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Continental News

South Africa Clamps Down Against New COVID Wave

South Africa is fighting a strong "third wave" of coronavirus, leading President Cyril Ramaphosa to announce a raft of new restrictions to try to curb the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant. The president said on national television late Sunday that the Delta variant has now been detected in five of the nation's nine provinces.

"The rapid spread of this variant is extremely serious," he said. "It is for this reason that I said I address you on a weighty matter tonight. Even if it is not more severe, the rate at which people are infected could lead to many more people becoming ill and requiring treatment at the same time. We therefore need to take extra precautions." Those measures include a ban on all gatherings, the closure of schools, a ban on all alcohol sales and in-restaurant dining, a stronger curfew and tougher enforcement for lawbreakers.

And, for the worst-affected province, Gauteng — home to the Johannesburg-Pretoria

megaplex — he also announced a 14-day ban on leisure travel.

South Africa, the epicenter of coronavirus on the continent, has reported more than 1.9 million cases, with more than 18,000 new cases on Saturday and 15,000 new cases reported on Sunday, according to the National Institute for Communicable Diseases. Of all the cases, 59,900 have been fatal.

"We are in the grip of a devastating wave that by all indications seems like it will be worse than those that preceded it," Ramaphosa warned. "The peak of this third wave looks set to be higher than the previous two."

"Catastrophic failures"

The reaction to his announcement split along political lines, with the ruling African National Congress

expressing support and opposition parties slamming the government's reaction to the pandemic.

"We believe that these measures are necessary to flatten the curve," said ANC spokesman Pule Mabe, speaking to state-run television. But the far-left opposition Economic Freedom Fighters party vowed, in a statement, to continue to campaign for October elections despite restrictions. They accuse the ruling party of "using lockdowns and restrictions to manage the inevitable, but coming, removal of the ANC from power in all municipalities."

And the opposition Democratic Alliance is calling for an inquiry into the government's vaccination program, with party leader John Steenhuisen on Sunday laying blame on Ramaphosa directly.

"Every COVID death and every job lost to the draconian restrictions he announced tonight are on President Ramaphosa now," he said in a statement. "He is now forcing South Africans to pay the price for his administration's catastrophic vaccine failures, or 'missteps' as he calls them." Waiting for vaccines

Although South Africa began to receive vaccine doses in February, only 2.7 million people have been vaccinated — a far cry from the nation's goal of vaccinating 40 million people. Ramaphosa announced that the next phase of vaccinations would start this month, targeting people over the age of 50. Additionally, he said, those who work in basic education and in the security sector, such as the police, are beginning to receive vaccinations.

"We ran short and we are not the only country in the world," Ramaphosa said. VOA



A COVID-19 patient is admitted to a hospital in Johannesburg

Sudan agrees to hand over Darfur war crimes accused

Sudan says it will surrender former officials who are wanted for alleged war crimes in the Darfur region to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

As yet, Sudan has not named the individuals being handed over.

The country's rulers had

already promised to surrender ex-President Omar al-Bashir who was in power during the conflict but this has not yet happened.

Bashir was ousted by the military after mass protests in 2019 and is now serving a jail sentence for corruption.

The war in Darfur caused one of the world's worst

humanitarian crises of recent years. At least 300,000 people have been killed in the conflict between rebels and government forces that began in 2003. Millions of others were forced from their homes and into displacement camps. Sudan's decision comes weeks after the ICC's outgoing chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, visited the country and urged its leaders to surrender all those wanted including Mr Bashir, 77.

He was the first person to be charged by the international court for the crime of genocide. Other ex-officials wanted by the ICC are Former Defence Minister Abdelraheem Muhammad Hussein and former Minister of the Interior Ahmad Harun.

Federal government minister Bothaina Dinar said on Saturday the cabinet's decision was unanimous and aimed at establishing peace and stability in the country.

The government also urged rebel groups to join the peace process. BBC



The decision comes after outgoing ICC chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda (L), met officials in Sudan

Museveni: Vaccine inequality is Africa's wake-up call



African countries are facing vaccine shortages

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has called out "vaccine selfishness" in the world but said it will "wake up" Africans to be self-sufficient.

President Museveni said Africa needs the raw materials to produce its own Covid vaccines rather than donations from the developed nations.

"Africans are a disgrace to ourselves. Why do we have to depend on the outside for everything. This is a big shame for Africa," he told delegates attending the World Health Summit on Sunday.

Mr Museveni said countries across the continent need to stop waiting for vaccine

donations and manufacture them locally. "This selfishness in the world is bad, but is good. I like it because it wakes up Africans. It is a shame the whole of the African continent is just asleep, waiting to be saved by others like it happened during the slave trade," he said.

The president said Uganda was in the process of making its own Covid vaccine and only needed help with some raw materials saying: "Don't worry we shall buy them. We don't need donations."

The African Union has been calling for a Covid vaccine patent waiver to allow the continent to make its own vaccines as a shortage continues in different countries. BBC

EDITORIAL

Depoliticizing the COVID-19 fight

RECENT OFFER BY the leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress Alexander B. Cummings to help the Government of Liberia in the current fight against the coronavirus, and subsequent acceptance by President George Manneh Weah is a welcome signal that should unite Liberians around a national cause void of politics.

MR. CUMMINGS IN a recent statement offered to work with the government in whatever reasonable way in tackling the resurgence, which experts say is the Delta variant.

HE SAID 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. The ANC leader revealed that he has sent 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.

IN NO TIME, President Weah accepted the offer from the opposition politician, indicating that he is willing to listen to and work with Mr. Cummings, void of political hindrance, adding “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.”

President Weah said if the help being offered by Cummings is without a political trace, it would go a long way in beefing up the health sector and finding a remedy to the unanticipated health crisis.

WE WELCOME THIS spirit of collaboration, particularly in times of national crisis such as the current health pandemic that has taken the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of Liberians, and millions around the world.

WE CHALLENGE OTHER opposition political leaders in the country to emulate the ANC leader's example, and the corresponding reception from the President in joining hands to kick coronavirus out of Liberia.

IT IS IN such critical period when the nation needs all of its best to stand up for a united cause. The gesture by both Weah and Cummings clearly demonstrate leadership that transcends selfish interest and blinded self-ego.

LIBERIA IS OUR common patrimony, and whether you are in position, opposition or no position, come out with strategies and tangible support to save the ship from sinking, because when this nation goes down or when the people perish, we would have no place to come home and politicians would have no one to lead.

LASTLY, THE CORONAVIRUS is deadly. It does not pick and choose. It has neither special friends nor foes, but rather moves on the rampage, destroying precious souls. Its next victim could be a current official or a politician aspiring to become the next President or our future scientists, doctors, educators, engineers, pastors and imams or social workers.

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

COMMENTARY

By John B. Taylor

Is the Fed Getting Burned Again?

STANFORD - Fifty years ago, on June 22, 1971, US Federal Reserve Chair Arthur Burns wrote a memorandum to President Richard Nixon that will long live in infamy. Inflation was picking up, and Burns wanted the White House to understand that the price surge was not due to monetary policy or to any action that the Fed had taken under his leadership. The issue, rather, was that “the structure of the economy [had] changed profoundly.” Accordingly, Burns was writing to recommend “a strong wage and price policy”:

“I have already outlined to you a possible path for such a policy - emphatic and pointed jawboning, followed by a wage and price review board (preferably through the instrumentality of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Policy); and in the event of insufficient success (which is now more probable than it would have been a year or two ago), followed - perhaps no later than next January - by a six-month wage and price freeze.”

Perhaps owing to Burns's reputation as a renowned scholar (he was Milton Friedman's teacher) and his long experience as a policymaker, the memo convinced Nixon to proceed with a wage and price freeze, and to follow that up with a policy of wage and price controls and guidelines for the entire economy. For a time after the freeze was implemented, the controls and guidelines seemed to be working. They were even politically popular for a brief period. Inflation inched down, and the freeze was followed by more compulsory controls requiring firms to get permission from a commission to change wages and prices.

But the intrusive nature of the system began to wear on people and the economy because every price increase had to be approved by a federal government bureaucracy. Moreover, it soon became obvious that the government controls and interventions were making matters worse.

Ignoring its responsibility to keep inflation low, the Fed had started letting the money supply increase faster, with the annual growth rate of M2 (a measure of cash, deposits, and highly liquid assets) averaging 10% in the 1970s, up from 7% in the 1960s. This compounded the impact of the decade's oil shocks on the price level, and the inflation rate shot into double digits - rising above 12% three times (first in 1974 and then again in 1979 and 1980) - while the unemployment rate rose from 5.9% in June 1971 to 9% in 1975.

As we know now, the US economy's performance in the 1970s was very poor owing at least partly to that era's monetary policies. This was when the word “stagflation” was coined to describe a strange mix of rising inflation and stagnant economic growth. As James A. Dorn of the

Cato Institute recently recounted, Nixon's “price controls went on to distort market prices” and are rightly remembered as a cautionary tale. “We should not forget that the loss of economic freedom is a high price to pay for a false promise to end inflation by suppressing market forces” (emphasis mine).

As it happens, Choose Economic Freedom is the title of a book that I published last year with George P. Shultz, who passed away in February at the age of 100. Schultz had gained decades of wisdom and experience as both a diplomat and economic policymaker, serving as the Nixon administration's budget director when Burns wrote his audacious memo. In an appendix to our book, we included the full text of that document, because it had only recently been discovered in the Hoover Institution archives. It should now be recognized as required reading for anyone seeking to understand the recent history of US economic policymaking.

The Burns memo is a perfect example of how bad ideas lead to bad policies, which in turn lead to bad economic outcomes. Despite Burns's extraordinary reputation, his memo conveyed a set of terrible policy recommendations. By blaming everything on putative structural defects supposedly afflicting the entire economy, the memo's worst effect was to shun the Fed's responsibility for controlling inflation, even though it was clearly responsible for the rising price level.

By the same token, good ideas lead to good policy and good economic performance. As Schultz and I showed, this was certainly the case in the 1980s. The Fed reasserted itself as part of a broader economic reform, and the economy duly boomed.

The message from this historical experience - and many other examples in the United States and elsewhere - should be abundantly clear. And while history never repeats itself, it often rhymes, so consider where we are midway through 2021: inflation is picking up, and the Fed is once again claiming that it is not responsible for that development. Instead, Fed officials argue that today's surge in prices merely reflects the bounce back from the low inflation of the last year.

Worse, the Fed's policy is even more interventionist now than it was in Burns's day. Its balance sheet has exploded from massive purchases of Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities, and the growth rate of M2 has risen sharply over the past year. The federal funds interest rate is now lower than virtually any tested monetary policy rule or strategy suggests it should be, including those listed on page 48 of the Fed's own February 2021 Monetary Policy Report.

It is not too late to learn from past mistakes and turn monetary policy into the handmaiden of a sustained recovery from the pandemic. But time is running out.

OPINION

*By Francis Fukuyama,
Luis Felipe López-calva*

Pandemics and Political Performance

STANFORD/GENEVA - The COVID-19 pandemic has created a laboratory for testing different governance systems in the face of a public-health crisis, ultimately revealing massive variance in country performance. For example, countries in East Asia (China, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan) tended to do a better job of controlling the pandemic than did many countries in the Americas and Europe.

But these outcomes are not about democratic versus authoritarian government, as some have argued. Among East Asia's high performers are authoritarian states as well as strong and vibrant democracies. Nor is the difference wholly due to economic resources or public health expertise, considering that poorer countries like Vietnam have done better than many rich countries.

What, then, is behind the divergence in outcomes? While the explanation is doubtless complex, three key factors stand out from a governance perspective: state capacity, social trust, and political leadership.

State capacity may be obvious, but it is nonetheless fundamental. A country without a strong public-health system will flounder in a pandemic. This factor gave East Asian countries a big advantage. But state capacity is not the whole story. In Brazil, where the health sector has made strong progress in recent years, adequate capacity was not a sufficient condition for preventing a deeper crisis.

The second factor, social trust, works in two dimensions. A population must trust its government; otherwise, compliance with onerous but necessary public-health mandates such as quarantining will be low. Unfortunately, such "institutional trust" has been declining over the past ten years in Latin America and the Caribbean. So, too, has trust between citizens, the second dimension of social trust. In many countries during the pandemic, low social trust has interacted with high levels of polarization to produce devastating consequences.

The third factor is political leadership. In the context of a public emergency, the people at the top of hierarchical state institutions are empowered to take decisive action. Who these people are and what incentives they face can make a big difference in determining the effectiveness of their actions. Some political leaders viewed the pandemic largely as a threat to their own political fortunes and devised policies accordingly. Others took seriously their role as guardians of the public interest.

The results of these different political calculations are reflected in both the efficacy and the sustainability of national pandemic responses. Political leadership happens at many levels; but without coordinated and cooperative action across government hierarchies and sectors, the overall policy response will be less effective.

Limited state capacity, low social trust, and poor political leadership are warning signs of democratic deterioration. Globally, the pandemic has shown that we are facing a democratic recession, revealing challenges that have long been building beneath the surface. We can think of these challenges as the pre-existing conditions that have made countries more or less vulnerable to the pandemic.

Prior to the arrival of COVID-19, Latin America and the Caribbean were already beset by social unrest and political instability, reflected in widespread protests and rising populism. The region's fractured foundations reflect a phenomenon sometimes referred to as "political decay." When an existing political system fails to accommodate the demands of a population whose expectations have been rising on the back of positive economic and social gains, it eventually loses legitimacy and descends into instability.

After a sustained period of economic growth, Latin America's new middle class is increasingly finding its expectations unmet, and the consequences are now coming fully into view. Frustration over persistently high levels of inequality and corruption has fueled growing resentment toward elites who are perceived as using politics to enrich themselves.

There is no easy solution to this governance problem. Investing in state capacity and building social trust can take a long time and require good political leadership. Nonetheless, in countries that are experiencing a vicious cycle of ineffective governance in the face of the pandemic, political leaders can pursue constructive action in three related areas. The first, and most immediate, is public policy. It is not too late to improve or expand measures for dealing with the health, economic, and social consequences of the pandemic.

Second, and more broadly, Latin American and Caribbean countries need to reconsider the underlying "rules of the game." This could mean pursuing fiscal policies to redistribute incomes, adopting regulations to prevent market capture by a few actors, and creating better pathways for civil-society organizations to participate in policymaking and governance. This is a much longer project, but it will be essential for creating the types of institutions that will be needed to guard against the next pandemic.

Finally, it is important to understand the coalitions of actors that are needed to effect these changes democratically. Change requires political mobilization. At the end of the day, it is the people - that is, all of us - who make and sustain the rules and policies that we have come to call "institutions."

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OP-ED

By Yanis Varoufakis

Techno-Feudalism Is Taking Over

ATHERS - This is how capitalism ends: not with a revolutionary bang, but with an evolutionary whimper. Just as it displaced feudalism gradually, surreptitiously, until one day the bulk of human relations were market-based and feudalism was swept away, so capitalism today is being toppled by a new economic mode: techno-feudalism.

This is a large claim that comes on the heels of many premature forecasts of capitalism's demise, especially from the left. But this time it may well be true.

The clues have been visible for a while. Bond and share prices, which should be moving in sharply opposite directions, have been skyrocketing in unison, occasionally falling but always in lockstep. Similarly, the cost of capital (the return demanded to own a security) should be falling with volatility; instead, it has been rising as future returns become more uncertain.

Perhaps the clearest sign that something serious is afoot appeared on August 12 last year. On that day, we learned that, in the first seven months of 2020, the United Kingdom's national income had tanked by over 20%, well above even the direst predictions. A few minutes later, the London Stock Exchange jumped by more than 2%. Nothing comparable had ever occurred. Finance had become fully decoupled from the real economy.

But do these unprecedented developments really mean that we no longer live under capitalism? After all, capitalism has undergone fundamental transformations before. Should we not simply prepare ourselves for its latest incarnation? No, I do not think so. What we are experiencing is not merely another metamorphosis of capitalism. It is something more profound and worrisome.

Yes, capitalism has undergone extreme makeovers at least twice since the late nineteenth century. Its first major transformation, from its competitive guise to oligopoly, occurred with the second industrial revolution, when electromagnetism ushered in the large networked corporations and the megabanks necessary to finance them. Ford, Edison, and Krupp replaced Adam Smith's baker, brewer, and butcher as history's prime movers. The ensuing boisterous cycle of mega-debts and mega-returns eventually led to the crash of 1929, the New Deal, and, after World War II, the Bretton Woods system - which, with all its constraints on finance, provided a rare period of stability.

The end of Bretton Woods in 1971 unleashed capitalism's second transformation. As America's growing trade deficit became the world's provider of aggregate demand - sucking in the net exports of Germany, Japan, and, later, China - the US powered capitalism's most energetic globalization phase, with a steady flow of German, Japanese, and, later, Chinese profits back into Wall Street financing it all.

To play their role, however, Wall Street functionaries demanded emancipation from all of the New Deal and Bretton Woods constraints. With deregulation, oligopolistic capitalism morphed into financialized capitalism. Just as Ford, Edison, and Krupp had replaced Smith's baker, brewer, and butcher, capitalism's new protagonists were Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, and Lehman Brothers.

While these radical transformations had momentous repercussions (the Great Depression, WWII, the Great Recession, and the post-2009 Long Stagnation), they did not alter capitalism's main feature: a system driven by private profit and rents extracted through some market.

Yes, the transition from Smithian to oligopoly capitalism boosted profits inordinately and allowed conglomerates to use their massive market power (that is, their newfound freedom from competition) to extract large rents from consumers. Yes, Wall Street extracted rents from society by market-based forms of daylight robbery. Nevertheless, both oligopoly and financialized capitalism were driven by private profits boosted by rents extracted through some market - one cornered by, say, General Electric or Coca-Cola, or conjured up by Goldman Sachs.

Then, after 2008, everything changed. Ever since the G7's central banks coalesced in April 2009 to use their money printing capacity to re-float global finance, a deep discontinuity emerged. Today, the global economy is powered by the constant generation of central bank money, not by private profit. Meanwhile, value extraction has increasingly shifted away from markets and onto digital platforms, like Facebook and Amazon, which no longer operate like oligopolistic firms, but rather like private fiefdoms or estates.

That central banks' balance sheets, not profits, power the economic system explains what happened on August 12, 2020. Upon hearing the grim news, financiers thought: "Great! The Bank of England, panicking, will print even more pounds and channel them to us. Time to buy shares!" All over the West, central banks print money that financiers lend to corporations, which then use it to buy back their shares (whose prices have decoupled from profits). Meanwhile, digital platforms have replaced markets as the locus of private wealth extraction. For the first time in history, almost everyone produces for free the capital stock of large corporations. That is what it means to upload stuff on Facebook or move around while linked to Google Maps.

It is not, of course, that traditional capitalist sectors have disappeared. In the early nineteenth century, many feudal relations remained intact, but capitalist relations had begun to dominate. Today, capitalist relations remain intact, but techno-feudalist relations have begun to overtake them.

If I am right, every stimulus program is bound to be at once too large and too small. No interest rate will ever be consistent with full employment without precipitating sequential corporate bankruptcies. And class-based politics in which parties favoring capital compete against parties closer to labor is finished.

But while capitalism may end with a whimper, the bang may soon follow. If those on the receiving end of techno-feudal exploitation and mind-numbing inequality find a collective voice, it is bound to be very loud.

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FEATURE

FEATURE

The world needs to act now before COVID-19 overwhelms Africa

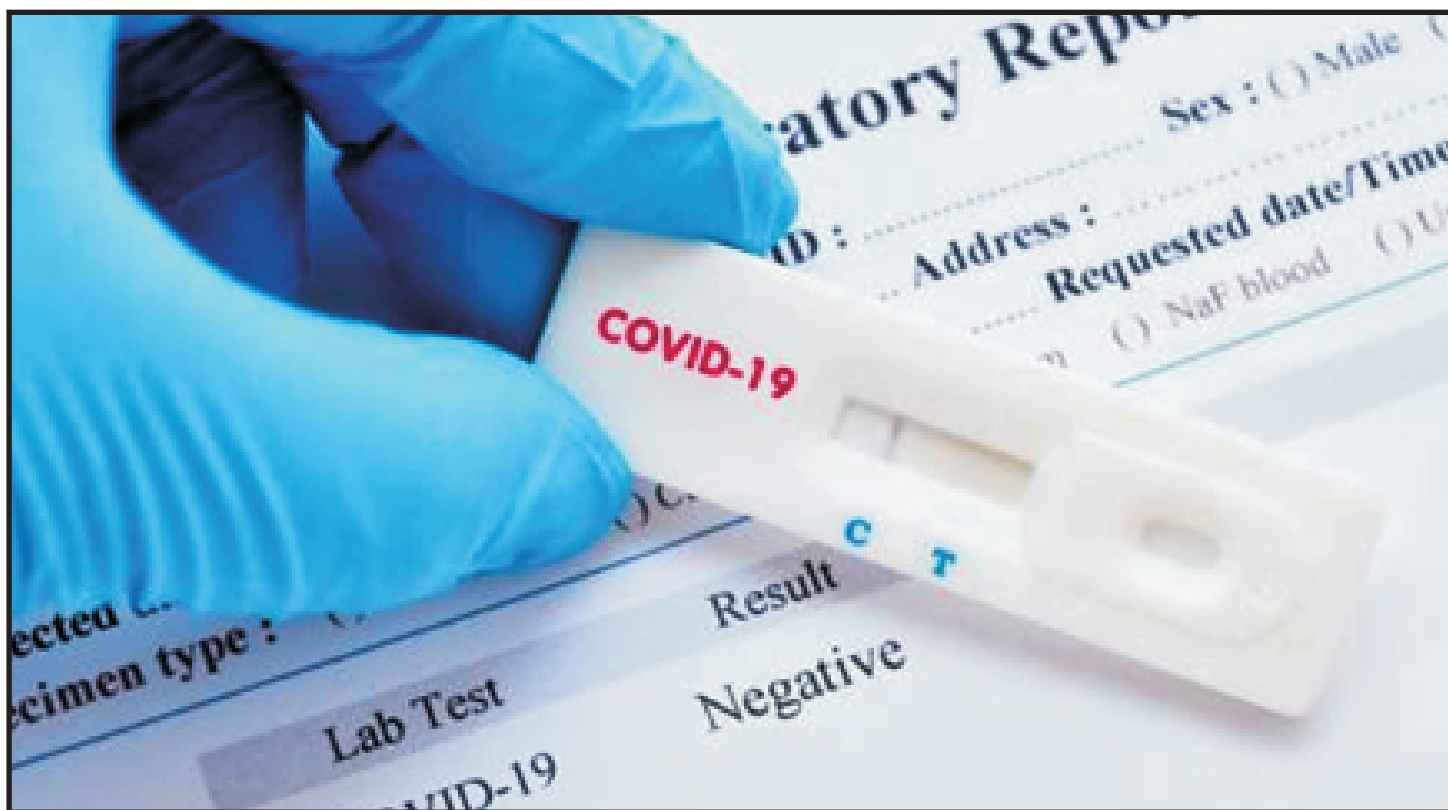
By Mosoka P. Fallah And Zacharia Kafuko

Africa is woefully unprepared for a massive third wave of the kind that has been faced by South Asia recently.

So far Africa has survived the first and second waves of the COVID-19 pandemic in spite of its weak health systems, limited health care workforce and crumbling infrastructure. The continent as a whole experienced low official case and death rates either due to inadequate testing (and treatment) or other factors such as age, genetics and previous infections. This has led to a degree of complacency- many countries have abandoned social distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing while others have encouraged large social, political and religious gatherings. Decreased community testing has undermined any efforts to determine the true magnitude of community transmission or the spread of new variants. At the same time, Africa has the fewest vaccines of any continent in the world, with only 32 million people receiving a dose, from a total population of over 1.3 billion people. Compare this to India where 255.3 million people have received one dose and the US where more than 311 million doses have been administered. Accordingly, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, Regional Director for the WHO in Africa, has pointed out that, "In sub-Saharan Africa, we are at an average of one COVID-19 vaccine dose per 100 people, compared to a global average of 23, and 62 in high-income countries." This translates to 1% vaccines access, while the global average is 23% and the Global North is 62%.

The continent has a dismally low supply of oxygen cylinders, monitors and other relevant tools needed to treat infected patients. Added to its original low supplies, the continent has received just 3,700 oxygen concentrators, 1,300 patient monitors and 700 ventilators through the United Nations Supply Portal since the start of the pandemic. For a continent with 1.3 billion people, these paltry supplies are nowhere near sufficient.

Dr. Moeti has spoken about the status of the pandemic in Africa on 10th June: "In the past week, 88,000 new COVID-19 cases were reported - an increase of 9 percent over the previous week. We are seeing rising cases in South Africa and Uganda, and cases have increased abruptly in 8 countries,



including Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria."

In Liberia, the B117 COVID-19 variant has been detected with a 64% mortality rate within 28 days, which is deeply worrying. The country has reported 202 cases in the past week, the highest number of cases in any previous one week period. In Uganda

rates. In West Africa, there are one to four variant strains in all 16 ECOWAS countries.

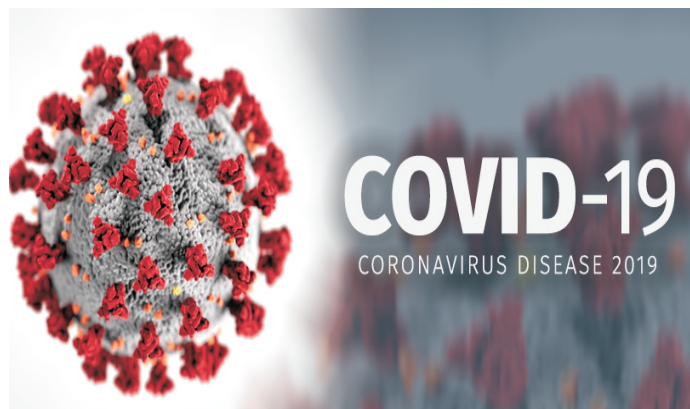
Africa is woefully unprepared for a massive third wave of the kind that has been faced by South Asia recently.

The COVAX platform-created to make vaccines available to the most vulnerable population has been hamstrung by vaccine nationalism and vaccine diplomacy. Most countries in Africa have received less than 2% of the vaccines expected through the COVAX platform. Ghana, the first country in Africa to receive the COVAX doses got 600,000 doses for its 31.4 million population- representing a 0.96% potential coverage for the two-dose vaccine regimen. Zambia received 228,000 doses against its 18.8 million population translating to a 0.6% potential coverage of the double dose vaccine. If we are to support African countries to vaccinate their populations, the COVAX donors need to rapidly ramp up their deliveries or we need to find ways to arrange bilateral vaccine donations.

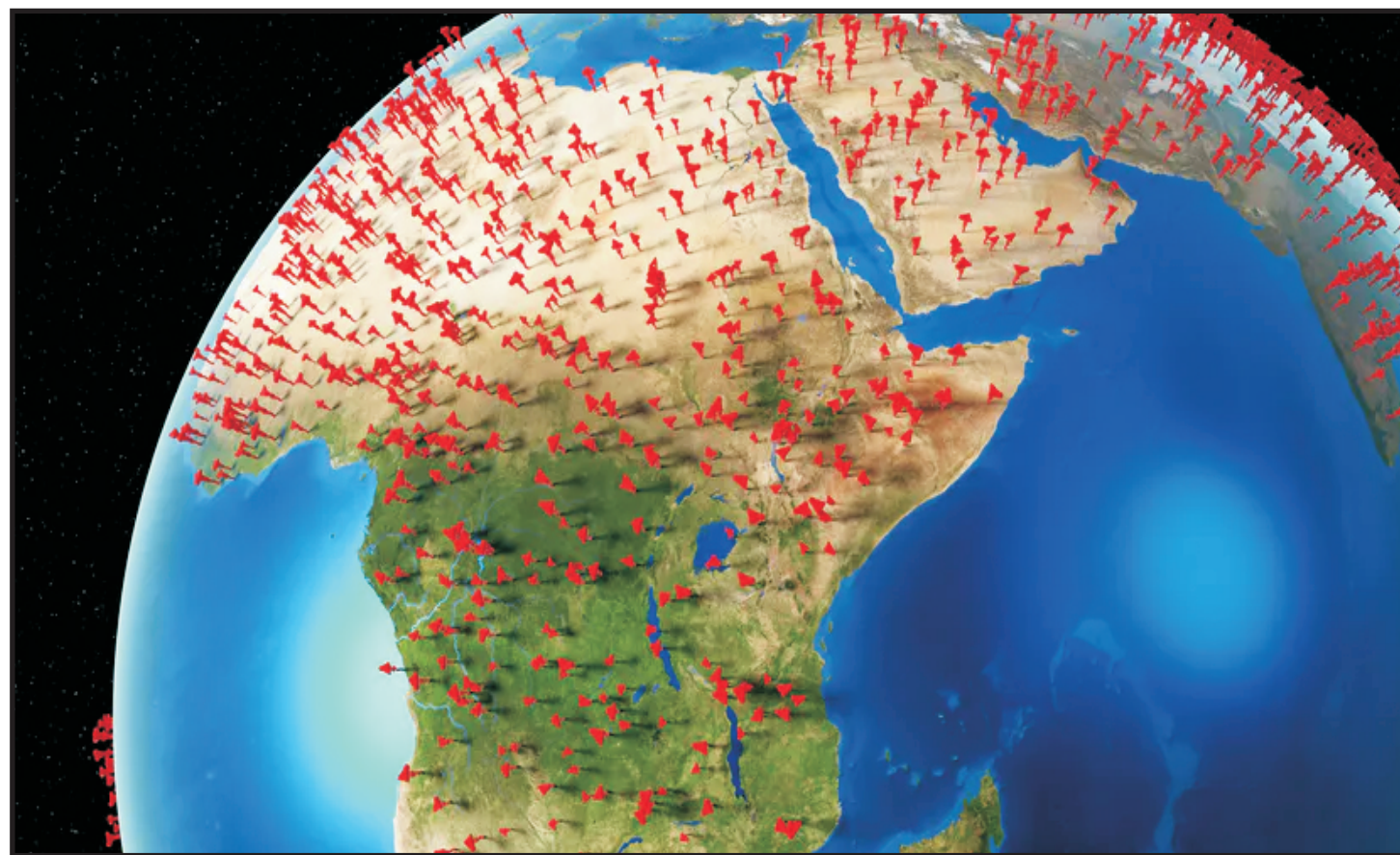
We have been working with Ebola response veterans and a global team of doctors, scientists, bioethicists, and professors to advance practical solutions to avert a COVID-19 driven catastrophe in Africa. This involves a focus on vaccine donations now to the countries most in need; additional funding for COVAX to purchase and distribute 225 million more doses of vaccines for Africa; and tiered pricing for vaccines so African countries can procure vaccines directly.

To overcome the challenges we face, the world must come together- as it did during the Ebola crisis of 2014/15- to overcome geopolitical differences, counter bottlenecks in production and increase the pace of vaccinations globally. All countries should immediately underwrite initiatives aimed at increasing access to vaccines by supporting ethical standards that call for improved global vaccine access.

The COVID-19 situation in India recently has been an unmitigated disaster- the potential for a similar crisis in Africa is clear. Our continent is not adequately equipped to handle a major surge of the coronavirus. We must prepare for the worst and hope for the best.



patients are dying outside hospitals while waiting for beds. In Namibia, COVID-19 has overwhelmed all existing hospitals leading to the suspension of all life-threatening surgeries, while in South Africa the intensive care hospitals are filling up at alarming



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Pres. Weah to address 2021 Generation Equality Forum

--Departs Liberia for France

President George Manneh Weah early Monday, 28 June 2021 departed Liberia for Paris, France to participate in the 2021 Generation Equality Forum.

An Executive Mansion release issued Monday said several heads of state are expected to attend the forum. The 2021 Generation

Equality Forum will convene governments, International organizations, civil society organizations, youth, the private sector and activists.

As Liberia's Feminist - in - Chief, Mr. Weah will address the forum calling on the world to make concrete, ambitious and sustainable commitments towards achieving gender equality.

He is accompanied at the forum by Foreign Minister Dee-Maxwell Kemayah; Defense Minister Daniel D. Ziankahn; Gender Minister Williametta Saydee-Tarr; and Lenn Eugene Nagbe, Commissioner of the Liberia Maritime Authority.

Others on the delegation are Trokon Kpui, Minister of State Without Portfolio and Daintown D. Pay-Bayee, Chairperson, National Commission on Disabilities.

The three-day Forum will also galvanize a multi-stakeholder ecosystem to advance gender equality to ensure sustainability and accountability.

President Weah is expected to meet France President Emmanuel Macron on the margins of the forum. Their discussions will focus on peace and security and other issues aimed at enhancing bilateral relations.

While the President is away, Finance Minister Samuel Tweah will chair the cabinet in consultation with the Vice President of Liberia and via telephone with the President.--Press release



Lofaians in diaspora demand seating of Samukai

Diaspora - based Liberians from Lofa County are demanding the government here to fulfill its constitutional responsibility by ensuring that Mr. Brownie J. Samukai is seated in the Liberian Senate as a way of restoring their rights to full senatorial representation in line with Article 45 of the Liberian Constitution.

"We, the people of Lofa County, are constitutionally entitled to two senators, and we do [hereby] petition you (the government) to fulfill your constitutional responsibility," the group says.

Released under the names of J. Patrick Flomo, Dr. Sakui Malakpa, Stephen Jensen and Robert Gaygay, the statement accused the government here of allegedly nullifying "the voice of the people of Lofa County by denying them full senatorial representation without explanation nor a declarative statement regarding when this crisis will end."

They group said it believes that the government created

this constitutional crisis and bears the full responsibility to resolve it with all deliberate speed.

election -related challenges or his role in the misapplication of soldiers' personal pension saving funds.

Prior to the election, Samukai and his deputy



Mr. Samukai, a former Defense Minister who served former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's administration won the December 2020 senatorial election in Lofa County, but has not yet been seated as he faced different court cases. either for

Joseph P. Johnson had already been convicted by the Criminal Court "C" in the criminal case, and their conviction was subsequently upheld with modification by Liberia's Supreme Court

FLY deputy scribe calls for audit

By Bridgett Milton

The Deputy Secretary for Finance at the Federation of Liberian Youth Ervin Daniel, has called on the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission and the General Auditing Commission to investigate and audit the Federation for alleged corruption.

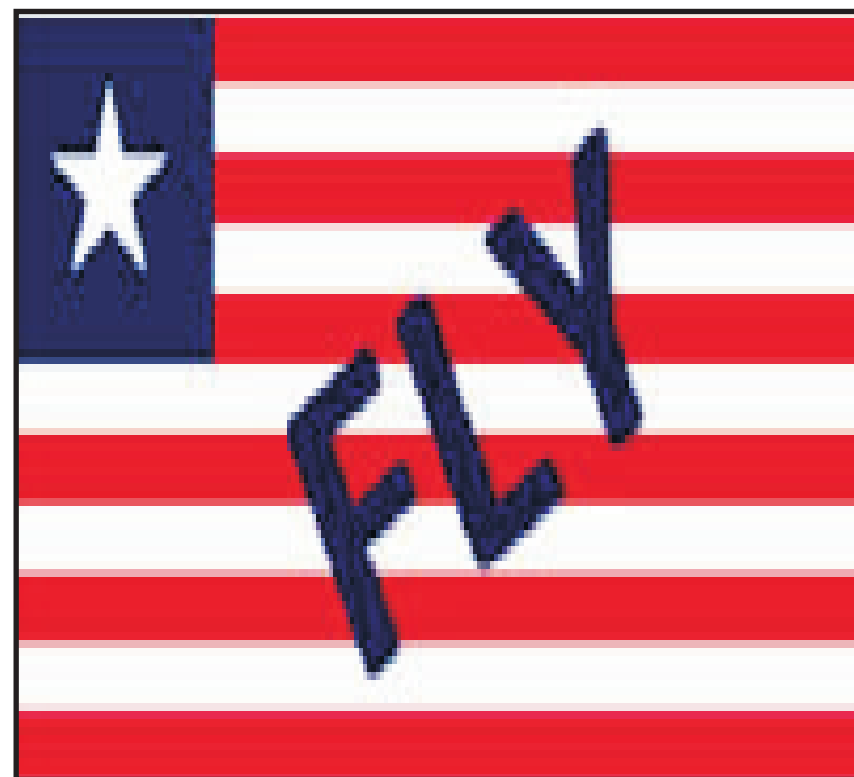
He said such audit will help to restore accountability and transparency in the FLY leadership.

Speaking to this paper over the weekend, Daniel said his

mandate to advocate and champion the cause of young people in Liberia, he said.

According to him, FLY has a responsibility to impact the youth and student communities positively, stressing that officials governing the sacred institution must be transparent and accountable to the general public especially, young people.

Daniel described alleged mismanagement of funds as inappropriate and counterproductive to the



quest for audit stems from constant unilaterally withdrawal of funds from the Federation's accounts with disregard to prescribed financial management policy.

"As established by an act of legislation in 1978, FLY as the umbrella youths and students' organization was given the

wellbeing of the Federation.

"Interestingly, some of those issues have been orchestrated by some Executive Committee Members who have considered themselves as demagogues and super executives within the young people institution", he noted. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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following their trial for misapplying private pension saving funds owned by soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) during his term as Defense Minister.

However in a separate action filed by the Movement for Progressive Change (MPC) political leader Simeon Freeman, Justice in Chambers Joseph Nagbe later granted a petition for a writ of prohibition filed against the

certification of Senator - elect Samukai, ordering the National Elections Commission (NEC) to disallow Samukai's certification until the disability imposed on the convicted former Defense Minister is removed according to law.

"The Clerk of this Court is ordered to issue the peremptory writ of prohibition, send a mandate to the 1st respondent,

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LIS to arm 100 border officers

By Kruah Thomas (Intern)

The commissioner general of the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) Col. Robert Budy disclosed in Monrovia that 100 immigration officers are expected to be armed and

long there was a threat in Burkina Faso where 130 civilians were killed and Ivory Coast suffered attacks from 10 jihadists which led to several Ivorian military officers killed along its borders with Burkina Faso.

three jihad militants entered the hotel and murdered over 33 persons and left over two dozens wounded.

He said besides, a group of Liberians led an attack in Ivory Coast, specifically in the north of Abidjan, but three were killed and one is currently undergoing treatment in Abidjan.

"So you can see that the borders with Ivory Coast is a hot spot for the Liberia Immigration Service; we don't want people going through and infiltrating our borders", Col. Budy said, while pointing that Burkinabes are using Grand Gedeh and River Gee counties in Liberia to enter neighboring Ivory Coast to cause chaos.

He narrates the Burkinabes crossed into Grand Gedeh and River Gee counties to carry out illegal farming.

"And when they harvest the crops, it does not impact our economy. The crop is taken into Ivory Coast where they are sold."

Security in Liberia remains fragile since the Mission, UNMIL departed the country in 2018. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



deployed to protect the borders of Liberia from external threats.

Col. Budy points to perceived threat in the region, recalling that not too

Speaking at the Ministry of Information regular briefing recently in Monrovia, the LIS commissioner general noted that another attack occurred in Grand Bassa hotel, Abidjan when

UN pays permanent

Starts from back page

Johnson recounted the good working relationship between the American government's Defense Attaché office and the Armed Forces of Liberia that resulted in the Liberian military gaining more training opportunities from the U.S. Government.

The AFL Chief of Staff named the provision of the Gene-Expert Machine to the 14 Military Hospital, the increase in budgetary allotment for the IMET (Int'l Military Education Training) and the continued involvement of AFL in the OBAMGAME Exercise.

Further, Gen. Johnson named the provision of scholarships for personnel of the AFL to attend Military Schools in the United States of America as well as logistical support to the AFL as some of the many benefits Liberia attained from LT COL Matthew Alden's time of duty in Liberia.

In response, the outgoing American Defense Attaché, Lt. Col. Alden recounted the good working relationship he had with the AFL and the Ministry of National Defense, stressing that he will continue to seek more avenues to assist the AFL and the Ministry of National Defense.

Unsustainable land use

Starts from back page

reach 8.6 billion by 2030 and 9.8 billion by 2050, adding that these exponential increases in population and urbanization will have implications on the finite natural resources.

He said the concept of Green Economy in Biosphere Reserve is therefore, predicated on providing alternative livelihood options, income generating and biodiversity friendly activities for women and youth in particular.

He added that these are people-centered solutions towards more sustainable development whilst highlighting the crucial role people play as both instruments and beneficiaries in the conservation of Biosphere Reserves.

The Nigerian forester continued that the GEBR project was centered on the diversification of the economy through improved and alternative biodiversity related livelihoods to reduce pressure on the forest as a result of fuel wood extraction for heating and cooking purposes as well as build capacity of communities.

He explained implementation of the project involved establishment of selected alternative livelihood enterprises such as fish farming, snail farming, grass cutter domestication and mushroom production for communities within the biosphere reserve.

Prof. Adepoju noted that the Nigerian Green Economy

model was adapted for countries around the Lake Chad, which culminated in the development of a training module on GEBR methodologies and capacity building of five African countries - Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Central African Republic and Nigeria in 2018.

According to him, out of the experience and technical expertise of the Nigeria Man and the Biosphere Committee, three new biosphere reserves were designated in 2020.

He revealed that the institute recently won a US\$20,000 UNESCO grant towards implementing a project on improving livelihoods of women and youth through capacity building and empowerment in green enterprises.

The MAB-ICC chair stated that all these would not have been possible with the presence of a solid governance structure and strong MAB National Committee.

He narrated that it is on this premise that the regional training was conceptualized to train MAB experts and managers of BRs and protected areas in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea on GEBR methodology.

Prof. Adepoju emphasized that the operation of national MAB Committees and nomination of Biosphere Reserve will go a long way to providing technical support for the establishment of a MAB committee in Liberia and the adoption of a Liberian model in strengthening the capacity of experts from Guinea and Sierra Leone. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Cont'd from page 6

Lofaians in diaspora

NEC, disallowing the certification of the 2nd respondent, J. Brownie Samukai, Jr., until his disability imposed on him by his conviction is removed according to law," Associate Justice Nagbe said in a ruling Tuesday, 4 May.

But the group of Lofaians in the diaspora calls on all Liberians to join the people of Lofa County to urge the government to restore their rights to full senatorial representation in line with the Liberian Constitution.

"Today, it is Lofa County; 25, 50, or 100 years from now, it will be your county if we all do not address this governmental abuse of power," the group said.

The group noted that the question is no longer a partisan question but that of full legislative representation for the county, urging their past leaders to form a united front and to use the influence of their positions, endowed upon them by the people of Lofa County to serve their needs.

"To the past and present leaders of Lofa County who have not spoken out or [sought] redress of the aforementioned concern): We are afflicted and

disheartened by your lethargic reaction to this serious constitutional injustice," the group lamented.

Early this year the Supreme Court sentenced former Minister Samukai, his deputy Joseph P. Johnson and Mr. James Nyumah Dorkor to serve a term of two years each in a common jail.

However, the Supreme Court ruled in the corruption case that the sentences shall be suspended provided that the convicted officials shall retribute the full amount of US\$1.147,656m or (pay) 50 percent within the period of six months, and following that, make appropriate arrangement to pay the remaining percent in one calendar year.

Should the defendants fail on

these mandates, the Supreme Court said they shall be incarcerated in a common jail and remain there until the full amount is paid. In its judgement, the Supreme Court said every withdrawal from the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) Pension Account should have been by authorization or consent of the AFL soldiers.

The Court therefore said the unrelated expenses of US\$1.147,656m on the instruction of former President Sirleaf was without the pale of the law, and the appellants (defendants) are held personally liable for the unauthorized expenditure on the account.



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Français

« Pas d'amnistie pour les auteurs de crimes de guerre », prévient ConmanyWesseh

Le sénateur du comté de River Gee et membre du Parti de l'Unité, ConmanyWesseh, a rappelé qu'il n'y a pas d'amnistie pour les auteurs de crimes de guerre et pour les personnes qui ont commis des atrocités et leurs complices pendant la guerre civile Libérienne qui a duré 14 ans.

S'exprimant lors d'une

interview avec ce journal ce week-end, le sénateur Wesseh, qui est signataire de l'Accord de paix d'Accra qui a donné naissance à la Commission vérité et réconciliation, a déclaré que, contrairement à ce que prétendent certains protagonistes de la guerre civile, le document n'a accordé aucune amnistie aux criminels de guerre.

Selon lui, la mise en place d'un

tribunal des crimes de guerre pour le Libéria est indispensable, si l'on veut que ceux qui ont commis des crimes contre l'humanité répondent de leurs crimes et qu'on sache ce qui s'est réellement passé pendant la guerre sanglante qui a fait au moins 250 000 morts, y compris des femmes et des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Côte d'Ivoire: Laurent Gbagbo de nouveau parmi les siens dans son village natal de Mama

Après dix ans d'absence, l'enfant du pays est enfin arrivé à Mama et a été accueilli dans une liesse phénoménale. Plus personne n'y croyait, tant l'attente a été longue. Mais Laurent Gbagbo a fini par arriver vers 18h à Mama. Un accueil triomphal et même chaotique. Des centaines d'habitants de Mama, mais aussi des milliers de partisans venus des villages alentours avaient attendu le président ivoirien toute la journée, en musique, et bien souvent attablés, sirotant une bière ou un verre de vin dans les nombreux bars en plein air qui ont essaimé dans le village pour l'occasion.

Et c'est seulement dans les environs de 18h que le convoi de Laurent Gbagbo est arrivé. La foule s'est immédiatement mise à courir derrière son véhicule. Le protocole imaginé par les organisateurs a vite volé en éclat, le service de sécurité interne a très rapidement été débordé par la ferveur des supporteurs du président du Front populaire ivoirien.

Après un long moment de flottement, Laurent Gbagbo a finalement pu sortir de son véhicule, mais le politicien a

renoncé à se rendre jusqu'à la tribune, placée au centre de la place de Mama, qui avait été installée pour l'occasion. La foule de jeunes gens étaient quasiment incontrôlable. Elle souhaitait toucher, approcher, photographier l'enfant du pays de retour après dix ans d'absence.

Goût de popularité

Laurent Gbagbo ne s'est donc pas attardé sur la place du village. Le « Woody de Mama » a regagné sa résidence toute proche en voiture. Et malgré ce départ rapide, les habitants ont continué de le célébrer en

dansant au son des djembés.

Les émissaires du FPI ont qualifié cette journée d'« historique » et ont salué la « résurrection » de l'ancien président. Avant d'arriver à Mama, Laurent Gbagbo a pu goûter à sa popularité. Il s'est plusieurs fois arrêté sur la route pour saluer les groupes venus l'acclamer. Puis, dans un moment plus intime, il s'est également rendu dans le village de Blouzon, non loin de Mama, pour se recueillir sur la tombe de sa mère, décédée en 2014 lorsqu'il était en détention.



Éditorial

Dépolitiser la lutte contre le COVID-19

La récente offre du leader de l'opposition et l'acceptation ultérieure du président George Manneh Weah concernant la lutte contre la propagation de la COVID-19 sont les bienvenues, ce sont là des gestes susceptibles d'unir les Libériens autour d'une cause nationale, loin des débats politiques qui les divisent.

Dans une récente déclaration, M. Cummings a proposé de travailler avec le gouvernement de quelque manière raisonnable que ce soit pour lutter contre la résurgence d'une autre souche du coronavirus intitulée Delta au Libéria.

Il a indiqué que la Fondation Cummings Africa est disposée à travailler avec les autorités du ministère de la Santé pour identifier les lacunes dans la réponse nationale afin de procéder à des interventions rapides. Le leader politique de l'ANC a laissé entendre qu'il a lancé un SOS à la communauté internationale, en particulier aux États-Unis, à l'Union européenne et à toutes les nations amies du monde, pour que le pays bénéficie d'aide en matière de vaccins, de fournitures médicales, de ventilateurs et d'autres soutiens aux hôpitaux et aux dispensaires communautaires à travers le pays.

Sans perdre de temps, le président Weah a accepté l'offre, se disant prêt à écouter et à travailler avec M. Cummings, sans aucune entrave politique. « Le coronavirus n'est pas une blague... Beaucoup de Libériens meurent chaque jour à cause de cette maladie. Quand il y a une crise nationale de cette nature et de cette ampleur, toutes les bonnes volontés sont les bienvenues, peu importe leur affiliation politique. »

Le président Weah s'est dit convaincu que l'offre de Cummings n'a aucun arrière-goût politique et qu'elle contribuera grandement à renforcer le secteur de la santé et à trouver une solution à la crise sanitaire.

Nous nous félicitons de cet esprit de collaboration, en particulier en période de crise nationale telle que la pandémie sanitaire actuelle qui a déjà coûté la vie à des centaines, voire des milliers de Libériens, et des millions dans le monde.

Nous exhortons les autres leaders politiques de l'opposition d'imiter l'exemple du leader de l'ANC et la réaction positive subséquente du président. Il est temps qu'ils se donnent la main pour bouter le coronavirus hors du Libéria.

Dans une période aussi critique que celle-ci, la nation a besoin de toutes les forces pour sa défense. Les gestes de Weah et de Cummings mettent en exergue clairement un leadership exemplaire qui transcende tout intérêt égoïste et tout ego aveugle.

Le Libéria est notre patrimoine commun. Peu importe le camp auquel on appartient, que l'on soit à l'opposition ou fasse partie de la majorité au pouvoir, il est temps qu'on propose des stratégies et qu'on soutienne de manière tangible la lutte contre cet ennemi commun afin de sauver le navire d'un naufrage, car si cette nation coule ou le peuple périclite, à quoi servira la politique ?

Enfin, le coronavirus est mortel. Il ne choisit pas. Il n'a ni amis ni ennemis spéciaux, mais se déchaîne plutôt, détruisant des âmes précieuses. Sa prochaine victime pourrait être un fonctionnaire actuel ou un politicien aspirant à devenir le prochain président ou nos futurs scientifiques, médecins, éducateurs, ingénieurs, pasteurs et imams ou travailleurs sociaux.

Français

« Pas d'amnistie pour

enfants.

Au sénateur Wessehde dire que le fait d'être poursuivi devant un tribunal ne fait pas de soi nécessairement un suspect coupable, c'est aussi l'opportunité qu'on a pour blanchir son nom.

A l'ancien leader estudiantin et ambassadeur sous le régime de l'ex-présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf de clarifier que la loi qui porte création de la CVR (Commission Vérité et Réconciliation) dit que ne peut bénéficier d'une amnistie selon les termes et conditions d'application seules les personnes qui auront totalement confessé leurs torts et exprimé des remords pour leurs actes.

Selon lui, certains acteurs n'ont manifesté aucun remords lors des audiences thématiques de la CVR en 2007/2008. « Ainsi pour créer un équilibre entre les auteurs et les victimes, la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre est nécessaire », a-t-il dit. Cependant, il semble avoir peu de foi quant à la création de ce tribunal, vu la multiplicité des priorités et la maigreur du budget national pour faire face à ces priorités.

Il a dit que la création d'un tel tribunal de ce genre nécessite un financement énorme qui sera utilisé pour rassembler des preuves, du matériel, de la logistique et embaucher des professionnels.

Il a ainsi demandé aux Libériens de ne pas se laisser gagner par l'émotion et procéder à la création du tribunal sans en avoir les moyens, car les accusés sont couverts par la présomption de l'innocence jusqu'à ce qu'ils soient jugés coupables.

Se prononçant sur le rôle du sénateur du comté de Nimba, Prince Johnson, qui a commandé les rebelles du Front national patriotique indépendant du Libéria pendant la crise, Wesseha demandé à ce dernier de se retirer des discussions entourant la création dudit tribunal.

Le sénateur Johnson a maintes fois soutenu que lui et les chefs de guerre qui ont signé l'Accord de paix bénéficient d'une amnistie et sont donc protégés contre les poursuites.

Pour Wesseh, bien que le sénateur Johnson fasse partie de la direction du Sénat, cela aurait été suffisamment professionnel et aurait donné au Sénat un répit si le sénateur de Nimba s'était retiré lors des discussions sur le tribunal des crimes de guerre.

Il a fait valoir que le fait que le sénateur PYJ ait signé la récente recommandation de la direction du Sénat sur le

rapport de la CVR nuit à l'image du rapport.

« Sa présence et la signature du rapport sapent la crédibilité du rapport. C'est un acteur et un élément clé. Le fait qu'il fasse partie des discussions concernant la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre crée un nuage noir », a déclaré le législateur de River Gee.

A la question de savoir s'il a peur du sénateur Johnson qui a tué le président Samuel Doe en 1990, l'ancien ambassadeur a rappelé qu'il a eu à mener des missions dangereuses lorsqu'il était conseiller de l'ancien président par intérim Amos Sawyer, car il parcourait les lignes de bataille entre les factions belligérantes.

La publication du rapport final de la CVR en 2008 recommande des poursuites contre les acteurs clés, y compris les chefs de guerre qui auraient commis des crimes odieux et des crimes contre l'humanité.

La direction du Sénat s'est dernièrement penchée 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, exigeait 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 21 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 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 ».

COMMENTAIRE

By John B. Taylor

La Fed n'a-t-elle rien appris de ses erreurs ?

STANFORD - Il y a 50 ans, le 22 juin 1971, le président de la Fed (la Réserve fédérale américaine), Arthur Burns, écrivait une lettre au président Nixon. On se souviendra encore longtemps de cette lettre comme d'une aberration. L'inflation était à la hausse, et Burns voulait faire croire à son interlocuteur que la politique monétaire de la Fed n'y était pour rien. La cause en était "la structure de l'économie [qui] avait profondément changé". C'est pourquoi Burns a alors recommandé à Nixon d'adopter "une politique forte en matière de salaires et de prix".

"Je vous ai déjà exposé les grandes lignes d'une politique de ce type : une intervention énergique et ciblée sous le contrôle d'un comité de suivi des salaires et des prix (de préférence par l'intermédiaire de la commission du Cabinet chargée de la politique économique), et en cas d'insuccès (ce qui est maintenant plus probable qu'il y a un an ou deux), de la mise en place - peut-être au plus tard en janvier prochain - d'un gel des salaires et des prix pendant six mois".

Burns était universitaire de renom (il a été le professeur de Milton Friedman) et il avait derrière lui une longue expérience de responsable politique. C'est peut-être pour cela que sa lettre a convaincu Nixon de procéder à un gel des salaires et des prix, suivi de leur contrôle et de directives concernant l'ensemble de l'économie. Pendant un certain temps, les contrôles ont semble-t-il fonctionné et les directives ont été respectées. Cette politique a même connu une certaine popularité durant une courte période. L'inflation a baissé et le gel a été suivi par des contrôles plus stricts, les entreprises étant obligées de demander une autorisation pour modifier les salaires et les prix.

Mais la nature intrusive de cette politique a fini par lasser, car toute augmentation de prix devait être approuvée par la bureaucratie gouvernementale. On s'est vite rendu compte que les contrôles et les interventions de l'Etat aggravaient la situation.

Ignorant son mandat consistant à contenir l'inflation, la Fed a laissé la masse monétaire augmenter de plus en plus vite. Ainsi, le taux de croissance annuel de la masse monétaire M2 (la somme des liquidités, des dépôts et des actifs très liquides) était en moyenne 10 % dans les années 1970, alors qu'il n'était que de 7 % dans les années 1960. Cette situation a aggravé l'impact des chocs pétroliers de la décennie sur les prix, et le taux d'inflation est passé à deux chiffres. Il a dépassé les 12 % à trois reprises (en 1974, en 1979 et 1980), tandis que le taux de chômage faisait un bond de 5,9 % à 9 % entre juin 1971 et 1975.

Les résultats de l'économie américaine ont été très mauvais dans les années 1970, en partie à cause de la politique monétaire mise en œuvre. C'est à cette époque que l'on a inventé le mot "stagflation" pour décrire un étrange mélange d'inflation croissante et de stagnation économique. Comme l'a récemment dit James A. Dorn de l'institut Cato, sous la présidence de

Nixon, "le contrôle de prix a fini par fausser les prix du marché", et on s'en souvient aujourd'hui à juste titre comme un avertissement. "N'oublions pas que la perte de la liberté économique, c'est cher payer pour la promesse creuse de mettre fin à l'inflation en éradiquant les forces du marché" (c'est moi qui souligne).

Choisir la liberté économique, c'est le titre d'un livre que j'ai publié l'année dernière avec George P. Shultz qui est décédé en février à l'âge de 100 ans. Il avait une expérience de plusieurs décennies en tant que diplomate et en tant que responsable de la politique économique. Il était directeur du budget de l'administration Nixon lorsque Burns a rédigé sa fameuse lettre. En annexe de notre livre, nous avons inclus son texte intégral, car cette lettre n'a été découverte que récemment dans les archives de l'Institution Hoover. Sa lecture devrait être obligatoire pour quiconque veut comprendre l'Histoire récente de l'élaboration de la politique économique américaine.

Malgré l'extraordinaire réputation de Burns, sa lettre contenait de très mauvaises recommandations. Elle est la parfaite illustration de ce que les mauvaises idées conduisent à une mauvaise politique, qui à tour conduit à de mauvais résultats économiques. En rejetant la responsabilité de l'inflation sur de supposés défauts structurels qui affecteraient l'ensemble de l'économie, Burns éludait la responsabilité de la Fed, alors qu'elle était clairement responsable de la hausse des prix.

De la même manière, les bonnes idées conduisent à une bonne politique et à de bons résultats économiques. Ainsi que nous l'avons montré Shultz et moi, c'était le cas dans les années 1980. La Fed avait alors décidé de jouer un rôle plus important dans l'économie, ce qui a entraîné un boom économique.

La leçon de cet épisode historique (et de bien d'autres aux USA et ailleurs) devrait être claire. Et même si l'Histoire ne se répète pas, on y trouve souvent des ressemblances. Ainsi aujourd'hui l'inflation augmente, tandis qu'une fois de plus la Fed déclare qu'elle n'y est pour rien. Pour ses responsables, la hausse des prix traduit simplement le retour à la normale après une période d'inflation très faible l'année dernière.

Pire encore, la Fed est encore plus interventionniste maintenant qu'à l'époque de Burns. Son bilan a explosé en raison de ses achats massifs de bons du Trésor et de titres adossés à des prêts immobiliers, entraînant une hausse marquée du taux de croissance de la masse monétaire M2 au cours de l'année dernière. Le taux d'intérêt des fonds fédéraux est bien inférieur à ce qui est souhaitable au vu des règles et des stratégies de politique monétaire connues, notamment celles qui figurent à la page 48 du Rapport de politique monétaire publié par la Fed elle-même en février dernier.

C'est le moment de retenir les leçons des erreurs du passé et faire de la politique monétaire l'outil d'une reprise durable après la pandémie. Mais c'est maintenant qu'il faut agir - bientôt il sera trop tard !

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

CPJ, rights groups call on EU to uphold Burundi Human rights commitments, including press freedom

In this February 3, 2016 photo, policemen and soldiers patrol the streets after a grenade attack of Burundi's capital Bujumbura. CPJ and human rights groups are calling on the EU to uphold human rights benchmarks set in 2016 when the EU suspended direct financial support to the country in the wake of the 2015 political crisis. (Reuters/Jean Pierre Aime Harerimama)

By Tom Gibson/CPJ EU Representative
on June 21, 2021

The Committee to Protect Journalists and other human rights groups on Monday June 21, 2021 called on European Union High Representative Josep Borrell and EU foreign ministers in a letter to uphold benchmarks set in 2016 when the EU suspended direct financial support to the Burundian government over its failure to protect human rights, democratic principles, and the rule of law in the wake of the country's 2015 political crisis.

These benchmarks, according to the Council of the European Union's 2016 decision, included an end to the intimidation of journalists, the prosecution of perpetrators of violence against journalists, and the assurance that journalists are able to work in complete safety in the country.

The EU must now use its leverage to seek guarantees from the authorities that all journalists can operate freely and safely in Burundi, and call for effective investigations into the 2016 disappearance of Iwacu journalist Jean Bigirimana as well as other serious abuses of press freedom, the letter said.

Read the full letter below

Open Letter

The EU Should Honor Its Commitments to Human Rights in Burundi

Dear EU High Representative/Vice-President,
Dear Foreign Ministers of the EU member states,

As the Council of the European Union (EU) and its preparatory bodies review the situation in Burundi and related EU policy, the undersigned organizations wish to express their concern that the EU and some of its member states appear willing to overlook the lack of meaningful human rights progress and widespread impunity for past and ongoing serious human rights violations in the country.

Despite a series of recent one-off gestures by the Burundian government regarding public freedoms, the Council should maintain its position that sustainable and tangible progress regarding the opening of political and civic space and the fight against impunity are necessary to address fundamental human rights concerns in Burundi. The EU should not rely on promises of human rights reforms from the Burundian authorities, and insist instead that they meet concrete benchmarks proving their commitment to ensuring accountability and embarking on a human rights-respecting path.

Ongoing Human Rights Violations and Widespread Impunity

In March 2016, in light of Burundi's failure to respect its obligations under the Cotonou agreement relating to human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law, the EU decided to suspend direct financial support to the Burundian government. This decision was taken in response to killings, torture, enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests of thousands of Burundians, amidst a political crisis around the contested third mandate of late President

Pierre Nkurunziza. The police violently cracked down on protestors, and after a failed coup attempt in May 2015, several radio stations were attacked and forced to close. More than 400,000 people, including most leading civil society activists and independent journalists, fled the country.

The UN Commission of Inquiry on Burundi has stated that it believes crimes against humanity were committed in Burundi since 2015, possibly even during the 2020 election period.

On 25 May 2020, Évariste Ndayishimiye, the ruling party candidate, was declared the winner of the presidential elections, which took place in a context of widespread repression; several opposition members were killed and many arrested. Access to social media was blocked and there were no independent international observers.

During Ndayishimiye's first year in power, there have been some limited improvements. For example, the president pardoned four journalists arrested in 2019, initiated a dialogue with media representatives in Burundi - leading to the lifting of

government has produced a technical roadmap regarding human rights and other reforms, but it is vague and noncommittal and avoids sensitive issues - notably dealing with impunity for the many crimes committed since 2015.

No Sustainable Progress on 2016 Benchmarks

In the annex to its 2016 decision, the Council included a "schedule of commitments", on which it expected specific and concrete progress from the Burundian government before lifting the EU's restrictive measures. The Burundian government has failed to implement reforms in most of these areas, almost all of which remain relevant today:

Ndayishimiye has made efforts to rein in members of the youth league of the ruling party, the Imbonerakure, leading to a reduction in their involvement in human rights abuses in many provinces. However, in other provinces, they continue to perform law enforcement duties - despite having no authority to do so - with the explicit encouragement of government and ruling party officials. Imbonerakure, some of whom are armed, have arrested, ill-treated and killed suspected opponents, sometimes in collaboration with, or with the support of, local government officials, police or intelligence agents. Some of their members have been involved in fighting Burundian armed opposition groups in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as recently as in May 2021.

Despite repeated promises, there has been only a limited reopening of private media stations closed by the government in 2015. Since the EU's 2016 decision, only Radio Bonesha has re-opened, in 2021, after signing a working agreement with the National Communication Council (CNC), the state body that regulates the media. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Voice of America remain suspended since 2018. In 2021, the media landscape in Burundi remains severely restricted. The few independent media outlets that are allowed to operate exercise self-censorship and avoid controversial issues. Journalists are regularly threatened or harassed by government and ruling party officials. There have been no

credible investigations into the 2016 enforced disappearance of Iwacu journalist Jean Bigirimana or other serious human rights violations against journalists.

Independent civil society organizations and human rights defenders are unable to operate freely and safely in Burundi. The suspension of several civil society organizations in 2015 has not been repealed. The human rights defenders who left Burundi for their safety in 2015 and 2016 have been unable to return; their organizations have been closed down or suspended, destroying Burundi's once vibrant human rights movement. Most civil society organizations operating inside Burundi refrain from directly criticizing the government. Human rights defender Germain Rukuki is serving a 32-year prison sentence, and a verdict on his latest appeal is overdue. Nestor Nibitanga, another human rights defender sentenced to five years in prison in 2018, was among those granted a presidential pardon in 2021.



some restrictions - and pardoned more than 5,000 other prisoners (although only around 2,600 had been released by late May).

But many of Ndayishimiye's repeated promises to deliver justice and promote political tolerance remain unfulfilled. The president has appointed ruling party hardliners to key positions, including Gervais Ndirakobuca, the current minister of interior, community development and public security, who is under EU sanctions. Furthermore, while reports of serious human rights violations have decreased, human rights groups continue to document cases of torture, ill-treatment and arbitrary arrests, and unidentified dead bodies are still found in different parts of the country.

Ndayishimiye has shown greater openness than his predecessor towards the EU. In February 2021, the Burundian government and representatives of the EU and its member states in Burundi resumed a political dialogue, on hold since 2016. Foreign minister Albert Shingiro visited Europe in April. The Burundian government has produced a technical roadmap

Lockdown the country

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor
& Winston W. Parley

River Gee County Senator Jonathan Boy Charles Sogbie and Senator Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence, opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) National Chairperson and Grand Bassa County Senator, have called on President George Manneh Weah to lockdown the country in order to contain the rapid spread of the Coronavirus Disease.

In her Facebook post over the weekend, Senator Karnga - Lawrence urged citizens to buy essential food items in preparation for a possible lockdown, stressing that since the newest hit of the virus, there are more deaths in recent times than ever in the past months.

"Prepare your families for a lockdown in a day or two, get food that are not perishable (rice, farina, green plantain, eddoes,

19 is not too far.

According to Sogbie, because of the urgency of the deadly virus, the Senate has accepted the proposal of US\$2 million to be included in the draft national budget for the fight against the virus.

Though the Ministry of Health did not provide details of how the money should be spent, Sogbie noted that the monetary value makes sense, adding that nothing is important than life and the government is under absolute obligation to protect lives and properties.

He continued that though his county, River Gee has not been hit, the virus is conventional and it requires his attention and effort to break the spread of the virus.

"I wrote the plenary of the Liberian Senate requesting for total lockdown of the country, especially counties that are not being hit. Based on the communication, the Ministry of Health was given additional mandate to redesign its

you test people, you isolate people, you treat people and then you protect people, that's when the vaccination comes in," Mr. Piah added.

Mr. Piah who served during former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's administration as Presidential Press Secretary when Ebola struck Liberia, has called on citizens here to take the coronavirus matter in their own hands while the government does the needful so that the virus can be defeated.

"When we defeated Ebola, it was because the people chose life over death; it was the communities that took the lead, that took the charge, even though, guided by their leaders. The same is required here," he said.

Giving an example about America where he is currently based, Mr. Piah recalled that when the Coronavirus started there, the tough process was instituted with the thought that lockdown was the solution.

According to him, many states moved into lockdown, and yet 600,000 people died and 33 million people got infected because "lockdown is not a medical solution."

Piah's caution against a lock down comes at a time when there are mixed views from the public over what should be the measures in the wake of the raging third wave of the coronavirus in Liberia.

Some think schools should be closed, lock down imposed and the military be deployed in addition to the recent anti - Covid - 19 measures instituted by the Ministry of Health here.

According to Mr. Piah, schools should be closed and students evaluated based on their performances from the first semester to determine whether they can be promoted or not, while preparation is being done regarding vaccination and curtailing the current surge ahead of opening the next school year.

However, Mr. Piah argued that the virus is already in the communities, pondering if during a lock down somebody will remain in their home for 24 hours a day and if there won't be movement within the communities that can still further the spread of the virus.

"So those are the things you can do when you don't have the scientific solution which is more testing, isolation, treatment, eventually protection through the vaccination. If you don't have that, you try to find means to do it. But does it require a lockdown to do so? I don't think so," he noted.

Liberia at COVID Level-4

By Jonathan Browne

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lifts Liberia's COVID-19 crisis to Level4, indicating that the West African nation has Very High Level of COVID-19 at the moment.

Accordingly, the CDC issues a travel advisory, cautioning U.S. citizens to avoid travel to Liberia for now.

The advisory posted Monday, June 28, 2021 on the website of the Embassy of the United States near Monrovia says if a U.S. citizen must travel to Liberia, said traveler should get fully vaccinated before coming.

However, the CDC warns that because of the current situation in Liberia, even fully

categorizes severity of the virus into four levels: Level 1: Low, Level 2: Moderate, Level 3: High and Level 4: Very High, respectively.

It did not detail how Liberia moves from the first three levels to Level 4, dubbed as "Very High."

"Travelers should follow recommendations or requirements in Liberia, including wearing a mask and staying 6 feet apart from others."

Liberia, Madagascar and Guinea Bissau are three countries in West Africa, among countries in Asia, Caribbean, Southern and Latin America ranked at Level 4.

Sierra Leone, Guinea, Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Mali, Niger,



sugar, milk, oil, sardines, luncheon meat, butter, cornmeal, oaths) do anything to stay home," she said.

"Let's prevent!! Stop playing politics with deadly virus. The virus does not discriminate, more death news today again we care more about making the right decision than the popular one, lockdown and control the spread," the post indicated.

For his part, Senator Sogbie said the country, especially counties that are not yet hit by the Coronavirus, should be locked down to avoid continuous spread of the virus.

He lamented that there are more deaths in the country, though there is no statistical evidence to link those deaths to the virus. He however said the possibility of those deaths being COVID-

strategies on [how to] combat of the virus. The ministry is looking [into] the concern and soon we expect progress in that direction," he said.

But former Presidential Press Secretary Jerolinmek Matthew Piah, currently residing in the United States, says lockdown is not a medical solution in the fight against coronavirus here, suggesting instead, the need for millions of testing kits, isolation, vaccination of people, providing treatments and reducing crowds at events, among others.

"... Lock down is not a medical solution to a medical crisis. It's a kind of quick fix situation that you envisage, and since people also learn by experience, if I should count on the experience of the U.S., I wouldn't opt well for lock down," Mr. Piah said on Prime FM Monday, 28 June from the U.S.

"What has been scientifically proven since this medical situation is, the real solution is



vaccinated travelers may be at risk for getting and spreading COVID-19 variants.

Liberia's COVID-19 has been identified as the Delta variant, one of the newest strains of the virus found in India and Britain.

Statistics from the National Public Health Institute of Liberia as of June 26, 2021 put total confirmed cases in the country at 3,736; Active Confirmed cases 1342; 120 deaths, total recoveries 2274 and 117,221 laboratory tests conducted, among others.

"Travelers should follow recommendations or requirements in Liberia, including wearing a mask and staying 6 feet apart from others", the advisory reads.

The CDC generally

Senegal and Togo are at Level 1.

Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe of Boni County recently warned in Monrovia that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) may suspend flights from Liberia in the wake of serious resurgence of the corona virus in the country.

Senator Snowe, who chairs the ECOWAS Parliamentary committee on political affairs said the regional body is worried that Liberia has the highest number of infected persons in the region.

"ECOWAS is considering that if you cannot vaccinate your people, they will not travel. Sooner or later, they will ban flights coming from Liberia", he cautioned Monday, June 20, 2021 on a live talk show.

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UN pays permanent disability benefit to wounded AFL Soldier



The United Nations Headquarters based in the United States through the government of Liberia has turned over a check of US\$66, 990 to SSG Jefferson Parpie Titus of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) as Permanent Disability Benefit.

SSG Titus while serving on the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

became one of the victims from a major bomb blast attack at an AFL Base (Super Camp, Timbuktu).

The attack which took place on May 3, 2017, resulted in the death of one Armed Forces of Liberia soldier, leaving seven others badly wounded. SSG Titus now is a wheelchair user.

Presenting the check to SSG Titus, AFL Chief of Staff, Maj/Gen. Prince C. Johnson, III, lauded the government of

Liberia for the engagement with the United Nations in making the soldier's benefits a reality.

The AFL Chief of Staff regretted the permanent disability faced by the soldier as a result of the injury sustained while on mission. He further stressed that, "There is no replacement for life and disability" and expressed gratitude to the soldier for his services rendered to his country and the people of Mali."

In response, SSG Titus expressed joy over the role played by the Ministry of National Defense and the AFL in getting his benefits from the United Nations.

In another development, the Armed Forces of Liberia has bid farewell to the United States of America Defense Attaché to Liberia, Lt. Col. Matthew Alden, following two years of his service in Liberia.

Speaking at the occasion, AFL Chief of Staff, Maj/Gen.

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Unsustainable land use threatens ecosystems and habitats

-Prof.Adepoju

The chair of the Man And the Biosphere Programme International Coordinating Council (MAB-ICC) has said that unsustainable land use practices, teamed with overexploitation of resources and ineffective management of protected areas pose serious threats to the maintenance of both ecosystems and habitats.

Prof. Adeshola Olatunde

Adepoju, who is also director general of the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, said most of the world's ecosystems have been critically degraded with negative impacts on biological diversity and peoples' livelihoods.

He made the disclosure on Monday, June 28, 2021 at the start of a five- day Regional Training Workshop on "Green Economy in Biosphere Reserve Methodology (GEBR) and Operations of Man and Biosphere Committees" organized by the United Nations Educational,



Participants in a group photo

Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Multisectoral Regional Office based in Abuja, Nigeria in collaboration with the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) being held in Monrovia, Liberia.

The workshop brings together participants from Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Professor Adepoju noted the human global population currently stands at 7.8 billion, and predictably, it is expected to

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