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# Continental News

## Ethiopia rebels vow to fight until blockade ends

The commander of the rebel group in Ethiopia's northern region of Tigray has told the BBC they will continue fighting until their terms for a ceasefire are met.

Gen Tsadkan Gebretensae said the group aims to force the federal government to lift a blockade in the region and agree to a political solution to the crisis. The government denies there is a blockade and has ruled out talks.

Thousands have been killed since war broke out in November last year.

Millions of people have also been displaced by the fighting which both sides have been accused of committing human rights abuses and war crimes.

At least 400,000 people are living in famine conditions, according to a UN estimate, with access to the region still being hampered. UN World Food Programme lorries did manage to reach Tigray at the weekend after a long delay because of security concerns. However, Ethiopia's Minister for Democracy Ziadig Abraha has denied that the

government had blocked humanitarian aid to Tigray.

"In fact, our government supplied the most amount of humanitarian aid than all over partners combined," he told the BBC's Newshour programme.

He accused the rebels of "invoking the humanitarian aid discourse" to win sympathy from the international community. Despite the government announcing a unilateral ceasefire in June

after the rebels made significant gains, including the recapture of the region's capital, Mekelle, it has continued to mobilise militia from other parts of the country to help stall the rebels' advance in neighbouring Afar and Amhara regions. On Sunday, Gen Tsadkan, a former head of the Ethiopian army, told the Newshour programme that his fighters' incursion to the

neighbouring regions was aimed at removing a federal blockade that has prevented aid from coming through.

He said that before a ceasefire is agreed the federal government had to:

stop the persecution of Tigrayans

release political prisoners

accept an inclusive dialogue to determine the region's future.

He said the war could have been avoided, and accused Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of not willing to find a peaceful solution to the political standoff between the federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

"I regret that this has happened, I regret that this could have been avoided, but I'm happy that the Tigray people fought and are in a position to demand their rightful position in the region," Gen Tsadkan said.

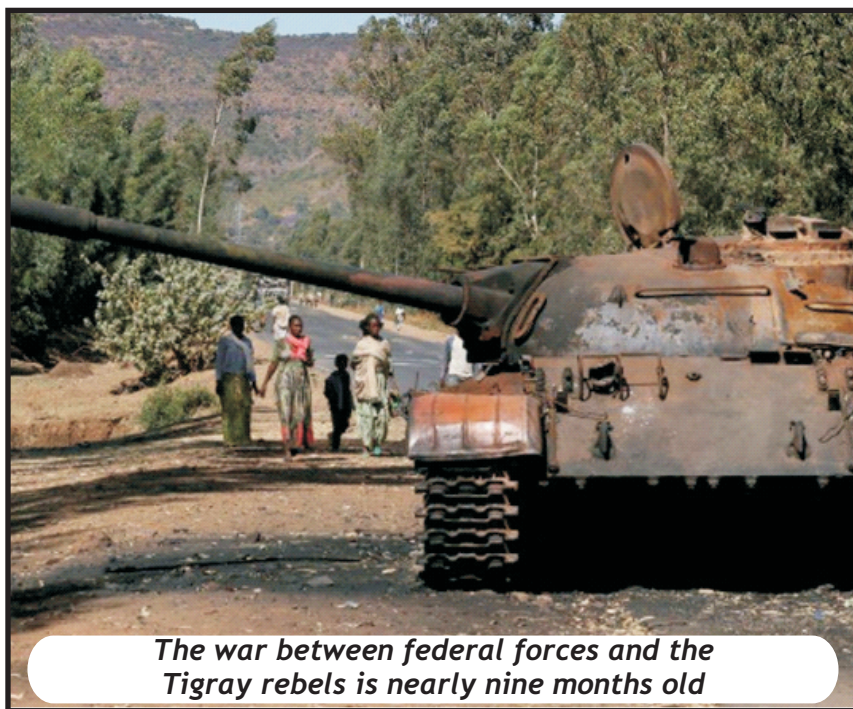
The Ethiopian government, which has designated the TPLF as a terrorist organisation, has dismissed calls to hold talks with the rebel leaders.

Mr Ziadig said TPLF's terms for a ceasefire were "coming out of a false sense of power," warning that the government would escalate its military offensive.

"We are coming out of a humanitarian ceasefire, and if you want to see the showdown, you'll have to wait for some weeks. When we run out of patience, you will see how we're going to drive them from each and every city and village of the earth," he said.

The TPLF was Tigray's governing party until it was ousted by the national army in November last year but the rebels say they are the legitimate regional government of Tigray.

Its leaders fell out with the Mr Abiy over his political reforms, though the TPLF's capture of federal military bases in Tigray was the catalyst for the invasion. BBC



The war between federal forces and the Tigray rebels is nearly nine months old

## Zambia deploys army to curb violence ahead of polls

Zambia's President Edgar Lungu has ordered the deployment of the military to suppress electoral violence ahead of the 12 August general elections - amid criticism by the opposition

and other groups.

"I have allowed the Zambia Army, Zambia Air Force and Zambia National Service to help the Zambia Police in dealing with the security situation," Mr Lungu said.

He said troops had already

been deployed to some areas in the capital Lusaka and would be sent to other areas in the country "if the situation demands so".

The All People's Congress (APC) party says the move to involve the army is intended to cause "fear and intimidation" among the opposition.

There have been incidents of violence by ruling party and opposition supporters across the country in the run-up to the vote. The president, in deploying the army, cited the killing of two ruling party supporters in the capital, saying he would not allow that to be repeated elsewhere in the country.

The electoral body has said it is investigating the incident and will take action against those found responsible.

The president is running for a second term in the elections.

His main opponent is Hakainde Hichilema who has unsuccessfully contested for the presidency five times. BBC



Edgar Lungu, who has been president since 2015, is running for a second term

## Mozambique state fuel firm denies links to sea spill

Mozambique's state-owned fuel distributor, Petromoc, has denied links to an oil spill that happened over the weekend at the port of Pemba, off the coast of Cabo Delgado province.

informed them.

Mr Chambisse said investigations were ongoing to find out the origin and reason for the spillage.

It was estimated that the spillage caused the loss of at least 10,000 litres of fuel.



The company's board chairperson Helder Chambisse said there was little information about the origin of the fuel found at sea.

He said that if the company was responsible, the local authorities would have

The incident attracted large crowds, including women and children, who risked their lives as they filled their jerrycans with the fuel. Police were deployed to address the situation. BBC

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# EDITORIAL

## A tragedy that nobody wants to take blame for

IT IS VERY ludicrous but sadly regrettable that the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) says current investigation into the July 17, 2021 sinking of the vessel Niko Ivanko six (6) nautical miles off the shore of Marshall City, Margibi County is not to determine liability or to hold people accountable but to avoid future reoccurrence.

**WE FIND IT** incomprehensible that the government agency responsible for maritime affairs in the country would want to brush over a tragedy that has left almost a dozen persons fear dead over two weeks since the incident transpired under the pretext of preventing similar marine incident in the future. How can such incident be avoided in the future without the ongoing investigation holding people or institution accountable?

**WE BEG TO** differ with the LiMA boss, Commissioner Lenn Eugene Nagbe on the way he's proceeding with the investigation. From the Liberia Maritime Authority to the Management of the Freeport of Monrovia and the company that operates the dilapidated Niko Ivanko in Liberian waters: Someone should be held to account for what happened that led to loss of lives and properties valued hundreds of thousands, if not millions.

**THE LIMA CONTROLS** the waters of Liberia and everything that sails on its hence, for that institution to relegate facts and circumstances that led to the fatal sinking of a vessel that should be under its watch seems to indicate it is attempting to vindicate itself of any responsibility as an authority, particularly when it had disclosed the vessel was not licensed to sail.

**THIS SHOULD NOT** be the case at all. Instead, the probe should be inclusive and exhaustive in order to dig out all of the facts to allow the chip to fall wherever regardless, who's involved.

**COMMISSIONER NAGBE ANNOUNCED** last week through a press release the hiring of a certified maritime investigator Rishi Mehrotra to probe the tragedy with a view of preventing such thing in the future. Some reports say a Ghanaian national has been brought into the country to conduct the investigation.

**AT LEAST 12** persons, including a Chinese captain were reportedly rescued from the sunken vessel with three bodies recovered since the incident. The fact of the matter is the vessel took off right before the eyes of authorities at the Freeport of Monrovia. It is also reported the Government of Liberia had onboard transformers and light poles that were destined for Harper City, Maryland County.

**IT IS THE** very government that is investigation itself to come up with findings and perhaps recommendation to prevent future reoccurrence. Commissioner Nagbe had said "The LMA wishes to state that the subject vessel was detained and not allow to sail, and this vessel was at no time authorized or permitted to carry passengers or operate as a passengers vessel."

**BUT THIS WAS** exactly what occurred on Saturday, July 17, 2021 when the Niko Ivanko loaded at the Freeport of Monrovia and sailed off before subsequently sinking into deep waters.

**THESE CIRCUMSTANTIAL PIECES** of evidence clearly point that people and institutions should be held to account. They should

# COMMENTARY

By Daniel K. Gardner

## Will China Kick Its Coal Habit?

**N**ORTHAMPTON, MA - China is stuck between a fossil fuel-dependent past and a future powered by renewable energy. The country today generates 53% of the world's coal-fired power. At the same time, it is the world's leading manufacturer of, and market for, solar panels, wind turbines, and electric vehicles. Whether China can free itself from its decades-old addiction to coal will determine not just its own environmental future, but also - and more crucially - Earth's prospects in the face of the gathering climate crisis.

China's leaders began to recognize the need for change in the early 2000s. The largely coal-fueled "economic growth at all costs" policy had brought great prosperity, but the collateral damage to the country's air and water had grown unacceptably high. Environmental advocates called for "building an ecological civilization," in which nature and humankind would find a harmonious balance. And when President Xi Jinping assumed power in 2012, he immediately took up the cause.

In quick succession, the Chinese government declared a "war on pollution," drew up separate air, water, and soil action plans committing \$1 trillion to environmental cleanup, closed inefficient coal plants, and invested hundreds of billions of dollars in renewable-energy development. It also made domestic manufacture and sales of electric vehicles a high priority, and devised a nationwide carbon-trading system.

Worryingly for China and the planet, that forward momentum now appears to have shifted into reverse. Coal consumption, which had decreased each year between 2014 and 2016, has since risen steadily. The same is true of carbon-dioxide emissions, which increased by 1.5-1.7% even during the pandemic-induced slowdown in 2020.

China must do better. The 2019 United Nations Emissions Gap Report concluded that limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius relative to pre-industrial levels requires reducing global emissions by 55% from 2018 levels by 2030. But China added 38.4 gigawatts of new coal-fired power capacity in 2020, even as the rest of the world reduced its net capacity by 17.2 GW.

Worse, this increase is only the beginning. The Chinese government has approved construction of an additional 36.9 GW of coal-fired power capacity, bringing the total under construction today to 88 GW. And proposals to build another 158.7 GW are in the pipeline, putting the total new capacity now under consideration at 247 GW - more than the United States' total installed amount of 233.6 GW.

There are probably more plants to come. Powerful coal and energy industry groups are pushing the government to increase China's current total coal-power capacity of 1,080 GW to 1,200-1,300 GW over the next five years, and to as much as 1,400 GW by 2035. A Global Energy Monitor (GEM) report concludes that if China continues to expand capacity through

2035 as proposed, "its coal-power generation alone will be more than three times as large as the global limit on coal power use determined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to keep global warming well below 2°C."

What explains China's apparent return to its coal-addicted ways? For starters, the protests in Hong Kong, the trade war with the US, and the coronavirus pandemic have shifted policymakers' focus away from environmental reform. So, too, has the slowdown in China's GDP growth and the rise in unemployment. The government has been more interested in stimulating traditional, energy-intensive industries like steel, iron, and cement, while provincial leaders have embarked on a spree of construction of coal-fired power plants.

Furthermore, the recent US-China trade war has heightened Chinese concerns about energy security, given that the country imports 70% of its oil needs and 40% of its gas requirements. And while China has gone all in on renewable energy, especially solar and wind, it cannot scale up these sources quickly enough to meet anticipated demand. Nor is the current electricity grid capable of transmitting this energy efficiently from China's distant west, where most of it is produced, to high-demand areas. Coal - abundant and relatively inexpensive - seems to many a reliable, tried-and-true energy source.

Finally, it is probably not a coincidence that China's "coal relapse" came at a time when the US was absent from the international climate scene. Whereas former US President Barack Obama and Xi found common ground in the battle against global warming, setting the stage for the 2015 Paris climate agreement, US disengagement from the issue under President Donald Trump probably weakened China's commitment, too.

Which China will the world see in the next several years? That question is more urgent than ever in light of a recent International Energy Agency report warning that all new fossil-fuel development should be halted this year if the world is to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and have any hope of limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5°C.

Xi's announcement in September 2020 that China aims to become carbon neutral by 2060 revived optimism. But hopes that the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), released this March, would outline the government's strategy for starting the decarbonization process were disappointed. And at US President Joe Biden's climate summit in April, Xi announced that during the new Five-Year Plan, China would "strictly control" coal-fired power consumption but allow it to increase, and "phase it down" only from 2026.

This is a recklessly unambitious timetable. Climate experts at GEM, TransitionZero, and elsewhere calculate that limiting global warming to well below a "catastrophic" 2°C will require China to close 600 of its 1,082 coal plants by 2030. If they are right, China had better start turning its massive carbon ship around now.

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## OPINION

By Andrés Velasco

# Preventing a Stablecoin Liquidity Crisis

LONDON - Liquidity is to the modern economy what lubricant is to a car engine. Provide enough of it, and things run smoothly; come up short, and the result is a red-hot, smoke-spewing mess. But whereas lubricating oil is easy to gauge, financial liquidity is here today and gone tomorrow. A financial crisis is always around the corner, and the next one could result from the rapid rise of cryptocurrencies - and especially so-called stablecoins.

A financial crisis is another name for the sudden drying up of liquidity. Before the 2008 global financial meltdown, private financial institutions were busy creating it, slicing and dicing low-quality mortgages and combining them into financial assets that were liquid and attractive to hold - until one day they weren't. Panic-gripped financial players suddenly began dumping everything in their portfolios, including apparently ultra-safe money-market funds that "broke the buck," a phenomenon equivalent to bank depositors being unable to withdraw their funds in full.

There was another run on money-market funds in early 2020, as panic over COVID-19 spread. Even US Treasuries have recently been subject to runs. The infamous 2013 "taper tantrum," and the short-lived but intense repo-market tremors of September 2019 and March 2020, all involved spikes in Treasury yields. In March and April of this year, bond prices again swung wildly as markets digested the implications of the most recent US stimulus package.

Today the world is awash in liquidity. That is just the right time for regulators and monetary policymakers to begin preparing for the next liquidity crisis. They should focus much more on the latest example of faddish private liquidity creation: cryptocurrencies, and stablecoins in particular.

Stablecoins are a privately produced digital money supposedly backed by safe assets like fiat currency or government bonds. Because these coins are highly liquid and easy to transact, people prefer to make purchases with them than with a cumbersome bond portfolio. And stablecoins' presumably secure backing means that a dollar's worth of any given type should trade for exactly \$1.

But, like many other liquid assets, stablecoins are vulnerable to runs. If their money price is to remain fixed, then the stablecoin issuer must be prepared to mop up the entire supply at a moment's notice and give holders currency in exchange. Yet, will they be able to do that? Such doubts are precisely what trigger runs in the first place.

In a recent paper, the Yale School of Management's Gary B. Gorton and Jeffery Y. Zhang of the US Federal Reserve argue that the assets backing stablecoins are less safe than they are supposed to be. They quote New York Attorney General Letitia James's assertion, when suing leading stablecoin issuer Tether and its operator, that "Tether's claims that its virtual currency was fully backed by US dollars at all times was a lie." The stablecoin's backing includes government bonds and cash, but also obscure "receivables from loans made by Tether to third parties."

This is a new version of an old problem. Currency boards such as the one operated by Argentina in the 1990s also have been vulnerable to confidence crises and runs. Argentine pesos were supposed to be safe because they were fully backed by dollar reserves. But the devil, as usual, was in the details, and, when the details were tested, the Argentine central bank's devilish behavior came to light. Market demand for pesos vanished overnight, and the currency board - and, with it, the government - came crashing down in 2002.

History shows that the only way to make a supposedly safe asset truly safe is to give its issuers access to a lender of last resort that will back up all the relevant claims, with no questions asked. Bank runs were common in the United States until the introduction of deposit insurance backed by the full faith and credit of the US government. Argentina did not have access to a dollar lender of last resort, and its currency board was thus fated to crash sooner or later.

Gorton and Zhang document how the Fed and the US Treasury became de facto lenders of last resort to the US mutual-fund industry after bailing it out in 2008 and again in 2020. In another recent paper, Columbia University's Guillermo Calvo and I argue that it is precisely the Fed's backing that gives US Treasuries their liquidity. In response to market stress, the Fed purchased \$1 trillion of Treasuries in the three-week period from March 16, 2020, and then continued to buy them in large quantities. Something similar can be said of eurozone bonds, which, as then-European Central Bank President Mario Draghi vowed in 2012, the ECB would do "whatever it takes" to protect.

Runs wreck asset prices and therefore balance sheets, and also destroy the liquidity that makes the economy hum. So, central banks are right to serve as lenders of last resort to governments, banks, and, perhaps, too-big-to-fail asset classes like mutual funds. But precisely because it is so powerful, such protection should be used sparingly - and then only with regard to assets issued by carefully regulated institutions that can guarantee full transparency.

There is no sound argument for applying lender-of-last-resort protection to privately issued crypto assets, including stablecoins. Instead, governments should regulate cryptocurrencies far more stringently than they do today before they become too big to fail and thus de facto if not de jure protected.

In fact, no great harm would result if these digital coins were regulated out of existence. Once firms and households come to need the convenience of an easy-to-use digital currency, nothing is keeping central banks from issuing one.

Given that central banks are destined to end up backing large-scale liquidity providers, then society will be better off if the monetary authorities provide that liquidity themselves. No doubts could arise about the quality of a central-bank digital currency's backing. Such a currency would not have to be backed by money, because it would be money.

Prudent regulators should not promise to forestall all future liquidity crises. But they can prevent the all-too-predictable liquidity squeeze caused by a run on too-large a supply of stablecoins. They should do so now.

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## OP-ED

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

# The Case for a G21

NEW YORK - The Group of Twenty has become a pillar of multilateralism. Although the world has many high-level talk shops, the G20 represents the best kind, actively supporting global dialogue, debate, and - most importantly - economic problem solving. Fortunately, its biggest limitation - that it leaves out 96% of Africa's population - can be easily remedied by including the African Union (AU).

To be sure, since the early post-World War II era, multilateralism has worked mainly through the United Nations system. With 193 member states, the UN offers the singular, indispensable venue for creating and implementing international law. Though the UN is frequently undermined by the unilateralism of the United States and other major powers, it remains essential for global survival. At around \$3 billion per year, its paltry core budget is perhaps one-tenth what it should be, and it is chronically underfunded. Still, it manages to make enormous and indispensable contributions to peace, human rights, and sustainable development.

But the G20, too, has come to fill a critical role. Representing the world's 20 largest economies, it enables more flexible and quicker problem solving. When the UN grants each of its members ten minutes to speak on an issue, the remarks take 32 hours; when the G20 goes around the table, it takes just over three. And while the G20's decisions do not have the force of international law, they can and do support corresponding UN processes, such as on climate change and development finance.

Another talking shop is the G7, which was launched in 1975 to bring together the world's highest-income economies. In 1998, I recommended doubling the group's size (by then it had become the G8, with the addition of Russia) to include eight major developing economies. A G16, I argued, "would not seek to dictate to the world, but to establish the parameters for a renewed and honest dialogue" among developed and developing countries.

Soon thereafter, the G20 was created to play that role. It emerged first in 1999 as a gathering of finance ministers, and then evolved into a meeting of heads of state and government in response to the 2008 financial crisis. Since then, the G7 has become increasingly unrepresentative and incapable of decisive action (leading me to argue earlier this year that it should be scrapped altogether).

The current G20 comprises 19 national governments plus the European Union. (Since France, Germany, and Italy are G20 members in the EU, they are in effect represented twice.) The EU's inclusion in the group was a masterstroke. Because the EU coordinates economic policies across its 27 member states, the European Commission, its executive arm, can credibly speak for the bloc on economic issues of global concern. Moreover, the G20 process in turn strengthens the EU's internal coordination efforts, ultimately redounding to the benefit of its 27 members. The G20 therefore represents 43 countries (27 EU members plus 16 non-EU countries) with just 20 leaders at the table.

While those 43 countries constitute just 22% of UN members states (by a raw count), they nonetheless include about 63% of the world's population and 87% of gross world output. Though the 43 countries represented at the G20 table don't speak for the other 150 UN member states, they account for enough of the world's people and economic activity to have a solid basis for deliberating on global challenges.

But by excluding almost all of Africa, the group vastly underrepresents Africa and the world's low-income countries. The AU's 55 countries (more than one-quarter of UN members) are home to 1.4 billion people (17.5% of the global total) and \$2.6 trillion in annual output at market exchange rates (almost 3% of world GDP). All told, Africa currently has roughly the same population as China or India, and an economy that would come in eighth - just behind France and ahead of Italy - in a country ranking. Africa's share of the world's population and output will grow in future years.

The G20's sole African member, South Africa, has the 39th largest economy in the world, the smallest among the G20 member states. The GDPs of Nigeria and Egypt are actually larger than South Africa's, but they still are not in the world's top 20. As a result, African leaders outside of South Africa have been invited to the G20 only as observers. Africa's very limited representation drastically limits Africa's input in G20 deliberations on major global economic issues, not only at the annual G20 summits but also in the year-round ministerial and technical meetings.

The key to the G20's effectiveness is that it achieves a very high and representative coverage of the global population and economy with a modest enough number of leaders at the table to enable speed and flexibility in deliberation and decision-making. Including the AU would satisfy both criteria: vastly increased representation with just one added seat at the table. The group suddenly would represent 54 more countries, 1.3 billion more people, and \$2.3 trillion more output, with just ten minutes added to a round-of-table discussion.

Moreover, admitting the AU to an expanded G21 would have the same galvanizing effect within Africa that the EU's participation in the G20 has within Europe: it would strengthen policy coordination and coherence across the 55 African economies.

With multiple urgent challenges on its plate this year, the G20 would benefit enormously from the AU's immediate membership. Key priorities include achieving universal vaccine coverage to prevent more COVID-19 deaths and the spread of new variants; introducing new measures to mitigate the long-term economic damage inflicted by the pandemic; and securing mid-century decarbonization commitments from all countries and regions to avoid a climate disaster.

Since the G20 is such an important venue, other aspiring members doubtless will be knocking on its door. The group will have to balance the benefits of wider representation against the benefits of a smaller, more agile membership. When it comes to the AU, the choice is obvious. A new G21 could then tell other aspirants to seek representation through similar regional delegations - such as ASEAN for the 661 million people in those ten southeast Asian countries, or a similar grouping for Latin America.

This year, the G20 is in the highly capable hands of Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi. Italy can use its presidency to leave a lasting legacy. By inviting the AU to join the upcoming summit in Rome in late October, it could make a significant contribution to building a more prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable world.

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# Elevating political leadership for Pandemic Preparedness and Response

## Briefing to the UN General Assembly – Remarks from the Former Co-Chairs

*Cont'd from last edition*

**Helen Clark**

Our Panel called on high-income countries with a vaccine pipeline for adequate coverage of their populations to commit immediately to providing vaccines to the 92 low- and middle-income countries covered by COVAX. The Panel set the target of at least one billion doses redistributed in that way no later than 1 September, and another one billion doses by mid next year. The world is far from meeting those targets. Some commitments have been made, but much more needs to be done, and it can be done urgently.

Our Panel also called for ACT-A - the Access to COVID Tools Accelerator -- to be fully funded. Right now, vaccine demand outstrips supply. Even if all the existing vaccines were redistributed, the total amount available would be grossly insufficient. Clearly manufacturing of vaccines needs to be scaled up rapidly and WHO and partners have worked for the better part of a year to make this happen. We recommended that WHO and WTO together immediately convene manufacturing countries and manufacturers to push forward on that and are delighted that such a meeting has taken place recently.

Vaccine inequity is a key factor in the wave of death we're seeing across Africa, Asia and Latin America. It's astonishing and self-defeating that pharmaceutical manufacturers continue not to share the technology or know how which could help quickly scale manufacturing. Because of that, we see the temporary waiver of patents under the WTO's TRIPS agreement as a key tool which should be at countries disposal and urge a swift resolution to the protracted discussion on that.

We have called on all countries to utilize all the public health tools available to them to curb COVID-19 transmission - masking, physical distancing, testing and contact tracing, and isolation, to name but a few.

Unfortunately, another dangerous pathogen could emerge at any time. The world was not prepared for this one. It must be ready for the next. That will require stronger international and national systems for pandemic preparedness and response.

This pandemic has shown the importance of multilateralism, global leadership, and whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches.

The international system needs to work as a coherent and effective system -and it must also work across sectors and silos. The pandemic is not only a health crisis; it is also a social economic, political, and peace and security crisis.

That is why we have come to you - the UN General Assembly. Our Panel believes that the General Assembly has a crucial role to play in ensuring that the international system is co-ordinated and empowered to identify and act against future diseases with pandemic potential. We said earlier that our recommendations are a package. We propose that a negotiated political declaration be adopted by the UN General Assembly later this year, setting out the road map for a stronger international system for the future.

That roadmap should set out the architecture required and the steps to be taken to create it. It should encompass support for a new high-level oversight council, a dedicated financing mechanism, a new pandemic convention, and a redesigned, permanent mechanism replacing ACT-A based on a global public goods model.

At the top of that system, our Panel recommends the creation of a Global Health Threats Council at the level of Heads of State and Government and including private sector and civil society representation. Pandemic



**Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**

preparedness must be led from the top, and it must be multi-sectorial.

Indeed, that Council would be tasked with maintaining political commitment to pandemic preparedness and response. It would not be an operational body, but rather a body that monitors progress, draws attention to gaps, and holds actors accountable - all key functions that the Panel found were missing in the international system.

WHO has an indispensable role in responding to global health emergencies and ensuring longer-term public health and health security through the strengthening of primary health systems in all countries. WHO is and should remain the lead agency for health in the international system. The quality, timing, and clarity of the technical advice and direction WHO provides to the world are of the utmost importance and Member States must adequately resource, empower, and further strengthen it. We welcome the initiative taken by the World Health Assembly to establish a Working Group on strengthening WHO.

The Panel backs the calls for a new pandemic framework convention which should, among other things, fill gaps in the current legal system and clarify the responsibilities between States and international actors. This pandemic treaty or framework convention would give state parties the opportunity to commit to the principles of pandemic preparedness and response in the spirit of mutual obligation, and give a framework for the institutional architecture needed to prevent future pandemics. The Panel recommended that it be adopted using the powers under Article 19 of the WHO Constitution, and be complementary to the International Health Regulations.

We propose the creation of an international pandemic financing facility. It must be able distribute up to ten billion dollars a year for preparedness and disburse up to one hundred billion in the event of a crisis. Ultimately, investing billions in preparedness now will save trillions in the future, as the current pandemic has so clearly illustrated. Funding for response to this pandemic generally was too little and came too late.

The facility should raise resources on an ability-to-pay formula with all countries contributing and allocations being made to those requiring solidarity funding. This should be a sustainable core commitment - not subtracted from an already stretched development assistance envelope. The facility could be hosted by an existing institution which is representative of countries big and small, rich and poor - we have proposed that the Global Health Threats Council be the allocator of funds.

The Panel considered that the current model of development and delivery of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics for pandemics is not fit for purpose. We believe there is a need to shift away from a market-based model to one based on global public goods. This can be achieved through a transformation of ACT-A.

The Panel has recommended increasing the authority and independence of WHO, including by it having adequate, predictable, flexible and sustainable funding, and having its Director General and Regional



**Helen Clark**

Directors in future each serving a single term of seven years.

A greatly improved system for disease surveillance and alert is needed. WHO must have the authority to investigate outbreaks of concern rapidly, and publish information rapidly on its own authority. Future declarations of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the WHO Director-General should be based on the precautionary principle where warranted, as in the case of respiratory infections. PHEIC declarations should be based on clear, objective, and published criteria.

The Panel recommended that WHO set measurable benchmarks for country preparedness and response capacities, and for countries to invest accordingly, with support coming from the dedicated financing mechanism for those with limited resources. WHO should formalize universal periodic peer reviews of country progress against the benchmarks it sets. We also brought the IMF into the picture - proposing that it incorporate assessments of preparedness as part of its Article Four consultations.

Ultimately preparedness rests on national governments setting up the right structures, developing the needed capacities, and investing in vital assets such as health and other system resilience and social protection. Governments can listen and learn from the best practices we illustrate in our report.

**Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**

Thank you, once again, for joining us today. We believe that our report is clear on both its diagnosis of how the world ended up in its present predicament, and its recommendations on how to curb the current pandemic and prevent a future one.

As President of my country, Liberia, it fell on me to lead our population through the devastating experience of the Ebola epidemic and the hard-won recovery from it. I speak with conviction when I say that this current pandemic must be the last to cause devastation to human life, societies, and economies. As a world, we must do better.

This time we must act and not bury this analysis and these recommendations in the vault as has happened many times before.

To implement a package of reforms like that which our Panel has developed will require the engagement of Heads of State and Government. Every Head of State and Government is currently focused on the problems created by the pandemic.

It is vital now to mobilize the political will to make the changes required for a more effective and timely global response next time a pandemic threat emerges. We owe this to future generations.

The General Assembly has the authority to convene at the highest level to endorse a negotiated political declaration which will drive reform. That is what our Panel has requested the General Assembly to do, and we hope that you will give this your most serious consideration.



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## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Tweah: We are doing well to improve a broken economy

By: Joseph Titus Yekeryan

**F**inance and Development Planning Minister Samuel D. Tweah says the Weah - led administration is doing extremely well to

former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf which placed more pressure on the Central Bank of Liberia.

But he said the Weah - led government introduced a responsible fiscal management

Tweah added.

He said they have worked out key issues to help improve Liberia's economy but will require gradual process.

According to him, they were instructed by President George Manneh Weah to control the government's spending, especially when there is no money in the national coffers and rather put in place mechanisms that would bring in money.

According to him, adherence to the president's instructions brought to an end the continued borrowing of money from the Central Bank of Liberia thus decreasing financial difficulties on the bank.

Minister Tweah told the media that prior to President Weah coming to power, inflation rate was at 30%, but under the current government, inflation has drastically dropped to 8%.

He disclosed that Liberia is the only country that is not borrowing money from its central bank, maintaining that it is due to the policy they put into place.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**



**Minister Samuel D. Tweah**

improve the broken economy it inherited in 2018.

According to Minister Tweah, the Ministry of Finance had no micro policy during the administration of

policy which is gradually working.

"That policy is gradually working and we can assure our people that there will be good news for our economy," Minister

# Bong County Liberia: Government declares two high schools tuition free

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan  
in Bong

**T**he Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill has declared government - run Dolokelen Gboveh and E.J Yancy High Schools in Bong County tuition free for the coming academic year 2021/2022.

This means that students attending the school for the 2021/2022 school year will be enrolled without paying a cent.

Minister McGill told journalists that the decision was as a result of an appeal from students of Bong County to help pay their fees.

"When the students appealed to us, we consulted the president about this. As a good leader of this country, he immediately embraced the idea to help our people here in Bong County. Let me tell you that this will not be the only thing that we will do in this county, there are more plans underway for Bong County," McGill said.



According to Mr. McGill, it started in April when they launched a 30 million dollars scholarship fund in Bong County to help struggling students and parents who cannot afford to pay tuition.

Besides the two schools, Minister McGill said all other schools enlisted by the scholarship committee will

receive one million dollars each.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting quality and affordable education for Liberian students.

According to him, the government of Liberia wants to see Liberia on par with other European Countries in

# Pres. Weah congratulates athletes, officials

**P**resident George Manneh Weah has congratulated athletes and officials of the National Olympic team who are representing the country at the ongoing Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.

An Executive Mansion release issued Monday, 2 August 2021 noted that President Weah said he is

the 100m and 200m races.

"We appreciate you. We are proud of you," President Weah said Monday, 2 August before the opening of a Special Cabinet Meeting.

Continuing, Pres. Weah said: "Your achievements have set a platform for successes in future Olympics and competitions."

On Sunday, Ebony Morris earned an automatic



**Pres. George Manneh Weah**

proud of what the athletes have been able to achieve so far under difficult circumstances, stating that they have laid the bedrock for progress at future competitions.

The team is participating in the track and field category. Athletes Ebony Morrison, Emmanuel Matadi and Joseph Fahnbulleh are competing in

qualification to the 2022 games in Oregon by finishing 12 out of 22, clocking 12.74 seconds.

Ebony's feat is also a National Record for Liberia in the 100M Hurdles. Liberia's Joseph Fahnbulleh is due to compete in the 200m run.--**Press release**

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terms of education.

Minister McGill stated that Bong County being the heartbeat of the country, it will benefit more from the president's gestures in the coming years.

Following the declaration,

the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs presented a cheque of two million Liberia Dollars to the Administration of Dolokelen Gboveh High as an initial payment of students' tuition.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Simeon Freeman blasts lawmakers over US\$30k

By Lincoln G. Peters  
(Contributor)

The political leader of the Movement for Progressive Change (MPC) and Liberian businessman Simeon Freeman has blasted members of the 54th Legislature over their receipt of US\$30,000 each, terming their action as alleged constitutional breach.

Freeman said Monday, 2 August 2021 that the action taken by the legislators is in total violation of Article 90 of

have the propensity to slow development and promote [lack of accountability] and transparency.

Freeman raised a concern that there will be no accountability and transparency for the funds received by lawmakers because the law doesn't give the General Auditing Commission (GAC) right to audit lawmakers.

He noted that Article 90 of the Construction of Liberia states that no person, whether elected or appointed to any public office, shall engage in any other

prescribed by the Constitution.

He argued that the function of the Legislature is to make law, give oversight and representation, adding it's not to become an agent of the developmental arm of government, reminding lawmakers that Article 34 of the Constitution of Liberia talks about the separation of power or duties.

Freeman lamented that the 2019-2020 National Budget of Liberia with the code 0527 showed that the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) had US\$2,539,000 allocated in the budget for its operation.

In the 2020/2021 National Budget, Mr. Freeman said the Legislature didn't allocate anything for LACE, rather placing US\$3.6 million in the budget for what they called "Legislative Engagement and Public Accessibility" for themselves.

"Now that they have made LACE powerless by diverting its funds, the National Legislature [is] now compelled to implement LACE's projects, something which is in violation of our Constitution and financial laws," Mr. Freeman noted.



Mr. Simeon Freeman

the Constitution of Liberia and the Public Financial Management Law of Liberia.

Speaking during a live interview aired on multiple local radio stations, Mr. Freeman said he is holding consultation with his people and other stakeholders as to what to do for the alleged constitutional and financial breaches.

He said they will have to fight to redeem Liberia from such disingenuous acts which

activities which shall be against public policy or conflict of interest.

Additionally, he said the provision states that no person holding public office shall demand and receive any other emoluments or benefits, directly or indirectly, on account of any duty required by government.

Mr. Freeman believes that the Legislature has violated the Construction of Liberian and lawmakers should bear the full weight of the penalties

## Liberia: GIABA pre-assessment workshop kicks off

A five-day pre-assessment workshop for Liberia to prevent and fight money laundering in West Africa kicked off here Monday, August 2, 2021 at the Monrovia City Hall in Monrovia with participants from various government ministries and agencies, including civil society organizations in attendance.

The Director General of the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) challenges participants to seek relevant knowledge to combat money laundering in Liberia.

Mr. Kimelabalou Ana notes that Liberia has made some gains against money laundering and terrorism financing, but there is still room for greater improvement to curtail the

crime. He calls for necessary legislations to be put in place to enhance effective fight against money laundering.

Mr. Ana laments that lack of adequate resources to strengthen the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) undermines the fight against financing terrorism and money laundering.

He explains the pre-assessment training workshop will go a long way to build capacity of institutions responsible for the terrorism financing and money laundering fight.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister for Economic Management at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) Augustine Flomo says, Liberia has put measures in place to strengthen the fight against illicit financing and money laundering.

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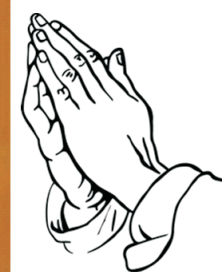
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## Funeral Announcement

of Late  
**Horatio Bobby Willie, Sr.**

August 1, 2021



The Willie, Nyanfore, Dortu and Kojo families with deep sorrow announce funeral rites over the remains of the late Horatio Bobby Willie, Sr., affectionately called Bobby, former Public Information Officer at the Liberia Telecommunications Authority and former Assistant Minister for Public Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as follows:

On Wednesday 4 August a candlelight vigil will be held at the Sacred Heart Cathedral on Broad Street beginning at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Funeral services will take place at the St. Moses Funeral Parlor Chapel on the Somalia Drive on Thursday 5 August at 9:00 a.m. and followed by interment at the Kaiser Memorial Lawn in Brewerville City.

The late Horatio Bobby Willie, Sr. passed away on 13 July at the J.F.K. Memorial Medical Hospital following a period of illness.

Bobby leaves to mourn his loss his widow, Mictricia Kojo Willie, his children, Horatio Bobby Willie, Jr., Horine Taloh and Jewel; sisters, Sema G. Tulay, Vivian S. Freeman, Patricia Ocran, Precious S. Willie, aunties, uncles, nephews, nieces, a host of other relatives and friends in Liberia and abroad.

**This announcement was brought in by Jenkins Dortu and Michael Kojo, uncle and father-in-law on behalf of the families.**

**Note: As per the safety measures put in place by the government in an effort to Combat this deadly covid19 virus □ the funeral home will allow maximum 20 persons in the chapel at once for the service and viewing of the body.**



# Français

## Le Libéria, la Suède et le PNUD signent un accord de financement de 4,8 millions pour les élections locales

Le gouvernement suédois, par l'intermédiaire de son ambassade à Monrovia, a signé un accord de financement de 40 millions SEK (environ 4,8 millions USD) avec le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD) pour soutenir le projet d'appui électoral au Libéria (LESP)

pour la période du 1er août au 31 décembre 2024.

L'ambassadrice suédoise Ingrid Wetterqvist a déclaré lors de la cérémonie de signature que « le soutien suédois s'inscrit dans le cadre de la nouvelle stratégie suédoise pour la coopération au développement au Libéria pour la période 2021-2025, en particulier le renforcement de la gouvernance et les droits démocratiques, dont la

participation des femmes à la politique et à la prise des décisions, tout en consolidant la paix par le renforcement des capacités, l'intégrité, la transparence et la responsabilité parmi les acteurs électoraux.

Elle a ajouté : « En outre, une partie du soutien à venir de la Suède englobera

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Un cadre du parti au pouvoir rejoint l'opposition

Le leader politique du Congrès national alternatif (ANC), M. Alexander B. Cummings, a reçu un soutien de taille au cours du week-end, un membre actif du Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC) ayant rejoint ses rangs en vue des élections présidentielle et législatives de 2023.

M. Isaac VahTukpah, l'une des voix les plus résonnantes du CDC et les plus critiques du régime d'Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, est devenu le chef de cabinet du leader de l'opposition en remplacement de Me Moriah Yeakula qui a quitté le pays ce week-end pour poursuivre sa maîtrise en droit (LLM) aux États-Unis.

M. Cummings, qui a fait l'annonce sur les médias sociaux, a indiqué que la nouvelle recrue, en plus de son rôle de chef de cabinet, contribuera à la stratégie politique et de communication globale du parti.

« Je pense que M. Vah sera un atout pour notre équipe et nous aidera à passer au niveau supérieur », a déclaré Cummings.

Parlant de M. Vah, Cummings a écrit : « Comme la plupart des membres fondateurs de l'ANC, il était membre du Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique. Il s'est présenté à plusieurs élections, dont l'élection sénatoriale de décembre dernier à Montserradoc comme candidat indépendant. »

M. Cummings a en outre promis d'annoncer les autres membres de son bureau dans les semaines à venir. « Nous continuons à

constituer notre équipe pour le travail à venir », a-t-il dit.

« Me Yeakula nous manquera, mais heureusement, elle sera toujours engagée et fera partie de l'équipe, bien qu'à distance, jusqu'à son retour », a-t-il dit avant d'ajouter « Souhaitons à Moriah beaucoup de succès dans ses études et souhaitons la bienvenue à M. Vah au sein de l'équipe ».



Isaac Vah Tukpah Jr.



Atty Moriah Yeakula

## Éditorial

### « Japan Freeway » apporte un soulagement significatif

C'est un véritable ouf de soulagement pour les usagers de la route Somalia Drive, devenue aujourd'hui « Japan Freeway », dans la banlieue densément peuplée de Monrovia à Gardnersville, avec l'inauguration officielle de la voie à 4 chaussées et longue de 13,2 kilomètres, qui réduira considérablement les embouteillages, tout en favorisant les échanges et le commerce.

Le projet initialement estimé à 89 millions de yens japonais, soit 1 million de dollars américains, avait été officiellement signé en 2012 sous l'administration de l'ex-présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. La route a été inaugurée officiellement par le président George Manneh Weah le lundi 26 juillet 2021 en marge de la célébration du 174e anniversaire de l'indépendance du Libéria.

Ce n'est pas la coïncidence historique de la journée elle-même qui est importante, mais les immenses avantages économiques dont les Libériens et les partenaires commerciaux étrangers ont déjà commencé à récolter, dont la liberté de mouvement, l'accès rapide, la livraison rapide des biens et de services, qu'il faut applaudir.

Incontestablement, la route est l'un des principaux atouts économiques qui stimulent le commerce et l'économie. La route réhabilitée et transformée en quatre voies, (deux voies de part et d'autre du béton permettant aux usagers, y compris les remorques et autres camions lourds, de circuler de manière aisée), est une première au Libéria. Elle répond aux normes internationales.

Nous disons merci au gouvernement et au peuple chaleureux du Japon pour avoir financé à eux seuls le projet en guise de cadeau au gouvernement et au peuple du Libéria.

Ce geste, exécuté par l'intermédiaire de l'Agence japonaise de coopération internationale ou JICA, contribuera non seulement à cimenter les liens cordiaux déjà existants entre le Libéria et le Japon, mais à maintenir le lien fort d'amitié des peuples des deux pays.

Cependant, maintenant que la « Japan Freeway » est ici, nous, Libériens ordinaires et même le gouvernement du Libéria, avons notre propre rôle à jouer dans le maintien de ce grand bijou. La route, comme toute infrastructure, traverse une période de déchirure et d'usure ou de dépréciation, par conséquent, la nécessité d'un entretien régulier est indispensable.

Cela signifie que les usagers de la route et le ministère des Travaux publics, l'organe gouvernemental chargé de surveiller ces installations publiques, devraient faire tout ce qui est humainement possible pour maintenir la route en bon état.

L'euphorie qui accompagne l'inauguration de la route pourrait céder la place à une déception générale si les remorques défilantes et les camions lourds en panne commencent à occasionner des embouteillages et des risques d'accidents qui auraient pu être évités simplement par l'interdiction de ces engins d'emprunter cette voie pour maintenir la fluidité de la circulation.

Les conducteurs sont également avertis. La nouvelle route n'est pas une carte blanche pour conduire de manière imprudente et excessive au détriment des vies humaines et des biens. Une conduite responsable exige le respect scrupuleux des panneaux de signalisation, des règles et du contrôle technique des véhicules.

La division de circulation de la Police nationale du Libéria a un rôle clé à jouer dans cette entreprise. Elle doit continuer de jouer son rôle dans d'autres régions du pays. La présence d'agents de police de la circulation à chaque intersection le long de la route est importante. Il faut contrôler les conducteurs imprudents, les engins à trois roues et à deux roues.

En bref, nous voulons que cette importante infrastructure publique devienne un atout plutôt qu'une malédiction pour le peuple du Libéria. Par l'entretien efficace et l'utilisation appropriée de la « Japan Freeway », nous pouvons encourager nos partenaires étrangers à faire davantage pour promouvoir le programme de développement de ce pays.



# Français

## Le Libéria, la Suède et le PNUD

également le soutien à la société civile, avec un accent particulier sur l'observation des élections. Il s'agit ainsi de fournir un ensemble équilibré et complet de soutien à l'assistance électorale.

L'engagement de la Suède à soutenir à la fois la Commission électorale nationale du Libéria (NEC) et les efforts du PNUD pour renforcer les processus électoraux et démocratiques au Libéria remonte à 2010-2014, lorsqu'elle a mis disposition un financement pour le fonds commun des élections.

Le soutien au LESP ciblera en particulier l'inclusion, avec un accent particulier sur la participation des femmes à la politique, l'éducation civique et électorale, le développement des capacités des institutions électORAles et démocratiques, ainsi que la prévention de la violence électorale.

La représentante résidente par intérim du PNUD, Violet Baffour, a déclaré : « La Suède a été un partenaire essentiel dans le travail du PNUD Libéria, visant à développer la capacité des institutions responsables, justes et pacifiques qui soutiennent les processus démocratiques et électORAux. Ensemble, nous nous engageons à continuer de fournir un soutien solide et durable au Libéria qui s'efforce à atteindre les objectifs de développement durable et de son programme en faveur des pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement."

L'objectif principal du LESP est de renforcer les institutions et les processus électORAux et démocratiques au Libéria, en mettant l'accent sur le renforcement de l'inclusion et de la

transparence du processus électoral, le renforcement des capacités institutionnelles et de la responsabilité des parties prenantes électORAles, et l'organisation des élections libres, transparentes et apaisées, avec une attention particulière aux premiers mécanismes d'avertissement, la conduite des forces de sécurité et la violence à l'égard des femmes lors des élections.

La Suède reconnaît la nécessité globale de se concentrer sur une approche basée sur les processus en termes d'assistance électorale, par opposition à une approche axée sur les événements - pour le bénéfice de l'ensemble du pays. Une planification et une budgétisation électORAles efficaces sont ici essentielles et dépendent également d'une forte volonté politique et de réformes institutionnelles.

L'approche fondée sur les droits de l'homme guide également le soutien suédois qui embrasse les principes d'inclusion et de participation, en mettant l'accent sur l'augmentation de la participation des femmes à la politique et en se concentrant sur les plus pauvres et les plus marginalisés, tout en s'appuyant sur les enseignements des processus électORAux antérieurs. Une éducation civique et électorale solide joue ici un rôle clé dans la construction d'une culture démocratique plus forte.

Une planification globale et un soutien à la NEC et au gouvernement du Libéria sur des processus efficaces de planification et de budgétisation électORAles et de passation des marchés réduiront les coûts électORAux avant les élections. Lorsqu'il existe un niveau élevé de transparence et d'intégrité dans le processus électoral, cela contribue à son tour à minimiser les tensions et les risques inutiles de violence.

## COMMENTAIRE

By Daniel K. Gardner

## La Chine décrochera-t-elle du charbon?

NORTHAMPTON (MASS.) - La Chine est coincée entre un passé dépendant des carburants fossiles et un avenir où son alimentation énergétique proviendra de sources renouvelables. Le pays fabrique aujourd'hui 53 % de l'énergie électrique générée dans le monde par des centrales thermiques au charbon. Il est aussi le premier fabricant mondial - et le premier marché - de panneaux solaires, d'éoliennes et de véhicules électriques. La capacité de la Chine à se débarrasser de son accoutumance au charbon, vieille de plusieurs dizaines d'années, déterminera non seulement son propre avenir environnemental, mais aussi - et c'est un point plus crucial - les perspectives de la Terre face à une crise climatique qui prend de plus en plus d'importance.

Les dirigeants chinois ont commencé d'admettre le besoin de changement au début des années 2000. La politique de la « croissance économique à tout prix », largement alimentée par le charbon, avait amené une grande prospérité, mais les dégâts collatéraux infligés à la qualité de l'air et de l'eau dans le pays devenaient inacceptables. Les défenseurs de l'environnement appelèrent à la construction d'une « civilisation écologique », au sein de laquelle nature et humanité trouveraient un équilibre harmonieux. Et lorsque le président Xi Jinping est parvenu au pouvoir, en 2012, il a immédiatement embrassé cette cause.

Sans tarder, le gouvernement chinois a déclaré la « guerre à la pollution », et conçu trois plans d'action pour l'air, l'eau et les sols, mettant sur la table 1 000 milliards de dollars pour assainir l'environnement, fermer les centrales thermiques au charbon inefficaces et investir des centaines de milliards de dollars dans le développement des énergies renouvelables. Il fit aussi de la fabrication et de la vente de véhicules électriques l'une de ses principales priorités, et mit au point un système national d'échange de quotas d'émissions.

Il est inquiétant pour la Chine et pour la planète que ces avancées et l'élan qui les sous-tendaient semblent aujourd'hui avoir fait place à la timidité, voire à un retour en arrière. La consommation de charbon, qui avait diminué chaque année entre 2014 et 2016, remonte régulièrement depuis lors. Il en va de même des émissions de dioxyde de carbone, qui ont augmenté de 1,5 à 1,7 %, même durant le ralentissement induit par la pandémie, en 2020.

La Chine doit faire mieux. Le rapport 2019 des Nations Unies sur l'écart entre les besoins et les perspectives concluait qu'il faudrait d'ici 2030 réduire les émissions mondiales de 55 % par rapport aux niveaux de 2018 pour limiter le réchauffement mondial à 1,5° Celsius au-dessus des niveaux préindustriels. Mais en 2020, la Chine ajoutait 38,4 gigawatts à ses capacités de production électrique par centrales thermiques au charbon, alors que le reste du monde réduisait de 17,2 GW sa production nette d'électricité à partir de charbon.

Encore cette augmentation n'est-elle qu'un début. Le gouvernement chinois a donné son feu vert pour l'édification d'unités supplémentaires de production à partir de charbon pour une puissance de 36,9 GW, ce qui amène à 88 GW la puissance totale des unités actuellement en construction. Et l'on songe d'ores et déjà à leur adjoindre une nouvelle tranche de 158,7 GW, qui porteraient à 247 GW l'augmentation totale de la production électrique par des centrales au charbon - plus que la puissance installée de ce même mode de production aux États-Unis, soit 233,6 GW.

Plus de centrales encore seront probablement bâties. Des groupes miniers et énergétiques puissants poussent le gouvernement à accroître la capacité des centrales au charbon chinoises de 1 080 GW aujourd'hui à 1 200 ou 1 300 GW au cours des cinq prochaines années, et jusqu'à 1 400 GW en 2035. Un rapport de l'ONG Global Energy Monitor conclut que si

la Chine continue d'augmenter ses capacités, comme elle s'y apprête, jusqu'en 2035, « sa production d'électricité à partir de charbon représentera à elle seule plus de trois fois la limite mondiale de l'usage d'énergie issue des centrales thermiques au charbon préconisée par le Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat (GIEC) pour maintenir le réchauffement mondial nettement en dessous de 2° C ».

Comment expliquer ce retour apparent de la Chine à son ancienne addiction au charbon ? Pour commencer, les protestations à Hong Kong, la guerre commerciale avec les États-Unis et la pandémie de coronavirus ont distraité l'attention des responsables politiques, qui s'est éloignée des préoccupations environnementales. Le ralentissement de la croissance chinoise et la montée du chômage ont poussé dans le même sens. Le gouvernement s'est dès lors soucié de renforcer les industries traditionnelles, gourmandes en énergie, comme la sidérurgie et la cimenterie, tandis que les dirigeants provinciaux étaient pris d'une frénésie de construction de centrales thermiques au charbon.

En outre, la récente guerre commerciale avec les États-Unis a renforcé les inquiétudes de la Chine quant à son indépendance énergétique : le pays importe en effet 70 % de ses besoins en pétrole et 40 % de sa consommation de gaz. Bien qu'elle se soit mobilisée pour l'énergie renouvelable, éolienne et solaire notamment, la Chine ne peut en produire suffisamment et assez rapidement pour répondre à la demande anticipée. Le réseau électrique ne peut quant à lui transmettre efficacement cette énergie de l'Ouest chinois, où elle est essentiellement produite, jusqu'aux régions de forte demande. Le charbon - abondant et relativement bon marché - apparaît à beaucoup comme une source d'énergie éprouvée et fiable.

Enfin, la « rechute » de la Chine dans sa dépendance au charbon est concomitante de l'absence des États-Unis sur la scène internationale de la lutte contre le changement climatique. Si le président Barack Obama et Xi avaient pu trouver un terrain d'entente en cette matière, ouvrant la porte, en 2015, à l'accord de Paris sur le climat, le désengagement des États-Unis sous la présidence de Donald Trump a probablement affaibli aussi la volonté chinoise de s'engager sur ces questions.

Quelle Chine le monde aura-t-il sous ses yeux au cours de prochaines années ? La question est plus aiguë que jamais à la lumière du récent rapport de l'Agence internationale de l'énergie, qui met en garde contre toute nouvelle expansion de l'usage des carburants fossiles dès cette année, si le monde veut parvenir à la neutralité carbone en 2050 et conserver le moindre espoir de contenir l'augmentation de la température mondiale dans la limite de 1,5° C.

En septembre 2020, Xi a annoncé que la Chine visait la neutralité carbone d'ici 2060 et provoqué un regain d'optimisme. Mais ceux qui espéraient que le 14e plan quinquennal (2021-2025), rendu public au mois de mars, viendrait préciser la stratégie gouvernementale de lancement du processus de décarbonation ont été déçus. Et lors du sommet sur le climat réuni en avril par le président des États-Unis, Joe Biden, Xi s'est contenté d'annoncer que si la Chine, au cours du prochain plan quinquennal, « contrôlerait strictement » sa consommation d'énergie électrique issue des centrales à charbon, elle ne s'interdirait pas non plus de l'augmenter, ne prévoyant d'en « diminuer progressivement la part » qu'à compter de 2026.

C'est un calendrier follement irresponsable. Les spécialistes du climat, du GIEC, du consortium TransitionZero et d'ailleurs ont calculé que pour limiter le réchauffement mondial nettement en dessous des « catastrophiques » 2° C, il faudrait que la Chine ferme d'ici 2030 quelque 600 de ses 1082 centrales thermiques au charbon. S'ils ont raison, Pékin ferait mieux de redresser sans tarder le cap de son énorme vaisseau énergétique.

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## Dillon remits US\$15k for Montserrado development initiatives

By Lewis S Teh

Authorities at the Montserrado County Development Council say Senator Abraham Darius Dillon has reaffirmed his commitment to the people of Montserrado and Liberia at large, disclosing that he has further remitted US\$15,000 to the council for its developmental initiative.

Jimmy George, Project

engage their constituents.

According to him, Senator Dillon informed his constituents and the public about the money before receiving the first half of the US\$30,000. He added that Senator Dillon, knowing the current public health crisis faced by the country and the need for everyone to rally efforts in battling this disease out of Liberia, immediately made a donation of US\$7,500 to the

Clinic.

"What shocked the entire country after over a month was the return of Senator Dillon's 7,500USD donation by this government through the Minister of Health at the same time accepting money from other lawmakers and even begging other nationals and organizations for financial and material assistance," Mr. George lamented.

He cautioned the government against refusing cash donations from Dillon, as doing so amounts to playing politics with the lives of the ordinary people.

"The GOL's rejection of the Senator's contribution has been the saddest time in this fight against the COVID-19 especially when people are dying. This government must stop playing politics with citizens' lives," continued.

Additionally, George said when the news of the second half of the legislative engagement money was made available to lawmakers, the Council met with Senator Dillon and advised him to take the money and turn it over to be used by the people of Montserrado on the coronavirus fight in the county.

"We are pleased to announce that we have the money and will be using majority of said amount toward the fight against COVID-19 with a small portion used for other interventions," he said.



Sen. Abraham Darius Dillon

Director of the Montserrado County Development Council told a press conference Monday, 2 August that over a month ago, there were issues in the public concerning legislative engagement funds appropriated in the national budget which was approved and authorized by the President of Liberia and provided to lawmakers to

Montserrado County Health Team.

He narrated that the amount was gladly received and accepted by the County Health Team at the time, and Dillon made subsequent donation of oxygen tanks and other medical supplies to ELWA Hospital and other health facilities including the Oniyima Health Center formerly known as the Island

## U.S. Embassy welcomes new USAID, CDC bosses to Liberia

The U.S. Embassy Monrovia welcomes the New Country Directors of USAID and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The U.S. Embassy Monrovia welcomes new USAID Mission Director Jim Wright and the new Country Director for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Rachel Idowu to Liberia, respectively.

According to a press release, Mr. Wright is a veteran Foreign Service officer who brings to Liberia more than 30 years of experience, managing international development and relief programs in more

than 10 countries around the world, including three assignments in West Africa.

He was most recently the USAID Mission Director in Timor-Leste, where he led the Mission in strengthening democratic institutions, expanding inclusive economic growth, and improving health services.

The release says Mr. Wright was sworn into office by USAID Administrator Samantha Power, who described him as a consummate development professional, known for his steadfast commitment to USAID's mission to help countries around the world develop their economies, end extreme poverty, and build resilient democratic institutions.

Dr. Idowu began her career

with the CDC in 2012 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer. She later assisted Liberia, Ghana, and Zambia in establishing national platforms for public health services and supported Liberia's response during the 2014-15 West Africa Ebola outbreak.

She also served as the first CDC technical advisor to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) after contributing to its conception, design, and launch. Dr. Idowu is board-certified in public health and general preventative medicine. She trained in general surgery and critical care medicine at Vanderbilt

## PUL opens Book of Condolence for fallen journalist

The Press Union of Liberia (PUL) in collaboration with one of its auxiliaries, the Sports Writers Association (SWAL) and the Liberia Football Association (LFA) will today, Tuesday, August 3, 2021 open a Book of Condolence in memory of fallen Journalist Horatio Bobby Willie, in Monrovia.

According to a release from the PUL, the Book will be opened at 11:30 am at the Union's Headquarters on 44 Clay Street, Monrovia and calls on media practitioners and members of the public to turn out to sign in memory of the fallen journalist, and public

Radio Veritas. He later joined the independent Star Radio where he became Economic Affairs Reporter. Bobby played pivotal role in the founding of the Economic Journalists Association, a network of specialized reporters on economic reporting in Liberia. He entered public service as Director of Information Services at the Ministry of Finance, and later became Assistant Minister for Public Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Bobby also worked for the Gender Ministry and of late served in the Communications Department of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA). He at some points provided communication



The late Journalist Horatio Bobby Willie

policy communications expert.

Bobby died on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Monrovia after a period of illness.

PUL says it is deeply saddened by the death of the bright sports writer and communication practitioner. The Union again extends its deepest regret to the Willie Family over the death of Bobby, describing it as another irreparable loss to the media and the country.

"Nesta" as he was affectionately called by professional peers, started his career as a sports reporter at

consultancy for the Liberia Football Association.

The late Horatio Bobby Willie served the Sports Writers Association of Liberia as Assistant Secretary General and Vice President respectively.

The Sports Writers Association of Liberia (SWAL), Liberia Football Association (LFA), Ministries of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Gender, the entire journalism community and the public are kindly asked to be seated before 11:30am today, Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at the Headquarters of the Union on 44 Clay in Monrovia. -Press release



University School of Medicine, where she also serves as an

adjunct faculty member, the release details. -Press Release



# Human trafficking not their priority

By Winston W. Parley

Members of the Liberian Legislature are sending out a loud and clear message that human trafficking here is not their priority, United States Ambassador to Liberia Michael McCarthy has observed.

He said the Lawmakers sending that message loud and clear by their silence on Trafficking In Person (TIP), while the Executive and Judicial branches have been left to face the challenge in dealing with matters of Trafficking in Person.

He said the silence of Liberian Legislators on the issues regarding TIP is putting millions of dollars in United States assistance to this impoverished country at risk.

"The failure to make these changes—or even to engage seriously in conversation about an amendment—puts millions of dollars in U.S.

legislators have consistently failed, year after year, to make a credible effort to fight TIP.

For many years now, Amb. McCarthy continued, the TIP Report has highlighted the need to make changes—relatively simple changes—to the 2005 Human Trafficking Law.

"While I will not speculate on the reason for this inaction, I call on legislators to put their country's needs first and engage in a serious effort to reform the law," the U.S. envoy urged lawmakers here.

He noted that the return of Liberia to Tier Two Watchlist on the TIP Report was a disappointment to all and a reminder of the intense work needed to make and sustain progress.

Fortunately, he said, the TIP Report also offers a clear action plan, adding that one of the top recommendations was to "Train law enforcement and judicial officials on identifying, investigating, and prosecuting trafficking cases under the 2005

Advisor Drew Engel, an international expert in TIP among other fields, who will be embedded with the Ministry of Justice. While he will provide valuable assistance, progress must be led by the GOL," Amb. McCarthy stressed.

Liberia's Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor who received the donation, said the Bench - Book will give guidance to judges and magistrates here in dealing with human trafficking. He thanked the U.S. Government for providing the funds for the INL and the involvement of IDLO to be able to give Liberia the Bench - Book.

"I know it will enhance the knowledge of our magistrates and our judges in dealing with the issue of human trafficking. We at the Supreme Court are always ready to work with you IDLO. We need all of the support to the Judiciary in enhancing the work that we do here," he said.

"This book will go a very long way in dealing with the issue of human trafficking which I said is relatively new to our country," Chief Justice Korkpor added. He thanked the U.S. Ambassador and the Government and People of the United States, INL and IDLO "for this splendid work."

He described human trafficking as a menace in the Liberian society, noting that it involves the most vulnerable groups here. In Liberia specifically, Chief Justice Korkpor said the U.S. State Department report showed that a large segment of the people from the rural part are trafficked to the urban area and once here, there's no control.

"They can leave from here and go to neighboring country and other parts of the world. Now the issue of human trafficking is relatively new to Liberia. When I say new - in terms of dealing with it, in terms of the law applicable to it, and all of that," he said.

Chief Justice Korkpor recalled that it was in 2005 that an Act of the Legislature was passed in respect of human trafficking, then in 2012, there was an amendment to that Act, specifically addressing the issue of Trafficking In Person.

"Since that time I think Liberia has made steady progress over the years. It was based on the progress made by all of the actors from the civil society, from the Ministry of Justice, from the Judiciary that Liberia was removed from the watch - list of the U.S. Government," Chief Justice Korkpor said.

According to him, with the development of this Bench -

anti-trafficking law."

He deemed the International Development Law Organization as an essential partner in helping the Government of Liberia make progress on the fight against TIP.

Amb. McCarthy said with funding from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, IDLO has developed useful TIP curricula and training materials, including the Bench-Book for Judges that he donated Monday, 2 August.

He thanked the entire IDLO team, represented by Acting Country Director Teresa Mugadza who along with Country Director Dorah Mafabi have been some of Liberia's strongest allies in this fight.

Amb. McCarthy said much work remains, from providing sufficient funding for victim-support services to increasing the number of investigations, prosecutions, and—above all—convictions.

"In support of the latter objective, INL has also contracted Senior Judicial



Amb. McCarthy presents Bench - Book on TIP to Chief Justice Korkpor

assistance to Liberia at risk," Amb. McCarthy said Monday morning, 2 August at the Temple of Justice while donating a Bench - Book to the Judiciary that will guide judges and magistrates here in dealing with issues on Trafficking in Person.

The Bench - Book is an International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)-funded TIP materials for judges, developed by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO).

During the donation, Amb. McCarthy said the commitment of prosecutors and judges here to this cause, exemplified by their partnership with IDLO and the Ministry of Justice's hosting of a U.S. judicial advisor, show the willingness of the executive and judicial branches to face the challenge head on.

But he said that leaves the legislative branch, saying unfortunately, Liberian

# Protest turns bloody at UL

Protest on the main campus of the University of Liberia turned bloody on Monday, August 2, when riot Police dispersed protesting students with rubber bullets, leaving several students wounded.

The students mainly from the campus-based Student Unification Party (SUP) attired in their usual kakis uniform that symbolizes their militancy had converged to protest E-learning program introduced by the administration, which avoids in-person classes in the wake of resurgence of the coronavirus.

Prior to, and even since the

calls yesterday on inquiry about the clashes.

The students claim the President of the University of Liberia, Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., cares less about their education.

But the Vice President for University Relations Attorney Norris Tweah, brother of Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Samuel Tweah, is quoted as dismissing the students' claim, saying that Dr. Nelson is a student-sensitive leader, who has always prioritized learning on all campuses of the university.

However, critics say the E-learning introduced on campus



start of the 2021-2022 Semester, they have consistently complained of going online without seeing lessons from class lecturers, prompting them to call for a return to normal attendance of classes in person.

However, as the protest gained momentum Monday, riot officers from the Liberia National Police moved on the campus and discharged hail of rubber bullets in an attempt to disperse the students, injuring several of them.

Police spokesman Moses Carter did not take journalists'

is a flood-gate for instructors and lecturers to commit excesses such as sex and money for grade, as the process is not being adequately monitored.

They also note that during introduction of the exercise last semester, most instructors and lecturers did not attend training organized by the administration and thus, lack adequate knowledge themselves of its practical implementation. -

Story by Jonathan Browne

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Book, it will even add more to the work that they have been doing in the Judiciary because they were relying on getting laws from other sources.

Earlier, IDLO Acting Country Director Teresa Mugadza said while it is true that in partnership with the Judicial Institute, they can [provide] training, there will come a time when they will not be able to do it.

Cognizant of this, she said they need to make sure that

the tools and the capacity [are] embedded in the Judiciary itself to be able to carry on the work.

Madam Mugadza also recognized IDLO's partnership and collaboration with the Judicial Institute in the development of the handbook provided to the magistrates that looks at how they can enhance adjudicating capacity when dealing with matters of Trafficking in Person.



## Giroud: God wanted me to play for Milan



Olivier Giroud is excited to start a new chapter in his career in Serie A and says "God wanted me to play for Milan".

The 34-year-old joined the Rossoneri in a reported €2million (£1.7m) deal on July 17, bringing an end to his nine-year stay in the Premier League with Arsenal and more recently Chelsea.

Giroud is looking forward to adding to his trophy

collection during his time in Italy having won Ligue 1 with Montpellier before lifting the FA Cup four times tasting glory in the Champions League and Europa League during his time in England.

"I won many trophies at every club I've been at and would like to do the same here," he said at his official unveiling on Monday.

"I do have an objective in my mind during my time here, but I don't want to reveal it, otherwise there will be too much pressure.

Let's just say my final objective is to win with Milan." Giroud is thought to have signed a two-year deal with Milan and is following in the steps of legendary figures such as Gunnar Nordahl, Filippo Inzaghi and Andriy Shevchenko.

And the France international leaned on one of those iconic figures before putting pen to paper with the Italian giants.

"The time had come to leave Chelsea and discover a new league. God wanted me to play for Milan," he said.

"This is one of the biggest clubs in the world and I really believe in the project here. We've got what it takes to have a very good Champions League campaign.

"When I was young, I watched Milan games with Shevchenko and he later became a dear friend who I asked for advice.

"It's an honour for me to be at a club where so many great stars have played and it was emotional talking to [director] Paolo Maldini, too.

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