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VOL.11 NO. 145

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021

Nwabudike faces 6 months' suspension



Cllr. A. Ndubuisi Nwabudike



-As Supreme Court reverses LNBA's decision



Apostle D. Franklin Snorton



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Continental News

Uganda Welcomes First Group of Afghan Refugees

A flight carrying Afghan evacuees fleeing the Taliban takeover of their country touched down early Wednesday in Uganda where they will be given temporary refuge, government officials said.

The foreign ministry said a charter flight carrying 51 Afghans -- including men, women and children -- landed in the lakeside city of Entebbe, where they were whisked to hotels in a convoy

of buses.

More evacuees from Afghanistan are expected to arrive at a later time in Uganda from the war-torn country, the ministry said. It said it followed a request from the US government to temporarily host "at-risk" Afghan nationals and others who are in transit to the United States and other destinations worldwide.

"The decision to host those in need, is informed by the

Government of Uganda's consistent policy of receiving refugees and persons in distress as well as playing a responsible role in matters of international concern," the ministry said in a statement.

Media reports have suggested Uganda had agreed to take about 2,000 refugees but this has not been confirmed.

Uganda hosts one of the largest refugee populations in the world -- nearly 1.5 million

according to the United Nations, mainly from neighboring South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The ministry said that arrangements were also being made to bring home a number of Ugandans who were unable to make this first flight "due to the challenges of accessing the airport in Kabul".

Neighboring Rwanda said on Tuesday it also plans to take in dozens of schoolgirls and staff from Afghanistan's only boarding school for girls.

Since the Taliban's August 15 takeover of Kabul, Afghans have grown increasingly desperate to escape the country, with many terrified of facing life under the hardline

Islamist group.

The US embassy in Kampala thanked Uganda for its "generosity and hospitality toward these communities".

"The Government of Uganda and the Ugandan people have a long tradition of welcoming refugees and other communities in need," the embassy posted on Twitter.

Most refugees in Uganda live in large refugee settlements in the sparsely populated north of the country but around 81,000 urban refugees live in the capital Kampala.

Aid agencies have repeatedly said that the international response to support refugees in Uganda, a country of about 44 million people, has been underfunded. VOA



Afghan evacuees arrive at the Entebbe International Airport, in Entebbe, Uganda.

Cameroon Says Numbers of Defecting Boko Haram Members Continue to Increase

Cameroon has turned public buildings on its northern border with Nigeria into temporary housing for former Boko Haram militants. Hundreds of Boko Haram members have been defecting from the Islamist group, including more than two hundred on Sunday.

Cameroon says its center for Disarmament, Demobilization and

Reintegration, or DDR, in Meri, a northern town on the border with Nigeria, is now home to about 1,500 former Boko Haram militants. Three weeks ago, the center had about 750 former militants.

DDR officials in Meri said Tuesday most of the 237 former jihadist members who arrived this week included women and children. One hundred are former Boko Haram fighters, all looking tired, unkempt and

hungry, officials said. Thirty-three-year-old Alidou Faizar says he defected from a Boko Haram Camp in the Sambisa Forest located on the Cameroon/Nigeria border.

He says is tired of killing and looting and that Boko Haram promised to improve his living conditions when he joined the jihadist group 3 years ago, but he is now poorer, and that he suffers from a guilty conscience reminding him of crimes he committed. He adds that peace is priceless. Faizar said his wish is to return to Abadam, a town in Nigeria's Borno state. Cameroon says close to 900 of the 1,500 former jihadists in Meri are Nigerians.

Oumar Bichair, director of the DDR center at Meri, says the center is already at full capacity.

He says Cameroon's government has turned public buildings, including a Women's Empowerment Center at Mora, another



40 of the 57 men who surrendered recently were former Boko Haram fighters

Ghana to conduct a mass burial for unclaimed bodies



Colourful caskets: Burials are culturally important in Ghana

The police in Ghana have notified the public that they will be conducting a mass burial for 200 unidentified and unclaimed bodies

It is to start "by close of work this week", according to a statement released by Ghana's Police Service.

The move was aimed at clearing out the mortuary at the country's police hospital, an official told the BBC.

The bodies, which have accumulated over the past six months, include victims of hit-and-run accidents and people who had died on the streets, Ghana Police Hospital official Yaw Nketta-Yeboah said.

They were also unidentified victims of crime and some who had died on admission to hospitals but who had been abandoned by their families, he added.

The police hospital urged members of the public to try contact its pathology department this week to help identify the bodies.

This was to prevent a situation where bodies would be wrongly earmarked for mass burial, it said.

The police hospital has periodically conducted mass burials for unclaimed bodies - despite burials being culturally important in the West African nation. BBC

northern town, into temporary residences for former Boko Haram members. He says the governor of Cameroon's Far North region has suggested that his colleagues in Nigeria's

Borno state, considered an epicenter of the jihadist group, should make arrangements for the former militants to voluntarily return to Nigeria. VOA

EDITORIAL

Why more women are not vaccinating...

IF THE MINISTRY of Health intends to reverse the statistics on women's turnout for COVID-19 vaccination in Montserrado County and perhaps elsewhere in the country it needs to embark on vigorous public education about the jabs to dispel rumor and fear among the population.

STATISTICS RELEASED BY the Ministry last week Thursday, August 19, 2021 revealed women lagging behind by 50 percent against men vaccinated since the start of the administration of the Johnson & Johnson jab on August 5, 2021, exactly two weeks.

AUTHORITIES FROM THE health ministry revealed that out of a total of 16,821 persons vaccinated within this period, 11,098 were men, compared to 5,728 women in the same period, which clearly indicates more women are not coming out to take the vaccines.

EXACTLY WHAT IS responsible is not established, but perceived rumor and fear about probable side effects backed by poor awareness from the ministry itself could be robbing women of the opportunity to get vaccinated.

INSTEAD OF JUST reading the statistics as it did last week, the Ministry of Health should embark on vigorous public education to allay fear among women which is perhaps leading them to have less interest in the exercise.

WE MIGHT NOT have the facts regarding this issue, but women in Africa are generally reluctant to go for vaccination for several reasons ranging from fear of sterilization that could affect their reproductive process or probably lead to other complications.

TRUTH OF THE matter is the ministry did not carry out adequate awareness and education about the vaccines, particularly the AstraZeneca dose prior to administering it, given the huge global controversy that surrounded it initially about blood clog and heart failure just at the time it was being administered in the country.

THE JOHNSON & JOHNSON vaccine currently being administered to Liberians was manufactured in the United States and certified by the U.S. Food and Drug Agency as safe for human use.

NEWLY ARRIVED COUNTRY Director for the United States Agency for International Aid (USAID) Jim Wright assured Liberians during the official launch of the vaccine in Monrovia that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine donated to Liberia by the United States Government is safe.

"LET ME BE clear: This is a safe vaccine. U.S. regulators approved the J&J vaccine last February. Since then, almost 13.5 million Americans have received this very same vaccine, and tens of thousands more are receiving it every day", Director Wright said when he joined also newly arrived Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Country Director Dr. Rachel Idowu and Liberia's Foreign Minister Dee Maxwell Kemayah, Health Minister Wilhelmina Jallah, along with other dignitaries to kick off the Johnson & Johnson vaccination campaign here on Thursday, August 05, 2021.

THAT ASSURANCE MAY have not resounded enough to Liberians, particularly among the female population. It therefore behooves the Ministry of Health to continue awareness into communities and thru radio jingles about the effectiveness or potency of both jabs with testimonies of some women who have taken the vaccine and how their bodies responded.

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

COMMENTARY

By James K. Galbraith

Afghanistan Was Always About American Politics

TOWNSHEND, VT - Now that so many sad truths about Afghanistan are being spoken aloud, even in the major media - let me add one more: The war, from start to finish, was about politics, not in Afghanistan but in the United States.

Afghanistan was always a sideshow. According to the official account, the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks were launched from US soil, by people who trained in Florida. Most of the named perpetrators were Saudis. Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden had made his base in Afghanistan after leaving Sudan; soon he went on to Pakistan, where he stayed for the rest of his life. Afghanistan's Taliban rulers were not accused of having been involved in the 9/11 attacks.

But the 2001 invasion was fast and apparently decisive. And so it rescued George W. Bush's tainted presidency, which was teetering just then from a defection (by James Jeffords of Vermont) that had cost Republican control of the Senate. Bush's approval shot up to 90% and then steadily declined, though two additional boosts - following the invasion of Iraq in March 2003 and the capture of Saddam Hussein in December - got him, barely, through the 2004 election.

American voters are not alone in rewarding quick, easy, low-cost victories. But they dislike long, aimless struggles in distant mountains on the far side of the world. And they especially hate the images and accounts of the dead, the wounded, the traumatized, and the depressed. To their credit, this view appears to be unaffected by numbers; if anything, the lives of individual American soldiers become more precious, and their losses are more acutely felt, as the conflict wanes and the number of casualties declines.

In 2009, President Barack Obama inherited an Afghan war from which he had nothing to gain, but which he supported for a political reason: to balance out his opposition to the war in Iraq. Obama derived almost no benefit from killing bin Laden in May 2011; his approval rating bounced up for only a month. His best play was to keep Afghanistan out of the news, which meant not losing while seeking flashy victories elsewhere - in Libya, Syria, and Ukraine. None turned out well.

Following Obama, President Donald Trump seized on America's souring mood toward all these splendid little wars. True, the Islamic State had emerged by Trump's time. But ISIS made for an easy target, especially if one didn't mind destroying entire cities (Mosul and Raqqa) with air power. Trump's wars, such as they were, brought him nothing politically, and he knew it.

So it was Trump who negotiated the US surrender in Afghanistan, while pushing the final act into his second term - or, as it happened, onto his successor. President Joe Biden, faced with the alternative of yet another escalation, opted to take the hit and

cut his losses. That, too, we will surely learn, was a decision based largely on politics. Sometimes, the domestic political calculation is also the right thing to do.

What now? From Vietnam through Southwest Asia to the Persian Gulf, the American empire has been defeated, stalemated, and worn down about as thoroughly as the British and the French had been by the early 1960s. At this point, it would take a provocation far more devastating than the 9/11 attacks to rally American voters for more of the same. Assuming and hoping that none will occur, it is now possible that the audience for interventionist cheerleaders (such as columnists Thomas Friedman and David Brooks, and policymakers Samantha Power and Victoria Nuland, among many others) will fade away.

One cheerleader, Michael Rubin of the American Enterprise Institute, contends that the fall of Afghanistan also represents the end of NATO. After all, he argues, who still believes that the US would go to war for Lithuania? Rubin is right on this point, and it is a good thing, too. The Baltic states - all members of the European Union - face no actual threat and will get along very well without NATO.

A similar calculation applies to Taiwan - to which the US has no formal military commitment - and perhaps also to South Korea, where it does. Leaders in both places may now adjust their political calculations. That could lead to a long-term stabilization of the cross-strait relationship, and to a long-desired thaw on the divided Korean Peninsula. Meanwhile, in Latin America, Mexico is pushing for a region free of sanctions and built on the principle of non-interference - as well it should.

For America itself, this is the moment to acknowledge that the country's vast and expensive military power no longer serves any purpose that can justify its cost. This is the time, finally, to demobilize troops, to decommission ships, to cancel orders for fighters and bombers, and to dismantle nuclear warheads and their delivery systems. This is the moment to take those resources and to start addressing the real threats facing the country: poor public health, decaying infrastructure, rising inequality and economic insecurity, and a climate disaster that demands the full-scale transformation of the energy, transportation, and construction sectors.¹

On a visit to Moscow in 2018, a high officer of the Duma told me that Russia's post-Soviet recovery began with the decision in 1992 to cut military spending by 75%, clearing the way for eventual domestic reconstruction, and even for the creation of a military force that actually meets Russia's contemporary security needs. A similar moment has arrived in the US. Given the current American mood and the truths now emerging, to accept the world as it is might also prove to be, of all things, politically astute.

OPINION

By Yu Yongding

The Pandemic's Impact on China's Growth Prospects

BEIJING - In the second quarter of 2021, China's GDP grew by 7.9% year on year. That was a relatively strong performance, especially given the enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy. But, for China, it represents a disappointment: a Caixin survey of economists showed the median estimate for the second quarter was 8.2% growth.

Chinese economists broadly agree that China's potential growth rate is 6%. So, taking into consideration the base effect, China's year-on-year growth rate in the four quarters of 2021 should be 19.1%, 8.3%, 6.7%, and 5.5%. Yet, in the first quarter, growth amounted to 18.3%. This weaker-than-expected performance is, to a significant extent, a result of official policy.

While Chinese authorities implemented expansionary fiscal and monetary policy early in the pandemic, they proved eager to normalize it, for fear that it would fuel inflation and compound financial risks. Fiscal retrenchment has been particularly rapid. In the first half of 2021, China's general government expenditures increased by only 4.5%, while revenues increased by 21.8%. Though this partly reflects the base effect, policy was undeniably tightened. In fact, in the first half of 2021, China's public budget deficit was CNY1.6 trillion (\$247 billion) smaller than in 2020.

Monetary policy has remained accommodative, but the People's Bank of China (PBOC) has been cautious, to say the least. In the first half of 2021, social financing rose by CNY17.7 trillion. That increase is CNY3.1 trillion smaller than the figure for the same period of 2020. Against this background, it should not be surprising that economic indicators are increasingly pointing to a slowdown in Chinese growth.

China's leaders are now moving to redress the slowdown. Early last month, the PBOC, hoping to spur an increase in lending, announced that it would cut the mandatory reserve ratio for all banks by 50 basis points.

A few weeks later, the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee released a communiqué acknowledging that "China's domestic economy is still unstable and unbalanced," and calling for accelerating "the construction of major projects planned in the 14th Five-Year Plan." The market has widely interpreted this as a signal that the government will implement more expansionary macroeconomic policy in the second half of this year.

Such a policy adjustment, though still marginal, has raised hopes that growth will pick up in the second half of 2021, potentially even reaching a level consistent with the potential growth rate. But a policy change might not be enough. Instead, China's economic recovery may well depend, above all, on how the fight against COVID-19 unfolds.

Since lifting the lockdown in Wuhan in early April 2020, China has managed to prevent any major local outbreaks and to keep the number of new daily confirmed COVID cases in the low double digits. Many people believed that China was on its way to eliminating local coronavirus infections altogether.

Those hopes were dashed last month, when several airport workers in Nanjing tested positive during routine screening. Within days, the highly transmissible Delta variant had spread to 22 cities in ten provinces. Total confirmed cases in China surged from 251 on July 16 to around 2,000.

The government, still committed to getting infections to zero, responded swiftly, locking down high-risk areas, tightening travel restrictions on medium-risk areas, and quarantining around 100,000 people. But similar situations have occurred before, albeit on a smaller scale. And with much of the world still not vaccinated, and increasingly transmissible virus variants emerging, they will undoubtedly happen again.

The economic costs of such lockdowns - including restrictions on international travel - are extremely high. Given this, some virologists, epidemiologists, and economists now argue that China needs to move away from its zero-tolerance policy and learn to live with the virus.

But resistance to this approach remains strong. After all, China's strict approach - enabled by its institutional arrangements and cultural tradition - has kept the country virtually COVID-free for several months. And while the costs are high, especially for tourism and travel-related services, China can afford them.

More importantly, China has some way to go in vaccinating its population. While it has so far administered 1.9 billion vaccine doses - mostly of its own Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines, both of which require two doses - it will need to vaccinate more than 83% of its population before herd immunity is reached, according to its top epidemiologist, Zhong Nanshan.

Moreover, given questions about the long-term efficacy of the vaccines currently being administered, more time might be needed to provide booster shots or develop more effective alternatives. And even if China did manage to inoculate a large enough share of its population with effective vaccines, it exists in a globalized world, where many countries have very low vaccination rates.

It is safe to say that the fight against COVID-19 is far from over. For China, this means that more small-scale coronavirus outbreaks - with the associated economic disruptions - are all but inevitable. Given this, it is very likely that China's total growth in 2021 will fall short of previous market expectations.

This is not to downplay the importance of fiscal and monetary policy. A more expansionary approach could go a long way toward offsetting the pandemic's economic impact. In particular, many small and medium-size companies that have been hit hard by the pandemic need help badly, and the government still has policy room to offer it. In fact, with the right policy mix, China can achieve reasonably good growth in the second half of 2021 and beyond.

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O-P-E-D

By Michael J. Boskin

Biden's Cruel Summer

STANFORD - A political leader's performance and legacy are usually defined more by how he handles his inbox than by whether he delivers on hyperbolic campaign promises or visions of the promised land. US President Joe Biden is learning this lesson during his first summer on the job. Reality is rudely intruding on his plans.

Many "inbox problems" arrive unexpectedly, as was true of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks or the COVID-19 pandemic; but others are more easily anticipated, as in the case of persistent inflation and long wars. Biden's problems this summer fall into the latter category. His radical economic agenda has predictably exposed rifts among congressional Democrats and increased the risk that centrist and independent voters will experience buyer's remorse. Democrats are now rightly worried that the Republicans will retake the House of Representatives in the 2022 midterm elections.

There is time for Biden to recover, of course. But his honeymoon has clearly ended with the disastrous decision to withdraw the last US forces from Afghanistan without a plan for safely evacuating Americans, allies, and the thousands of Afghans who risked their lives supporting US-led operations there.

Biden ignored the advice of military leaders and diplomats who argued for maintaining a small residual force to provide intelligence and air support to the Afghan army, which had provided stability for a year and a half without a single US combat death. Nor did Biden bother to consult the NATO allies whose forces on the ground far outnumbered the small remaining US contingent.

Democrats are hoping the Afghan debacle will be less salient to voters by November 2022. But the fall of Kabul could have a lasting effect by reinforcing the notion that Biden and his advisers are weak and not up to the job of dealing with a dangerous world. It also may threaten the administration's economic policy agenda.

The far left of the Democratic Party is demanding that the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill already adopted by the Senate be held hostage to secure passage of a massive, radical \$3.5 trillion redistribution bill loaded with permanent new entitlements with no work requirement. The party's few centrists are understandably balking.

But the legislative fight is not Biden's only source of economic woe. Inflation has taken a sharp upward turn, with the core consumer price index having risen by over 4.3% in the last 12 months (through July) - a level that in 1971 caused a conservative president, Richard Nixon, to impose distortionary wage and price controls. Moreover, the measure for core inflation strips out volatile food and energy prices, which are rising even faster and doubtless will be weighing on budget-minded voters.

True, some of today's high inflation reflects the bounce-back from last year's depressed prices, and some stems from "temporary" supply-chain disruptions (for example, semiconductor shortages have hindered auto production). But if the US Federal Reserve finds that it must contend with inflation risks sooner than it expected, the interest cost on Biden's massive deficits (along with the big deficits built up by Donald Trump and Barack Obama) will soar, quickly rendering his expensive domestic spending agenda unsustainable.

Worse yet, the coronavirus's Delta variant is running rampant, and vaccinations are lagging behind the administration's predictions (despite massive spending and daily presidential exhortations). Taken together, these factors all threaten to slow the strong economic recovery that Biden inherited.

The administration's performance on other issues has been equally inept. After restricting domestic energy production in a poorly considered attempt to hasten the transition from fossil fuels to "clean" energy, it recently found itself in the awkward position of having to urge OPEC to pump more oil.

The risks of curtailing fossil-fuel production should have been obvious: Germany still uses lots of lignite (the dirtiest form of coal) to deal with soaring costs and a stressed electricity grid; and California, the state "leading" the transition, finds itself gigawatts short of peak energy needs, with rolling blackouts likely for the foreseeable future. Biden has also made way for the completion of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which will make Europe even more dependent on Russian gas.

At the same time, Biden's loosening of some Trump-era immigration and border policies has encouraged a record flow of migrants to travel from dozens of countries to the southern border. Local charities, hospitals, and communities are overwhelmed, and many illegal immigrants reportedly have been released into the United States even after testing positive for COVID-19.

Governing isn't easy in large, diverse, and complex societies. It involves choices and tradeoffs that are not universally popular. But after running explicitly on the promise of restoring normalcy and moderation, Biden's administration has so far proved incompetent and inept.

Former Secretary of Defense and CIA Director Leon Panetta has likened the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan to John F. Kennedy's Bay of Pigs fiasco. But a better analogy is to US President Jimmy Carter's flailing attempt to rescue Americans held hostage in Tehran in 1979. Carter never recovered politically, but Kennedy did. He went on to orchestrate an end to the Cuban Missile Crisis, with an agreement to get Soviet missiles out of Cuba in exchange for the US removing missiles from Turkey.

Can Biden recover from this summer's fiascos and salvage his economic agenda? Will his perceived weakness lead to additional foreign crises that sap resources and attention? History offers conflicting lessons. When President Ronald Reagan inherited record-breaking inflation from the hapless Carter, he backed Fed Chair Paul Volcker's inflation-fighting efforts. The resulting recession doomed his party in the 1982 midterm elections. But a strong recovery thereafter positioned him for a huge re-election win and subsequent legislative victories, including the landmark 1986 tax reform.

Trump, who in 2019 had a clear shot at re-election, was derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting recession despite the success of Operation Warp Speed, his program to facilitate the development of effective vaccines. At the rate Biden is going, he could fare even worse.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Oppose the politicization of Covid-19 origins tracing and Actively carry out global scientific origins tracing work

By Chinese Ambassador to Liberia H.E. Ren Yisheng

At present, the COVID-19 pandemic is still raging around the world. Science-based origins study of the virus is of great importance for mankind to defeat the virus early, and thus saving lives and preventing similar pandemics from recurring. China, like other countries in the world, is a victim of the pandemic. We all hope to find the origins of the virus as early as possible, so as to find a way to defeat the virus and cut off its transmission.

China's position on global origins tracing is consistent and clear-cut. First, origins tracing is a matter of science. It should be and can only be left to scientists to find, through scientific research, the animal source of the virus and the route of transmission to humans. No country has the right to put its own political interests above people's lives, nor should a matter of science be politicized for the purpose of slandering and attacking other countries. Second, the findings and recommendations of the WHO-China joint study report are widely recognized by the international community and scientists, and must be respected and implemented by all parties. The future work of global origins tracing should and must proceed from that basis, instead of starting anew. Third, China has always supported and will continue to participate in science-based origins study. What we firmly oppose is politicization of origins tracing that goes against the WHA resolution and disregards the WHO-China joint study report. Fourth, the WHO Secretariat

instructed its own intelligence agency to carry out the so-called origins tracing investigation, deliberately undermining the international origins tracing research cooperation. The purpose behind these manipulations is not to pursue scientific truth at all, but to shed its responsibility on its ineffective fight against COVID-19 at home, and transfer domestic political pressure and the responsibility of refusing to cooperate with international partners on origins tracing.

Recently, more than 70 countries including Liberia have supported the WHO-China joint research report on origins tracing and opposed the politicization of the issue by either writing to the WHO Director-General, issuing statements or notes. More than 30 countries have expressed objections or reservations to WHO Secretariat's work plan. In many countries, political parties, organizations, experts, scholars, and media have expressed their opposition in many different ways to the politicization of the origins tracing and insisted on scientific origins tracing study. These voices of justice should and must be taken seriously.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China has upheld the concept of a global community of health for all, promptly exchanged prevention and control experience with the international community, provided anti-epidemic assistance within its capacity, and took the lead in launching the world's largest vaccine cooperation operation, making an outstanding contribution to global public health

security. On August 5th, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced in his written address at the First Meeting of the International Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine Cooperation that this year China will provide 2 billion doses of vaccine to the world and donate 100 million US dollars to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX). This will be another major move by China to honor its commitment of making vaccines a global public good, and will also allow it to make new contribution to the global cooperation against COVID-19. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi emphasized at the forum that China carries out international vaccine cooperation without any political goals or any economic calculations, and it has never attached any political conditions. Up to now, China has provided 770 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines and concentrates to more than 100 countries and international organizations, which is equivalent to one-sixth of the current global total output of COVID-19 vaccines. China is the country that has provided the largest number of vaccines to



should act on the WHA resolution, conduct thorough consultation with member states on the global origins tracing work plan, including the follow-up mechanism, as it provides the basis for effective cooperation to be conducted.

China has always been actively participating in global scientific origins tracing cooperation with a scientific attitude. Since the beginning of the pandemic, China has upheld the principles of openness, transparency, science, and cooperation, and has been actively conducting origins tracing cooperation with the WHO, sharing viral genetic sequences at the earliest time possible, and twice invited WHO experts to China for joint research. In March this year, WHO officially released the Joint Report by the WHO-China joint study team, which provides the most authoritative, professional and science-based conclusions on origins tracing and laid the foundation for the next-phase global origins tracing work. The Chinese experts also took the initiative to submit a Chinese plan for the second-stage origins tracing work to the WHO.

The United States and a few other countries disregard the facts and accuse China of rejecting global origins tracing cooperation. This is completely reversing black and white, confusing right and wrong, and politicizing the origins tracing issue. The United States has also arbitrarily manipulated the international public opinion to hype the "laboratory leak theory," and even

developing countries. The vaccines produced by Chinese pharmaceutical companies for the COVAX plan has also been offline and will be provided to the WHO soon.

China and Africa, China and Liberia are good friends and good brothers. China has always supported African countries including Liberia in the fight against COVID-19 with tangible actions, by donating a large number of anti-COVID-19 medical supplies, dispatching medical expert teams, building the African Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and China-Africa Friendship Hospitals, carrying out pairing-up cooperation between Chinese hospitals and African hospitals, canceling interest-free loan debts of relevant African countries, and extending the debt relief period of some African countries. China has provided four batches of anti-COVID-19 medical supplies to Liberia so far. China will continue to carry out pragmatically the concept of a China-Africa and a China-Liberian community with a shared future.

The virus knows no borders and does not distinguish between races. Given the ongoing spread and rebound of the virus, the priority remains to be stepping up equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and enhancing solidarity and cooperation against the pandemic. China is willing to work with all parties including Liberia to actively carry out global scientific origins tracing study and make new contributions to mankind's ultimate victory over the pandemic.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

SG Cephus warns opposition

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's Solicitor General Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephus is warning the public, particularly members of the opposition community to desist from politicking and referring to Lofa County Senator-elect Brownie Samukai's legal battle as a

not witch hunting Mr. Samukai and doesn't have any interest in stopping him from taking office, rather it wants the Lofa County Senator - elect to be held accountable in accordance with the law.

Cephus' comments on the live talk show came days after Liberia's Supreme Court ordered

are convicted of misapplying personal pension saving funds of soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), and they have been ordered to retribute the money to the tune of over a million United States dollars.

Cephus argued that Samukai was indicted by the past administration of former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf which he served, and President George Manneh Weah's government has only implemented what it inherited from the previous administration.

He explained that the New Election Law provides that people who are having judicial disabilities and disenfranchised are not qualified to vote or take part in election, something he said they informed the National Elections Commission about.

Cephus added that even though Samukai was not stopped by the NEC and he contested the 2020 Midterm Senatorial Election, now he will do as the law says.

He said the issue is not about Lofa County, explaining that when Samukai appears in court, he appears as Samukai and not Lofa County.

Cephus therefore urged that people should stop speculating that the government wants to stop

the National Elections Commission not to certificate Mr. Samukai as Lofa Senator until the disability imposed on him following his conviction in a criminal trial is removed according to law.

Samukai and two other former Defense Ministry officials



SG Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephus

witch hunt allegedly organized by government to hinder his political representation at the Liberian Senate.

Speaking on the Spoon Midnight talk show Tuesday, 24 August 2021, Cephus said the Government of Liberia is

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AME Bishop arrives in Liberia today

The 121st elected and newly consecrated Bishop of the 14th Episcopal district of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, Rt. Rev. Paul J.M. Kawimbe, arrives in Liberia today, Thursday, August 26, and is expected to continue talks with local Church leaders; convene extraordinary meetings with the Board of Trustees of the Monrovia College and Industrial Training School and the African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU), respectively.

for the first time in his capacity as Bishop.

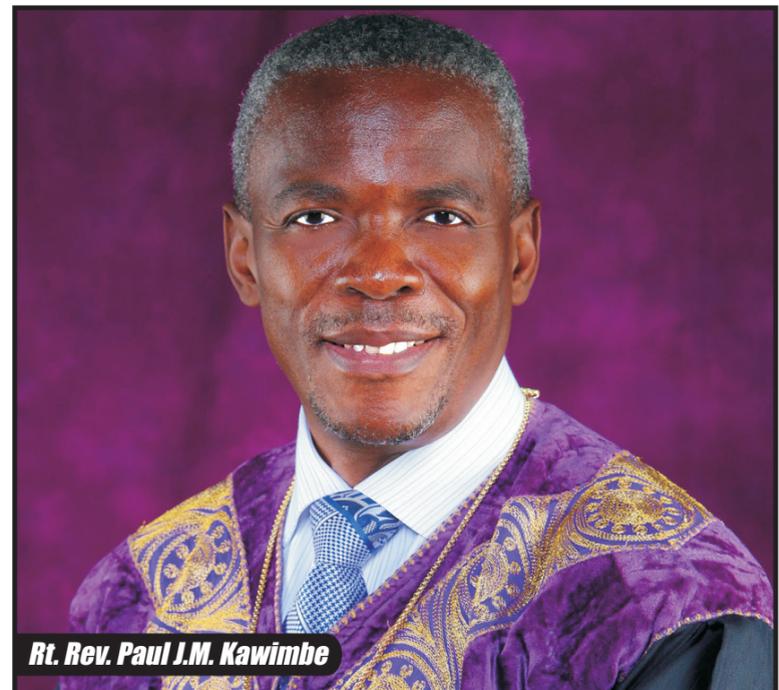
The Episcopal District encompasses Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Togo, and Benin.

There are seven (7) Annual Conferences, 135 churches in the district and a membership of about 13,000.

According to the release, Bishop Kawimbe arrived in Accra, Ghana on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, where he was expected to hold talks with leaders of the AME Church there.

"Those talks are expected to center around the growth of the

According to a press



Rt. Rev. Paul J.M. Kawimbe

release, while in Liberia, Bishop Kawimbe is also expected to tour the Jordan Agriculture Institute where the proposed College of Agriculture of AMEU is expected to be established shortly.

The Episcopal Bishop will also tour several AME Churches in the country and worship at the Eliza Turner Memorial AME Church, downtown Monrovia on Sunday, 29 August.

Bishop Kawimbe commenced a four-leg tour of the 14th Episcopal District on Wednesday, August 25, 2021,

Church and economic empowerment of its members, as the 14th Episcopal District remains in the pursuit of excellence. He will also be briefed on preparations being made for the holding of the 14th District Christian Education Congress and Planning meeting in Kumasi, Ghana", the release noted.

Bishop Kawimbe will return to the Republic of South Africa on Monday, August 30, 2021, fully briefed, as he prepares for a productive Episcopal sojourn in the 14th Episcopal District. - Press Release

UL certifies protocol officers

By Winston W. Parley

The President of the University of Liberia, Rev. Prof. Dr. Julius Julukon Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., has awarded certificates to officers of the Protocol Department, University of Liberia following their participation in a three - day training exercise organized by the department.

The workshop which concluded with an indoor program in the conference room of the administrative building on the university's Capitol Hill Campus Monday, 23 August 2021, was intended to enhance the department's skills and to enable team members to be more vibrant in the discharge of their duties.

Along with the protocol officers, the University of Liberia Police Officers assigned to the Office of the University President and other staff participated in the three - day training and received certificates.

During the program, Prof.



Dr. Nelson expressed appreciation to the Protocol Department for their work it is doing, assuring the protocol team of his office's commitment to always give them the support they need for more of such training so as to improve their work at the university.

"When we strive for being in the top 20 in our sub - region in seven years, it means that at all

levels of the university we all will keep striving for excellence at different, different institutions," said Prof. Dr. Nelson.

Earlier in a welcome remark, Madam Decontee Tubman, Director of Protocol at the University of Liberia, thanked Dr. Nelson for his office's support to the Protocol Department.

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She expressed gratitude to the facilitators including the Director of Media Relations at the University of Liberia Mrs. Jani Jallah - Kollie, and a senior UL protocol officer Mr. Siafa Kemokai who served as lead facilitator of the workshop.

Mr. Rafael Reeves, Deputy Director of Protocol at the university assured Dr. Nelson that he will see some improvement in the services of the Department of Protocol because its staff had gotten enough training for another journey.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LRA and LEC partner to collect payment

By Kruah Thompson (Intern)

The Liberian Revenue Authority and the Liberia Electricity Corporation have agreed to partner in collecting real estate taxes and LEC bills.

Daniel Ankrah, senior communication officer (LRA) says for the ideals to work 100 percent, there must be an

hugely on each other", he says.

Speaking on the Super Morning Show hosted by state radio (ELBC FM 99.9) in Paynesville, he indicated that if a customer lives in a rental house and only pays LEC bills instead of the home, the LEC will share such information with the LRA and through that, both

to run after those included within the data to pay both their real property taxes and LEC bills.

He says they will make sure all those benefiting from the LEC grill are in compliance with their real estate tax payment as well.

He discloses the LRA has currently published names of properties and reached out to those property owners but they have blindly refused to pay their real property taxes, saying, "For some, their owners cannot be found."

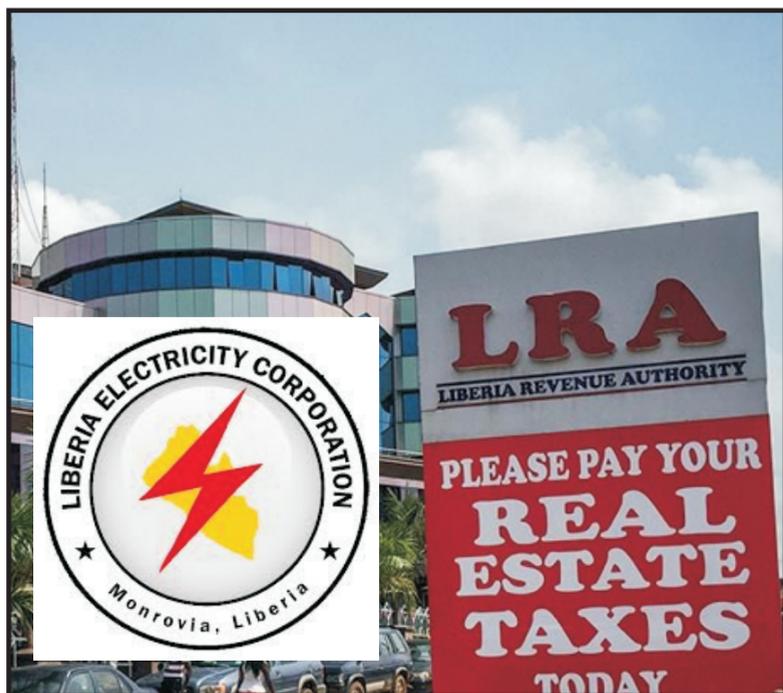
He notes that some of the property owners cannot be found but people are using them, and taxes should be paid on those properties.

Meanwhile, after August 31, 2021, the Ministry of Justice along with the LRA will carry out enforcement on those names.

Daniel emphasizes that if the true property owners cannot go to the LRA to discuss payment, those properties will be closed for some time, adding that after several months if payment is still not made, a tax agent will be sent to do a full closure.

According to the manager for media and public affairs at LRA, Varfee Holmes, issue of tax evasion is one of the major problems LRA has been dealing with under its tax

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understandable collaboration between both institutions that derive an effective plan and promote effective service delivery.

"If you pay your real property taxes, you're supposed to pay your LEC bills, meaning, they both rely

institutions will be able to share data which will help smooth the process of revenue collection as well as fight power theft.

He says the first approach is to enlist all properties that are not within LRA data base.

After collecting the data, Daniel explains, the next thing is

LiSEE donates items to Pleebo Health Center

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Amidst COVID-19 cases in Maryland County, the Liberian Institute for Sustainable Economic Empowerment or LiSEE, has donated non-food items to the Pleebo Health Center in Maryland electoral district#2 to help prevent the spread of the virus.

The items which include; detergent powder soap, clora and nose masks, among others were donated to the health center on Monday, August 23, 2021 in a ceremony attended by health workers, Pleebo City Mayor Wellington Kyen, Maryland county youth president Thomas Kume, and LiSEE Executive Director Isaac T. Dweh.

Speaking during the presentation, Director Isaac T. Dweh said, the gesture is the organization's way of buttressing government efforts, being fully aware of



challenges the center faces as a result of population increase in the district, leading to rise in health cases at the health center.

Mr. Dweh said his organization deems it necessary to work along with the pleebo health center in the district to provide the items after survey shows availability of some of these items pose a

challenge to the health facility.

"So before we go further, we want to first of all appreciate the government for the support to the district health center including the health workers for the hard work to our people in the district, knowing the number of persons that access health

New Life Recovery asks GOL to fund youth rehabilitation

New Life Recovery Center (NLRC) is asking the Government of Liberia to allot funds to assist institutions and organizations that are involved in rehabilitation and training of disadvantaged youths in the country.

Executive director Jefferson Knight, says some of the huge money spent for lawmakers' legislative engagements could be redirected to rehabilitating thousands of disadvantaged youths exposed to drugs and crimes.

Director Knight spoke at the graduation of six disadvantaged youths after undergoing a year-long rehabilitation and training at the New Life Recovery Center located in Sundaygar Town, Marshall Road in Margibi County.

According to him, the New Life Recovery Center is only rehabilitating boys currently and the management is an eight-room annex in order to take girls from the streets off the street into the program.

He noted that the center will like to increase the number of disadvantaged youths for rehabilitation but cannot do so due to inadequate resources.

Director Knight disclosed that about 80 disadvantaged youths have passed through the walls of the Center and 500 others have benefitted from the program since it started years ago.

"There is a need to introduce strong drug laws that will deal severely with people importing these dangerous substances in order to curb the proliferation of drugs and criminal activities in the country", he suggested.

Delivering the keynote address at the program, a youth advocate, Pauline Gartor, stressed the need for parents and national leaders to

do all they can to rehabilitating disadvantaged youths in the country.

Speaking on theme, "Transforming the Future through the Prevention of Drug Abuse," Miss Gartor said the present generation of leaders will be held responsible if the thousands of disadvantaged youths are not rehabilitated.

She called on the legislative, judicial and executive branches of the government and international nongovernmental organizations to buttress efforts by the New Life Recovery Center in rehabilitating disadvantaged youths.

According to her, thousands of young people are falling to drug abuse on a daily basis and 31 percent of school dropouts are projected to fall prey, if robust action is not taken as quickly as possible.

Also speaking during program, a member of the board of the Center, Mrs. Esther Grant, who graced the occasion as a part of her birthday celebration, cautioned the youths against returning to ghettos because it has the propensity to damage their future.

Mrs. Grant encouraged parents and guardians to support the youths so that they will not return to those bad friends who exposed them to criminal activities and drugs.

Giving their testimonies, some of the youths narrated how they used to arm rob, hijack and raid business people under the cover of darkness.

They promised never to return to the ghetto because they have been taught religious education and baptized by the pastor of the church they have been attending during their stay at the center.

Many of the parents, guardians and relatives who graced the occasion thanked Jefferson Knight for helping to transform their loved ones.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



care at this health center on daily basis", he said.

"Therefore, OIC David, Mayor and the youth people president, the Liberia Institute for Sustainable and Economic Empowerment has come to give the pleebo health center these items which includes; 1

cartoon of tile soap, 14 bottle of clora, and several nose masks, among others."

He added the items are the organization's initial contribution to the Pleebo health center, having earlier

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Français

Le PLP reçoit plusieurs nouveaux adhérents

Le leader politique du Parti de la libération du peuple (PLP), un tout nouveau parti politique, s'est félicité samedi de l'adhésion massive des centaines de Libériens à son parti. Plus de 700 nouveaux membres issus de plusieurs communautés du comté de Montserrado ont rejoint le PLP.

S'exprimant au siège du PLP à Congo Town le samedi 21 août 2021 lors d'un programme élaboré, le Dr Daniel E. Cassell a déclaré que le PLP n'est la propriété privée d'aucun individu, il appartient plutôt à tous les Libériens.

Lors du programme organisé par les partisans du PLP pour exprimer leur gratitude pour le limogeage de trois responsables du parti, le Dr Cassell a annoncé deux nouveaux responsables, à savoir notamment M. Kalifala Kromah et David Benito en tant que vice-président national pour les médias et la publicité, et vice-président pour les

Affaires internationales.

Le programme est intervenu peu de temps après que le PLP, par l'intermédiaire de sa Commission de politique générale (GPC), a annoncé la révocation de trois de ses dirigeants par intérim pour leur implication dans des actes qui, selon le PLP, contreviennent aux normes, aux statuts et à la constitution du parti.

Les personnes démisées de ses

fonctions sont M. Wilmot Paye, ancien président national, M. Henry Sackie, ancien vice-président pour les affaires politiques et M. Kansualism Kansuah, ancien secrétaire général du parti.

"Le fait que vous vous présentiez tous aujourd'hui pour adhérer au Parti de la libération du peuple est un

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La CBL revoit à la baisse son taux directeur pour renforcer la liquidité et soutenir la relance économique

Suite à sa réunion trimestrielle des 18 et 20 août 2021, le Conseil des gouverneurs de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) a raboté le taux de la politique monétaire de 500 points de base à 20 %, avec une fourchette supérieure de + 500 points de base pour les crédits permanents et le maintien des seuils de réserves obligatoires à 25 % pour le dollar libérien et à 10 % pour le dollar des États-Unis pour le prochain trimestre. En outre, le Conseil a

réaffirmé l'urgence d'améliorer l'automatisation du système de référence de crédit pour prendre en charge les identifiants uniques, les cotes de crédit et la notation, dans le but de renforcer la qualité des prêts.

Le conseil d'administration de la Banque a non seulement réitéré la nécessité pour les banques commerciales d'intensifier le recouvrement des prêts, en particulier ceux qui étaient en cours avant la pandémie grâce à des conditions de remboursement flexibles, mais il les a également

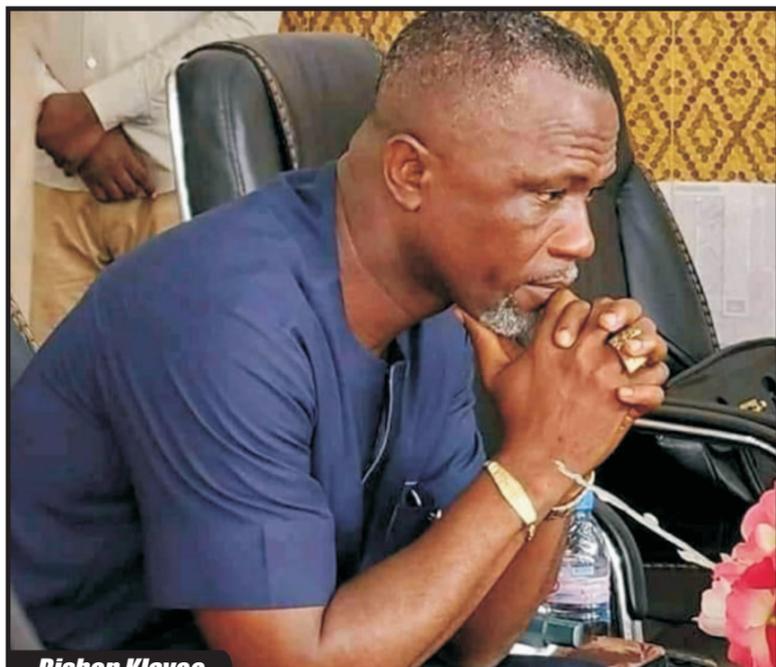
encouragés à revoir leurs modèles commerciaux pour atténuer les effets négatifs de la COVID-19 et les chocs sur les indicateurs de solidité financière pour se conformer aux dispositions réglementaires.

Il convient de noter que ces décisions ont été éclairées par l'évolution des économies mondiale et nationale.

Développements mondiaux

La projection de croissance économique mondiale est restée inchangée à 6,0 % pour 2021. Cependant, les différences entre les économies avancées, les marchés émergents et les économies en développement reflètent la divergence des réponses des politiques monétaire et budgétaire pour soutenir la reprise. Les prix des produits de base au cours de la période considérée, y compris les produits agricoles (fèves de cacao, grumes rondes, caoutchouc et riz) ont baissé, tandis que les produits non agricoles, y compris le carburant et l'or, ont enregistré une hausse

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Richard Kloupa

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

Le PLP reçoit plusieurs

signe que vous êtes prêts à vous battre pour votre peuple et votre pays", a-t-il déclaré.

Cassell a ajouté que l'arrivée massive de membres démontre que les Libériens en ont assez des politiciens recyclés. Il a qualifié les nouvelles adhésions de démonstration de force qui a envoyé une mise en garde à ces politiciens recyclés qu'il a décrits comme des chasseurs avides qui ont utilisé et abusé des citoyens ordinaires.

Le porteur de la vision du PLP a indiqué que le vrai sens de la fonction publique est de

servir le peuple et non de s'enrichir pendant que la grande majorité du peuple souffre.

Le vice-président pour le recrutement et la mobilisation a remercié quant à lui les nouveaux arrivants pour leur clairvoyance, et les a exhortés à s'inscrire et à obtenir leur carte d'adhésion qui authentifie leur relation avec le parti.

Il a souligné que le Parti de la libération du peuple est le parti dont la mission est de libérer les masses, tout en invitant chaque Libérien à faire partie de la vision du PLP pour un Libéria meilleur.

La CBL revoit à la baisse son taux directeur pour renforcer significative.

Globalement, l'inflation est projetée à 3,5% en 2021, légèrement au-dessus des 3,2% enregistrés en 2020, en raison principalement du rebond attendu de l'activité économique et de l'amélioration progressive des prix des matières premières, notamment du pétrole. L'inflation dans les économies avancées devrait rester inférieure à l'objectif à 1,6 %, tandis qu'en Afrique subsaharienne, elle devrait se modérer à 9,8 %, légèrement en dessous de la moyenne de 2020.

En revanche, les taux directeurs dans certaines économies avancées sont restés bas, mais relativement inchangés aux États-Unis (É.-U.), au Royaume-Uni (Royaume-Uni) et dans l'Union européenne (UE). Dans la Zone Monétaire Ouest Africaine (WAMZ), à l'exception du Ghana, qui a abaissé son taux directeur, tous les autres pays de la WAMZ ont maintenu leurs taux au cours du deuxième trimestre 2021

Développements macroéconomiques nationaux

Par rapport au secteur extérieur, le déficit commercial s'est creusé à 5,5% du PIB, contre un déficit de 1,7% du PIB enregistré au trimestre précédent, reflétant la hausse de 21,2% des paiements à l'importation

et la baisse de 25,1% des recettes d'exportation au cours du trimestre.

Du côté positif, la croissance du produit intérieur brut (RGDP) réel est projetée à 3,6% pour 2021, qui devrait être propulsée principalement par les croissances de l'exploitation minière et du panoramique (4,6%), et de l'agriculture et de la pêche (3,8%). Le secteur des services, qui a été le plus touché en 2020 en raison du COVID-19, devrait se redresser, avec une croissance projetée de 3,4% en 2021. Cette projection RGDP pourrait toutefois être entravée par la résurgence de la pandémie, notamment dans les économies des principaux partenaires commerciaux.

Le taux d'inflation moyen pour le deuxième trimestre s'est modéré à 8,6 %, contre 11,1 % au trimestre précédent, principalement en raison de la stabilité générale du dollar libérien, de l'augmentation des envois de fonds et de la politique monétaire restrictive de la Banque. Ainsi, la prévision d'inflation pour le troisième trimestre est fixée à 8,5%, avec une marge de +/- 2 points de pourcentage.

Les développements économiques qui précèdent ont incité le Conseil des gouverneurs de la Banque à réduire le taux directeur de 500 points de base afin de soutenir le renforcement des conditions de liquidité et l'actualisation de l'objectif de croissance économique de 3,6 % pour 2021.

COMMENTAIRE

Par James K. Galbraith

L'Afghanistan a toujours été une affaire politique américaine

TOWNSEND (VERMONT) - À toutes les tristes vérités dévoilées aujourd'hui sur l'Afghanistan, jusque dans les grands médias, j'aimerais en ajouter une encore : la guerre, dès le début, fut affaire de politique, non pas en Afghanistan, mais bien aux États-Unis.

L'Afghanistan ne fut jamais qu'une question secondaire. Selon le rapport de la commission d'enquête, les attentats terroristes du 11 septembre 2001 furent mis au point sur le territoire américain par des gens qui s'étaient préparés en Floride. Pour la plupart, ces individus étaient saoudiens. Le chef d'Al-Qaida, Oussama Ben Laden, s'était réplé en Afghanistan après avoir quitté le Soudan ; il s'établit bientôt au Pakistan et y demeura le restant de ses jours. Les dirigeants talibans de l'Afghanistan ne furent pas accusés d'avoir participé aux attentats du 11-Septembre.

Mais l'invasion de 2001, rapide, fit montre, apparemment, de toute la résolution requise. Elle sauva donc la présidence de George W. Bush, ébranlée, quelques mois plus tôt, par la défection de James Jeffords, du Vermont, qui avait coûté au Parti républicain le contrôle du Sénat. Les opinions favorables à Bush montèrent jusqu'à 90 %, pour ensuite baisser régulièrement, malgré deux autres coups de pouce, avec l'invasion de l'Irak, en mars 2003, puis la capture de Saddam Hussein, en décembre - laquelle devait lui permettre, de justesse, d'être réélu en 2004.

Si les électeurs américains ne sont pas les seuls qui apprécient les victoires rapides, faciles et peu coûteuses, ils détestent, en revanche, les conflits sans objectifs, dans de lointaines montagnes à l'autre bout du monde. Et ils vomissent par-dessus tout les images et les reportages qui leur apprennent la mort, les blessures, les traumatismes ou les dépressions de leurs soldats. On peut porter à leur crédit que le nombre n'y fait rien, la vie du soldat américain étant devenue, semble-t-il, plus précieuse, et les pertes plus durement ressenties, avec la diminution du conflit et la baisse du nombre de victimes.

En 2009, le président Barack Obama héritait d'une guerre dans laquelle il n'avait rien à gagner, mais qu'il soutint pour une raison politique : elle compensait son opposition à la guerre d'Irak. Obama ne tira presque aucun bénéfice du meurtre de Ben Laden en mai 2011 ; la hausse de sa cote de popularité ne se prolongea qu'un mois. Sa meilleure carte était de tenir l'Afghanistan à l'écart des gros titres, c'est-à-dire d'essayer de ne pas perdre là-bas, tout en cherchant ailleurs - en Libye, en Syrie et en Ukraine - des victoires suffisamment voyantes. Rien ne se passa comme prévu.

Succédant à Obama, le président Donald Trump voulut tirer profit de l'humeur de plus en plus acrimonieuse des Américains à l'égard de ces splendides petites guerres. Certes, l'État islamique est apparu durant son mandat. Mais l'EI offrait une cible facile, d'autant que la destruction de villes entières par des frappes aériennes (Mossoul et Raqqa) importait peu. Et les guerres de Trump, telles qu'elles furent menées, ne lui rapportèrent rien non plus, ce qu'il le savait.

Ce fut donc Trump qui négocia la reddition des États-Unis en Afghanistan, reportant toutefois le dernier acte à son second mandat, ou aux talents

d'un successeur, comme ce fut finalement le cas. Le président Joe Biden, qui n'avait d'autre choix plausible qu'une nouvelle escalade, décida d'encaisser le coup et d'arrêter les frais. Cet arbitrage, nous l'apprenons certainement, fut aussi largement déterminé par des considérations politiques. Les calculs de politique intérieure coïncident parfois avec le bon choix.

Et maintenant ? Du Vietnam au golfe Persique en passant par l'Asie du Sud-Ouest, l'empire américain a été vaincu ou tenu en échec, ou encore s'est usé, tout aussi complètement qu'avant lui, dans les années 1960, les Britanniques et les Français. Il faudrait dès lors une provocation beaucoup plus meurtrière encore que les attentats du 11-Septembre pour convaincre les électeurs américains qu'il est nécessaire de persévérer dans la même voie. Si rien de tel ne survient, comme on peut l'imaginer, l'audience des panégyristes de l'intervention (comme les éditorialistes Thomas Friedman et David Brooks ou encore les diplomates Samantha Power et Victoria Nuland, parmi tant d'autres) finira par s'éteindre.

L'un d'eux, Michael Rubin, de l'American Enterprise Institute, soutient que la chute de l'Afghanistan marque aussi la fin de l'OTAN. Qui croit encore, demande-t-il, que les États-Unis se battraient pour la Lituanie ? Il a raison sur ce point, et c'est une bonne chose. Les États baltes - tous membres de l'Union européenne - ne sont pas confrontés à une réelle menace et se débrouilleront très bien sans l'OTAN.

L'estimation vaut pour Taiwan - qu'aucun protocole ne contraint les États-Unis à soutenir militairement - et peut-être pour la Corée du Sud, avec laquelle ils ont en revanche conclu un traité de défense mutuelle. Dans ces deux pays, les dirigeants pourraient être désormais appelés à revoir leur politique. Il pourrait en résulter une stabilisation sur le long terme des relations de part et d'autre du détroit de Formose et un dégel depuis longtemps espéré de la péninsule Coréenne divisée. Pendant ce temps, en Amérique latine, le Mexique plaide pour une région sans sanctions et construite sur le principe de la non-ingérence - comme ce devrait être le cas.

Aux États-Unis, l'heure est venue de reconnaître qu'une puissance militaire si importante, entretenue à si grands frais, ne sert plus désormais d'objectifs qui puissent justifier ses coûts. Il est temps, enfin, de démobiliser les troupes, de désarmer les navires, d'annuler les ordres donnés aux chasseurs et aux bombardiers et de démanteler les ogives nucléaires ainsi que les systèmes de frappe. Le moment est venu d'enrôler ces moyens pour une autre cause, et de commencer à répondre aux menaces réelles qui pèsent sur le pays : une santé publique médiocre, des infrastructures délabrées, le creusement des inégalités et la précarisation économique, sans compter une catastrophe climatique qui exige la transformation à grande échelle des secteurs de l'énergie, des transports et de la construction.

À Moscou, en 2018, un député, une des figures de la Douma, me disait que dans la Russie post-soviétique, c'est la décision de réduire des dépenses militaires de 75 %, en 1992, qui avait permis la relance, ouvrant la voie à la reconstruction du pays et même à la création d'une force armée répondant réellement aux besoins de la Russie contemporaine. Les États-Unis sont parvenus à un moment du même genre. Vus l'état de l'opinion américaine et les vérités qui se font jour, il pourrait aussi s'avérer de bonne politique d'accepter le monde tel qu'il est.



The real debate ahead of 2023 is electoral reform

Exiled Liberian Activist
By Martin K. N. Kollie

DC Presumptive Standard Bearer, incumbent president George Manneh Weah, could rig 2023 General and Presidential Elections if appropriate safeguards through electoral reform are not put in place. The likelihood seems high as anti-democratic precedents are fast sufficing in his remaining months.

We have been calling for electoral reform since 2018 and this pressing national concern cannot be overlooked. Thankfully, the European Union (EU) reinforced our call by echoing 23 previous recommendations it made after a flawed 2017 election. I have done a summary for national review.

Twenty-three (23) Recommendations from EU Election Observation Mission (EUEOM):

1) Initiate a constitutional referendum to remove ethnic definition of Liberian citizenship and use civic education to campaign against racial discrimination.

2) Review election laws and civil procedure laws to consolidate all relevant timelines and any procedural extensions.

3) Establish lower courts of appeals in order to alleviate an overburdened Supreme Court, which could equally contribute to handling of cases including election complaints in an expeditious manner.

4) Amend 2014 Code of Conduct Law to promote participation and right to stand.

5) Review criteria pertinent to establishing and registering political parties in order to promote more cohesion and policy in party organizations.

6) Review of regulatory requirements relating to political parties' nomination of candidates and assessing procedures related thereto.

7) Review provisions on electoral offences to address and remove any ambiguities and incoherencies.

8) NEC to review and amend all appeals timelines in order to ensure consistency and fairness throughout.

9) Comprehensive practical trainings for both lawyers and Hearing Officers to be implemented well in advance of 2023 elections.

10) Review of article 83 and its implications relative to timeline for handling complaints against presidential election results taking cue from SC's ruling of 6 November 2017.

11) A relook at NEC regulations and guidelines relative to timely publication of NEC BoC decisions.

12) Delimitation of electoral constituency boundaries should be done in accordance with Liberia's Constitution and international obligations.

13) Consideration of support towards existing project of creation of a Civil Registry and using it as a basis for registering voters potentially transitioning towards passive voter registration arrangement.

14) Formulation of harmonized regulatory requirements in one single legal instrument.

15) Support and strengthen political

parties and their poll watchers' commitment to ensuring electoral integrity.

16) Establish an appropriately resourced department on campaign and political party finance within NEC in order to enhance institutional capacity.

17) Increase NEC's capacity to scrutinize submitted reports.

18) Implement effective measures to ensure opportunity for voters to vote for all qualified citizens.

19) Consider modification of legislation (NEL 4, \$4.5 and/or enacting of Affirmative Action Bill) and NEC regulations to achieve enforceable affirmative action for women participation and ensure greater representation in decision-making roles within election administration.

20) Further improve access and opportunity for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) to vote through measures for better accessibility of PPs, provision of Tactile Ballot Sleeves, and mainstreaming of information on its use in Civic and Voter Education.

21) Consideration should be given to introduce a legal provision for free airtime to political parties and candidates on state-owned broadcaster in order to allow all election contenders to effectively communicate their platforms and to ensure equal treatment of political parties and candidates.

22) The preservation of a free media environment is essential to ensuring that Liberia's efforts to safeguard peace and stability and



protect fundamental human rights are achieved with success.

23) Consider the extension of domestic observation to the whole electoral cycle and reinforce the role and participation of civil society organizations in the monitoring and reform of the electoral process.

We overwhelmingly welcome EU's call for GOL to implement these basic democratic reforms which are not only doable before 2023 elections but critical to peace and stability in Liberia. We call on opposition political parties to focus more on electoral reform ahead of 2023. This would certainly save our democracy from potential collapse.

The EU spent a total of \$62.2 million USD to help fund our 2017 elections and provide appropriate budget support.

The breakdown:

- 1) 2017 - Euros 10 million (\$11.2 million USD)
- 2) 2016 - Euros 16 million (\$18 million USD)
- 3) 2015 - Euros 29.2 million (\$33 million USD)

Read: https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/liberia_en/29703/European%20Union%20injects%20EUR10%20million%20into%20Liberia%20budget.

SG Cephus warns

Cont'd from page 6

Lofa County's representation at the Senate.

Additionally, the Solicitor General said there is no battle between Mr. Samukai and the government, rather, it's a battle between the convict and the law for misappropriation of funds.

The prosecution lawyer noted that when he took over as the head of the Asset Restitution and Recovery Team, they invited Mr. Samukai and told him about the indictment placed on him by the government and he promised to retribute the money in the meeting.

He said after Samukai made the promise, he was shocked to have heard him on radio saying that the government wanted to witch hunt him.

"When Mr. Brownie Samukai and two others were issued a writ of arrest, they filed a criminal bond in their defence and they promised to jointly do everything together. They also filed into the court that they

need a bench trial instead of jurors, and didn't request the court for separate or severance trial," said Cephus.

Regarding Samuka's claim that the money was allegedly taken under the instructions of former President Sirleaf, Cephus argued that the convict failed to bring the former president to court to testify in order to confirm the allegations.

He warned that Mr. Samukai should meet up with his legal obligation as failure on his part, the law will take its course.

Meanwhile, Mr. Samukai is expected to appear before the Criminal Court "C" today, Thursday, 26 August 2021 at the Temple of Justice to give an update to the court regarding the payment of the US\$1.5 Million United States dollars that he and other two convicts are to retribute.

The open hearing is expected to happen at 11:00am local time at criminal Court "C" on Capitol Hill.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

LRA and LEC partner

Cont'd from page 6

regime.

He also reveals LRA is working with the National Housing Authority to include property that has been either mortgaged or houses that government has sole to occupants as a result of this process.

Still on the question of abandoned property, he says there are mechanisms in place to investigate before labeling or declaring a property abandoned, adding that even with that they will have to do everything within the confines of the law before going to the Ministry of Justice to take such action.

Holmes notes that when the current administration took office, total revenue collected was around US\$400 plus million.

He says now total revenue collected is at US\$532,181.00, adding that LRA target is to reach US\$100 billion by the end of this administration.

"That tells you that there's a steady increase in revenue generation."

The communications, media and public affairs section of the Liberia Revenue Authority on Friday held a discussion with partner radio stations aimed at fostering collaboration

The meeting, among other things, highlighted the important role of the media in promoting tax education to support revenue collection.

Holmes stressed the need for partner stations to ensure quality service delivery at all times. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

If EU's recommendations cannot be considered, we call on them to withhold all financial support toward elections in Liberia until these reasonable reforms are carried out or implemented.

References:

1) https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eu_eom_liberia_2017_final_report.pdf

2) https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eu_eom_liberia_2017_press_release_final_report_180426.pdf

3) <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/frontslider/european-union-electoral-observation-mission-cautions-liberia-to-implement-its-2017-recommendations-stop-wasting-eu-taxpayers-money/>

Are democratic stakeholders and policymakers listening? Those who have faith in democracy must now begin to pursue this path in Liberia's best interest.

About The Author: Martin K. N. Kollie is an activist who currently lives in exile. He's a proponent of good governance, democracy, equality, and human rights.

Nwabudike faces 6 months' suspension

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's Supreme Court has suspended disgraced Nigerian-born Cllr. A. Ndubuisi Nwabudike from the practice of law in Liberia for six months, a reverse of the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) decision expelling him from the institution to forfeit the rights and privileges that LNBA members are entitled to before courts here.

Speaking for the court Wednesday, 25 August 2021,

suspended from the practice of law directly or indirectly in Liberia for six (6) months. His fate and status with the LNBA will abide the action of the Attorney General/Minister of Justice," said Chief Justice Korkpor.

The LNBA expelled Cllr. Nwabudike's membership on 19 June last year, saying he became a member of the LNBA through fraudulent means. The LNBA revealed to the public that a perusal of his various passports showed his birth dates as

that he is a naturalized Liberian, subsequently denying him of the NEC job and also causing the LNBA to expel him.

But the Supreme Court's ruling, Chief Justice Korkpor said the decision taken by the LNBA to remove and eject Cllr. Nwabudike from the practice of law for alleged fraud was tantamount to disbarment, something he said can only be done by the nation's highest court.

The Chief Justice said the court has given the responsibility to the Ministry of Justice to investigate whether the citizenship of Cllr. Nwabudike was indeed obtained by fraud.

Justice Korkpor disclosed that it will be wrong for Cllr. Nwabudike to continue the practice of law in Liberia when it's quite clear the documents he filed which necessitated his admission to the practice of law in Liberia are wrapped in inconsistencies and discrepancies.

The court instructed the Ministry of Justice to take seize of the matter, and if deemed appropriate, institute proceedings to revoke and set aside the order admitting Cllr. Nwabudike's Liberian citizenship and cancel his certificate of naturalization.

On the other hand, the court said if the Attorney General finds that the order admitting the Nwabudike's Liberian citizenship was issued through a manifest error of the law or fact that can be remedied by procedural means, Cllr. Nwabudike should be allowed a reasonable opportunity to institute corrective proceedings in consonance with the Alien and Nationality Law of Liberia.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**



Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr., said the LNBA can investigate and sanction its members.

But he said the LNBA is without authority to conclude that a member's Liberian citizenship was procured through a fraud and expel that member from the LNBA to forfeit the rights and privileges that members of the LNBA are entitled to before the courts of the Republic.

"Cllr. A Ndubuisi Nwanbudike is hereby

October 19, 1960, October 2, 1963, October 2, 1965 and October 2, 1969.

Months ahead of the 2020 senatorial elections, Cllr. Nwabudike who was already chairing the Liberia Anti - Corruption Commission (LACC), was again nominated by President George Manneh Weah to chair the National Elections Commission (NEC), a position that sparked the controversies surrounding his citizenship status as Liberian.

He failed flat to prove during a Senate confirmation hearing

Rape troubles Philadelphia Church

The Philadelphia Church Ministries International Inc. ("PCMI") says it is deeply concerned and disappointed over news of the alleged rape of a young lady by one of its Senior Ministers, in person of Apostle D. Franklin Snorton.

The Church says the news of the alleged rape, whether true or not, is unsettling because rape is unchristian and represents a betrayal of the trust reposed in a man of God to cater to God's children who are entrusted to his care to nurture and teach in the ways of the Lord.

The Church says, as a Christian Body, it does not condone any acts of violence against women/girls, children, and humanity as a whole.

Sexual abuse is in no way tolerated by the Church. These allegations are very serious and deeply disturbing.

The Church is therefore demanding and would support a thorough and complete

cooperating and supporting the ongoing investigation by law enforcement.

The Church leadership further opines that as a law-abiding Christian Institution in Liberia, it respects the rule of Law and prays that this matter will be handled expeditiously through the legal process, so that due process can be rendered and justice prevail.

It added that while the matter is yet unresolved, it encourages all Philadelphia Churches to continue to uphold Apostle Snorton and the family of the alleged victim in prayers as this matter is being investigated.

The Church further noted that as a reputable Christian Ministry, and contrary to speculations abounding on social media and in other circles, it wishes to pursue only the rightful, proper, and legal means to adjudicate this matter for both the present and future record.



investigation in accordance with due process of law.

Apostle D. Franklin Snorton is the senior pastor of the Philadelphia church in the city of Kakata, Margibi County.

According to the church, he has served as a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for over thirty (30) years with the Philadelphia Church Ministries and remained in good standing up until the alleged rape allegation.

Additionally, the Church says while it deems a speedy and impartial trial as cardinal, it is also concerned about the well-being of the alleged victim and extends prayers for she and her family, as well as for the family of the alleged perpetrator.

The Church asserts that since the matter was reported, the PCMI considered it a very grave allegation and initiated an internal investigation which is still ongoing, while at the same time, it has been

Furthermore, the Church also added that it has made no attempt and will make no attempt to take this issue from the courtroom because it remains resolute and adherent to the rule of law. The church remains prayerful that a speedy, fair, and transparent trial will lead to the right outcome and that justice will be served.

What transpired?

Apostle D. Franklin Snorton is being held for allegedly raping a 21-year-old pregnant woman.

The act allegedly occurred recently in the county when the woman, said to be a neighbor of the accused, had gone to the pastor's residence to pay electricity bill. According to the victim, Apostle Snorton allegedly locked her up in his house situated in Mandingo Quarter Community, Kakata and threatened to kill her with a knife if she refused to allow him have sex with her. -**Press Release**

Cont'd from page 7

identified with citizens in Grand Kru County immediately after it was established.

Mr. Dweh explained that LiSEE was founded in 2019, when the world specifically Liberia, saw herself in an economic disaster as a result of Covid-19 that has strongly engulfed the entire world.

He said the institute is a non-for-profit organization that was founded in Garraway District, Grand Kru County in December 2019.

"During this time, our health system was seen and is still seen as weak as it lacks more manpower, hospital beds, medicines, as well as structures that will help patients."

He also noted that during

LiSEE donates items

the peak of pandemic older folks who visited health facilities were allegedly abandoned just as they often face in normal life in society. For these and other reasons, he said the organization has seen it necessary to address some of those problems which include good health care, better education and agriculture that are posing serious threat to citizens.

He revealed that initially the organization was named Caring for The Elderly In Liberia (CAFEL), saying the purpose at first, was to help the government cater to the needy old people in giving food.

He continued that blessedly for them but due to government's Social Cash Transfer (SCT) program that

targeted old people, the organization adapted different step in helping people thru health, education and agriculture which he described as key to any country's growth.

"So we feel helping our people by other means is good and we're hoping that others in and out of the country will see the need to join us in giving back to our people."

Receiving the package on behalf of the Pleebo health administration and the district, the OIC, Pleebo City Mayor and the Maryland youth president, lauded the organization for the kind gesture and assured the materials will be used their intended propose.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside
TRULY INDEPENDENT



Sports

With Emmanuel B. Juduh

VOL. 11 NO. 145 THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021 PRICE LD\$40.00

Aubameyang hat-trick inspires Gunners to first win of the season



the new Premier League campaign, there was welcome relief as the Gunners smashed their hosts 6-0, setting up a third-round tie against League One side AFC Wimbledon.

Aubameyang had been struck down by Covid on the eve of the new season, missing the loss at Brentford and coming off the bench in the defeat to Chelsea.

He will not have scored many easier goals than the first-half double he grabbed here before adding a fine third for the match ball as Nicolas Pepe, Bukayo Saka and Alexandre Lacazette also found the back of the net.

Saka was lively and Martin Odegaard impressed on his second debut for the club following his permanent switch from Real Madrid last week - but Arteta and his side

Arsenal got their season up and running by coasting to victory in their second-round Carabao Cup tie at West Brom - with Pierre-

Emerick Aubameyang hitting a hat-trick on his return to the side.

With pressure building on manager Mikel Arteta already after two defeats at the start of



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