



...Your wallet is safe

Withdrawals  
made easy  
and smooth

TipOut whenever you want.

Download Now

Available on  



# The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

VOL.11 NO. 111

TUESDAY, JULY 06, 2021

PRICE LD\$40.00

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON  
 Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005  
**Down Load  
NewDawn  
Android App**

# Senate cancels CBL hearings



Mr. Alexander B. Cummings

# “We must fight together” -Cummings

3G good

Dial \*352#



# 4G better



everywhere you go





# Continental News

## Nigeria gunmen kidnap 140 schoolchildren

**G**unmen in Nigeria have kidnapped at least 140 schoolchildren in the north-west of the country, police say. At least eight people were also abducted from the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Centre in Zaria early on Sunday morning. Two nurses and a 12-month-old child were among those seized, said a hospital worker.

There has been a recent spate of abductions from schools and universities for ransom.

On Monday, reports emerged of another mass kidnapping from a school near Kaduna city, about 80km (50 miles) south-west of Zaria. The mother of a 15-year-old girl who was kidnapped from Bethel Baptist School told the BBC that 140 schoolchildren had been seized by a large group of armed men who arrived on motorbikes and broke down the fence. In a statement, police said gunmen "overpowered the school's security guards and made

their way into the students' hostel where they abducted an unspecified number of students into the forest".

A total of 26 people - including a female teacher - had been rescued, the statement said. A local Christian leader said there were 180 students in the school, only 20 of whom had been accounted for so far. However, he said some of them

may have escaped. Police said gunmen involved in the hospital attack in Zaria, thought to be from criminal groups known locally as "bandits", opened fire on a police station in the city.

While they were engaged in the shootout, another group attacked the hospital.

"The attack on the police station was a distraction

whilst another group attacked the dormitories of the health centre workers," a local resident told AFP news agency.

The group escaped with the victims into a nearby forest. A hospital worker, who asked not to be named, told BBC Hausa that the gunmen had abducted at least 12 people, including three children under the age of three and a teenager. A local government official said troops were stepping up efforts to find the victims.

More than 1,000 students have been taken since December and nine have been killed. More than 200 students are still missing, some of them as young as three.

Authorities say recent attacks on schools in the north-west have been carried out by bandits, a loose term for kidnappers, armed robbers, cattle rustlers and other armed militia operating in the region who are largely motivated by money.

Since the well-publicised abduction in 2014 of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok secondary school by Boko Haram Islamist militants in Borno state, more armed groups have resorted to mass abduction of students. Once again the northern state of

Kaduna finds itself in the eye of Nigeria's kidnapping storm.

These latest attacks are shocking, particularly the hospital one as it involves at least one infant, but this is not the first time a hospital has been targeted. In late April, armed gunmen took two female nurses from a hospital in Kajuru area of Kaduna state. Schools and universities in the state have also been repeatedly targeted by kidnappers since March. The Baptist school attacked on Monday morning is the fourth educational institution that's been stormed by armed gunmen in the state in five months.

State Governor Nasir El Rufai told the BBC that he believes kidnappers have come to Kaduna from other states, because he's been vocal about his decision not to engage with kidnappers in any way.

But now even he has succumbed to pressure from the kidnappers - he recently withdrew his son from a local school where he had enrolled him to promote confidence in public schools. He told the BBC that he'd decided to take his son out to protect other pupils. This latest move will embolden his critics who say his tough stance is counter-productive.

However, kidnappings continue to take place, both in states where governors engage with kidnappers, and in states where they don't. BBC



## Zuma supporters gather to prevent his arrest

**S**upporters of South African ex-President Jacob Zuma have formed what they say is a human shield outside his home to try to prevent his arrest.

On Tuesday, the constitutional court found him guilty of contempt for defying its order to appear before a corruption inquiry. A deadline for his arrest had been set for midnight on

Sunday.

However, the constitutional court later agreed to hear his challenge to the 15-month jail term he was given.

Just how that affects the arrest deadline is unclear.

"[There is] no need for me to go to jail today," Mr Zuma, 79, told reporters outside his home in Nkandla in Kwa-Zulu Natal province on Sunday. "Sending me to jail during the height of a pandemic, at my age, is the

same as sentencing me to death," he added. He said he had been "lambasted with a punitive jail sentence without trial" and that "South Africa is fast sliding back to apartheid rule".

One supporter, Lindokuhle Maphalala, told AFP news agency that if the police chief came to arrest Mr Zuma "he must start with us". "A messy confrontation would've ensued if police dared to arrest me," said Jacob Zuma to hundreds of his supporters who erupted in loud cheers and whistling.

His supporters, some dressed in Zulu traditional outfits and others in ANC T-shirts with his face on them, have been camping outside his home in Nkandla to form a human shield.

The gathering by his supporters is actually illegal under the country's regulations aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19. But there are no police officers in sight to disperse the gathering, leading many to say that the former president

is above the law and that justice is not seen to be done when it comes to powerful politicians.

Mr Zuma has repeatedly told his supporters that he doesn't fear imprisonment, but behind the scenes his legal team is working around the clock to keep him out. The court has said it will consider Mr Zuma's appeal on 12 July.

In the meantime, another appeal against the arrest order is expected to be heard by the high court of KwaZulu-Natal province on Tuesday.

The 79-year-old political veteran was ousted in 2018

after nine years in power, amid corruption allegations. Businessmen were accused of conspiring with politicians to influence the decision-making process.

But Mr Zuma has repeatedly said that he is the victim of a political conspiracy.

The former president testified only once at the inquiry into what has become known as "state capture" but then refused to appear subsequently. In a separate legal matter, Mr Zuma pleaded not guilty last month in a corruption trial involving a \$5bn (£3bn) arms deal from the 1990s. BBC



Mr Zuma says he will not surrender to police



**GOOD LEGACY SOCIAL & ATHLETIC ORGANIZATION SAYS:**

### CORONAVIRUS

**Let's Prevent its spread NOW! Follow the Regulations set by the Health Authorities**



**WASHING YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY**



**MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING**



**WEAR YOUR FACE-MASK**

**HOTLINE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 4455**



# EDITORIAL

## Going from bad to worse

**ALL IS NOT** well in Liberia, as the daily confirmed cases of the corona virus among the population are nearly 200 and death keeps increasing. Funeral homes are overwhelmed by dead bodies, while caskets are in short supply.

**ALREADY, LIBERIA HAS** been placed at Level 4 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States for being a country with very high COVID-19 confirmed cases. The country gradually seems to be at the brink of succumbing to the pandemic, if concerted effort is not taken immediately.

**HEALTH AUTHORITIES IN** the country keep assuring the public that they are up to the task, having announced protocol and preventive measures. However, the reality on the ground with fresh surging cases and deaths point to the contrary. It is a fact that soldiers fighting at the frontline would never give up until the last combatant dies but the people of Liberia don't want to be decapitated or led to the slaughterhouse.

**WE BELIEVE STRONGLY** that rapid testing is the surest way to reverse the current trend than to wait for infected patients to be taken to Star Base for oxygen that is scarcely available. Liberia cannot contain the resurgence of the coronavirus unless massive rapid testing campaign is launched across the entire country.

**IN THIS FIGHT,** we need all hands on deck, including experts that are not presently in government. This is not a fight for the Minister of Health Doctor Wilehmina S. Jallah and her staff at NPHIL or the Incident Management System. All Liberians should join the fight to defeat COVID-19.

**IT IS IN** this light that we welcome the US\$150,000 commitment from the Cummings Africa Foundation towards our health crisis, joining the Government of Liberia to reach out to hospitals and health centers particularly and the citizenry generally.

**AS MR. ALEXANDER B. CUMMINGS,** founder of the Foundation and leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) said last week while announcing the gesture, Liberia is under serious threat right now, and unless we join hands to do our very best for one another, all of us will continue to be at risk, even if we hide ourselves in the homes.

**BESIDES, THOSE LEADING** the fight from the government side should move away from lip-service and demonstrate political will. We demand vigilance at the Roberts International Airport, seaports and land borders to curtailing the resurgence.

**BY DOING SO,** we will get ahead of the curve and erect relevant checkpoints that could halt the spread, particularly in the counties. The health system lacks capacity to respond to any overwhelming situation outside Montserrado County, when even the seat of government itself is seriously challenged.

**LET THIS NOT** be misconstrued that we are being pessimistic here. This is an honest attempt to present the grim reality so that all Liberians would wake up from their slumber, state of denial and face the danger ahead of us as a people. We need to wear our masks properly, observe social distance, wash our hands regularly and avoid mass gathering or crowded places, among others, to halt the spread.

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,  
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,  
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 /  
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

# COMMENTARY

By Kevin Rudd

## The Virus Next Time

**B**RISBANE - As more developed countries begin to feel as though they have made it to the other side of the COVID-19 crisis, two striking realities are coming into view. First, one can clearly see just how vulnerable many developing countries still are to rapidly escalating outbreaks of the type we are witnessing in India. The results of failing to distribute the most effective vaccines equitably and strategically are being laid bare.

Second, with more dangerous and contagious variants continuing to emerge, we do not have the luxury of delaying work toward a new international system for pandemic preparedness and response. We must start that project immediately. And fortunately, the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR), chaired by former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, has just published a blueprint for how to do it.

The question now is whether governments are ready not just to listen but to act. The answer will determine whether we can prevent future epidemics from becoming global catastrophes. I know from my own government's experience during the 2009 swine flu (H1N1) pandemic that it is crucial to confront these crises with immediate, far-reaching, and coordinated action. Thanks to eight months of work by the IPPR, policymakers now have a comprehensive set of recommendations for transforming how we manage pandemic risks.

Chief among the panel's proposals is a call for pandemic preparedness and response to be elevated to the highest level of political leadership through a new Global Health Threats Council, which should be based at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The panel has also proposed an International Financing Facility for Pandemic Preparedness and Response to help share the burden in future global health crises. Either through direct contributions or a kind of assessed contribution, this mechanism would fund both ongoing preparedness and rapid-response measures in low- and middle-income countries.

The IPPR has offered the kind of emphatic, dispassionate, and actionable guidance that governments need and - in this case - have demanded through the World Health Organization. Four years ago, the Independent Commission on Multilateralism (ICM, which I chaired) tried to raise the alarm about the growing

threat of pandemics in its report *Global Pandemics and Global Public Health*. We were aghast at the poor state of the global health architecture at a time when cross-border health crises were becoming more frequent and posing unprecedented risks. Those risks have since materialized in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to issuing a clear warning, the commission's report made a series of bold recommendations to strengthen the multilateral system in the face of potential global health crises. Its proposals for clearer rules for verification and early-warning mechanisms have now been echoed in the IPPR's recommendations, as has its call for a more empowered independent WHO secretariat. We are still waiting for progress on all of these fronts.

We cannot afford to let the IPPR's report fall on the same deaf ears. And yet, that is exactly what seems to be happening. The 74th World Health Assembly just voted to spend six months studying the panel's report before even considering taking any action. Such delays are simply unacceptable.

The COVID-19 crisis has borne out an uncomfortable truth that is emphasized in the IPPR's report: namely, that many of the national and global institutions established to deal with global pandemics are not fit for purpose, or have not been properly activated. From the moment in late 2019 and early 2020 when the existing International Health Regulations failed, the COVID-19 outbreak became a global catastrophe. And since then, our national and global economic responses have been too slow, tepid, and uncoordinated - a failure that the post-2008 G20 architecture was supposed to prevent.

The current crisis could still become much worse before it gets any better. We are already witnessing a breakdown of global supply chains, which will lead to terrible economic, political, and public-health outcomes. We need to get back on track now so that we can fight not only future pandemics but also this one.

The IPPR's report could not be timelier. The G7 summit in Cornwall on June 11-13 is an opportunity to concentrate our efforts with backing from the highest political levels. COVID-19 has been costly for all of us. The ICM's 2017 report anticipated that we would be here one day and identified the solutions we would need to implement. Let us use the IPPR's findings to enact meaningful reforms and show real leadership, so that this pandemic will be the last one to catch us off guard.



## OPINION

By Andrés Velasco

# The Perils of Paradigm Economics

LONDON - “The era of big government is over,” then-US President Bill Clinton proclaimed in 1996. But President Joe Biden’s multi-trillion-dollar spending plans are suggesting precisely the opposite. Behind the politicians stand the policy gurus, eager to put their names on - as the fashionable phrase goes - a new “policy paradigm.”

Paradigm-peddlers have not yet settled on a single label for the post-pandemic era, but frothy ideas abound. Countries should “build back better,” but only after a “great reset.” Economic growth used to be a pretty good thing on its own; these days, it is unmentionable in polite company unless it is “inclusive, equitable, and sustainable.” (I can see why, but must all three adjectives always be strung together?)

True, the pandemic revealed plenty of social and economic weaknesses that governments should have been busy fixing a long time ago. Weak state capacities, grossly insufficient health infrastructure, threadbare social safety nets, and malfunctioning labor markets - the list is long, and it applies to most developing economies and a surprising number of rich countries, too. There is nothing like a crisis to rouse slumbering policymakers and shove aside veto players who impede change.

So, change is in the air, and in many cases it will require a more muscular (though not always larger) state. But does this - and, more importantly, should it - add up to a new paradigm?

Harvard University’s Dani Rodrik was right to argue recently that we should beware of economists bearing policy paradigms. Such frameworks are supposed to organize thinking, but more often than not they substitute for it.

Consider a paradigm that the pandemic is supposed to have killed: neoliberalism. Neoliberal once meant a particular approach to free-market economics. Applying the description to leaders like Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan made some sense. But in current parlance, the term also applies to former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, and the social democrats who have governed Chile for 24 of the last 30 years - in fact, to anyone who thinks markets have some role to play in human affairs.

Through repeated, careless use, neoliberal has now become one of those words that, as George Orwell said, “are strictly meaningless, in the sense that they not only do not point to any discoverable object, but are hardly even expected to do so by the reader.”

But meaningless is not the same as useless. If a speaker at an academic seminar, policy conference, or cocktail party tars someone as a neoliberal, two messages are immediately clear: the speaker is good, and the target is bad, unconcerned with the plight of the downtrodden. Tarring someone with this particular epithet is virtue-signaling par excellence. It marks the speaker as a member of a progressive tribe concerned about the world’s poor.

The right has its own ideological identity markers. In the debate about Obamacare and health insurance in the United States, or about vouchers for school funding anywhere, anyone claiming to support “freedom of choice” is not just making a point, but also sending a signal.

Both freedom and choice have multiple meanings that philosophers have been debating at least since classical Greek times: freedom to or freedom from? Choice to do what? Is someone with little money or education really “free to choose,” as the Nobel laureate economist Milton Friedman used to say? In fact, today’s freedom-of-choice advocates probably do not want to pursue those ancient and endless debates; they are simply signaling their membership in the ideological free-market tribe.

How do such identities come about? In William Golding’s 1954 novel *Lord of the Flies*, middle-class English schoolchildren stranded on a deserted island quickly turn into bloodthirsty monsters who maim and kill. The novel, written in the shadow of World War II, the Korean War, and the threat of impending nuclear holocaust, painted a bleak picture of human nature. Readers could be forgiven for thinking that it was too bleak.

But in the same year that *Lord of the Flies* was published, the social psychologist Muzafer Sherif took a group of 11-year-old boys to a summer camp in Oklahoma. Sherif separated them into two groups - the “Rattlers” and the “Eagles” - and each began to develop songs, rituals, and the markers of a shared identity. Soon enough, they were burning each other’s flags and conducting raids with stone-filled socks as weapons. It was *Lord of the Flies* in an Oklahoma state park.

“[The] experiences shared by people result in a sense of identity differentiating themselves as a unit,” said Sherif, when explaining what he had witnessed. “The mere awareness of other groups within the range of our designs generates a process of comparison between ‘us’ and the others.” Moreover, he said, “This tendency seems to be one of the fundamental facts in the psychology of judgment.”

As the world seeks to ensure recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, simplistic political and economic ideologies will not lead to effective policymaking. Rodrik rightly pines for economic thinking that is un beholden to cliché or to narrow identity politics. As he says, “The right answer to any policy question in economics is, ‘It depends.’” Circumstances matter, and the devil is in the details.

I want the same thing as Rodrik, but you can’t always get what you want. Because nowadays (at least outside Trumpian circles) identities based on race or religion are unacceptable, ideologies have become the last refuge of the identity-seeking and politically savvy scoundrel, and new economic paradigms the weapon of choice.

Slogans such as “No to austerity!” or “Yes to a living wage” fit on a banner and lend themselves to chants. Statements like, “The appropriate policy depends on the price elasticity of factor supplies,” not so much.

In the old joke, a man walks into a psychiatrist’s office and says, “Doctor, my brother’s crazy! He thinks he’s a chicken.” The doctor says, “Why don’t you bring him to me?” And the man replies, “I would, but I need the eggs.”

Political ideologies can be crazy, and those who peddle them often behave like chickens. But how we crave those eggs.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. [www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)

## OP-ED

By Mari Pangestu

# Making Trade Work for Everyone

WASHINGTON, DC - Protectionism is on the rise in many parts of the world, and the COVID-19 pandemic is only partly to blame. This is hardly a new phenomenon. When I was Indonesia’s trade minister a decade ago, trade liberalization certainly did not have broad popular support.

Although lowering or eliminating tariffs usually benefits many producers and consumers, it might endanger the livelihoods of some. Understandably, they loudly opposed such measures. A fuller understanding of the uneven distributional effects of trade - put simply, who gains and who loses, where, and why - is critical to design better supporting policies and to provide governments with the right narrative to allay such concerns.

Aggregate economic data leave no doubt that the rapid increase in global trade over the past 30 years has been a powerful engine of growth and prosperity, dramatically reducing poverty in developing countries. From 1990 to 2017, the share of trade in these countries’ GDP increased from 16% to 30%, helping to cut the proportion of the world’s population living in extreme poverty from 36% to 9%.

But people do not live their lives in the aggregate, and even the most stalwart defenders of trade have come to recognize that the benefits of its expansion in recent decades have not been distributed equally. Although it delivered important overall gains, it also triggered differentiated effects across industries, jobs, and regions. These turned out to be deeper, more concentrated, and longer-lasting than was previously understood.

Policymakers therefore now need to examine more carefully how trade affects people as both consumers and workers - particularly in the context of local labor markets and policy environments, and with a view to the type and duration of any trade shock. A recent World Bank study provides some insights into this issue by examining the distributional impact of trade on wages, employment, and income in a broad range of developing countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, and Sri Lanka.

For example, the study found that average annual wages increased between 2005 and 2016 in Bangladeshi districts exposed to trade. No surprises there. But a little deeper digging reveals a more nuanced picture in which not everyone benefited equally. Average wage increases were substantially higher for men than for women, and five times greater for high-skilled workers than low-skilled ones.

Interestingly, trade helped women more than men in terms of providing opportunities to move into the formal economy. A \$100 increase in exports per worker between 2005 and 2010 led to a 1.5% decrease in the share of unregulated employment for women, compared to a 0.7% decline for men.

These findings for Bangladesh can inform better policies related to labor mobility, equal pay, and programs to upgrade skills - all of which can help to mitigate the uneven effects of trade. Moreover, the study shows that new data and analytical techniques allow us to anticipate the potential local effects of trade measures before they are implemented, and to identify effective accompanying policies to spread the gains from trade more widely.

Consider Sri Lanka. According to the study, lowering the country’s trade barriers would boost its GDP growth and reduce poverty. But trade liberalization would increase wage inequality, with gains likely to be concentrated in urban areas. This underscores the need for complementary policies - such as reducing mobility costs for rural workers and improving the business environment - to ensure a more inclusive outcome.

In general, there are three types of complementary policies that could help to spread the benefits of trade more evenly. First, governments should aim to overhaul discriminatory labor laws, provide a level playing field, and strengthen markets to enable productive parts of the economy to grow. A second priority is to reduce trade costs to improve domestic firms’ export competitiveness. Third, policymakers should speed up labor-market adjustments to enable workers to move to more productive activities.

As a government minister in Indonesia, I regularly reminded my colleagues that my portfolio comprised not only trade but also development. Trade can spur growth, job creation, and poverty reduction, and is thus necessary to sustain the post-pandemic recovery. With the right set of supporting policies to ensure that the gains are widely shared, trade can play a crucial role in building a prosperous economy.

Nowadays, advocates of protectionism increasingly base their arguments on trade’s adverse distributional consequences. But governments must remember that the potential benefits of trade are far greater, provided they can put in place policies that deliver them more equitably.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. [www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)



## OP-ED

## OP-ED

# How can Sustainability Challenges Drive Innovation?

## Oxfam in Liberia Experiments with an Ideas Marketplace

*Oxfam in Liberia*

International development is big business. In 2020, Official Development Assistance alone was valued at over \$160 billion - and that figure doesn't include donations given by individuals, foundations, or corporations.

Often, development aid can be a topic of intense debate. There are definitely a lot of problems with the aid system - it is rooted in part in a colonial or neo-colonial world system which has benefitted Western neoliberal and global capitalist agendas, created dependency and perpetuated social and economic inequalities. Another reason that development aid is so contentious is that aid effectiveness remains a huge problem.

As part of our journey to address this contradiction in the work that we do to fight inequalities and beat poverty, Oxfam has gone through a series of organizational changes - especially over the last five or six years. Oxfam is on a journey from a confederation where power was held by its northern members who funded lifesaving work in developing countries, to a global network of organizations working together with allies both to beat poverty and fight its root causes such as conflict, climate change, and gender and economic inequalities.

In 2019 and early 2020, we began redefining our 10-year new strategic vision that will transform Oxfam to become a key actor and ally to fight inequalities, and unequal power and privilege where it grows. It will help us to make even more impact, ensure safe programming with local actors, and be the best operator we can in responding to humanitarian crises.

We began to rethink where and how Oxfam should work because a rapidly changing world demanded that we change with it. Countries can no longer be neatly divided as either developed or developing. And political power is no longer so concentrated in North America and Europe.

Then, the coronavirus pandemic hit.

Like many charities and businesses, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on Oxfam's finances and ability to fundraise. While the coronavirus crisis means that Oxfam's work is needed now more than ever, we now have less money to pay for it. So, in May last year, Oxfam's Executive Board made the difficult decision was taken to reduce the number of countries in which Oxfam works.

We will gradually be phasing out our physical presence in 18 of our 66 country offices and changing how we work in others. Unfortunately, Liberia is one of the 18 countries where we will be phasing out by the end of March 2022.

The challenge of sustainability is at the forefront now that Oxfam is phasing out of Liberia.

The challenge of sustainability

Some development projects, especially those involving infrastructure, are sometimes made with technology that is hard to understand and materials that aren't locally available or are difficult to repair, resulting in failure over time. Sometimes, the local population is not invested in seeing the project succeed and may even break it down to use or sell the materials.

In other cases, have seen infrastructure and services turned over to be abandoned or allowed to deteriorate where there is no funding to maintain them. We see sometimes that communities may not be interested in maintaining a project because they don't see the direct benefit for themselves or they believe development workers or others in the community will deal with it.

Over the years, we have invested a lot in WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), gender justice, education and active citizenship, and humanitarian interventions. However, the long-term impact of these interventions is unknown.

With so much money invested in development projects, we must think about ways to do development differently. This includes promoting a localization agenda through social enterprise and domestic resource mobilization.

We at Oxfam are proud of the things we've accomplished and we don't want to see the program outcomes to disappear with the program. So, in this final year, as we work with our partners to try to improve sustainability, we also initiated an innovative process to challenge informal groups to come up with an idea and integrate a means to sustain the effort in the absence of

established to review the business plans and the pitches. The judges scored the groups on the basis of 1) Alignment with Oxfam vision for a just world free from poverty; 2) Innovation or ingenuity (whether the approach was new or exciting in some way, interesting or exciting); 3) The 'team' (whether the group has the right competencies or connections); 4) Viability (whether it is concrete and realistic enough to test in 5-6 months); and 5) Sustainability (whether mechanisms are built into the plan, such as income generation or social enterprise, renewable energy, local ownership, etc.)

On the basis of the aggregated scores, Oxfam awarded seed funding to three groups in June. Impact X will establish a co-working and capacity development hub for community based organizations in Bong County that will run as a social enterprise. Similar to iCampus's own model, the incubator lab will offer a modern co-working space, and support organizational strengthening through event management, hall catering services. Impact Initiative will establish a campus hub piloted in a school in rural Montserrado; they will focus on critical literacy and information technology extracurricular programs. And Action Against SGBV will sell mosquito killer lamps and simultaneously carry out a campaign to shed light on SGBV issues.

Meanwhile, Hanson Blayonsaid "We firstly extend gratitude to Oxfam Liberia and their supported partner iCampus/Accountability Lab for the opportunities to be selected as one of the teams receiving the seed funding from Danida.

He continues, "Working as a team from the ideation workshop with different perspectives, levels of educations, and institutional belief was challenging but collectively we were able to brainstorm and come up with something amazing. We believe our project "I-impact initiative" will prepare emerging leaders to be an innovative and productive citizens."

Now the challenge really begins - the groups will have to further refine their ideas to be more concrete and better integrate sustainability mechanisms. The process is as much a learning one as an innovative one. We are learning and adapting the approach as we go to respond to existing and changing realities in the context, with the groups and otherwise.

These groups will continue to be mentored and monitored by iCampus with support from Oxfam over the next few months while they test their ideas. In November, we will organize an external pitch event where the groups will present their projects - and hopefully their proof of concept for sustaining them - to donors, philanthropists, businesspeople and others to gain future support that will help propel the groups forward.

We hope that the groups will meet this challenge of sustainability and perhaps, down the road, even find a way to scale up largely independent of donor funds, in support of Oxfam's localization agenda. But, even in the face of frustrations and failures, we hope to build experience and knowledge about possibilities for exit to be used elsewhere.

SUPPLEMENT



donor funds. We know there is no shortage of diverse and creative Liberians who are up to this task.

The Innovate, Develop, Empower & Act for Sustainability (IDEAS) Marketplace is a process that Oxfam in Liberia and Oxfam IBIS (Denmark) have embarked on with funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark - Danida, and in partnership with iCampus / Accountability Lab Liberia.

Three major steps in this process have just ended. In April, a three days ideation workshop organized by iCampus brought together students, entrepreneurs, development workers, and business organizations in a space to brainstorm and develop innovative and sustainable ideas and solutions around specific issues in Liberia; education, sexual and gender-based violence, and capacity development for youth and women-led community-based organizations (CBOs). The groups - who were created at the workshop - had an engaged discussion about social entrepreneurship and innovation towards finding sustainable solutions to some of Liberia's development problems.

Then, the iCampus team provided mentorship and coaching for the groups to get their business plans together. In May, an independent panel of judges was



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## I take Liberia-France relationship seriously -Pres. Weah

President George Weah expresses delight for Liberia-France relations, saying he is exceedingly glad that Liberia is feeling impact of France's

donation which comes on the back of my meeting with my friend and brother, President Macron. Let me also emphasize that I take Liberia-France relationship very seriously," the Executive Mansion quotes President Weah as saying.

The Ambassador of France to Liberia formally presented the consignment to President Weah

to Liberia, mainly as the country battles the resurgence of the virus.

The President particularly stresses that he is not surprised by the interventions France continues to make to his government's development drive, considering what France did when he first visited Paris few weeks into his Presidency.

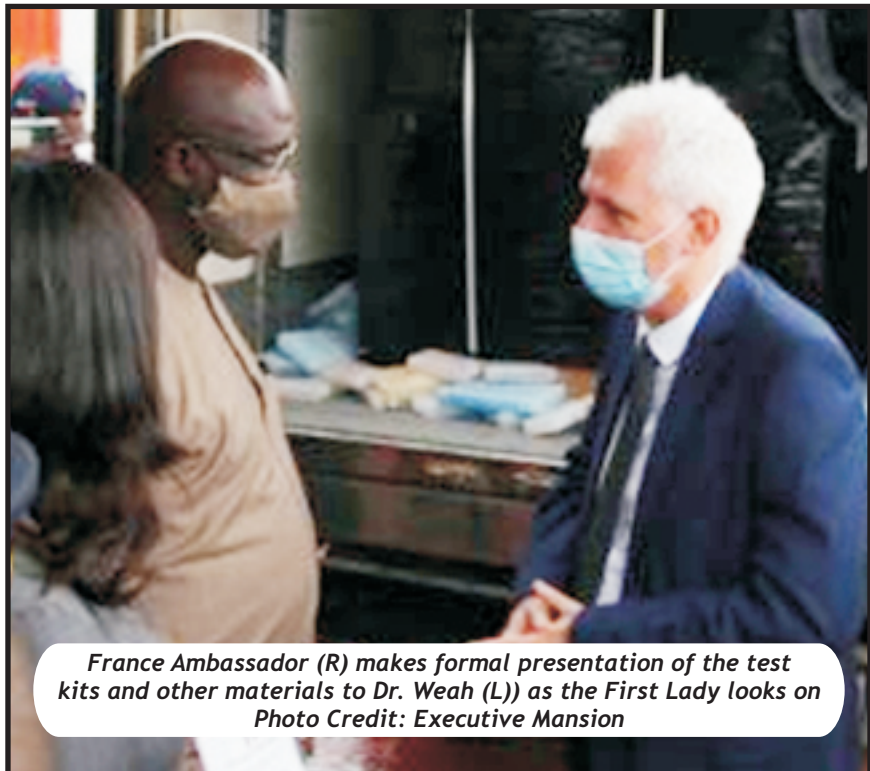
According to the Executive Mansion, President Weah applauded the French Government's Covid-19 Emergency Humanitarian Aid to Liberia, promising that the donation will be utilized properly to fight the raging pandemic.

The release says the donation will go a long way in decongesting the national Reference Laboratory which conducts the PCR tests.

The Liberian leader assured the French government and people of Liberia's unflinching commitment in ensuring that the relationship between the two countries is deeply harnessed from time to time.

The President was met on arrival at the RIA by a horde of government officials led by then acting Chair of the Cabinet, Samuel D. Tweah, who is Minister of Finance and Development Planning.

President Weah on Monday, June 28, 2021 departed the country for Paris, France where he joined other world



France Ambassador (R) makes formal presentation of the test kits and other materials to Dr. Weah (L) as the First Lady looks on  
Photo Credit: Executive Mansion

presence in the country, evidenced by the donation 56,000 rapid antigenic tests and 40SIRIS3 Transport Respirators to help in the Covid-19 fight.

"I want to thank the government and people of France for this wonderful

Saturday, July 3, 2021 upon the President arrival from Paris, France where he attended the Generation Equality Forum along with other world leaders.

President Weah expressed gratitude to the Government of France for its continuous support

## Women activists underscore significance of women's involvement in peace solutions

Women activists have underscored the significance of women participation in peace solution as the counting down to the Gender Equality Forum 2021 draws down.

Ahead of the forum, a cross-section panellist participating in a webinar titled "Sharing the Road to Peace: Exploring Shared Priorities and Collaboration Across Region," calls for genuine progress on women's peace and security agenda.

The Northern Ireland Women European Platform (NIWEP) and the Global Network of Women Peace Builders (GNWP) hosted the webinar. It explored what peace means to women in post-conflict regions, emphasizing how similar themes feature different contexts and cultural structures.

It also featured how sharing information, learning and collaboration across



regions can help build the Women Peace and Security (WPS) agenda for the 2020s.

Panel discussants included Cora Weiss, President of The Hague Peace Appeal, lifelong peace activist and International Advisory Council member, Global

Network of Women Peacebuilders; Prof. Aisling Swaine, University College Dublin; Agnieszka Fal-Dutra Santos, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, Yah Parwon, a Liberian feminist and Advocacy Lead at Medica

## Kemayah appointed co-chair on high-level task force on halving global violence

Liberia's Foreign Minister Dee-Mawell Saah Kemayah has been appointed co-chair on the high-level taskforce on halving global violence.

Others appointed are Madam Lindiwe Zulu, Minister of Social Development of South Africa; Madam Patricia Danzi, Director General of Swiss Agency for Development

German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO).

Delivering his acceptance speech during the First Meeting of the High-Level Task Force on Halving Global Violence, Minister Kemayah expressed delight to be a part of this global movement with the overarching goal of halving global violence by 2030; and more so; extend



and Cooperation, Switzerland; and Madam Fiorella Salazar Rojas, Minister of Justice and Peace, Costa Rica.

The appointments were made by the Pathfinders, in collaboration with Wilton Park, and with the support of the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), and the

thanks and appreciation for his preferment to serve as Co-Chair of this global High-Level Task Force on Halving Global Violence.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, Minister Kemayah said the impact of violence cannot be overly emphasized, noting that violence threatens social and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

**WWW** **Advertise Here!**  
**Subscribe to our website**  
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

Liberia and Adele Kibasumba, President of Mahoro Peace Association and Jimbere Fund.

Adele Kibasumba, an activist and President of Mahoro Peace Association from DR Congo, expressed hope that women would not have to hold mass sit-ins to be heard in the next ten to twenty years. But their involvement should be an approach for governments or communities to accept that women bring a different approach that is non-violent and is saving lives.

"That is my wish, and it's

not just the government - also the community should feel that way. Before male counterparts start bickering among themselves or fighting among themselves, they should involve women," she added.

As an approach to peace, women should be the new normal instead of using it as the last means, Kibasumba concluded.

Agnieszka Fal-Dutra Santos, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, also noted that the women's agenda is still underfunded.



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Liberia's COVID-19 Trajectory: Experts' Advice on How to Halt the Outbreak

By: Sara Beysolow Nyanti, MPA; Tolbert Nyenswah, LLB, MPH; Dougbeh Chris Nyan, MD; and Mardia Stone, MD, MPH

**F**ighting the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic: Employing lessons from the Ebola Virus Disease response.

This is a summary of a full paper with recommendations that will be presented to the Government of Liberia.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by the World Health Organization (WHO), there are over 183 million COVID-19 confirmed cases, and a staggering 4 million deaths worldwide. To date, this global COVID-19 death toll almost totals the entire population of Liberia.

The Global North (a specific reference to countries in Europe and North America) is making progress in vaccinating its

deaths (NPHIL daily situation reports). The cases and deaths in 2 months are more than what we experienced in over a year.

The identification of COVID-19 cases has primarily been conducted using reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), commonly referred to as "PCR." Availability of testing has been very minimal across the country. Even where testing has been conducted, the results are alarming. Test positivity rates are now at a record high in Liberia at over 20 to 25% (NPHIL/MOH) from May to June 2021. Moreover, a test positivity rate above 5% to 10%, is deemed as an outbreak that is out of control (WHO).

Voluntary testing has not been a service that Liberians have enjoyed like others around the world. Testing for the most part has been largely for travel at cost. However, voluntary

Vaccination campaigns are an important strategy implemented during an epidemic. However, vaccination is one of the major challenges with COVID-19. Around 77% of COVID vaccines being produced have already been bought by only 10 countries in the Global North (WHO). So where does Liberia stand with vaccines? Liberia has only relied on donations of vaccines from COVAX which has allocated 384,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Of this allocation, 96,000 doses were received in March 2021. So far, 85,132 people (18,921 health workers and 66,211 others) have received the first dose of the vaccine, according to the Ministry of Health. In addition, 6,439 people have received the second dose of the vaccines. However, this has largely been in Montserrado country. What of the other 14 counties? We do not have sufficient vaccines for the population, and even with what Liberia has received, management of the vaccines has not been optimal. Countries around the world are now procuring vaccines and are not relying on donations. Liberia needs to vaccinate at least 3.5 million people. Donations will never be enough for the entire country. Countries procuring now are expecting vaccines in quarters 1 and 2 of 2022. When will Liberia enter this global procurement cue?

There is no substitute for political leadership and strategic management in any outbreak response. The 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak in Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Nigeria taught that very well. Liberia has been down this road before and has gained the knowledge and skills to manage epidemics. By establishing the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) and the emergency operation centers in all 15 counties, as well as training field epidemiologists for community-based events surveillance, the government resolved to build a more resilient health system, capable of responding to public health emergencies such as COVID-19. That system plus the over 2,000 personnel trained in various aspects of public health during and after the 2014 Ebola epidemic should be mobilized.

In the recent weeks of the COVID third wave in Liberia, scores of Liberians have died from what has been probably

## Kemayah appointed

Cont'd from page 6

economic progress; wrecks political and social structures; undermines democracy; and regrettably; leads to the loss of lives globally.

Liberian Foreign Minister commended the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies; Wilton Park; the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom; the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC); and the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO); for the outstanding role and leadership they are providing in driving the movement to halve global violence.

Accordingly, Minister Kemayah mentioned that he is pleased to participate in the inaugural meeting of the Task Force; and look forward to working with other Co-Chairs and members of the Task Force for the attainment of the mandate.

He said when he received the invitation extended to him to serve as Co-chair on the High level Task Force; comprising of global eminent personalities; he responded in the affirmative; as a further manifestation of the unwavering commitment towards engendering peaceful, just and inclusive societies in general; and in particular, concerted efforts; aimed at reducing all forms of violence.

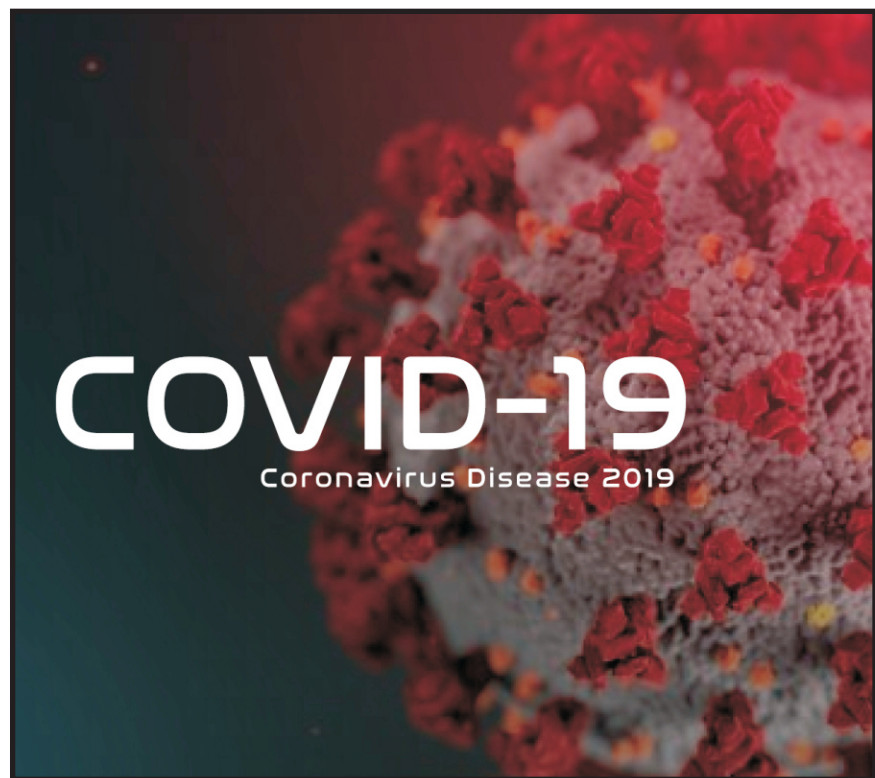
"Indubitably; violent conflicts are some of the most brutal and devastating forms of violence. Liberia has had its share of the devastating effects; and has taken significant strides; aimed at

ending fragility and addressing the root causes of conflict; decreasing violent tendencies; fostering social cohesion and reconciliation; sustaining peace and improving overall national security", Minister Kemayah said.

Minister Kemayah stated that the Government of Liberia, under President Weah continues to work with communities and partners; in addressing the drivers of violence; including: exclusion and marginalization; gender and sexual based violence through the implementation of social protection interventions; aimed at decreasing economic inequalities; decrease regional disparities; as well as, to sustain the gains that have been made.

The key step in this effort for Pathfinders is to forge a high-ambition platform that inspires political leadership, recruits champions, and drives national and local action towards an equally ambitious goal of halving global violence by 2030.

This platform was launched at the Peace One Day event in September 2020. Pathfinders are currently building a multi-stakeholder coalition of political and civil society leaders, policy influencers and renowned experts, and activists and community organizers who will act as champions of Halving Global Violence, and be key advocates for evidence-based solutions, innovative partnerships and new ways of financing to achieve the target of worldwide 50% violence reduction. -Press release



populations, while the Global South (countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Oceania, often referred to as 'least developed' or 'developing') is disproportionately affected. With more fragile health systems, sub-Saharan Africa will very likely become home to the next COVID-19 hotspots.

In Liberia it is presumed that the situation is not as bad as it is in some other countries. Unfortunately, this perception may be misleading. In a little over a year (March 2020 to April 2021), Liberia recorded 2099 confirmed cases, with 85 confirmed deaths. However, in May to June 2021 alone, Liberia recorded 2205 cases and 44 confirmed

testing for COVID-19 is now being offered to those who are symptomatic and require clinical confirmation. Unfortunately, even when tests are conducted, those who get tested sometimes do not receive their test results, have no follow up, and their contacts are not traced.

Beyond testing, countries that have been successful in managing COVID-19 disseminate socially and culturally appropriate public health awareness messages and ensure engagement with communities. They actively trace those who have been exposed to the virus and follow available scientific data and experiences of other public health emergencies. Cross-border movements of populations are controlled, as well as crowds and gatherings in public spaces (schools included),

**GOOD LEGACY SOCIAL & ATHLETIC ORGANIZATION SAYS:**

**Let's Prevent the spread of CORONAVIRUS NOW!**

**By Following the Health Regulations**

- WASHING YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY**
- MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING**
- WEAR YOUR FACE-MASK**

**HOTLINE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 4455**

inaccurately diagnosed as malaria, typhoid, kidney failure and stomach ulcers, due to the lack of differential diagnostic capabilities in infectious diseases. Most are dying without ever being tested. Where testing is conducted, results are very rarely available on time. Anecdotal evidence suggests that waiting time for voluntary testing for COVID-19 is over 1-2 weeks in many instances. Some do not get results until after they have recovered. Nationwide testing, timely

results and contact tracing are non-negotiables for dealing with COVID-19; and the private sector is needed.

Worst of all, misconception, misinformation, and incorrect information continue to pervade the population. Average Liberians still doubt the existence of COVID-19 or its presence in the country. Unlike Ebola, COVID-19 positive patients can be asymptomatic. This is an unfamiliar perspective in a country with high illiteracy and poverty rates.



# Français

## Le Libéria impose une amende de 1 500 \$ US contre la violation des mesures

Les autorités libériennes ont annoncé différentes catégories d'amendes en cas de violation des mesures contre le coronavirus. Il s'agit de 1 500 \$ US pour les entreprises et de 1 000 \$ LD pour les individus qui se rendront coupables de violations des mesures préventives du ministère de la santé.

Le règlement a été rendu

public par les autorités représentant le ministère de la Santé, la Police nationale du Libéria (LNP) et la Monrovia City Corporation lors d'une conférence de presse ce week-end.

L'on assiste ainsi à un alourdissement de l'amende de 200 USD précédemment annoncés contre les entreprises.

L'inspecteur général de la Police nationale du Libéria (LNP), le colonel Patrick T.

Sudue, a déclaré que la nouvelle amende n'a rien à voir avec l'idée selon laquelle le gouvernement veut extorquer de l'argent à son peuple. C'est plutôt une mesure dissuasive contre les réfractaires. C'est pour aussi montrer combien le gouvernement est au sérieux en ce qui concerne l'application

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## La discrète rencontre entre le président français Macron et son homologue tchadien Mahamat Déby

C'est la deuxième rencontre entre les deux hommes, la première à l'Élysée. Mahamat Idriss Déby est à Paris et il a été reçu ce lundi 5 juillet 2021 au matin par le président français Emmanuel Macron. Un entretien pour préparer le prochain sommet du G5 Sahel qui s'est fait en toute discrétion.

Une visite à huis clos où la presse n'a pas été autorisée à accéder ce lundi matin à la cour de l'Élysée. Rien n'a filtré sur cet entretien, le palais présidentiel annonce

juste la diffusion prochaine d'un communiqué conjoint.

Pourquoi une telle discrétion ? On sait que la relation entre Paris et Ndjamena a fait couler beaucoup d'encre ces dernières semaines. En cause notamment, cette petite phrase prononcée par Emmanuel Macron le 23 avril dernier aux obsèques d'Idriss Déby : « La France ne laissera jamais personne, ni aujourd'hui, ni demain, remettre en cause la stabilité et l'intégrité du Tchad. » Une petite phrase perçue comme un soutien voire une sorte d'adoubement au fils

d'Idriss Déby.

Face aux critiques et aux manifestations anti-françaises, Emmanuel Macron sera contraint quatre jours plus tard de faire cette mise au point : « Je suis pour une transition pacifique, démocratique, inclusive, je ne suis pas pour un plan de succession. » Le président français a toujours plaidé pour que la transition n'excède pas les 18 mois.

La politique intérieure tchadienne, avec les préparatifs du dialogue national inclusif et à terme les prochaines élections, il en a certainement été question ce matin entre les deux hommes, mais l'objet de cette rencontre, c'était surtout la préparation du prochain sommet G5 Sahel. Un sommet qui pourrait, selon nos informations, se tenir très rapidement, peut-être même dès ce vendredi 9 juillet à en croire des sources tchadienne et française.

L'occasion sans doute pour Paris de préciser les contours de son engagement futur dans la région un mois après l'annonce de la fin progressive de l'opération Barkhane. Ce qui est d'ores et

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### COVID-19 : nous allons visiblement de mal en pis ?

Tout va mal au Libéria, car chaque jour plus de 200 nouveaux cas sont enregistrés à un niveau de la population et les décès ne cessent d'augmenter.

Les morgues privées sont submergées de cadavres, tandis que les cercueils se font rares. Déjà, le Centre américain de contrôle des maladies et de Prévention a vu à la hausse le niveau d'alerte, en le situant à 4, le niveau le plus élevé. Le pays risque de succomber progressivement à la pandémie, si des efforts concertés ne sont pas entrepris immédiatement.

Les autorités sanitaires du pays continuent de faire croire au public qu'elles sont à la hauteur de la tâche, après avoir annoncé des mesures préventives. Cependant, la réalité sur le terrain montre le contraire, vu que de nouveaux cas et les décès se comptent par des centaines. Il est vrai que les combattants n'abandonneront jamais jusqu'à la mort du dernier combattant, mais le peuple libérien ne veut pas être décapité ou conduit à l'abattoir.

Nous croyons fermement que les tests rapides sont le moyen le plus sûr pour inverser la tendance actuelle, ce n'est pas le fait d'attendre que les patients infectés soient emmenés à Star Base pour de l'oxygène qui est à peine disponible. Le Libéria ne peut contenir la résurgence du coronavirus à moins qu'une campagne massive de tests rapides ne soit lancée dans tout le pays.

Dans ce combat, nous avons besoin de toutes les forces, y compris les experts qui ne font pas actuellement partie du gouvernement. Le combat n'appartient pas qu'à la ministre de la Santé, le docteur Wilehmina S. Jallah, et son équipe ou au système de gestion des incidents. Tous les Libériens doivent se joindre au combat pour vaincre le COVID-19.

C'est dans cette optique que nous nous félicitons de l'engagement de 150 000 USD de la Fondation Cummings Africa envers notre crise sanitaire, rejoignant le gouvernement du Libéria pour atteindre les hôpitaux et les centres de santé en particulier et les citoyens en général.

Comme M. Alexander B. Cummings, fondateur de la Fondation et leader politique de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC) l'a déclaré la semaine dernière lors de l'annonce de ce geste, le Libéria est actuellement gravement menacé. Si nous ne nous unissons pas les mains pour faire de notre mieux pour les uns les autres, nous continuerons tous à être en danger, même si nous nous cachons dans les maisons.

En outre, ceux qui mènent le combat du côté du gouvernement devraient faire preuve de volonté politique. Nous exigeons la vigilance à l'aéroport international Roberts, aux ports maritimes et aux frontières terrestres pour limiter la résurgence.

Ce faisant, il faut que nous érigeons des points de contrôle pertinents qui pourraient stopper la propagation, en particulier dans les comtés. Le système de santé n'a pas la capacité de répondre à toute situation accablante en dehors du comté de Montserrado, alors que même le siège du gouvernement lui-même est sérieusement remis en question.

Qu'on ne se méprenne pas sur le fait que nous sommes ici pessimistes. Il s'agit d'une tentative honnête de présenter la sombre réalité afin que tous les Libériens se réveillent de leur sommeil, de leur état de déni et fassent face au danger qui nous attend en tant que peuple. Nous devons porter nos masques correctement, respecter la distance sociale, nous laver les mains régulièrement et éviter les rassemblements de masse ou les endroits surpeuplés, entre autres, pour arrêter la propagation.



# Français

## Le Libéria impose une amende de 1500

desmesures sanitaires.

Le colonel Sudue a expliqué qu'ils le font non pas dans l'intention d'opprimer le peuple ou de lui extorquer de l'argent, mais pour s'assurer que les citoyens respectent toutes les mesures annoncées ici.

Selon Sudue, les gens ont pris pour acquis l'amende annoncée précédemment de 200 \$ US et ils ont violé les mesures en refusant de fermer leurs entreprises avant 21 heures.

Il a ajouté que certains se moquaient même du fait qu'ils pouvaient payer jusqu'à 500 \$ US d'amende au lieu de 200 \$ US, incitant ainsi les autorités à augmenter l'amende contre les entreprises et les particuliers. « S'il est vrai que les choses sont difficiles, ces difficultés ne nous feront pas compromettre la sécurité de notre peuple », a déclaré le colonel Sudue.

S'exprimant également lors de la conférence de presse, le maire de la ville de Monrovia Jefferson T. Kojee a déclaré que les nouvelles amendes de 1 500 \$ US contre les entreprises et de 1 000 \$ LD contre les individus, visent à forcer les citoyens, en particulier les propriétaires d'entreprises, à se conformer à toutes les mesures sanitaires instituées par le gouvernement.

« Ce montant n'est pas destiné à générer de l'argent pour le gouvernement ou à poursuivre notre peuple, mais il est destiné à assurer la sécurité de nos citoyens », a expliqué M. Kojee.

Selon Kojee, plusieurs entreprises ont déjà été

condamnées à une amende. Il a mis en garde que toute entreprise qui se rendra trois fois coupable de violation des mesures sanitaires sera automatiquement fermée.

Il a également indiqué que les maisons et autres lieux sont tenus d'avoir des seaux d'eau contenant des désinfectants pour le lavage des mains à tout moment, tout en exprimant l'espoir que cela contribuera à réduire le nombre de cas.

Il a par ailleurs fait savoir que le marché Gobachevde Paynesville et la Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) collaboreraient avec les autorités municipales pour travailler tous les jours entre 19 heures et 4 heures du matin pour assainir les lieux.

Selon Kojee, Paynesville et Monrovia peuvent être assurés d'un soutien continu, ajoutant qu'avec l'aide du groupe de travail nouvellement institué et dirigé par M. Edwin Tisdell, directeur général de l'embellissement de la ville de Monrovia, ils commenceront de couper les herbes au coin des rues. « Nous espérons que toutes ces mesures se dérouleront dans une très bonne ambiance. Nous appelons le public à travailler de manière adéquate avec notre équipe pour le bien de tous afin qu'ensemble, nous puissions éliminer le COVID-19 de Monrovia et de notre pays », a poursuivi Kojee.

Il a déclaré qu'à l'avenir, chaque citoyen devrait porter son masque à tout moment en public. Le sénateur du comté de Sinoe, J. Milton Teahjay, le maire de la ville de Paynesville et d'autres parties prenantes étaient également présents à la conférence de presse.

## La discrète rencontre entre le président français

déjà acté, c'est la venue ce jour-là, le 9 juillet donc, de Mohamed Bazoum à l'Élysée. Le président nigérien sera

reçu par son homologue français, une information confirmée ce midi par la présidence nigérienne.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Kevin Rudd

## Le prochain virus

**B**RISBANE - Au moment où les pays développés commencent à croire qu'ils ont traversé le pire de la crise de la COVID-19, deux réalités frappantes se font sentir. Il semble tout d'abord évident à quel point la plupart des pays en développement subissent l'escalade des épidémies du type que l'on constate en Inde. Les conséquences d'une distribution des vaccins les plus efficaces de manière équitable et stratégique sont mises à nu.

Deuxièmement, avec des variants du virus plus virulents et contagieux qui se déclarent encore, nous n'avons pas le luxe de retarder les travaux visant à établir un nouveau système international de préparation et de riposte aux pandémies. Nous devons amorcer ce projet dès maintenant. Heureusement, le Groupe indépendant sur la préparation et la riposte aux pandémies (GIPR), coprésidé par l'ex-première ministre de la Nouvelle-Zélande Helen Clark et par une ancienne présidente du Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, vient de publier un plan décrivant en détail la marche à suivre.

La question est maintenant de savoir si les autorités nationales sont prêtes à écouter, mais également à agir. La réponse déterminera si l'on peut empêcher les épidémies futures de se transformer en catastrophes mondiales. Je sais de l'expérience de mon propre gouvernement durant la pandémie de la grippe porcine (H1N1) de 2009 qu'il est crucial de contrer ces crises par des interventions immédiates, coordonnées à grande échelle. Grâce à huit mois de travaux par le GIPR, les responsables politiques sont maintenant dotés d'un ensemble complet de recommandations pour transformer le mode de gestion des risques de pandémie.

Au cœur des propositions du groupe, on retrouve un appel pour un degré plus élevé de préparation et de riposte aux pandémies. L'appel a été lancé aux plus hauts échelons des directions politiques par l'entremise de la création d'un nouveau conseil de sécurité mondial sur les menaces sanitaires, qui serait sis au siège des Nations unies à New York. Le groupe a également proposé une Facilité internationale de financement (FIF) pour la vaccination qui contribuerait à répartir la charge des crises sanitaires mondiales futures. Que ce soit par des contributions directes ou par une sorte de contribution obligatoire, ce mécanisme financerait autant les mesures préparatrices que les interventions d'urgence dans les pays à faible et moyen revenu.

Le GIPR a offert la sorte d'encadrement formel, impartial et réalisable dont les autorités nationales ont besoin et — dans ce cas — qui l'ont réclamé auprès de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé. Il y a quatre ans, la Commission indépendante sur le multilatéralisme (ICM), dont j'étais le président) a tenté de sonner l'alarme sur la menace grandissante des pandémies dans son rapport Global Pandemics and Global Public

Health (Pandémies et santé publique mondiale). Les membres de la commission étaient atterrés du piètre état de l'architecture de la santé mondiale à une époque où les crises sanitaires transfrontalières devenaient plus fréquentes et présentaient des risques sans précédent. Ces risques se sont depuis matérialisés sous la forme de la pandémie de la COVID-19.

Outre cet avertissement clair, le rapport de la commission a proposé une série de recommandations audacieuses visant à consolider le système multilatéral devant d'éventuelles crises sanitaires mondiales. Ses propositions pour des règles plus transparentes de vérification et des mécanismes d'alerte rapides se retrouvent dans les recommandations du GIPR, comme son appel pour un secrétariat de l'OMS autonome et doté de plus de moyens. Nous attendons toujours des progrès sur tous ces fronts.

Nous ne pouvons nous permettre de laisser le rapport du GIPR tomber lui aussi dans l'oubli. Et pourtant, c'est exactement ce qui semble se passer. La 74e Assemblée de la santé mondiale vient de voter un délai de six mois pour étudier le rapport du groupe avant même d'envisager une intervention. De tels retards sont simplement inacceptables.

La crise de la COVID-19 a confirmé la vérité dérangeante ressortant du rapport du GIPR, à savoir que la plupart des institutions nationales et internationales créées pour lutter contre les pandémies ne suffisent plus à la tâche, ou dont les fondements étaient inadéquats. Dès la fin de 2019 et au début de 2020 lorsque les réglementations sanitaires internationales ont échoué, l'épidémie de la COVID-19 est devenue une catastrophe mondiale. Et depuis lors, les mesures économiques nationales et internationales se sont avérées trop lentes, mitigées et non coordonnées — une lacune que l'architecture du G20 postérieure à la crise de 2008 était censée éviter.

La crise actuelle pourrait s'empirer, avant que la situation ne s'améliore. On constate déjà un effondrement des chaînes logistiques mondiales, ce qui pourrait avoir de terribles conséquences économiques, politiques et sanitaires. Il faut rectifier le tir pour pouvoir combattre non seulement des pandémies futures, mais également celle qui sévit en ce moment.

Le rapport du GIPR ne pouvait mieux tomber. Le sommet du G7 en Cornouailles du 11 au 13 juin est une occasion de concentrer nos efforts avec l'appui des échelons politiques les plus élevés. La COVID-19 a été très coûteuse pour nous tous. Le rapport de l'ICM de 2017 a anticipé ce qui arriverait un jour et a recensé les solutions que nous aurions besoin de mettre en œuvre. Il est primordial de s'appuyer sur les résultats du GIPR pour adopter des réformes concrètes et faire preuve d'un dynamisme réel, de sorte que cette pandémie soit la dernière à nous avoir pris au dépourvu.

Read the  
NewDawn everyday



Advertise with us!



## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Building partnerships for Restoring Ecosystems in Liberia

## —our survival and prosperity depend on nature

On World Environment Day (5 June), the UN Secretary-General launched the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) to prevent and halt further destruction of nature. This decade challenges governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals worldwide to work towards healing Mother Nature. The environment is the source of all our needs, from food and water to energy and jobs. This timely announcement follows the rollout of the UN Decade for Action, which aims at accelerating action and making real progress towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The latest Global Environmental Outlook report states that up to 7 million people die every year from diseases associated with air pollution and another 1.4 million die from diseases associated with drinking untreated water.

Preserving and restoring our ecosystems can bring benefits that save lives. A healthy ecosystem provides fresh air and clean water. Ecosystem restoration programmes can also generate jobs - in fact, many countries aiming to bounce back from COVID-19 job losses, and to promote climate change adaptation, have launched green, job creating programmes such as fish and tree nurseries, waste collection and recycling enterprises, mangrove restoration and reforestation initiatives, among others.

Liberia has rich, unique, and diverse ecosystems that can drive sustainable pro-poor prosperity and development. Liberia is the only country in the Upper Guinea forest which still has more than half of its tropical rainforest intact. Its picturesque lakes and rivers flow into the Atlantic Ocean, supplying water to farmlands and nourishing other economic activities along the way. Robertsport in Grand Cape Mount County is home to the Lake Piso Multi-Purpose Reserve— the country's first wetland protection (Ramsar) site, an apt venue for this year's World Environment Day celebrations. This is a historic city, and UNDP is pleased to see efforts being made to prevent littering and mangrove destruction in this beautiful reserve. Stricter measures are also needed to curb unsustainable fishing practices such as the use of dangerous chemicals, and small nets that catch even hatchlings.

As Liberia works to restore its ecosystems and deliver on its international commitments to protect the environment, partnerships (national and international) are vital in accelerating progress. UNDP is proud to partner with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a wide range of other national and international institutions in these efforts. For example, UNDP, with support from Denmark, Luxemburg, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and Switzerland, is partnering with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to pilot financial grants for civil society organizations to mobilize and organize youth eco-brigades to promote public health and safety in

their communities. In May, UNDP trained 75 youth volunteers on starting and running businesses focusing on long-term protection of the environment. It was great to also collaborate with the EPA and UN Volunteers including other young people on World Environment Day to clean up the beaches, clear overgrown bush thickets, and educate the community on public health.

UNDP has also collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Liberian Meteorological Services to establish a Climate Change Early Warning system that is providing climate modelling and forecasting information to help farmers and Liberians in general better cope with unpredictable weather patterns. With funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP launched a Small Grants Programme to support local NGOs undertake community-based environmental activities such as waste management, climate-smart agriculture including bee farming, and biodiversity conservation, all of which are increasing communities' resilience to climate change and diversifying their livelihood options. With resources from the GEF, UNDP also worked with the EPA, the Ministry of Mines and Energy, and local communities to construct protective revetments to prevent coastal erosion in the face of rising sea levels resulting from climate change. This was



done in Buchanan and New Kru Town. Larger scale programmes to protect livelihoods and prevent coastal erosion in West Point and Sinoe will come on stream in the next few months.

Communities around the Grebo-Krahn National Forest and other forest areas are learning new ways to protect the forest ecosystems. Our support to the communities include (i) training women farmers in sustainable agriculture practices; (ii) providing them with portable power tillers; and (iii) distributing seeds to improve food production outside protected areas. Community members are also being trained in sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products, such as honey.

In partnership with the Government of Liberia and the Embassy of Sweden, UNDP supported Liberia's ratification of the Paris Agreement on climate change in 2018. Today, we continue this collaboration as Liberia revises its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Similarly, UNDP continue to work with the Government of Liberia, the Embassy of Sweden, and other national partners to strengthen governance and environmental management for the artisanal mining

sector. Together, we are developing user-friendly tools for artisanal miners and supporting participatory monitoring and multi-stakeholder engagement in the sector.

Working with the Ministry of Health and other national partners, and with funding from the GEF, UNDP is helping to mitigate climate change in Liberia by providing solar energy to 12 rural health centres in 7 counties, thereby increasing access to health services at the Saint Timothy Hospital, Sinje Health Center, Gokala Clinic, Palala Health Center, and Telewoyan Hospital, among others. Our support is powering the most critical services - operating theatres, laboratories, and maternal and child healthcare.

Our collaboration with the Green Climate Fund resulted in the University of Liberia establishing a graduate program in Environmental Studies and Climate Change to equip more Liberians with skills to explore and develop solutions to reduce ecosystem degradation.

These examples of work we have achieved together demonstrate that collective action is essential in delivering the critical wins we urgently need in protecting our environment and reversing the damage to our ecosystem. We can act together,

including in our families and in our communities, to restore our environment and safeguard Liberia's natural resources. So, act! Collective action can deliver the impact we want! I encourage you to take small or large actions, either individually, or as groups during this decade of ecosystem restoration to expedite progress in repairing our environment.

We will only be successful in restoring our ecosystem if we work together. As we begin to consider a post-Covid period we have an opportunity to build back better and to do things differently. UNDP will continue to work closely with the Government of Liberia and with civil society organizations, the private sector, and international development partners to protect and rebuild Liberia's ecosystems. Together, we can restore Liberia's Ecosystem and protect the environment. Let's act... together, for a better planet!

Mr. Stephen Rodriques is the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program in Liberia.

**Read the  
NewDawn everyday**



**Advertise with us!**



# Senate cancels CBL hearings

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Hearing process for the board of governors and the executive governor of the Central Bank of Liberia or CBL, Mr. Aloysius Tarlue, was abruptly cancelled on Monday, July 5, 2021 after senators, members of the public, the media and other officials of the Central had converged on the grounds of the Capitol Building for the hearing that is before the Senate's Committee on Banking and Currency.

But to the dismay of everyone, including the battle cry wing of the

chairman of the Banking and Currency committee that the committee chair, Senator Marshall Dennis of Grand Gedeh County has not been well and that the hearings is postponed to tomorrow, Wednesday, July 07.

Mr. Tarlue was recently reappointed by President George Weah following completion of the five terms of his predecessor, former executive governor Nathaniel Patray. Mr. Patray was designated to have completed Ex-executive governor Milton Weeks' term, which started from former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's administration.

reforms aimed at improving governance, ensuring technical soundness in policies, and achieving financial sustainability of the CBL and above all ensure that the CBL is focused on carrying out monetary policies that seek to keep inflation low, stabilize the exchange rate, as well as ensure that Liberia has enough foreign exchange buffers," Mr. Tarlue said at the time.

He further promised that a key priority will be to promote independence of the Central Bank, review the Act that established the Bank and where necessary, execute amendments.

He also promised to strengthen internal audit and control functions, among others with approval of the board of governors.

In relation to ensuring technical soundness of policies, Tarlue told lawmakers and Liberians that he would have strengthened the research department of the Central Bank so that policy decisions are informed by proper analysis and evidence.

"We will ensure that the CBL is focused on carrying out monetary policies that seek to keep inflation low, stabilize the exchange rate, and ensure that Liberia has enough foreign exchange buffers. We will promote the soundness of the Banking sector by strengthening the CBL's supervision functions - Currently non-performing loans in banks are well above the 10% threshold," he added.

On achieving financial sustainability of the CBL, he also vowed to undertake strategic and functional review of the Bank's operations. The CBL is currently incurring operational losses due to various inefficiencies, including a bloated workforce, which its budget cannot sustain. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Students Unification Party based on the campus of the University of Liberia, the confirmation was aborted just few minutes to the commencement of the exercise.

It came as a shock as senators and officials of the Central Bank of Liberia were seen moving from the new annex of the Capitol to the main building of the legislature discussing.

After hours waiting without any genuine information, the media was told informally by Maryland County Senator and Co-

According to the Act that created that Central Bank of Liberia, an executive governor is to serve five years and should serve more than two terms of the five years.

Since his re-nomination of Tarlue to the CBL, financial experts and economists are wondering whether he had lived up to promises made during his confirmation hearings before the Liberian Senate on December 07, 2019.

"My vision, as Governor, will be to rebuild confidence in the CBL and the banking sector, as a whole, in the next five years. This will be done through

# "We must fight together"

"To fight this virus, we cannot be divided.

Just as we did during Ebola, we must fight together, united as one," Mr. Alexander B Cummings said recently as he gave an appraisal of his Cummings Africa Foundation recent assessment of hospitals here.

His comment also comes barely two weeks after he offered to help the government in the fight against the raging coronavirus here which has spread to 13 of the country's 15 counties.

Mr. Cummings' Africa Foundation which pledged US\$150,000 as initial contribution towards the fight against the covid-19 here reminded fellow citizens that like the EBOLA outbreak in 2014, the fight against COVID belongs to every Liberian.

"I know that for too long in our country, either because of our politics, or differences in our tribes, religions or gender,

us are actually safe. And so, old or young; ruling party or opposition; Muslims, Christians and people of all faiths; educated or uneducated; across every town and village; in every county; please, my fellow Liberians, I am asking you to get involved. Do your part to protect yourself, and your family. Do your part to protect your friends, your neighbors, your co-workers and your fellow citizens," he said.

Cummings explains that an individual doing his or her part simply means wearing a mask to cover your nose and mouth. Not just your mouth but your nose and mouth; washing your hands with soap and water plenty times in the day; stop shaking hands and hugging, for now; not being in crowded places or being crowded together; during a COVID test if you are experiencing symptoms like cold, cough, fever, or body and headaches and taking the



we continue to be divided. We continue to treat each other with suspicion and distrust. This is not only a fight for our doctors and healthcare workers. This is a fight for all of us - teachers, students, market women, activists, community leaders, religious leaders, traditional leaders, business leaders, unions, drivers, securities, motorcyclists, and politicians. This is a fight for the private sector and the public sector. All of us need to get involved. Our country needs all of us to do our part," he opined.

According to him, like the Ebola virus, covid-19 is not just a threat to some Liberians, nor is it for some other people. The Alternative National Congress Political leader bemoaned that the nation is facing a real health risk.

"None of us will be totally safe from this virus until all of

vaccine.

The ANC leader added that at the Cummings Africa Foundation, their approach is three-fold: First, providing support to some public and private hospitals as best; Secondly, working with community leaders, civil society organizations, and the media to increase public awareness and messaging especially around prevention. And thirdly, and most importantly, to help the government as it leads the fight against the virus.

"We are however trying to help the government succeed in this effort. And so, working with a broader team of experts, we will regularly update the government on what we are doing, and recommend additional steps, as required, to be taken by the government to seriously fight the virus, stop the spread, and end the infections in the country," he added.

## Starts from back page

supplies in the country.

At the same time he clarified that Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine manufactured in the United States is not in Liberia, contrary to rumors.

According to CNN, the Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine provides immunity that lasts at least eight months, and it appears to provide adequate protection against the worrying Delta variant, quoting company statement.

"Current data for the eight months studied so far show that the single-shot Johnson

# Vaccine scarcity

& Johnson COVID-19 vaccine generates a strong neutralizing antibody response that does not wane; rather, we observe an improvement over time," Dr. Mathai Mammen, head of research and development at J&J's Janssen vaccine arm, said in a statement reported by CNN.

The company is further quoted as saying one dose of the vaccine elicits both a lasting antibody response and generates immune cells called T-cells that last eight months, also. **Story by Jonathan Browne**

www

Advertize Here!

Subscribe to our website

get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily



# Vaccine scarcity

-as Liberia records 1,134 new cases in one week



**H**undreds of Liberians, if not thousands, who took the first doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 jabs may not be too fortunate to have the second round of vaccines anytime soon, as the Government of Liberia reports shortage, appealing to anxious citizens reporting at the Ministry of Health daily for vaccination to exercise

patience.

Liberia's Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Minister of Health, Doctor Francis Kateh who confirmed the shortage Monday, July 5, 2021 via mobile on OK Fm said over 90,000 of the 96,000 AstraZeneca vaccines brought into the country in April has been administered.

However, he says stock of the vaccines in counties with less demands, will be brought back to

Monrovia to enable citizens waiting for the second dose have access.

Doctor Kateh discloses that as of last week, total confirmed COVID-19 cases in Liberia have reached 4,976 which is nearly 5,000 with 134 deaths.

Lifespan of the AstraZeneca vaccines in the country expires on July 10th, according to the Deputy Minister, but he says those who have taken the first dose, have the potency for 8 to 12 weeks.

Liberians have been pouring at the Ministry of Health and hospitals across Monrovia to get vaccinated in the wake of resurgence of the virus, specially the Delta variant, a new strain that is more dangerous than the earlier outbreak.

Dr. Kateh adds that government is working with partners, including UNICEF, WHO to have additional

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

**DATA DA LIFE**

**3G good 4G better**

**Dial \*352#**

**Loonestar Cell MTN**

**everywhere you go**

# Mbappe urged to leave PSG if...

**K**ylilan Mbappe has been urged to consider leaving Paris Saint-Germain by Nicolas Anelka if he wants to have the same global impact as Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

The 22-year-old has spent the past four seasons in the French capital but is out of contract in 2022 and has been strongly linked with Real Madrid, while Liverpool are also rumoured to be interested.

Those comments were made on the back of a disappointing 2020-21 campaign for PSG in which they failed to defend their Ligue 1 title and exited the Champions League in the semi-finals, though they did win the Coupe de France and Trophee des Champions.

On an individual level, Mbappe was as prolific as ever with 42 goals in 47 appearances in all competitions last time out, averaging one every 86 minutes for the French giants.

In Europe's top five leagues, only Bayern Munich's Robert



Lewandowski (48) scored more goals in all competitions than Mbappe in 2020-21.

Kylilan Mbappe has been urged to consider leaving Paris Saint-Germain by Nicolas Anelka if he wants to have the same global impact as Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

The 22-year-old has spent the past four seasons in the French capital but is out of contract in 2022 and has been strongly linked with Real Madrid, while Liverpool are also rumoured to be interested.

**The NewDawn Press**

**2 colors Heidelberg printing machines**

**We Offer The Following Printing Services:**

- Newspapers, Magazines
- Flyers, Posters, Calendars
- Brochures, Letterhead
- Receipts, Invoices
- Souvenirs, Gifts
- Designs, etc...