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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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Pres. Weah



ANC Leader Cummings



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Continental News

Egypt seeks new African allies in Nile dam row

Egypt is trying to strengthen its diplomatic and military clout in Africa amid an escalating dispute with Ethiopia over the building of a huge dam on a tributary of the River Nile, writes Egypt analyst Magdi Abdelhadi.

The Egyptian Geographic Society, established in 1875, houses some valuable manuscripts that reflect Egypt's long-standing interest in sub-Saharan Africa.

Among them is a historic map that shows the southern borders of Egypt at Lake Victoria in East Africa.

The society was established at the height of Egypt's short-lived imperial ambition, which had brought Sudan under Egyptian control and sought to conquer Ethiopia in a disastrous military expedition from 1874 to 1876. It ended in a humiliating defeat. Some 70 years later, Egypt atoned for its imperial misadventures when it became the standard bearer of anti-colonial struggles in Africa and

beyond.

But as it got sucked into the Arab-Israeli wars, its engagement with sub-Saharan Africa dwindled.

The past few years, however, has seen a dramatic re-engagement, in particular with the Nile Basin countries.

Egypt has signed a string of military and economic agreements with Uganda,

Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda and Djibouti in recent months.

Cairo already has substantial integration agreements with Sudan, where it recently conducted joint military exercises involving warplanes and special forces.

Egypt has linked its power grid to Sudan's and plans are under way to connect the

railway networks too, with a grand vision to run a train service from Alexandria to Cape Town.

The keyword behind this foreign policy change is the controversial dam Ethiopia is building on the Blue Nile, known as the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (Gerd).

"Egypt has long relied on diplomacy to solve its differences with Ethiopia over the Gerd. But the track of negotiations seems to have been exhausted, or nearly so," says Nael Shama, an expert on Egyptian foreign policy. Tanzania is another example, where Egypt is investing heavily in the massive Julius Nyerere hydroelectric dam on the Rufiji River. Cairo clearly wants to highlight the project as an example of its willingness to help development in the Nile Basin countries.

And this is precisely the kind of message Egypt - which has no other major sources of water for drinking and agriculture than the Nile - has

been trying to relay to global opinion. It is not opposed to the Ethiopian dam per se, but it is extremely wary of its likely impact on the flow of the Nile waters if Ethiopia refuses to sign up to a legally binding agreement on how to manage its operations. It is feared the dam could decimate Egyptian agriculture and lay waste to large swathes of its arable land, triggering massive drought and unemployment. Ethiopia, on the other hand, sees the Gerd as vital to its development needs, and the supply of electricity to its population. Egypt's change of direction and focus of foreign policy towards sub-Saharan Africa is therefore long overdue, but, some Egyptians say, it is too little too late. "Clout in modern politics is not just guns and cannons," argues Walaa Bakry, an academic at the UK's University of Westminster and a business consultant. "Security agreements with some of the Nile Basin countries such as Burundi, Rwanda or Uganda is a good thing, but will not give Egypt the clout it wants," he writes. BBC



Ethiopia army denies targeting civilians in airstrike

The Ethiopian army has denied that civilians were targeted or killed in the airstrike at Togoga village outside Tigray's capital, Mekelle.

The army's spokesperson Col Getnet Adane told journalists on Thursday that the airstrike's targets were rebel fighters who were gathered to celebrate Martyrs' Day.

Eyewitnesses and hospital

sources said dozens might have been killed or injured in the airstrikes. The International Committee of the Red Cross said it helped evacuate those wounded.

Col Getnet has also denied claimed by rebel fighters, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), of military gains including control of some key areas.

He accused the TPLF of engaging in a misinformation campaign which he said was

aimed at getting the government to sit down for negotiations by creating a perception of strength among the international community.

There have been growing calls for a cessation of hostilities which the government has continued to reject.

Renewed fighting is feared to worsen the humanitarian crisis in Tigray in which millions of people are in need of emergency aid. BBC



Those injured are being treated at Aider referral hospital in Mekele

Namibia records highest daily Covid death toll



Namibia recorded its highest ever daily increase in Covid-19 deaths on Wednesday.

The country's health ministry announced 45 deaths, which represents one of the worst current death rates in the continent - given Namibia's small population of 2.5 million.

The ministry said 1,567 people had tested positive for

Covid-19 from among 3,725 people who had been tested the previous day - representing a 42% positivity ratio.

"With concern we continue to record a high number of deaths due to Covid-19. Patients are urged to visit health facilities as early as possible for medical assistance. Late health seeking behaviour leads to high mortality," Health Minister Kalumbi Shangula said.

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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.

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

COMMENTARY

By Michael J. Boskin

Beware America's Soaring Public Debt

STANFORD - America needs to rein in its soaring national debt. But US President Joe Biden seems eager to do just the opposite. The risks are too big to be ignored.

In the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, President Barack Obama ran the largest budget deficits of any president since World War II (adjusting for the automatic revenue and outlay effects of the business cycle). His successor, Donald Trump, surpassed him.

Biden plans to top them both. Though America's gross federal debt now stands at 107% of GDP - a post-WWII record - the Biden administration's 2022 budget has the country running by far the largest-ever peacetime deficits.

To be sure, I support policies to mitigate the short-run economic pain caused by a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic and help spur recovery, as long as the long-run cost is reasonable. But Biden's spending plans don't meet that condition. Instead, they would create huge deficits that persist long after the economy is back to full employment.

For the five fiscal years from 2022 to 2026, the Biden administration would run deficits of 5.9% of GDP, on average. That level was reached only once between 1947 and 2008 - in 1983, when the unemployment rate averaged above 10%. But the administration's projections put unemployment at 4.1% in 2022 and 3.8% from 2023 and onwards.

Biden claims his proposals will add only modestly to the public debt (which is set to grow anyway, owing primarily to ever-rising expenditure on Social Security and Medicare). But there are good reasons to believe otherwise.

For starters, the Biden administration hopes to offset higher spending by increasing corporate and capital-gains taxes. But these tax hikes are unlikely to pass an evenly divided US Senate as proposed. Moreover, such taxes are particularly harmful to growth, so if some version of them is enacted, the Biden administration will likely find that its revenue projections were overly optimistic.

Biden's spending proposals also include several expensive entitlements, such as improved home care for the elderly and people with disabilities, universal free preschool, and two years of free community college for young adults. History suggests that such programs are likely to become permanent, with costs that grow far in excess of projections.

Meanwhile, even as China and Russia build up their militaries, Biden has placed a lower priority on defense spending, with an increase that does not keep up with inflation. Under his administration's budget, defense spending will fall to its lowest share of GDP since before WWII.

Some argue that the US has nothing to worry about. Deficits supposedly don't much matter when an economy borrows in its own currency; the US Federal Reserve just needs to buy up the debt from the Treasury. And with government-borrowing rates lower than the projected growth rate, the debt can be rolled over forever. Deficit finance becomes a "free lunch."

These claims merit considerable skepticism. The reasons why are highlighted in recent technical

papers by me, my Hoover Institution colleague, John Cochrane, Greg Mankiw and Laurence Ball (of Harvard University and Johns Hopkins University, respectively), and Boston University's Larry Kotlikoff, along with his co-authors.

Historically, huge debt buildups have usually been followed by serious problems: sluggish growth, an uptick in inflation, a financial crisis, or all of them. We cannot be certain which problems will occur or what debt-to-GDP ratio will signal trouble for which countries. And the US does have the advantage of issuing the world's leading reserve currency. But inflation risks are rising - a trend that more deficit-financed spending will only accelerate.

Higher debt also increases the temptation to stoke inflation, particularly if foreigners hold a large share of it. The grossly simplistic assumption that debtors are rich and creditors are poor is likely to reinforce this temptation, especially in a political climate where many politicians and voters support tax and other policies that target the wealthy.

Yet another problem is that more public debt will eventually push interest rates higher, crowding out investment and harming the economy's potential growth. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) expects ten-year Treasuries to rise sooner and faster than the Biden budget does.

While large changes in interest rates are unlikely in the near term, the fact is that financial markets and government and private forecasters have often failed to anticipate them - for example, during the inflation of the 1970s and the disinflation of the early 1980s. After 2008, all grossly underestimated how long the Fed would keep its target interest rate at zero.

Sooner or later, there will be another crisis. If the US government continues to expand its debt now, lack of fiscal capacity could hamstring its policy responses when the economy really needs the support. In the meantime, the advanced-economy debt deluge is making it harder for poor countries with limited debt capacity to respond adequately to the COVID-19 crisis, worsening the human tragedy.

Despite all of this, the argument that the US can finance its debts for free is pervasive, and it is encouraging elected officials to disregard fiscal discipline. This raises the risk that the Biden administration will not only spend too much; it will effectively throw money away, by funding projects with low - even negative - returns, much as the Obama administration did with its 2009 "stimulus."

The content of Biden's spending proposals is not encouraging on this score. Consider the \$2 trillion American Jobs Plan. It is billed as an "infrastructure bill," yet only a small percentage of the spending it includes would go toward traditional infrastructure. And even here, the CBO estimates a rate of return half that of the private-sector investment that will be crowded out.

In the near term, strong economic growth could shield the Biden administration from the consequences of its reckless spending. But if its mediocre long-run growth forecasts prove accurate - or worse, turn out to be optimistic - all of us, including Mr. Biden, may come to regret it.



Lord, are we really that cursed?

Dear Father;

You know, I have really been thinking of late about my village. To tell you the truth, I have been having some sleepless nights. It may sound funny, ridiculous but that's just the truth Father.

Hmm, what has really been playing on your mind son?

Father, you know, by all standards we are a very rich village endowed with all the natural wealth any village on this planet Earth can think of. In fact, because of our wealth, our village has been envied by some of its neighbors.

But come to think of it, how can a village so endowed with the natural gift of wealth be so poor-the poorest in the world? Are we really that cursed?

It is well my son.

No, Father, it is not well. Something must be fundamentally wrong here. And I don't really know where we actually got it all wrong. Sometimes I wonder if it's a curse for slaughtering our forefathers publicly in the name of corruption. Yet still corruption has become more than a vampire in our village since we slaughtered those old men on a pole.

Today, to tell you the truth, traveling around the village with the Footballer, I sometime feel ashamed of myself-that ego with which I have paraded myself over the years, not knowing part of our fiefdom still looks like the pre-civilization era-stone age to sound brutal with the truth.

So, what was our people doing for the last 170 years? Sometimes Father I figure that it's a resource curse, but again blessings can only be turned as curse when greedy people preside over it.

That could be true my son.

Yes Father, you only see good gifts being a curse or a reason for trouble when it is not evenly distributed to benefit all. This I think is where our problems lie. The me, myself, and I forms of the English verb conjugation. No other person must benefit, you and only you should benefit.

The other day a friend of mine from Uncle Sam's village and I were having a conversation surrounding our village and the lack of underdevelopment thereof and also how our leaders both past and present have siphoned and continue to run our village dry.

And it all came down to the lack of home training. Yes, Father, the lack of home training in our village has been one of the catalysts for the rampant corruption and abuse of power we have witnessed and continued to witness in our village-that self-discipline is lacking in every sphere of our village.

Yes, Father, that respect for other people thing is not in our gene. In fact, the people don't have respect for self that other people they will have it for. It's all about what I can get for myself and not what I can do for my people.

One can only be disciplined at the level when you have a home training, living in a home with your parents and siblings knowing what is yours and what is theirs and sacrificing to ensure that whatever is put on the table goes around evenly at least.

But in an environment or society wherein most of its leaders are self-read, survival of the fittest is the only discipline that is in their gene-at least, which is what they have been trained to know-get what you can get for yourself and move on.

This is so sad Father. It is very sad. A village, once a beacon of hope for the entire continent and elsewhere today lies in abject poverty with many of its people hopeless in some parts of it-surviving and just waiting to be called home by our creator, because for some there is no hope at the tunnel and yet they sit on such wealth. Where have we actually gotten it wrong Father and for how long can we continue on this path?

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 or 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.)

FEATURE

FEATURE

'Crushed and Demoralized'- 112 Women in the SRC Concession Affected Communities Benefit from Micro Loans

The stories of these women are heart wrenching: The Salala Rubber Corporation, a subsidiary of a massive European Agricultural Corporation named SOCFIN, owned by two of Europe's Billionaires- Bolloré (French) and Fabri (Belgian) has for decades, grabbed not just the land of these poor communities but their wealth, culture, history and community driven entrepreneurship.

This aggressive imperialist investment has left many crippled in different ways: a single mother uprooted from her small farm; a mother of three abandoned by the father of her children and a pregnant mother expecting her third child abandoned by her boyfriend, just to name a few. Cumulatively, successive Liberian Government have failed them and left them to the mercy of a powerful corporation.

It was therefore a bit of relief for 112 indigenous women who have had to live rough as a result of the operations of the Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) in Margibi and Bong Counties, Liberia. The struggling women were dislodged without mercy, from their livelihoods to make way for the expansion of the Plantation, owned by Socfin.

The Women, from eight project affected communities in the SRC Concession area are grateful beneficiaries of a micro finance loan scheme provided by the Natural Resources Women Platform (NRWP) under the "Bread for All" COVID-19 support program. Bread for All is an NGO based in Switzerland.

The eight targeted communities included Jorkporsu, Kollen-Dapolo, Diakia Town, Blomu, Dede-Ta 1, Dade Ta 2, Kuwah-ta and Moneytai, all located in Margin County.

Beatrice Kollie, 24 years old, with three children, is from Doakai Town. Beatrice had been involved with small rice farming (from-hand-mouth) as a means of livelihood. But due to the labor intensity and unsustainable nature of the farm, she had to abandon the farming work. She said the loan scheme could not have come at a better time as it gives her some hope. She showered praises on the Women Platform and her partner for the loan - after starting a small fish business. "I want to thank you people for helping us with money to sell and I also want to ask that you please increase the money in the second phase."

Comfort Graham is from Kollen Town and has lived all her life there but was uprooted from her small farm, which was her only means of survival, by the SRC operations. She's a single mother with seven children and would later venture into selling on a



credit basis, known locally as "sell pay."

"I used to take flour, sugar and other materials on sell-pay to bake bread for sale." She said since she got the loan from NRWP she does not credit goods anymore. She's very thankful to NRWP for the loan and pray for continuation of the project "so that the women can wake up and do something along with the men." Adding, "Let me bless God first because it was through God we got this money from you people."

Launching the loan scheme earlier on May 20, 2021 in Cinta Township, near the Salala Rubber Corporation in Margibi County, NRWP's Project lead and gender specialist, Windor B.K. Smith said the purpose of the engagement was to first educate women on business ideas and then empower them to get involve in small business initiatives.

"At the end of the meeting every woman will receive the amount of L\$4,250.00 each as micro loan to start a small business," she announced.

Ms. Smith encouraged the women to believe in themselves and do whatever it takes, to work with available resources to address issues they are faced with.

She challenged recipients of funds to repay so as to enable them benefit from phase two of the program. Saying, "but don't forget to pay back your loan."

As part of the exercise, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between NRWP and the micro loan recipients. Each of the women who received the loans were issued identification cards to keep weekly record of repayments.

Ms. Smith emphasized that everyone must pay back the loans to enable the continuation of the project.

During the engagement, she also drilled the women on the different kinds of businesses that one can take advantage of.

She named palm oil, fish, charcoal, peanut, among others that can be bought and sold on each of the community market days to earn fast profits.

At the close of the meeting, participants elected officers from the eight communities to head the micro loan project.

Each of the women leaders elected are responsible to recollect the micro loans in each of the communities and present same to the treasurer for safe keeping and transfer later to the micro loan focal person.

"I am encouraging every one of us who are about to receive the loans today to get involve into business and be able to pay back the loans within the three-month period given you. In this way, the program will extend to the next phase," said recipient Kerma Sackie.

Queita George said: "We want to thank you people for helping us. We promise to pay back the money in time."

Sonnie Cooper is a mother of three children from Kollen Town. Her children's father abandoned her and has had to scramble to keep her children alive. With the loan money, Sonnie only wants to focus on business since farming in the community is not profitable due to the lack of land space. "I don't even know what to tell you people but to say thank you because I never had anything doing again. I used to have a small business but the farming work made me to go out of money, so, I want to tell you people thank you again."

Finda Bengo is from Blomu. She's expecting her third child. According to Finda, her boyfriend ran away and left her with the pregnancy and the other kids. She has been struggling alone to manage herself, the unborn child and the two children. Her two children are out of school because she cannot afford their school fees. She used to work on SRC plantation as a security guard but lost her job.

For Finda, petty business has been her area. So, the loan will add value to her existing petty business. "I want to thank you people for the loan. I will use the money to add my business up and when we complete the loan payment, I pray that you people add the money up because things are expensive in the market."

Of the 112 women from the eight targeted communities, 19 came from Kolleh-Dapolo, 12 from Kuwah-ta, 20 were from Blomu, and 22 came from Doakai Town. Another 12 women were selected from Jorkporsue, while 13 from Money-tail Town, six from Dede-ta-1 and eight persons were also selected from Dede-ta-2 respectively.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ECOWAS Parliament puts Snowe on key committee

The Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament Dr. Sidie Mohamed Tunis has appointed Liberian Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe

forfeit and travel allowances.

"I have the honour to inform you that you have been nominated by the Right Honourable Speaker of ECOWAS

Parliament forfeit and travel allowances," a communication dated 21 June 2021 reads.

Mr. Snowe, who represents Bomi County in the Liberian Senate, was addressed in the communication from the ECOWAS Parliament as chair on the Committee on Political Affairs, Peace, Security and African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

The ad hoc committee on which he has been appointed is scheduled to hold its meeting on the margins of the meeting of the Committee on Administration, Finance, and Budget Control which will be taking place from 28 June to 2 July 2021 in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia.

"In this regard, it would be highly appreciated if you can take all necessary steps in view of your participation in the deliberations of the Ad hoc committee," Mr. Snowe has been mandated in the communication authorized by K. Bertin Some, Secretary General of the Parliament.



Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe

as a Member of the ad hoc committee assigned to look into issues related to Members of Parliament

Parliament, Dr. Sidie Mohamed Tunis as a Member of the ad hoc committee assigned to look into issues related to Members of

Jarlawah Tonpo replaces Fahgon -As Deputy Information Minister - designate

President George Manneh Weah has nominated Mr. Jarlawah Tonpo as Deputy Minister for Press and Public Affairs at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT).

Mr. Tonpo, named early Thursday, 24 June 2021, replaces former Deputy Information Minister Eugene Fahgon who was dismissed from the position on Wednesday night, 23 June. The Executive Mansion says the nomination is subject to confirmation by the Liberian Senate.

Up to the time of his appointment by President George Manneh Weah, Mr. Tonpo was still serving as Director of Press and Public Affairs at the Liberian Senate. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication and he is a Master's candidate in International Relations and a Master's candidate in Public Administration, all at the University of Liberia.

Earlier on Wednesday, President Weah with immediate effect dismissed Deputy Information Minister for Press and Public Affairs Eugene Fahgon from his post as a result of spreading false

information regarding the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic currently ravaging the country.

Mr. Weah then warned that he will not hesitate to take similar action against any other official of the government engaged in

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. Fahgon was ever transferred from the Liberia National Police (LNP) headquarters to maximum



Mr. Jarlawah Tonpo

activities that undermine established government policy.

Mr. Fahgon has been a very controversial public official, and his recent utterances against the administration have been alarming. His early days in the Weah administration were

prison to complete his prison term as ordered by the House.

He was however disgraced by the lawmakers, handcuffed, and ordered jailed following his failure to speak to matters involving him and then Bomi County

Doctor Fallah to speak at congressional briefing

The founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of Rescue Place International (RPI) and former director general of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) Dr. Mosoka P. Fallah, has been invited to participate in a virtual Congressional briefing center for Emerging Infectious Diseases Policy and Research.

A Congressional briefing provides an opportunity for staff of the U.S. Congress to learn more about a particular topic in order to inform their work and develop legislation.

According to an invitation extended to the former NPHIL boss, the congressional briefing is being scheduled for July 21 at noon EST on global

Yong to moderate our discussion. Your role in ensuring regional access to vaccines and public health leadership in West Africa, and your insights on the new wave of cases in West Africa would be an incredible [information] for congressional staff members to learn from," the communication added.

In a related development Doctor Fallah has been appointed member on the External Advisory Board of 1Day Sooner.

The mission of the United States based health body (1Day Sooner) is to advocate on behalf of COVID-19 challenge trial volunteers.

The organization surveys potential COVID-19 challenge trial participants and models the



RPI Boss Dr. Mosoka P. Fallah

vaccine equity at the Boston University's Federal Relations office.

The session will discuss the current global vaccine coverage and projections of availability and distribution in high risk areas, the current global and US commitments to date for vaccine production and distributions to low and middle income countries, and areas where US can lead moving forward.

"This will be a one hour panel, with three panelists each giving brief prepared remarks followed by a moderated Q&A session. Josh Michaud of the Kaiser Family Foundation will be the other participant aside from myself, and we have also invited Ed

risk of challenge trial participation. It also advocates to publicize National Institutes of Health (NIH) challenge protocol as well as carries out reinfection study protocol and advocate for vaccine equity.

"Per the attached role description, EAB members are featured on the 1Day Sooner website and may be asked to provide additional insights on, or speak about, specific matters from time to time," said the communication to the Liberian public health expert.

"We do not anticipate this involving a significant time commitment on your part, and in any event, you are of course free to decline to participate in

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Representative, now Bomi County Senator, Edwin Melvin Snowe during a contempt hearing before the House of Representatives.

The contempt hearing

resulted from Fahgon'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.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CORLE asks Pres. Weah to cancel direct negotiation in oil bidding

The Coalition for the Restoration of Liberians' 5 percent Equity Rights or CORLE for shot, calls on President George Weah to cancel ongoing direct negotiations, undo the 2019 amendment, and relaunch an international

President George Weah has announced - through the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority - a dangerous decision to begin negotiating Petroleum Sharing Contracts (PCs) with International Oil Companies, allegedly outside of open, fair, and transparent competitive

outside the government.

It explains that when oil companies seek petroleum operation license, it is a open competitive bidding process that gives them confidence to compete and challenges them to offer their best set of financial, social welfare, environmental, and technical packages to host countries.

According to COREL, the Direct Negotiation method that President Weah now prefers and pursues has proven to be noncompetitive, non-transparent and always executed behind closed doors and under dubious circumstances that leave those participating with more benefit than the country and its people.

It recalls that in 2009, it was through direct negotiation that Liberia lost approximately 245 million to Oranto Petroleum - a Nigerian-owned oil company, detailing that Oranto acquired three blocks (block 11, 12 and 14) from Liberia for a total of approximately five-hundred thousand United States Dollars, and a year later in 2010 sold 70% interest in those blocks to Chevron for 250 million; earning 245 million more than what Liberia received in 2009.

The release continues that



President George Weah

competitive bid process in the oil sector in ways that assure experienced operators that the bid process will be transparent, and their participation will not cost them any future reputational damage.

CORLE alarms here that

bidding, but through Direct Negotiations.

In a release COREL says the President's latest decision has removed all initial doubts that he has a desperate agenda to rob Liberians of their oil wealth and secure same for himself, his allies within the Legislature, and

"Liberia-Japan relations growing stronger by the day"

-Pres. Weah says

President George Manneh Weah says Liberia's bilateral ties with Japan will continue to grow from strength to strength, terming existing relations between the two countries as historic and mutually beneficial.

During a tête-à-tête on Thursday, 24 June 2021 when the Japanese Ambassador to Liberia, Tsutomu Himeno, paid a courtesy visit, President Weah extended greetings to Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and the people of Japan.

President Weah paid tribute to the long standing relations subsisting between the two nations, and thanked the Government and people of Japan for their support to Liberia over the years.

"Liberia remains grateful for the continuous assistance rendered to our overall national development,

particularly the interventions made during the period of our country's civil war and during the Ebola and now COVID-19 health crises," Mr. Weah said.

He hailed Japan for partnering with the Government of Liberia in constructing the Gborchop Market and the

progress made thus far in the construction of the Duala General Market.

"As a commitment to modernization of housing for citizens of Liberia, we embarked on a project to delete huts and replace them with concrete housing units. Your government has been a true partner in this effort,"



Doctor Fallah to speak

Cont'd from page 6

specific EAB activities based on your availability, preferences, and the policies of your institution," the communication among other things added.

Accordingly, the 1Day Sooner Board of Advisors (BoA) will consist of academic, non-profit, and industry leaders with expertise in public health, epidemiology, bioethics, and other relevant domains.

The BoA is to provide strategic guidance to the 1Day Sooner leadership team and Board of Directors about the development and improvement of the organization.

BoA members' names and biographies will be included on the 1Day Sooner website in an advisor section and affiliated publicly with the organization in this informal advisory role.

As part of their assigned tasks and responsibilities, members of the BoA receive and respond to inquiries from 1Day Sooner leadership in a timely manner and act as a sounding board to the leadership team about the development of the organization.

Furthermore, members of the BoA are to attend a call with 1Day Sooner leadership once a year and appear at a town hall for the organization's volunteers once a year.

In a bid to engender transparency in the discharge of their mandates, members of the BoA are to disclose conflicting interests to other

persons or entities that may arise, while at the same time comply with all 1DS policies, such as conflicts of interest and confidentiality (policies will be provided to advisors as they are crafted and implemented).

At the same time, the Liberian health expertise has been invited to join the Panel of the Movers (PoM).

POM is a group of African global health practitioners who will provide strategic support to Global Health Decolonisation Movement in Africa (GHDM-Africa).

As part of the roles and responsibilities, members of PoM are to conduct at least one activity every quarter that is directly relevant to global health decolonisation, and report to the PoM. Suggested activities include speaking at or participating in public events, contributing to publications such as blogs, editorials, and academic articles, or by posting relevant content on their social media channels, to mention a few.

Also, they are to participate in the GHDM-Africa's events and activities including attending PoM meetings (thrice a year) either in person or virtually.

Among other things, PoM members are tasked to enthusiastically champion and promote GHDM-Africa's activities through their professional and social media networks as well as alert the PoM on possible initiatives, events, or opportunities regarding global health decolonisation as well as any requests for collaboration received from external parties.

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Mr. Weah said further, acknowledging Japan's contributions to improving and bettering the lives of Liberians.

In the face of COVID-19 pandemic and its negative impact on global economies, President Weah said Liberia will still continue its nation building programs, including improving infrastructure, mainly modern houses and markets, paved roads, health centers and human resource development.

He named a nine -

kilometer corridor road lying between the Gabriel Tucker Bridge and St. Paul Bridge to be fully rehabilitated, saying he considers the road as an important effort towards the growth and development of Liberia's economy.

"Mr. Ambassador, the rehabilitation of this particular road corridor will ease mobility, accelerate trade and enhance economic activities by reducing the time it takes to transport a container from the Freeport to the business community," President Weah pointed out.

Français

Au lieu d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre, la direction du Sénat recommande une justice de transition

La direction du Sénat s'est afin penché sur la question de la mise en œuvre du rapport final de la Commission vérité et réconciliation qui appelle à la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques au Libéria. La direction, au lieu du tribunal des crimes de guerre, recommande plutôt une commission de justice transitionnelle.

La Commission Vérité et Réconciliation, dans son report final, exige des actions en justice contre les principaux auteurs des crimes de guerre commis lors de la crise libérienne.

Le 19 septembre 2019, le président Weah écrivait au Sénat pour solliciter son avis sur la manière de procéder à la mise en œuvre du rapport final de la CVR. Mais la demande du président avait été mise en stand-by par le Sénat pendant près de trois ans en dépit de la pression publique.

Le mardi 22 juin 2021, les dirigeants du parlement ont

soumis un document de trois pages à la plénière, proposant la mise sur pied d'une commission de justice de transition dont la mission sera de déterminer pourquoi les recommandations de la CVR n'ont pas été pleinement mises en œuvre en temps voulu. Il s'agit de savoir si la Commission vérité et réconciliation a bien fait son travail.

La Commission de Justice Transitionnelle sera chargée, selon le sénat, d'examiner l'effet de la loi d'août 2003 qui accorde l'amnistie aux protagonistes de la crise libérienne, y compris aux seigneurs de guerre, d'analyser les problèmes de crédibilité et de légitimité

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Energie : Une nouvelle étude de la CEA montre qu'il se peut que l'Afrique n'atteigne pas les objectifs de l'ODD7

Addis-Abeba, le 22 juin 2021 (CEA) - La Commission économique pour l'Afrique (CEA) a dévoilé, ce mardi 22 juin 2021, les conclusions d'une étude intitulée « Prix de l'énergie en Afrique : Transition vers une énergie propre pour l'industrialisation de l'Afrique ».

La présentation, qui a été faite lors d'une réunion ministérielle virtuelle, indique que 600 millions de personnes en Afrique n'ont pas accès à l'électricité et 900 millions n'ont pas accès à un combustible de cuisson propre. Pendant ce temps, les taux d'accès à l'électricité dans 24 pays sont inférieurs à 50 %.

« Il est hors de question que l'Afrique progresse mieux si nous n'investissons de manière adéquate dans l'énergie et n'assurons pas un accès abordable pour tous », déclare la Secrétaire exécutive de la CEA, Vera Songwe. Le Secrétaire général adjoint de l'ONU exhorte les pays à s'assurer que les prix reflètent les coûts dans le secteur de l'énergie.

Le rapport cite le Libéria, le Malawi, la République

centrafricaine, le Burundi et le Soudan du Sud comme ayant stagné ou inversé l'accès à l'électricité. Des pays comme le Nigéria, la RDC et l'Éthiopie enregistrent les plus gros déficits d'accès à l'électricité.

« L'accès à une énergie bon marché et propre est une composante essentielle de la transformation et de l'industrialisation de l'Afrique », déclare Oliver Chinganya, Directeur du Centre africain pour la statistique (ACS), qui a animé la session.

Le Directeur d'ACS déclare que « dans le contexte du déploiement

et de la mise en œuvre de la ZLECAf, fournir aux économies un carburant abordable fait partie intégrante du soutien aux actions visant à accélérer la réalisation des Objectifs de développement durable et des Aspirations de l'Agenda 2063 de l'Afrique.

Le rapport déplore le fait que l'Afrique repose principalement sur les combustibles fossiles et les biomes au lieu de diversifier son approvisionnement en

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

COVID-19 : Le gouvernement devrait aller au-delà des simples mesures barrières

Le fait que le gouvernement du Libéria, par l'intermédiaire du ministère de la Santé, a publié la semaine dernière des directives nationales révisées sur la COVID-19 après l'augmentation du nombre de décès et des personnes infectées au quotidien montre que le gouvernement joue du bout des lèvres avec le peuple libérien quant à la gestion de la pandémie.

C'est un secret de polichinelle que les autorités ici, même au plus haut niveau, rechignent à appliquer les mesures de prévention de la COVID, en encourageant des rassemblements de masse, comme c'est le cas lors de la tournée nationale du président George Weah au cours des trois à quatre derniers mois, où les barrières, la distanciation sociale, le lavage des mains et le port des masques ont été totalement ignorés.

La résurgence du virus au Libéria est attribuée à une nouvelle variante indienne qui est plus mortelle que celle qui venait de Wuhan, en Chine, en 2019.

En moins d'un mois, le taux de mortalité n'est pas seulement alarmant, mais effrayant.

Avec des frontières poreuses et mal surveillées à travers le pays, associées à une sécurité plutôt détendue au principal aéroport international Roberts qui a été témoin d'un afflux de visiteurs étrangers, en particulier d'Inde et d'autres pays asiatiques au cours de cette même période, on devrait s'attendre au pire. Ce n'était qu'une question de temps.

Maintenant, nous voici en tant que nation, toutes les lumières de toute la région de la CEDEAO étant braquées sur nous. Nous sommes désormais considérés comme ceux qui représentent un risque pour les 14 autres États membres.

Les mesures nationales révisées publiées dernièrement sont ainsi dénuées de sens. Il faut au contraire des mesures strictes à tous les niveaux sans crainte ni faveur. Il nous faut un leadership exemplaire cette fois-ci nous voulons réussir ce combat.

L'un des problèmes critiques des directives qui continuent de faire l'objet de critiques est d'autoriser le maintien de l'ouverture des lieux de rassemblement comme les bars et les boîtes de nuit jusqu'à 21h00 ! C'est comme si on donnait une carte blanche aux gens de propager le virus.

Nous avons du mal à comprendre comment un groupe de personnes ivres dans un bar peut observer la distanciation sociale, pour ne pas dire le port de masques. Le gouvernement dit penser aux conséquences économiques de la fermeture de ces lieux. Mais il semble ignorer les répercussions imprévues des activités dans ces lieux.

Le Libéria risque de devenir un enfant problématique pour toute la région, à moins que des mesures efficaces soient prises pour mettre fin à la menace. N'est-ce pas ce que les autorités veulent ? Il nous faut appliquer de manière stricte les mesures préventives.

Enfin, il ne faut pas qu'il soit uniquement question de mesures barrières. Il faut aussi et surtout renforcer les capacités de nos agents de santé et de nos hôpitaux de répondre aux cas quotidiens. Il nous faut plus d'oxygène, de ventilateurs et de lits. Il nous faut du vaccin en toute urgence.

Français

Au lieu d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre, la direction

entourant le rapport final de la CVR étant donné qu'il n'avait été signé que par deux commissaires et les autres ayant présenté un rapport dissident.

Le sénat conseille en outre au Président d'examiner la ratification ou l'adhésion du Libéria au Statut de Rome en 2004 après la guerre civile sur la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre, et de séparer ledit tribunal, qui a une dimension internationale, du tribunal des crimes économiques qui existe déjà au Libéria.

Les dirigeants du sénat soutiennent que l'objectif cardinal pour lequel la CVR avait été proposée par l'Accord de paix global d'Accra était de « fournir un forum qui aborderait les questions d'impunité, ainsi que l'opportunité pour les victimes et les auteurs de violations des droits humains de partager leurs expériences, afin d'avoir une image claire du passé pour faciliter une véritable guérison et réconciliation ».

Ils estiment que, conformément à l'article 48

du rapport de la CVR, le président n'est pas tenu de se conformer à toutes les recommandations du rapport, ajoutant que la seule exigence pour le non-respect par le président de l'une ou l'autre des recommandations est de donner des explications satisfaisantes au parlement, ce qui signifie que tant le président que le parlement détermineront finalement la meilleure option pour la guérison, la réconciliation et la situation des responsabilités.

"Il est donc clair que le but de la création de la CVR était de proposer des mesures qui réconcilieraient finalement le peuple, et non d'ouvrir une vieille plaie et de diviser le peuple davantage."

Le sénat rappelle que les signataires de l'Accord de paix global envisagent une Commission vérité de style sud-africain qui a soutenu la justice réparatrice plutôt que la justice rétributive, donc la même chose devrait avoir lieu au Libéria.

Pendant ce temps, les sénateurs devraient débattre de la recommandation en séance plénière et dégager une voie à suivre.

Energie : Une nouvelle étude

énergie primaire, compte tenu de sa pléthore de ressources (renouvelables et non renouvelables).

« Les ménages utilisent 86 % des biocarburants et des déchets d'énergie pour cuisiner, tandis que le secteur des transports consomme 78 % du pétrole. Le gaz naturel est principalement utilisé dans le secteur industriel ». Dans sa présentation, A n t h o n y MonganelliMehlwana, Chargé des affaires économiques de la CEA, déclare que « il est urgent d'investir dans les infrastructures électriques, de diversifier l'approvisionnement en électricité et d'adopter les énergies renouvelables modernes ».

En termes de prix, M. Mehlwana indique que « le coût nivelé de l'énergie (LCOE) ou les centrales électriques fossiles sont plus chers » que l'éolien et le solaire.

« L'éolien terrestre coûte 59 \$ par MW tandis que l'énergie solaire photovoltaïque coûte 79 \$ par MW. Pendant ce temps, la côte du charbon est

de 109 \$ par MW et le gaz naturel s'élève à 74 \$ par MW ».

Il souligne que « les coûts de production d'énergie élevés, les pertes de transmission et de distribution (18-25%) signifient que les services publics doivent être constamment renfloués et des subventions mises en œuvre pour les utilisateurs ».

À ce rythme, et selon le rapport de suivi de l'ODD 7, l'Afrique n'atteindra pas les cibles de l'ODD 7 en raison d'un approvisionnement et d'un accès limités à l'électricité. Environ 40 milliards de dollars d'investissements par an sont nécessaires pour répondre aux besoins énergétiques du continent.

Le rapport recommande que les pays doivent fournir un environnement favorable pour attirer les investissements du secteur privé dans le secteur de l'électricité ; appliquer des tarifs reflétant les coûts tout en faisant attention à une production efficace d'électricité pour réduire les coûts ; et fournir des incitations et des mécanismes pour augmenter la part des énergies renouvelables dans les systèmes électriques.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Michael J. Boskin

Attention à l'explosion de la dette publique américaine

STANFORD - L'Amérique doit maîtriser sa dette nationale qui est en train d'exploser. Or, le président américain Joe Biden semble désireux de faire exactement le contraire. Les risques sont trop grands pour être ignorés.

Au lendemain de la crise financière de 2008, le président Barack Obama a enregistré le plus gros déficit budgétaire de tous les présidents depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale (en tenant compte des variations automatiques des recettes et dépenses liées au cycle économique). Son successeur, Donald Trump, l'a dépassé.

Biden prévoit de les surpasser tous les deux. Alors que la dette fédérale brute des États-Unis s'élève désormais à 107 % du PIB - un record depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale - le budget 2022 de l'administration Biden fait en sorte que le pays enregistra de loin le plus gros déficit jamais enregistré en temps de paix.

Certes, je soutiens les politiques visant à atténuer les souffrances économiques à court terme causées par une crise comme la pandémie de COVID-19 et à stimuler la reprise, tant que le coût à long terme est raisonnable. Mais les plans de dépenses de Biden ne remplissent pas cette condition. Au contraire, ils créeraient d'énormes déficits qui persisteraient longtemps après le retour de l'économie au plein emploi.

Pour les cinq exercices fiscaux de 2022 à 2026, l'administration Biden prévoit des déficits de l'ordre de 5,9% du PIB en moyenne. Ce niveau n'a été atteint qu'une seule fois entre 1947 et 2008 - en 1983, lorsque le taux de chômage était en moyenne supérieur à 10 %. Or, les projections de l'administration montrent que le chômage devrait s'établir à 4,1% en 2022 et à 3,8% à partir de 2023.

Biden affirme que ses propositions ne feront augmenter que modestement la dette publique (qui devrait de toute façon augmenter, principalement en raison des dépenses toujours croissantes de la sécurité sociale et de l'assurance-maladie). Mais il y a de bonnes raisons de croire le contraire.

Pour commencer, l'administration Biden espère compenser la hausse des dépenses en augmentant les impôts sur les sociétés et les plus-values. Mais il est peu probable que ces hausses d'impôts soient adoptées telles quelles par un Sénat américain divisé pratiquement à parts égales. De plus, ces taxes sont particulièrement préjudiciables à la croissance. Dès lors, si une version de celles-ci était adoptée, l'administration Biden serait probablement obligée de reconnaître que ses projections de revenus étaient trop optimistes.

Les propositions de dépenses de Biden incluent également plusieurs programmes sociaux coûteux, tels que l'amélioration des soins à domicile pour les personnes âgées et les personnes handicapées, une école maternelle gratuite universelle et deux ans de collège communautaire gratuit pour les jeunes adultes. L'histoire suggère que de tels programmes sont susceptibles de devenir permanents, engendrant des coûts qui dépasseront largement les prévisions.

Pendant ce temps, alors même que la Chine et la Russie renforcent leurs armées, Biden a accordé une moindre priorité aux dépenses de défense, prévoyant une augmentation inférieure à l'inflation. Dans le cadre du budget de son administration, les dépenses de défense tomberont à leur plus faible part du PIB depuis avant la Seconde Guerre mondiale.

Certains prétendent que les États-Unis n'ont rien à craindre. Les déficits n'ont apparemment pas beaucoup d'importance lorsqu'une économie emprunte dans sa propre monnaie ; la Réserve fédérale américaine n'a plus qu'à racheter la dette du Trésor. De plus, étant donné que les taux d'emprunt publics sont inférieurs au taux de croissance prévu, la dette peut être renouvelée pour toujours. La finance

déficitaire devient une possibilité de « raser gratis ».

Ces affirmations appellent un grand scepticisme. Les raisons sont soulignées dans des articles techniques récents par moi-même, mon collègue de la Hoover Institution John Cochrane, Greg Mankiw et Laurence Ball (respectivement de l'Université Harvard et de l'Université Johns Hopkins), ainsi que par Larry Kotlikoff de l'Université de Boston et ses co-auteurs.

Historiquement, les énormes accumulations de dette ont généralement été suivies de graves problèmes : croissance atone, hausse de l'inflation, crise financière, ou le tout ensemble. Nous ne pouvons pas prédire avec certitude les problèmes qui se produiront, ni le ratio dette/PIB qui signalera des problèmes à venir pour chaque pays. De plus, les États-Unis ont l'avantage d'émettre la principale monnaie de réserve au monde. Mais les risques d'inflation augmentent - une tendance qui ne fera que s'accélérer si les dépenses financées par le déficit augmentent.

Une dette plus élevée augmente également la tentation d'alimenter l'inflation, en particulier si les étrangers en détiennent une part importante. L'hypothèse grossièrement simpliste selon laquelle les débiteurs sont riches et les créanciers pauvres est susceptible de renforcer cette tentation, en particulier dans un climat politique où de nombreux politiciens et électeurs soutiennent les politiques fiscales et autres qui ciblent les riches.

Un autre problème encore est que l'augmentation de la dette publique finira par pousser les taux d'intérêt à la hausse, évinçant l'investissement et nuisant à la croissance potentielle de l'économie. Le Congressional Budget Office (CBO) s'attend à ce que les bons du Trésor à dix ans augmentent plus tôt et plus rapidement que ne le prévoit le budget Biden.

Bien que des changements importants des taux d'intérêt soient peu probables à court terme, le fait est que les marchés financiers et les prévisionnistes publics et privés ont souvent échoué à les anticiper - par exemple, lors de l'inflation des années 1970 et de la désinflation du début des années 1980. Après 2008, tous ont grossièrement sous-estimé combien de temps la Fed maintiendrait son taux d'intérêt cible à zéro.

Tôt ou tard, il y aura une autre crise. Si le gouvernement américain continue d'augmenter sa dette maintenant, le manque de capacité budgétaire pourrait entraver ses réponses politiques lorsque l'économie aura vraiment besoin de soutien. En attendant, le déluge de dette dans les économies avancées complique la possibilité des pays pauvres, qui disposent d'une capacité d'endettement limitée, de répondre de manière adéquate à la crise de la COVID-19, aggravant la tragédie humaine.

Malgré tout cela, l'argument selon lequel les États-Unis peuvent financer leur dette gratuitement est omniprésent et encourage les élus à ignorer la discipline budgétaire. Cela augmente le risque que l'administration Biden dépense non seulement trop, mais qu'elle gaspille en réalité de l'argent en finançant des projets à rendement faible, voire négatif, comme l'administration Obama l'a fait avec son « stimulus » de 2009.

Le contenu des propositions de dépenses de Biden n'est pas encourageant sur ce point. Considérez le plan américain pour l'emploi de 2 000 milliards de dollars. Il est comptabilisé comme une « facture d'infrastructure », or seul un petit pourcentage des dépenses prévues irait vers des infrastructures traditionnelles. Et, ici encore, le CBO estime un taux de rendement moitié moins élevé que celui de l'investissement privé qui sera évincé.

À court terme, une forte croissance économique pourrait protéger l'administration Biden des conséquences de ses dépenses inconsidérées. Mais si ses prévisions de croissance médiocre à long terme s'avèrent exactes - ou pire, s'avèrent optimistes - nous pourrions tous, y compris M. Biden, le regretter.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

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

-A Rejoinder

By Dr. G. E. Saigbe Boley, Sr.
CONT'D FROM LAST EDITION

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

approached the jeep and said, pointing at Charles Gbenyon: "Chief, this man came to the mansion this morning with the rebels. He was taking pictures." I descended the jeep, taking precaution from possible snapper fire, I asked the young officer, a Lieutenant, if anyone saw Mr. Gbenyon with arms. "No," replied one of the soldiers, "but he came with the rebels, he had a TV camera taking pictures at the mansion."

I told the soldiers that journalists are people who report news stories and that we all know Charles Gbenyon to be a journalist; and, because he was at the mansion grounds with the rebels and a TV camera does not mean he is a rebel. The soldiers, understandably, were angry having being in a gun

make sure Charles Gbenyon does not leave the house until I say it was safe for him to do so. "If anybody comes here looking for Charles, please call me," I advised Mrs. L.V. Gbenyon, Charles' mother. My parting words to Charles Gbenyon as I left his mother's house were: "Do not leave this house until you hear from me." These were my exact words to Charles Gbenyon as I left his parent's home Tuesday, November 12, 1985.

For several days thereafter, Liberia, especially Monrovia was tense while General Quiwonkpa and his retreating National Patriotic forces remained at large. On Friday, November 15, 1985, General Quiwonkpa was captured and killed. On Saturday morning, November 16, 1985, after the capture of General Quiwonkpa, President Doe, until the capture of General Quiwonkpa confined to the Executive Mansion, decided to tour the ELBC radio and TV station, site of the fiercest battle between government and rebel patriotic forces.

I learned later that Saturday afternoon (November 16, 1985), at about 5:00 P.M., from Charles Gbenyon's sister, mother of one of my children, that Charles Gbenyon was arrested earlier in the day at the ELBC radio station during President Doe's tour of the facility and killed. Until his sister told me what happened, no member of the Gbenyon family ever contacted me despite my advise to Charles Gbenyon himself and his mother, four days earlier on Tuesday, November 12, 1985, not to venture out of the house without hearing from me.

I repeat, from the day I delivered Charles Gbenyon's living body to his mother, Mrs. L. V. Gbenyon, at the home of his parents in Saye Town, Bushrod Island, on Tuesday, November 12, 1985 and cautioned him not to venture out of the house without first contacting me, no member of the Gbenyon family ever contacted me until Saturday, November 16, 1985 at about 5:00 P.M. when his sister informed me that her brother was arrested earlier in the day at ELBC and was reportedly killed.

I have survived many adversities that have come my way in life, partly because I have always maintained an open mind relative to any situation despite the circumstance. In any given situation I have always deferred to my better judgment

The disinformation and slander disseminated around the world about me by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission are horrific and damaging, to say the least. I am at a loss as to why, safe for speculation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission would compromise the integrity and credibility of this national establishment in a bid to destroy George Boley.



George Boley

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 Luo. This is the person whose testimony was circulated world-wide by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia.

Charles Gbenyon Incident

On Tuesday, November 12, 1985, after the Quiwonkpa-led invasion was repelled I was driving toward Sinkor in a red Toyota Jeep. The shooting had subsided in my neighborhood where the fighting had been intense at the government-owned ELBC radio station in Paynesville.

Approaching the Congotown police depot across from the old German Embassy in Sinkor, I saw, sitting on the ground on the sidewalk, someone whom I recognized as Charles Gbenyon and another employee of ELBC. The two were guarded by three AFL soldiers. As I slowed to stop one of the soldiers

battle with the rebel forces a few hours earlier. With rank of Major in the AFL, I ordered the junior officers to release the two men immediately. They did.

I instructed the two junior officers riding with me in the jeep to put Charles Gbenyon and his colleague into my red Toyota jeep. In the wake of the uncertainty in Monrovia, I drove toward central Monrovia and drove both Charles Gbenyon and the other ELBC employee to their respective homes. I drove Charles Gbenyon to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Gbenyon, in Saye Town, across the bridge. This was on Tuesday, November 12, 1985, the day of the failed Quiwonkpa coup in Monrovia.

I delivered Charles Gbenyon to his mother, Mrs. L. V. Gbenyon, now deceased. I told Mrs. Gbenyon to



Sen. Prince Y. Johnson

Weah opens arms to Cummings

President George Weah has opened up his arms towards Cummings, welcoming the political leader of the Alternative National Congress or ANC offers to help the government curb the spread of the coronavirus here.

The ANC leader in a statement issued on Wednesday expressed his willingness to join the government in the fight against the new strain of the covid-19, the Delta variant, which is spreading rapidly across the Liberia.

"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," Cummings stated his

political trace, it would go a long way in beefing up the health sector and finding a remedy to the unanticipated health crisis.

Cummings in his statement made series of recommendations to the Weah administration in taking seize of the health situation: recast the budget to provide funding for the purchase of beds, PPEs, masks, vaccines, ventilators, oxygen and massive awareness; solicit additional support from Liberians in the diaspora and the donor community; increase the hazard pay of existing health workers and employ more health workers and contact tracers; immediately close all schools and ensure the completion of the semester from home, pending the end of the crisis; work with community leaders and community-based organizations to create awareness and help with enforcement of GOL new regulations instead of the use of paramilitary forces; set up a hotline where people who have families or friends with severe

the covid-19 are immaterial, and that the legacy of the President as it relates to the fight against the coronavirus was on the brink of annihilation.

Fahngon also explained that the AstraZeneca, the vaccine being used in Liberia to fight the virus, is associated with side effects, and recommended that the citizenry not take the dose. According to him, he got sick when he took the first dose of the vaccine.

"The Chinese government has expressed willingness to supply Liberia with a consignment of its own COVID-19 vaccine, but there are politics interplaying, something that might be catastrophic in the end. Everything in this country is politics, even when it involves lives. There are many others, including some top government officials playing politics with this vaccine thing and it may cost us terribly," Fahngon went on.

However, President Weah told the media that two health committees have already been established to carry out specific functions: Sparkle and Incident Management System (IMS), and that he heads all the two committees.

The Incident Management System (IMS) is the technical and operational arm of the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 response, and is made up of only health experts and partners. For Sparkle, it is made up of experts, government officials and partners, and is responsible to assess the workings and review the activities of the IMS and solicit resources from foreign governments and partners for the response.

He said at no point in time had Fahngon sat with him, as head of the two teams, to ascertain the facts, neither did he do so with the Minister of Health or those designated to speak on the health crisis facing the country.

Weah stated emphatically that only the Minister of Health is clothed with the authority to inform the public on health matters and the state of the health sector.

Fahngons dismissal took effect Wednesday evening, June 23, 2021.

However, the president has commended the public for following the health measures put in place and urged everyone to continue abiding by these protocols to prevail over the virus. He said the fight against the virus requires all hands on deck and the collaborative effort of every citizen, irrespective of tribe, religion or political affiliation.

He also extended his

Liberia's Covid-19 deaths hit 110

The Minister of Health, Doctor Wilhelmina Jallah, has put total deaths from resurge of the deadly Coronavirus here at 110 with a total of 3,381 confirmed cases across the country.

Addressing reporters Thursday, June 24, 2021 at the Ministry of Information's regular press briefing in Monrovia, the Minister disclosed that from Wednesday's evening to yesterday, Thursday, the ministry recorded 116 confirmed cases.

Doctor Jallah reveals that from May 23 to present, cases from the new strain of the virus known as Delta variant continue to rise daily, saying "Now what we have been noticing [is] a lot of people in our country have been feeling ill; they went to their regular doctors, maybe they got treated for malaria or typhoid and did not get better, but within a few days, they started having problem

transferred to the government treatment unit at Star Base where there are oxygen therapists.

"This morning the report we got from inside the treatment unit, there were 54 confirmed cases, two have been discharged and they are awaiting more of them to be discharged base on test results."

The Minister confirmed that of Liberia's 15 counties, 11 have contracted the virus with most of them reporting one or two cases, and some, up to 12 cases.

She said currently, health authorities are going after contacts to make sure they get tested. "So if we find you and you're positive, we want to know who all you have been in contact with, where did you go? So we're trying to find out how come you contracted the corona virus. Based on that, we will do a contact tracing because you have told us who were your contacts, now we start looking for all those people to make sure that they are tested."



breathing, so if you're having problem breathing, that means you can't catch your breath, if you walk small distance, you are tired and you noticed that you're using a lot of muscles to breath and when you eat you can feel your muscle and while that is happening, with corona virus, your oxygen level in your body go down and so the more the level go down the more difficulty you're having breathing so by the time your family member or yourself notice that and rush you to hospital."

She explains that a lot of people succumb and die because they do not have enough oxygen to supply through their entire body, including the heart, lung and brain to keep them working, because there's no oxygen in the blood for these tissues or organs to survive, noting that were there is no oxygen to keep people alive, cases are

Early this week, deputy minister of health and chief medical officer, Doctor Francis Kate, told a local radio station in Monrovia the daily infection rate is over 3 percent, which is said to be the highest in West Africa currently.

The government announced revised national guidelines a week ago to contain the virus, including strict adherence to social distancing, wearing of mask in public, restricting number of persons at wedding, birthday party and funeral to 20 attendants, among others.

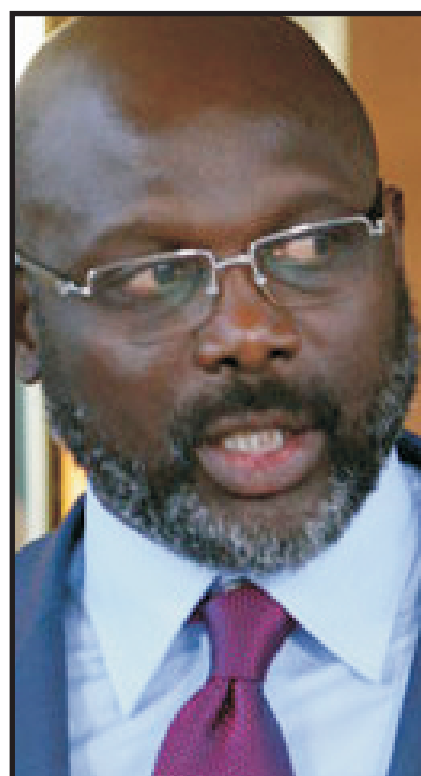
"Prevention means wear your mask, one of the most important thing that you can do to stop the spread is to wear your mask."

Due to the severity of the current resurgent in the country, President George Manneh Weah on Thursday, wrote the 54th Liberian Legislature, asking that body to allocate US\$2million from the recast budget to boost the fight against the virus. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

appreciation to the nurses, doctors, physicians, physician assistants, midwives, contact tracers, administrators and

everyone playing a role in the health sector, commending their effort and their gallant work.



statement that was more nationalistic than political.

In an inclusive interview of which the New Dawn was a part, Mr. Weah indicated that he welcomes the gesture being made by Cummings and is willing to listen to and work with him, void of political hindrance.

"The coronavirus is no joke...Liberians are losing their lives every day to the plague. During a national crisis of this nature and magnitude, all hands of good citizens, void of political affiliation, are required on deck," Weah noted.

He recalled himself working with the regime of former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf during the EBOLA outbreak here saying, this is what citizens do, adding it was not because of President Sirleaf but rather it was his desire to help save the lives of fellow citizens.

President Weah said if the help being offered by Cummings is without a

symptoms of COVID-19 can call for help and be linked to the nearest isolation or health center.

Meanwhile, on the dismissal of former Deputy Information Minister Eugene Fahngon,

President Weah bemoaned that it is disappointing to see an official of government providing false and misleading information to the public at a time everyone is looking up to the government for credible information and workable solutions relative to the survival of them and their families.

He explained that the information provided by Fahngon was false and misleading. He opined that Fahngon had no authority to speak on the health matters, and as a member of the Executive, he was way out of line.

In one of his Facebook live video on the topic, "Legacy on the Brink...COVID-19 Variant", Fahngon asserted that the measures being put in place by the Weah administration to curb the spread of the new variant of

UEFA scraps away goals rule ahead of 2021-22 season



UEFA has announced the away goals rule will no longer be used in any of the organisation's club competitions for the 2021-22 season.

The regulation was first introduced in 1965 to decide the outcome of a two-legged knockout tie in cases where the teams were level on aggregate.

However, statistical data

has shown a reduction in the gap between home and away wins, according to data released by the governing body on Wednesday, as well as the average number of goals scored at home and on the road.

Following the recommendation of both its club competitions committee and women's football committee, UEFA has abolished the ruling for the upcoming campaign, with the change made ahead of the

start of the qualifying phases.

"The away goals rule has been an intrinsic part of UEFA competitions since it was introduced in 1965," UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said in a statement.

"However, the question of its abolition has been debated at various UEFA meetings over the last few years. Although there was no unanimity of views, many coaches, fans and other football stakeholders have questioned its fairness and have expressed a preference for the rule to be abolished.

"The impact of the rule now runs counter to its original purpose as, in fact, it now dissuades home teams - especially in first legs - from attacking, because they fear conceding a goal that would give their opponents a crucial advantage.

"There is also criticism of the unfairness, especially in extra time, of obliging the home team to score twice when the away team has scored."

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Nuno leading contender for Tottenham manager's job

S purs have been on the lookout for a new manager since the departure of Jose Mourinho in April. He left after the Londoners suffered disappointing exits in the FA Cup and the Europa League.

A month later, Roma appointed Mourinho as their new manager. Francesco Totti has described him as the "best coach in the world".

Tottenham Hotspur's search for a new manager has been a long-drawn-out process. Paulo Fonseca and

Gennaro Gattuso have been among those linked with the job.

BBC Sport have reported that Santo is the new "leading contender" to replace Mourinho.

The 47-year-old left Wolves at the end of the season after four years in charge. Since then, he has been linked with Crystal Palace and Everton.

Elsewhere, Paul Merson has suggested that Harry Kane must "hit fire" for England to win Euro 2020:

"The only way you are going to win the tournament is Harry Kane and if he hits fire. If he



doesn't hit fire, we're not winning the tournament.

"Kane scores his goals in blocks and he is the only player I know in the world, as a forward, who could have the two games he has had and still score a hat-trick this week.

"I have watched him play in the Premier League on a Saturday and thought how is he one of the best players in the world, because he has been marked out of the game and hardly got a kick. And then the following game he gets a hat-trick.

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