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# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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# Cummings makes int'l appeal



ANC Leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings

***-offers to work with Gov't in coronavirus crisis***



Eugene Fahngon

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# Continental News

## Nigerian priest saving deities from the bonfires

While some Pentecostal preachers in eastern Nigeria set fire to statues and other ancient artefacts that they regard as symbols of idolatry, one Catholic priest is collecting them instead.

The artefacts are central to the traditional religions practised by the region's Igbo people, who see them as sacred, and possessing supernatural powers.

But there are now very few adherents of these religions, as Christianity - led by Pentecostal churches - has become the area's dominant faith.

BBC Igbo's Chiagozie Nwonwu and Karina Igonikon report on the priest's efforts to protect a history that is being lost because of the actions of some preachers. Although he is referred to as "fire that burns", there is nothing frightening about Reverend Paul Obayi, who runs the Deities Museum in eastern Nigeria's Nsukka city.

Located in the compound of Saint Theresa's Catholic Cathedral, the three-roomed museum boasts hundreds of totems, masks, a stuffed lion and carvings of Igbo deities.

When communities abandon traditional religious beliefs, primarily under the influence of Christian Pentecostal churches, some pastors light bonfires to burn the artefacts, which they

say contradict the faith's monotheistic beliefs, and which represent "evil spirits that bring bad luck".

Sometimes worshippers of the traditional religions also torch their deities, in accordance with a belief captured in the Igbo proverb: "If a God becomes too troublesome, it becomes wood for the fireplace."



But Reverend Obayi bucks the trend by preserving the rejected gods and goddesses, saying he uses religious powers to remove their supposed supernatural abilities. This has earned him the moniker Okunerere - "the fire that burns idols in the spirit".

"I've already destroyed the spirits," he said at his museum.

"What you have is just an empty shell. There is nothing inside." Reverend Obayi said he had been partially influenced by museums in Western countries, which are under enormous pressure to return artefacts, such as the Benin Bronzes, that were looted during the colonial era.

"I visit museums in the West and I see artefacts, some from

Benin even, and I made up my mind to preserve ours." The cathedral's administrator, Reverend Father Eugene Odo, supports his initiative, comparing it to a Catholic-owned museum in Italy.

"In Rome for instance there is the museum housing things that the Romans did as pagans, and people go there to see the stages of human development," he said.

Though the Deities Museum hosts visitors who come from as far as Lagos to see some of the tagged items, it is in dire need of care and attention. The artefacts, some of them centuries old, are strewn across the museum's floor, caked in dust. Some have been ravaged by termites. BBC

## Heavy casualties reported after Tigray airstrike

Dozens of people have reportedly been killed or injured after Ethiopia's air force bombed a market in the northern region of Tigray.

Eyewitnesses told the BBC the Ethiopian air force struck the town of Togoga on Tuesday, 25 km (15 miles) from the region's capital, Mekelle.

The Ethiopian military

denied targeting civilians, saying it carried out the strikes to neutralise terrorists.

Tigrayan rebel forces are said to have made advances in recent days.

Thousands of people have been killed and millions displaced after conflict erupted almost eight months ago. Doctors at the main hospital in Mekelle say they are treating dozens of people including a two-year-old

child left injured by the airstrike.

Medical personnel told Reuters the Ethiopian military blocked them from reaching the site of the attack to help others left behind. A 16-year-old boy told the BBC from Aider referral hospital that he was struck in the hand by shrapnel and that he saw several people thrown on the ground. He said that the airstrike killed a man he knew.

Ethiopia's army said the strikes were against military targets. "We never carried out an airstrike on the market place. How is this possible? The army is capable of accurately hitting its targets. We conducted airstrikes, but only on certain targets," a spokeswoman said. Ethiopia's government, aided by troops from neighbouring Eritrea, launched an offensive in November last year to oust the region's then ruling party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). By the end of the month, it declared victory.

The TPLF had had a



Talks between Sudan, Ethiopia and Egypt have failed

Sudan's foreign minister has written to the UN Security Council to intervene on the row over Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam (Gerd) on the Nile River.

Sudan wants the council to meet and discuss the dam's "impact on the safety and security of millions of people".

Minister Mariam al-Mahdi's letter to the head of UNSC asks him to urge Ethiopia to stop the "unilateral" filling of the dam. Talks brokered by the African Union have failed and the dispute over the filling of the dam continues.

Ethiopia says the dam is

vital for its development as it could bring power to 60% of the population. Egypt says it threatens the flow of the Nile which sustains life there.

Sudan, which sits on the river between the two countries, says filling the dam without solving outstanding issues would threaten national security. Sudan wants Ethiopia to commit to a legally binding agreement, rather than guidelines, on the amount of water retained and the timetable for filling the reservoir.

It also wants clarity on how disputes will be resolved in the future. BBC



Ethiopia's army took control of Tigray's capital, Mekelle, in November last year

massive fallout with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed over his political reforms though its capture of federal military bases in Tigray was the catalyst for the invasion.

The TPLF has since joined forces with other groups in the region to form the Tigray Defence Force (TDF) rebel group. Speaking to the BBC on

Monday after casting his vote in the twice delayed national election, Mr Abiy said he was working with the troops in neighbouring Eritrea to get them to leave but said he would not "push them out".

They are accused of carrying out massacres, mass rape and blocking humanitarian aid - charges Eritrea has denied. BBC



# EDITORIAL

## Government should go beyond Covid-19 guidelines

**THE FACT THAT** the Government of Liberia thru the Ministry of Health issued Revised COVID-19 National Guidelines last week after increasing death news and high daily recording of new cases presupposes that government has been playing lip-service with the Liberian people in handling the pandemic.

**IT IS AN** open secret that the authorities here even at the highest level have been relaxed in enforcing COVID protocols or preventive measures by encouraging mass gatherings as were demonstrated by huge receptions during President George Weah's nationwide tours in the last three to four months in which social distancing, hands washing and nose masks were ignored.

**THE VIRUS RESURGENCE** in Liberia is being traced to a new variant from India that is more deadly than the once that came from Wuhan, China in 2019. In less than a month the fatality rate is not just alarming, but scaring.

**WITH POROUS AND** poorly manned borders across the country, coupled with rather relaxed security at the main Roberts International Airport that witnessed influx of foreign visitors particularly from India and other Asian countries during this same period, this was expected. It was only matter of time.

**NOW HERE WE** are as a nation, with the light from the entire ECOWAS region beaming on Liberians, not for so good a reason but as most infected people that pose risk to the remaining 14 member States.

**THE REVISED NATIONAL** guidelines issued last will be meaningless stringent enforcement measures are applied at all levels without fear or favor. We need exemplary leadership this time around, if we should succeed in this fight.

**ONE OF THE** critical issues in the guidelines that continue to receive criticism from the public is allowing entertainment centers, including bars and night clubs to operate up to 9:00pm! This is a license for people to spread the virus.

**WE FIND IT** difficult to understand how can a group of intoxicated people in a bar observe social distancing, lest to say wearing of masks. Government may be looking at the economic consequences of shutting down such business entities. But truth of the matter is activities in those places are below sober thought or reasoning with unintended repercussions.

**UNLESS THERE IS** vigorous enforcement, Liberia could a problem child for the entire region, which we do want as a government. We need to enforce strict compliance regardless who is involved.

**LASTLY, THIS SHOULD** not just be about guidelines to be seen as doing something when our health workers and institutions lack capacity to respond to daily cases. Requisite instruments such as sufficient vaccines, oxygen, ventilators, and beds, among others are urgently needed.

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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

# COMMENTARY

By Abbas Milani

## The End of the Islamic Republic

**P**ALO ALTO - Iran's presidential election on June 18 was the most farcical in the history of the Islamic regime - even more so than the 2009 election, often called an "electoral coup." It was less an election than a chronicle of a death foretold - the death of what little remained of the constitution's republican principles. But, in addition to being the most farcical, the election may be the Islamic Republic's most consequential.

The winner, Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi, is credibly accused of crimes against humanity for his role in killing some 4,000 dissidents three decades ago. Amnesty International has already called for him to be investigated for these crimes. Asked about the accusation, the new president-elect replied in a way that would have made even George Orwell blush, insisting that he should be praised for his defense of human rights in those murders.

Never has such a motley crew been chosen to act as a foil for its favored candidate. The regime mobilized all of its forces to ensure a big turnout for Raisi, who until the election was Iran's chief justice. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei decreed voting a religious duty, and casting a blank ballot a sin, while his clerical allies condemned advocates of a boycott as heretics. But even according to the official results, 51% of eligible voters did not vote, and of those who did, more than four million cast a blank ballot. There are already allegations that the announced numbers were doctored, and a powerful movement to boycott the election has already declared the outcome a virtual referendum against the status quo.

Despite the constitution's republican elements, real power has always been in the hands of the Supreme Leader. Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, virtually all elections - except those in the first couple of years - were to varying degrees engineered. The Islamic Republic has always been closer to a traditional Islamic state than a modern republic. But after Raisi's election, it will be a stretch to call Iran even a competitive authoritarian regime where factions compete in managed elections to divide power.

This election was not just about the presidency, but also about the selection of the next Supreme Leader. Khamenei is 82, and has long been battling prostate cancer. Some believe the plan is to anoint Khamenei's son, Mojtaba, as the next Supreme Leader, making the post hereditary (and moving Iran closer to becoming a caliphate). In this scenario, Raisi is to be the pliant president who enables Mojtaba's rise. But others think that Raisi himself is Khamenei's designated successor.

Despite this important ambiguity, two things seem clear. First, both candidates are bad news for Iran and the region. Mojtaba is a shadowy figure who for many years has been his father's de facto chief of staff, and, more important, has close ties to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' brutal intelligence forces. And Raisi's bloody record in the judiciary speaks for itself. Second, the IRGC - a political, economic, cultural,

military, and intelligence juggernaut - will be calling the shots in selecting Khamenei's successor.

More broadly, it is also clear that the regime, enfeebled by structural challenges - including a drought, COVID-19, a collapsing financial system, a determined women's movement demanding an end to gender apartheid, and rising discontent among young people - has been flexing its muscles at home and abroad. Its response to these challenges has been continued brutality against its citizens, abduction of dual nationals to use as bargaining chips, a rapid increase in uranium enrichment, and more attacks on US forces in Iraq by regime proxies.

Raisi will be in office when and if the ongoing negotiations with the United States resurrect some version of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. A revived JCPOA would bring an end to some of the sanctions re-imposed by former US President Donald Trump when he withdrew from the deal in 2018. While the Trump administration's policy of "maximum pressure" hurt ordinary Iranians, it also weakened the regime. If human rights are not a crucial part of any new deal with Iran, then the gains from an end to sanctions will strengthen the regime's most strident elements. For the US, negotiating with a roguish regime is prudent policy, but normalizing such regimes is to the detriment of America's long-term interests.

The debate about Iran in the US has often devolved into a false binary between advocates of "regime change" and "appeasers." In conducting its negotiations, President Joe Biden's administration must avoid both sides. But while Iran has rightly criticized the US for unilaterally renouncing a binding agreement, the US should demand that Khamenei take direct responsibility for negotiating with the US. According to both Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and outgoing President Hassan Rouhani, Khamenei was involved in every step of the JCPOA negotiations, but remained in the shadows, and even allowed his minions to attack the deal long before Trump walked away from it.

The US neither can nor should accept the responsibility of changing Iran's regime. Only the people of Iran can and should make that decision. But any US negotiations with the Islamic Republic must recognize that America's long-term interests, and those of the people of Iran, can be realized only with a modern democracy, not an Islamic caliphate. The country's grave structural challenges can be solved only by a national concordance that includes all strata of Iranian society, particularly women, as well as the Iranian diaspora.

The election of Raisi indicates that Khamenei and his allies are moving in the exact opposite direction, which all but guarantees domestic turmoil in the coming months and years. A prudent and effective US strategy toward Iran must place this reality at the center of its calculations.



# OPINION

By Richard Haass

## Taming the New Wild West

**N**EW YORK - During the Cold War, summit meetings between the United States and the Soviet Union were often dominated by agreements to set limits on nuclear weapons and the systems built to deliver them. The US and Russia still discuss these topics, but at their recent meeting in Geneva, US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin focused in no small part on how to regulate behavior in a different realm: cyberspace. The stakes are every bit as great.

It's not hard to see why. Cyberspace and the internet are central to the workings of modern economies, societies, political systems, militaries, and just about everything else, which makes digital infrastructure a tempting target for those seeking to cause extraordinary disruption and damage at minimal cost.

Moreover, states and nonstate actors can carry out cyberattacks with a high degree of deniability, which adds to the temptation to develop and use these capabilities. We know when and from where a missile is launched, but it can take a long time to discover that a cyberattack has occurred, and figuring out who is responsible can take even longer. Such a slow and uncertain attribution process can render the threat of retaliation, which is at the heart of deterrence, beyond reach.

What put this issue squarely on the agenda of the Biden-Putin meeting is that Russia has grown increasingly aggressive in cyberspace, whether by creating false accounts on social media to influence American politics or by gaining access to critical infrastructure, such as power plants. Reinforcing the issue's salience is the reality that Russia is not alone: China reportedly gained access in 2015 to 22 million US government personnel files - which include information that could help determine who was or is working for the US intelligence community.

Likewise, North Korea attacked Sony (and compromised all sorts of private communications) in an effort to block distribution of a satirical film that depicted the assassination of the country's leader. This all adds up to a latter-day Wild West, with many armed people operating in a space governed by few laws or sheriffs to enforce them.

Traditionally, the US has favored a largely unstructured internet - "open, interoperable, secure, and reliable," according to a policy set a decade ago - in order to promote the free flow of ideas and information. But US enthusiasm for such an internet is waning as foes exploit this openness to undermine its democracy and steal intellectual property important to the functioning and comparative advantage of its economy.

The question - easier to pose than to answer - is where to draw lines and how to get others to accept them. For one thing, the US is not without its contradictions, as it, too, carries out espionage in cyberspace (think of it as the modern equivalent of steaming open envelopes to read someone else's mail) and reportedly, along with Israel, installed malware to sabotage Iran's nuclear weapons program. So, any ban on activities in cyberspace would presumably be partial.

One promising idea would be to follow up on what Biden and Putin discussed, namely, to ban the targeting of critical infrastructure, including but not limited to dams, oil and gas production facilities, electrical grids, health-care facilities, nuclear power plants and nuclear weapon command and control systems, airports, and major factories. Cyber capability can become a weapon of mass destruction when such important sites are compromised.

Even with such an agreement, verifying compliance could prove impossible, so the US would also want to introduce a degree of deterrence to ensure that parties to such a pledge honor it. Deterrence could involve the declared willingness to carry out symmetrical responses: if you target or attack our critical infrastructure, we will do the same to yours. Deterrence could also be asymmetrical: if you target or attack our facilities, we will sanction you or target your interests elsewhere.

Any such agreement would also need to be buttressed by unilateral action, given the stakes and the reality that other agreements (such as China's 2015 pledge not to steal intellectual property) have been violated. For example, the US would want to take steps to reduce the vulnerability of its high-value systems.

It would also be necessary to declare or negotiate that claims of ignorance or denials of government involvement in aggressive cyber activity, such as when Putin said his government had nothing to do with Russian ransomware attacks, will not be accepted. The analogy here is to terrorism: in the wake of the September 11, 2001, attacks, the US made clear that it would not distinguish between terrorist groups or governments that provided them support or sanctuary. Russia would therefore be held accountable for the actions of groups acting from its territory. Insisting on accountability should increase Russia's incentive to rein in such behavior.

Over time, a US-Russia pact could serve as a model that could be joined by China, Europe, and others. If it were extended to China, prohibitions on the theft of intellectual property (and penalties for violating the ban) could be added. None of this adds up to disarmament, but it is the cyber equivalent of arms control, which is as good a place to start as any.

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## 2021 SCHOLARSHIPS TO EGYPT

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;
- Have graduated from high school in (2019/2021 or 2021/2022);
- Have passed the **WAEC** or **WASSCE** exam (6 subjects in the following categories: Math and English compulsory, 2 science subjects and 2 general subjects);
- 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:

- Certified photocopies of high school transcript;
- 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**

**ONLY SHORT LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED.**

For application details or inquiry: Visit [www.moe-liberia.org](http://www.moe-liberia.org) or [www.emansion.gov.lr](http://www.emansion.gov.lr)

Applications should be addressed to:

Division of Scholarships

Ministry of Education

Ministerial Complex, Congo Town

For further inquiry, call **Samuel G. Williams** on **0770421201** (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)



# SPECIAL STATEMENT FROM ALEXANDER B. CUMMINGS ON THE COVID SITUATION IN LIBERIA

June 22, 2021

Fellow Liberians,

These are difficult and frightening times for Liberia. Our nation is at the brink of a health crisis as the Covid-19 Pandemic is raging across the country. Our country is currently experiencing a rapidly increasing surge in COVID cases, occasioned by an unimaginable number of hospitalizations and deaths of our people, particularly, in Montserrado county and its environs. We have gone from 2,149 cases a month ago to about 3,146 cases today, thus registering about 1,000 new cases in a month with 14 deaths. Hospitals are running out of beds and life-saving medical oxygen which are in short supply, are being rationed among those in extreme needs. Doctors, nurses and other healthcare practitioners and support staffs are scrambling. People are forced to look on helplessly as their family members and friends who are turned away, suffer, suffocate and die. With over 3,100 confirmed cases, local transmission across the remotest parts of the country where even more weakened health infrastructures exist, will only exacerbate an already worsening health situation in the country, and further risk our sub-region and the world. It does not have to be this way. A responsible government will not allow its people to go through this while they simply watch with no sense of urgency or direction.

Many days I use Facebook which has a lot of Liberian users, to keep them updated on what I am doing and to follow and share in the trends of the day, including the celebration of accomplishments, or the news and gees of our Liberian community, both at home and abroad. I mostly leave Facebook feeling inspired by the resilience and courage of the Liberian people despite the extreme hardship in the country. However, my visits on Facebook in the last few days have been sharply different. The entire platform has been flooded with gloomy stories, obituaries, and tributes to families, loved ones and friends who have suffered and succumbed to the surging COVID 19 virus or turned away from hospital for lack of beds. Like every Liberian, my heart is broken. I am deeply saddened and I feel your pains. The harsh truth is that this too, could have been avoided.

It hurts, particularly, knowing that amidst the already poor leadership of the Weah Administration which has brought untold sufferings, our people now must also deal with a health crisis that could have been avoided. Even now as our people troupe to get vaccinated, they are being turned away as the vaccines are being rationed, only due to the fact that of the 123,000 vaccines donated to us, 27,000 donated by the AU expired in 2 weeks upon delivery due to the very low demand. That is about 20% of much needed vaccines, which could have been used in less than a week, expired instead of ensuring every single dose was utilized and not one thrown away. Even those being tested now, have to wait up to 5-7 days to get their results. This is unacceptable.

In the first place, this outbreak should not have reached this far. I just cannot understand why early actions were not taken to impose appropriate restrictions on travelers coming into the country from COVID hotspots around the world. This is a complete leadership failure beyond words.

In the midst of this chaos and existential threat to

our people, President Weah without any conscience and sense of responsibility to the people, left on his usual private jet to Ghana. At this point, the President should cancel all further travels and remain in country to lead this effort until this situation is handled. There is no time for politics here. I call on President Weah to LEAD. That is why the people of this country gave him their votes in 2017. They entered a social contract with him to protect them and change their lives. He cannot continue to abandon that responsibility. He cannot continue to lead from the back as has been the case since his ascendancy. At this difficult time, we demand compassionate and prudent leadership, which is clearly lacking.

I know that instead of them working overtime to address the urgent threat on our people, I can assure you, they will do what they know best - find excuses for their failure as usual. They will childishly argue that even some powerful countries around the world were overwhelmed by the virus, and how about a poor country like Liberia? But I tell them, that there

instead of the use of paramilitary forces. We are at war with COVID and not ourselves.

6. Setup a hotline where people who have families or friends with severe symptoms of COVID can call for help, and can be linked the nearest isolation or health centre or monitored from home.

I offer to work with the government in whatever way I reasonably can to help us out of this situation. The Cummings Africa Foundation is open to working with authorities of the Ministry of Health to identify some of the urgent gaps in the national response that we can make some quick interventions to.

In the meantime, I am appealing to Liberians across the Diaspora to reach out with whatever assistance and support they can mobilize and provide to the government, medical facilities, family members and loved ones in Liberia. Truly, we need each other to help see us through this dark period.

I am also sending out an SOS call to the international community, especially the United States, the European Union, and all friendly nations

of the world, for much-needed help with vaccines, medical supplies, ventilators, and other support to our hospitals and community clinics. At home and abroad, as Liberians do all we can to keep ourselves safe and care for those who are sick, I ask the world to also help us. If nothing is done urgently, our numbers will quadruple., more people will get infected and several more will die.

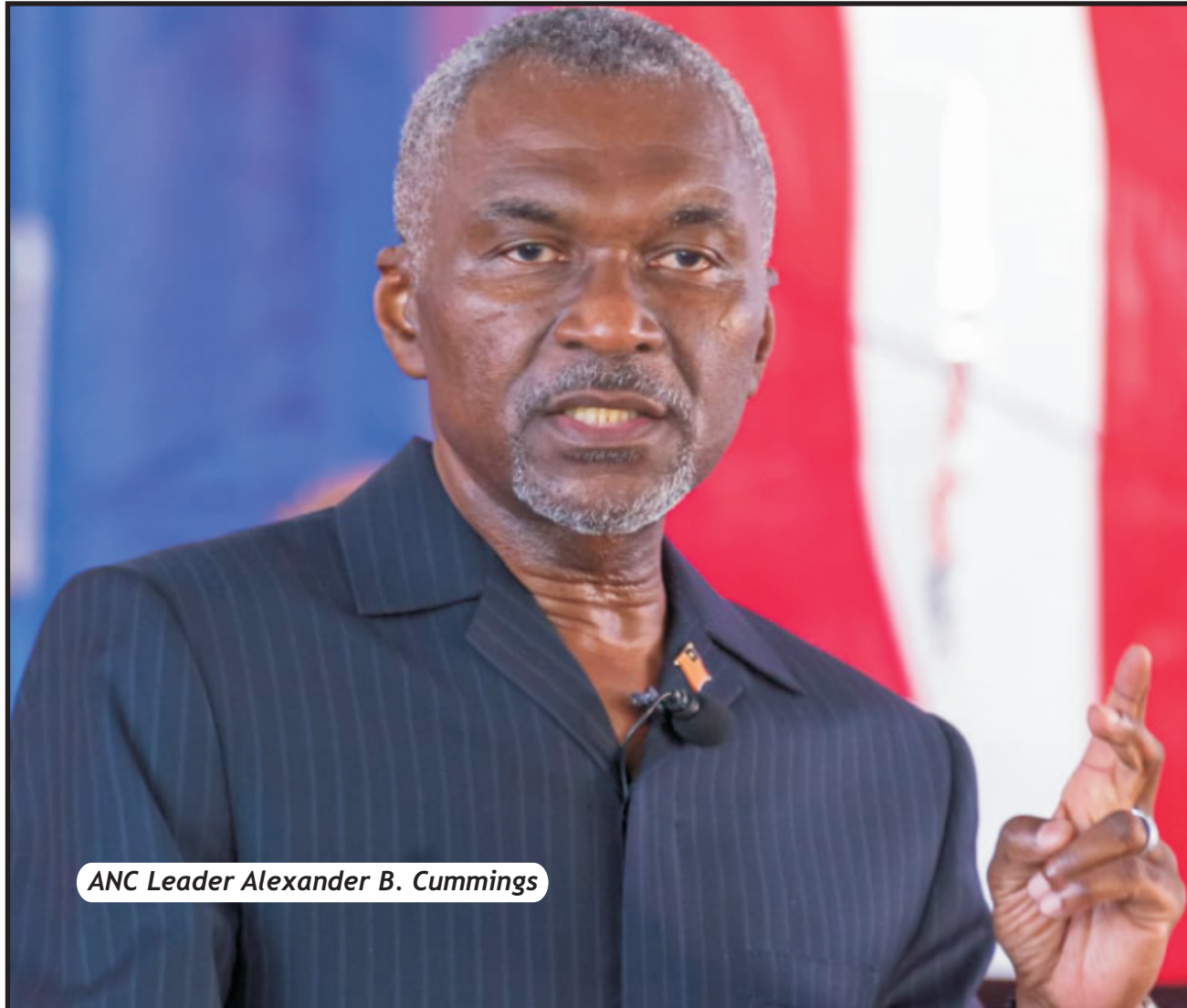
To all Liberians and those within our borders, once again, I urge you all to please act to keep yourself safe. Wear a mask to cover your nose and mouth. Wash your hands with soap and water as often as possible. Keep a safe distance from others. Avoid crowded places, avoid hugging, and avoid shaking hands. The continued failures of the government, however frustrating, do not have to lead to any more avoidable deaths. Each of us need to act to save all of us. Our lives depend on each of us. Please, do whatever you can to save the life of a friend, neighbor, family, someone you love, or may not even know.

And to our health workers who are risking their lives on the frontlines, I send you my love, admiration, and respect. We will pressure the George Weah led government to do the right thing, to give to you the deserved materials and financial support required to help you do your work better at this difficult time.

Fellow Liberians, rest assured, I am coming home immediately from the US where I have been having high level meetings to be with you in this crisis. I promise, I will not allow you to take this difficult road alone. I have already put together a team of advisors who are now working out modalities for our modest but genuine intervention.

My wife Teresa and I again extend our prayers to those suffering from the virus and our comfort and deepest sympathies to all who are grieving and mourning. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. We pray for God's divine comfort and healing on all the afflicted. And we pray for our country - that this darkness will end so that we are awakened not just to a new day but to a rebirth of our country.

God Bless you and God Bless Liberia.  
Thank you!!



ANC Leader Alexander B. Cummings

are many more countries in the world that prioritized their people by taking scientific and social measures to arrest the virus in its tracks, thus sparing their people the tragedy we face today.

There are a number of recent public measures that have been announced by the government. Speaking to doctors and other health experts, I do not believe that they are enough to address the seriousness of the difficulty we currently face. We need to act more fully to mobilize the nation to take the actions that are required to end the spread.

1. Recast the budget to provide funding for the purchase of beds, PPEs, masks, vaccines, ventilators, oxygen and massive awareness.
2. Solicit additional support from our citizens in the diaspora and our international partners and donor community.
3. Increase the hazard pay of existing health workers and employ more health workers and contact tracers.
4. Immediately close all schools and ensure the completion of the semester from home, pending the end of this crisis.
5. Work with community leaders and community-based organizations to create awareness and help with enforcement of GOL new regulations



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Gov't nets US\$55M financing loan agreement

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

President George M. Weah has submitted to the House of Representatives a financing agreement for ratification titled "Rural Economic Transformation Project" between the Republic of Liberia and International

IDA has agreed to extend to Liberia a credit, which is deemed as non-concessional financing in the amount of US\$55 million to improve production and market access for smallholder farmers and agri-enterprise for selected value chains in project participation in counties.

The cover letter from the

15, 2049 at 2.63% and on February 15, 2050 at 2.69%.

According to President Weah, this agreement is in the best interest of the country and its ratification will help improve the economy as well as transform small market productivity. This agreement, according to the president's letter, will empower smallholder farmers in some counties.

"Dear Mr. Speaker: I trust the Legislature will ratify this agreement which will improve productivity and market access for smallholder farmers in certain counties."

Following the reading of the financing agreement, a motion was made, forwarding the instrument to the House's joint committee on Public Accounts and Expenditures, Ways, Means and Finance, Judiciary and Agriculture. The joint committee is expected to report to Plenary for legislative action.

The agreement seeks to enabling smallholders and commercially oriented farmers to improve their capacity, operate competitively in the selected value chains, and establish more reliable linkages with buyers, including preparing pre-investment activities, identifying opportunities for productive alliances among agri-enterprises, processors, commercial partners, identifying potential business

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Development Association (IDA).

The agreement was submitted to the House on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 during the House's regular session on Capitol Hill.

According to the President's communication,

President that accompanied the loan agreement said the commitment charge rate is one quarter of one percent (1/4 of 1%) per annum on the withdrawn credit Balance. The principal payment dates are February 15 and August 15 yearly beginning August 15, 2031 through August

## Supreme Court can't disband Nwabudike -Lawyer says

Information reaching the New Dawn newspaper says the legal counsel for expelled lawyer and former Liberia Anti - Corruption Commission (LACC) chairperson Ndubusi A. Nwabudike has told Liberia's Supreme Court that it does not have the power to disband a lawyer who attained Liberian citizenship by alleged fraudulent means, but Liberia's Attorney General has such power.

Nwabudike's lawyer Cllr. Johnny Momo argued on Wednesday, 23 June at the Supreme Court that the Code of Conduct of the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) cannot apply only to lawyers, contending that whatever happened prior to Nwabudike becoming a lawyer cannot take effect on him as a lawyer.

Cllr. Momo is reported to have made the comments when the Supreme Court here



Ndubusi A. Nwabudike

entertained argument in the case involving Nwabudike and the LNBA, the umbrella organization for Liberian lawyers that expelled the membership of the Nigerian - born last year after it determined that he acquired his Liberian citizenship through fraudulent means.

Controversies surrounding the Liberian citizenship status of Nwabudike erupted here after he was nominated by President George Manneh Weah to head the National Elections Commission (NEC) months ahead of the 2020 senatorial elections.

## EFTF to offer scholarships for Liberian children

By Lewis S. Teh

Thousands of less-fortunate children, including orphans are expected to benefit free education from an international organization under the auspices of Education for the Future in Liberia.

EFTF is an international Christian organization that is involved in assessing the educational sector to provide scholarships for students whose parents can't afford to meet up with their tuition.

In Liberia, children between ages 3 and 5 benefit early childhood education from government.

Nearly 50 per cent of students enrolled in early childhood education are six years or above. Many learners start ECE late and subsequently do not enter primary school until they are eight to 10.

Speaking late Tuesday evening June 22, 2021 upon arrival at the Roberts International Airport in Margibi County, EFTF International Director Lars HM Ross said his visit to Liberia is to carry out assessment on orphanages and schools in all 15 counties to help provide free education for children thru the organization.

According to Mr. Ross, Liberia is the first country in Africa that is expected to benefit from this initiative that will provide scholarships for orphans and other children whose parents cannot afford sending them to school.

"The importance of the initiative is to provide conducive learning opportunities for underprivileged school-going kids, orphans and other disadvantaged children in Liberia in both academic and Christian education", he said.

While in Liberia the EFTF director will meet with board members, of his organization, private individuals and

national leaders, as part of his assessment visit.

In remarks, the President of EFTF Liberia Chapter, Pastor Roland Chester, who welcomed Mr. Ross for the first time to Liberia said, he is honored to have him in the country.

According to Pastor Chester, the initiative by EFTF is a boost and will give hope to many children who are currently out of school due to the inability of many parents.

"We are grateful to God first for this great opportunity in our country and grateful to all executives and members of EFTF for choosing Liberia first. I am so happy for all of them", Pastor Chester said.

He noted that they are focusing on orphans and underprivileged children, because of many challenges parents faced in paying their children's fees at public and private schools in Liberia, adding that the project, when implemented, will help thousands of children especially orphans in acquiring quality education in the country.

According to Pastor Cheater, the facts finding mission will be carried out in all 15 counties in Liberia.

The education sector in Liberia which has been referred to as messy, still faces complex set of challenges including rebuilding and recovery, constrained national finances, poor infrastructure and the Ebola epidemic.

The challenges also include poor learning outcomes, overage enrollment, huge number of out-of-school children, wasted government's resources because of 'ghost' teachers and unskilled teachers, something that has affected the sector over the years. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Nwabudike's failure during confirmation hearing to prove to the Liberian Senate that he had naturalized as Liberian stripped him of the privilege to chair the NEC and subsequently led to his expulsion from the LNBA.

While challenging the bar's decision through the court process, Mr. Nwabudike later resigned on Monday, 1 February 2021 as LACC chair.

His lawyer Cllr. Momo told the Supreme Court Monday, 23 June that if a person's

citizenship is revoked automatically, his license is revoked.

As such, Cllr. Momo noted that until Nwabudike's citizenship is revoked by the Attorney General of the Republic Liberia, his license as lawyer cannot be revoked nor can he be disbanded from the practice of law here.

"The law conferred upon the Attorney General the power to set up guidelines to revoke

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## War Crimes Court requires int'l participation

**-Deputy Speaker says not GoL alone**

By Lewis S. Teh

Deputy House Speaker Cllr. Fonati Kofa says establishing a war crimes court for Liberia requires international participation, saying no country around the world has hosted its own war crimes court without

with several local radio stations.

The debate surrounding the establishment of a war crimes court for Liberia has intensified in recent times with some welcoming the idea, while others, backed by a decision of majority members of the Liberian Senate, support transitional justice over the war

the government here over the establishment of the court is unfortunate because such a situation never happened in Rwanda, nor neighboring Sierra Leone and other countries.

According to Kofa, the International Criminal Court (ICC) has absolute jurisdiction over war crimes, reflecting that through the ICC, it decided to implement the law and former President Charles Taylor faced trial and is now in jail.

"Nobody stopping the ICC from exercising such jurisdiction they want to exercise as regard international war crimes for which people who perpetrated war crimes here in Liberia and those who bear the greatest responsibility will also be subject," Kofa explained.

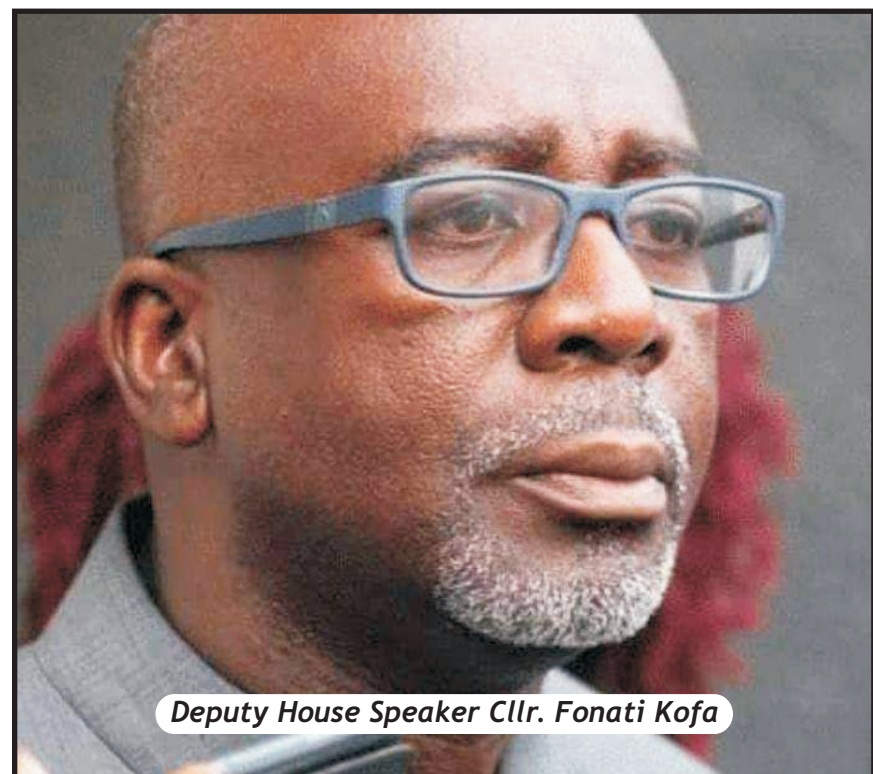
He said the act of establishing a war crimes court requires a holistic approach, something he says President George Manneh Weah has started, given the fact that he wrote the Legislature.

Rep. Kofa added the US\$ 15,000 that received by each of the lawyers here has nothing absolutely to do with the establishment of the war crimes court, rejecting a statement attributed to former Truth and

crimes court.

According to Cllr. Kofa, the only time he expects people to get angry with Liberia is if someone is invited and Liberia refuses to turn such a person over.

He argued that to pressure



Deputy House Speaker Cllr. Fonati Kofa

international participation.

"I'm on record like any official that [is] in full support of the establishment of [a] war and economic crimes court here in Liberia," Cllr. Kofa said Wednesday, 23 June at his capitol building office in a joint interview

## CDC calls for joint-action against COVID-19

The national executive committee of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change calls on all citizens and residents residing within the borders of Liberia to treat with utmost seriousness the second wave outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic.

Coalition cautions against the danger of downplaying the severity of the new variant, which it says, inflicts devastating impacts on people, economy and social life.

In a release, the party calls for collective action in the fight to counter the spread, protect lives, save the economy from the devastating attendants of COVID-19, while easing (mounting) pressure on the country's challenged healthcare delivery infrastructure.

Emphasizing its calls for unity against the pandemic, the party describes the new COVID-19 variant as an existential strain, which



poses the biggest national security challenge to the health, economy and survival of the State, its citizens and friends.

Nevertheless, the statement continues that regardless of its peril to daily life; COVID can be defeated when all, irrespective of ethnicity or religion, put aside politics and embrace the

practice and dissemination of effective healthcare measures.

At the same time the CDC calls on all political parties, religious leaders, traditional chiefs, civil society actors and cultural groups to unite and defeat the virus.

It calls for straight

## Weah sacks Fahngon

President George Manneh Weah has with immediate effect dismissed Deputy Information Minister for Press and Public Affairs Eugene Fahngon of his post at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT).

An Executive Mansion release issued Wednesday evening, 23 June says Mr. Fahngon's removal is as a result of spreading false information regarding the government's response to the

days in the Weah administration were marred by crisis, as the former Deputy Information Minister was condemned to prison in 2018 by the House of Representatives.

What was unclear was whether Mr. Fahngon was ever transferred from the Liberia National Police (LNP) headquarters to maximum prison to complete his prison term as ordered by the House.

He was however disgraced by the lawmakers, handcuffed and ordered jailed following his



COVID-19 pandemic currently ravaging the country.

The President has warned that he will not hesitate to take similar action against any other official of the government engaged in activities that undermine established government policy.

Mr. Fahngon has been a very controversial public official, and his recent utterances against the administration have been alarming. His early

failure to speak to matters involving him and then Bomi County Representative, now Bomi County Senator, Edwin Melvin Snowe during a contempt hearing before the House of Representatives.

The contempt hearing resulted from Fahngon's insults and loose accusations against Snowe during a street encounter in which he was seen in a video, pointing his finger at the lawmaker's face.

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adherence to 'No Mask, No Entrance' policy at all of its offices and facilities across the country, including its National Headquarters in Congo Town.

The CDC encourages its members to take the lead in getting vaccinated at the nearest health center, keep observing all health measures; wear masks when needed, place sanitation buckets at various entry points at homes and places of work, worship, etc.

Meanwhile, the leadership of the Coalition for Democratic Change applauds Doctors, Nurses, and all healthcare practitioners for continuously risking their own lives to save others, while caring for the sick and vulnerable.

It calls on local and international partners to support government's efforts by donating Personal Protection Equipment for health workers in the frontline against the pandemic. **-Press Release**



# Français

## La CEDEAO pourrait interdire les vols en provenance du Libéria, s'inquiète le sénateur Snowe

La Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) pourrait interdire les vols en provenance du Libéria vu la grave vague de coronavirus dans le pays, prévient le sénateur Edwin Melvin Snowe à Monrovia.

Le sénateur du comté de Bomi, qui préside la commission parlementaire de la CEDEAO sur les affaires politiques, a déclaré que l'organisme régional s'inquiète du fait que le Libéria compte le plus grand nombre de personnes infectées dans la région.

« Si nous ne vaccinons pas nos gens, ils ne voyageront pas. Tôt ou tard, la CEDEAO interdira les vols en provenance du Libéria », a prévenu le sénateur de Bomi le lundi 20 juin 2021 lors d'une émission-débat sur la Radio OK FM.

Il a fait observer que le Libéria manque de presque tout pour lutter contre la pandémie, y compris de l'oxygène, le vaccin et les

lits. « On ne peut pas combattre le Covid sans oxygène, c'est très grave et il faut le combattre », a-t-il souligné.

A en croire les récentes statistiques de l'Institut national de la santé publique du Libéria (NPHIL), le pays compte 2 729 cas de COVID -19, dont 2 105 guéris et des dizaines de personnes en unité de soins intensifs.

Le vice-ministre libérien de la

Santé et médecin-chef, le docteur Francis Kateh, a récemment confirmé que la nouvelle variante du virus cause de graves problèmes et exige des efforts de tous dans la lutte.

Selon lui, contrairement à l'épidémie de mars 2020, la nouvelle variante est très

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Sen. Edwin Snowe

## Côte d'Ivoire : Laurent Gbagbo demande le divorce avec Simone Ehivet Gbagbo

Laurent Gbagbo demande le divorce. Selon un communiqué signé de l'un de ses avocats, l'ancien président ivoirien a saisi un juge aux affaires matrimoniales ce lundi 21 juin 2021. Conséquence selon lui « du refus réitéré depuis des années de Dame Simone Ehivet de consentir à une séparation à l'amiable ». Laurent et Simone Gbagbo se sont mariés en 1989. Elle a participé à la fondation du FPI.

Laurent Gbagbo demande officiellement le divorce.

Dans un communiqué lapidaire, l'un de ses avocats annonce que l'ancien président a saisi un juge après le refus de son épouse Simone Ehivet Gbagbo d'une séparation à l'amiable.

Claude Menneton l'un des avocats de Laurent Gbagbo, indique dans ce communiqué de deux phrases, saisir un juge aux affaires matrimoniales d'une demande de divorce. En cause selon le texte « le refus réitéré de Dame Simone Ehivet de consentir à une séparation amiable, au demeurant voie de règlement appropriée à leurs statuts personnel et politique

réciroque ».

Ce communiqué vient confirmer ce qui se murmure depuis des mois et que des images captées par des téléphones portables à la sortie de l'avion de Laurent Gbagbo jeudi 17 juin ont dévoilé au grand jour. On y voit l'ancien président congédier son épouse d'un geste peu amène de la main. Laurent Gbagbo épouse Simone Ehivet en 1989. Sept ans auparavant, cette militante de la première

► 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 Massaquio, 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 Massaquio, 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

## La CEDEAO pourrait interdire

dangereuse et a de graves répercussions sur les victimes.

Le médecin-chef a en outre révélé que la plupart des personnes touchées sont sous oxygène en raison de difficultés respiratoires. “Si nous enlevons l’oxygène, ils mourront”, a-t-il dit

Mais le sénateur Snowe semble pas content des autorités sanitaires du pays, les accusant de ne pas faire assez dans la lutte.

« Au Ghana, les voyageurs ne quittent pas l’aéroport tant que leurs résultat covid-

19 ne sont pas disponibles. Mais au Libéria, les voyageurs sont autorisés à rentrer chez eux. On ne les rappelle que quand ils sont positifs », a-t-il expliqué, frustré.

Le sénateur Snowe vient de rentrer du Ghana où il a rencontré le président ghanéen, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo et le président Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin pour discuter de la sécurité régionale.

La réunion s’inscrivait dans le cadre de la 4ème réunion ordinaire du Conseil de médiation et de sécurité de la CEDEAO.

## Côte d’Ivoire : Laurent Gbagbo demande

heure fait partie, dans la clandestinité, des fondateurs du Front populaire ivoirien. À partir de 2000, lorsque Laurent Gbagbo accède à la magistrature suprême, Simone Gbagbo est une première dame très politique, une femme de pouvoir et d’influence, ce qui lui vaut le surnom de « dame de fer ».

C’est à cette époque également que Laurent Gbagbo épouse selon les rites coutumiers, Nady Bamba. C’est au bras de cette dernière que Laurent Gbagbo est rentré en Côte d’Ivoire jeudi dernier.

Un divorce aux conséquences politiques  
Dimanche, la cathédrale Saint-Paul d’Abidjan accueillait un fidèle de marque. Laurent Gbagbo faisait symboliquement son grand retour au sein de la communauté catholique rompant ainsi avec l’évangélisme, qu’il avait embrassé avec son épouse Simone dans les années 1990. Alors que cette dernière ne se départit jamais de son discours évangélique, ce geste de Laurent Gbagbo avait une portée politique

claire. « Il se sépare ainsi de Simone et du clan évangélique. Ça aurait pu attendre quelques semaines mais il a choisi de poser cet acte dès son 3e jour en Côte d’Ivoire » analyse le politologue Sylvain N’Guessan.

La saisine d’un juge ce lundi ne laisse plus place au doute. Le divorce de Laurent et Simone Gbagbo, 2e vice pdte du FPI GOR, est consommé aussi sur le plan politique. Des dissensions révélées une première fois dès la fin 2018, à la mort du numéro 2 du parti, Aboudramane Sangaré. Laurent Gbagbo encore en prison, avait refusé que son épouse prenne l’intérim à la tête du FPI GOR.

En façade, l’épouse bafouée ne lui en avait pas tenu rigueur, appelant régulièrement à son retour, mais poursuivant son propre agenda. « Aujourd’hui, elle le laisse commettre des erreurs et engrange un capital sympathie » estime encore Sylvain N’Guessan. Quelles seront les conséquences de cette rupture sur l’avenir du parti ? Simone Gbagbo, membre fondatrice du FPI, à la légitimité historique, demeure très populaire parmi les sympathisants et militants, et ne semble pas avoir l’intention de raccrocher.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Abbas Milani

## La fin de la République islamique

**P**ALO ALTO - L’élection présidentielle du 18 juin en Iran a été la plus grotesque de toute l’histoire du régime islamique - même comparée à l’élection de 2009, souvent désignée sous le terme de « coup électoral ». Ce fut moins une élection que la chronique d’une mort annoncée - celle des derniers vestiges des principes de la constitution républicaine. Mais en plus d’être la plus grotesque, l’élection iranienne est également la plus lourde de conséquences.

Le vainqueur de ces élections, Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi, fait l’objet d’accusations crédibles de crimes contre l’humanité suite à son rôle dans la mort de quelque 4 000 dissidents il y a trente ans. Amnesty International a déjà demandé l’ouverture d’une enquête à son sujet pour ces crimes. Interrogé sur cette accusation, le nouveau président élu a eu une réponse digne de mettre le rouge aux joues de George Orwell en personne, en insistant sur le fait qu’il fallait citer à son crédit sa défense des droits de l’homme dans ces meurtres.

Jamais une bande aussi hétéroclite n’a été désignée pour servir de faire-valoir à son candidat préféré. Le régime n’a ménagé aucun effort pour assurer une forte participation à Raisi, qui jusqu’aux élections était juge en chef de l’Iran. Le Guide suprême, l’ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a décrété le vote d’un devoir religieux et a fait du vote blanc un péché, tandis que ses alliés cléricaux ont condamné les partisans du boycott comme hérétiques. Mais même selon les résultats officiels, 51 % des électeurs inscrits n’ont pas voté, et parmi ceux qui l’ont fait, plus de quatre millions ont voté blanc. Certaines allégations laissent déjà entendre que les chiffres annoncés ont été truqués et un puissant mouvement de boycott contre l’élection a déjà déclaré que le résultat était un référendum virtuel contre le statu quo.

Malgré les éléments républicains de la constitution, le pouvoir réel a toujours été entre les mains du Guide Suprême. Depuis la Révolution islamique de 1979, pratiquement toutes les élections - à l’exception de celles des deux premières années - ont été arrangées à des degrés divers. La République islamique a toujours été plus proche d’un État islamique traditionnel que d’une république moderne. Mais après l’élection de Raisi, il faudra employer les ultimes ressources de l’ingéniosité pour qualifier l’Iran de régime autoritaire et compétitif où des factions se disputent les élections pour diviser le pouvoir.

Cette élection n’a pas seulement eu pour objet la présidence, mais également le choix du prochain Guide Suprême. Khamenei a 82 ans et se bat depuis longtemps contre un cancer de la prostate. Certains pensent que le projet consiste à faire du fils de Khamenei, Mojtaba, le prochain Guide suprême, ce qui rendrait de la sorte ce poste héréditaire (et rapprocherait l’Iran d’un califat). Dans ce scénario, Raisi doit être le président accommodant permettant l’ascension de Mojtaba. Mais d’autres voient en Raisi lui-même le successeur désigné de Khamenei.

Malgré cette ambiguïté importante, deux choses semblent évidentes. Tout d’abord, ces deux candidats sont de mauvais augure pour l’Iran et pour la région. Mojtaba est une personnalité suspecte qui, depuis de nombreuses années, est le chef d’état-major de son père et, plus important encore, entretient des liens étroits avec les forces de renseignement brutales du Corps des Gardiens de la Révolution Islamique (CGRI). En outre, les états de service sanglants de Raisi au sein du

système judiciaire sont éloquentes. Deuxièmement, le CGRI - un géant politique, économique, culturel, militaire et du renseignement - va mener la danse à l’heure de la sélection du successeur de Khamenei.

Plus largement, il est également clair que le régime, enfoncé dans des défis structurels - dont une sécheresse, la COVID-19, un système financier en chute libre, une manifestation de femmes déterminées exigeant la fin de l’apartheid des sexes et une grogne montante chez les jeunes - multiplie les démonstrations de force sur le sol national comme à l’étranger. Sa réponse à ces défis a consisté à maintenir son niveau de brutalité à l’encontre de ses citoyens, par des enlèvements sur des ressortissants à double nationalité en vue de les utiliser comme monnaie d’échange, une augmentation rapide de l’enrichissement d’uranium et de nouvelles attaques contre les forces américaines en Irak par des mandataires du régime.

Raisi sera en fonction dès que (et à condition que) les négociations en cours avec les États-Unis redonnent vie à une version de l’Accord nucléaire de 2015 avec l’Iran, officiellement connu sous le nom de Plan d’action global commun (PAGC). Une nouvelle version du PAGC pourrait mettre un terme à certaines sanctions réimposées par l’ancien président Donald Trump lors de son retrait de l’Accord en 2018. Bien que la politique de « pression maximale » de l’administration Trump ait porté tort aux Iraniens ordinaires, elle a également affaibli le régime. Si les droits de l’homme ne sont pas placés au cœur de tout nouvel accord avec l’Iran, alors les bénéfices obtenus au terme des sanctions viendront renforcer les éléments les plus dissonants du régime. Pour les États-Unis, négocier avec un régime sans scrupule est un gage de politique prudente. Toutefois, la normalisation de ces régimes se fait au détriment des intérêts à long terme de l’Amérique.

Le débat sur l’Iran aux États-Unis dégénère bien souvent en un faux clivage binaire entre partisans du « changement de régime » et « conciliateurs ». Dans la conduite de ses négociations, l’administration du président Joe Biden doit éviter ces deux camps. Mais bien que l’Iran critique à juste titre les États-Unis pour avoir renoncé de façon unilatérale à un accord contraignant, les États-Unis doivent exiger que Khamenei assume la responsabilité directe des négociations avec les États-Unis. Selon le Ministre des Affaires étrangères Mohammad Javad Zarif et le président sortant Hassan Rouhani, Khamenei a été impliqué dans chaque étape des négociations du PAGC, mais est resté dans l’ombre, et a même laissé ses laquais s’attaquer à l’accord bien avant que Trump ne s’en éloigne.

Les États-Unis ne peuvent ni ne doivent accepter la responsabilité de changer le régime iranien. Seuls les citoyens de l’Iran peuvent et doivent prendre cette décision. Mais toute négociation américaine avec la République islamique doit reconnaître que les intérêts à long terme de l’Amérique et ceux du peuple iranien ne peuvent être réalisés que par une démocratie moderne, non par un califat islamique. Les graves problèmes structurels du pays ne peuvent être résolus que par une concorde nationale comprenant toutes les couches de la société iranienne, en particulier les femmes, ainsi que la diaspora iranienne.

L’élection de Raisi indique que Khamenei et ses alliés s’orientent vers la direction opposée, ce qui garantit presque à coup sûr l’agitation politique intérieure dans les mois et les années à venir. Une stratégie américaine prudente et efficace à l’égard de l’Iran doit placer cette réalité au centre de ses calculs.

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## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# John H. T. Stewart: NPFL Ex-Combatant & Paid Agent

## -A Rejoinder

By Dr. G. E. Saigbe Boley, Sr.

The TRC Report

The initial report of the Liberia Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was actually written by the Minnesota Advocates, implementing partners of the Liberia Truth and Reconciliation Commission. John Stewart, the Commissioner of the TRC responsible to write the TRC report did not write the report. When the report was written, Jerome Verdier, Chairman of the TRC, Massa Washington and John Stewart took the report to Ghana and altered the report including names of individuals for prosecution not in the original report. They were accommodated by the late Dr. Thomas Jaye. Not a single one of their MOJA benefactors was included in the TRC report.

Following the release of the TRC final report, a member of the International Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC), Dr. Jeremy Levitt, points to "irregularities" and "anomalies." Two respectably members of the TRC, Sheik Kafumba Konneh (deceased) and Counselor Pearl Brown-Bull disassociated themselves from the findings of the TRC report and refused to endorse it or affix their signatures to the TRC report on constitutional and legal grounds.

"I am concerned that corruption and plum-picking may have played a role in the selection of these persons for public sanction," Jeremy Levitt wrote. That is the untold story of John Stewart, Massa Washington and Jerome Verdier's wildly publicized TRC report.

Every imaginable lie has been shamelessly told about me by TRC Chairman Jerome Verdier, TRC Commissioners Massa Washington and John H. T. Stewart for nearly two decades.

"Looting" of Bentol Residence of Slain President William R. Tolbert

In addition to claims by the TRC accusing me of refusal to appear for public hearings, a claim I believe I have sufficiently dispelled, I will briefly dispel two other specific instances where the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its members have been most irresponsible in the conduct of this important national task. The TRC publication of June 12, 2008, captioned "George Boley Looted Tolbert's House in Bentol...Huge amount of Cash and Valuables were taken Away."

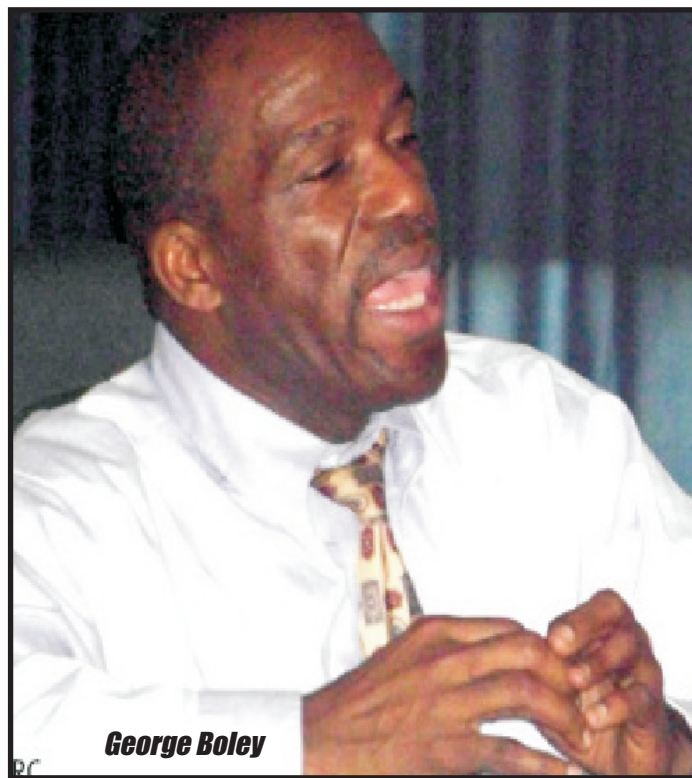
This was the testimony of a Kalongo Luo, a Liberian residing in the State of Minnesota, during the TRC's staged hearings in the United States in the City of St. Paul, Minnesota, arranged by the same Minnesota Advocates that in November 2006 declared me guilty of human rights violation in Liberia. Kalongo Luo claimed I ordered soldiers to hold Patrick Tuazama, butler to the assassinated president, at gunpoint "to provide the combination numbers to the safe." This shameless lie is being circulated around the world, courtesy of the TRC.

As much I would prefer not to dignify these lies with a comment, I have a responsibility to provide my children, family, associates and the world truthful information as to what exactly happened the morning of the coup of April 12, 1980, including the role of Captain Samuel Kalongo Luo of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) regarding his accusation that I looted President Tolbert's Bentol residence.

On the morning of April 12, 1980 following my release from detention at the Post Stockade, I was brought to the Executive Mansion and assumed the duties of Minister of State. As the PRC was consolidating control rumors circulated that a counter coup was being planned in Bentol City by troops loyal to the late President. At the same time, credible sources informed that a Major Jarbo of the Armed Forces Liberia was also effecting a counter

coup. Based on available information and the source of the information, members of the PRC dispatched a team of soldiers to pursue Major Jarbo. Though not a professional soldier, I was instructed to proceed to Bentol to check out rumors of a counter coup. About half a dozen soldiers were ordered to accompany me to Bentol. Captain Kalongo Luo was one the soldiers ordered by the late PRC Commanding General Thomas Quiwonkpa to accompany me to Bentol. Kalongo Luo was an officer prior to the coup. Since the coup was a non-commission officer (NCO) affair, Captain Kalong Luo's life line was PRC General Thomas Quiwonkpa, a fellow tribesman from Nimba. The late David Q. Nimely, also an officer in the AFL at the time, was designated by PRC Chairman Doe to accompany me to Bentol. I suspected Quiwonkpa and Doe each had a reason for designating a representative to accompany me to Bentol.

I will offer an explanation never before revealed. I was instructed to proceed to Bentol to ensure the safety of two elders of the leadership of Grand Gedeh County about whom PRC Chairman Doe was concern—namely, Mr. Harry Fabor Nayou and Major Johnny Garley of the AFL. I knew both gentlemen. Mr. Nayou, a renowned educator in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, was at the time of the coup Principal of the Bentol City School System. Major Johnny Garley, on the other hand, was Commander of the



Presidential Guard Unit of the Armed Forces of Liberia assigned to Bentol City.

I proceeded directly to Bentol from the Executive Mansion where we met a few NCOs of the AFL in a celebratory mood and no sign of a counter coup. In Bentol, I also found both Mr. Nayou and Major Garley in protective custody, detained by the NCOs but unharmed. I promptly ordered the release of both Mr. Nayou and Major Garley and arranged their transport to the relative safety of Monrovia.

Touring the City of Bentol I observed the residence of the slain President was ransacked and vandalized. Leading the tour of the President's residence was Patrick Tuazama, butler to the slain president, whom we met at Bentol (the President, I learned later was scheduled to have traveled out of the country). Captain Kalongo Luo, Captain David Q. Nimely and a few of the soldiers we met in Bentol joined the soldiers who accompanied me from Monrovia on a tour of the vandalized home of the slain president.

In the closet, in the president's bedroom we found two leather brief cases, one black and one brown. The brown brief case had the initial WRT, the black briefcase was unmarked. Approximate demission of the two brief cases was 3.5 inches by 18 inches by 13 inches. Do the math and you will appreciate the size of each brief case. In the presence of Patrick Tuazama, David Q. Nimely and the soldiers who

accompanied me from the Executive Mansion, I instructed Captain Kalongo Luo, General Quiwonkpa's designee, to take the two brief cases and bring them to the car in which he and I rode to Bentol.

There were no combinations or keys forced from anyone as there were no safes to be opened. The two briefcases as I stated were found in the closet in the late president's bedroom which was completely vandalized, not a single piece of clothing was found in the closet or in the home at the time I arrived in Bentol on the day of coup.

The brief cases were never opened nor did I let them out of my sight. With Captain Kalongo Luo riding in the same vehicle with me, we returned to the Executive Mansion where the PRC leadership, including late General Thomas Quiwonkpa, was awaiting the news from Bentol. In the presence of the team of soldiers that accompanied me to Bentol, including Kalongo Luo, I delivered the two brief cases to PRC Chairman Doe in the parlor of the Executive Mansion.

I never heard of the issue of the assassinated President's brief cases until sometime in 2005 when Dr. Emmanuel Dolo (deceased) called me from Minnesota (I was in the U.S. at the time) and mentioned, among other things, that Kalongo Luo had circulated information in the Liberian Community in Minnesota that I took tons of money from Tolbert's grave (Tolbert's tomb) at the family cemetery in Bentol.

I dismissed the accusation as ridiculous as I did not believe President Tolbert kept money in the cemetery. I, however, told Dr. Dolo the allegation was untrue. By June 2008, Kalongo Luo's story changed from taking money from Tolbert's grave at the family cemetery in Bentol to looting Tolbert's house in Bentol.

According to TRC witness Captain Kalongo Luo, in his June 2008 testimony in St. Paul, Minnesota, PRC Chairman Doe's refusal to inform his colleagues of the amount of money in the briefcases retrieved from President Tolbert's house caused the conflict between PRC Chairman Doe and members of the PRC.

Captain Kalongo Luo, five other soldiers and I went to Bentol on the orders of the PRC. Captain Kalongo Luo, in the presence of the team dispatched to Bentol, retrieved two briefcases from the slain president's house which were turned over to the PRC. How does this translate into looting of Tolbert's residence by Boley as published by the TRC?

I believe in always telling the truth about people who tell lies about me. Here are some facts about TRC witness Captain Kalongo Luo. Kalongo Luo is a notorious criminal who engaged in series of criminal activities including harassment of civilians, looting and extortion in the immediate aftermath of the April 12, 1980 coup. On one specific occasion after the coup, Kalongo Luo led a band of criminals to the home of Mrs. Clavena Parker at about 2:00 A.M. to evict her from her home. Dr. Peter Naigow (deceased), a respected colleague, summoned me that early morning to assist Mrs. Parker. I met Kalongo Luo at Mrs. Parker residence and ordered his detention at the Barclay Training Center (BTC). Of course, AFL Commanding General Thomas Quiwonkpa and Colonel John Nuah, both of whom were Captain Kalongo Luo's lifeline, always found a reason to release this menace from detention.

A consummate liar, Kalongo Luo served as Assistant Minister of Agriculture in the PRC government. In 1983 he fabricated stories of a coup plot against the PRC resulting to the death of two of his compatriots from Nimba County. Though many people have short memory and others have no memory at all, there are people out there who remember the Kalongo Luo confession of the fabricated plot on national television. This is the truth about TRC witness, Captain Samuel Kalongo



# Cummings makes an international appeal

The leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) Mr. Alexander B. Cummings frowns that in the midst of pandemic chaos and existential threat to lives of Liberians, President George Weah without any conscience and sense of responsibility to the people, has left the country on his usual private jet to Ghana.

He says at the moment, the President should cancel all further travels and remain in country to lead the fight until the prevailing health situation is handled.

"There is no time for politics here. I call on President Weah to LEAD. That is why the people of this country gave him their votes

around the world were overwhelmed by the virus, and how about a poor country like Liberia? But I tell them, that there are many more countries in the world that prioritized their people by taking scientific and social measures to arrest the virus in its tracks, thus sparing their people the tragedy we face today."

He notes that even as Liberians troupe to get vaccinated, they are being turned away as the vaccines are being rationed, only due to the fact that of the 123,000 vaccines donated to the country, 27,000 donated by the AU expired in two weeks upon delivery due to very low demand from the public, he says is about 20% of much needed vaccines that could have been

He wants the government to solicit additional support from citizens in the diaspora, international partners and the donor community.

The presidential hopeful stresses the need to increase hazard pay of existing health workers and employ more health workers and contact tracers.

He continues that government should immediately close schools and ensures completion of the semester from home, pending the end of the crisis.

He calls for setting up a hotline where people who have families or friends with severe symptoms of COVID can call for help, and can be linked the nearest isolation or health centre or monitored from home, but rejects any plan to bring in paramilitary forces, noting, "We are at war with COVID and not ourselves."

Meanwhile, the ANC leader offers to work with the government in whatever reasonable way in tackling the resurgence, which experts say is the Delta variant.

He says the Cummings Africa Foundation is open to working with authorities of the Ministry of Health to identify urgent gaps in the national response to yield quick interventions.

Currently in the United States where he has holding high level meetings, he discloses that he is immediately returning home to join the fight.

"I promise, I will not allow you to take this difficult road alone. I have already put together a team of advisors who are now working out modalities for our modest but genuine intervention", he reveals and sends out SOS call to the international community, especially the United States, the European Union, and all friendly nations of the world, for much-needed help with vaccines, medical supplies, ventilators, and other support for hospitals and community clinics across the country.

**Story by Jonathan Browne**



in 2017. They entered a social contract with him to protect them and change their lives. He cannot continue to abandon that responsibility. He cannot continue to lead from the back as has been the case since his ascendancy. At this difficult time, we demand compassionate and prudent leadership, which is clearly lacking", Mr. Cummings demands in statement on resurgence of the Coronavirus here with confirmed cases hitting nearly 4,000 and over hundred deaths.

Liberia's chief medical officer and deputy minister of health, doctor Francis Kate, puts the daily infection rate at more than 3 percent with 11 counties already affected.

In a statement issued Wednesday, June 23, 2021, the ANC leaders who is seeking to stop the Weah administration to one term at the ballot box through four Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) says instead of the government working overtime to address the urgent health threat, it will find excuses for failure as usual, saying "They will childishly argue that even some powerful countries

used in less than a week, but expired, further pointing that even those being tested now, have to wait up to 5-7 days to get their results, which is unacceptable.

Mr. Cummings says he does not believe recent public measures announced by the government are enough to address the seriousness of the difficulty the country currently faces. "We need to act more fully to mobilize the nation to take the actions that are required to end the spread", he urges.

Among others, he calls for recasting of the national budget to provide funding for the purchase of beds, PPEs, masks, vaccines, ventilators, oxygen and massive awareness.

*Cont'd from page 6*

opportunities for the productive alliances, preparing business plans and proposals for investment subprojects as well as building capacity of technical services providers to enhance quality the services provided to the productive alliances.

It also reflects on carrying out a program of agriculture investment activities pay

## Gov't nets US\$55M

would focus on modernizing individuals' farm operations, enhancing productivity, reducing losses to meet market demands, empowering women through the provision of grants to eligible beneficiaries.

The loan will also be directed in improving access to markets through the rehabilitation of existing

# Supreme Court can't

*Cont'd from page 6*

citizenship of anyone who attained it by illegal means, therefore, unless the citizenship issue is addressed, the LNBA and Supreme Court cannot question Nwabudike's membership of the bar," Cllr. Momo contended.

He accused the LNBA of allegedly overlapping the function of the High Court, saying it is only the Court that can formulate the Code of Conduct and penalize lawyers if there is a breach of the law.

He additionally said the Supreme Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the matter and it cannot disband his client from the practice of law in Liberia.

However the lawyers representing the LNBA have

appealed to the Supreme Court to uphold the bar's decision by revoking Nwabudike's license.

Cllr. Golda Elliot, pleading on the side of the LNBA urged the court to disband Nwabudike from the practice of law for fraudulently acquiring Liberian citizenship.

According to her, when the citizenship of a person is in doubt, the Supreme Court has the right to deny such a person without mandate from the Attorney General of Liberia as indicated in the Alien and Nationality Law of Liberia.

She accused the Attorney General of failing to exercise the power given him, urging the Supreme Court to take siege of the matter.

## War Crimes Court

*Cont'd from page 6*

Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Chairman Cllr. Jerome Verdier, accusing legislators of receiving 1.5 million.

Kofa said about 24 members of the House of Representatives have signed the documents regarding the establishment of the war and economic crimes court when the president wrote a communication to the Legislature.

He claimed that most of

those that are talking about the establishment of a war and economic crimes court are using it as politics.

Kofa claimed that he foresees chaos in the future if nothing is done to address the issue about the establishment of a war and economic crimes court because there's a whole process that must be implemented. **-Edited by Winston W. Parley**

## Maryland County records

*Starts from back page*

Ministry of Health in Monrovia something, which he said, might further increase cases of the COVID-19 in the county.

"We are encouraging all our citizens to continue wearing masks and observe social distancing whenever they are in a public area."

Last year during a training session, several laboratory technicians came from Monrovia on 28 June to train their colleagues in the county how to test COVID-19 specimens.

After the training, the lab technicians were asked to voluntarily take one another's specimen as a demonstration of the acknowledge acquired from the training and when

the specimens were taken and sent to Monrovia, results of the first three technicians came positive on July 2, 2020, followed by the remaining seven, who were quarantined subsequently.

This led Superintendent George Prowd to have launched a compulsory nose masks wearing campaign in the county.

"If you are traveling out of the county and you get at the checkpoints and you are not wearing nose and face masks, you will be sent back. The restrictions will also be extended to the general market, into the streets, so we are asking our citizens to kindly pay heed", he pleaded at the time. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

*Cont'd from page 6*

opportunities for the productive alliances, preparing business plans and proposals for investment subprojects as well as building capacity of technical services providers to enhance quality the services provided to the productive alliances.

It also reflects on carrying out a program of agriculture investment activities pay

would focus on modernizing individuals' farm operations, enhancing productivity, reducing losses to meet market demands, empowering women through the provision of grants to eligible beneficiaries.

The loan will also be directed in improving access to markets through the rehabilitation of existing

roads, construction of short span critical cross drainage structures, and modernization of selected agri-market.

It will enhance capacity of selected public services that

are critical for enabling agri business, within Ministry of Agriculture and the Cooperative Development Agency (CDA) to improving the quality of their agribusiness services, among others. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



## Maryland County records 3 COVID-19 cases



By Patrick N. Mensah,  
Maryland County

As the new COVID-19 variant increases in Liberia, the health team in Maryland County has recorded three confirmed cases of the Corona virus, the first in the southeastern region.

Speaking to reporters during a press conference, county health officer doctor Methodius George regretted that despite awareness campaign, the county Tuesday, June 22, 2021

recorded three fresh cases of COVID-19.

He noted that though Maryland has new confirmed cases, citizens shouldn't panic because the county is prepared to combat the virus.

He disclosed that besides the confirmed cases, there are several contacts that will be pursued in the county.

But he assured citizens that with the experiences acquired during Ebola and previous COVID outbreak, the county health teams are ready to combat the resurgence.

"Our county has recorded her 3rd confirmed cases, the three patients are responding to treatment. I am encouraging every citizen and resident of Maryland County to remain calm, but we all must keep observing the preventive measures of Corona Virus. Wash your hands regularly, observe the social distancing, put on nose mask, avoid over crowdedness and the list goes on", the county health officer stressed.

When quizzed about the patients' history, CHO George he couldn't disclose to the public but urged citizens to prevent themselves and observe all of the health protocols prescribed by the Ministry of Health and the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL).

He said though the health team is doing extremely well in providing awareness to citizens, it has been noticed that some citizens are not abiding by health regulations being prescribed by the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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## Record man Ronaldo saves champions in Euros thrille

Cristiano Ronaldo equalled Ali Daei's all-time international goalscoring record as he held his nerve to haul Portugal to a 2-2 draw with France and into the knockout rounds of Euro 2020.

Ronaldo scored the first of three penalties awarded by Spanish referee Mateu Lahoz at the Puskas Arena, although his old Real Madrid strike partner Karim Benzema levelled from the spot and put the world champions

ahead at the start of the second half.

At that stage, the holders were staring at elimination as Les Blues eyed a measure of revenge for their Euro 2016 final defeat, but Ronaldo stepped up again at his country's hour of need when Jules Kounde was penalised for handball.

Having already overhauled Miroslav Klose - whose countrymen Germany flirted with disaster before salvaging a 2-2 draw against Hungary in Munich - to become the leading combined scorer at World Cups



and European Championships combined, Ronaldo beat Hugo Lloris again to pull level with the mark set by Iran's Daei - one that has long been in the five-time Ballon d'Or winner's sights.

Paul Pogba unlocked the Portugal defence with a glorious 16th-minute throughball, although Kylian Mbappe's finish was not of the same standard and Rui Patricio saved.

Opposite number Hugo Lloris did not cover himself in glory when he rashly tried to punch Joao Moutinho's free-kick and clattered into Danilo Pereira.

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