stories] that began to escalate about Ethiopia's readiness to launch a nuclear strike on Egypt, especially

after the escalation of the Renaissance Dam crisis at unprecedented rates," the post says. But Ethiopia doesn't possess nuclear weapons. In fact, no African state currently has nuclear weapons. BBC



EDITORIAL

Reading Pres. Weah's mind about war crimes court

-A Repeat

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH WEAH'S response to Lofa County Representative Clarence Massaquo's concern on the need to establish a war and economic crimes court for Liberia to stamp out impunity clearly indicates the President is less interested in prosecuting people who committed heinous crimes during the 14-year civil war. This means victims of the civil crisis should not count on the Weah administration to deliver justice.

LOFA COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE Clarence Massaquo, speaking in Foya District, Lofa County over the weekend reminded President Weah that Liberians are hurt because they lost relatives, including parents, so impunity should not stand in the way of accountability and justice. The Lofa lawmaker, like many Liberians, wants the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendation for prosecution implemented.

"**I KNOW IT** is not common to say this. But Mr. President we have the report of the TRC, whatever forms they come Mr. President, those that are in those mass graves are not here today, on their behalf, we ask for justice", he pleaded.

BUT THE PRESIDENT responded to the lawmaker in the way he spoke which indicates that war crimes court is a far-fetched discussion on his government's agenda, rather telling Liberians to live with impunity for the sake of peace.

LIBERIANS BOTH AT home and abroad are yearning for justice and rightly so, especially when warlords and other perpetrators are publicly unremorseful for atrocities they committed during the crisis that left families decimated and dreams shattered.

MOST KEY PLAYERS from the war are back in government, including the Legislature. They claim to enjoy immunity or exemption from prosecution despite being recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for trial. They include notorious warlord Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, leader of the defunct INPFL rebels, Representative Dr. George S. Boley, leader of the demobilized Liberia Peace Council rebels, Sekou Damate Conneh, leader of the LURD rebels, and Professor Alhaji G.V. Kromah, leader of the disbanded ULIMO-K rebels, among others.

IN FACT, SENATOR Johnson, a staunch political ally of President Weah, continues to brag that no war crimes court is coming to Liberia and publicly deny that he committed atrocities during the war just like his colleagues Rep. Boley and Sekou Damate Conneh say.

SO WHEN PRESIDENT Weah calls on Liberians to sit at a roundtable to discuss how to forge the country ahead rather than call for war crimes court that could return Liberia to the dark days, you can understand that justice is going to elude us continuously, as long as this administration is in power.

HOWEVER, THE HOLY Bible says the voice of the people is the voice of God. Liberians should never give up the fight. They should keep mounting pressure for the establishment of war and economic crimes court despite the apparent un-readiness by the government.

HISTORY HAS PROVEN repeatedly that the will of the people eventually prevails despite attempts to suppress their views and trample on their expressed wishes for justice, which is the fulcrum on which peace that the President talked about, development and all other positive human endeavors rest.

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COMMENTARY

By Robert Skidelsky

The Gaps in Bidenomics

LONDON - US President Joe Biden has set out to emulate Franklin D. Roosevelt by spending huge amounts of money, something that FDR avoided doing until World War II. This threatens to trigger the sort of inflation that wrecked Keynesian economic policies in the 1970s.

Since January 2021, the Biden administration has spent or committed to spend \$1.9 trillion for immediate COVID-19 relief, \$2.7 trillion for investment and business support, and \$1.8 trillion for welfare and education. This amounts to \$6.4 trillion, or nearly 30% of US GDP. The \$1.9 trillion already delivered through coronavirus spending will tail off, leaving \$4.5 trillion, or about 20% of GDP, to be spent over the next ten years.

The spending will be financed largely by US Federal Reserve bond purchases, with tax hikes coming later. But will it represent the biggest mobilization of US public investment since WWII, or rather an inflationary splurge?

We don't know yet, because we have no accurate way of measuring the output gap - the difference between actual and potential output, or, roughly, the amount of slack in the economy that can be absorbed before prices start to rise. The International Monetary Fund predicts that the US economy will be growing above potential by the end of this year, and that European economies will be close to their potential. This signals inflation ahead and the need to reverse deficit finance.

Against this static view is the belief - or hope - that government investment programs will increase the US economy's potential output, and thus enable faster non-inflationary growth. Much of Bidenomics is about improving the workforce's productivity through education and training. But this is a long-term program. In the short run, so-called supply-side "bottlenecks" could drive inflation. There is thus a palpable danger that an overambitious agenda gives way to abrupt policy reversals, renewed recession, and disillusion.

There is a steadier course available, but the Biden administration has ignored two radical suggestions that might make its life a lot easier. The first is a federal job guarantee. Put simply, the government should guarantee a job to anyone who cannot find work in the private sector, at a fixed hourly rate not lower than the national minimum wage.

Such a scheme has many advantages, but two are key. First, a federal job guarantee would eliminate the need to calculate output gaps, because it would target not future demand for output but present demand for labor. This in turn underwrites an unambiguous definition of full employment: it exists where all who are ready, willing, and able to work are gainfully employed at a given base wage. On this basis, there is substantial underemployment in the United States today, including among people who have withdrawn from the labor market or are working less than they want.

Second, the job guarantee acts as a labor-market buffer that expands and contracts automatically with the business cycle. The 1978 Humphrey-Hawkins Act in the US - which

was never implemented - "authorized" the federal government to create "reservoirs of public employment" to balance fluctuations in private spending.

These reservoirs would automatically deplete and fill up as the private economy waxed and waned, creating a much more powerful automatic stabilizer than unemployment insurance. As Pavlina R. Tcherneva of Bard College says, a job guarantee "continues to stabilize economic growth and prices, using a pool of employed individuals for the purpose rather than a reserve army of the unemployed." No "management" of the business cycle, with its well-known political risks, is involved.

The second radical idea is the economist Vladimir Masch's compensated free-trade plan. America has lost millions of manufacturing jobs so far this millennium, largely owing to offshoring of production to cheaper labor markets in Asia. The counterpart of this has been a structural US current-account deficit averaging about 5% of GDP.

One of the Biden administration's main objectives is to rebuild US manufacturing capacity. While COVID-19 has fostered a conventional wisdom among all deindustrializing countries that they should reserve "essential" procurement for domestic manufacturers, Biden's "Made in America" efforts echo former US President Donald Trump's "America First" approach. But Biden's plan to rebalance US trade by means of tax subsidies for domestic producers, trade deals, and international agreements, rather than tariffs and insults, is vague and unconvincing.

In a world of second-best options, the Masch plan offers the quickest and most elegant way for Biden to secure the balanced trade that he wants. The basic principle is simple: any government in a position to do so should unilaterally set a ceiling on its overall trade deficit, and cap the value of permitted imports from each trading partner accordingly.

For example, China, which accounts for about \$300 billion of the current US trade deficit - half of the total - might be limited to \$200 billion worth of annual exports to the US. If China exported more, it could either pay a fine equal to the excess over its quota or face a ban on excess exports.

Compensated free trade, Masch argues, "would stimulate a return to the US of the off-shored enterprises and jobs." It would also automatically prevent trade wars, because "any attempt by the surplus country to decrease the value of its imports from the US would automatically decrease the value of its allowed export."

Policymakers seeking to stimulate the economy must pay more attention than past Keynesians did to avoiding inflation and ensuring that job creation at home is not offset by a drain of production capacity abroad. The Biden administration will have no choice but to learn these lessons. If it's wise, it will shun both austerity and unfettered trade in favor of full employment and the manufacturing capacity needed to achieve it.

OPINION

By Eric Posner

Biden's Antitrust Revolutionaries

CHICAGO - With the prominent anti-monopoly advocate Lina Khan having been appointed the new chair of the Federal Trade Commission, it is a good time to consider what influence the so-called New Brandeisians will have on US antitrust law. Khan is a leading figure in that movement, and another prominent exponent, Tim Wu, now sits on President Joe Biden's National Economic Council. Arguing that antitrust law and enforcement are too weak and ineffectual, the New Brandeisians, named for the US Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, are more open than traditional antitrust experts to breaking up monopolies.

Even before the New Brandeisians achieved prominence, there was a growing consensus that US courts and regulatory agencies do not enforce antitrust law as vigorously as they should. A long period of lax enforcement has led to more concentrated markets, higher prices for consumers, and skyrocketing corporate profits. A partial solution is to give regulators more resources and strengthen the standards that regulators use to approve big business mergers. A bill sponsored by Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota proposes to do precisely that.

But beyond supporting these simple measures, the consensus among antitrust experts dissolves. The debate is shaping up as one between centrist or center-left technocrats who consider more enforcement resources and higher merger standards sufficient, and New Brandeisians who seek much more. (The right seems to be sitting on the sidelines, merely grumbling that Big Tech companies discriminate against Republicans.)

For their part, the technocrats are committed to traditional antitrust analysis, which weighs the benefits of market competition against the advantages of size. They believe that firms should be allowed to grow by offering superior products and services, even if they end up dominating markets. Mergers should be permitted as long as they generate economies of scale that outweigh the anticompetitive effects.

The New Brandeisians draw their inspiration from the anti-monopoly agitation of the Gilded Age. Late-nineteenth-century populists and twentieth-century progressives like Brandeis were not primarily concerned with efficiency, nor did they distinguish carefully between the effects of monopoly on prices, wages, competition, and other economic variables. Their argument was that the "robber barons" - men like the oil tycoon John D. Rockefeller and the steel magnate Andrew Carnegie - and their companies were simply too powerful. Their political and economic power were inconsistent with democratic self-government. It was this problem that antitrust law was meant to solve.

In the new antitrust debate, Big Tech is the flashpoint. When the technocrats look at that sector, they see firms that offer superior products and services at low prices, or even at no price at all. Business practices that raise antitrust concerns can be handled under prevailing standards, and should be condemned only after proof that, despite appearances, they raise prices. But the New Brandeisians see the recurrence of Gilded Age monopolization and insist that while the harms are not recognized by traditional antitrust analysis, they are harms just the same.

One such harm is political interference. Monopolies no longer dole out bribes to legislators as they did in the nineteenth century, but Big Tech clearly exerts substantial influence on US politics. Democrats are still seething that the Russians used Facebook to propagate misinformation before the 2016 election, while Republicans complain that Facebook and Twitter kicked Donald Trump off their platforms. Depending on how you look at it, YouTube either spreads conspiracy theories or censors legitimate political dissent.

Another concern is perceived unfairness. Google supplies search results that include listings for Google-owned products and services. The Apple App Store sells Apple apps that compete with third-party apps. Critics argue that these and other companies take advantage of information they obtain from competitors who use their platforms to give their own products and services a competitive edge.

Yet another problem is the loss of consumer autonomy, stemming from the fact that Big Tech knows everything about us, from our shopping habits and search histories to our medical records and personal communications. Never before has so much been known about so many people. In authoritarian countries, this information is shared with the government. In the US, not so much; but it is shared with other companies, and it often falls into the hands of hackers and other bad actors. Worse, some tech companies have used their engineering prowess and psychological know-how to addict and manipulate users.

Finally, the Big Tech companies are seen as a threat to a diverse, textured internet economy. Many people lament the loss of quirky online offerings, which have been replaced by the drab monocultures of Facebook, Google, and Apple. The suddenness of this change helps to explain why people were once so upset when Walmart moved in and destroyed many small towns' central shopping districts. While prices fell, a unique, often beloved, local commercial ecosystem was lost. Now, many towns are plowing taxpayer dollars into downtown revitalization efforts, using public funds to recreate amenities that the public valued and that the market destroyed.

Against this backdrop, traditional economists argue that antitrust - a technical area of the law concerned with economic efficiency - is not the solution. Threats to small towns or larger democratic and economic values are better addressed with campaign finance laws, zoning laws, health and safety regulations, and so forth. There is much good sense to this view: if we replace antitrust law with an all-things-considered judgment about the good and bad that any large firm may do, regulators and courts will flounder, and political considerations will intrude. It would be better to address the pathologies of the tech market with well-defined legislative reform.

But New Brandeisians would counter by pointing out that big companies can use their political power to obstruct those very reforms. After all, the tech giants have already opposed privacy and data protections, and regulations of corporate speech will go nowhere with the current Supreme Court precedents that protect it.

Remember, the main nineteenth-century worry about monopolies was that they wielded too much political power. If you cut them down to size, perhaps they won't, allowing democracy to flourish. Antitrust law is the only existing tool in US law for converting a big company that has too much power into a bunch of small companies that don't.

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The Government of Liberia, in partnership with the Government of Egypt has made available Seven (7) bilateral scholarships for undergraduate studies in any of the following are as: **Electrical Engineering, Education, Information Technology (IT), Pathology, Mechanical Engineering, Mining Engineering, Architectural Engineering, Agriculture, Computer Science/Programming, Civil Engineering, Geology and Arabic Language**, at public Egyptian higher institutions of learning, beginning 2021/2022 academic year.

Applicants must:

- Be Liberian nationals;
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- Be between 18-22 years of age at the time of application

Eligible Liberian nationals shall forward **THREE (3) COPIES** of the following documents for consideration:

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- Certified photocopies of high school diploma;
- Certified photocopies of **WAEC** or **WASSCE** Certificate;
- Photocopies of birth certificate;
- Photocopies of the first 4 pages of **VALID** passport (ECOWAS-Liberian Biometric passport);
- A **VALID** medical certificate issued by a designated medical facility (preferably, **St Joseph Catholic, Aspirin Medical and Clinic Lab**);
- Six recent white background (identical) passport photos in color with the full name and nationality of the candidate written at the back of each photo;
- **PERSONAL STATEMENT**: a one to two-page summary of the reasons for wishing to undertake training in Egypt and how this training will benefit Liberia;
- CV (with phone number and e-mail address clearly listed);
- Two recent letters of recommendation (one professional and one academic);
- Recent Police Clearance.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 4 PM

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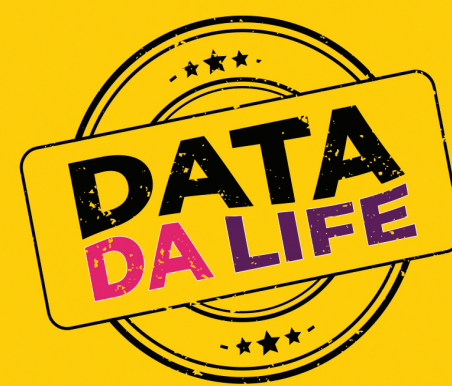
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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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US Gov't enhances AFL capacity

-Donates huge equipment to Liberia Coast Guard

The United States Government has donated a huge consignment of equipment valued over US\$113,000.00 to the Liberia Coast Guard to enhance its operational capacity.

The items donated include five 40 Horse-power Mercury Engines and assorted spare parts for the Liberia Coast Guard operational boats.

2010 based on a 2007 agreement between the US Government and the Government of Liberia to develop a specialized unit within the AFL to provide maritime security for the Government and people of Liberia.

Ambassador McCarthy noted that since the activation of the Coast Unit of the AFL, the United States Government has spent over US\$3,000,000 on the

AFL and the Liberian Coast Guard.

Receiving the donation on behalf the Ministry of National Defense and the Armed Forces of Liberia, the Deputy Minister for Operations, Prince K. Vincent, praised the US Government for its continued support to the Ministry National Defense and the Armed Forces of Liberia over the years.

He cited support in the areas of trainings, equipping and mentoring that have strengthened the professionalism of the personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia and staffers of the Ministry of National Defense, adding that the Government and the people of Liberia remain grateful to the people and the Government of the United States for the unwavering goodwill.

The Deputy Defense Boss for Operations used the occasion to appeal to the Government of the United States to provide more training opportunities for personnel of Central Administration and the Armed Forces of Liberia. He said he looked forward to re-energizing all of the programs within the defense sector for the benefit of the AFL and staffers of the Ministry of National Defense.

With the growing wave of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, the donation will enhance Liberia's Coast Guard capability in responding to illegal activities on the Liberia's territorial waters.

-Press release



Making the donation on Thursday, 17 June 2021, the United States Ambassador accredited near Monrovia, Michael A. McCarthy, said the donation is intended to increase the operational readiness of the Liberian Coast Guard.

According to him, the postwar Liberian Coast Guard Unit of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) was activated in

development of the necessary Coast Guard infrastructures at the Coast Guard Base and at the Port of Buchanan.

The US Ambassador stated that the US has also provided several training opportunities for personnel of the Liberian Coast Guard and the Armed Forces of Liberia, adding that the US government remains supportive of the activities and professional development of the

NCHE signs MOU with two international accrediting companies

-Accrediting companies to improve quality of education

The National Commission on Higher Education (NCHE) signed an MOU with two international accrediting companies and a virtual laboratory company as a giant step towards improving the quality of education in Liberia.

The two accrediting institutions and virtual institutions are International Academy Management Association of India, and the Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges and Universities based in UK and PraxiLabs.

The MOU signed by the parties is expected to yield massive benefits for students

of Liberian universities and secondary schools. The move will make Liberian institutions renowned and prepared them for world ranking, develop and encourage research grants for Liberia institutions as well as make a hub for international education in West Africa.

Speaking during the signing ceremony at the Ministerial Complex, the Chairman on National Commission on Higher Education, Professor Dr. D. Ansu Sonii, Sr. thanked the companies for expressing interest in working with the education sector in Liberia by providing quality services.

Meanwhile, the head of the Accreditation Service for International School, Colleges

and Universities, Dr. Maurice Dimmock, called on education authorities in Liberia to aim high as the new agreement would put Liberian colleges and universities among the top institutions in the world.

For her part, Miss SafiyaElbedwihy, Co-Founder of PraxiLabs outlined the importance of the virtual lab and noting that it will boost and enhance the learning outcome of students particularly, in the sciences.

Since the enactment into law by the National Legislature in 1989, the National Commission on Education has been in the business of accrediting, regulating, and creating access to Higher Education and ensuring that programs

Senate suspends media coverage

The leadership of the Liberian Senate immediately suspends coverage of independent media at the Capitol Building to contain spread of the Corona Virus.

A press release issued in Monrovia over the weekend says only the Senate's Department of Press and Public Affairs shall be allowed in the Senate Wing to provide exclusive media coverage of its activities to the public via social media platform. Media entities and accredited Journalists will not be allowed at the Senate Wing of the Capitol Building. Instead, the

mandate that all entrances to the senate be guided by security and protocol officers with hand-washing and sanitizing procedures in place.

At the same time all senate staff and employees have been asked to temporarily stay at home beginning today, Monday, June 21, 2021, pending further notice except the director and two staff of each department who shall report to work, while each Senator shall be allowed to have his driver & security along with two (2) staff in office at a time.

During the enforcement period of these health



independent media is encouraged to follow the Senate's live feed on social media for updates.

The release adds that in consideration of the new regulations issued by the Ministry of Health to prevent spread of the new wave of COVID-19, the Senate has issued drastic safety measures to be adhered to by all senators, staffers, employees and the general public wishing to access the Senate Wing on Capitol Hill.

The measures which were released on Saturday, June 19, 2021 by the Liberian Senate

measures, the Senate will not allow visitors except for petitioners who shall not be more than two persons to present a petition on behalf of their institution and or organization and few others who will be issued visitor passes under strict restrictive order.

The Liberian Senate attaches outmost seriousness to adherence to these measures and requests members of the Senate, staff, employees and the general public to be in compliance to save lives.

Meanwhile, the senate leadership assures Liberians that the regulations will be

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

GoL, World Bank sign financing agreements totaling US\$ 157M

The World Bank and the government of Liberia on Friday signed three financing agreements in the amount of US\$ 117 million for the construction of 101 kilometers of paved roads that will link Saclepea to Tappita to Toe's Town of the

country by improving road connectivity.

Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah Jr., thanked the Bank, World Bank and other bilateral and multilateral partners for the level of support across several sectors of the economy focusing in the area of Health, roads

continues to work with Liberia in good and difficult times in structuring a path to transforming the country.

"The World Bank has stood with Liberia in good and difficult times by supporting the government in structuring a path to transforming the country", he said.

He termed the ceremony as "a celebration of partnership and coordination" between the Bank and the government of Liberia.

According to him, development is not immediate; instead, it is the consequence of deliberation and processes with multiple agencies working together to solve risks and challenges.

He stated that the signing ceremony is also a milestone because of coordination, rethinking, and a partnership that is delivering because of adaptability and resilience that is looking at pre-existing models and redesigning them for development.

For his part, Country Manager of World Bank KhwimaNthara explained that US\$ 96 million of the US\$ 117 million is an IDA Credit for the SECRAMP and RETRAP projects, while US\$ 21 million is a grant from the British, and German governments, and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



country; and US\$ 40M for the Second Inclusive Growth Development Policy Operation (IGDPO-2).

The agreements are part of efforts to boost economic activities in the central to southeastern corridors of the

connectivity, infrastructure development and education.

He lauded the partners for what he termed as "taking practical step" aimed at helping Liberia address the challenge posed by bad road conditions.

Hon. Tweah said the Bank

Lonestar MTN gives

Cont'd from back page

smart phones to the market," Mr. Flomo said as jubilation erupted among market women.

Mr. Flomo noted that people believe that data is only for the young people and working people, but explained that MTN believes that Data Da Life, saying "it is not only for the young people, it is for the students, the lecturers, the doctors, market women, the pen - pen riders (motorcyclists), data is for everybody."

He added that Lonestar Cell MTN believes that everybody deserves the benefits of a modern connected life, especially the market women.

Mr. Flomo continued that as a token of the company's appreciation for the efforts that are being applied by the market women, it had selected Joe Bar Market Superintendent Ma Julia Benny as MTN's Data Da Life campaign Ambassador.

According to him, Ma Julia began selling rice by cup, and she gradually increased her business by adding fish to it, and now she serves as market superintendent at Old Road Joe Bar Market.

Abigail Nufeatalai, Lonestar Cell MTN Marketing Manager for Brand and Communications further had the market women cheering up when she announced a donation of 300 T- shirts, 300 waist bags and 300 caps for market women at the Old Road Joe Bar Market.

"So in addition to the 300 phones like my boss just said,

we will be giving you something to assist your market so it can help you to keep your money. We will give you 300 t - shirts, we will give you 300 waist bags ... we will give you 300 caps," she said.

Madam Nufeatalai said Lonestar Cell MTN has always led the industry with the introduction of innovative products and services which include Mobile Money which has changed the lives of everybody and the newly launched "Data Da Life" campaign, among others.

"Data is life, data is life for everything that we do and so today we are about to take that step in the market," she said, adding that market women are a very important segment when talking about the Data Da Life campaign because they make up about 47 percent of the total population here.

Out of that percentage she said at least 53 percent of them are entrepreneurs and small business owners, emphasizing that women are powerful.

Also speaking, Ma Julia Benny, Lonestar Cell MTN Data Da Life campaign Ambassador explained that she was using a button phone when Lonestar GSM gave her a smart phone which can now use to go on Facebook.

"Y'all let's stand behind Lonestar, Lonestar Da Life," Ma Julia said, urging her fellow market women to listen to her and subscribe to Lonestar Cell MTN.

She thanked the company for its intervention, assuring that the market women will do more to support the GSM giant.

FCI seeks more women's participation in forest governance

Following years of workings and engagements in the forest sector, the Executive Director of the Foundation for Community Initiatives (FCI) has outlined success stories and challenges confronting women's role in the management of the forest, especially in forestry governance structures.

The FCI was founded in 2004 as a community-based organization in Grand Bassa County by a group of trained development workers and human rights activists under the auspices of Development Education Network - Liberia (DEN-L).

Speaking in an interview in Monrovia, Executive Director Madam Loretta Alethea Pope Kai said one of the biggest successes of the organization in the past five to six years has been increased women's participation in forest



FCI Boss Madam Loretta Alethea Pope Kai

governance issues.

"Over the years we have been working closely with the National Union of Community Forest Development Committee (NUCFDC) and National Union of

Community Forest Management Body (NUCFMB) to strengthen women's leadership in these various governance institutions. Some of the ways we have

been supporting is by building their capacities on the different laws such as the National Forestry Reform Law of 2009 and the Community Rights Law and Regulation of 2017," said Madam Pope Kai.

She explained that at the level of Community Forest Development Committee (CFDC) from 2015 to now, FCI has observed acceleration or interest of women growing by the day and they have increased in numbers due to numerous trainings over the years.

"So, one of the successes we can give is that women are not just sitting around the palaver hut and just observing men making decision about their natural resources. We now have women who are participating into elections in

the community, and we have women who are serving some positions, even though not enough. But at least we can say that there are lots of women into decision making positions in the forest sector to ensure how our resources are governed and managed. We now have women as Vice President for Operations at community assemblies."

However, Madam Pope Kai said there are also numerous challenges as women's participation into forest governance in some communities remains a taboo due to cultural beliefs.

She indicated that there are still some quarters where certain group of people still believes that only men are supposed to make decisions or

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Français

L'exécutif présente un projet d'ajustement budgétaire au parlement

Le ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement, au nom du président George Manneh Weah, soumis un projet de budget supplémentaire pour l'exercice fiscal 2020/21 au Sénat.

Le président Weah écrit dans la note qui a été jointe au projet d'ajustement budgétaire national supplémentaire pour l'exercice 2020/21 et lue en séance plénière du Sénat libérien le jeudi 17 juin à Monrovia : « J'ai l'honneur de soumettre au parlement libérien un projet de budget d'un montant de 66 millions de dollars pour que vous l'examiniez et l'adoptiez ultérieurement. Ce budget supplémentaire est le résultat d'une projection de revenus supplémentaires en fin d'année de 65,8 millions de dollars US et plus pour l'exercice 2020/21, dont : 29 millions de dollars US et plus sont inscrits dans ce budget supplémentaire pour faire

face aux pressions qui ont entravé l'exécution du budget approuvé et plus de 36,3 USD sont reportés du budget spécial de l'exercice 20/21. »

Le budget supplémentaire profite à l'Université du Libéria avec une subvention de 2,3 millions de dollars américains et aux retraités qui reçoivent 2,3 millions de dollars américains. La Banque Libérienne de

développement et d'investissement bénéficiera de 15,4 millions de dollars américains, tandis que 9,5 millions ont été alloués aux indemnités.

La communication signée parle président Weah appelle le pouvoir législatif à se pencher rapidement sur le

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Un ancien chef rebelle libérien condamné pour la première fois pour crimes de guerre

L'ancien chef rebelle libérien Alieu Kosiah a été condamné ce vendredi pour crimes de guerre au Liberia. Le verdict a été rendu en Suisse, devant le Tribunal pénal fédéral.

Au début des années 1990, quand le Liberia est à feu et à sang, Alieu Kosiah commande une milice au sein du mouvement armé Ulmo opposé aux rebelles de Charles Taylor. Il s'installe quelques années plus tard en Suisse, où il est arrêté en 2014.

Au terme d'une procédure marathon, ralentie par l'épidémie d'Ebola puis par la pandémie de Covid-19, la justice pénale suisse a rendu ce vendredi une condamnation historique, en condamnant l'ancien chef rebelle libérien à 20 ans de prison pour crimes de guerre.

Alieu Kosiah a été reconnu coupable de 21 des 25 chefs d'accusation, notamment d'avoir ordonné ou participé au meurtre de 17 civils et de deux soldats non armés. Il a été reconnu

coupable de viol, d'avoir eu recours à des enfants-soldats, d'avoir ordonné des pillages et d'avoir infligé des « traitements cruels, inhumains et dégradants » à des civils.

La justice suisse s'est saisie du dossier en vertu de « la compétence universelle », un principe permettant de juger les personnes soupçonnées de crimes internationaux, quel que soit le lieu où ils ont été commis. C'est ce qui a permis notamment à la justice sénégalaise et à l'Union africaine de juger l'ancien président tchadien Hissène Habré.

Alieu Kosiah, qui se dit innocent, fera sans doute appel. Mais pour l'avocat Alain Werner, de l'ONG Civitas Maxima qui accompagne des victimes libériennes, cette condamnation est un tournant. « Pour le Liberia, c'est complètement historique. Charles Taylor a été condamné en Sierra Leone, son fils à Miami pour torture, mais jamais il n'y avait eu de condamnation pour crimes de guerre », fait-il valoir.

Aucun procès au Liberia Entre 1989 et 2003, les deux

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



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'exécutif présente un projet

projet de budget dont l'objectif est de permettre au gouvernement de résoudre ses problèmes.

En mai de cette année, le gouvernement avait soumis au parlement un projet de budget national spécial pour l'exercice budgétaire qui devrait couvrir la période allant du 1er juillet au 31 décembre 2021. Le montant total constitué uniquement des recettes intérieures, est estimée à 301,5 millions de dollars américains.

Le Ministre adjoint des Finances Dr. Samora P.Z. Wolokolie a alors présenté le projet de budget au président de la Chambre des Représentants, Bhofal Chambers. La soumission du projet de budget est conforme à l'article 65 de l'amendement et de la

réforme de la loi sur la gestion des finances publiques de 2009, qui prévoit un changement d'exercice et la formulation d'un budget national spécial de six mois pour ouvrir la voie à la transition vers la nouvelle année qui commence en 2022.

Lors de la présentation, le Dr Wolokolie avait prévu une croissance économique de 3,2 %, contre une baisse de 3,0 % en 2020, avec une dynamique de reprise qui devrait se poursuivre en 2022.

Les domaines prioritaires du budget spécial comprennent respectivement l'agriculture, l'éducation, l'énergie et l'environnement, la santé, le commerce, les infrastructures et les services de base, la sécurité et l'état de droit, l'administration publique et la transparence et la responsabilité.

Un ancien chef rebelle libérien

guerres civiles libériennes ont fait plus de 250 000 morts. Aucun procès n'a eu lieu à ce jour au Liberia. En attendant, l'ONG Civitas Maxima porte d'autres affaires devant les tribunaux de pays où d'anciens chefs de guerre sont identifiés. En Finlande, notamment, et bientôt aussi en France.

Les recommandations de la Commission vérité et réconciliation en 2009 sont en effet restées largement lettre morte, souvent au nom du maintien de la paix. Certains des chefs de guerre incriminés étant considérés comme des « héros » par leurs communautés, bon nombre d'entre eux occupent toujours des postes importants. Dernier exemple en date, celui de l'ex-chef de milice Prince Johnson, élu en

mai dernier à un éminent poste parlementaire.

Quant à Charles Taylor, s'il n'a pas été inquiété pour les atrocités commises au Liberia, il a été condamné en 2012 à 50 ans de prison par un tribunal spécial de l'ONU pour les crimes commis en Sierra Leone voisine. Quelques cas de poursuites pour les crimes commis au Liberia existent malgré tout à l'étranger. En 2009 « Chuckie » Taylor, fils de Charles Taylor, a été condamné aux États-Unis à 97 ans de prison. Quant à celui que l'on surnommait « l'ange Gabriel », un chef rebelle sierra-léonais accusé d'une longue liste d'atrocités, son procès s'est ouvert en février en Finlande, avant d'être délocalisé de manière inédite sur le sol libérien.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Robert Skidelsky

Les disparités de la politique économique de Biden

LONDRES - Le président américain Joe Biden s'est fixé pour but d'imiter les énormes dépenses de Franklin D. Roosevelt, ce que ce dernier avait évité de faire jusqu'à la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Cela risque de déclencher le genre d'inflation qui a détruit les politiques économiques keynésiennes dans les années 1970.

Depuis janvier 2021, l'administration Biden a dépensé ou s'est engagée à dépenser 1,9 billion de dollars en aide immédiate à la COVID-19, 2,7 billions de dollars en investissements et soutien aux entreprises et 1,8 billion de dollars en aide sociale et en éducation. Cela représente 6,4 billions de dollars, soit près de 30 % du PIB américain. Les 1,9 billion de dollars déjà distribués par les dépenses du coronavirus vont s'arrêter, laissant 4,5 billions de dollars, soit environ 20 % du PIB, à dépenser au cours des dix prochaines années.

Les dépenses seront financées en grande partie par des achats d'obligations de la Réserve fédérale américaine, avant de nouvelles hausses d'impôts. Mais un programme de ce genre est-il en fait la plus importante mobilisation d'investissements publics américains depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale, ou s'agit-il plutôt d'une folie inflationniste ?

Nous n'avons pas encore la réponse à l'heure actuelle, parce que nous n'avons pas de méthode précise pour mesurer l'écart de production - la différence entre la production réelle et la production potentielle, ou, pour le dire sans prendre de gants, le coup de mou de l'économie qui peut être absorbé avant que les prix ne commencent à augmenter. Le Fonds monétaire international prévoit que l'économie américaine va connaître une croissance supérieure à son potentiel d'ici la fin de l'année et que les économies européennes vont s'approcher de leur potentiel. Cela est un indice d'inflation à venir et du besoin d'inverser le financement du déficit.

À cette perspective stationnaire s'oppose la croyance - ou l'espoir - selon lesquels les programmes d'investissement publics vont permettre une augmentation de la production potentielle de l'économie américaine, en permettant ainsi une croissance non inflationniste plus rapide. Une grande part de la doctrine économique de Biden consiste à améliorer la productivité de la main-d'œuvre par l'éducation et la formation. Mais il s'agit d'un programme à long terme. À court terme, les fameux « goulets d'étranglement » du côté de l'offre risquent d'entraîner l'inflation. Il existe donc un risque évident qu'un programme trop ambitieux ne débouche sur de brusques revirements de politique, et par conséquent sur une nouvelle récession accompagnée de son lot de désillusions.

Il existe une voie plus stable, mais l'administration Biden a ignoré deux propositions radicales qui pourraient lui faciliter la tâche. La première est une politique d'emploi garanti au niveau fédéral. Pour le dire simplement, le gouvernement est censé garantir un emploi à quiconque ne parvient pas à trouver un emploi dans le secteur privé, à un taux horaire fixe non inférieur au salaire minimum national.

Un système de ce genre présente de nombreux avantages, mais deux sont incontournables. Premièrement, une politique d'emploi garanti au niveau fédéral supprimerait la nécessité de calculer les écarts de production, car elle ne ciblerait pas la demande de production future, mais la demande de main-d'œuvre actuelle. Cela garantit à son tour une définition sans équivoque du plein emploi : il existe là où tous ceux qui sont prêts, désireux et capables de travailler sont employés de manière rémunérée à un salaire de base donné. Sur cette base, il existe aujourd'hui un sous-emploi important aux États-Unis, notamment parmi les personnes qui se sont retirées du marché du travail ou qui travaillent moins qu'elles ne le voudraient.

Deuxièmement, la politique d'emploi garanti agit comme un tampon du marché du travail qui se

développe et se contracte automatiquement en fonction du cycle économique. La loi Humphrey-Hawkins de 1978 aux États-Unis - qui n'a jamais été appliquée - « autorisait » le gouvernement fédéral à créer des « réservoirs d'emplois publics » pour équilibrer les fluctuations des dépenses privées.

Ces réservoirs en viendraient automatiquement à se vider et à se remplir au fur et à mesure de la croissance et de la décroissance de l'économie privée, en créant ainsi un stabilisateur automatique bien plus puissant que l'assurance-chômage. Comme le dit Pavlina R. Tcherneva de Bard College, une politique d'emploi garanti « continue de stabiliser la croissance économique et les prix, en utilisant un bassin de personnes pourvues d'un emploi à cette fin, plutôt qu'une armée de réserve de chômeurs ». Aucune « gestion » du cycle économique, avec les risques politiques bien connus qui en découlent, n'est impliquée.

La deuxième idée radicale est le plan de libre-échange compensé de l'économiste Vladimir Masch. L'Amérique a perdu des millions d'emplois dans le secteur secondaire au cours de ce millénaire, en grande partie en raison de la délocalisation de la production vers des marchés du travail moins chers en Asie. Le pendant de cette situation a été un déficit structurel de la balance courante des États-Unis, qui s'élève en moyenne à environ 5 % du PIB.

L'un des principaux objectifs de l'administration Biden consiste à reconstruire la capacité de production américaine. Bien que la COVID-19 ait renforcé la croyance populaire selon laquelle parmi tous les pays désindustrialisés, il fallait réserver les achats « essentiels » aux industriels nationaux, les efforts de Biden « Made in America » font écho à l'approche « America First » de l'ancien président américain Donald Trump. Mais le projet de Biden visant à rééquilibrer le commerce américain au moyen de subventions fiscales pour les producteurs nationaux, d'accords commerciaux et internationaux, plutôt que par des tarifs douaniers et des insultes, reste vague et peu convaincant.

Dans un monde fait de politiques de second choix, le plan de Masch offre le moyen le plus rapide et le plus élégant pour Biden d'assurer le commerce équilibré qu'il souhaite mettre en place. Le principe de base est simple : tout gouvernement qui en a les moyens doit fixer unilatéralement un plafond à son déficit commercial global et plafonner en conséquence la valeur des importations autorisées en provenance de chaque partenaire commercial.

Par exemple, la Chine, qui représente environ 300 milliards de dollars du déficit commercial actuel des États-Unis - la moitié du total - pourrait se limiter à 200 milliards de dollars d'exportations annuelles vers les États-Unis. Si la Chine exporte davantage, elle risque soit de payer une amende égale à l'excédent de son quota, soit de faire face à une interdiction sur les exportations excédentaires.

Selon Masch, le libre-échange compensé « stimulerait un retour vers les États-Unis des entreprises et des emplois délocalisés ». Ce mécanisme empêcherait également automatiquement les guerres commerciales, parce que « toute tentative par un pays excédentaire de diminuer la valeur de ses importations en provenance des États-Unis diminuerait automatiquement la valeur de ses exportations autorisées ».

Les décideurs politiques qui cherchent à stimuler l'économie doivent faire plus attention que les keynésiens précédents et veiller à éviter l'inflation et à s'assurer que la création d'emplois dans le pays ne soit pas compensée par une baisse de la capacité de production à l'étranger. L'administration Biden n'aura pas d'autre choix que de tirer ce type de leçons. Si elle est avisée, elle rejettera tout à la fois l'austérité et le commerce sans entraves, et leur préférera le plein emploi et la capacité de production nécessaire pour y parvenir.

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Jeety commits anti-Covid-19 supplies for inmates

By Winston W. Paley

Indian Businessman and philanthropist Mr. Upjit Singh Sachedeva (Mr. Jeety) has committed to supplying anti-covid-19 materials to inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison.

Jeety told authorities at the Central Prison to provide him the listing of anti-coronavirus hygienic materials they need so that he and his team from the Jeety Trading Corporation can make provision for them this week.

"So we'll be here again to support you, some supplies of Coronavirus buckets, chlorine, what you said, we'll surely come back this week. Give us your listing and then we will see from there what we can provide," Mr. Sachedeva said Sunday, 20 June during one of his monthly inmates feeding programs.

His commitment to provide anti-coronavirus

his team from the Jeety Trading Corporation carried food sufficient to feed 1,300 inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison as part of his commitment to feed the inmates there at least once a month, using his meager resources.

During the hot meal distribution exercise, Mr. Sachedeva encouraged his fellow businessmen to go and show their compassion, love and care for inmates who have gone in trouble with the law but need to be reformed to become better citizens.

Mr. Sachedeva expressed thanks to Mr. Juah for granting Jeety Trading Corporation access into the facility to feed inmates on a Sunday, saying "Commander I am very grateful to you and your staff members."

He noted that prisoners are not only incarcerated for the sentences they should serve, but they are in jail for reformation also.

"So we should show care, love and compassion towards them,"

commercial sector have been recognized by both the past and current governments.

The Indian businessman and philanthropist was in April this year honored and decorated by Liberian authorities with the rank of Knight Grand Commander of Humane Order of African Redemption during a cocktail reception held in honor of members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps here.

Mr. Sachedeva has renewed his pledge to continue his humanitarian and philanthropist works even having ended his tour of duty as India's honorary consul general in Liberia.

Mr. Joel Justin G. Juah, Deputy Superintendent for Administration, Monrovia Central Prison, appealed to Mr. Sachedeva to help provide anti-Covid-19 materials for the prison facility, saying the issue about Covid-19 in Liberia is serious.

"Like I said, I want to use



materials for the Monrovia Central Prison was in response to an appeal by Deputy Prison Superintendent for Administration Mr. Joel Justin G. Juah who had informed Mr. Sachedeva of the limited quantity of buckets, chlorine, Clorox, tide soap and other hygienic materials at the facility.

Mr. Sachedeva promised that he will do whatever he can with his own resources to respond to Mr. Juah's request, noting that Jeety Trading Corporation does not depend on anyone for support in doing whatever it does.

"Commander Justine thank you very much for your kind words, I'm a father too, I have listened to your request and I assure you we will do whatever we can do. We will maybe this week, we will show up again here. I promise you that on behalf of Jeety Trading," Mr. Sachedeva said.

He explained that he and

Mr. Sachedeva added, noting that inmates should not be hated for the crimes they have committed.

The Indian Businessman says through his monthly distribution of home-cooked hot food to inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison, he strongly believes that he will be able to inspire one of his fellow businessmen who will also think about helping the inmates one day.

According to Mr. Sachedeva, he started the initiative since 2017 solely from Jeety Trading Corporation, noting that the food was meant for the inmates to feel that they are being fed and taken care of very well.

Mr. Sachedeva said he believes that prisoners and inmates are not only kept in custody for the crimes they have committed, but they have gone into prison to be reformed.

His efforts in forging friendship, cordiality, peace and love between Liberia and India and enormous contributions to the growth of Liberia's

this medium to appeal to you, the issue of buckets, the issues of chlorine, Clorox, tide soap, I mean those hygienic materials, so to speak, we have very limited quantity in the prison," Mr. Juah said.

"And this is a continuous [issue], so against that background, I will like for you to help us if you have the means in order for us to continue our process," Mr. Juah added.

According to Mr. Juah, inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison depend "on us" in order to rehabilitate them, praising Mr. Jeety for being one of the persons buttressing the efforts of government, knowing the government cannot do everything.

Mr. Juah said he is highly gratified that Mr. Sachedeva is "supplying the prisons today, feeding the 1,300 inmates," urging the Indian businessman and philanthropist to continue doing what he is

NCHE signs MOU

Cont'd from page 6

offered by Universities and Colleges are relevant to the needs of the Liberian society.

Despite all of these enormous contributions, Liberian Universities or Colleges have not been able to compete globally with their counterparts.

Thus Liberian students usually find it difficult to gain admission in some foreign countries. Some of the students who are fortunate to gain admission are often required to do some remedial courses before direct entry.

The new agreement if implemented well could now see Liberian students easily enrolling in universities worldwide without difficulties.

Meanwhile, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics had been very challenging for most tertiary institutions in Liberia due to lack of required laboratories which sometimes cost hundreds of thousands United

States dollars to set up for the various institutions in Liberia.

With the coming in of this agreement which will ensure collaboration and coordination among various universities and colleges as well as international counterparts, it presents the opportunity to provide some remedy in that area.

The President and Founder of the International Academic & Management Association, Dr. Bikash Sharma, expressed joy and happiness in working with Liberian education authorities to provide golden opportunity for Liberian students. Dr. Sharma also revealed how, he has been working with Liberian and education authorities for the past 7 consecutive years by providing international scholarships that had benefited hundreds of Liberians. He added that this cooperation and MOU will further strengthen and create the enabling environment for Liberia students globally.

FCI seeks more

Cont'd from page 6

sit around the table for major discussions.

"We have some women in some communities that don't attend these functions because the places where these meetings are held are only meant for men. They are held in places that are forbidden for women to enter - it might be at some traditional function or at area where only men are allowed," she added.

In a bid to addressing this, the FCI boss disclosed that the organization has embarked on educating traditional leaders and men to change their mindset.

"This is happening because they don't have the rightful information. We are giving them the real information because when they are educated, they will readjust from that kind of thinking," she furthered.

Madam Pope Kai narrated that one of the major challenges has been women's own understanding about forest governance that one needs to be lettered before he/she participates into discussions around forest management issues.

"We find out that most women don't want to

participate because they think participating into these governance structures you have to be educated. Their understanding about education is that you must know how to read and write, and so we are trying to erase that notion; that fear so that they can know that you can participate even if you are not educated. It's not by you reading or writing, it's about the idea that you bring to the table," she stated.

Speaking on the upcoming election of the Community Forest Development Committee (CFDC), the Liberian forest sector advocate disclosed that FCI has been working with the National Union of Community Forest Development Community (NUCFDC) to catalogue the number of women participants so as to provide training and mentorship for them to better equip them for the process.

"After the training, we will provide further refresher training for them and provide mentorship that will lead them into the elections. And after the electoral process, we will do an analysis of the entire process to know how many women participated and how many were elected," added Madam Pope Kai.

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doing.

Mr. Juah expressed thanks to Mr. Sachedeva and his team

for their continuous support towards inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison.

Stoking tribal fears and divisions

Opposition political leader Alexander B. Cummings says his recent call to senators to return US\$15,000 received for so-called legislative projects stems from a national standpoint that at a time of increasing economic hardship being inflicted upon ordinary citizens amid renewed surge of Covid-19 in the country that has already taken many lives, stressing that it becomes imperative for national leaders, especially lawmakers, to exercise utmost prudence and moral judgment on expenditure of scarce financial resources.

"The return of the money at this time by the legislators is a conscionable and moral requirement, previous budgetary allocation notwithstanding", he maintains.

HE says members of the Senate must have misread his intent for expressing those concerns and therefore

disbursement of budgetary allocations, but that ironically, the legislators passed the law for themselves as discretionary spending without putting in place firm measures for accountability.

"It is the duty of lawmakers", he stresses, "to keep track of accountability of public funds and discretionary expenditure. The Liberian Senate should not cast itself as powerless victim of a law it passed, benefits from, and has the power to change."

He laments that today, Liberia is counted amongst the most corrupt and the poorest nations in the world, and mismanagement and lack of accountability of public resources are among the contributing factors for such level of poverty and backwardness. "It should be the duty of every citizen to demand course correction."

He recalls that results of consecutive elections in the country since 2011, in which the electorates massively sacked

Our country is blessed with fertile land and bountiful rainfalls, and yet, we cannot feed ourselves. We are so naturally rich, and yet, too many of our people are so abjectly poor. The conditions of our schools are worsening with teachers and administrators effectively abandoned to do the best they can under extremely difficult conditions. Our young people are woefully unemployed, and in some cases, unemployable. The future of our country has and continues to be mortgaged."

He further laments that families are living in the hell of recycled poverty, and even as the pandemic threatens to overwhelm, doctors, nurses, and ordinary folks who are sacrificing every day to keep the society somewhat functional, are seeing their cries for help fall on inattentive and uncaring ears.

"It is time to change. It is time to let go of the past so as to embrace the future of togetherness and shared prosperity we promised ourselves. It is time to be honest in labor, and accountable in stewardship", he rallies.

Cummings underscores that change is the only way to lift one another up as Liberians, and it is the only way to build the country, from bottom to top, adding that this change is not just in individuals, but in mindset.

But the Liberian Senate thru a statement last week, viewed Mr. Cummings' criticism of the Senate and the entire Legislature as an attempt to put the people of Liberia against their lawmakers for his own political gains.

"This kind of harmful politicking would only continue to leave our country in shambles. It must be condemned by all well-intentioned Liberians", the Senate said and explained, "Over the years, Central Government has been overwhelmed by major developmental projects - focusing more on building of roads, agriculture and other infrastructure while at the same time boosting healthcare which has continued to do a tremendous job in curtailing the spread of the corona-virus - a pandemic that world has been battling for over a year."

It argued that Mr. Cummings who thinks he is a better option for the leadership of Liberia does not have any inner idea on needs of the indigenous people and how those needs can be worked around.

The Senate further clarified that the US\$15,000 received by each Senator and

GoL, World Bank

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the EU provided to Liberia through the Liberia Reconstruction Trust Fund (LRTF) that is managed by the Bank.

"It is a great privilege and honor for me to be participating in yet another huge milestone in the development partnership between Liberia and the World Bank as we sign financing agreements for the Southeastern Corridor Road Asset Management Project (SECRAMP) in the amount of US\$ 62 million and the Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP) in the amount of US\$ 55 million" Bank Manager Nthara noted.

Nthara said the projects will go a long way towards transforming the economy of Liberia, and in turn the livelihoods of people living in those areas.

He indicated that the Bank will be working with Liberia and other development partners to secure additional funding to complete the pavement of the last section of the road.

However, Acting Public Works Minister, Hon. Ruth

Coker-Collins said the signing of additional Three Financing Agreements represents a milestone in the Road Sector.

"As government, we hold this project to our heart and we have since started the first thirty nine kilometers which is ongoing, so we are trying to complete the procurement process for the next phase. I think it is a historical day for me", she stressed.

"We are excited, and ready in every capacity to move the country forward as soon as the ratification of these agreements by the Legislature subsequently happens; we will witness the pavement of major road corridors in the Southeast connected with Tappitta in Nimba County.

In addition it is expected that the projects when implemented will improve the enabling environment for agribusiness development, enhance competitiveness and market access through productive alliances, agri-marketing and road infrastructure investment and project coordination and management and contingency emergency response.

50% public workers

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public gatherings at wedding, party, night vigils/wakes and funerals are restricted 20 attendees with social distancing observed.

Banks are mandated to allow 10 customers at a time in the services areas, while customers waiting outside in queue stand three feet apart.

Public transport, particularly taxis are required to carry three passengers in the back seat with one in the front seat to any destination, while tricycles carry two passengers and motorcycles one to avoid close contact.

Doctor Jallah suspends transportation of confirmed COVID-19 dead bodies in and out of Liberia during this latest surge and asks airlines and funeral homes to comply accordingly.

Entertainment centers are mandated to take in 20 customers and close at 9:00pm while community dwellers should report people who show signs and symptoms of the virus such as fever, coughing, and breathing

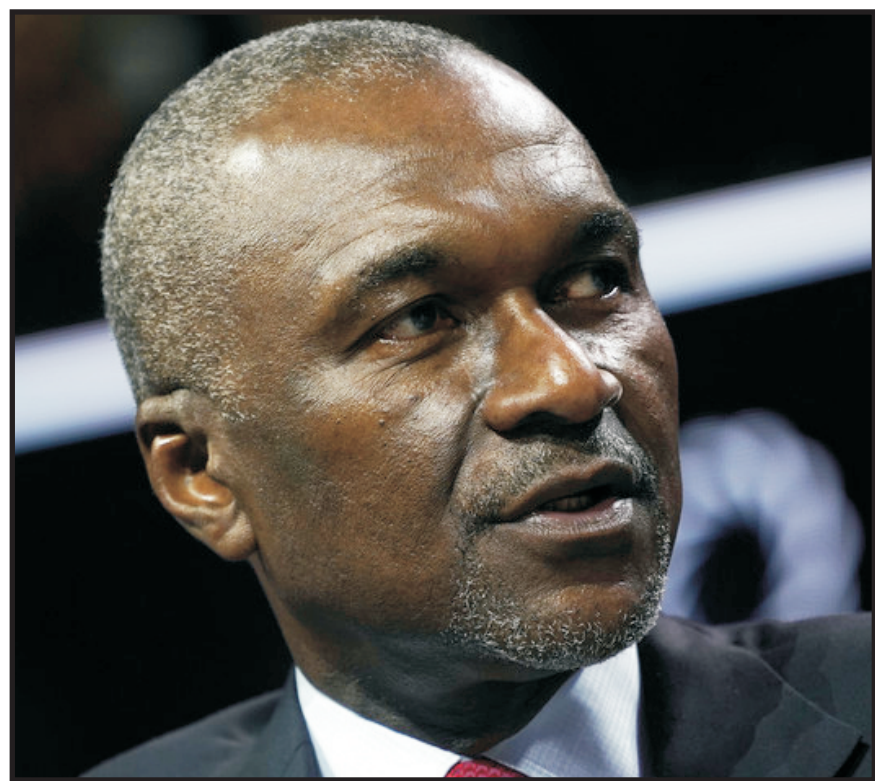
difficulty.

The revised guidelines are pursuant to Chapter 14 of the public health law of Liberia.

The Minister warns that violators will be death with in keeping with Chapter 14.6 of the public health law which partly reads: "Any person who violates any provisions of this chapter or any of the rules made thereunder shall, upon conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding IUS\$200.00) Two Hundred United States Dollars or imprisonment not exceeding thirty days, or both such fine and imprisonment."

Additionally, the government may be compelled to impose a lockdown and or curfew if these guidelines are not fully complied with", the Minister warns.

Recent statistics from the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) revealed there are 2,729 cases of COVID - 19 in the country 2,105 recoveries with scores of people in intensive care unit and 95 deaths. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



misconstrued his motive, clarifying, "The issue is not to question the legality of the funds, to "intentionally bring the legislature to public disrepute," or to sow "seeds of discord among our people."

Speaking in reaction to criticism from the Liberian Senate on his call to return the money, Mr. Cummings who leads the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) that is a constituent party of four Collaborating Political Parties, says the Senate is perceived as a more deliberative and judicious body therefore, it should not be the one to appeal to the worst of the nation's national instincts nor stoke tribal fears and divisions, as this can only serve to deepen distrust and pull the country apart.

He says Liberia is no stranger to delaying, or foregoing altogether,

incumbent lawmakers, should serve as wakeup call and guideposts for all legislators.

The ANC leader reminds that in a few weeks, the nation will celebrate its 174th independence and asks what has continuous appeal to division, marginalization, exclusion and tribalism done to advance progress? "Rather than striving for true independence, we are becoming increasingly dependent on begging other nations to help pay the salaries of our president, lawmakers, judges, other government officials and civil servants with requests for budget support", he adds.

He continues that while national leaders and lawmakers may be attempting to hide individual shortcomings and indiscretions behind tribal animosity, the reality is that across every tribe, region, religion and political party, people are suffering.

"Blessed with so much, yet we have so little to show for it.

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Representative is from an allotment under Legislative Engagement Line of the 2020/2021 National Budget and does not go into pockets of individual lawmakers, as being perceived.

It said instead, it is geared

towards supporting initiatives in their various counties, and with the leadership structure in the respective counties, the money is decided upon and invested as deemed necessary by each Senator and his county leadership.

Lonestar MTN gives 300 smart phones to market women

Launches Data Da Life campaign



By Winston W. Parley

One of Liberia's leading telecommunication companies Lonestar Cell MTN given away 300 smart phones, 300 T-shirts and 300 waist bags to market women at the Old Road Joe Bar Market in Sinkor, suburb of Monrovia, as the company

launched its new innovative service dubbed "Data Da Life," meaning "Data is Life."

The company said during the Data Da Life campaign launch Friday, 18 June 2021 that it donated the smart phones to the market women to enable them enjoy modern connected life, do Mobile Money transactions with customers, use social media to

connect with their kids and other family members from far and near, among others.

The MTN Data Da Life campaign will enable people to connect to each other from far and near, using MTN data and different social media platforms on smart phones.

Mr. KolubahFlomo, Acting CMO, Lonestar MTN said with the donation, it means each market woman at Old Road Joe Bar Market would have a smart phone, adding that the initiative will cut across the 15 subdivisions of the country.

According to him, the company will ensure that each market woman has a smart phone to enable them carry out Mobile Money transaction and to use social media to connect with the families.

"Since we recognize the efforts that you guys have made to the Liberian economy right and [how] you guys are helping Liberia, Lonestar Cell MTN is pleased to announce that we will be donating 300

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50% public workers to stay home

-as lockdown imminent in revised COVID guidelines

As Jonathan Browne of increased cases of the Coronavirus in Liberia, leading to its spread in communities, the Government of Liberia thru the Ministry of Health mandates public offices to send home 50 percent of the workforce, while others are to work from home, among other measures to contain further spread of the pandemic in the country.

Liberia's Minister of

Health, Doctor Wilhelmina S. Jallah, who announced the Revised Covid-19 National Guidelines in Monrovia late Thursday, June 17, 2021 placed restriction on travelers from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in the last 14 days.

However, critics say the travel ban is belated, as travelers from these highly affected countries, particularly from India that suffered over one million deaths from new variant of the virus entered Liberia between April



and May this year in their numbers while Britain, France and other Western nations immediately imposed restriction.

The Minister re-emphasizes compulsory wearing of masks in public, social distancing (3 feet) regular hands washing use of and sanitizers, among other precautionary steps.

Schools and churches are allowed to remain open, but with strict adherence to the measures outline above, while

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