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Continental News



students amassing degrees to stay in Europe

After more than 200 unsuccessful job applications on LinkedIn alone, Nigerian student Modupe Osunkoya knew time was running out for her to extend her stay in Belgium.

With three months left on her student visa, she either had to get a job or leave the country.

But there was another option - enrolling for her third post-graduate degree since leaving Nigeria in 2017.

"I never saw myself doing a PhD but if I go home now, there is no job waiting for me," the 28-year-old told the BBC. High unemployment - one in three young people are without work - and comparatively poor living conditions mean many of Nigeria's brightest would rather take their chances abroad than return home.

So last year Ms Osunkoya enrolled for a doctorate degree in Estonia which is running concurrently with her second Master's degree in Belgium. She settled for Estonia after receiving no job

or PhD offers in Belgium.

"The studies are [a] means to an end, and if God says the end is a permanent residency, why not?" she said.

Her PhD in Future Cities at the Tallinn University of Technology is a paid position. At the end of the four-year research she can apply for permanent residency.

She is planning to relocate to the eastern European country for the course, which like those

in Belgium, is taught in English. Ms Osunkoya is just one of many Nigerian students from families who are not part of the super wealthy elite to study overseas.

Last year, around 100,000 Nigerians travelled abroad to study, according to ICEF Monitor, which focuses on international student mobility.

Many hope to become permanent residents of their host country, and take one

step at a time to achieve their goal. Another Nigerian student in Belgium, Bonuola, who did not want her surname to be used, said: "People complete a Master's degree, go back to do some advanced diploma below their academic level, then some cheap certificate, all in a bid to remain legal in the system."

Despite getting a degree in economics in Nigeria, she decided to start from scratch when she arrived in Belgium, finishing a three-year course in business management - to buy herself time - and then proceeding to a two-year Master's degree course in management.

She has not ruled out the possibility of a second Master's degree and a PhD if she is unable to find work that will open the way for her to get a permanent visa.

"I am an African studying African studies in Belgium and it makes me mad," said a third student, Ifeoma, (not her real name) who is currently doing her second Master's degree since arriving in the country in 2019.

"I am not taking it seriously, just killing time [while I] decide on what to do," she added. Tuition fees as low as 1,000 euros (\$1,200; £850) per year and the relatively low cost of living for students in Belgium, compared to some other European countries, have made it an attractive destination for many Nigerians from average-income backgrounds. "Living expenses are low - you can get accommodation for 300 euros per month," said Ms Osunkoya.

Like many others, she left home with only a semester of tuition fees paid and enough pocket money to last a few weeks. She financed her education by working up to 20 hours per week, as she is legally allowed to do, earning up to 1,000 euros per month. BBC



Kenyans holding out for 'better' second jab warned



At least two million Kenyans have been vaccinated

About 100,000 Kenyans have not yet received a second dose of the Covid vaccine, with many thought to be holding out for the arrival of other jabs perceived to be more effective.

The head of Kenya's vaccine task force warns that many Kenyans risk becoming severely ill with Covid-19 if they delay getting their second jabs.

The task force says the country will not mix and match any of the vaccines available, as there is limited data on how effective it would be.

Until recently, AstraZeneca has been the only vaccine available in Kenya. However, shipments of Moderna have already arrived - and Pfizer

and other vaccines are on the way.

But the task force is clear that no-one will be allowed to choose the vaccine they receive.

It is also asking people to dismiss the notion that some vaccines are better than others.

Out of the two million Kenyans who have been vaccinated, less than 50% are fully jabbed. The country has received 3.6 million vaccines to date.

Kenya is currently experiencing a spike in coronavirus cases.

This is partly blamed on politicians holding rallies despite a ban on political gatherings as well as the Delta variant, according to the health minister. BBC

South Africa's new nuclear power plan causes outcry

Energy experts in South Africa have expressed shock at the government's announcement that it wants to install new nuclear capacity to solve its power problems.

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy said on Friday last week that it planned to put out the

tender by March next year. This came after the National Energy Regulator approved the procurement of 2,500 MW of nuclear power.

Prof Anton Eberhard of the Power Futures Lab at University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business was quoted in local media as saying that a new nuclear procurement would be "a wasteful and costly

diversion".

He added that the country should instead focus on implementing its electricity supply plan, which prioritises generating 33 GW of power mostly from solar and wind by 2030. Nuclear power plants take years to develop and run the risk of cost and time overruns. Renewable energy projects such as wind and solar can be implemented relatively quickly and at increasingly competitive prices.

In 2017 a South African court declared a controversial nuclear procurement, widely expected to be awarded to Russia, unlawful because there had been no public consultation. Activists maintained the deal would bankrupt South Africa.

Liz McDaid, energy adviser for the Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse, said it was "suspicious ... to keep pushing nuclear instead of doing the obvious thing which is renewable energy". BBC



Nuclear power plants take years to develop

EDITORIAL

Power struggle is worst enemy of progress

REPORT OF A brawl between the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel F. McGill and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dee-Maxwell Kemayah over which one of them should get the attention of President George Manneh Weah is both troubling and disappointing, to say the least.

IT IS EVEN highly incomprehensible why both officials who enjoy equal privileges under the executive or they should, would resort to adapting acrimonious postures against each other in government.

SPECIFICALLY, SEEMING DISAGREEMENT between Minister McGill and Minister Kemayah over whether or not, President George Manneh Weah should address this year's United Nations General Assembly in New York in person or do so virtually, is nothing to quarrel about. We believe a final decision on such matter must be in the best interest of the State rather than any personal ego or satisfaction.

SINCE TAKING OFFICE in 2018 President Weah has but twice (2018 and 2019) gone to New York and addressed the U.N. General Assembly in person. We also believe he should do so as many times as the opportunity avails itself, but if the U.S. Government is advising world leaders to address this year's UNGA virtually because of renewed surge of COVID-19 as the Foreign Minister is reportedly advising, we see nothing wrong.

EQUALLY SO, IF the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs strongly thinks the President should be in New York personally to address the General Assembly, and to perhaps take advantage of sideline discussions with friendly governments and international partners that can be also reasoned out as a government instead of getting into the boxing ring.

BESIDES, WE ARE hearing that Minister McGill is posturing and directing that, the Foreign Minister, who is also Dean of the Cabinet, should report to his (McGill's) office rather than directly to President Weah. We think this is against protocol except the President chooses similarly, and if Mr. Weah would desire so, it could raise eyebrows, because the Foreign Minister directly represents the President on foreign matters particularly, State-to-State, not the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs.

WHAT WAS MORE regretting and disappointing however, is that President Weah himself sat and watched such bitter exchanges between two key officials of his cabinet and made no intervention or take punitive action as a deterrence. That singular omission or inaction further demonstrates the President's lack of leadership that has crept right before his nose.

IT IS ABOUT time the Weah administration rise up and lead as a capable government in which the Liberian people overwhelmingly placed their trust to govern them and properly manage the state of affairs. But time and again, this seems not to be the case.

THE ISSUE ABOUT President Weah going to New York to personally address the UNGA should not be a personality contest between Minister McGill and Minister Kemayah. The fact of the matter is, the President has a team of advisors who should intervene accordingly and suggest the expedient approach in such matter.

WHAT HAPPENED RECENTLY at the Foreign Ministry in Monrovia was a total disgrace. It is our wish that this would be repeated because it doesn't show maturity and leadership that the next generation could copy from.

COMMENTARY

By Nouriel Roubini

The Stagflation Threat Is Real

NEW YORK - I have been warning for several months that the current mix of persistently loose monetary, credit, and fiscal policies will excessively stimulate aggregate demand and lead to inflationary overheating. Compounding the problem, medium-term negative supply shocks will reduce potential growth and increase production costs. Combined, these demand and supply dynamics could lead to 1970s-style stagflation (rising inflation amid a recession) and eventually even to a severe debt crisis.

Until recently, I focused more on medium-term risks. But now one can make a case that "mild" stagflation is already underway. Inflation is rising in the United States and many advanced economies, and growth is slowing sharply, despite massive monetary, credit, and fiscal stimulus.

There is now a consensus that the growth slowdown in the US, China, Europe, and other major economies is the result of supply bottlenecks in labor and goods markets. The optimistic spin from Wall Street analysts and policymakers is that this mild stagflation will be temporary, lasting only as long as the supply bottlenecks do.

In fact, there are multiple factors behind this summer's mini-stagflation. For starters, the Delta variant is temporarily boosting production costs, reducing output growth, and constraining labor supply. Workers, many of whom are still receiving the enhanced unemployment benefits that will expire in September, are reluctant to return to the workplace, especially now that Delta is raging. And those with children may need to stay at home, owing to school closures and the lack of affordable childcare.

On the production side, Delta is disrupting the reopening of many service sectors and throwing a monkey wrench into global supply chains, ports, and logistics systems. Shortages of key inputs such as semiconductors are further hampering production of cars, electronic goods, and other consumer durables, thus boosting inflation.

Still, the optimists insist that this is all temporary. Once Delta fades and benefits expire, workers will return to the labor market, production bottlenecks will be resolved, output growth will accelerate, and core inflation - now running close to 4% in the US - will fall back toward the US Federal Reserve's 2% target by next year.

On the demand side, meanwhile, it is assumed that the US Federal Reserve and other central banks will start to unwind their unconventional monetary policies. Combined with some fiscal drag next year (when deficits may be lower), this supposedly will reduce the risks of overheating and keep inflation at bay. Today's mild stagflation will then give way to a happy goldilocks outcome - stronger growth and lower inflation - by next year.

But what if this optimistic view is incorrect, and the stagflationary pressure persists beyond this year? It is worth noting that various measures of inflation are not just well above target but also increasingly persistent. For example, in the US, core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, is likely still to be near 4% by year's end. Macro policies, too, are likely to

remain loose, judging by the Biden administration's stimulus plans and the likelihood that weak eurozone economies will run large fiscal deficits even in 2022. And the European Central Bank and many other advanced-economy central banks remain fully committed to continuing unconventional policies for much longer.

Although the Fed is considering tapering its quantitative easing (QE), it will likely remain dovish and behind the curve overall. Like most central banks, it has been lured into a "debt trap" by the surge in private and public liabilities (as a share of GDP) in recent years. Even if inflation stays higher than targeted, exiting QE too soon could cause bond, credit, and stock markets to crash. That would subject the economy to a hard landing, potentially forcing the Fed to reverse itself and resume QE.

After all, that is what happened between the fourth quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of 2019, following the Fed's previous attempt to raise rates and roll back QE. Credit and stock markets plummeted and the Fed duly halted its policy tightening. Then, when the US economy suffered a trade war-driven slowdown and a mild repo-market seizure a few months later, the Fed returned fully to cutting rates and pursuing QE (through the backdoor).

This all happened a full year before COVID-19 broadsided the economy and pushed the Fed and other central banks to engage in unprecedented unconventional monetary policies, while governments engineered the largest fiscal deficits since the Great Depression. The real test of the Fed's mettle will come when markets suffer a shock amid a slowing economy and high inflation. Most likely, the Fed will wimp out and blink.

As I have argued before, negative supply shocks are likely to persist over the medium and long term. At least nine can already be discerned.

For starters, there is the trend toward deglobalization and rising protectionism, the balkanization and reshoring of far-flung supply chains, and the demographic aging of advanced economies and key emerging markets. Tighter immigration restrictions are hampering migration from the poorer Global South to the richer North. The Sino-American cold war is just beginning, threatening to fragment the global economy. And climate change is already disrupting agriculture and causing spikes in food prices.

Moreover, persistent global pandemics will inevitably lead to more national self-reliance and export controls for key goods and materials. Cyber-warfare is increasingly disrupting production, yet remains very costly to control. And the political backlash against income and wealth inequality is driving fiscal and regulatory authorities to implement policies strengthening the power of workers and labor unions, setting the stage for accelerated wage growth.

While these persistent negative supply shocks threaten to reduce potential growth, the continuation of loose monetary and fiscal policies could trigger a de-anchoring of inflation expectations. The resulting wage-price spiral would then usher in a medium-term stagflationary environment worse than the 1970s - when the debt-to-GDP ratios were lower than they are now. That is why the risk of a stagflationary debt crisis will continue to loom over the medium term.

New Dawn
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OPINION

By Slawomir Sierakowski

Europe's New Refugee Crisis

WARSAW - The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan has already deepened conflicts elsewhere, including Europe, where a confrontation is escalating between Belarus and its European Union neighbors: Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia.

Even before the meltdown in Kabul, Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko had been funneling refugees and migrants across the border, both to exact revenge for EU sanctions on his dictatorship and to generate some additional revenue. Belarusian authorities have organized flights from Iraqi and Turkish cities. After charging several thousand dollars per passenger and promising safe and seamless delivery to Western Europe, they have been dumping their human cargo on the Polish, Lithuanian, or Latvian border.

Since the beginning of the year, more than 4,000 refugees have reached Lithuania - a 50-fold increase from 2020 - shaking local communities and roiling domestic public opinion. Faced with the influx, Lithuania and Latvia have introduced a state of emergency. Now Poland, where there have already been several hundred attempts to foist refugees across the border, is joining them. Confused, lost, and hungry refugees are being captured in border towns and forcibly returned to the Belarusian side. Although such "pushbacks" run afoul of the Geneva Convention, EU countries have increasingly relied on the practice.

Poland is openly ignoring the right of all refugees to apply for international protection. Rather than placing them in designated centers and investigating their claims, Polish authorities are expelling them as quickly as possible. As a result, there are growing encampments in the border zone.

For the past two weeks, the country's attention has been drawn to a group of 32 migrants from Afghanistan who were sent back to the Polish-Belarusian border: haggard men, women, and children wandering the border area, boxed in by border guards, military personnel, and police from both countries. They sleep on the ground, while lawyers, journalists, opposition MPs, and even doctors are given no access. Polish authorities have not provided food, so the refugees are surviving on bread from the Belarusians and water from a stream. Without hygiene or medicine, more and more of them are falling ill.

Meanwhile, Poland's de facto leader, the Law and Justice (PiS) party chairman Jaroslaw Kaczynski, has been exploiting the situation for his own propaganda purposes, hoping that opposition to accepting refugees will have a similar galvanizing effect for his supporters as it did in 2015. PiS is growing more desperate now that its support has dropped to 30% - a level that no longer guarantees an electoral victory.

The Polish government wants to create an atmosphere of fear, so that it can position itself as the guardian of a supposedly endangered society. The authorities immediately sent helicopters and 1,000 soldiers armed with machine guns to face a group of desperate unarmed people. A high barbed-wire fence is now being erected along the border with Belarus, where the prime minister and cabinet ministers have staged visits dressed in military uniforms, promising to rescue Poles "from a new wave of refugees."

On August 25, the European Court of Human Rights ordered Poland to provide refugees on the border with water, food, clothes, medical care, and, if possible, temporary shelter. But the Polish government claims that it is dealing with illegal immigrants who could not be helped anyway, because they are on the Belarusian side of the border (which is not true). To create an alibi, it has sent a truck with food and medicine to a border crossing far from where the Afghans are camped out. As predicted, Belarus is denying the truck entry.

None of this adds up, because all sides are engaged in the most cynical kind of politics. Belarus is refusing to allow aid to reach the refugees while simultaneously boasting that it is helping with the evacuation of Afghans from Kabul. Poland, similarly, is refusing entry to Afghan refugees while simultaneously accepting thousands of Belarusians fleeing Lukashenko's dictatorship.

The Polish government's behavior has drawn harsh criticism from the liberal media, NGOs, and the opposition. But the response of Donald Tusk, the former Polish prime minister and European Council president who returned to domestic politics this summer, has been notably subdued. Though Tusk criticizes the government for refusing to provide the most basic assistance to the refugees, he also stresses the need to maintain tight control over the border.

Tusk well knows that ordinary Poles are not as sympathetic toward refugees as the liberal media and NGOs are. This is confirmed by an Institute for Market and Social Research (IBRiS) survey showing that a majority of Poles (54%) are against accepting immigrants and refugees, whereas only 38% of respondents support opening the borders to them. When asked whether a wall should be erected on the border between Poland and Belarus, 47% of respondents answered yes, while 43% disagreed.

The Polish government's response has been carefully executed to achieve a maximum propaganda effect. If the Polish authorities were truly worried about the refugees camped out at the border (and others who might be sent by Lukashenko), they would have already erected a fence a month or two ago. Everyone has known about the similar situation at the Lithuanian-Belarusian border for quite some time. A coordinated propaganda operation by the Polish and Belarusian governments could not be more effective.

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OP-ED

By Kate Mackintosh, Jojo Mehta, Richard Rogers

Prosecuting Ecocide

LOS ANGELES - As floods, wildfires, record-high temperatures, and zoonotic disease make the climate and ecological crisis impossible to ignore, the world may be moving closer to agreeing that serious damage to our natural environment is more than just a matter for goodwill agreements. It may amount to an international crime.

The last time a new international criminal offense was introduced was after World War II. The Nuremberg and Tokyo Charters added crimes against humanity to the existing war crimes and crimes against peace ("aggression"), enshrining the idea that certain acts are so egregious that, whoever the immediate victim may be, they concern us all. Soon after, in 1948, a particular crime against humanity - genocide - was incorporated in a new treaty.

We may be witnessing an equivalent moment in our relationship to the environment. Last month, a diverse independent panel of international lawyers issued the draft text defining the crime of "ecocide," to be proposed for inclusion in the Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The parallels are clear: adopting ecocide as an international crime acknowledges that severe damage to our environment is a crime against all of us, and that we can no longer leave it to regulation by individual states.

The panel, convened by the Stop Ecocide Foundation (on which we served), defined the crime as follows: unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts.

Two thresholds must be met for acts to constitute the crime. First, there must be a substantial likelihood that they will cause severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment. Severity is necessary in all circumstances, and the likely damage must be either widespread (extending beyond a limited area, crossing state boundaries, or affecting an entire ecosystem or large number of people), or long-term (irreversible or irremediable through natural recovery within a reasonable period of time). This would cover situations such as the toxic pollution of a population center - a large number of people, but a relatively limited geographical area - or the destruction of a marine ecosystem, which might be limited in size but permanently lost.

To meet the second threshold, the damage must be either "unlawful or wanton." Ideally, the environment would be adequately protected by national laws, and extreme violations would be international crimes. "Unlawful" deals with those situations. But national legislation varies, and international environmental law contains few outright prohibitions. And some legally permitted acts that harm the environment are socially desirable: consider desperately needed housing, transport, or infrastructure projects. In such cases, international environmental law sets out principles - above all the principle of sustainable development - according to which states should behave. The term "wanton" in the ecocide definition serves an equivalent purpose, addressing legally permitted acts that are reckless, owing to the disproportionate level of likely harm.

To be recognized as an international crime alongside genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression, the crime of ecocide will need the support of at least two-thirds of ICC member states (currently 123 states in total). It will then become effective for any state that ratifies it. Individuals in positions of responsibility whose actions meet the definition will be subject to prosecution at the ICC, or by any national courts with jurisdiction, and sentenced to prison if convicted. This is a major shift from the status quo, where criminal sanctions are lacking, at the international level and often at national level too, for many of the worst cases of mass environmental destruction. In most jurisdictions, individuals or corporations only face financial penalties.

Criminalizing ecocide could have a stronger deterrent effect than the prospect of genocide or war crimes charges do, because it is largely a corporate offense. Because a company's value depends heavily on its reputation and investor confidence, managers would have much to lose by finding themselves in the same dock as a war criminal (the ICC prosecutes individual offenders rather than corporations). Even the risk of appearing to have committed an international crime may steer corporate decision-makers toward safer and more sustainable methods of operation. The hope is that the deterrent will take effect long before the law does, as the prospect of legislation becomes visible.

There are, of course, challenges to moving forward. The ICC is already navigating difficult waters, and it is clear from developments in France that domestic ecocide legislation can be problematic (the recently enacted Climate and Resilience Act 2021 includes a much-criticized weakening of the term).

But broad international support for the crime of ecocide can and must be garnered. Governments - including those of Vanuatu, the Maldives, France, Belgium, Finland, Spain, Canada, and Luxembourg - are already expressing interest. And parliamentary motions or draft laws have been submitted in a number of countries, including Belgium, Portugal, Brazil, France, Bolivia, Bangladesh, the United Kingdom, and Chile. Countries must not wait for catastrophe to stop the international crime of our time.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Weah's Presidency: "An Accident in Liberia's Stewardship"

By Moses D. Sandy
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When the history of the Liberian presidency is written, President George Manneh Opong Weah's tenure would surely go down as an "accident". Mr. Weah is Liberia's 25th president, but he's the least political leader in terms of performance the country has produced in recent record.

He doesn't understand political governance even though he has been President of Liberia for more than three years now. In January of this year, his administration exceeded the halfway mark of its six-years term. He was inaugurated Liberia's 25th President on January 22, 2018. His ascendency followed a peaceful transfer of power by the administration of former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. Liberia's next Presidential and Legislative elections are scheduled for 2023.

Mr. Weah won the Liberian presidency in 2017 to the astonishment of most Liberians after he convincingly defeated former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai of the then ruling Unity Party (UP) when they faced off in the second round of the presidential election. According to the National Elections Commission (NEC), the 54 years old retired soccer icon won with 732, 185 votes representing more than 61% while the former Vice President, a career public servant, lost with 457, 579 votes accounting for more than 38%. Reportedly 2.1 million registered Liberian electorates participated in the 2017 legislative and presidential elections.

Former Vice President Boakai is an accomplished public servant with an impeccable record of more than 40 years of service in government. However, he caved in and publicly conceded defeat to Mr. Weah, the man many considered a political neophyte after the presidential election results were announced. In a statement, Mr. Boakai grudgingly declared, "I congratulate the winner, Ambassador George Manneh Weah, and pray that God will guide him as he takes upon the onerous responsibility of steering the affairs of our nation".

President Weah's supporters and admirers at home and abroad hailed his victory and labelled it as a triumphant ascendency for someone who they believed had demonstrated love for country over the course of his professional soccer career. They portrayed it as a significant achievement for him and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC). The CDC is an offshoot of a 2017 collaboration by a group of grassroots Liberian political parties including the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) and the National Patriotic Party (NPP) of former President Charles Ghankay Taylor.

His first attempt at the Liberian presidency was in 2005 when he challenged former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf but lost. In 2011, he again went against the former President. Then the CDC combined forces with supporters of the late Cllr. Winston Tubman. He contested as vice presidential candidate to the late Cllr. Tubman. Despite the merger, Opong, the former UNICEF good will ambassador, and the late Cllr. Tubman failed to reach the promised land; they lost.

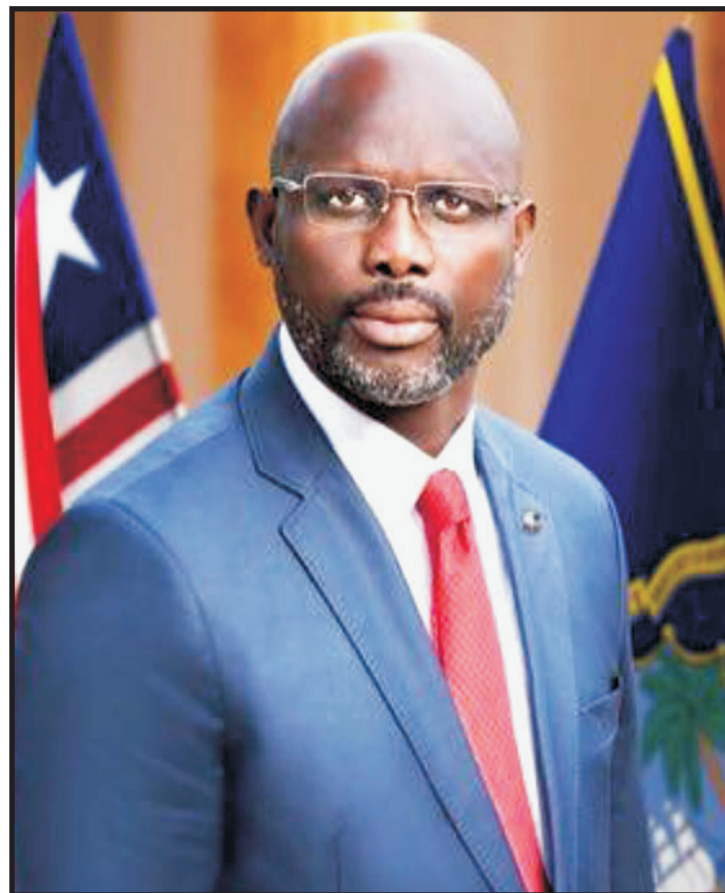
Tyranny of Democracy

In Liberia and abroad, critics of the CDC administration consider Mr. Weah an epitome of the tyranny of democracy because of his gross leadership in adequacies. They believe he is the wrong man for the job given his blatant under performance in every aspect of his political leadership. He won the presidential election with

more than 61% of the votes cast, but he has absolutely no clue about what the Liberian presidency entails even though he holds a graduate degree from DeVry University, a US based online institution of higher learning.

Since January 22, 2018, when he took over Liberia as the country's 25th President, Mr. Weah has for the more than three years of his political stewardship proven his many detractors right that he lacks the pedigree for the presidency. For any President to succeed, he must have a basic understanding of how the systems of government work. Mr. Weah has consistently demonstrated that he has no such understanding. For example, on August 16, 2021, he again fumbled publicly in Kakata, Margibi County when he responded to a question from a reporter of the Executive Mansion press corps during a guided tour of the charred buildings of the C.H. Rennie Hospital. The hospital was gutted by fire on August 15, 2021.

At the hospital, the reporter asked, "Mr. President, we have a fire service that is complaining of low budgetary allotment. What are your plans in terms of support to the fire service and the centralization of its services?" Responding, President Weah preposterously stated, "First of all, I hope that those that are



responsible to act on the budgetary measures will be able to meet their needs. You see, I am from the executive. I don't create the budget, but again, we will encourage them...."

The Liberia National Fire Services (LNFS) is an agency of government that operates under the umbrella of the Ministry of Justice, a department which forms part of the executive branch of government that Mr. Weah heads as President. Moreover, it is the executive branch of government that generates Liberia's national draft budgets annually; and submits same to the legislature for scrutiny and subsequent passage, but regrettably Mr. Weah doesn't know that. The Liberia National Fire Service was established to safeguard life and property from the scourge of destructive fire, across the length and breadth of the country, as well as to promote efficient fire prevention services.

Besides being clueless about the functions of most government agencies in Liberia, the President is a terrible public speaker. As a result, he most often avoids public speaking engagements. Since becoming president, Mr. Weah has had no formal news conference with local and international journalists in Monrovia for briefings on contemporary national issues affecting the

lives of Liberians. No President in recent memory has under-utilized the Presidential bully pulpit as much as Mr. Weah; much to his own disadvantage. Moreover, he is not an effective manager. He doesn't monitor and supervise his subordinates. He comes across publicly as aloof; disengaged and out of touch with political developments in today's Liberia. For example, Liberia like most nations the world over, is currently confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected and decimated millions of human lives. The global death toll of COVID related cases as of August 15, 2021, was 4.36 million people while the number of reported cases for the same period was 207 million. Liberia's COVID related death toll for the same period was 148; and the number of affected cases was 5,459.

Despite the cited gruesome health reports, Mr. Weah's political support to the campaign against the Corona Virus in Liberia remains distant and lukewarm, or nonexistent. Furthermore, he has reportedly refused to take the COVID vaccine for unexplained reasons. A month ago, his Minister of Health, Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah, compounded the Country's fight against the Corona Virus when she unbelievably declared that it is the President's "Prerogative to take the vaccine or not". The health minister ridiculously failed to know that good leaders lead by example.

Presidential Authority Outsourced

In furtherance of his aloofness and insensitivity to matters of national importance in Liberia, the retired soccer icon turned politician, has surreptitiously outsourced his presidential authority to two of his supervisees, mainly the Ministers of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel McGill, and Finance and Development Planning, Samuel Tweah, Jr. Although the Ministers themselves need routine hands-on supervision in the execution of their respective job duties, they are Mr. Weah's go to persons, or foremost pillars in government. He relies heavily on them for the execution of his daily presidential duties. For example, a brawl recently erupted between Minister McGill and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, D. Maxwell Kemayah, at the President's office located at the Foreign Ministry. The President temporarily has an office at the Foreign Ministry due to the ongoing renovation work at the Executive Mansion, which was gutted by fire few years ago. As per media report, the Foreign Minister went to the President's for a briefing regarding his participation in the UN General Assembly for world leaders slated for September of this year in the United States of America (USA).

According to FrontPageAfrica (FPA), a Monrovia based media institution, the confusion started when Minister McGill demanded that the Foreign Minister report directly to his office instead of the President, but Minister Kemayah reportedly declined the order. The Foreign Minister reportedly told Minister McGill that such directive was outside the confines of the law. He also, wondered how could a Minister who works at the will and pleasure of the President, report to another Minister?

Minister McGill reported directive to the Foreign Minister was emboldened by the fact that he and Minister Tweah literally run the affairs of Liberia while the President uses the Liberian taxpayers' time for leisure, making music or playing football. On July 29, 2021, he released his latest musical project titled Mama Rita. Before his election in 2017 as President, Mr. Weah served Montserrado, Liberia's most populated county as senator, but his presence in the senate was rarely felt. He was just a face of Montserrado; he made no impact legislatively. He neither contributed to legislative debates nor spoke on national issues that affected the lives of Liberians, mainly his constituents.

Leadership Deficit

As a result of the President's blatant leadership lapses, Liberia is now faced with a leadership deficit.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CENTAL raises red flag against Cllr. Gbala

By Lewis S. Teh

Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia or CENTAL, says decision of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission vice chair Cllr. KaniobaiGbala to recuse himself from an ongoing corruption investigation that he is linked to is belated and inconsistent with law.

"Ladies and gentlemen of

He asks whether Cllr. Gbala's leave of absence indicates an acknowledgment of conflict, and if so, why now or if not, then the anti-graft commission deputy should not be granted leave of absence since he is not conflicted.

He says CENTAL sees Cllr. Gbala's decision to excuse himself at a time when the alleged conflict is reported as belated.

Miamen quotes Front Page

requires that where public officials and employees of government have direct or indirect personal interests in a matter being examined, they should make those interests known and excuse themselves before deliberations are held and decision is taken.

The CENTAL boss says the concern borders on beneficial ownership, particularly who ultimately owns or controls the 10 percent share Cllr. Gbala reportedly indicated buying for his sister, and encourages the LACC to consider this point in its ongoing investigation.

"If reports that the National Port Authority (NPA) Managing Director, Bill Twehway owns majority shares in CDI are anything to go by, then the admission of the LACC Vice Chair does little to exonerate him", CENTAL maintains.

On Monday, August 30, 2021, Liberians woke up to news report labelling the Vice Chair of the LACC, Cllr. Gbala as "conflicted" regarding a corruption scandal at the National Port Authority (NPA), and therefore CENTAL sees the initial action by the LACC to investigate Gbala's alleged Conflict as welcoming and a step in the right direction.

Miamen also quotes Section 9.6 of the Code of Conduct which he says provides that "no public official or employee of Government should use an official position to pursue

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the press, Cllr. Gbala's decision to request a leave of absence for a month in order to allow for investigation of the NPA matter and his responses to the FPA report raises more questions than answers", says CENTAL executive director Anderson Maimen said during a news conference in Monrovia on Tuesday, August 31, 2021.

Africa newspaper as saying Cllr. Gbala admitted to buying "shares in Creative Developers (CDI) on behalf of his younger sister, ZaryleeGbala upon being invited by his friend, SidikiFofana who established the company and is the CEO."

He further argues that Cllr. Gbala's leave points to a potential conflict, adding that Section 9.11 of the Code of Conduct for public officials

Pres. Weah opens 14 Military Hospital

By Bridgett Milton

President George Manneh Weah is expected to open the historic 14 Military Hospital at the Edward BinyahKesselly Military Barracks in Schiefflin, Margibi County on Wednesday, 1 September 2021.

A Defense Ministry press release issued Tuesday, 31 August said the 14 Military Hospital will provide Out-patient Services, Obstetric

Forces of Liberia, President Weah promised to construct a 200-bedroom Military Hospital for use by military and paramilitary personnel.

Some of the equipment at the hospital include two Intensive Care Unit ambulances, medical devices, laboratory equipment, emergency department equipment, obstetrics equipment, surgical equipment



services, General Surgical Services and Emergency Services.

It can be recalled that on 11 February 2018, while addressing servicemen and women during the 61st Anniversary of the Armed

and out-patient equipment.

The 14 Military Hospital sits on just 5 of 75 acres allotted. Additionally, a US\$21m facility including dormitory, teaching and training centers as well as a modern laboratory will be built.

U.S. Ambassador visits GAC

U.S. Ambassador Michael A. McCarthy has visited the General Auditing Commission and met with Auditor General P. Garswa Jackson. According to the GAC, Tuesday, August 31, 2021 meeting focused on wide range of issues regarding mandate of the Commission.

Details of the discussion between the GAC boss and the U.S. Envoy was not made public, but Auditor General Jackson last week Friday hosted a delegation of senior officials of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning headed by Comptroller and Accountant General of Liberia, JangaKowo.

GAC in an earlier release said the forum was first of a number of interactions with



Auditor General P. Garswa Jackson with U.S. Ambassador Michael A. McCarthy

which AG Jackson is expected to engage in coming

The Auditor General recently commissioned an audit of the

Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) for three fiscal years covering the periods July 1, 2018 to June



30, 2021.

The audit was requested by the Office of the President of Liberia consistent with the GAC Act of 2014. The audit is expected to be concluded and a report submitted the National Legislature with a copy to the President by end of November.

The Office of the President also requested that the GAC audits the USD \$99,000.00 (Ninety-Nine Thousand United States Dollars) transaction related to a service contract payment at LWSC, which is to be conducted alongside the comprehensive audit. -Press Release

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senate goes for break

By Ethel A Tweh

Senators here take a month's break to return in October following closure of the 4th working session of the Liberian Senate on Capitol Hill.

Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert T Chie says during its 61 days sitting, the body legislated 60 bills, including several financing agreements to support infrastructure development

the Senate plenary decided to improve Legislative procedures by minimizing the number of Executive session and eliminated from the middle of the fourth session, eliminated the citation of concessionaires and non governmental institutions to Plenary and Committee Rooms." Senators Chie explains.

He also notes that issues have been raised on the conduct of business activities, particularly difficulty of doing business at the

teachers, security personnel and health workers, among others.

He says in line with the amended Public Financial Management Act, President George Weah submitted to the Legislature a special budget of US\$30,155 million, covering the period July 1 to December 31, 2021 as a bridge to the new fiscal period which start from January 1 each year to December 31.

However, it was passed at US\$347,908 million he adds, detailing the Legislature made additional budgetary appropriation to the security sector, including the Armed Forces of Liberia, the health sector including the fight against COVID-19, JFK Hospital and other health facilities around the country as well as fight against human trafficking. The Grand Kru County Senator, who comes from the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change, points that in accordance with the Constitution, salaries, benefits and programs of senators' should be funded thru the national budget rather than in separate budgetary line, stressing that they have observed some members of the public become uneasy when funding from the national budget are disbursed for senators' individual programs.

Senators here received lashes from the public for taking close to a million United States Dollars for so-called Legislative Engagement at a time the economy is ravaged by serious challenges, including the health pandemic. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



and legislative instruments to strengthen the fight against corruption and enhance transparency.

Addressing legislative reporters Tuesday, August 31, at the Capitol he said some crucial bills are still in committee room, including proposed acts on electoral reforms and judicial practices.

"During the fourth session,

Freeport of Monrovia including operations of APM Terminals, BIVAC and CTN.

Chie says concerns were similarly raised in the Senate about the Coronavirus Stimulus Package, especially the food distribution aspect, the management contract at the Liberia Electricity Corporation and slow growth of the power sector, uncoordinated retirement of public school

"Money is our only problem"

--Education Minister

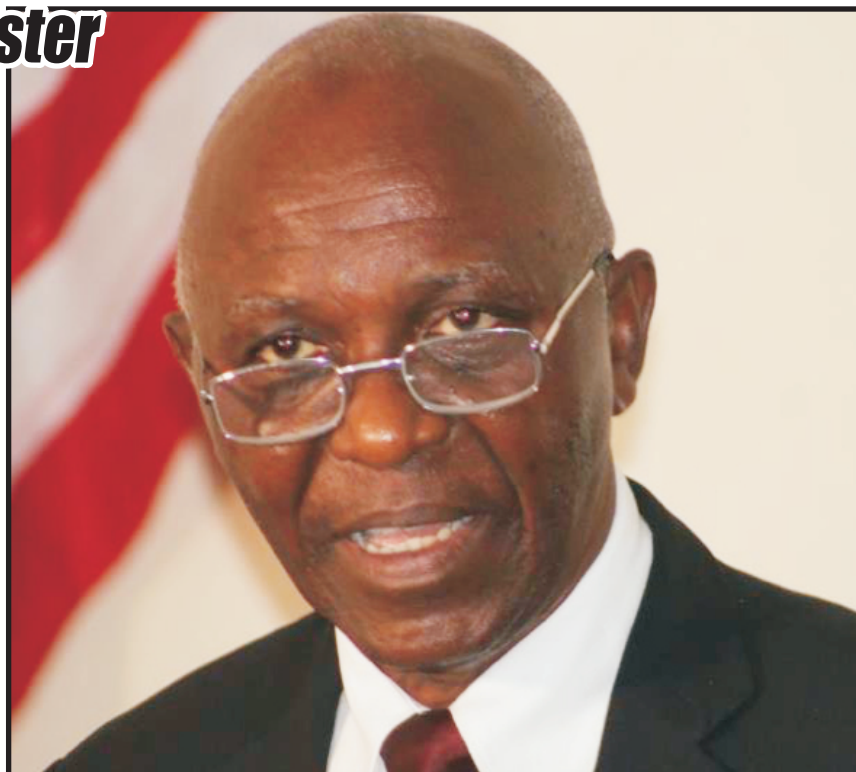
By Bridgett Milton

The Minister of Education Prof. Ansu Sonii has informed members of the House of Representatives that the only problem in the educational sector now is money.

Prof. Sonii stated the lack of funding for the education sector here when he appeared before the House of Representatives Tuesday, 31 August 2021 to explain why school teachers across the country are not on payroll.

The Education Minister informed lawmakers that schools here are not supervised well because all the administrators are teaching due to the lack of teachers.

His appearance before the



House came as a result of a communication sent to Plenary by Grand Bassa District # 5

Representative Thomas A. Goshua that spoke of the perpetual delay in the

CENTAL raises red

Starts from back page

private interests that may result in conflict of interest".

"By reneging on his duty to blow the whistle, while at the same time buying shares for his sister, the LACC vice Chair would be an active participant of corruption at the NPA", argues.

At the same time the Center calls on the government through the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, and it's new Executive Chairperson, Cllr. Edwin Kla-Martin, to thoroughly and swiftly investigate the matter in order to retain public trust not only in the Commission but in all actors in the anti-corruption environment in Liberia.

"We urge the LACC to

carefully consider points contained in this statement as it carries out its investigation and further call for openness with investigative findings and subsequent actions."

CENTAL also wants President George Weah to show more political will and commitment in the corruption fight in Liberia, noting that this entails provision of adequate financial and moral support to public institutions to perform their respective functions.

He notes that widespread allegations of public sector corruption does very little to increase public and stakeholders' confidence in the governance process.

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remuneration of public sector employees, particularly those appointed at the local government level.

According to Representative Goshua, since 2018, some presidential appointees are yet to be placed on payroll.

Also speaking, the Minister of Internal Affairs Varney Sirleaf said prior to the payroll harmonization exercise, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) payroll had a total of 5,133 employees.

Of this number, Minister Sirleaf said the regular payroll strength was 4,198 while those on the supplementary payroll amounted to 935 employees.

He said under the present processing regime, employees who fail to comply with all of the requirements - opening personal payroll account, passing the Internal Audit Agency (IAA) verification exercises, and submitting bonafide national identification number are denied processing on payroll until they can comply with the requirements.

The MIA boss noted that they continue to experience employees payroll account changing or swapping for others, adding that at times employees pay are erroneously sent to the wrong bank.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Français

Le sénateur Dillon de plus en plus isolé

Le bureau du sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius Dillon, se transformerait progressivement en une ville fantôme avec la démission successive de trois membres du personnel en moins d'un mois, ce qui semble envoyer des signes de mauvais augure au sénateur charismatique de l'opposition.

Le sénateur Dillon, qui a battu à deux reprises les candidats de la coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir dans son propre bastion, Montserrado, en 2019 et en 2020, est de plus en plus isolé. Ses fidèles clés lui semblent lui tourner le dos.

C'est son directeur de cabinet et directeur de campagne, Martin Saye Kollah, qui démissionnerait le 18 août. Plus tôt le lundi 30 août 2021, le sénateur a reçu deux autres lettres de démission. Il s'agit cette fois-ci de son responsable politique Abel Plackie et son assistant

administratif Ulysses Barchue.

Dillon lui-même n'a pas fait de commentaire sur les départs, mais les trois membres, dans leurs lettres séparées, ont évoqué des raisons soit administratives ou personnelles.

Martin Kollah aurait des ambitions politiques personnelles. Il aurait l'intention de se porter candidat aux prochaines élections législatives de 2023. En tout cas

dans sa lettre de démission, il avait fait savoir qu'il souhaitait vivement représenter les habitants du district électoral n° 6 du comté de Montserrado. «Ma famille et moi avons décidé de briguer le siège de représentant en 2023. Ma démission prend effet le 31 août 2021 », avait-il expliqué

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Le Gouverneur Exécutif de la CBL nommé Président du Comité des Gouverneurs de la ZMAO

Quelques jours à peine après avoir cédé la présidence du Bureau ouest-africain de l'Association des gouverneurs des banques centrales africaines au gouverneur de la Banque centrale de Guinée, le gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria J. Aloysius Tarlue a été nommé président du Comité des Gouverneurs de la Zone Monétaire Ouest Africaine (ZMAO), en remplacement du Professeur Kelfala M. Kallon, Gouverneur de la

Banque de Sierra Leone.

L'accession du Gouverneur Exécutif Tarlue à la présidence du Comité des Gouverneurs de la Zone Monétaire Ouest Africaine (ZMAO) porte à deux, le nombre d'organes économiques régionaux qu'il préside actuellement, dont le Comité des Gouverneurs des Etats membres de la CEDEAO de l'Agence Monétaire Ouest Africaine (AMO).

En tant que président de l'AMO, il a prononcé le discours d'ouverture de sa 58^e réunion ordinaire tenue virtuellement.

Dans son discours liminaire, le gouverneur exécutif Tarlue a rappelé à ses collègues les effets économiques négatifs du COVID-19 au sein de la zone monétaire ouest-africaine et des mesures politiques prises pour aider à améliorer la situation. Selon lui, la région a connu un ralentissement économique de 1,1% en 2020, contre une croissance de 3,1% enregistrée en 2019, creusant ainsi les déficits budgétaires et les dettes publiques dans la plupart des pays membres de la ZMAO.

Monnaie unique ouest-africaine

« Les réalités économiques défavorables et les actions de politique budgétaire imprévues rendues nécessaires par la pandémie de COVID-19 », a déclaré le gouverneur exécutif Tarlue, « ont conduit à l'abandon des mesures de politique d'assainissement budgétaire qui ont été mises en œuvre ces dernières années dans de nombreux pays membres ».

Tout cela, selon M. Tarlue, a eu un impact sur le Programme de coopération monétaire de la CEDEAO (EMCP), poussant l'Autorité

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Éditorial

Les conflits de leadership sont un pire ennemi du progrès

Des rapports font état d'un affrontement entre le ministre d'État chargé des Affaires présidentielles Nathaniel F. McGill et le ministre des Affaires étrangères Dee-Maxwell Kemayah au sujet de qui des deux doit attirer l'attention du président George Manneh Weah. Cela est à la fois troublant et décevant ! En tout cas, c'est le moins qu'on puisse dire.

Il est même très incompréhensible que deux fonctionnaires qui jouissent des privilèges égaux au sien du pouvoir exécutif - du moins cela devrait être le cas -, aient recours à un langage acrimonieux l'un à l'égard de l'autre.

Plus précisément, le désaccord apparent entre le ministre McGill et le ministre Kemayah sur la question de savoir si le président George Manneh Weah devrait s'adresser à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies de cette année à New York en personne ou le faire virtuellement, n'est pas quelque chose qui mérite qu'on se bouffe le nez. Nous pensons qu'une décision finale sur une telle question doit être dans le meilleur intérêt général de l'État, et non pour satisfaire l'ego de quelqu'un.

Depuis son entrée en fonction en 2018, le président Weah ne s'est rendu qu'à deux reprises (2018 et 2019) à New York et s'est adressé en personne à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Nous pensons également qu'il devrait le faire autant de fois que l'occasion se présente, mais si le gouvernement américain conseille aux dirigeants mondiaux de s'adresser virtuellement à l'AGNU de cette année en raison de la nouvelle vague du COVID-19 comme le conseillerait le ministre des Affaires étrangères, nous ne voyons rien de mal.

De même, si le ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles pense fermement que le président devrait être à New York personnellement pour s'adresser à l'Assemblée générale, et peut-être pour, en marge de la conférence, profiter des discussions avec des gouvernements amis et des partenaires internationaux, alors on peut en parler en tant que gouvernement sans avoir à se boxer comme dans un ring.

En outre, nous avons appris que le ministre McGill demande au ministre des Affaires étrangères, qui est également doyen du Cabinet, de lui rendre compte, et non directement au président Weah. Nous pensons que cela est contraire au protocole, sauf que si le président a choisi ainsi, et si c'est le cas, alors il y a de quoi être inquiet, car le ministre des Affaires étrangères représente directement le président sur les questions étrangères en particulier, d'État à État, pas le ministre d'État pour les affaires présidentielles.

Ce qui est plus regrettable et décevant cependant, c'est que le président Weah lui-même s'assoit et regarde deux responsables clés de son cabinet s'insulter sans intervenir, encore moins prendre des mesures punitives à titre de dissuasion. Cette inaction singulière démontre encore le manque de leadership du président.

Il est temps que l'administration Weah se lève et dirige comme un gouvernement capable dans lequel le peuple libérien a placé massivement sa confiance.

Le fait que le président Weah se rende à New York pour s'adresser personnellement à l'AGNU ne devrait pas être un concours de personnalité entre le ministre McGill et le ministre Kemayah.

Ce qui est sûr le président dispose d'une équipe de conseillers qui devraient intervenir en conséquence et suggérer l'approche appropriée avec la matière.

Ce qui s'est passé récemment au ministère des Affaires étrangères à Monrovia était une honte totale. Nous souhaitons que cela ne se répète car cela ne fait pas preuve de maturité et de leadership que la prochaine génération pourrait copier.

Français

Le sénateur Dillon de

il y a quelques jours.

Quant au responsable politique Abel Plackie, il acité des raisons personnelles et professionnelles et des divergences politiques avec son patron sur les questions d'intérêt national. Tandis que l'assistant administratif UlyssesBarchuea écrit, entre autres : « Ma démission n'est pas seulement liée à une altérité administrative et professionnelle, mais l'approbrium qui vous a entassé, vous et votre bureau ». Dillon, dont la popularité a grandi comme une étoile filante avant les élections du 8 décembre 2020 et immédiatement après, a vu

sa cote chuter récemment, à la suite d'une série de faux pas, notamment en mentant publiquement qu'il avait volé en classe économique lors d'une récente visite aux États-Unis lorsqu'en fait, il avait échangé son billet d'avion en classe affaires à Accra, au Ghana, avant de se rendre aux États-Unis

Tout récemment, il s'en était pris à Musa Hassan Bility, président national de son propre parti, le Parti de la Liberté, le décrivant comme un escroc et un blanchisseur d'argent. A son tour, le président Bility lui a demandé de restituer 20 000 \$ US et la voiture qu'il lui avait donnée lors de sa campagne pour les élections sénatoriales.

Le Gouverneur Exécutif de la CBL nommé Président

des chefs d'État et de gouvernement de la CEDEAO à adopter un nouveau pacte de convergence et de stabilité macroéconomique, ensemble avec une nouvelle feuille de route pour guider la mise en œuvre du programme de monnaie unique de la CEDEAO.

Selon le gouverneur exécutif Tarlue, le calendrier de la feuille de route a maintenant été prolongé de 2021 à 2027, date à laquelle la monnaie unique ouest-africaine sera lancée.

Systèmes de paiement régionaux

Le gouverneur exécutif Tarlue a informé ses collègues gouverneurs des banques centrales que des progrès avaient été réalisés sur le système de paiement

régional, comme l'a indiqué la Commission de la CEDEAO, en collaboration avec les banques centrales membres et l'Autorité monétaire ouest-africaine (AMAQ).

Le système de paiement régional vise à établir un mécanisme multilatéral avec lequel les monnaies nationales seront utilisées pour les paiements et le règlement des transactions intracommunautaires.

Un nouveau rôle de développement de la banque centrale

Le gouverneur exécutif Tarlue a exhorté ses collègues gouverneurs des banques centrales à envisager un nouveau rôle potentiel de la banque centrale dans le financement d'initiatives structurelles et de

Appel à candidature pour le poste de secrétaire exécutif/ve

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La personne recherchée doit réunir les qualités suivantes :

ACQUIS PROFESSIONNELS : Avoir une expérience en secrétariat, maîtriser la langue Française et la langue anglaise, avoir une expérience en matière des affaires relatives aux ambassades ou aux organisations Internationales, avoir des compétences consulaires, être autonome et être bien en orthographe aussi bien en français qu'en anglais. Le candidat doit aussi avoir des connaissances étendues du Protocole et maîtriser l'outil informatique, surtout le pack office.

QUALITES PERSONNELLES : Avoir un sens organisationnel et relationnel, capable de communiquer aisément, capable de faire preuve de discrétion et de confidentialité et avoir des initiatives.

La personne recherchée doit, dans le cadre du contrat, travailler à temps plein (40 heures par semaine, du Lundi au Vendredi).

Toute personne qualifiée et intéressée par cette offre peut faire une demande selon les modalités suivantes : envoyer un curriculum vitae (CV) et une lettre de motivation à l'ambassade avant le 03 Septembre 2021 à l'adresse suivante : Ambassade de France au Liberia, 98 A, UN Drive Mamba Point, Monrovia, Liberia. Ou par email : accueil.monrovia-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr.

Seuls les candidats présélectionnés seront contactés !

COMMENTAIRE

Par Nouriel Roubini

La menace de la stagflation est réelle

NEW YORK - Depuis plusieurs mois, je préviens que le mix actuel de politiques monétaires, budgétaires et de crédit, qui demeurent très accommodantes, stimulera excessivement la demande globale et conduira à une surchauffe inflationniste. Pour aggraver le problème, des chocs d'offre négatifs à moyen terme réduiront la croissance potentielle et augmenteront les coûts de production. Combinées, ces dynamiques de l'offre et de la demande pourraient générer une stagflation, une hausse de l'inflation en période de récession, comme dans les années 1970. A terme, elles pourraient même conduire à une grave crise de la dette.

Jusqu'à récemment, je me suis concentré davantage sur les risques à moyen terme. Mais maintenant, on peut faire valoir qu'une stagflation « légère » est déjà en cours. L'inflation augmente aux États-Unis et dans de nombreuses économies avancées, et la croissance ralentit fortement, malgré des mesures massives de relance monétaire, budgétaire et de crédit.

Il existe désormais un consensus sur le fait que le ralentissement de la croissance aux États-Unis, en Chine, en Europe et dans d'autres grandes économies est le résultat de goulots d'étranglement de l'offre sur les marchés du travail et des biens. Selon la version optimiste des analystes et des décideurs de Wall Street, cette légère stagflation sera temporaire et ne durera que le temps nécessaire pour que les goulots d'étranglement de l'offre se résorbent.

En fait, plusieurs facteurs expliquent la mini-stagflation de cet été. Pour commencer, le variant Delta augmente temporairement les coûts de production, réduit la croissance de la production et limite l'offre de main-d'œuvre. Les travailleurs, dont beaucoup reçoivent toujours les allocations de chômage majorées qui expireront en septembre, hésitent à retourner sur le lieu de travail, surtout maintenant que Delta fait rage. De plus, ceux qui ont des enfants doivent parfois rester à la maison, en raison des fermetures d'écoles et du manque de services de garde d'enfants abordables.

Du côté de la production, Delta perturbe la réouverture de nombreux secteurs de services et sème la pagaille dans les chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales, les ports et les systèmes logistiques. Les pénuries d'intrants clés tels que les semi-conducteurs entravent encore davantage la production de voitures, de produits électroniques et d'autres biens de consommation durables, augmentant ainsi l'inflation.

Pourtant, les optimistes insistent sur le fait que tout cela est temporaire. Une fois que Delta s'estompera et que les prestations expireront, les travailleurs retourneront sur le marché du travail, les goulots d'étranglement de la production se résorberont, la croissance de la production s'accélénera et l'inflation sous-jacente - qui atteint désormais près de 4 % aux États-Unis - retournera vers la cible de la Réserve fédérale américaine de 2 % d'ici l'année prochaine.

Du côté de la demande, l'hypothèse est que la Réserve fédérale américaine et d'autres banques centrales commenceront à mettre fin à leurs politiques monétaires non conventionnelles. Combiné à un certain degré de freinage budgétaire l'année prochaine (lorsque les déficits devraient être moins importants), cela réduira supposément les risques de surchauffe et maintiendra l'inflation sous contrôle. La légère stagflation d'aujourd'hui céderait alors la place à un scénario idéal - une croissance plus forte et une inflation plus faible - d'ici l'année prochaine.

Mais que se passera-t-il si cette vision optimiste se révèle erronée et que la pression stagflationniste persiste au-delà de cette année ? A cet égard, il convient de noter que diverses mesures font état d'une inflation non seulement largement au-dessus de son objectif, mais également de plus en plus persistante. Par exemple, aux États-Unis, l'inflation sous-jacente, qui exclut les prix volatils des aliments et de l'énergie, devrait toujours avoisiner les 4 % d'ici la fin de l'année.

Les politiques macroéconomiques devraient également rester laxistes, à en juger par les plans de relance de l'administration Biden et la probabilité que les économies faibles de la zone euro enregistrent d'importants déficits budgétaires même en 2022. De plus, la Banque centrale européenne et de nombreuses autres banques centrales des économies avancées restent pleinement engagées à poursuivre encore longtemps leurs politiques non conventionnelles.

Bien que la Fed envisage de réduire son assouplissement quantitatif (QE), elle restera probablement accommodante et en retard dans l'ensemble. Comme la plupart des banques centrales, elle a été attirée dans un « piège de la dette » par la flambée des dettes privée et publique (en pourcentage du PIB) ces dernières années. Même si l'inflation reste supérieure à son objectif, une sortie prématurée du QE pourrait provoquer un crash des marchés obligataire, du crédit et des actions. Cela soumettrait l'économie à un atterrissage brutal, forçant potentiellement la Fed à faire marche arrière et à reprendre le QE.

Après tout, c'est ce qui s'est passé entre le quatrième trimestre de 2018 et le premier trimestre de 2019, à la suite de la précédente tentative de la Fed de relever les taux et de réduire le QE. Les marchés du crédit et des actions se sont effondrés et la Fed a immédiatement arrêté le resserrement de sa politique. Puis, lorsque l'économie américaine a subi un ralentissement causé par la guerre commerciale et une légère crise du marché des pensions quelques mois plus tard, la Fed est revenue pleinement à la baisse des taux et à la poursuite du QE (sans le dire ouvertement).

Tout cela s'est produit une année complète avant que la COVID-19 ne bouleverse l'économie et ne pousse la Fed et d'autres banques centrales à s'engager dans des politiques monétaires non conventionnelles à une échelle sans précédent, pendant que les gouvernements créaient les plus gros déficits budgétaires depuis la Grande Dépression. Le véritable test du courage de la Fed viendra lorsque les marchés subiront un choc dans un contexte de ralentissement économique et d'inflation élevée. Très probablement, la Fed se dégonflera et fermera les yeux.

Comme j'ai déjà eu l'occasion de le dire, les chocs d'offre négatifs sont susceptibles de persister à moyen et long terme. On en distingue déjà au moins neuf.

Pour commencer, il y a la tendance à la démondialisation et à la montée du protectionnisme, la balkanisation et la relocalisation des chaînes d'approvisionnement éloignées, et le vieillissement démographique des économies avancées et des principaux marchés émergents. Des restrictions d'immigration plus strictes entravent la migration des pays du Sud les plus pauvres vers le Nord plus riche. La guerre froide sino-américaine ne fait que commencer, menaçant de fragmenter l'économie mondiale. Et le changement climatique perturbe déjà l'agriculture et provoque des flambées des prix des denrées alimentaires.

De plus, les pandémies mondiales persistantes conduiront inévitablement à une plus grande autonomie nationale et à des contrôles à l'exportation pour les biens et matériaux clés. La cyberguerre perturbe de plus en plus la production, mais reste très coûteuse à contrôler. Et la réaction politique face aux inégalités de revenus et de richesse incite les autorités fiscales et réglementaires à mettre en œuvre des politiques renforçant le pouvoir des travailleurs et des syndicats, ouvrant la voie à une croissance accélérée des salaires.

Alors que ces chocs d'offre négatifs persistants menacent de réduire la croissance potentielle, la poursuite de politiques monétaires et budgétaires accommodantes pourrait déclencher un désancrage des anticipations d'inflation. La spirale salaires-prix qui en résulterait inaugurerait alors d'un environnement de stagflation à moyen terme pire que celui des années 1970 - lorsque les ratios dette/PIB étaient inférieurs à ce qu'ils sont actuellement. C'est pourquoi le risque d'une crise de la dette stagflationniste continuera de planer à moyen terme.

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- Ou par email : accueil.monrovia-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Seuls les candidats présélectionnés seront contactés !

Weah's Presidency:

Cont'd from page 10

Mr. Weah's presidential authority is rarely felt by the people; and he seems not be in control of happenings in the country. For now, there appears to be no cohesive central authority in the country; and anarchy has become the modus operandi. Most Liberians in the country now seek justice or redress to pressing educational, economic, social, political, and medical matters through street protests or mob actions. In the country, street protests are staged routinely; and they most often interrupt normal activities. Sometimes people are unnecessarily wounded while private and public properties are destroyed.

For instance, on June 7, 2019, more than 5,000 people under the leadership of the Council of Patriots (CoP) gathered in Liberia's capital, Monrovia, to protest the Weah Administration's failure to tackle issues of corruption, economic mismanagement, and injustice in the country. The protest was one of Monrovia's biggest protests in living memory, according to witnesses. At the time of the protest, Mr. Weah's presidency was less than 18 months

put, he is an impulsive leader. For instance, on October 6, 2018, he woke up that morning; looked at the sky; and declared to Liberians and the world, "Today, I am excited to announce that I have declared the University of Liberia and all other public universities in Liberia tuition free for all undergraduates". The President's unplanned pronouncement was applauded by many Liberians including his supporters.

The CDC dominated legislature also, sanctioned the declaration and passed it into law early this year, the Special Education Fund bill. The law seeks to support and sustain the tuition-free scheme for the University of Liberia, and all public universities and colleges in Liberia. Also, the law offers free fees for 9th and 12th students sitting the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) in Liberia. However, few months following the passage of the law, the realities of the poorly conceived pronouncement begun to settle-in. College education at the University of Liberia, Tubman University in Harper, Maryland, and community colleges in Liberia became nightmares.

Financial and budgetary constraints, logistical challenges, and leadership deficits at those institutions became unbearable.

On August 6, 2021, a US based Liberian educator and research assistant at Virginia Tech, Johnny C. Woods, Jr. in an article on the state of the Liberian educational system wrote, "Shortfalls in higher education finance have been observed in many forms; and can be traced to the regime of former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, but



old.

On August 3, 2021, officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP) also, allegedly fired teargas and rubber bullets on students of the Monrovia based University of Liberia's Vanguard Students Unification Party (SUP) during a protest. According to FrontPageAfrica, the students protested for the cancellation of the e-learning program introduced at the state-run University. More than ten persons reportedly sustained injuries. As reported by FrontPageAfrica, two of the persons injured, had gunshot wounds to their heads. They were among a crowd of students that tried breaking through barriers set by the police to continue the second day of the students' protest against the UL Administration's defiance to revert to normal academic activities at the university.

Impulsive Decisions

President Weah is not a thoughtful leader. He acts on his whims or in the moment most of the times. He doesn't factor in the consequences of his political statements or decisions before making them publicly. Simply

President Weah's government added fuel to the fire. He exacerbated the problem when he declared free tuition at all public universities in the country".

Two years ago, Bush Chicken, a Liberian owned online media institution, quoted the President of Tubman University, Professor Elliot Wreh-Wilson, as saying that the lack of government's financial support to the University contributed to the decrease in professors at the University. Then the Professor reported that after taking over the University in 2019 as president, the Liberian government made available US \$ 5,250 to the University administration for operational purpose. As a result, the Professor said the University lacks the funding to hire and maintain qualified professors, a situation that continues to impede the operations of the University. In 2019, the University lost several qualified professors after they resigned in droves due to the institution's inability to compensate and provide them other needed benefits.

In August of 2020, the leadership of the Vanguard Student Unification

Police officers ordered arrested

By Kruah Thompson (Intern)

The Ministry of Justice has ordered the arrest of three Liberia National Police (LNP) officers in relations to the death of truck driver Alieu Sheriff following an altercation between the deceased and the accused officers in July this year.

Sheriff's death sparked a series of protests staged mainly by his kinsmen here, compelling police to launch tear gas on 3 August to disperse a crowd that had besieged the premises of the Temple of Justice and the entrance of LNP headquarters on Capitol Hill.

autopsy report at the Ministry of Information's special Tuesday press briefing, Cllr. Nyenati Tuan, Deputy Justice Minister for Codification, said that Sheriff died as a result of unnatural causes.

The Acting Minister ordered the immediate re-arrest of the three officers for onward transfer to court for prosecution in keeping with the Constitution and human rights standards.

He continued that should the court determine the existence of a prima facie case against the accused, it shall issue a formal writ of arrest, setting out the charge or charges and shall provide for a speedy trial.

Giving a reflection of the

used at the back of the deceased's head.

Forfinnah explained that the first peaceful assembly was organized early August to draw the government's attention, adding that if they continue to allow police brutality, it will go across the country very soon and the country will be reduced to a police state.

"We know how police state can end up, we will do everything possible to protect the peace and stability of this country," he said.

Forfinnah disclosed that they will continue to talk and peacefully assemble for the government's attention to be

Weah's Presidency:

Cont'd from page 10

Party(SUP) of the University of Liberia in a petition presented to the House of Representatives' Committee on Claims and Petitions of the Liberia National Legislature also, decried the appalling learning conditions at the University. The students complained that the reduction in the University's budgetary allocation for fiscal year 2020/2021 by the Liberian government was a "Systematic attempt by the Weah-led Government to further deteriorate the quality of education the university has been providing; and undermine its credibility and integrity," The students further alleged that "Since the inception of the Weah-led government, there have been persistent reductions in the university's annual budgets".

Massive Corruption

Besides being a terrible leader, President Weah has integrity problem. His administration is profoundly corrupt. For example, in 2018, he set the precedent for malfeasance in his administration when he, under dubious circumstances, erected for himself 41 luxurious condominiums immediately following his ascendancy to the presidency. He, without declaring his assets publicly, constructed the buildings in the Baptist Seminary community located on the Robert International Airport(RIA) Highway in Margibi County. Additionally, he quickly demolished his US\$150,000 residence located on 9th Street in Sinkor, Monrovia; and replaced it with a mini mansion. Also, within the period of six months of his presidency, Mr. Weah commenced renovation work on his once dilapidated Jamaica Resort situated on the RIA Highway.

Although supporters of the CDC claimed that Mr. Weah earned 83 million dollars from his soccer career; and he was a wealthy man before becoming president, most Liberians believe the story is an illusion. In March of this year, US Congressman Chris Smith of the State of New Jersey at a bipartisan human rights panel discussion on Liberia, branded the Weah administration as a "Kleptocracy". The Congressman pontificated, "In Africa, we have a special relationship with Liberia, which was founded by freed American slaves. Unfortunately, President George Weah leads a kleptocratic Government that has engaged in political corruption from the day he assumed office by depleting the Government coffers for

personal use while the people of Liberia suffer..."

Selective Justice

Since becoming President, Mr. Weah and his supporters have demonstrated to Liberians and the world that they are not committed to the rule of law and the fight against graft in the public sector. The CDC administration is known for cherry picking when enforcing the rule of law, or prosecuting cases of alleged corruption. For example, while the President and his cronies are fixated on lining their pockets with ill-gotten wealth, they are now engaged in a reported corruption fight against Liberia's former Minister of National Defense, J. Brownie Samukai, Jr.

However, many Liberians at home and abroad believe the legal battle against the former Minister Samukai is a publicity stunt or witch hunt. The former Defense Minister is Lofa County Senator-elect. He was elected on December 8, 2020, but he is yet to take his seat in the Liberian senate because of the ongoing corruption legal tussle initiated by the Liberian government against him and two other former officials of the Ministry of National Defense. They are being prosecuted for allegedly misappropriating US \$1.3 million belonging to soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) as pension fund. The Supreme Court of Liberia on August 20, 2021, granted the government's petition that requested the Court to order the National Elections Commission (NEC) not to certificate Senator-elect Samukai because he is a judicially disenfranchised citizen and a convicted felon.

On March 24, 2020, Criminal Court "C" at the Temple of Justice convicted Mr. Samukai and his co-defendants, former Deputy Defense Minister for Administration, Joseph F. Johnson, and the former Comptroller of the Ministry of Defense, J. Nyumah Dorkor, for misappropriating the soldiers' money. However, the former Defense Minister argues that he and his co-defendants committed no crime because their action was within the purview of the constitution and the laws of Liberia. He maintained that they acted on orders from former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. The Lofa County Senator-elect reported that they used the US 1.3 million dollars to prepare and dispatch AFL soldiers to the West African country of Mali for a regional peace keeping mission based on a directive from former President Johnson-Sirleaf.



But the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Justice on Tuesday, 31 August 2021 confirmed through a preliminary investigative autopsy report conducted on the remains of the late Alieu sheriff that the victim died unnatural death, citing blunt force injury at the back of his head.

The Ministry of Justice has therefore instructed the LNP through Inspector General Col. Patrick T. Sudue to immediately re-arrest officers Samuel N. Borbor, Harris Monger and Alexander Seakor.

Updating reporters surrounding the late Sheriff's

incident, Cllr. Tuan explained that after the incident, police officers responded to the National Transit Authority (NTA) yard, and saw the late Alieu sheriff lying on the ground unconscious.

Predicated upon the condition of the victim, Cllr. Tuan said he was rushed to the John F. Kennedy Medical Center where he was pronounced dead on arrival (DOA) by Medical Doctors.

In an engagement with reporters, Mr. Amara M. Forfinnah, official spokesman of the deceased's family, lamented that the blunt force injury at the back of Mr. Sheriff's head is due to the electric baton that was

drawn.

He continued that they will do it one thousand times and they will use all means under the law to get the government's attention in doing the right thing.

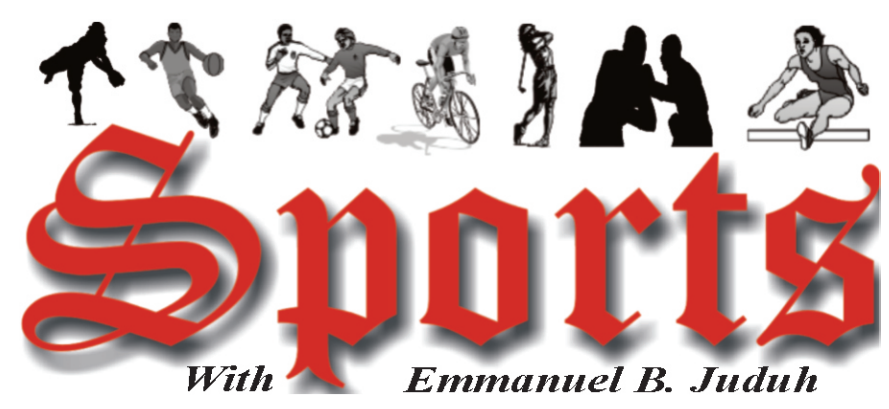
Meanwhile, Forfinnah noted that his expectations are that the alleged individuals be charged, sent to court and sentenced to prison.

He indicated that when the criminal aspect of the case has taken place, the family expects the civil aspect to follow suit.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**



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Real Madrid sign rising France star Camavinga from Rennes



clubs, including Manchester United and Paris Saint-Germain, but Madrid elected to make a late push to sign him before the transfer deadline after it became clear that landing Kylian Mbappe from PSG would be impractical.

The teenager, who made 71 Ligue appearances for Rennes and 88 in total, is Madrid's second signing of this window following the free transfer of David Alaba from Bayern Munich. At 18 years and nine months old, he is the youngest outfield player to feature in that many games in France's top flight since Basile Boli in 1985.

In making his senior France debut on September 8 last year, Camavinga was the youngest player to do so since Maurice Gastiger against Luxembourg 107 years ago.

Real Madrid have announced the signing of midfielder Eduardo Camavinga from Rennes.

The 18-year-old France international agreed a six-year contract with Los Blancos in a deal that could

cost up to €45million, according to reports.

It is the first time Madrid have spent money on a transfer fee since 2019, when they signed Eden Hazard from Chelsea for €100m.

Camavinga had been linked with a host of major European

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