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# Travel ban belated!



**Buchanan Port Manager Mr. Charles McArthur Gull**

## *-Port suspects abscond justice*



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# Continental News

## Fact-checking claims about food aid for Tigray

With conflict continuing in Ethiopia's Tigray region and nearby areas, the government has made a series of claims about the problems in accessing much-needed food supplies.

We have checked some of these claims against what we know about the aid situation in Tigray. At the moment, there's no firm evidence to support this claim about the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

The TPLF itself has told the BBC that the government was "coming up with all kinds of excuses" to obstruct the movement of aid supplies into Tigray.

We know the conflict has intensified and spread beyond Tigray, and that land routes into Tigray from the Amhara region were closed.

And there are security issues affecting the one remaining route via the Afar region, which starts from the regional capital Semera, and goes northwards into Tigray at Abala. Road access through the Amhara region was blocked by militias who

support the Ethiopian government, rather than by Tigray forces.

The UN has referred to an incident at a checkpoint in the Afar region on 28 July on the way to Tigray, where two trucks were said to have been stopped and looted by civilians.

But it's not clear who was involved, and whether Tigray rebel forces were in that area at the time. The UN said that in late July, there'd been various

reasons for delays, including the need for permission from the Ethiopian authorities, as well as numerous checkpoints along the route to Tigray. In a more recent statement on 11 August, the UN humanitarian affairs co-ordinating office said humanitarian access had "significantly improved", with an estimated 75% of the area accessible. But it also said the flow of humanitarian supplies into the region remained

"insufficient".

The Ethiopian government said that as of 11 August, 277 food aid trucks were in Tigray.

We asked UN agencies if they could confirm this, but have not received a response.

In any case, the World Food Programme says it needs to send at least 6,000 tonnes of food a week during August, which means 100 trucks going into Tigray every single day. The Ethiopian government said that flights into Tigray would be allowed from early July - after being banned in June.

The UN told us there have been recent improvements in the number of flights carrying relief workers to the area.

But in July, there don't appear to have been many flights at all due to strict approval requirements from the authorities - with only two recorded.

The first UN passenger flight wasn't until 22 July, and the other one carried the UN humanitarian chief, Martin Griffiths. In August, however, four humanitarian flights did go from Addis Ababa to the regional capital of Tigray, Mekelle. BBC



An aid distribution point in Mekelle in the Tigray region

## Zambian president says election was not free

Zambia's incumbent president has described Thursday's elections as "not free and fair".

Early results show President Edgar Lungu trailing his main opponent, businessman Hakainde "HH" Hichilema.

The president said election officials from his party Patriotic Front had been chased from polling stations, leaving votes unprotected.

In response, Mr Hichilema said the statement was the "desperate final act of an outgoing administration".

Mr Lungu, who is seeking a

second term, also said that violence in provinces where he lost votes had rendered "the whole exercise a nullity".

The party, he added, was considering its next course of action.

Zambia's electoral commission is yet to respond.

Violence had broken out in Southern province, North Western province and Western Province, the president's statement said. Mr Lungu referenced the killing of a Patriotic Front chairman in North Western province and of another young party activist in clashes earlier this month. When the deaths occurred, the president brought in army reinforcements. European Union election observers said in a preliminary report that the vote was "marred by unequal campaign restrictions, restrictions on freedoms of assembly and movement, and abuse of incumbency".

Social media and internet access was also shut down on Thursday. On Friday the High



Edgar Lungu is seeking a second term in office

## Quest to identify bodies washed up in the Caribbean

Police in Trinidad and Tobago have told the BBC they are still trying to discover the identities of 15 bodies found in a Mauritanian boat that washed up in the Caribbean nation in May.

It's believed they were attempting to get to the Canary Islands in order to get to Europe, when the boat was blown off course. It may have been floating in the Atlantic Ocean for about two months

"I asked myself... what were they trying to escape from? Where were they trying to go? What was their life before they left their country of their origin?"

"The boat was a large boat with a very small Yamaha engine and very little fuel, so there was no way they could have made that journey based on where they started to where they wanted to go."

He says investigators have been able to collect some



before it was found.

William Nurse, the assistant commissioner of Tobago's police force, is one of those involved in the investigation and was part of the team which found the skeletal remains on the vessel.

"It was one of the most horrific experiences I have ever seen in my 38 years as a police officer," he told the BBC's Newsday presenter James Copnall.

fingerprints and their cyber unit has gathered information from seven mobile phones found on the boat.

This information is being shared with officials in Mauritania as part of efforts to identify them.

He added that this was not an isolated incident - and he had heard of other lost boats crossing the Atlantic - one turning up in Turks and Caicos and another in Honduras. BBC

Court in Lusaka ruled that access to the internet should be fully restored.

The results of the election were initially expected on Friday.

However, the announcement was halted after some party election officials criticised the

commission for trying to declare results that hadn't yet been verified.

A candidate can dispute an election by filing a petition in the country's Constitutional Court. This stops the winning candidate from exercising executive powers until the petition is heard in court. BBC



# EDITORIAL

## So the suspended port managers have fled the country

**WE HAVE LEARNT** reliably that the suspended manager of the Port of Buchanan in Grand Bassa County Charles McArthur Gull and Chief Statistician Amara Kamara currently facing investigation for diverting over US\$300,000.00 of port fund to a private account have absconded. How this happened we are not interested but one thing that should be clear is they did not act alone.

**THE LAST INFORMATION** we gathered from the management of the National Port Authority last week is that the suspended officials, who reportedly confessed to diverting the amount were being forwarded to the Liberian Anti Corruption Commission for thorough probe.

**NOW WE ARE** hearing that they have absconded to the United States of America. To have them brought back to Liberia to face justice would require serious legal battle, including extradition request that might drag for months or years.

**IN FACT, WE** also gathered that the actual amount of money diverted into private account in Monrovia is US\$900,000.00, contrary to what the NPA management had reported. But if the NPA management claimed to have conducted preliminary investigation with the suspended officials at which they confessed to diverting the public money, then it ought to know their whereabouts.

**WE ARE ABSOLUTELY** flabbergasted that the two officials, having been suspended for alleged impropriety which they admitted to, were never apprehended whatsoever even as they were said to being transferred to the LACC. We clearly see a connivance or complacency here.

**SOMEONE NEEDS TO** account how possible was it when the guys, already being investigated though without any formal charge would escape the country without trace. Someone, probably a mole within the government could have been keeping them abreast of happenings and eventually helped them to run away.

**SUCH BEHAVIOR PORTRAYS** the government negatively and sends wrong picture about many people's motive for coming to public service. They see government job as an opportunity to steal and amass wealth quickly.

**WE RECOMMEND THAT ANY** future investigation on how Charles McArthur Gull and Amara Kamara, under investigation left Liberia for the United States should include the management of the NPA to help with said investigation.

**HONESTLY SPEAKING, THE** handling of public funds under the Weah administration leaves much to be desired, particularly in the face of a health pandemic and serious economic challenges. Those responsible should not go with impunity.

**SIMILARLY, THE PUBLIC** is watching with eagle's eyes on development at the National Transit Authority (NTA) where millions of dollars are been reportedly siphoned by its managing director, Harbie Macauley, evoking employees' protests and calls for his dismissal.



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# COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

## Apocalypse or Cooperation?

**N**EW DELHI - The Apocalypse is now. That is the glaring message of the perfect storm of COVID-19 and climate change that has now broken. The pandemic is unlikely to end for years, as the novel coronavirus mutates into increasingly transmissible, drug-resistant variants. And the climate catastrophe is no longer "impending" but playing out in real time.

The latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - whose assessments predate the extreme climate events of the past year - tells us that some drastic adverse climatic changes are now irreversible. These will affect every region, as the recent heatwaves, wildfires, and floods demonstrate. They will also severely damage many natural species, and adversely affect the possibilities for and conditions of human life.

Keeping future global warming to a manageable level (even if above the 2015 Paris climate agreement goal of 1.5°C) will require a massive effort, involving sharp economic-policy reversals in every country. Major changes in the global legal and economic architecture will be essential.

For its part, the pandemic has devastated employment and livelihoods, pushing hundreds of millions of people, mostly in the developing world, into poverty and hunger. The International Labour Organization's World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2021 shows the extent of the damage in grinding detail. In 2020, the pandemic caused the loss of nearly 9% of total global working hours, equivalent to 255 million full-time jobs. This trend has continued in 2021, with working-hour losses equivalent to 140 million full-time jobs in the first quarter and 127 million jobs in the second quarter.

On current trends, projected employment growth will be insufficient to make up for these losses. So, even in 2022, total employment will be lower than in 2019 by the equivalent of at least 23 million full-time jobs. This is despite relatively strong job growth in the United States, meaning that labor-market deterioration in other, mostly poorer, regions will be even sharper and more intense. Moreover, the "new" jobs associated with recovery from the pandemic will be predominantly low-paying and poor quality.

Meanwhile, economic inequality between and within countries has reached levels that were unimaginable in the already extremely unequal pre-pandemic world. While many people face substantial income losses, declining access to basic needs, acute deprivation, and hunger, a tiny minority of the extremely wealthy and a few large corporations have grabbed even more income and wealth, thereby multiplying their assets.

Today's new forms of conspicuous consumption - such as the world's richest man, Jeff Bezos, recently spending \$5.5 billion for a four-minute ride around suborbital space - are literally out of this world. This amount could instead have funded the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility to provide vaccines to two billion people in poor countries, who are currently unlikely to get them in the next two years.

This state of affairs obviously cannot continue for long without major social tensions and civil unrest. Indeed, the perfect storm we are beginning to experience will soon include much more social and political instability. Rather than

spurring a progressive and transformative agenda, this could descend into ethnic, racial, and other forms of conflicts, violence, and chaos.

This nightmarish scenario can still be averted with substantially increased international cooperation on a few key issues. On climate, governments could collectively declare that they will cut carbon dioxide and other greenhouse-gas emissions more sharply in order to reach net zero in a decade, rather than several decades.

Rich countries with high legacy emissions should obviously make the deepest cuts and transfer green technologies to the developing world without conditions, enabling the latter also to decarbonize rapidly. Funds for climate adaptation are now essential, and proposed global public investment can enable swift action on this.

To control the still-raging pandemic, it is imperative to redistribute available vaccine doses immediately, and remove legal constraints on widening production through compulsory licenses. In addition, the pharmaceutical firms that benefited from large COVID-19 vaccine-development subsidies must share their technology with other producers to increase supply, as the World Health Organization Council on the Economics of Health for All has recommended. Building resilient and decentralized manufacturing capacity, including in the public sector, will be vital in order to deal effectively with future pandemics and other health crises.

As for economic policy, global tax cooperation is a no-brainer. Simple rules that would make multinational companies pay the same rate of tax as purely domestic firms, and ensure that the revenues are shared fairly between countries, would reduce inequality and provide fiscally constrained developing economies with much-needed resources.

Likewise, an international sovereign-debt resolution mechanism would reduce many developing countries' fiscal burdens, freeing up space for urgent spending. Regulating highly mobile cross-border finance, reining in credit-rating agencies, and introducing conditions that make finance respond to social needs also will require international regulatory cooperation.

Unfortunately, the current state of global politics means this necessary and feasible agenda is unlikely to be realized. Leaders of major countries have so far displayed a pathetic lack of ambition. Instead, they have paid lip service to these existential challenges, while remaining subservient to private capital and vested interests, and all too willing to play to national and local galleries.

The attitude of G7 governments, which are more obsessed with China's rise than with preserving our increasingly fragile world, has been especially depressing. Their COVID-19 vaccine nationalism is short-sighted and obscene, while their rigid attachment to intellectual-property rights allows private firms to restrict knowledge and production in order to maximize their profits. These stances have reduced trust and hampered international cooperation to tackle the pandemic.

Humanity still has a chance to step back from the brink. Will it do so, or will future species wonder why we chose to participate actively in our own destruction?



# OPINION

By Sławomir Sierakowski

## The Tusk Effect

**WARSAW** - In July, Donald Tusk, the former European Council president who previously served as Poland's prime minister from 2007 to 2014, returned to Polish politics. Many voters remember him as the politician who raised the country's retirement age - a policy that was reversed in 2017 by the Law and Justice Party (PiS). In fact, the PiS has blamed Tusk for pretty much everything that is wrong in Poland.

Other paranoid accusations leveled against Tusk include that he collaborated with Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2010 to arrange the plane crash that killed President Lech Kaczyński, the identical twin brother of PiS leader Jarosław Kaczyński, and that he is, in fact, a German backed by Chancellor Angela Merkel.

But Tusk is a consummate pragmatist. He admits that he made some serious mistakes during his tenure as prime minister. He now believes that people should be able to choose whether they want to retire earlier or get a larger pension for retiring later. He is less economically liberal than he was before, conceding that the state should be more active in redistribution. Like the rest of the Polish political class, he acknowledges that the PiS government's many generous social programs are popular. There will be no returning to the neoliberalism that dominated Poland after 1989, in the era of then-Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz's "shock therapy."

Tusk's return has had an electrifying effect. His party, Civic Platform, immediately regained the lead among the opposition, with its support rising from 16.9 to 27.3 in the space of a month. Moreover, an analysis of the polls shows that he has won over as many as one million new voters for the opposition. As one commentator put it, Tusk has rolled in like a tank to challenge the infantrymen of PiS and the other opposition parties.

The atmosphere within Civic Platform has also changed. The party's previously comatose politicians have woken up. Tusk is traveling the country and meeting activists, local government officials, and ordinary people. At press conferences, he answers even hostile questions, including from PiS-aligned media outlets. Not allowing himself to be provoked, he both admits to past mistakes and offers sharp ripostes - a style that contrasts starkly with Kaczyński, who never takes questions at press conferences.

Tusk's strategy is to serve as a kind of father of the opposition. He not only avoids disputes, but also praises other opposition leaders effusively. He is not the kind of politician who wants to share power; but, for now, he is focused on defeating PiS. That goal comes with significant career risks. Although Kaczyński has a significant resource advantage (presiding over the state budget, public media, state-owned companies, and European funds), losing to him nonetheless would be a grave embarrassment for Tusk.

Tusk's return has also intensified Kaczyński's war on Poland's independent media. To limit the opposition's electoral prospects, PiS has tried to pull the plug on the country's largest private television station, TVN, and its news channel, TVN24. Because the station is owned by the US company Discovery (which is in the process of merging with another American firm, WarnerMedia, the parent company to CNN), PiS has introduced a law that would bar entities from outside the European Economic Area from controlling television entities operating on the basis of a license issued in Poland.

PiS pretends that it wants to protect Poland's media market from takeovers by other countries, such as Russia, China, or an Arab state. But, giving lie to this claim, the PiS-controlled National Broadcasting Council has been delaying the extension of TVN24's broadcasting license for 18 months, simply out of spite. The station now has fewer than 50 days left to secure a renewal.

Poland is thus spurning the country on which it most depends to maintain its own national security. The United States has repeatedly signaled its opposition to PiS's actions, with a bipartisan group of US senators warning in a recent joint letter that:

"These and other steps, which Poland - a NATO ally and close friend and partner of the United States - has recently taken, do not reflect the shared values that underpin our bilateral relationship. Any decision to implement these laws could have negative implications for defense, business, and trade relations. We urge the Polish government to pause before acting on any measure that would impact our longstanding relationship."

The message here is clear. If the law is enacted, Poland can forget about any large weapons contracts, an increased American military presence (beyond the 5,000 US soldiers who currently rotate through the country), or any state visits. Of course, that last point may well suit Kaczyński, who bet everything on Donald Trump remaining in power and now sees no reason to cooperate with US President Joe Biden's administration.

Still, there is opposition to the so-called "Lex TVN" even within the ruling camp, where a small group of deputies led by the conservative member of parliament Jarosław Gowin has pulled out of the PiS coalition government, opening the possibility of it falling soon.

Kaczyński appears willing to sacrifice the Polish-American alliance in an attempt to obliterate the opposition's electoral chances. He is even more desperate now that the country's COVID-19 vaccination campaign has stalled, setting the stage for a fourth pandemic wave and possibly another lockdown. Worse, anti-vaccination sentiment is rising within the right-wing electorate, including among PiS voters. That means the government cannot risk using coercion or discrimination against the unvaccinated to head off more infections.

On top of everything else, Poland is still in a dispute with the European Union over the independence of the judiciary, leaving it vulnerable to having its EU funding cut off. Lacking a stable parliamentary majority and facing the possibility of a fourth wave, PiS thus finds itself on a collision course with not only its own electorate, but also with the EU and the US.

Still, Tusk must pierce the ceiling of 25-30% support to overtake PiS in the polls. The coming months will show us how strong he is, and how weak Kaczyński may have become.

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# O-PED

By Richard Gokrun

## Big Tech Flies Too Much

**FUNAFUTI, TUVALU** - Last year, Microsoft announced that it will be carbon-negative by 2030. "If we don't curb emissions, and temperatures continue to climb," the firm said on its official blog, "science tells us that the results will be catastrophic." Microsoft deserves credit for publicly discussing the climate crisis, being transparent about its own greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions, and at least having some sort of plan to reduce them.

But the elephant in the room is that Microsoft is one of the top ten corporate buyers of commercial flights in the United States. Before the pandemic, in the financial year 2019, the firm's business travel alone accounted for 392,557 metric tons of GHG emissions.

That's far more than my entire Pacific island country emits in a year. Tuvalu is well known for its vulnerability to the effects of climate change. We contribute almost nothing to global GHG emissions, but their consequences affect us on a monthly or even daily basis.

Microsoft's high level of corporate air travel is not a good look for a company that talks big on climate, sustainability, and racial justice, especially one that literally has its own videoconferencing platform. Surely an advanced tech firm that claims to be "reimagining virtual collaboration for the future of work" should practice what it preaches, crank up Microsoft Teams, and fly less.

But Microsoft is hardly an outlier among tech firms. Five of the ten largest buyers of corporate air travel in the US are technology companies: Amazon, IBM, Google, Apple, and Microsoft. These digital giants, along with the big consulting firms, are also among the top buyers of flights globally.

Although one might expect these big, growing companies' large number of employees to fly to many meetings, there are plenty of even bigger employers that fly less. Companies that tout technological innovation as the key to tackling climate change should be savvy enough to use video calls, rather than shuttle employees around the planet on airlines that before the pandemic burned 7-8 million barrels of oil per day - more than India.

In May last year, a paper in the journal Nature Climate Change found that the pause to aviation accounted for 10% of the decrease in global emissions during COVID-19 lockdowns. Given that only 4% of the global population took an international flight in 2018, and that half of all aviation emissions come from just 1% of the global population, this outsize impact shows not only how often the 1% fly, but also that flying is a function of privilege. And according to the International Air Transport Association, many, if not the majority, of frequent flyers are businesspeople.

Microsoft, which is so committed to business travel that it has its own priority check-in lane at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, sits near the top of a highly unequal and skewed global carbon hierarchy. The wealthiest (and often the whitest) pollute the most, while those who emit the least - predominantly people of color, the socially vulnerable, and inhabitants of the Global South, including the Pacific - bear the costs.

Comparatively wealthy flyers must recognize their responsibility to those less fortunate, who deserve to live without fear of global warming's effects. Climate-vulnerable people want to maintain their homes and identities as citizens of their country, rather than being forced to migrate elsewhere.

If concern for equality and climate justice won't cure Big Tech's corporate flight addiction, maybe money will. The profits of Amazon and other large technology firms soared during last year's lockdowns, even when commercial flights were reduced to zero for many months.

Chief financial officers and accountants are therefore now wondering whether the expense of business flights makes any sense. Employees can hold more meetings in a day via videoconference, and business flyers say the pause in air travel either had no impact on their productivity, or actually improved it.

Bill Gates has predicted that business travel will decline by half after the pandemic. If that's the baseline, then what would a company truly committed to urgent climate action do?

With that question top of mind, a coalition of NGOs, activists, and Microsoft customers recently launched JustUseTeams.com, calling on Microsoft to take the lead and announce that it will permanently lock in all of its 2020 reduction in business flights. Once Microsoft shows some leadership on this issue, the campaign will expand to other tech firms. On the road to net-zero emissions, any step that advances that goal while saving a company millions of dollars a year should be considered low-hanging fruit.

Tech firms will claim that they have been trying to pluck it, but their actions are inadequate to the climate crisis we face. Microsoft, for example, is part of an initiative to promote sustainable fuels. But the airline industry has consistently failed to meet its own targets for scaling up such fuels, which still account for less than 0.1% of the sector's use.

Meanwhile, many Big Tech firms buy "carbon credits," and maintain that this somehow erases or "offsets" their own flight emissions. But this claim is losing whatever scientific credibility it once may have had. A recent investigation revealed that the most popular carbon-offset scheme used by airlines is based on a flawed system, in which so-called "phantom credits" are often sold on the promise to protect forest areas that were never at risk of being cut down. In reality, neither airlines nor their biggest corporate customers are in a position to claim that their flights are "carbon neutral."

Microsoft and other big technology companies therefore must commit to remain permanently at their 2020 flight levels. This is possible, necessary, and fair. It is also good business.

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## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Developing Liberia is a National Emergency: Reasons for Underdevelopment of Liberia

By Hun-Bu Tulay/ntevoma@gmail.com

Liberia has remained underdeveloped even though she has vast natural resources (gold, diamonds, timbers, fertile soil for agriculture etc.). The country's leaders have for the better part of 174 years gone out begging for assistance. Our leaders have failed to maximize the potential we have of becoming a great nation. They wait instructions from power leaders and nations to tell them what is good. The country got political independence 174 years ago but yet she is an economic slave. She entered bigot concession agreements and gave the right of our resources to companies owned by former slave masters.

The former masters control the economy, hence dictate to politicians on what is good for their people. They make us believe that nothing good comes from Africa (foods, clothes, drinks, education etc.). These leaders spend over 50% of the national budgets to purchase foreign items thereby creating jobs in the former colonial masters' countries at detriment of theirs. The youths are poorly educated, the streets are poorly constructed, the hospitals are poorly managed and the youths go without jobs.

These leaders are satisfied with the situation in the country because they loot the resources and they have the funds to travel to foreign lands for good medical treatment, send their children to foreign countries for schools. In the words of Donald Trump African countries have become shithole countries. When Trump said this, they thwacked at him. This is what the late Kwame Nkrumah wrote about 52 years ago when he published the book "Neocolonialism and The Last Day of Imperialism". The late Dr. Nkrumah predicted what is happening today. Our leaders of today have faded memories. Many of them have mansions in foreign countries.

The country remains underdeveloped even after political independence over many years ago. Whenever one tunes his/her radio or television, he or she hears one of the poorest countries are in Africa (Liberia second poorest in South Sahara Africa), and the most underdeveloped are also in Africa despite the numerous natural resources of some of these countries, and the most corrupt countries are in Africa. The 'WHY' of this phenomenon has jaded my little mind and I have tried to answer the question.

Unlike Liberia, some countries in Africa are developing much faster than others. I once asked a friend this question and he said to me that many people in Africa, particularly government officials who should champion development do not allocate resources for programs/infrastructural development. He further said in many Africa cities, if one travelled and returned twenty years later, he would not see any change in the neighborhood where he left after years of absence. To prove or disprove him, I visited Soniwein, a small community behind AME University on Camp Johnson Road, where I once lived 50 years ago, and realized my friend was right.

The purpose of this article is to share my answer to the question 'Why' Liberia continues to remain underdeveloped. The answer to the 'why' has always been under our noses and yet we cannot see it. We have been blinded for over 100 years. To answer the question, I first want to ask many of our political actors and even our intellectuals if they have seen and read a book titled "Small is Beautiful" by Ernst Frederick Shumaecher, published in 1973. In this book, the author identified the greatest enemies of development. He identified these enemies as Envy and Greed. The author said that these two human vices, if systematically cultivated, the inevitable result is nothing less than the collapse in human intelligence.

Political actors driven by these human vices lose the power to see things as they really are. And if a nation is infested by these vices, the political actors become increasingly incapable of solving the nation's most elementary problems of everyday existence of the people. These vices make political actors live on ideas that conflict with the constitution and laws governing the country and the universe. Whenever a nation reaches this stage, conflict abounds, because the people will demand answers from their political leaders.

Hence it was not surprising to many people the events of 1979 Rice Riot, the 1980 Coup d'état, and the 1990 popular uprising that resulted in the killing of over 250,000 Liberians and the destruction of the very fabric of our society (health care, water and sanitation services, the energy sector, education, agriculture and basic infrastructures (roads and bridges).

When former masters realized that our leaders are covetous and greedy, they identified those leaders that are envious and greedy and used them to unseat progressive Leaders, who wanted and want to develop the country. The first Coup d'état in Liberia happened 150 years ago and it has continued. Even some of the civic crises and conflicts in Liberia are masterminded by the former masters for their interest.

Over the past 150 years, since the first military coup d'état many African countries have declined economically, socially, educationally and infrastructurally. However, some have bend back and are on course. For example, Ghana has recovered and has achieved her vision of 2020. In the case of Liberia, she has not. She has mortgaged her sea port, energy sector to the former colonial masters. Just investigate, who are the individuals behind the ATM Terminal contract and the LEC Management Contract.

In respect of infrastructure, before the military coup d'état, most of the road networks in Liberia were not paved, but even a sedan could be driven from Monrovia to Harper or Foyain under two days. Today, 41 years later, even 4x4 vehicles take more than a week to cover the distance to these cities. Things have gotten worse over the past sixteen years.

These two human vices give birth to egocentricity and corruption. I will address each of these for the reading public to understand.

## 1. Egocentricity

In many African countries the national budgets are drafted to give worth to political actors. Just review the salaries and wages of these actors. The employees/compensations are often 50% plus of the national budgets and the lion share goes to the members of the parliament, the presidents and the ministers. Some countries have approved national budgets between US\$500 to 600 million and employees' compensations are US\$296.0 million (56.22%). There are no budget lines for programs and as a result the educational, agriculture, health and infrastructure sectors are in deplorable condition. In some countries the conditions are so bad that you might want to send you 'dog' for treatment in the clinic or health center.

Even if the revenue envelope dropped from US\$600 million to US\$535 million these political actors do not adjust their salaries and wages, what is interesting is that they in fact increased the salaries and wages and sometimes introduced budget lines to get more money in their pockets. It is often the donor partners that raised

the Red Flag and because they want the donor partners to support the budget, they complied to whatever is recommended by the partners. Some Finance and Economic Development ministers sometimes claimed a budget surplus. But nobody sees the impact because salaries of the government employees continue to be delayed in the wake of the surplus.

I do not know how many of our political actors have this book by Robert Klyosaki and Sharon Lechter "Rich Dad Poor Dad". In the book, the authors suggested that whenever a person's financial situation changes, he/she needs to adjust his/her expenditures. It is only men and women of greed that fail to do this.

Many of the political actors in Liberia believe that their country is a middle-income country. This notion is false. It is time to face the truth. Only a few countries in Africa are working toward becoming a middle-income country and Liberia is not one of those countries. The Sirleaf Administration developed Vision 2030 (Making Liberia a Middle-Income). Country by 2030). The projected cost of achieving this vision was estimated to be US\$5.0 billion. If we as a country had aligned our national budget on some of the activities instead of developing new goals and vision, we would be moving in the right direction. This is what Ghana did to all succeeding governments after Jerry Rawling for the 2020 vision plan. Today, she is 90% there. Until African Leaders begin to continue what their predecessors started, many countries will continue to be underdeveloped.

## 2. Corruption

Corruption has many definitions but for the purpose of this article, we will look at two definitions. *Corruption as defined by the World Bank as a form of dishonesty or criminal offense which is undertaken by a person or organization that is entrusted with a position of authority, in order to acquire illicit benefit or abuse power for one's private gain. Another definition is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. Both definitions apply to the abuse of power for private gain.*

In Liberia those who are entrusted to allocate the resources for the development often allocate those resources for private gains. For example, such budget lines, Presidential Projects and Legislative Engagement, as well as the Legislative projects. These funds go directly to them. They are thereby putting money in their pockets and making them wealthy. If funds are allocated to such projects, how much is left for government projects? Absolutely little or nothing. During the days of Kwame Nkrumah, Sekou Toure, Tubman, Tolbert, Doe, Siaka Stevens etc., all the late presidents never allocated funds for presidential projects. This is new in Africa. This new act on the part of Political Leaders is not corruption but BROAD DAYLIGHT STEALING of the RESOURCES. Are the Legislators and the presidents of these countries beneficially? The answer is yes. Hence this is an act of corruption as by the World Bank's definition.

Corruption erodes trust, weakens democracy, hampers economic development and further exacerbates inequality, poverty, social division and environmental crisis. These budget lines put thousands of dollars in the pockets of these actors and no budget line for programs to uplift the ordinary citizens from poverty; hence, the citizens go to them begging for handouts. They become demigods/slave masters for the ordinary citizens.

These actors also allocate huge quantities of petroleum products to themselves. In some countries members of parliament/legislators allocate 500 gallons of petroleum products monthly (equivalent of US\$1,600.00). Some of them even said this quantity is small. In countries they received gifts to ratify concession agreements.

Example in 2006, the Legislators of Liberia received 103 pickup trucks from ArcelorMittal while this company's concession agreement was under review by these lawmakers. Immediately upon the receipt of the pickup trucks, the concession agreement was ratified under 48 hours. This is corruption. It is alleged that all 68 concession agreements entered into during Sirleaf's Administration, were embroidered with incentives for each ratification, and that is why sixty-six of the sixty-eight concession agreements did not meet international standards or best practices.

If those that have oversight are corrupted what hope is there a corrupt free government?

In the 1970s and 1980s corruption in the Legislature was not heard of. Maybe there was, but at low key. Corruption was mainly in the Executive Branch of the Government (Ministries and Autonomous Agencies). When the coup d'état occurred on April 12, 1980 in Liberia, the military leaders said they overthrew the Tolbert Government because of Rampant Corruption and Nepotism.

A year after the coup d'état, a United States Technical Advisor assigned to the Ministry of Finance wrote that during the Tolbert Administration the door of corruption was wide enough for a Volkswagen to drive through but under the Doe Administration it was wide for Helicopters to fly through. President Sirleaf labelled corruption as a Vampire. She once said "I did not give it to them, they took it"; reference to the benefits of the Legislators in the National budget. Under the Weah Administration, the corruption door is so wide that the largest Cruise Ship, the Harmony of the Sea can easily ship through. During the Doe Administration corruption was only rampant in the Executive; during the Sirleaf Administration corruption extended its tentacles in Legislature, and under the Weah Administration corruption has extended its tentacles in Judiciary for the first time in the history of Liberia. It is alleged that all three Branches of Government are deemed corrupt to the extent even the children can discern this national anomaly.

TO BE CONTINUE NEXT EDITION



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Liberian troops arrive after successful completion of Northern Strike Training in U.S.**

Personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) who recently participated in the annual war simulation training exercise in the United States known as Northern Strike have returned to Liberia, following their successful participation.

The troops headed by the Deputy Chief of Staff of the

Assistant Defense Minister Collins emphasized that the AFL's continual participation in Northern Strike will enhance its Operational Capabilities. "This will also help Liberia to have mission-ready troops prior to deployment in United Nations Multinational Integration Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)."

Northern Strike, is executed in complex field conditions

DMVA. "Training like we may be called on to fight is critical in preparing to confront a near-peer adversary in the future."

The Republic of Liberia/ AFL and the State of Michigan/ the Michigan National Guard signed a State Partnership Program Since 2010 after Operation Onward Liberty (OOL) successfully



Armed Forces of Liberia Brig/ Gen. Geraldine George departed the country last month to participate in the annual war simulation training exercise, hosted by the Michigan National Guard, in the state of Michigan, the United States of America.

The AFL personnel was drawn from the AFL's Quick Reaction Platoon and are expected to be deployed in the Republic of Mali as part of the United Nations Mission in that West African country.

The Liberian troops were among military personnel from the United States, United Kingdom, Latvia and Taiwan.

Receiving the troops at the Roberts International Airport (RIA), Assistant Defense Minister for Press and Public Affairs Sam Collins expressed joy over the successful return and participation of the Armed Forces of Liberia personnel in the training exercise; stressing that the recent training has added more value to the Armed Forces of Liberia.

He lauded the Government and People of the United States of America, especially the Michigan National Guard for its continuous support to the AFL.

designed to simulate a realistic wartime environment, demonstrates the ability to provide accessible readiness-building opportunities for military units of all service branches to achieve and sustain proficiency in conducting Mission Command, Air, Sea and Ground Maneuver Integration, together with synchronization of fires in joint, multinational and Decisive Action Environment.

The training area consists of Camp Grayling Maneuver Training Center and Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center: 148,000 acres of maneuver space and more than 17,000 square miles of special-use airspace. The yearly training exercise simulates "a realistic wartime environment" and focuses on expeditionary skills, command and control, sustainment and joint-integrated fires.

"This exercise serves as a great opportunity for our multicomponent, multinational, and interagency partners to develop into efficient, joint warfighters," said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, adjutant general and director of the

ended its mission in Liberia.

The Ministry of National Defense and Liberian Military enjoy a harmonious relationship with the Michigan National Guard that has provided several training opportunities through Mobile Training Team (MTT) and Training Contact Team (TCT) for Liberia military and civilian personnel; and infrastructural development like the construction of the multipurpose building at EBK Barracks.

Major General Gregory J. Vadnais (Rtd) Adjutant General and Director of Military and Veteran Affairs of Michigan played a crucial road in establishing and nurturing the partnership between the AFL and the Michigan National Guard.

The Michigan National Guard began hosting Northern Strike in 2012. The program includes exercises that require units from different military branches, and even different countries, to work together in complex, time-sensitive scenarios.

**JFL seeks dismissal of NSA Assistant Director**

Justice Forum Liberia (JFL) a local group, is requesting the Senate Committee on National Security, Defense, Intelligence and Veteran Affairs headed by Lofa County Senator Steve Zargo to declare the National Security Agency (NSA) Assistant Director for Cyber Crimes and Intelligence, Mr. Joseph Jake Brown a 'non-governmental material.

JFL executive director, Maxson S. Kpakio says such action is necessary to render Mr. Brown morally unfit to occupy any public office for his alleged involvement in the circulation of sexual content on Social media involving a minor being molested. Maxson also calls his prosecution.

The request comes weeks after the House of Representative passed a motion to have Mr. Brown incarcerated at the Monrovia Central Prison (South Beach). The plenary of the House of Representatives overwhelmingly took the decision following a motion from Lofa County District #3 Representative Clarence C. Massaquoi for the controversial NSA operative to be incarcerated three days for lying under oath, claiming to

NSA is here, and has reported to us, and not just on the basis of the verbal presentation by the director."

The Lofa County Lawmaker continued: "Because of that act of misleading this August body, Mr. Brown be sent to jail for 72 hours, and that Mr. Brown deposit into government's revenue, Liberian dollars \$4,999, and a flagged receipt indicating the deposit of the said amount be presented to the office of the Chief Clerk who will furnish the office with the evidence. And such a payment should be made not later than tomorrow being Wednesday, the 4th of August 2021. Additionally, that he will publish in three local daily, an apology to this August body, for misleading us; for three days beginning Wednesday, August 4th, 2021, and copies of those papers should be presented to the secretarial. If I can be seconded."

But in a communication dated 9 August 2021 addressed to the Chairman on the Senate Committee on National Security, Defense, Intelligence and Veteran Affairs, Senator Steve Zargo, Maxson noted that the gravity of Mr. Brown's action calls for his removal from any



**NSA Assistant Director Mr. Joseph Jake Brown**

being in the employ of the NSA.

Representative Massaquoi: "Mr. Speaker, on such a grave issue, we expect our witnesses appearing before this body; will fall not short of the truth based on the oath that they took before the people's representatives. Mr. Brown, haven't deviated; haven't broken that sacred oath that he took by presenting to us here that he's in the employ of the NSA, the director of the

position of public service and entreats the committee to render a vote of no-confidence in the NSA Assistant Director.

He added that Brown's alleged action contravenes his Terms of Reference (ToR) as an Assistant Director for Cyber Crimes and Intelligence, noting that Mr. Brown has been found to be a culprit of the same crimes he should have been preventing, which warrants his dismissal and subsequent prosecution. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## I. Coast confirmed Ebola case

Health authorities in Ivory Coast have a case of the Ebola virus in the Cocoa rich West African country, with the victim being an 18 year-old Guinean national.

In a statement issued by the Ivorian Government on Saturday August 14, authorities at the Ministry of

the CHU of Cocody, on a young girl aged 18, of Guinean nationality.

According to the statement, the young girl left Labé in Guinea for Abidjan by road. She arrived in Côte d'Ivoire on August 11 and was diagnosed and taken care of immediately by Ivorian health services on August 12, 2021 at 8

The authorities stated that Ivory Coast has vaccines against Ebola. The Government will vaccinate target groups (front-line health personnel, immediate patient contact, security forces at points of entry, etc.).

It further stated that on receipt of the results of the analyzes on Saturday at 7 a.m., an emergency meeting of the health monitoring committee was held today at 10 a.m., chaired by the Minister in charge of Health and 'Public health.

The government has since reactivated its community surveillance of the Ebola response, organized follow-up of all identified contacts, creating awareness, prevention, diagnosis and management of confirmed cases; immediate vaccination of target groups; ensure compliance with guidelines for the diagnosis and management of hemorrhagic fevers and the continuation of strict compliance with the barrier measures enacted against COVID-19 which remain valid for Ebola virus disease.

The Ivorian authorities also noted that it has intensified cross-border collaboration with Guinea, and has implemented a standard procedures of the



Health, Public Hygiene and Universal Health Coverage said they were informed by the Pasteur Institute of Côte d'Ivoire, of a POSITIVE case of Virus Disease EBOLA after the examination of a sample taken on August 13, 2021 in the medical emergencies of

p.m. Authorities said this was an isolated and imported case.

The patient is currently said to be in isolation and cared for at the treatment center for Highly Epidemic Diseases at the University Hospital of Treichville.

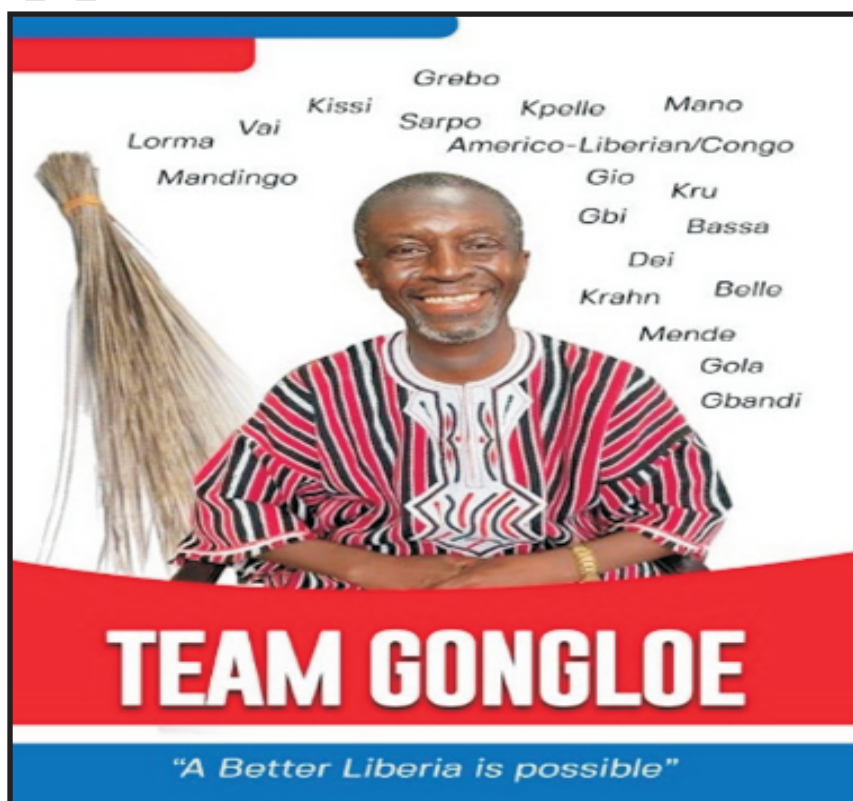
▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

## Team Gongloe Crisscrosses Liberia: Rallying Support ahead of 2023

Entourages of fast-growing and penetrating Team Gongloe crisscross the Country to rally Liberians to join and participate in ongoing work to make astute and erudite Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe President of Liberia 2023.

The call appears to resonate especially with use of the Team's catchy signature word: "A Better Liberia Is Possible". Headed by Chairman Cllr. Jimmy Saah Bombo, the delegations have reached nine (9) of fifteen (15) Counties including Montserrado, and Cllr. Gongloe's own vote-rich Nimba County.

In Ganta and Sanniquellie respectively, an entourage that consisted of Chairman Bombo, Vice Chairman for Mobilization & Recruitment Major Samukai, and Nimba County Coordinator P. Spencer Glay, Sr. received



rousing welcomes from hundreds of waiting people that comprised traditional chiefs, elders, women and youths who had gathered to hear the message Bombo and party had to deliver.

During town hall meetings in the two cities and subsequent LIVE radio Talk-shows including on Ganta's HOTT FM, Bombo stated Team Gongloe had seen

## NEC finally certifies Simeon Taylor

The National Elections Commission, (NEC), Friday certificated Simeon Boima Taylor as Senator of Grand Cape Mount County following the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Election, SSE.

The certification of Taylor, came hours after the reading of the mandate of the Supreme Court of Liberia reaffirming the decision of the Board of Commissioners of NEC, declaring Simeon B. Taylor, of the Collaborating

Board of Commissioners stood their grounds to uphold it integrity of the Commission which was under the public glance. Senator Taylor said the was for all including his major challenger, former Senator Victor Watson of the Coalition for Democratic Change, CDC.

The Certification of Taylor brings to 29, the numbers of Senators within the Upper Chambers of the Liberian Legislature.

The total number of Senators



Political Parties, CPP. as winner of the 8 December 2020 SSE election.

The certification ceremony of Simeon Taylor was performed Friday, 13 August 2021 by the Chairperson of NEC-Liberia, Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah in the James M Fromayan Conference Hall at the headquarters of NEC, on 9th Street, in Sinkor.

Responding, Senator Simeon B. Taylor said, despite the many challenges, the

for a full representation is 30. But Lofa County Senator elect former Defense Minister Brownie Samukai certification has since been placed on hold due following an injunction filed at the Supreme Court by both the Government and opposition Movement for Progressive Change or MPC in relations to a guilty verdict that was handed down on him just before the December 8, 2020 Special Senatorial elections results could be announced.

one of Nimba's good and brilliant sons Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe and wished to present him to the good people of Liberia to elect him their President 2023. He said Tiawan has admirable attributes including integrity, honesty, accountability and transparency which have been hallmark of his 33 years of public service and work in human, political and democratic rights advocacy.

Bombo stated that as President of Liberia, Cllr. Gongloe will not compromise the virtues and therefore he is mindful of probable alignments he would forge. "Tiawan will not collaborate with known gangs, thieves and

corrupt people because he cannot afford to montage Liberia the way others have done and do today", Bombo assured Liberians. He said the Counselor will prefer to revive the Liberia People's Party of which he is a founding member, and vie on its ticket than to join any party including a Nimba County-based one because Team Gongloe which is fervently backing him longs to see a broad-based political institution not a sectarian one, stressed Bombo.

In his incredible public service, Bombo recounted, Cllr. Gongloe attained feats beneficial to the State. As

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



# Français

## « Alpha Condé ne respecte ni la loi ni un accord... » (Par Sékou Koundouno)

Pour tenter de tromper l'opinion publique et se donner l'image d'un homme de dialogue, Alpha Condé, acculé par les critiques et les pressions, a mis en place ce qu'il a pompeusement appelé le « Cadre permanent de dialogue politique et social ». À la tête de cette structure sans base juridique, il a placé un ancien dirigeant du PUP, parti présidentiel du temps du Général Lansana Conté. Une manière pour lui de s'assurer encore et toujours le soutien de la Basse-Côte.

Des politiciens et membres de la société civile complaisants s'en sont réjouis en

pensant qu'ils ont trouvé une structure qui leur permettrait encore de se mettre au devant de la scène politique. Des collaborateurs du pouvoir se disant opposants avaient même misé sur ce « machin » pour contribuer à isoler les opposants jugés radicaux et irréductibles.

Mais dès les premiers

discours et actes du Secrétaire permanent du Cadre de déçus aujourd'hui. En effet, ce qu'ils espéraient obtenir de cette structure tarde à dialoguer politique et social, ils ont commencé à annoncer son échec. Ils ont compris apparemment que celui-ci n'est en réalité qu'un autre instrument entre les mains de Alpha Condé. Ces opposants opposés aux vrais opposants sont

les premiers à être déçus aujourd'hui. En effet, ce qu'ils espéraient obtenir de cette structure tarde à venir et ne viendra probablement jamais.

En voyant la composition de ce cadre permanent, on s'aperçoit tout de suite que l'écrasante majorité de ses

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## Le Président Weaha suspendu le directeur financier de la RIA

La direction de l'aéroport international Roberts (RIA) situé dans le comté de Margibi est pour une fois dans le collimateur du président George Manneh Weaha qui n'hésite pas d'y frapper fort. Un mois à peine après le limogage sans ménagement du directeur général de la RIA, Bishop John Allen Kalyee, le président vient d'infliger le directeur financier de l'aéroport, George D. Yuoh, d'une suspension indéfinie.

Le président Weaha a suspendu M. Yuoh le jeudi 12 août 2021 avec effet immédiat pour des raisons administratives, selon un communiqué de la présidence. La RIA fait actuellement face à une série de défaillances dont la compromission des restrictions sanitaires, ce qui a permis à un grand nombre d'Asiatiques d'entrer dans le pays en juin, provoquant par la suite une résurgence du coronavirus, en particulier de la variante mortelle Delta qui a entraîné des décès.

La dernière action du président

à la RIA intervient au moment où le mécontentement gagne plusieurs institutions du pays. C'est le cas de la National Transit Authority où les employés continuent de protester et d'appeler au limogage de leur directeur général Harbie Macauley, tandis que Charles McArthur Gull, directeur du port de Buchanan, et Amara Kamara son statisticien en chef, font l'objet d'une enquête après avoir avoué avoir détourné plus de 300 000 \$ US vers un compte secret.



## Éditorial

### Un déficit persistant de leadership dans le Libéria de Weah

L'absence d'un leadership proactif dans la structure gouvernementale nuit gravement à l'administration de George Weah qui est au pouvoir depuis près de quatre ans maintenant. La mauvaise gouvernance alimentée par la corruption, les violations constitutionnelles, le favoritisme politique et l'incompétence, entre autres, est visible partout, depuis le plus haut échelon du gouvernement jusqu'aux fonctionnaires subalternes.

Les récentes vagues de protestations de masse des citoyens lésés à travers le pays démontrent un manque total de leadership dans l'administration.

Les expériences désagréables ont montré leurs têtes laides d'abord à Grand Cape Mount, en particulier à Robertsport, où des citoyens lésés sont descendus dans la rue parce que leur sénateur élu, Simeon Taylor, n'a pas encore pris son siège au Sénat en raison de contestations judiciaires qui durent presque un an, leur privant ainsi une représentation, en dépit du fait d'avoir fait leur choix dans les urnes le 8 décembre 2020. Une manifestation similaire s'est produite à Lofa où les citoyens veulent que leur sénateur élu, J. Brownie Samukai, qui fait face à une bataille juridique, siège au Sénat.

À Margibi, des commerçants ont barricadé la rue parce qu'on veut les relocaliser de force. Monrovia a été témoin de deux manifestations violentes et sanglantes, ayant fait plusieurs blessés. Des étudiants de l'Université du Libéria dirigés par le Student Unification Party (SUP) protestaient contre les cours en ligne, un programme mis en place par l'administration. Mais ils ont été violemment dispersés par la police anti-émeute à l'aide de grenades lacrymogènes. Il y a eu plusieurs blessés parmi les étudiants.

Pas plus tard que la semaine dernière, des citoyens lésés, dont pour la plupart des malinkés, ont marché de la Japan Freeway au temple de la justice et au siège de la police nationale dans le centre-ville de Monrovia, réclamant la dépouille mortelle d'un des leurs, qui serait mort du fait de la brutalité policière.

Toutes ces réactions distinctes des citoyens se sont produites en raison de l'absence d'une chose : le leadership. De Lofa à Cape Mount en passant par Margibi et Montserrado, les dirigeants n'ont pas fait preuve de leadership pour rassurer les citoyens que leurs intérêts étaient protégés. À l'Université du Libéria et le long de la Japan Freeway, si les dirigeants avaient été proactifs, les citoyens ne seraient pas descendus dans la rue pour protester.

Il faut rappeler à ceux à qui l'on a confié le pouvoir qu'ils sont placés à ces postes pour régler les problèmes avant qu'ils ne tournent mal, une responsabilité élevée qu'ils ne devraient jamais minimiser, comme l'indiquent ces expériences désagréables.

Il est temps que les dirigeants, de la Présidence au cabinet, en passant par la police, la justice et le surintendant du comté, rassemblent leurs actions pour diriger comme les dirigeants qu'ils devraient être pour rendre notre société stable et unie. Il ne faut pas qu'ils soient des leaders uniquement par le nom, mais par le fait qu'ils font preuve d'un leadership proactif pour maintenir la confiance des personnes qu'ils dirigent.

Cela empêcherait les citoyens de descendre dans la rue pour exprimer des griefs uniquement pour subir des blessures de la part des agents de police cruels et brutaux qui sont fidèles non pas au peuple et à l'État, mais à des dirigeants insensibles et corrompus qui gouvernent de manière égoïste.



# Français

## « Alpha Condé ne respecte ni la loi ni

membres sont des représentants du régime qui n'auront d'autre choix que de lui obéir au doigt et à l'œil. Sans compter que le dialogue, s'il y a dialogue, est censé être piloté par son premier ministre, celui-là qui est coresponsable des centaines de morts et de blessés dans les rangs des militants prodémocratie. Les véritables opposants qui accepteraient de siéger dans un tel cadre ne feront que de lafiguration et serviront à lui

donner du crédit aux yeux de la communauté nationale et internationale.

Il ne faut d'ailleurs pas s'étonner puisqu'à chaque fois que Alpha Condé crée une institution, il veut la domestiquer afin qu'elle soit à son seul service et non au service du peuple. Il a déjà réussi à mettre à genou la justice qui existe pourtant en dehors de sa volonté ; ce n'est donc pas une structure née de sa volonté qui pourrait échapper à son emprise.

## Le vaccin Johnson & Johnson n'impacte pas la fertilité, rassure le CDC

Il n'y a actuellement aucune preuve que les vaccins du COVID-19 affectent la fertilité des femmes ou des hommes, a insisté la directrice du Centre américain de contrôle et de prévention des maladies pour le Libéria.

Mme Rachel T. Idowu encourage les enfants de plus de 12 ans, les femmes enceintes ou les mères qui allaitent à prendre le vaccin Johnson & Johnson et les autres vaccins du COVID-19 disponibles, car les données

de l'Institut national de santé publique du Libéria, a confirmé l'annonce du ministère guinéen de la santé d'un cas de la maladie à virus Auburn près de la frontière avec le Libéria et la Sierra Leone. Le premier cas de la maladie a été découvert à Yakatuo, un village du sud-ouest de la Guinée.

Un homme a été diagnostiqué de la maladie à virus Auburn le 1er août 2021 dans un centre de santé d'une localité villageoise guinéenne appelée Udo. « C'est le premier cas de la maladie à



et les recherches recueillies jusqu'à présent indiquent que les avantages sont plus importants que les risques potentiels.

« Vous serez bien protégés par le vaccin si vous êtes exposés au COVID », a-t-elle tenté de rassurer lors d'un point de presse hebdomadaire au ministère de l'Information à Monrovia le jeudi 12 août 2021.

Pour sa part, le directeur du contrôle des maladies infectieuses et des épidémies

virus Auburn en Afrique de l'Ouest », a dit Thomas Nagbe.

Les symptômes de la maladie sont similaires à ceux de la maladie Ebola, à savoir de la fièvre, des maux de tête, de la fatigue et des douleurs abdominales.

Le Directeur Nagbe a indiqué que le malade est décédé le 2 août 2021. Les échantillons prélevés ont également été envoyés à Dakar, au Sénégal, où il a été confirmé qu'il s'agissait bien de la maladie d'Auburn. 150 contacts sont actuellement suivis.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

## Apocalypse ou coopération ?

**N**EW DELHI - L'Apocalypse, c'est maintenant. C'est le message éclatant de la véritable tempête de COVID-19 et de conséquences du changement climatique qui a maintenant éclaté. Il est peu probable que la pandémie se termine avant plusieurs années, car le nouveau coronavirus mute en variants de plus en plus transmissibles et résistants aux médicaments. Et la catastrophe climatique n'est plus « imminente » mais se joue en temps réel.

Le dernier rapport du Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat - dont les évaluations sont antérieures aux événements climatiques extrêmes de l'année dernière - nous dit que certains changements climatiques drastiques sont désormais irréversibles. Ceux-ci affecteront toutes les régions, comme le démontrent les récents incendies de forêt, vagues de chaleur et inondations. Ils endommageront également gravement de nombreuses espèces naturelles et affecteront négativement les possibilités et conditions de la vie humaine.

Maintenir le réchauffement climatique futur à un niveau gérable (même s'il dépasse l'objectif de 1,5°C de l'accord de Paris sur le climat de 2015) nécessitera un effort massif, impliquant de brusques inversions de politique économique dans chaque pays. Des changements majeurs dans l'architecture juridique et économique mondiale seront essentiels.

Pour sa part, la pandémie a dévasté l'emploi et les moyens de subsistance, plongeant des centaines de millions de personnes, principalement dans les pays en développement, dans la pauvreté et la faim. Les Tendances de l'emploi et des perspectives sociales dans le monde 2021 de l'Organisation internationale du Travail montrent l'étendue des dégâts dans les moindres détails. En 2020, la pandémie a causé la perte de près de 9 % du total des heures de travail dans le monde, soit l'équivalent de 255 millions d'emplois à temps plein. Cette tendance s'est poursuivie en 2021, avec des pertes d'heures de travail équivalentes à 140 millions d'emplois à temps plein au premier trimestre et 127 millions d'emplois au deuxième trimestre.

Selon les tendances actuelles, la croissance projetée de l'emploi sera insuffisante pour compenser ces pertes. Ainsi, même en 2022, l'emploi total sera inférieur à celui de 2019 d'au moins 23 millions d'emplois à temps plein. Ceci malgré une croissance de l'emploi relativement forte aux États-Unis, ce qui signifie que la détérioration du marché du travail dans d'autres régions, plus pauvres pour la plupart, sera encore plus marquée et plus intense. De plus, les « nouveaux » emplois associés à la reprise après la pandémie seront principalement mal rémunérés et de mauvaise qualité.

Pendant ce temps, les inégalités économiques entre et au sein des pays ont atteint des niveaux inimaginables dans le monde pré-pandémique, déjà extrêmement inégalitaire. Pendant que de nombreuses personnes sont confrontées à des pertes de revenus substantielles, à un accès limité aux besoins de base, à des privations aiguës et à la faim, une infime minorité de personnes extrêmement riches et quelques grandes entreprises ont accaparé encore plus de revenus et de richesses, multipliant ainsi leurs actifs.

Les nouvelles formes de consommation ostentatoire d'aujourd'hui - comme l'homme le plus riche du monde, Jeff Bezos, qui a récemment dépensé 5,5 milliards de dollars pour un tour de quatre minutes dans l'espace suborbital - sont littéralement hors de ce monde. A la place, ce montant aurait pu financer la Facilité d'accès mondial aux vaccins COVID-19 (COVAX) pour fournir des vaccins à deux milliards de personnes dans les pays pauvres, qui sont actuellement peu susceptibles de les obtenir au cours des deux prochaines années.

Cet état de fait ne peut évidemment pas perdurer longtemps sans tensions sociales et troubles civils majeurs. En effet, la tempête que nous commençons à connaître comprendra bientôt beaucoup plus d'instabilité sociale et politique. Au lieu de stimuler un

programme progressiste et transformateur, cela pourrait dégénérer en conflits ethniques, raciaux et autres formes de conflits, de violence et de chaos.

Ce scénario cauchemardesque peut encore être évité grâce à une coopération internationale substantiellement accrue sur quelques questions clés. Concernant le climat, les gouvernements pourraient déclarer collectivement qu'ils réduiront plus fortement les émissions de dioxyde de carbone et d'autres gaz à effet de serre afin d'atteindre le zéro net en une décennie plutôt qu'en plusieurs décennies.

Les pays riches avec des émissions historiquement élevées devraient évidemment mettre en œuvre les réductions les plus drastiques et transférer les technologies vertes au monde en développement sans condition, permettant à ce dernier de se décarboner rapidement. Les fonds pour l'adaptation au climat sont désormais essentiels, et les investissements publics mondiaux proposés peuvent permettre une action rapide à cet égard.

Pour contrôler la pandémie qui fait toujours rage, il est impératif de redistribuer immédiatement les doses de vaccins disponibles et de lever les contraintes légales sur l'élargissement de la production par le biais de licences obligatoires. En outre, les entreprises pharmaceutiques qui ont bénéficié d'importantes subventions au développement de vaccins contre la COVID-19 doivent partager leur technologie avec d'autres producteurs pour augmenter l'offre, comme l'a recommandé le Conseil de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé sur l'économie de la santé pour tous. Le renforcement de capacités de fabrication résilientes et décentralisées, y compris dans le secteur public, sera essentiel pour faire face efficacement aux futures pandémies et autres crises sanitaires.

Quant à la politique économique, la coopération fiscale mondiale est une évidence. Des règles simples, obligeant les entreprises multinationales à payer le même taux d'imposition que les entreprises purement nationales et garantissant un partage équitable des revenus entre les pays, réduiraient les inégalités et fourniraient aux économies en développement soumises à des contraintes budgétaires les ressources dont elles ont tant besoin.

De même, un mécanisme international de résolution de la dette souveraine réduirait la charge budgétaire de nombreux pays en développement, libérant ainsi de l'espace pour des dépenses urgentes. La réglementation des capitaux transfrontaliers hautement mobiles, la maîtrise des agences de notation et l'introduction de conditions demandant à la finance de répondre aux besoins sociaux nécessiteront également une coopération réglementaire internationale.

Malheureusement, l'état actuel de la politique mondiale signifie que ce programme nécessaire et réalisable est peu susceptible d'être mis en œuvre. Les dirigeants des grands pays ont jusqu'à présent fait preuve d'un manque d'ambition pathétique. Au lieu de cela, ils ont fait semblant de parler de ces défis existentiels, tout en restant soumis au capital privé et aux intérêts particuliers, et restent tous bien trop disposés à jouer pour les galeries nationales et locales.

L'attitude des gouvernements du G7, plus obsédés par l'essor de la Chine que par la préservation de notre monde de plus en plus fragile, a été particulièrement déprimante. Leur nationalisme en matière de vaccin contre la COVID-19 est à courte vue et obscène, tandis que leur attachement rigide aux droits de propriété intellectuelle permet aux entreprises privées de restreindre les connaissances et la production dans le but de maximiser leurs profits. Ces positions ont réduit la confiance et entravé la coopération internationale pour lutter contre la pandémie.

L'humanité a encore une chance de prendre du recul. Le fera-t-elle ou les espèces futures se demanderont-elles pourquoi nous avons choisi de participer activement à notre propre destruction ?

Traduit de l'anglais par Timothée Demont

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Starts from back page

# Dr. Whapoe boosts

because many people have forsaken it on grounds that it's too distant.

Receiving the villagers' warm welcome, Dr. Whapoe, a constituent executive member of the opposition Rainbow Alliance, expressed excitement over the reception he got and noted that the cultivation of the 500 acres of land is the beginning of poverty emancipation in Bong County and Liberia at large.

"I'm not going to say that I will make every Liberian an entrepreneur. However, what we stand for is to ensure that poverty is mitigated that even the child whose parents can't afford to put food on the table by the special grace of God will now begin to eat three times a day," Dr. Whapoe told the residents.

He sees poverty and

and hardship on the Liberian people. Dr. Whapoe noted that due to the suffering imposed upon Liberians, President Weah is far from re-election comes 2023.

He described the soil as the best bank for investment, economic development and improvement if the Government of Liberia can prioritize agriculture and stop playing politics with Liberians and the country.

"This government continues to brag about agriculture but yet they have done nothing to address agricultural challenges across the country or even empower local farmers for Liberia to grow what she eats," Dr. Whapoe lamented.

He said it is very frustrating for President Weah to call for agriculture fair in Bong County, and yet the government couldn't show a single farmer that it has

always gets little economic benefits while those countries get more.

"Liberia's bilateral and diplomatic policies are always crafted by our policymakers in a way that the cost is higher than the benefits. And it's wrong, let the benefits be higher than the cost," Dr. Whapoe recommended.

"Liberia has not experienced true independence yet because we are still looking up to other countries to feed us. Listen, once we continue to look to others to feed us, we are still controlled by them because our decision is made by them," he continued.

He added that his agriculture investment that he is doing in Nimba and Bong Counties is expected to extend to other parts of the country, noting that it will not just provide jobs for Liberians, but will make sure that it marks the beginning of poverty emancipation across the country.

Also speaking, the head of the project, Yekeh Solunkbah said the project is having approximately about 500 workers from across the entire Salahyah District, Bong County. He added that the people who are working on the farm are paid on a daily basis and they are fed three times a day with full support from the farm owner, Dr. Whapoe.

Solunkbah revealed that the project has done much for the citizens of Bong County, helping them to solve other family problems with the little money they get from the farm as pay.

Further, Solunkbah disclosed that they have invested about LRD\$5 million on the farm for salaries and logistics, among others.

He praised Dr. Whapoe for having found passion in agriculture, particularly in growing Liberia's staple food rice, knowing that it has been part of the many plights of the people here.

For their part, the women, youth, elders and farm workers expressed excitement over the initiative and vowed to work with Dr. Whapoe.

According to them, as Dr. Whapoe has decided to address their challenges ranging from road, clinic, school and safe drinking water, they will help him in everything that he does, noting that God will continue to bless him for his kindness.

The group noted, that since they been in Sakielor Town, they and their children have not entered school and hospital, adding that the government has forgotten about them.

# Team Gongloe

Cont'd from page 7

Solicitor-General, he ensured State-lawyers got refresher training tri-monthly to enable them cope with time, speed and technology with which law is practiced of late. And, in his role as Minister of Labor, Bombo indicated he exerted relentless effort to put to work the "Liberianization Policy" which before him remained dormant and latent at the detriment of Liberia. To date, "Cllr. Gongloe is one of the brainchildren of calls to establish Economic & War Crimes Court in Liberia to the extent that he spearheaded advocates and civil society groups who petitioned the Legislature to create the court", Bombo emphasized.

Tiawan, 65, has an indelible print on the psyche of Liberians due to the way he relates and carries himself regardless of his super-standing in law practice and in public service, asserted Bombo "He is humble, accessible, reachable and handy to the extent he provides legal services free-of-charge to the needy or indigenes including journalists, student activists, civil society and rights advocates", Bombo characterized Gongloe.

Accordingly, the Team Gongloe chair mentioned, ordinary Liberians call Tiawan: "Poor-man's Lawyer" as historic Southeast's Maryland County, "Waamu" - meaning 'Bless us or Blessing' and courageous Grand Gedeh County, "Poleeyon" - connoting 'Savior or Liberator'. To the people of Liberia's Central Bong County, Tiawan is their "Nephew".

On his part, Team Gongloe vice Chair for Mobilization & Recruitment Major Samukai expressed his delight that the people of Ganta turned out in their numbers and healthily participated in the town hall meeting held there. He entreated them to convey wide and far the message that a group intends to put forward and support their son to run for President 2023, and ask them to massively vote for him. Similar call was made by the Team's Nimba County Coordinator, P. Spencer Glay, Sr.

Samukai announced that a fundraising event dubbed: "A DOLLAR RALLY" will be launched in Nimba County on Friday, November 26, 2021. He asked the public and the good and hard-working people of Nimba to turnout and participate in their numbers. -Press release



hunger as the major factors for Liberia's backwardness, suggesting that when people are hungry and living in extreme poverty like it is now in Liberia, it's very common and easy for them to compromise their value and principle.

Dr. Whapoe argued that over the past time, Liberia has been making wrong decisions in electoral processes because they the citizens have been subdued by poverty and hunger.

He indicated that due to frustration, hunger and poverty, people voted the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) headed by President George Manneh Weah on the basis of seeking a change.

However, Dr. Whapoe said the Weah-lead administration has gone on the contrary and is inflicting more suffering

empowered, or a land that it has cultivated in the county for agriculture activities with all the vast agricultural land there.

The VOLT political leader informed the gathering that he signed a US\$2 billion dollars contract with his international partner to invest in Liberia and he took it to President Weah's office, but the president allegedly rejected the contract simply because he is an opposition politician and he would take the glory.

Dr. Whapoe said that suggested to him that the CDC - led government is not ready to fight hunger, end poverty and improve the economy of the country.

Dr. Whapoe wondered as to how long will Liberia continue to import rice from China, Japan and Indian, noting that these countries are robbing the Liberian people because in every policy and agreement, Liberia

# I. Coast confirmed

Cont'd from page 7

International Sanitary Regulations (RSI).

The Government thanks the technical and financial partners who quickly came forward to express their support for the health response.

It reassures the population and invites them to serenity.

All arrangements are being made to deal with the situation.

The sanitary device for the control of the disease exists and has been proven with success in the past. The Government invites the populations to respect hygiene and preventive measures.

**JUDICIAL BRANCH**  
**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

32<sup>ND</sup> DAY'S JURY SITTING  
JUNE A.D. 2021 TERM  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021

BEFORE THIS HONORABLE... YAMIE QUIQUILAHISAY, SR. ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE PETITION OF ODELLAH BARRY PETITIONER, BY AND THROUGH HER LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE, REGARDED, CALLED AND KNOWN AS "ODELLAH DIGGS".

**COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME**

The Petitioner by and thru her Legal Counsel, filed a Petition before this Court requesting this Honorable Court to order the Change of her name from ODELLAH BARRY TO "ODELLAH DIGGS".

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of her name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect her biological parents' name and render her identity more explicit and absolute. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of her name proposed by her.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that she was born on **November 28, 1986**, in the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, unto the union of **ALHAJ OUMARU BARRY, AND HELENA WORYEE CHELLEY** respectively, and that the Change of her name will substantially promote her interest in all of the understandings and help to establish just identity more firmly, and being satisfied that she has met all legal requirements for the Change of her name in this jurisdiction, it is therefore **DECLARED** as follows:

That the petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name **ODELLAH BARRY BE CHANGED TO "ODELLAH DIGGS"** beginning this **3<sup>RD</sup> day of August, A.D. 2021**. That all documents signed by the petitioner herein prior to this decree remain valid.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. **AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.**

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AND SEAL OF THIS COURT, THIS **3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, A.D. 2021.**

**COURT SEAL:**

YAMIE QUIQUILAHISAY, SR.  
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME **087021** PAGE(S) **0000**

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# Travel ban belated!

By Othello B. Garblah

The travel ban placed on several government officials linked to corruption here appears to be belated, as this paper has learned that some of the suspects named on the travel restrictions' list had left the country earlier before the ban order was issued.

A source hinted this paper Sunday that Mr. Charles McArthur Gull who recently admitted to stealing US\$300,000 from the Buchanan Port coffers in Grand Bassa County along with his Chief Statistician Amara Kamara are believed to be in the United States.

Monrovia City Court Judge Jomah S. Jallah over the weekend issued an order banning the suspects, which include former Liberia

and could have been US\$1.2M, had Mittal Steel not raised the alarm.

### How did it happened?

Sources told this paper that Gull and Kamara had been issuing invoices to Mittal Steel for payment from their operations at the Port of Buchanan using a fake UBA account instead of the Port's Account to divert the fund.

This paper gathered that the steel company had made three different payments on three invoices at US\$300,000 on each payment into this account before noticing that the account to which these payments were being made did not match that of the Buchanan Ports account.

The source said US\$200,000 of this amount was transferred through an individual bank

LACC boss Cllr. Edward Martins

Cllr. Edward Martins told this paper on Sunday that the LACC has invited Gull to come at its offices to answer some questions but he has been dodgy. "Since we invited him (Gull) he has been dodging," he said.

He appeared surprised when told that Gull and his Chief Statistician Kamara-two of the suspects on the travel ban list issued over the weekend were already in the United States.

However, he was confident that if indeed the information about the two Buchanan Port suspects were true, a recent commitment from the US Embassy near Monrovia to support the LACC in its corruption fight could be tapped into to get the suspects extradited back home to face justice.

"We hope to work with the U.S Embassy to have them extradited because the U.S Government has promised full support to us to fight corruption," Cllr. Martins said Sunday.

So, we believe that once extradition proceedings are completed in the court, we will have them back in Liberia," he added.

He said the LACC is considering going beyond the suspects mentioned in here to include all those that have been mentioned or linked to audit reports that have somehow left the territorial space of the LACC will be brought back to face the law.

Cllr. Martins a former Montserrado County Attorney took over the LACC about three weeks ago. He explains that the issues of the allegations of misappropriation and misapplications of funds at the Liberia Airport Authority, Water and Sewer Corporation and the Port of Buchanan have been on his desk and that all those involved are undergoing investigations.

"We have started recovering some of the records for mismanagement and misappropriation. We can't conclude now (that is on the total amount involved) but we expect the Government of Liberia to aid us in getting the actual amount."



Airport Authority Managing Director Bishop Alan Klayee, his suspended Chief Financial Officer George D. Yuoh, suspended Water and Sewer Managing Director, Duwana Kanara, and the two Buchanan Port officials from leaving the country.

The order is intended to keep all of the suspects within the territorial space of Liberia until the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission or LACC's investigations are over.

Mr. Gull, last week admitted stealing US\$300,000 from the coffers of the Port of Buchanan, though sources told this paper that the actual amount was understated by US\$600,000

account at UBA on Broad Street Sniper Hill.

### ArcelorMittal's response to New Dawn

When this paper asked concerning the transactions, the company forwarded the below statement to the paper.

"ArcelorMittal Liberia confirms that it was approached by the Liberian Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) regarding an ongoing investigation into allegation of diversion of funds paid for use of the Port of Buchanan to export iron ore.

As a law-abiding business and a company with a zero-tolerance anti-corruption policy, ArcelorMittal Liberia affirms its fullest cooperation with authorities."

# C. H. Rennie Hospital burns down

By: Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr., Margibi County

Fire has destroyed the Charles Henry Rennie Hospital, popularly known as C. H. Rennie Hospital in Margibi County, leaving thousands of impoverished residents who cannot afford to go to private hospitals hopeless.

The incident occurred at about 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 15, 2021, forcing hospital authorities to transfer in-patients to other health facilities in Kakata and Bong County.

No casualty has been reported but major components of the hospital, including the emergency response room, pharmacy, administrative offices and the records room are destroyed completely.

County Health Officer Dr. Augustine Fannieh, blames the incident on electrical fault. Hundreds of Margibians rushed on the scene in the Walker Farm Community where the hospital is located and made frantic efforts to off the fire

Wreh, whose district hosts the hospital, expresses serious frustration about the fire disaster and calls on residents of the county to remain calm as authorities and relevant stakeholders collaborate to find a way forward.

Thousands of Margibians are expressing dismay over the incident, wondering where they will refer cases from other health centers in the county at minimum cost, as Du-Side Hospital in Harbel is privately owned and operated by Firestone Liberia Plantations.

A government-owned, the C. H. Rennie Hospital has been a major referral health facility not only for the people of Margibi, but adjacent counties.

Meanwhile, the Unity Party says it is saddened by two fire incidents that occurred on August 13 and 15 in Montserrado and Margibi Counties respectively.

The in a press release party empathizes with victims of the Water Street tragedy which left



but to no avail.

The Margibi County Fire Service was not visible to fight the fire, safe intervention by Firestone Liberia Fire Service which lately arrived at the C. H. Rennie Compound, but the fire had already consumed the building hosting the hospital.

Upon arrival of the Firestone fire truck, angry citizens unleashed mob action, damaging the fire truck for what they claimed late arrival.

However, Liberia's Minister of Health, doctor Wilhelmina S. Jallah held an emergency meeting with hospital authorities and the county health team to find a way forward.

Following the meeting, Minister Jallah said the hospital is considered closed for about a week beginning Sunday, August 15, 2021, pending an assessment to ascertain the next course of action.

Margibi County District#3 Representative Ellen Attoh

many properties destroyed and robbed many families of their source of income. The UP further sympathizes with the people of Margibi County whose only referral hospital was gutted by fire early Sunday morning. The party sends out its regrets to those affected by these unfortunate incidents.

The UP acknowledges the efforts made by the National Fire Service to prevent the fire from spreading to a lot more properties and businesses in the Waterside incident and notes with dismay the lack of its presence in Margibi. It therefore calls on the Government of Liberia to improve budgetary allocations and other support to the National Fire Service to improve its response capacity.


The Party also calls on the government to provide compensation to business people who lost their businesses in the fire incident as well as urgently renovate the CH Rennie Hospital and restore it to full capacity. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT



# Sports

With Emmanuel B. Juduh

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## Dr. Whapoe boosts rice production



visit on the rice farm was greeted by jubilation from the people of Bong County who had converged in Sakielor Town, with several local groupings including women, elders, men and youths gathering at various towns to welcome Dr. Whapoe.

The jubilant crowd escorted Dr. Whapoe to the rice farm with several traditional costumes displayed while they sang a Kpelleh religious song which is translated in English as "Whapoe that talk and do."

The visitation program was the first time ever in the history of Sakielor Town for a politician and leader to visit there. It was also the first time in the history of the remote town for such an investment to be made there

Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) political leader Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe is growing tons of local rice cultivated on 500 acres of land in Salahyah

District, Sakielor Town, Bong County to be sold on the Liberian market upon harvest this October.

With many villagers viewing the farm as a boost to rice production here, Dr. Whapoe's

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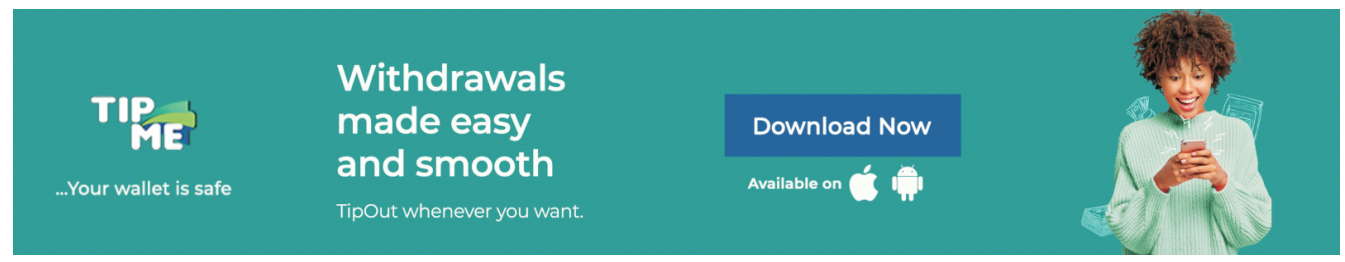


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