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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2021

Respect term limit



Pres. George M. Weah

- President Weah Tells ECOWAS Colleagues



Impeached Ex- Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh

I want to be reinstated

-Kabineh Ja'neh says

3G good

Dial *352#



4G better



everywhere you go



Continental News

Guinea coup leaders release dozens of prisoners

Military leaders who've seized power in Guinea have released about 80 prisoners ahead of a summit of the West African grouping Ecowas.

The leaders of the Ecowas bloc are due to meet virtually on Wednesday to discuss the Guinea coup and the political transition in Mali.

The prisoners had been opponents of President Alpha Condé, who was ousted by special forces under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Mamady Doumbouya.

He has accused Mr Condé, 83, of rampant corruption, human rights abuses and mismanagement.

Ismaël Condé, a member of the opposition UFDG party, said his time in prison had been difficult, but he was now hoping for a better future for his country:

"It's a feeling you can't explain, to be deprived of your



The UN, African Union and regional body Ecowas have condemned the coup

freedom for 12 months for such trivial things and to be released under these conditions, you can't explain," he said.

Dr Mamady Onivogui, a democracy and human rights activist, told reporters after his

release that had no regrets and was looking move to a better future:

"I hope that the junta will do something so that Guineans can get along, so that Guineans can move

forward, because we are more than 60 years into our independence and it's dragging on."

Guinea is rich in natural resources - including bauxite needed to make aluminium -

but years of unrest and mismanagement mean it is one of the world's poorest countries.

Bauxite prices have hit a 10-year high since the coup. BBC

Sudan Summoned Ethiopia's Ambassador Over 29 Bodies Found in River

Sudan summoned Ethiopia's ambassador to Khartoum to inform him that 29 corpses found on the banks of a river abutting Ethiopia were those of Ethiopian citizens from the Tigray ethnic group, Sudan's Foreign Ministry said.

It said in a statement late on Tuesday that the ambassador had been summoned on August 30 and was told that the bodies had

been found between July 26 and August 8 on the Sudanese side of the Setit River, known in Ethiopia as the Tekeze.

The corpses were identified by Ethiopians residing in the Wad al Hulaywah area of eastern Sudan, it said.

The statement did not say how the people died.

Dina Mufti, spokesperson for the Ethiopian Foreign Affairs Ministry, did not immediately respond to request for comment.

The river is the current de facto borderline between territory controlled by Tigrayan forces and those controlled by Amhara forces allied with Ethiopia's federal government. At a different point the river also separates Sudan from Ethiopia.

Tensions between Sudan and Ethiopia have been running high because of a spillover of the conflict in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region and Ethiopia's construction of a giant hydropower dam on the Blue Nile.

Tens of thousands of refugees have fled into eastern Sudan and there have been military skirmishes in an area of contested farmland along the border between Sudan and Ethiopia.

Sudanese authorities said on Sunday they had confiscated a weapons shipment that arrived by air from Ethiopia on suspicion the arms were destined for use in "crimes against the state." Sudan's Interior Ministry said later on Monday that the shipment had turned out to be part of a legal cargo imported by a licensed arms trader. BBC

Zimbabwe asks state employees to take a jab or quit



All Zimbabwe government employees have to take a jab

The government in Zimbabwe is asking its employees to get vaccinated against Covid-19 or resign.

It says the move is aimed at reducing the risk of spreading the virus.

In an interview with a local radio station, Justice Minister Ziyambi Ziyambi says that employees who think they have a right to choose whether or not they can be vaccinated have it all wrong,

The government previously introduced a new regulation for churches and restaurants to only allow people with a vaccination card inside their

premises.

The aim is to tackle vaccine hesitancy within the population.

The southern African country has been able to fully vaccinate 1.7 million people, about 12% of its population. About 3% of the people in Africa have been fully vaccinated.

No country in Africa has introduced legislation to make a Covid vaccine mandatory to the population.

However, some experts are of the opinion that a case can be made for such policies to be introduced as a way of tackling the pandemic and its threat to public health. BBC



Members of Amhara special forces stand guard on the Tekeze river bridge near Ethiopia-Eritrean border near the town of Humera

EDITORIAL

Uncertainty in neighboring Guinea is troubling

REPORT OF A military coup in neighboring Guinea that shows its President Alpha Conde sitting on a sofa barefooted and surrounded by armed troops is very troubling. Guinea is a very close neighbor of Liberia and both countries share cultural, ethnic and economic ties.

ANY DISTURBANCE IN that country has always had serious adverse repercussions on Liberia, whether it is Ebola, politics or business. Both countries are so intertwined that what affects one, impacts the other.

THEREFORE, WHEN REPORTS coming out of Guinea on international wires show armed soldiers discharging live bullets, placing the elected President under apparent arrest, parading the streets, ordering residents to stay indoors and closing borders, there is reason for concern.

THE GUINEAN MINISTRY of defense is quoted as dispelling news of a coup, maintaining that presidential guards have quelled the revolt and it is in control of the situation.

BUT A GROUP of soldiers under the banner, National Committee for Reconciliation and Development (NCRD) are reportedly claiming that they ousted President Alpha Conde because of rampant corruption, mismanagement and poverty. It has also announced suspension of the constitution.

IF THE SO-CALLED coup in Guinea were to succeed, Liberia could feel the burnt in several ways: Firstly, both countries are members of the Mano River Union and the Economic community of West African States (ECOWAS). We in Liberia depend on the neighboring country for basic commodities such as pepper, onions, clothes, and utensils, among others. Besides, the Port of Conakry serves as a major conduit for most used cars coming into Liberia due to huge tariff at the Freeport of Monrovia.

THEN THERE IS the issue of intermarriages and tribal relations. There are Mandingoes in Guinea and Mandingoes in Liberia, similarly, members of the Mano, Gio, Kpelle tribe are on both sides.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, the Government of Guinea and the Government of Liberia signed a major concession that would allow Guinean ores to be transported thru Liberia for shipment abroad. The investment will cost millions of dollars and benefit peoples of both countries.

BESIDES, GUINEAN TROOPS fought and died in Liberia to restore the peace that Liberians enjoy today, so we cannot sit and watch that country degenerate in flames.

WE CALL FOR quick intervention to restore calm to the neighboring country, for this important for regional security, peace and economic cooperation. Guinea is key partner of both Mano River Union and ECOWAS.

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COMMENTARY

By Kevin Watkins

Ending “Trickle-Down” Vaccine Economics

LONDON - During the Irish famine in the 1840s, as more than one million Irish citizens died, vast quantities of food were exported from Ireland to Britain. For the Whig government in London, the defense of commercial interests, the dictates of laissez-faire economics, and political indifference to Irish suffering trumped any obligation to prevent mass starvation by intervening in markets.

The international response to the COVID-19 pandemic bears a discomfiting resemblance to the British response to the Irish famine. Although science and industry have given us the means to immunize the world, nine months after the first arm was jabbed with a COVID-19 vaccine, rich countries are using their market power to direct doses away from poor countries, placing millions of lives at risk.

Consider some recent actions by the European Union. Under a contract with Johnson & Johnson (J&J), the bloc has imported millions of vaccine doses from a company in South Africa - a country where a mere 11% of the population is vaccinated and the Delta variant is fueling a surge in cases. Yet efforts to divert vaccine exports from Europe to South Africa and its neighbors were met with a display of vaccine gunboat diplomacy, with the EU threatening to take action under a clause in the J&J contract prohibiting export restrictions.

The message to the world was clear. While EU commissioners and political leaders may arrive at UN meetings waxing lyrical about the importance of international cooperation and global vaccine equity, the iron fist of vaccine nationalism is driving real-world policy. When it comes to weighing African lives against marginal gains in the health of already-protected EU citizens, Africans come in a distant second.

Former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown recently highlighted the South Africa example as a “shocking symbol” of global vaccine injustice. He was right - but the injustice is global. In a world that has delivered more than five billion doses, over 70% of people in rich countries have now received at least one jab, compared to only 1.8% in the poorest countries.

This is an equity gap that kills. We know that vaccinations provide effective protection against COVID-19 deaths and hospitalization. As US President Joe Biden has reminded Americans, this is a “pandemic of the unvaccinated.” The same is true globally. Nevertheless, the United States and other rich countries are now preparing to deliver vaccine booster shots to already-protected populations facing marginal health risks, effectively diverting supplies from countries where access to vaccines is - quite literally - a matter of life and death.

The current distribution of vaccines is not just ethically indefensible. It is also epidemiologically short-sighted and economically ruinous. Leaving large swaths of the world unvaccinated increases the risk that vaccine-resistant viral mutations will emerge, effectively prolonging the pandemic and endangering people everywhere. Meanwhile, expanding vaccinations would boost economic recovery - adding \$9 trillion to global output by 2025, according to an estimate by the International Monetary Fund - and help prevent major reversals in poverty, health, and education.

Basic arithmetic shows that we can vaccinate the world. Estimates by the data analytics firm Airfinity suggest that around 12 billion vaccine doses will be produced in 2021, with output doubling in 2022. That’s more than enough to

achieve the international target of 40% coverage by the end of this year and 60-70% by mid-2022.

Unfortunately, it is not enough to achieve the targets while satisfying rich countries’ desire to hoard surplus stocks. With their current contracts, rich countries could achieve full vaccination coverage rates for over 80% of their populations, including boosters for vulnerable people, and have a surplus of 3.5 billion doses, according to the Airfinity data - enough to cover the deficit in poor countries and still leave rich countries with a healthy contingency reserve.

Instead, rich countries are actively undermining international cooperation efforts. Aid donors have invested \$10 billion in the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility, the international program designed to provide vaccines to the world’s poorest countries. That financing has secured contracts for around two billion doses. Additionally, the World Bank has provided \$4 billion for COVAX and an African Union vaccine-purchase initiative. But COVAX and poor countries are constantly pushed to the back of the line for supplies from vaccine manufacturers for whom rich countries come first, not least because of their governments’ threats to take legal action and impose penalties.

The pandemic has demonstrated that the world needs a more efficient and equitable distribution of vaccine-production capabilities. Developing these capabilities will require knowledge-sharing, technology transfer, intellectual-property waivers, and long-term investment. But without immediate and decisive action to replace the trickle-down approach to vaccine provision with market redistribution, John Maynard Keynes’s dictum that “in the long run we are all dead” will have a tragic resonance.

There are three priorities. First, vaccine delivery must be aligned with the target of 40% coverage in all countries by the end of this year. Rich countries must agree to adjust their own schedules so that vaccine manufacturers can make deliveries for COVAX and developing countries. Building surplus stocks in rich countries while allowing people to die for want of vaccines in poor countries is indefensible. Aid donors should also provide the additional \$3.8 billion in grant financing needed to trigger COVAX options on an additional 760 million doses by the end of 2021.

Second, to meet the international targets, we need to move beyond intermittent vaccine donations to large-scale, coordinated dose-sharing. The EU, the United Kingdom, and the US should immediately share an additional 250 million doses - less than one-quarter of their collective surplus - through COVAX by the end of September, with a clear schedule for providing an additional one billion doses by early 2022.

Third, beyond vaccine equity, there is an urgent need to strengthen health systems, not just through the provision of medical oxygen, which is in critically short supply, therapeutics, and diagnostic equipment, but also by investing in the health workers and infrastructure needed to get vaccines into arms. The current gap between funds pledged and funds allocated for this purpose is around \$16.6 billion.

Our ability to save lives, restore hope, and rebuild economies shattered by the pandemic is constrained not by a shortage of vaccines or financing, but also by a deficit of justice and international cooperation. The governments of rich countries often recite the mantra that “no one is safe until everyone is safe.” Their leaders must now act like they believe it.

OPINION

By Dmitri Trenin, Vygaudas Ušackas, Graham Stacey

War Games Are No Game

MOSCOW - Since the Ukraine conflict in 2014, clashing worldviews have become deeply ingrained among NATO and Russian policymakers, and distrust is the default mindset. We are witnessing a new kind of confrontation that is fraught with military risk. As we approach another “Autumn Exercise Season” - with key events such as Russia’s Zapad-2021 and NATO’s Ramstein Alloy and Joint Warrior - there is an urgent need to mitigate the danger that training exercises become a flashpoint for conflict.

To be sure, a major-power rivalry with a strong military component is nothing new. In the past, it was the principal and decisive factor shaping and reshaping the political map and the international system. Today, military rivalries are one factor among many forces driving geopolitics, operating alongside economic development and technological prowess. But when push comes to shove, it is the military dynamic that can be expected to play a decisive role, either as a deterrent or as an instrument of coercion. That is why all major powers - the United States, its NATO allies, China, and Russia - are conducting military exercises more often and on a larger scale than ever.

This trend is likely to continue, including in and around Europe. As NATO’s own website explains, military exercises allow it to test and validate “concepts, procedures, systems, and tactics” for use in a real theater of war. NATO is also open about the fact that it has stepped up its own program of exercises to account for a “changed security environment.” Similarly, while Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov has noted that exercises are part of a routine annual effort to “develop the Russian armed forces,” Russia’s Vostok-2018 maneuvers were larger than any of the military exercises of the Soviet era.

Nobody disputes the right to self-defense, or the corresponding right to train troops to be effective in an armed conflict. It would be naive to think that simple appeals to officials in Beijing, Brussels, Moscow, and Washington would be enough to convince them to scale back their drills. Still, it makes sense for all sides to behave in a manner that does not provoke others or lead to misperceptions and miscalculations with potentially catastrophic results.

Unlike in the Cold War, a full-scale conflict in Europe would be unlikely to take the form of a massive surprise attack. It could, however, arise from an escalation of regional or local armed conflicts or incidents involving military forces. And it is all too easy for military exercises to trigger such engagements inadvertently. World leaders should therefore urgently address the threat to regional and global security that such exercises pose.

A recent open-fire incident between the HMS Defender, a British Royal Navy vessel, and Russian forces in the Black Sea off of Crimea is just one example of how quickly a situation can spiral out of control. Russian pilots flying dangerously close to NATO aircraft near the Russian border is another. So far, kinetic contact has been avoided, but we shouldn’t push our luck.

In fact, risk mitigation is becoming even more difficult with the rise of artificial intelligence, fake news, disinformation campaigns, and cyberwarfare. All of these technologies and techniques have thickened the fog of war, increasing the likelihood of a dangerous miscalculation or accident.

Fortunately, there are tools that can be used immediately to reduce these risks. Many of the confidence-building measures established at the end of the Cold War and in its immediate aftermath are still partly in place, even after the demise of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty and the Open Skies Treaty. These channels should be used fully. Though it has so far failed to become a vehicle for partnership, the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) can serve as a communication mechanism to prevent hazardous military incidents or their escalation.

In addition to the NRC, there should be direct, substantive contacts and occasional face-to-face meetings between the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and the Russian Chief of the General Staff, along with other senior military commanders and experts from both sides. Regular discussions would further build confidence that military activities by either party do not amount to an imminent attack, and the same channels could facilitate a move toward immediate de-escalation should misunderstandings occur. Other existing tools should be revived and updated, starting with the 2011 Vienna Document on Confidence and Security-Building Measures.

Predictability and mutual confidence can be enhanced further by voluntary restraint and transparency measures, such as exchanges of information on the size and scope of military forces in contiguous areas. Risk-reduction tools need not be specific to military and security contexts. As current signatories of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, all countries concerned should observe the already-established principles for operating within international airspace while not impeding the rights, freedoms, and lawful use by others.

These measures will not turn adversarial relations into friendly ties. But they would at least ensure that there are political fire brigades ready to extinguish local blazes before they set Europe aflame.

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OP-ED

By Andrés Velasco

Breaking Bad Bond Buying

LONDON - In the run-up to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City’s annual symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, last month, the discussion had focused on whether monetary policy should be tightened in response to higher US inflation. By suggesting that asset purchases would be tapered first, and that interest-rate increases would come much later, Fed Chair Jerome Powell has shifted the conversation to the question of how policy should be tightened.

While printing money to buy bonds and reduce long-term interest rates is justified during crises like those in 2008 or 2020, the case for maintaining quantitative easing (QE) in more tranquil times is far from obvious. To see why, it helps to dispel three misconceptions about QE.

The first misconception is that QE is a monetary policy. It is not. Or rather, it is not just that. It is also a fiscal policy. In every country, the central bank is owned by the treasury. When the Fed issues money - central bank reserves, in fact - to buy a government bond, the private sector is getting one government liability in exchange for another.

The second misconception is that the government (including the treasury and central bank) always comes out ahead from such a transaction, because the private sector is left holding a security that pays a lower rate of interest. That need not be so. Central bank reserves can be held only by commercial banks, which have limited use for them. To induce banks to hold more reserves, central bankers must pay interest on them, as the Fed and the Bank of England started doing in response to the 2008 financial crisis.

The third misconception is that whenever the interest rate on central bank reserves is zero or lower than the rate on government bonds, the government can spend what it pleases, when it pleases. This is the central tenet of so-called Modern Monetary Theory. It is pithy, spiffy, snazzy, and wrong.

Yes, financing from money creation (economists call it seigniorage) is feasible whenever the yield on money is below that of government bonds. But as the central bank prints more and more money, it must pay higher and higher interest rates on that money to ensure that commercial banks and the public will want to hold it. Sooner or later, the interest-rate gap closes and there is no more seigniorage to be had. If the central bank keeps printing money beyond this point, the private sector will begin dumping it, causing currency depreciation, inflation, or both.

Once one accepts these three provisos, one must ask the multi-trillion-dollar question: Does QE make sense, from a fiscal point of view, in the United States today? The answer is no, for at least two reasons.

In late August 2021, the Fed was paying 0.15% interest on commercial banks’ reserve balances at a time when the interest rate on short-maturity Treasury bills was oscillating around 0.04%. That means it is cheaper (for the US taxpayer) to finance expenditures by issuing bonds than by printing money.

This might seem paradoxical. But it is important to remember that yield is a proxy for liquidity. Reserves at the Fed can be held only by banks. They do not serve as collateral and are subject to capital requirements. Treasuries, by contrast, can be held by anyone. They are traded in a huge, deep market and are routinely used as collateral for other financial operations. No wonder investors view Treasuries as more liquid and demand a lower yield from them.

Debt maturity is the other reason why additional QE makes little fiscal sense. Treasury bonds come in many maturities, stretching out to 30 years. But the non-required portion of Fed reserves comes in only one maturity: instantaneous (since commercial banks are free to withdraw them at will). Hence, every time the Fed issues reserves to buy a long-term bond, it is lowering the average maturity of government-issued debt.

If the interest rates on long-term Treasury bonds were high, such a policy would be sound. But the rate on the oft-quoted ten-year Treasury today is substantially below the Fed’s targeted inflation rate for that period, which implies that people around the world are effectively paying for the privilege of handing their money to the US government for the next ten years.

Under these circumstances, as Lawrence H. Summers recently argued in the Washington Post, the right policy is to “term out” public debt - locking in the very low rates for as long as possible - not to “term in” the debt as the Fed is doing with QE. Here, a government is like a family looking to take out a mortgage: the lower long-term rates are, the more sense it makes to borrow long.

The homebuyer’s analogy also illuminates the other risk introduced by short maturities: exposure to future interest-rate hikes. In the US, where 30-year fixed-rate mortgages are common, a new homeowner need not worry about what the Fed will do with interest rates next year - or even in the next couple of decades. But in the United Kingdom, where floating-rate mortgages are the norm, homeowners are always fretting over what the Bank of England will do next.

In managing its debt, the US federal government has gone the way of British homeowners. Though interest rates will not rise tomorrow, they certainly will someday, and when that happens, rolling over huge stocks of debt at higher yields will have a non-trivial fiscal cost.

One can also imagine nasty financial dynamics at work: a rising interest burden causes more debt to be issued, and this increase in supply reduces the liquidity premium on the new bonds, further raising interest rates and requiring ever-larger bond issues.

Moreover, unsavory political dynamics could emerge. When the central bank’s decisions have a big impact on the public purse, politicians will be more tempted to cajole central bankers to keep rates low. Skeptics will counter that this kind of thing doesn’t happen in the US. But America’s previous president was not above browbeating the Fed via Twitter, which was not supposed to happen. (Presidents like Donald Trump were not supposed to happen, either.)

These are not arguments for a more contractionary monetary policy; the Fed can keep the short-term interest rate as low as needed. Nor are they arguments in favor of a more contractionary fiscal policy; if the Biden administration wants to spend more, it can issue long-term bonds or raise taxes. Printing money to pay for the deficit used to be the progressive thing to do. Not anymore.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CEMESP Trains Female Journalists, Bloggers on Women's Rights Online advocacy

By Wremongar Joe
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The Center for Media Studies and Peacebuilding (CEMESP) on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, conducted intensive training for female bloggers and journalists on 'Women's Rights Online Issues' in Liberia.

Forty-five (45) participants drawn from various social media blogs, civil society activists, and university journalism students formed part of the training which was held at iCampus on Carey Street in Central Monrovia.

The training sought to

database of female journalists, bloggers, and activists in Liberia has been built," Mr. Joseph said adding that a one-day training workshop on women's rights online issues was earlier held in Liberia to train 40 female journalists, bloggers, and activists.

The CEMESP Executive Director thanked MFWA and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ghana for financing the project which he described as key in advancing democracy and rights of women in an era of internet and social media advancement.

An official of the Media Foundation for West Africa who attended the training said he was glad to see young women

security practitioner, Alpha Senkpeni- the Executive Director of Local Voices Media Group, Journalists Bettie Johnson Mbayo, and women rights activist Facia Harris were the presenters for each of the sessions.

Participants at Tuesday's training were introduced to Digital Rights, Social Media and Online Privacy, Identifying and Dealing with Online Abuses against Women, Digital Storytelling, and Digital Content Creation.

The workshop also trained the participants on the effective ways of promoting women's rights online in Liberia and fashioned ways by which the participants can collaborate and contribute to Women's Rights Online advocacy to increase public awareness and respect for online rights to help ensure that an enabling internet environment is created for women to access and use the Internet and benefit from its potential.

The Vice President of the Press Union of Liberia- Daniel Nyankona speaking at the training acknowledged the minimum participation of women in online activities as well as the absence of women in leadership roles in newsrooms across the country.

He stressed that women must take up the challenge to lead in the Liberian media by effectively using the knowledge acquired from such training in the discharge of their duties.

"Women will be able to influence the online ecosystem when they are effectively knowledgeable about the events and the terrain in which they operate. Training like this provides that knowledge" Nyakona added.

At the end of the training CEMESP setup a WhatsApp group which will serve as a platform to enable the participants to continuously engage and also support each other in times of promoting women's rights online and countering violation of women's rights online.

learn how to basically guard against online abuses and help other women remain engaged with online activities.

According to Kawku Krobea Asante, the implementation of this project spans from the fact that available data has shown that there are more women than men in most African Countries but that conversely, more African men are seen online than women.

Mr. Asante hoped that the project will address such online gender disparity and bring to the fold, more women who can use the internet to engage in content creation, fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

Lauren Kolleh- a cyber-



address what is seen as a wide gender gap in terms of access, affordability, and utilization of digital platforms in Liberia as more people continue to move online in Liberia.

CEMESP's Executive Director Malcolm Joseph remarked that his organization held the training in collaboration with the Ghana-based Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), with support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Accra, Ghana.

He said the training which is implemented in Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone seeks to increase public awareness and respect for online rights, particularly women's rights online rights as well as improve the digital literacy of least 200 women (female journalists, women's rights activists, among others) to advocate for women's rights online in the three West African countries.

"As a first step for the intervention in Liberia, a

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Humane Society Int'l, FDA combat crime against Wildlife

Humane Society International (HSI) in collaboration with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has organized a two-day Wildlife Law Enforcement training for the security sector and the judiciary aimed at combating crimes against wildlife in Liberia.

Speaking Tuesday, 07 September 2021 at the Forestry Training Institute (FTI) in Tubmanburg, Bomi County, County Inspector Jumah E. S. Goll challenged participants to enhance their skills to protect wildlife through implementation of the law.

Meanwhile, the Country Director of HIS, Morris Darbo said it is essential for security personnel and the judiciary to participate in FDA's mandate to ensure that Liberia's biodiversity is preserved.

Mr. Darbo revealed that Liberia presents a unique biodiversity hotspot in the sub-region that needs to be conserved for future generation.

He said HSI is happy to support the training of law enforcement actors and appealed to the participants to take the exercise as an opportunity to learn and join the Forestry Development Authority in combating wildlife crime in the country.



Inspector Goll emphasized that protection of wildlife is the collective effort of every Liberian, including the security sector and the judiciary.

He said understanding knowledge about wildlife species will go a long way to protect animals across the nation.

According to him, enforcing the law will ensure preservation of wildlife in their natural habitat and if Liberia's wildlife should be on par with others in the sub-region and Africa at large than serious attention should be given to the law protecting wildlife here.

The Technical Manager for Conservation Department from the FDA, Blamah S. Goll said the wildlife law enforcement training should be taken seriously to have insight on the protection of animals by law.

Manager Goll noted that knowledge acquired will go a long way to ensuring that law enforcers understand and apply laws that protect animals in the country.

He said that our forefathers should be lauded for preserving the biodiversity over the years and now this generation should be able to protect and preserve wildlife for the future. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



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NEC opens nomination for by-elections

National Elections Commission, (NEC), informs the public that, the Candidate Nomination Exercise for the four Representatives By-elections in Bong, Bomi, Grand Gedeh, and Nimba

in Electoral District #2, Bong county, Electoral District #1, Bomi county, Electoral District #1, Grand Gedeh county, and Electoral District #1 Nimba county, will run from Monday to Friday, at 9:00AM to 05:00PM, daily.

Candidate Nomination Period is in line with the key dates released for the four Representatives by-elections in Bong, Bomi, Grand Gedeh, and Nimba Counties. The Liberian Elections Management Body, (EMB), informs the public that all aspirants for the four separate by-elections must appear in person to return the nomination package during the period.

The statement concludes by saying, nomination forms for aspirants of Political Parties, coalitions or alliances will be delivered to the Chairperson or Secretary General of the Parties for distribution to their members, while Independent aspirants can pick up the forms themselves or through designed persons.

At the same time, NEC-Liberia informs the public that the accreditation exercise for Party Agents, the Media, local and international observers for the By-elections in Bong, Bomi, Grand Gedeh, and Nimba counties starts Friday, 10 September 2021 at the headquarters of the Commission in Sinkor.



counties opens Monday, 13 September 2021, at the headquarters of the Commission on 9th Street, in Sinkor.

NEC says, the Nomination Exercise for the four Representatives By-elections

A NEC-Liberia statement issued Wednesday, 8 September 2021 says, the Candidate Nomination Period will end on Friday, 24 September 2021.

According to NEC-Liberia statement issued on Wednesday, 8 September 2021, the

CDC-USA elects first female chairman

The United States Branch of the Congress for Democratic Change, CDC-USA, has made history by electing its first female National Chairman since the organization was founded in 2004.

Following a closely contested election, which was overseen by the CDC Global Chairman, Hon. Mulbah K. Morlu, Mrs. Constance G. Swen Duopu emerged as the winner, thus making history as the first female to be elected as National Chairman of the organization.

Mrs. Duopu joins the likes of Finance and Development Planning Minister, Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., who served as the first National Chairman of the organization.

Madam Duopu was among three contestants for the position. She holds a Master's

Liberia.

Mrs. Duopu closely won the heated election that was sometimes contentious and tense. The electoral process lasted throughout the night of Saturday, September 4th to early Sunday morning of September 5th, 2021.

Given the importance of the USA Branch to the Party and the Coalition, the election was graced by a high power delegation of some Executives of the Party in Liberia, including Chairman Morlu, VCA Hon. Garblah Williams; Montserrado Senator, Saah Joseph; Sinoe County District #1 Representative, Crayton Duncan; Liberia Ambassador accredited to the United States and Canada, Amb. George S. Patten; veteran Liberian Economist, Mr. Samuel Jackson, amongst others. The convention



Public reluctant to get AstraZeneca jab

By Kruah Thompson (Intern)

Liberia's Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Minister of Health, Doctor Francis Kateh observes that people who took the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine from May 1, to June 2021 are not turning out for the second jab.

"We know that there were people who took the AstraZeneca; they are not willing to come back and take their second dose", says Doctor Kateh.

Speaking with OK FM Tuesday in Monrovia he said there is enough of the AstraZeneca vaccines in the country and there are available, but cautioned those vaccines has expiration date.

On the other hand, he reveals that people are basically turning out very well for the Johnson & Johnson, but unfortunately for people who took the first dose of the AstraZeneca, turnout is less.

The Chief Medical Officer calls on Liberians to please make themselves available for the second dose of

vaccine, warning that if the vaccine expired, it will become useless.

"We cannot use them therefore, if those vaccines are damaged, it becomes difficult to replenish them."

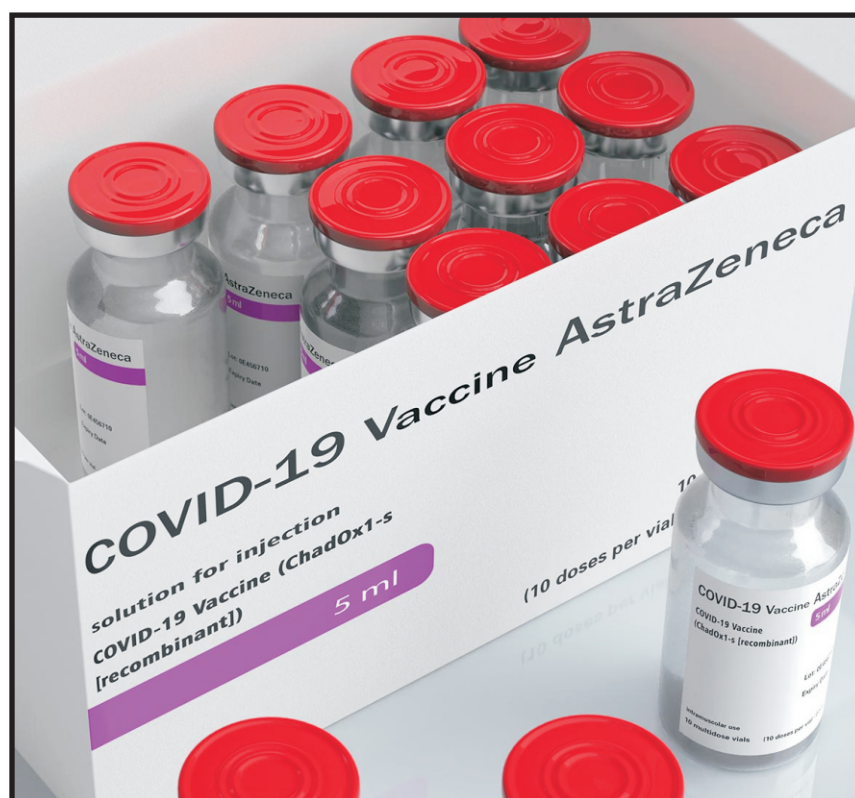
According to him, donors prioritize countries based on their consumption of the vaccine and that this is what led to the delay in getting the second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine in the

country.

He further warns, "If you missed your second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, this means you are not going to build your full immunity and if you do not build your full immunity, it's definitely a waste in taking the first dose."

The deputy minister of

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degree from the St. Marys University of Minnesota in Health and Human Services Administration. She is also a product of the University of Liberia. She brings a wealth of brilliance, eloquence, leadership and strong community organizing background to the Chairmanship.

As a strong community organizer, she previously served the Minnesota Chapter as the Vice Chairman for Operations and later for Administration. She also served for the last two years as Chair of the Women's League of the Party in the United States. She also served as head of Sinoe County Association of the Americas (SCAA) where she was instrumental in supporting education and human capital development efforts in

also brought together a cross section of CDCians from the length and breath of the United States.

Mrs Duopu thanked President Weah for his visionary leadership for the Country and the Party, which is an inspiration to motivating her support to his re-election efforts as National Chairman of the Diaspora base of the Party.

She also thanked her supporters and all partisans of the CDC-USA Branch who braved the COVID pandemic to attend the convention to repose such confidence in her as their leader. She promised to work tirelessly with the Global Chairman, Morlu for the re-election of President George Manneh Weah in 2023. To foster reconciliation and unity, she

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

President Weah remains young people's barrier breaker

--West Point Commissioner says

By Lewis S. Teh

The Commissioner of the township of West Point Mr. William Wea says President George Maneh Weah has proven himself to be a barrier

people in Liberia. As you all can see the number of young people in government including myself can't be compared to previous regime," Commissioner Wea said at the start of rice distribution with elderly people on 7

country, saying he is glad to form part of the transformation process.

He claimed however that previous regimes branded young people as destructive and obstacle to societal growth, adding that it was the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) - led government that put smiles on the faces of the young people.

He said the CDC - led government is restoring the hope of every young person by incorporating them into the governance system.

Though Commissioner Wea didn't name the particular regime that refused to accommodate young people the opportunity to serve, he maintained that the CDC government under President Weah has proven to be the only government that considers the involvement of young people as a possible step to nation building.

"Our involvement into key governmental positions is a testament to President Weah's desire to rebuilding this country," he added.--
Edited by Winston W. Parley



Pres. George M. Weah

breaker for young people, commending the president for the number of young people in government.

"President Weah has proven himself to be the barrier breaker for ... young

September 2021 in West Point.

The West Point Commissioner explained that President Weah's decision to incorporate young people in key governmental positions is a testament to his desire for the rebuilding of this

Lonestar Cell MTN launches new service delivered on tricycle

By Lewis S. Teh

Liberia's leading GSM Company Lonestar Cell MTN has again launched a new service which for the first time will take the company's services directly to its many valuable customers in Montserrado and its environs using tricycle.

The mobile company launched the program called Service On the Go on Wednesday, 8 September 2021 at its head office in Congo Town with two tricycles that will go around town, taking services directly to customers and subscribers.

Making remarks at the formal launching ceremony, Lonestar Cell MTN Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Rahul De said Lonestar Cell MTN remains committed to providing valuable services to its many customers and subscribers across the country.

He said the company's ideas and philosophy are taking services to the people



instead of people coming to the company, saying further, "Our ambition is to ensure our customers live a modern and connective life."

Rahul noted that it is against this backdrop that Lonestar MTN thought to create relevant and practical solutions like the service center wheels which will

provide great service and easy access to its products and services.

He continued that the company's trained customer experience representative will provide services via the newly designed tricycles known as the service center wheels when traveling to

House concurs with Senate

-to establish Trehnbo Vocational Institute

By Ethel A Tweh

The Plenary of the House of Representatives has concurred with a Senate engrossed bill, seeking to create Trehnbo Vocational Institute in Grand Kru County, Southeast Liberia.

The bill was submitted Tuesday, August 3, 2021 by Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert T. Chie, and subsequently passed by the Senate's Plenary. The proposed institute is expected to offer livelihood skills in masonry, carpentry, plumbing,

pursuit of youth empowerment, decentralization of educational facilities and privileges and economic development." He added.

It is also to create, promote and implement co-educational institute of vocational learning within the county and to grant certificates and diploma.

The institute will promote and maintain centres of learning where constituents of all races, classes and faiths, gender and ethnic settings can enjoy equal opportunity of vocational education and learning



general agriculture, home economies, electricity, small scale mining and environmental technology, among others.

Pro-Temp Chie during the submission said when established, the TVI will admit and benefit students mainly from Grand Kru and counties in the Southeast, including the rest of Liberia.

"I therefore seek your prompt endorsement and approval of the proposed Act in

activities.

The bill details that the Trehnbo Vocational Institute shall have Board of Trustees, Director and Deputy Director for Administration, Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, Assistant Director for Fiscal Affairs, Assistant Director for Records, Registration and Admission, Assistant Director for Students Affairs and Heads of Department and Programs, respectively. -
Editing by Jonathan Browne

homes, communities and small businesses.

Also speaking, Lonestar Cell MTN Senior Manager for Sales and Distribution Raphael Tawiah said the company has many services that are valuable in Montserrado, adding that the new service will ease customers the tension of leaving their homes to come to the company's office to do business.

"This new service will ease up tension," Tawiah said, adding that at Lonestar Cell MTN, they create smooth and

convenient service for customers.

The initiative according to him was adopted by the MTN regional vice president for Africa and they had to borrow the concept to implement it here in Liberia for the first time.

"We [are] going directly to our homes, and their doorsteps including various neighborhoods, providing services," Mr. Tawiah said.

For his part, the regional vice president for MTN Africa

Français

Weah Engage des lobbyistes américains pour redorer l'image du Libéria

L'administration du président George Manneh Weah vient de louer les services de trois agences de lobbying et de relations publiques américaines afin de polir l'image du Libéria vis-à-vis de Washington.

Le malaise commençait à prendre le dessus sur certains Libériens qui estimaient que les relations du Libéria avec son allié historique, à savoir notamment les États-Unis d'Amérique, se sont profondément refroidies sous le régime actuel. Le bureau du président a ainsi recruté trois sociétés de lobbying et de relations publiques (RP) pour un montant de 660 000 \$ US par an pour aider à approfondir les relations du régime actuel avec le Congrès, l'administration de Joe Biden et le public américain.

Les États-Unis restent un partenaire historique stratégique de la République du Libéria et leur tradition d'amitié, de solides relations et liens bilatéraux étaient au

beau fixe pendant l'administration du prédécesseur du président Weah, Mme Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Cette amitié a attiré des millions de dollars d'investissements dans le pays d'après-guerre, pour renforcer et améliorer les secteurs clés et les institutions de l'État, dont les forces de défense et de sécurité et les autres forces de sécurité, l'éducation et l'électricité, entre

autres.

Mais depuis l'ascension au pouvoir de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) en janvier 2018, l'on a l'impression qu'il y a un déclin général dans les relations du Libéria avec les États-Unis, ce qui a incité d'autres à exhorter le gouvernement à rechercher

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Ellen remporte un autre prix

L'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf devrait se voir remettre le prix Emily Winifred Dickson lors d'une cérémonie virtuelle du mercredi 8 septembre 2021 à 14h (heure normale d'Irlande) via la chaîne YouTube RCSI.

Emily Winifred Dickson a dépassé les frontières lorsqu'elle est devenue la première femme membre du RCSI en 1893, faisant d'elle la première femme membre de l'un des collèges royaux de chirurgie en Grande-Bretagne

et en Irlande. En 2015, RCSI a créé le Prix Emily Winifred Dickson en l'honneur des réalisations de cette femme pionnière.

Dans le cadre de la cérémonie, l'ancien présidente Sirleaf, le Libéria et la première femme élue chef d'État d'Afrique, prononcera un discours, suivi d'une discussion de questions-réponses avec le professeur Mark Shrimme, O'Brien Chair of Global Surgery à l'Institute of Global Surgery du RCSI, Université de médecine et

des sciences de la santé.

« Nos plus chaleureuses félicitations à notre fondatrice, l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, qui recevra demain le prix Emily Winifred Dickson du Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland en reconnaissance de ses réalisations pionnières en tant que femme leader et défenseuse de la paix, de la justice et de la démocratie », lit-on dans un article du Centre présidentiel Ellen Johnson Sirleaf pour les femmes et le développement.

À propos de Son Excellence Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Internationalement connue sous le nom de « Dame de fer de l'Afrique », la lauréate du prix Nobel Ellen Johnson Sirleaf est l'une des principales promotrices de la liberté, de la paix, de la justice, de l'autonomisation des femmes et de la démocratie.

En tant que première femme chef d'État d'Afrique démocratiquement élue, elle a dirigé le Libéria vers la réconciliation et le redressement après la guerre civile qui a duré dix ans dans le pays, ainsi que la crise

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

L'incertitude en Guinée voisine est inquiétante

Les nouvelles d'un coup d'État militaire en Guinée voisine sont très inquiétantes d'autant plus que ce pays voisin est très proche du Libéria et les deux pays partagent des liens culturels, ethniques et économiques.

Toute perturbation dans ce pays a toujours eu de graves répercussions négatives sur le Libéria, qu'il s'agisse d'Ebola, de la politique ou des affaires. Les deux pays sont tellement imbriqués que ce qui affecte l'un a un impact sur l'autre.

Par conséquent, avec les informations provenant de Guinée selon lesquelles des soldats armés ont placé le président élu en état d'arrestation, ordonné aux habitants de rester à l'intérieur et fermé toutes les frontières, il y a lieu de s'inquiéter.

Le ministère guinéen de la défense avait dit avoir dissipé la nouvelle du coup d'État, affirmant que la garde présidentielle avait réprimé la révolte et qu'il contrôlait la situation.

Mais un groupe de soldats sous la bannière du Comité national de rassemblement et du développement (NCRD) aurait affirmé avoir évincé le président Alpha Condé en raison de la corruption généralisée, de la mauvaise gestion et de la pauvreté. Il a également annoncé la suspension de la constitution.

Si le soi-disant coup d'État en Guinée réussissait, le Libéria pourrait se sentir brûlé de plusieurs manières : Premièrement, les deux pays sont membres de l'Union du fleuve Mano et de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO). Au Libéria, nous dépendons du pays voisin pour les produits de base tels que le poivre, les oignons, les vêtements et les ustensiles, entre autres. En outre, le port de Conakry sert de conduit majeur pour la plupart des voitures d'occasion entrant au Libéria en raison des tarifs élevés au port franc de Monrovia.

Ensuite, il y a la question des mariages mixtes et des relations tribales. Il y a des Malinkés aussi bien en Guinée qu'au Libéria, de même, des membres de la tribu Mano, Gio, Kpelle sont des deux côtés.

Plus tôt cette année, le gouvernement de la Guinée et le gouvernement du Libéria ont signé une importante concession qui permettrait aux minerais guinéens d'être transportés à travers le Libéria pour être expédiés à l'étranger. L'investissement coûtera des millions de dollars et profitera aux peuples des deux pays.

En outre, les troupes guinéennes se sont battues et sont mortes au Libéria pour rétablir la paix dont jouissent les Libériens aujourd'hui, nous ne pouvons donc pas rester assis et regarder ce pays dégénérer en flammes.

Nous appelons à une intervention rapide pour ramener le calme dans le pays voisin, car cela est important pour la sécurité régionale, la paix et la coopération économique. La Guinée est un partenaire clé de l'Union du fleuve Mano et de la CEDEAO.

Français

Weah Engage des lobbyistes américains

une relation renforcée avec Washington.

L'année prochaine, le Libéria célébrera le 200e anniversaire de l'arrivée des premiers esclaves américains libérés qui finiront par fonder le Libéria en 1847.

La décision du gouvernement dirigé par Weah intervient également à un moment crucial, où le Libéria se rapprochant de ses saisons politiques, des élections présidentielles et législatives de 2023. Les politiciens, principalement ceux qui briguent la présidence, se vanteront de leurs liens avec les États-Unis et de la façon dont leurs liens peuvent profiter au Libéria.

Les entreprises suivantes se sont inscrites en vertu de la loi sur l'enregistrement des agents étrangers (FARA) pour leur travail au nom du ministère d'État aux Affaires présidentielles du Libéria et de l'ambassade du Libéria à Washington :

Le cabinet de lobbying de Washington Ice Miller Strategies, qui appartient au cabinet d'avocats d'Indianapolis Ice Miller, a été contacté pour un montant de 300 000 \$ par an pendant trois ans pour faire pression sur le Congrès, l'exécutif et les « organisations multilatérales basées aux États-Unis qui

sont intéressés par la situation économique et politique de la République.

Le cabinet contribuera également à la sensibilisation des médias "en mettant l'accent sur l'amélioration du profil du bicentenaire de la Réunion du Libéria, du tourisme et de la culture auprès des Noirs américains".

Les partenaires Jarrod Loadholt et Guillermo Christensen et le principal Timothy Day sont inscrits sur le compte.

Bakari Sellers de là Caroline du Sud sera payé 120 000 \$ par an pendant trois ans pour produire une "stratégie d'engagement des médias et de la presse des États-Unis pour la République, le président Weah et les principaux responsables afin de rehausser l'image du Libéria dans les médias américains et attirer une attention positive sur la République auprès du public américain et afro-américain.

Enfin, la Carbon Thread Agency d'Atlanta, en Géorgie, a aussi été recrutée pour un montant de 240 000 \$ pour un engagement d'un an afin de créer un « plan global de marque, numérique et créatif pour la république et le président Weah en mettant l'accent sur l'élévation du profil de la réunion du bicentenaire du Libéria, le tourisme et la culture avec les Noirs américains.

Ellen remporte un autre prix

d'Ebola, remportant une reconnaissance internationale pour avoir réalisé des changements économiques, sociaux et politiques.

Reconnue comme un leader mondial de l'autonomisation des femmes, la présidente Sirleaf

a reçu le prestigieux prix Nobel de la paix en 2011.

Elle est récipiendaire de la Médaille présidentielle de la liberté - la plus haute distinction civile des États-Unis - pour son courage personnel et son engagement indéfectible à étendre la liberté et à améliorer la vie des Africains.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Kevin Watkins

Mettre un terme à l'économie du ruissellement en matière de vaccins

LONDRES - Lors de la grande famine irlandaise des années 1840, qui coûta la vie à plus d'un million de citoyens irlandais, d'importantes quantités de produits alimentaires furent exportés d'Irlande vers l'Angleterre. Pour le gouvernement whig de Londres, la défense des intérêts commerciaux, les impératifs de l'économie du laissez-faire, et l'indifférence politique à l'égard des souffrances irlandaises l'emportaient sur toute obligation d'empêcher une famine de masse en intervenant sur les marchés.

La réponse internationale apportée à la pandémie de COVID-19 présente de malheureuses similitudes avec la réaction anglaise face à la famine irlandaise. Alors que la science et l'industrie nous confèrent aujourd'hui les moyens d'immuniser le monde entier, neuf mois après la première injection d'un vaccin contre le COVID-19, les pays riches usent de leur puissance de marché pour détourner les doses des pays les plus pauvres, mettant ainsi en péril plusieurs millions de vies humaines.

Songez à plusieurs mesures récentes prises par l'Union européenne. En vertu d'un contrat avec Johnson & Johnson (J&J), le bloc a importé plusieurs millions de doses de vaccins en provenance d'une société basée en Afrique du Sud - pays dans lequel seulement 11 % de la population est vaccinée, et où le variant Delta entraîne actuellement une explosion du nombre de cas. Les efforts de réorientation des exportations de vaccins de l'Europe vers l'Afrique du Sud et ses voisins ont été contrés par une diplomatie dissuasive brutale, l'UE menaçant d'agir en vertu d'une clause du contrat J&J interdisant les restrictions d'exportation.

Le message adressé au monde est clair : les commissaires et dirigeants politiques de l'UE ont beau dissenter lors des rassemblement de l'ONU sur l'importance de la coopération internationale et l'équité vaccinale à travers la planète, c'est bien la main de fer du nationalisme vaccinal qui mène la politique dans le monde réel. Lorsqu'il s'agit de mettre en balance les vies humaines en Afrique avec les avantages marginaux pour la santé de citoyens européens déjà protégés, les Africains arrivent en lointaine deuxième position.

L'ancien Premier ministre britannique Gordon Brown a récemment évoqué l'Afrique du Sud comme le « symbole choquant » d'une injustice vaccinale à travers le monde. L'ancien chef du gouvernement britannique a tout à fait raison. L'injustice est toutefois planétaire. Dans un monde qui a distribué plus de cinq milliards de doses, plus de 70 % des citoyens des pays riches ont désormais reçu au moins une injection, contre seulement 1,8 % dans les pays les plus pauvres.

Cette absence d'équité est meurtrière. Nous savons que la vaccination confère une protection efficace contre les hospitalisations et décès liés au COVID-19. Comme l'a rappelé le président américain Joe Biden à ses compatriotes, c'est une « pandémie des non vaccinés ». Ceci vaut également au niveau mondial. Or, les États-Unis et d'autres pays riches se préparent actuellement à distribuer des doses de rappel à des citoyens déjà protégés, dont la santé est désormais peu à risque, détournant ainsi les approvisionnements loin de pays dans lesquels les vaccins constituent littéralement une question de vie ou de mort.

L'actuelle répartition des vaccins est non seulement indéfendable sur le plan éthique, mais également épidémiologiquement myope et économiquement ruineuse. Le fait de priver de vaccins d'importants pans de la population mondiale augmente le risque de voir émerger des mutations virales résistantes aux vaccins, et ainsi de prolonger la pandémie et de mettre en danger tous les êtres humains, partout. Par opposition, l'élargissement de la vaccination dynamiserait la reprise économique - ajoutant 9 000 milliards \$ à la production mondiale d'ici 2025, d'après les estimations du Fonds monétaire international - tout en contribuant à empêcher d'importants reculs sur le plan de la pauvreté, de la santé et de l'éducation.

Les calculs les plus basiques démontrent qu'il est possible de vacciner le monde entier. D'après les estimations de l'entreprise d'analytique de données Airfinity, environ 12 milliards de doses de vaccins seront produites en 2021, et cette production sera multipliée

par deux en 2022. C'est plus que suffisant pour atteindre l'objectif international de 40 % de couverture d'ici la fin de l'année, et de 60-70 % d'ici la mi-2022.

Malheureusement, ce n'est pas suffisant pour atteindre les objectifs tout en satisfaisant le désir des pays riches d'accumuler des stocks excédentaires. En vertu de leurs contrats actuels, ces pays riches pourraient atteindre une pleine couverture vaccinale pour 80 % de leur population, rappels inclus pour les plus vulnérables, et disposer encore de 3,5 milliards de doses en excédent, d'après les données d'Airfinity - soit suffisamment pour couvrir le déficit des pays pauvres tout en ménageant aux pays riches une réserve encore généreuse.

Au lieu de cela, les pays riches œuvrent activement contre les efforts de coopération internationale. Les pays donateurs ont investi 10 milliards \$ dans le dispositif COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX), programme international destiné à fournir des vaccins aux pays les plus pauvres de la planète. Ce financement a permis de conclure des contrats pour environ deux milliards de doses. Par ailleurs, la Banque mondiale a versé 4 milliards \$ en faveur du mécanisme COVAX ainsi que d'une initiative de l'Union africaine pour l'achat de vaccins. Or, le dispositif COVAX et les pays pauvres se trouvent constamment mis sur la touche des approvisionnements de la part des fabricants de vaccins pour lesquels les pays riches semblent prioritaires, notamment en raison des menaces formulées par leurs gouvernements autour d'actions en justice et de pénalités financières.

Comme le démontre la pandémie, le monde a besoin d'une répartition plus efficace et plus équitable des capacités de production de vaccins. Le développement de ces capacités nécessitera partage de connaissances, transferts technologiques, levées de propriété intellectuelle, et investissements à long terme. Sans une démarche immédiate et décisive consistant à remplacer l'actuelle approche de ruissellement dans la fourniture des vaccins par une redistribution du marché, la formule de John Maynard Keynes selon laquelle « À long terme, nous sommes tous morts » revêtira une résonance tragique.

Trois priorités se dégagent. Premièrement, la distribution des vaccins doit s'inscrire en phase avec l'objectif de 40 % de couverture dans tous les pays d'ici la fin de l'année. Les pays riches doivent accepter d'ajuster leur propre calendrier afin que les fabricants de vaccins puissent livrer COVAX et les pays en voie de développement. Accumuler des stocks excédentaires dans les pays riches, pendant que des êtres humains meurent faute de vaccin dans les pays pauvres, est absolument indéfendable. Il est également nécessaire que les donateurs apportent les 3,8 milliards \$ supplémentaires de financements nécessaires pour enclencher les options de COVAX sur 760 millions de doses additionnelles d'ici la fin de l'année 2021.

Deuxièmement, pour honorer les objectifs internationaux, nous devons agir au-delà des dons de vaccins par intermittence, pour privilégier le partage coordonné de doses à grande échelle. Il est nécessaire que l'UE, le Royaume-Uni et les États-Unis partagent immédiatement 250 millions de doses supplémentaires - soit moins d'un quart de leur surplus collectif - dans le cadre de COVAX d'ici la fin septembre, en parallèle d'un calendrier clair pour la fourniture d'un milliard de doses additionnelles d'ici le début de l'année 2022.

Troisièmement, au-delà de l'équité en matière de vaccins, il est urgent de renforcer les systèmes de santé, pas seulement via l'approvisionnement en oxygène médical (actuellement en situation critique de pénurie), en produits thérapeutiques et en équipements de diagnostic, mais également via des investissements à l'appui des professionnels de la santé et des infrastructures nécessaires pour l'injection des vaccins. L'écart actuel entre les fonds promis et les fonds alloués à cet effet s'élève à environ 16,6 milliards \$.

Notre capacité à sauver des vies, à faire renaître l'espoir, ainsi qu'à rebâtir des économies bouleversées par la pandémie, n'est pas seulement limitée par un manque de vaccins ou de financements, mais également par un déficit de justice et de coopération internationale. Les gouvernements des pays riches récitent souvent le mantra selon lequel « personne ne sera en sécurité tant que tout le monde ne le sera pas ». Il appartient désormais à leurs dirigeants d'agir en conséquence.

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Between June and July the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention ranked Liberia's COVID infection rate at Level 5 but the CDC has been reversing the ranking due to improvement made by the Government of Liberia, **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Respect term limit

President George Manneh Weah has challenged leaders of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to take seriously the issue of adherence to constitutional term limits to avoid political and security upheavals in the sub-region.

President Weah asserted that if the manipulation of constitutional terms is

not honoring our political commitments to respect the term limits of our various constitutions," Weah queried.

Addressing the extraordinary summit of the Authority of Heads of State and Government held virtually on Wednesday to discuss the situation in neighboring Guinea and Mali, the President Weah reminded his colleagues of Liberia's zero-tolerance for military coups,

Democracy and Good Governance.

He, however, called for a more coordinated and all-embracing mediation strategy for Guinea saying the inclusion of all the major stakeholders is paramount so as not to repeat the missteps of Mali.

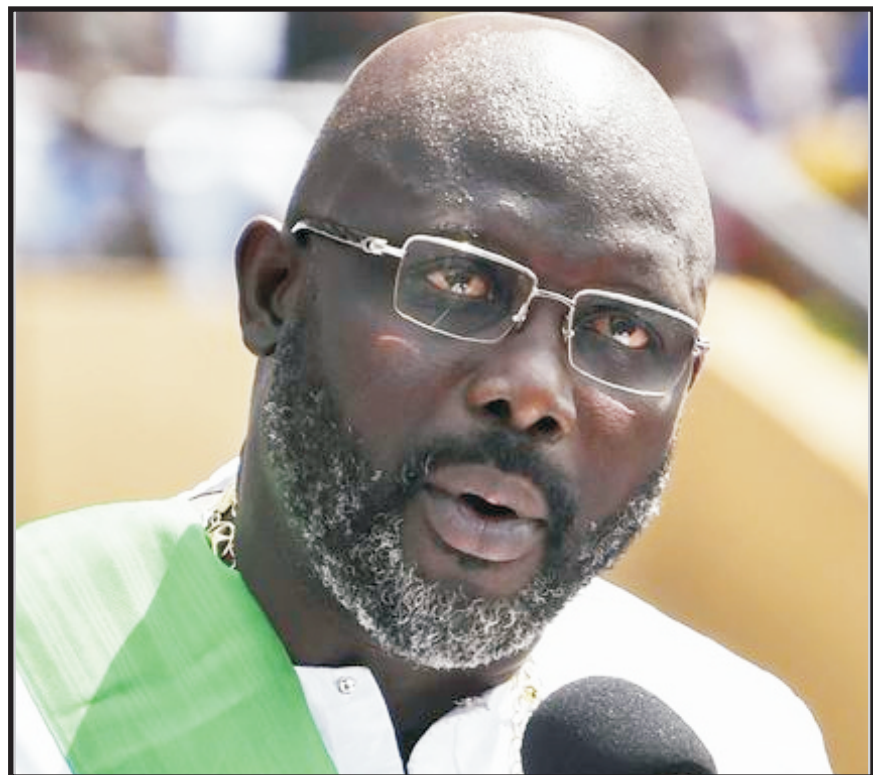
President Weah then offered Liberia's willingness to be a part of the ECOWAS Mediation Team for Guinea saying Liberia is well placed to be included given the socio-cultural relations and geographic proximity that both countries share.

Meanwhile, ECOWAS has unequivocally reiterated its condemnation of the coup and will immediately dispatch a high-level mediation team to Conakry to examine the political, social, and humanitarian situations.

ECOWAS also called for the immediate and unconditional release of President Alpha Conde and all others detained in relation to the military takeover.

The Regional Bloc cautioned the Coup Leaders of the CNRD that they will be held individually and collectively responsible for the safety and well-being of President Conde and others who were also detained.

Guinea has now been immediately suspended from the regional body and all its subsidiaries, pending the restoration of democratic rule to that West African Nation.



sternly discouraged by ECOWAS, the region could be spared the agony of military coups.

"While we are condemning these military coups, we must also muster the courage to look into what is triggering these unconstitutional takeovers".

"Could it be that we are

recounting how Liberia is still reeling from such unconstitutional ascendancy to power.

President Weah said Liberia as a notable member of the United Nations, African Union and ECOWAS aligns its position on Guinea and Mali to the position of these multilateral bodies that support ECOWAS' Protocol on

Give military

Starts from back page

situation in Guinea.

The junta's capture of President Conde on Sunday and seizure of power have sent chills across West Africa, with amplified calls for governments in the region to avoid tampering with their countries' constitutions, fight corruption, support national security and depoliticize law enforcement and the justice system, some of which are believed to have triggered Conde's fall.

Additionally, Zargo has spoken against the idea of trying to "find something for the military" at the eleventh hour, and urged the need to "give to the military what they deserve," create the enabling environment and go to the military barracks, see how soldiers are living and be able to renovate the barracks.

He noted that Liberia's military barracks including Camp Jackson and other barracks in Lofa and Nimba counties for instance, are still not up to pre-war status, thereby calling for budgetary allotment to be made to enhance the capacity of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) to boost soldiers' morale.

Talking specifically about Liberia, he explained that before the international partners left Liberia, there was this security sector reform that was established with a lot of consultations done,

involving the United Nations peacekeeping mission and the Ministry of Justice here.

Based on the reform that was established, Sen. Zargo said by now Liberia's military should have a population of over 5,000 personnel based on the projection made at the time. He also said by now the military should have its own agriculture and engineering battalions to energize the military.

Moreover, he said there was a projection that by now the police here should have over 8,000 personnel, but that has not been done.

Meanwhile, Sen. Zargo has commended President George Manneh Weah for giving the marching order to the military here to go to the border between Liberia and Guinea to ensure that it is policed in ways and manner that will prevent any unhealthy cross border activities at this time.

In spite of condemnation from the international community and regional leaders, reports from Guinea say the coup leader Col. Mamady Doumbouya has said a new union government would be formed in weeks without being definite about the exact time.

Col. Doumbouya is said to have gone further to instruct former officials to turn over official vehicles to the military, and also ordering them not to leave the country, among others.

Lonestar Cell MTN

Cont'd from page 7

Ebenezer T. Asante congratulated Lonestar Cell MTN for the great initiative, describing it as rewarding in terms of service delivery.

"For us to be able to deliver that customer value it means we should be able to identify all the challenges the customer will have," he said.

Meanwhile, the Corporate Communications Manager of Lonestar Cell MTN Ms. Lisa White told reporters that the new service will include the registration and swapping of

sim card, mobile money cash in and cash out transactions, data activation, and resetting of mobile money pin, among others.

She detailed that the tricycles will travel to Sinkor, [Japan Freeway], Congo Town, Bushrod Island, Matadi and other communities.

Ms. White explained that on Sundays and Fridays, the service center on wheels will also visit various Churches and Mosques to provide services.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

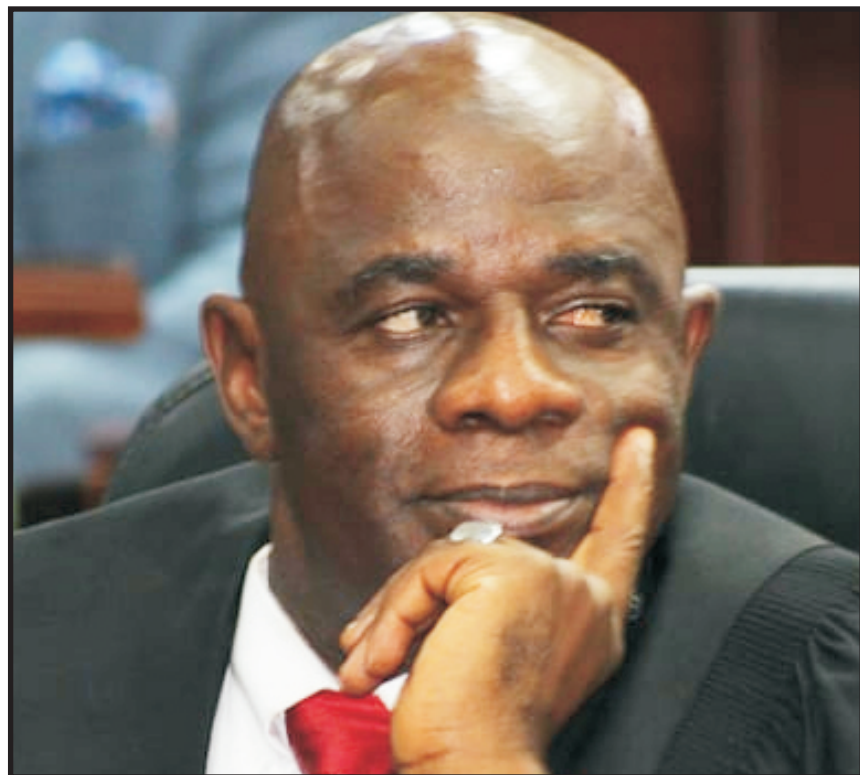
I want to be reinstated

By Lincoln G. Peters

Impeached former Liberian Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Kabineh M. Ja'neh says he wants to be reinstated in his position as ordered by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Court, threatening to take the Government of Liberia back to the regional court over its alleged refusal to implement the mandate.

"I will not rest until the Government of Liberia comply with the regional court's ruling. Now my position, I want to be reinstated ... in my position and I will make sure with the backing of the law that everything contained in the ruling is complied with," Cllr. Ja'neh said Tuesday, 7 September in an interview with local broadcaster Kool FM in Paynesville.

Cllr. Janeh was removed as an Associate Justice of the Liberian Supreme Court through an impeachment process that he later



challenged as unconstitutional and won at the ECOWAS Court.

In filing his complaint before the ECOWAS Court, Ja'neh had sought to be awarded general damages in an amount not less than US\$25,000,000.00 as compensation and an order directing the Republic of Liberia to restore him to his position of

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia.

However the ECOWAS Court awarded him US\$200,000 as reparation for moral prejudice he suffered for the violation of his rights following the case he filed against the Liberian authorities.

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In his radio interview Tuesday, Ja'neh noted that the regional court ruled that the Government of Liberia's action to remove him was illegal and had no basis in the law.

He continued that the court also instructed the government here to pay him US\$200,000 and provide all his compensations and benefits as if he was working because they had committed a moral prejudice and therefore they should reinstate him.

He explained that the court gave the government six months to fully comply with all of its mandates, but since the ruling in November 2020, the Liberian authorities have not complied with the court's mandate.

Ja'neh views the decision of the regional court as a warning to other African countries that they should respect the law, adding that he will make sure that he is reinstated.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

Give military what they deserve -Sen. Zargo urges



By Winston W. Parley

Days after a military junta dethroned President Alpha Conde's government in neighboring Guinea, Lofa

County Senator and Senate Committee Chair on Defense, Security, Intelligence and Veteran Affairs Steve Zargo says the necessary budgetary allotment should be made to

enhance Liberia's military capacity in ways that will make soldiers spirited, energized and willing to work.

"So if you want to enjoy the, the blessing and the protection of the military, treat them good. Treat them like your children ... Let's give them what they deserve," Sen. Zargo said Wednesday morning, 8 September in Monrovia when he appeared on local broadcaster Prime FM's live talk show.

According to Zargo, some of the issues that the Guinean junta cited as factors prompting the uprising against President Alpha Conde are applicable here, and therefore urged that Liberia and other countries in the sub-region should take note and learn a lesson from the

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