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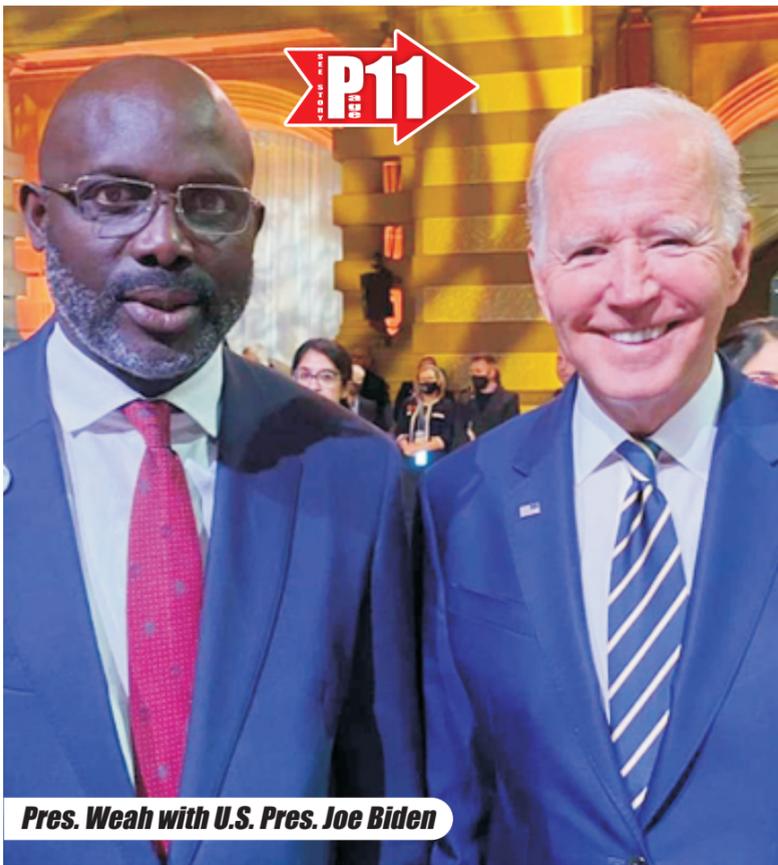
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VOL. 11 NO. 193

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2021

PRICE LD\$40.00



Pres. Weah with U.S. Pres. Joe Biden

# Weah: Together we can make the difference

# Cummings, Boakai pull and haul



Mr. Cummings

Amb. Boakai

3G good



# 4G better



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# Continental News

## Race to find survivors in Nigeria building collapse

Rescuers are searching for survivors in the wreckage of a 22-storey high-rise block that collapsed under construction in Nigeria's largest city, Lagos. At least five people have died and dozens are missing.

Despite heavy rain, rescue workers and locals used floodlights to work through the night, digging through rubble and twisted metal. Four survivors have been pulled from the wreckage.

The partially built block of luxury apartments came down on Monday.

What caused the collapse and how many people are trapped under the debris remains unclear.

Many relatives are now anxiously waiting to hear whether their loved ones have survived.

In the meantime, local authorities have ordered an investigation into the collapse and pledged to make the final report public. Femi

Adesina, a special advisor to President Muhammadu Buhari, said the president "commiserates with families who have lost loved ones".

He added that the president had urged the authorities to step-up their rescue efforts.

The building came down at around 14:45 local time (13:45 GMT) in the upmarket district of Ikoyi.

It was part of a complex named 360 Degrees Towers, which was intended to house luxury apartments, town houses and penthouses, according to the development's website, which has since been taken offline.

The housing scheme is being developed by Fourscore Homes Limited,

which has a portfolio of projects in the UK, US, South Africa, and other areas of Nigeria.

Construction worker Eric Tetteh, 41, told the Associated Press that his teams had been waiting for an excavator to arrive at the site when the building suddenly fell.

"Me and my brother, we escaped, but more people are there - more than 100 people," he said.

A witness who was working in an office building opposite the site told the BBC's Outside Source programme that he heard a sound, looked out of his window and "saw the building literally going down floor by floor."

Local authorities have put an emergency rescue plan into place, and local officials

have visited the site.

But according to AP, Lagos' deputy governor Femi Hamzat was met by crowds of angry people who accused authorities of not starting rescue efforts soon enough.

Some reports say the building, which had more than 20 storeys, was several floors higher than originally intended. There have been several building collapses in Lagos in recent years.

In 2019, 10 people died after a school collapsed in the commercial hub.

And in 2014, a six-storey building fell during a service by a celebrity televangelist, killing 116 people.

Building standards have often been criticised and Lagos state authorities recently launched a new scheme to improve certification. BBC



It is still unclear how many people are trapped under the rubble

## Zimbabwe president in UK for first time in 25 years

Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa has arrived in the UK for the COP26 summit.

This is the first time in 25 years that a Zimbabwean leader has set foot in the UK.

Relations between Zimbabwe and the UK became strained during the rule of Mr Mnangagwa's predecessor, Robert Mugabe, following the take-over of white-owned farms and violence against opposition

members.

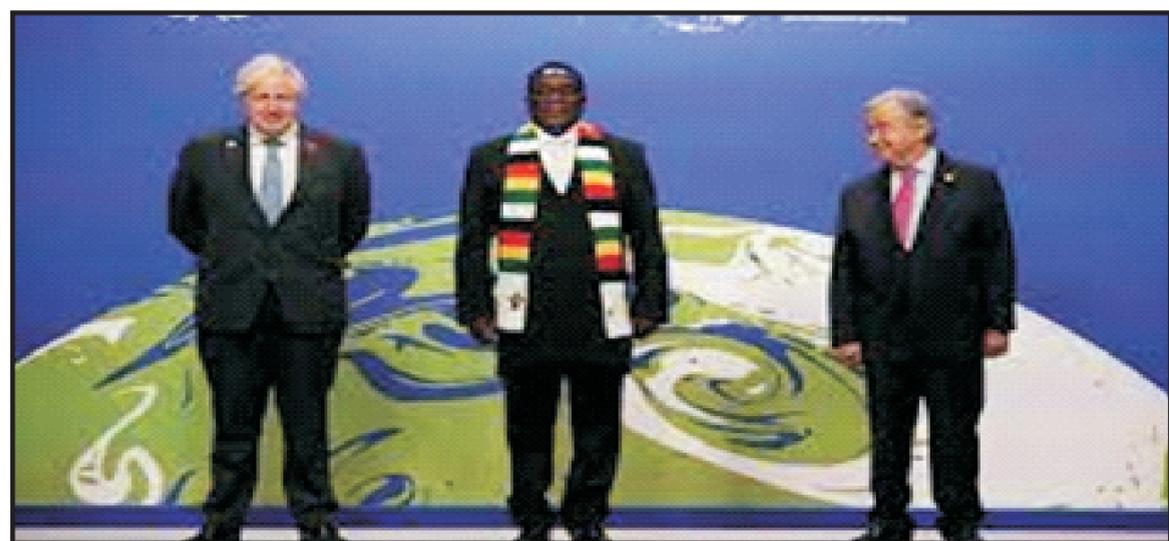
In a tweet, Mr Mnangagwa thanked UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and UN Secretary General António Guterres for welcoming him to the summit being held in the city of Glasgow in Scotland. Mr Mnangagwa tweeted a picture of himself with the two, and said that "reengagement is working". Social embed from twitter

Critics have dismissed suggestions that the visit is a diplomatic coup for the government.

"This is a UN Climate change summit not a bilateral meeting," one said..

During the weekend, Mr Mnangagwa told his supporters: "I have been invited by Boris Johnson, and he has indicated he might meet me one on one."

On Sunday, a Zimbabwean government spokesman posted a video of two UK-based supporters of the ruling Zanu-PF party, with trolleys full of cartons of alcohol, to celebrate his arrival. BBC



## Foreign troops fighting with Tigray rebels - Abiy



Abiy accuses Tigray rebels of wanting to return to power

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed says foreign forces have fought alongside Tigrayan rebels in recent battles in strategically important areas in Amhara region.

He was speaking to senior government officials in a televised address - the first since the reported capture of Dessie and Kombolcha cities.

He said "fighters who are not Ethiopian have taken part" in the recent battles around the two cities.

"There were white and black people who fought along the TPLF [Tigrayan People's Liberation Front] and died," he said, without being specific or presenting any evidence.

The TPLF has dismissed the allegations.

Mr Abiy said government's calls to arms from a few months ago had not been met with proper organisation despite the massive number of youths who had joined.

"Battles can go wrong for different reasons but in the end the country will win the war," Mr Abiy said, indicating the continuation of the fighting,

He accused the Tigrayan rebels of wanting to return to power to implement a policy in which members of one group are treated as "first-class citizens".

He also repeated an earlier statement from the government that rebel forces had killed more than 100 civilians in Kombolcha, which the Tigrayan forces have denied. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Digesting the AML's amended agreement

**THE GOVERNMENT OF** Liberia and the Management of ArcelorMittal Liberia recently signed an amended version of the Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) that commits one of the world's largest steel giants to investing an additional US\$800 million in Liberia. But even before the amended copy of the MDA was signed, citizens from the company's operational areas in Nimba and Grand Bassa counties had protested against the agreement, including a lawsuit and physical harassment and intimidation by taking country devils on AML's premises in Nimba to halt its operation.

**BUT WERE ALL** these anti-agreement actions justified really without reading and digesting the amendment made in the MDA? Or are Liberians saying they don't trust their own government under the leadership of President George Manneh Weah to seek their interest in this concession?

**THE NEW DAWN** has been leafing thru highlights of the amended Agreement and thinks ordinary citizens have lots to gain in terms of employment, county social development fund, scholarships, and vocational skills training, among others from the AML's investment, just as the government itself stands to benefit revenue under a win-win deal.

**AS THE FIRST** major investor under the Weah administration, ArcelorMittal's commitment to investing US\$800 million makes a very strong statement that the company aspires to rekindle confidence for private sector investments in the economy with over 2000 new jobs expected to be created during the construction phase, and as production volumes surge, its operation teams will also yield additional 1,000 new employments, targeting Liberians.

**THE EXPANSION PROJECT**, under the amended agreement, which encompasses processing, rail, and port facilities, promises to become one of the largest mining projects in the entire West Africa that would involve the construction of a new concentration plant and substantial expansion of mining operations with the first expected as early as 2023, ramping up to 15 million tonnes annually that could boost GDP.

**THE AGREEMENT THAT** is being criticized in some quarters also stands to strengthen the Government of Liberia's demand for other users including Guinean miners to utilize the Liberian infrastructure for their export. AML has committed to concluding a MultiUser Agreement with GoL after the ratification of the amended Agreement.

**WITH THE GLOBAL** economy stifled by the COVID-19 pandemic, Liberians should exercise patience and be optimistic about the future rather than seeking to throw out the bathwater with the baby. We need direct foreign investments to grow our economy and companies that are already on the ground should not be scared away, as was experienced with Sime Darby in Bomi and Grand Cape Mount counties.

**ARCELORMITTAL HAS BEEN** engaged with the Government of Liberia on the need for an amendment since August 2016 with the former Sirleaf Administration, demonstrating its partnership with Liberia to keep operations afloat and offering win-win solutions such as utilizing the HFO plants it had procured in 2014 to supply badly needed electricity in the country. Current negotiations with the Weah Administration began in earnest on September 17, 2020, and the company was engaged in 54 meetings with GoL, IMCC, and its international advisors over the 53 weeks it took to conclude by Sept. 10, 2021. Fifty of these meetings were on infrastructure sharing as requested by the Government of Liberia.

**LIBERIA WAS THE** first African country to comply with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). As founding member of Liberia's EITI, ArcelorMittal Liberia played an integral role in reporting its payments to Government, which was key to EITI's compliance reports. Besides, AML has been contributing US \$3.0 million annually to the counties in which it operates. To date, the company has paid \$45 million towards this commitment. In response to citizens' complaints that the funds were not benefiting the affected communities, AML convinced the Government of Liberia that 20% of these funds should be managed directly by these communities. This program kicked off in 2020.

**THE AML MANAGEMENT** has spent \$1.7 million to date on a scholarship program that has seen 29 Liberians attend universities abroad, while it reopened the Yekepa Vocational Training Center in 2017 by spending US \$7 million to refurbish this state-of-the-art training facility. Enrollment to date is 159 students with first batch of 45 recently graduated in 2021.

**LIBERIANS SHOULD BE** honest to themselves: what other company in the country has done so much just in 15 years, and is prepared to even do more? We believe strongly that the AML amended Mineral Development Agreement signed with the Government of Liberia provides enormous offers that Liberians should take advantage of.

# COMMENTARY

By José Manuel Barroso

## The Test of Pandemic Preparedness

**B**RUSSELS - The COVID-19 pandemic has instilled many harsh lessons. But the most important is that infectious-disease outbreaks pose a risk not just to public health but also to global security. Like nuclear proliferation, terrorism, and climate change, COVID-19 has shown that pandemics can rapidly undermine social stability and economic well-being.

This point may seem obvious now. But before the COVID-19 crisis, infectious disease barely registered on the global security agenda. If efforts to change that by establishing new funding and monitoring mechanisms for pandemic preparedness are to succeed, half measures won't cut it. To avoid a repeat of history, our preparations must reflect the true extent of the challenge. We must recognize that pandemics now represent one of the biggest - and most likely - threats to global security.

Preventing future pandemics will require not only the same level of investment as other global security threats, on which trillions are spent routinely, but also an entirely different way of thinking about global security. The pandemic represents a new form of globalized crisis, one that is both caused and exacerbated by the modern world's interconnectedness.

The Spanish influenza pandemic a century ago was not this kind of crisis. Back then, most people across the globe lived in less dense rural settings, and international travel was much slower and undertaken by only a small fraction of the population. But we saw something similar in 2008-09, when economies fell like dominoes. That was the first globalized crisis of this century, and we are now coming to grips with what will be the century's defining crisis: climate change.

The common denominator in each case is that the crisis demands solutions that no individual government can provide on its own. An infectious disease cannot be fought with traditional security countermeasures such as economic sanctions, bilateral diplomacy, deterrence, or military posturing. Rather, it calls for scientific collaboration, resilient health systems, and long-term investments in global health networks. Shows of force and unilateral acts of national self-preservation are useless. Global collaboration, strategic multilateralism, and transnational compassion are the only way out of this kind of disaster.

Judging by the current global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, we have yet to muster the necessary response. The coronavirus is still winning, and a lack of global coordination is the principal reason why. Instead of finding ways to work together toward common solutions in the face of an unprecedented crisis, key governments are

still putting their national interest first, at the expense of the global response we need.

The global solution to the vaccine distribution problem is the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility established last year. By ensuring equitable access to vaccines for people in the poorest countries, COVAX is not only saving millions of lives and protecting hundreds of millions more; it is also offering the best path to recovery. Even from a strictly economic standpoint, COVAX is far more cost-effective than any form of fiscal or monetary stimulus.

There are now more than 1.5 billion vaccine doses being produced each month - an astounding feat less than a year after the first vaccine was approved, and just 18 months into the pandemic. It is predicted that a total of more than 12 billion doses will have been produced by the end of this year. Yet while that is enough to vaccinate every adult on the planet, we are still a long way from doing so, because distribution is so inequitable. Shockingly, only 3.1% of eligible people in low-income countries have received at least one dose, on average, compared to more than 71.1% of people in high-income countries.

This disparity is both morally wrong and dangerously short-sighted. By prolonging the pandemic and allowing more opportunities for the virus to generate new variants, it ultimately harms everyone. But this failure will not be corrected until governments start acting globally. Although more than 190 countries support COVAX, many governments are struggling to balance between protecting their own populations and acting in ways that serve everyone's interest in global health and economic recovery.

Mustering a genuinely global response is necessary both to end this crisis and to avert the next one. It is not just individuals' health that is at stake. As COVID-19 has shown, pandemics can push millions of people into poverty and place unprecedented restrictions on their mobility. Such conditions can subvert even traditionally stable countries, by increasing the threat of political polarization, civil unrest, and violence. The longer the crisis continues, the greater that threat.

Globalized crises require that we globalize critical resources - in today's case, vaccines. G20 governments have the power to lead the way by ending the vaccine hoarding and export bans that have impeded supplies, and by donating more doses to COVAX. But as urgent as such measures are, they are mostly band-aids - solutions to a crisis within a crisis. To avoid a repeat of COVID-19, we need more expansive pandemic preparedness mechanisms built around the model of globalized resources that COVAX pioneered. We cannot wait until the next outbreak has already become a global security threat. By that time, it will be too late.

**The New Dawn**  
FULLY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,  
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,  
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 /  
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

# OPINION

By Mark Leonard

## Why COP26 Will Fail

UN Climate Change Conferences have failed to produce a model of global governance that can tame power politics, let alone forge a sense of shared destiny among countries. And there is little reason to believe this time will be different.

**B**ERLIN - The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) now underway in Glasgow might conclude with a big international agreement. But whatever tactical successes are achieved at COP26, the results are likely to mark a strategic setback for humanity - at least when compared to the hopes of climate activists.

The world is missing target after target. This should not be surprising: while a growing number of countries have set net-zero targets, for example, very few have credible plans to meet them. And even if we did meet existing targets, that would not be enough to achieve the 2015 Paris climate agreement's main goal: limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

In fact, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's latest report warns that the planet is likely to reach the 1.5°C limit in the early 2030s. As long as multilateral engagement is defined by nationalism, power politics, and emotion, rather than solidarity, law, and science, our future will continue to grow bleaker.

At the height of the Cold War, the American television series *The Outer Limits* told the story of an idealistic group of scientists staging a fake alien invasion of Earth, in the misguided hope that they could avert nuclear Armageddon by giving the world a common enemy against which to unite. When faced with the prospect of extinction, the logic went, the Soviet Union and the United States would turn their attention from competition to shared survival.

Today, nobody needs to contrive a common cause. Climate change poses as great a threat as any alien invasion. But, far from shocking national leaders out of their petty competition, it is being wielded as a weapon in a many-sided propaganda war. From Brazil and Australia to China and the US, countries are trying to game climate negotiations in order to shift the costs of adaptation onto others.

For example, the Brazilian government is trying to get the world to pay it to stop destroying the Amazon rainforest. Chinese President Xi Jinping will participate in COP26 only by video link, and Russian President Vladimir Putin might not attend at all.

Meanwhile, the advanced economies - including those that proudly claim to be committed to climate action - have broken their promise to provide \$100 billion annually to support the climate transition in the Global South. And even if they did deliver, it wouldn't be enough.

Developed economies are finding increasingly coercive ways of shaping other countries' behavior. Commitments by most of the Western and multilateral development banks to stop financing coal (now joined by China) restrict options for grid expansion in developing countries where demand for power is growing rapidly.

Influential countries have also urged the International Monetary Fund to attach green conditions to debt relief for poor countries, as well as to its new allocation of special drawing rights (the IMF's reserve asset). And the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism - a non-trade barrier intended to force exporters to Europe to shift to green production - disproportionately hurts small emitters in Africa and Eastern Europe with a lot to lose.

This is not to disparage coal bans, green financing, and carbon pricing. On the contrary, these tools have a crucial role to play in changing how the global economy works. But that doesn't mean we can disregard the (very serious) consequences for developing economies. Instead, we need to create a new grand bargain focused on supporting adaptation in the developing world.

More broadly, we must ensure that any multilateral agreement for tackling climate change is governed by international law, rather than dependent on the will of individual countries. And decision-making should be driven by scientific truths, not political slogans.

The Paris climate agreement's predecessor, the Kyoto Protocol, adopted in 1997, was broadly in line with this approach: it was a multilateral treaty, with legally binding international targets determined by the world's best scientists. But the Protocol also had many flaws, and it didn't end up going far.

The Paris accord took a very different tack. It was hailed as a triumph, because hopes for any agreement were so low. But it entailed a major compromise: it was based on non-binding commitments known as Nationally Determined Contributions. Countries could simply pursue the energy policies on which they had already decided, while pretending they were working together to tackle climate change. Not surprisingly, current NDCs are wholly inadequate to achieve the agreement's stated goals.

To be sure, climate-change COPs have often made important - if often procedural, boring, and technical - contributions to the climate fight. But showboating and power politics have stood in the way of real progress. And the media and civil-society circus that surrounds the conferences - intended to enforce accountability and transparency - has often impeded negotiators' ability to get things done.

More fundamentally, COPs have failed to produce a model of global governance that can tame power politics, let alone forge a sense of shared destiny among countries. And there is little reason to believe this time will be different.

Of course, the problem extends beyond UN Climate Change Conferences. While economic globalization has lifted millions out of poverty, it has fueled increasing concentration of wealth. In this context, efforts to advance shared interests can become less appealing, because they produce asymmetrical rewards.

Add to that the psychology of envy unleashed by social media, and it becomes all the more difficult to shift people's focus from their relative position in the global pecking order to the common good. These trends have undermined faith in the power of government, and fueled pessimism about the possibility that any solution will emerge.

The result is what social scientists call a collective action problem. Leaders and citizens alike conclude that the most rational short-term strategy is to pay lip service to the cause and hope others will solve the crisis. Meanwhile, the planet burns.

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# O-PED

By Andrés Velasco

## Latin America's Monster Movie

Latin America has long suffered from left-wing populism, and now it is plagued by right-wing populism. Several upcoming elections will likely pit a right-wing King Kong against a left-wing Godzilla, promising to leave only destruction in their wake.

**S**ANTIAGO - Latin Americans have many talents. One is a remarkable ability to misgovern ourselves, as the pandemic has made clear. Six of the 20 countries with the most COVID-19 deaths per capita in the world are in Latin America. Peru tops the list. Brazil is eighth.

Yes, poverty, a shortage of hospital beds, and overcrowded housing all helped the virus spread, but those factors alone cannot explain why the region has done so badly. Many countries in Asia and Africa suffer from the same problems but had fewer deaths per capita. Even countries that vaccinated people early, like Chile - or which, like Uruguay, were held up as successes when the virus first hit - have ended up mediocre performers.

Latin America is once again getting ready to lead the world - this time, in post-pandemic economic failure. The region enjoyed a couple of quarters of vigorous recovery, fueled by high commodity prices, but the engine of growth is already sputtering in several countries. The International Monetary Fund expects Latin America to be the world's slowest-growing region in 2022. Even worse, the losses look set to be permanent, with the IMF's just-released report on the region concluding that it will probably never return to the path for per-capita income envisaged before the pandemic. By contrast, the Fund projects that advanced economies will soon converge to their pre-virus trajectories.

Standard economic growth theory maintains that poor countries should gradually catch up with the rich. Latin America is the exception that confirms the rule: for the foreseeable future, it will fall even further behind.

In the past, the region's economy suffered whenever commodity prices fell. This time around, it will suffer during what looks like a commodity mini-boom. Part of the reason is that slow growth in productivity and income are longstanding problems. From the 1970s to the 1990s, Latin America missed the boat of export-oriented manufacturing that made East Asia rich. In the twenty-first century, it missed the boom in supply chains that benefited countries from Bulgaria to Vietnam. Mexico is tightly bound to North American supply chains. The large South American economies of Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia are not.

Economic scarring from the pandemic threatens to weaken long-term growth performance further. Thanks to the spectacularly selfish behavior of teachers' unions, which refused to re-open schools long after workers in other sectors had returned to their jobs, Latin American pupils were kept away from the classroom for an average of 48 weeks during the pandemic. In other emerging and developing economies, the figure was only 30 weeks. Privileged kids with access to broadband kept learning from their homes; poor kids did not. The impact on Latin American productivity will last for decades - and make income inequality worse.

A collapse in investment is also pushing down growth. A recent survey in Chile revealed that 70% of companies have put their expansion plans on hold. The reasons are not hard to fathom. In the same week the survey was conducted, downtown Santiago was vandalized, while Chileans learned that a far-right candidate had joined an extreme left-winger atop opinion polls ahead of the presidential election on November 21.

Latin America has long suffered from left-wing populism. Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela, Rafael Correa in Ecuador, and the Kirchners (husband and widow) in Argentina have excelled at portraying themselves as the people's only true representative - and then proceeding to weaken the democratic institutions that could hold them accountable for their disastrous policies. Now the region is also plagued by right-wing populism. Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, some of Álvaro Uribe's disciples in Colombia, and José Antonio Kast in Chile are reciting the same Trumpian script: law and order, anti-immigrant nationalism, and anti-woke cultural warfare. Chile, Brazil, and Colombia will soon hold presidential polls whose second rounds will likely pit a right-wing King Kong against a left-wing Godzilla. In the movie, the two monsters' clash left only destruction. The same could well happen in Latin America.

Moreover, while the pandemic may be ending, the specter of a debt crisis looms. The good news is that most countries did not lose market access, so governments and firms could keep borrowing to get over the pandemic hump. The bad news is that they now have to live with the consequences. Much higher public and private debt, shortening maturities, and rising world interest rates are a toxic combination. In several countries - including Brazil and Argentina - government debt ratios are already worryingly high. Faster-than-expected monetary tightening by the US Federal Reserve could set the stage for the kinds of debt runs and rollover crises that have often beset the region.

Yet, for all its woes, Latin America can begin growing again if it seizes two opportunities. One is the re-shoring prompted by the pandemic and by rising tensions between China and the West. Guangdong's loss could be Guadalajara's gain. And if the more advanced South American economies improve their ports and roads, and manage to keep their finances reasonably stable, they could benefit as well. This is their second (and perhaps last) chance to catch the supply chain boat they first missed a generation ago.

Greater investment in green infrastructure could also help. Multilateral lenders will be looking to finance projects in any shade of green, and the region should take full advantage of it. The trick will be to increase investment while adding as little as possible to the region's public-debt burden. In low-income countries, grants should play the central role. And for middle-income countries, equity inflows, private-public partnerships, and other kinds of innovative financing arrangements should take center stage.

According to the Inter-American Development Bank, Latin American governments can make room for green investment if they cut regressive expenditures. That is right, but easier said than done. Powerful players often strongly desire undesirable expenditure. Regressive and eco-unfriendly energy subsidies are an example. Just ask politicians in Argentina and Ecuador who have struggled to eliminate them.

"Brazil is the country of the future and always will be," goes the old adage. Nowadays, too many other poorly governed Latin American countries are courting the same destiny.

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*November 3, 2021*

*For Immediate Release*

## Op-Ed: An Enduring Development Partnership, USAID Liberia at 60 by USAID Liberia Mission Director Jim Wright



*President John F. Kennedy greeting President William Tubman in 1961*

On November 3, 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed an executive order establishing the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as the world’s premier foreign assistance agency with the mission to help countries receiving American aid “make a determination that they can solve their problems.” Liberia was among the first countries in which USAID established a mission 60 years ago, marking the beginning of an enduring development partnership that built Liberian institutions to help solve long-standing national development challenges and urgent crises.

Some of those institutions, like the John F. Kennedy (JFK) Medical Center, are deeply woven into the Liberian national fabric. Many Liberians still remember the deep sense of national pride when the modern, fully equipped, professionally staffed JFK Medical Center opened its doors in 1971. The hospital was one of the best tertiary health care providers in all Sub-Saharan Africa at the time—thanks to an assistance package USAID extended to establish a national medical center. Today, 50 years later, the JFK Medical Center continues to anchor Liberia’s health system, providing care for thousands annually and producing a regular supply of medical doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals through its component institutions, the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine, and the Tubman National Institute of Medical Arts.

Just like the health sector, Liberia’s education sector also boasts enduring reminders of the special U.S.-Liberia development partnership. No Liberian educational institution better exemplifies this partnership than the Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS), whose roots date back to 1961.

That was the very year of USAID’s founding, when the United States agreed to a request from the Liberian Minister of Education to help build an integrated school system for Monrovia’s fast-growing student population.

But USAID did more than construct MCSS school buildings. It made early investments in the long-term sustainability of the MCSS. It sent scores of Liberians to the United States for advanced training as teachers, school administrators, and curriculum consultants. Together, these Liberian educational professionals represented a combined 140 instructional years. They and their successors made the MCSS—now 52 years old—a national leader in the education of Liberian youth.

The Kakata Rural Teacher Training Institute (KRTTI) is yet another proud Liberian educational institution that grew out of the United States-Liberia development partnership. Founded in 1962 with U.S. Government support, KRTTI remained under USAID management and direct supervision for 10 years before the United States formally turned the institution over to the Government of Liberia in 1972. Today, KRTTI remains a leader in producing teachers for Liberia’s public schools.



*Ambassador Michael McCarthy handing out USAID-produced learning materials in Kakata, June 2021*

The Liberian Civil War, as we know, destroyed many of these institutions and erased much of the early gains we achieved together in the education, health, and other sectors. But the civil conflict also taught us an important development lesson: We cannot successfully build on whatever remains of these gains and tackle the broader structural impediments to Liberia’s development without first addressing the underlying causes of its conflict, including the need for rule of law, credible justice institutions, and accountable governance.

And so, as peace finally returned to Liberia in 2003, the United States enthusiastically joined the rebuilding efforts, including investing in democracy-enhancing institutions. We work with our Liberian partners to support free and fair elections, a free and professional media, a fair and independent judiciary, and an active and engaged civil society. Today, less than 20 years later, the results of these investments speak for themselves: Three peaceful presidential and legislative elections since 2005, a historic peaceful transfer of power in 2017, and judicial resolutions of the most heated elections disputes—all signaling the strength of Liberia’s democratic order. Meanwhile, Liberia’s open and engaged civil society and active community-based media continue to foster robust popular participation in the democratic process.

These are successes in which all Liberians and their development partners can take justifiable pride. But another important lesson we have learned together is that in addition to accountable democratic governance, Liberia needs sustained, private sector-led inclusive growth for its long-term stability.

Improved agricultural productivity and value chain development, particularly in the rice sector, has been the cornerstone of our efforts to help Liberia spur growth, along with investments in farm-to-market roads, safe drinking water, and reliable and affordable electricity.



*USAID Mission Director Wright looks on at a COVID-19 vaccine drive supported by USAID, August 2021*

All along, we have maintained our focus on developing Liberia’s most important assets by continuing to invest in the health and education of its people. From improving early grade reading to providing livelihood skills for youth without formal education to awarding scholarships to university lecturers for advanced degrees in critical areas like agriculture and engineering, we continue to partner with the Ministry of Education to develop the capacity of all Liberians. In the health sector, United States development programming directly funds care delivery at all levels of the public health system, including at the community level where our partnership with the Ministry of Health has produced an internationally recognized cadre of community health workers. Even TIME magazine recently recognized these Liberian heroes, crediting them for treating “one of every two children in rural Liberia with malaria.”

These community health care workers are powerful testaments to the strength and productive capacity of the United States-Liberia development partnership. They represent Liberia’s future. They are trained and motivated. They come from the very towns and villages they serve and can be found across Liberia: Kamplay, Salala, Voinjama, Ganta, to name just a few. Every day, they go into their communities to solve a crucial problem that has long plagued Liberia’s health system: Bringing quality care to rural Liberians without access to a health facility. These community health workers stand as living proof of the extent to which we have all succeeded in heeding President Kennedy’s call 60 years ago for USAID to help countries like Liberia receiving American aid “make a determination that they can solve their problems.”

We stand alongside them and all of our other Liberian development partners with an unwavering commitment to helping Liberia alleviate poverty and chart its own development course.

###

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**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# Liberia holds first major national land conference

The first of a major National Land Conference in over 15 years of land reforms in Liberia is being organized by the Multi-Actor Platform for Land Governance in Liberia, otherwise known as the MAP Liberia Land Platform.

It is co-convened by the

Organizations (CSOs) spearheaded by the Rights and Rice Foundation.

“As we all know now, Liberia celebrated the signing into law a new Land Rights Act in October, 2018. Following enactment of the new law, the Liberia Land Authority (LLA), working together with Civil Society

Monday, 1 November 2021 in Monrovia, Mr. Paasewe said among the early achievements are the development of an Implementation Strategy and standardized messages for disseminating the Act, drafting regulations and guidelines and undertaking of pilots of community land formalization schemes.

Further, Mr. Paasewe cited capacity building training programs for some actors in the land sector - mainly from the government and CSOs, as well as developing systems and processes for land administration and management.

In spite of the achievements noted above, he said implementation of the LRA [Land Right Act] is plagued by a range of challenges.

“These challenges are linked to the practical, legal, institutional and procedural aspects of the actual implementation of the LRA on one hand, and also based on deeply rooted traditional and customary practices on the other hand,” he said.

Within the context of widespread food and land tenure insecurity inherited from the past, he said the historical passing of the LRA and the initial progress are only the first steps of a long

Organizations (CSOs), other government authorities, policy makers and international partners have initiated some good steps towards implementation of the law,” said Mr. Haje L. Paasewe, MAP Liberia Communications and Reporting Officer.

Addressing journalists

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Liberia Land Authority (LLA) and the MAP Liberia Land Platform Secretariat, headed by Rights and Rice Foundation (RRF).

The MAP Liberia Land Platform is a nationally owned process initiated in February 2018, by the LLA and Civil Society

# Women groups brainstorm on TRC report

By Lincoln G. Peters

A daylong dialogue on women-led organizations' engagement in monitoring and implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC) recommendations has ended in Monrovia.

The dialogue was implemented by a local non-governmental organization, Liberia Future Trust (LiFT) with support from Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) through Conciliation Resources.

About 30 participants from different women-led organizations across Montserrado County attended the forum on Monday, November 1, in Monrovia.

The executive director of LiFT, Mr. Pabai M. Masaquoi says the dialogue is intended to identify critical barriers

education for rural women on their role in the implementation of the TRC recommendations and other peace agreements that Liberia is signatory to.

With support from the Women's Peace Humanitarian Fund Rapid Response Window on women's participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements, Liberia Future Trust project supports increased women's participation in the implementation of the 2003 Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Liberia in both Montserrado and Nimba counties.

Lead facilitator James F. Davis, calls on government to implement the 2017 recommendations they all agreed upon, including women empowerment, among others.

Davis calls on civil society organizations to pressurize



that impede women's participation in the implementation and monitoring of peace agreements in Liberia, especially the 2003 peace accord and the 2009 Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations and their resulting processes as well as deriving strategy to having women included in implementation and monitoring.

“We have called these women here today to hear from them about what has been the blockade to them in participating in the monitoring process of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations and other peace processes in the country,” Mr. Masaquoi explains.

He wants government and partners to fund civic

government to implement the TRC recommendations.

For her part, Montserrado County Superintendent Madam Florence F. Brandy, says it is time for communities to discuss the TRC recommendations and educate residents to engage their lawmakers to implement the TRC report.

“We can talk, and have all of the dialogues around here, but let me tell you the ‘House of elders’ has the problem, because they have the political will to ensure that these recommendations are implemented”, Superintendent Brandy stresses.

However, she wants LiFE and partners take the process to various counties, religious groups and communities to dialogue on the implementation of the TRC.

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11**

# Judiciary cites government's constitutional error

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's Judiciary says the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Justice is living in constitutional error over the incarceration of pre-trial detainees in the same prison cells with convicts who have been sentenced for crimes and other offenses against the State.

Atty. Darryl Ambrose Nmah, Sr., told journalists Tuesday, 2 November 2021 that the government's imprisonment of pre-trial detainees and convicts in the same facilities has been happening for too long at the Monrovia Central Prison due to limited prison facilities, even though it's against their human rights and other international protocols.

“The Constitution says that you can't put pre-trial

detainees in the same prison with a convict who has been charged and sentenced to prison for crimes against the States,” said Atty. Nmah.

According to him, there should be separate prison

facilities across the country for pre-trial detainees and convicts.

Atty. Nmah explained that the only way people should be mixed with convicts is when the crimes for which they are being held are very serious.

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10**



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# Amujae Initiative keeps touch of women leadership burning

**--Young Fellows say**

*By Winston W. Parley*

Young African women leaders who are part of the Amujae Leadership Initiative, the flagship program of the Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development (EJS Center), say the Initiative serves one singular purpose, which is "keeping the touch of women's leadership burning."

At the climax of the Amujae Leadership Forum on Sunday, 31 October 2021 in Monrovia, four participating young African women leaders in persons of Madam Kula Fofana and Madam Cornelia Kruah - Togba of Liberia; and 2021 Amujae Leaders IsataKabia and Yakama Manty Jones of neighboring Sierra Leone, addressed journalists,

leadership, but not just being interested, but get you to where you want to be as a woman in politics or in leadership," said Kruah - Togba.

Madam IsataKabia, a member of parliament and a 2021 Amujae Leader from Sierra Leone, said it is an absolute great opportunity to be in the presence of women leaders from across Africa who may be facing the same challenges as you are and to be able to witness real courage and moral courage from those women.

She said her take away from the Amujae Forum is "refuse to leave the room," saying she is glad as a member of parliament for the spectacular different experiences from women at the forum.

Madam Kabia encouraged women to get tired of "the exploitation," attacks and vindictiveness and step up with more energy, more drive, more

Madam Fofana said being a part of the Amujae Initiative is not something that she would have imagined being connected to to get coached by big names like former U.S. Ambassadors to Liberia Linda Thomas Greenfield and Deborah Malac.

She said she is very grateful for such an opportunity in her leadership journey.

Yakama Manty Jones, a 2021 Amujae Leader from Sierra Leone described the Amujae Leadership program as life -changing, noting that what she learned is that women do support other women in a genuine way.

Madam Jones, a Sierra Leonean civil servant, said what she has learned through the Amujae Initiative is that you must choose your own space and stay your course, adding that the support system is what the program provides.

Further, Madam Jones explained that there are a lot of takeaways from the three days Forum in Monrovia, but one of those is a change journey and leadership journey, saying there's a lot of space that women leaders can occupy, not necessarily in politics.

Madam Jones suggested that as Amujae Leader, you can bring women along as in different fields, not limited to politics, but there are a lot of tools that you can leverage because bringing other women along does not necessarily mean that one woman must succeed another woman in an office.

Women leaders from across the African continent ended the Amujae Forum on Sunday, hailing the great experiences they got through the program EJS Center.

The Amujae Initiative is the EJS Center's flagship program which prepares women to excel in the highest echelons of public leadership and bring other women along.

Drawn from a diverse range of personal and professional backgrounds, the Amujae Leaders include members of parliament, a governor, a mayor, and several government ministers from 16 countries across Africa.

They were selected through a rigorous application process from hundreds of applicants and they each have a track record of demonstrable achievements in public life and a drive to

determination and realize that giving up would mean giving up on their country and that the light that shines on the space they occupy might be occupied by darkness.

She added that the affirmation from the forum is that they can refuse to leave the room in service of their country.

Madam Kula Fofana, another Liberian Amujae Leader, explained that while in high school as student leader, she became inspired to follow former President Sirleaf's journey, having seen her go through a lot and did so much.

Fofana said her election as high school president further gave her the courage and opened her eyes to understand that it is possible to have someone like former President Sirleaf.

Looking back at her childhood challenges as a refugee in Sierra Leone during Liberia's civil war,



sharing their respective experiences.

Madam Cornelia Kruah - Togba said at the age of 15 years, started being a fan of former Liberian President Mrs. Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf and also got interested in politics and everything around leadership because she was inspired by the bravery of a Liberian woman who went from one campaign tour to another in the communities.

For Kruah - Togba, being a part of the Amujae Initiative serves one singular purpose which is "keeping the touch of women's leadership burning."

"Amujae Initiative for me is that [initiative] that will help ... bridge whatever gap we have and get more Liberian women, African women interested in

# LFA donates computer, printer to ISSA

*By: Naneka Hoffman*

The President of the Liberia Football Association Mustapha Raji has underscored the importance of the Inter Schools Sports Association or ISSA to have a database to keep records of its activities, players (students) and develop contents that will make it easier to develop the game.

He made the statement recently while donating a Dell computer and an HP Printer to the Inter Schools Sports

LFA, it's their duty to identify with member organizations.

In response, the Vice President of ISSA Murvee Gray expressed joy and applauded the LFA President for the gesture.

Mr. Gray said the gesture from the LFA will go a long way in attracting more youth to school through sports and reduce the number of young people taking drugs.

However, the ISSA competition for the first time was played in all fifteen counties



Association to enhance its secretariat.

The LFA President said the move is a step in building ISSA's capacity to maintain internal communication and technology which will help to provide more information to the public and the LFA than there has been in the last 15 years.

According to him, with the support of CAF, FIFA, stakeholders and the Executive Committee of the

this year on a regional basis climax by a national championship in Monrovia won by Sarah Doe of Montserrado County.

The donation by the LFA to ISSA followed initial procurements of computers and motorbikes for the first of its kind in Liberia for regional football associations thru FIFA Forward Funds. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

uplift African women and girls.

This year's forum was the first gathering of Amujae Leaders since the official launch on March 8, 2020, on the cusp of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Focused on the theme "Building Resilience," the forum aimed to equip the Amujae Leaders with the tools to continue their leadership journeys through uncertain times and support their respective countries in rebuilding following COVID-19.

It also harnessed the power of these accomplished women leaders in advancing women's leadership in Liberia and across the African continent.

During the forum which climaxed Sunday, Amujae Leaders shared their strategies for building resilience and

encouraged each other to persevere in pursuing their goals.

In the press conference that followed the climax of the forum on Sunday, Liberia's former President Mrs. Johnson - Sirleaf addressed the media alongside former U.S. Ambassador to Liberia and now EJS Presidential Foundation Board Chair Amb. Deborah Malac; and EJS Presidential Center Executive Director Dr. Ophelia Inez Weeks.

Sharing the platform with Mrs. Sirleaf also were Madam Yawa Hansen -Quao, a 2020 Amujae Leader from Ghana; Madam FatoumattaNjai, 2021 Amujae Leader from The Gambia; Umra Omar, 2021 Amujae Leader from Kenya and GhadaLabib, 2021 Amujae Leader from Egypt.

# Français

## Kroll et le FMI sont impliqués dans l'opération de remplacement des billets du dollar libérien

Le Fonds monétaire international (FMI) a travaillé avec l'équipe technique de la Banque centrale du Libéria sur un certain plan de remplacement ordonné des anciens billets de banque du dollar libérien par de nouveaux billets, à en croire le journal FrontPageAfrica.

Dans son édition du 1er novembre, le journal a dit constater dans un document qui est en sa possession que le Comité technique de la Banque centrale pour la réforme monétaire (TCCR) a été guidé par les conseils techniques de Kroll Associates Inc. (Kroll) (à partir de mars 2020) et du Fonds monétaire international (FMI) plus tôt.

Selon le document, l'appui technique du FMI est principalement axé sur les implications macroéconomiques du programme de change dans le contexte de la Facilité élargie de crédit (FEC), tandis que l'appui technique de Kroll est axé sur l'assistance au TCCR pour évaluer et gérer les risques associés à la réforme, y compris la passation des marchés, les travaux de

conception, la sécurité et d'autres questions opérationnelles.

La Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) a révélé que la première série de ces nouveaux billets - 100 L\$ (un montant de 4 milliards de dollars libériens), serait mise en circulation afin d'atténuer le problème de pénurie pendant la période de festive de fin d'année.

Pourquoi les billets de 100 L\$ ?

À en croire FrontPageAfrica, le document de la CBL montre que les billets de 100 dollars étaient destinés à être mis en circulation en décembre en raison du besoin urgent de liquidités. La Banque centrale soutient que des billets de 100 L\$ ont été sélectionnés pour un achat d'urgence à fournisseur

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## Le Burkina appelle à un « sursaut national » contre le jihadisme après deux jours d'attaques

Après deux jours d'attaques meurtrières au nord et au nord-ouest du Burkina Faso, le ministre de la Défense Aimé Barthélemy Simploré a lancé lundi 1er novembre un appel à un « sursaut national » dans une « offensive décisive » contre les groupes jihadistes. Dimanche, un poste de police de la province du Sourou a été attaqué, faisant cinq morts du côté des policiers. Le lendemain, une dizaine de

civils ont été tués dans la région du Sahel.

À l'occasion de la célébration du 61ème anniversaire des forces armées burkinabè, ce lundi 1er novembre, le ministre de la Défense, le général de brigade Aimé Barthélemy Simploré, a lancé un appel à la mobilisation générale pour lutter contre le terrorisme.

« Je demande aux forces armées nationales de se mobiliser pour lancer l'offensive décisive en vue de reprendre le

contrôle de tout le territoire national, a-t-il lancé. Je voudrais qu'ensemble, nous puissions réaffirmer notre engagement ferme à intensifier le combat contre le terrorisme, à défendre la patrie au maximum de notre potentiel », a-t-il poursuivi.

Son appel vient quelques heures après une attaque dans la région du Sahel, lorsque des hommes armés ont tué une dizaine de civils, des populations qui se rendaient au marché hebdomadaire de Markoye, se tenant tous les lundis, avec leurs marchandises sur des charrettes et avec leurs animaux. Elles ont été interceptées après avoir quitté la localité de Dambam, selon des sources sécuritaires.

Quatre personnes sont toujours portées disparues, selon les mêmes sources.

La veille au matin, un poste de police de la commune de Di, dans la province du Sourou, dans le Nord-Ouest, a également été attaqué par d'autres hommes armés. Selon les autorités, au moins cinq policiers sont morts au cours de l'attaque, ainsi qu'une quinzaine de terroristes neutralisés.



## Éditorial

### Les libériens doivent honnêtement se féliciter de l'accord amendé de l'AML

Le gouvernement du Libéria et la direction d'ArcelorMittal Libéria (AML), l'un des plus grands géants mondiaux de l'acier, ont récemment signé une version modifiée de l'Accord de développement minier (MDA).

Dans le cadre de l'accord, l'AML investira près de 800 millions de dollars supplémentaires au Libéria. Mais avant même que la copie modifiée du MDA ne soit signée, les citoyens des zones opérationnelles de l'entreprise dans les comtés de Nimba et de Grand Bassa ont protesté contre l'accord. Il y a eu une action en justice et des actes de harcèlement physique et d'intimidation avec la présence d'un masque traditionnel dans les locaux de la compagnie minière à Nimba dont l'intention était de mettre fin à ses opérations.

Mais toutes ces actions contre l'accord sont-elles vraiment justifiées sans avoir pris son temps pour faire la lecture de l'amendement du MDA ? Ou est-ce à dire que les Libériens ne font plus confiance à leur propre gouvernement avec le président George Manneh Weah aux commandes en ce qui concerne leurs intérêts dans cette concession ?

Le New Dawn a feuilleté les points saillants de l'accord modifié et pense que les citoyens ordinaires ont beaucoup à gagner en termes d'emploi, de fonds de développement social régional, de bourses d'études et de formation professionnelle, entre autres grâce à l'investissement de l'AML et du gouvernement lui-même qui renflouera ses caisses grâce à cet accord gagnant-gagnant.

En tant que premier investisseur majeur sous l'administration Weah, l'engagement d'ArcelorMittal à investir 800 millions de dollars US montre clairement que la société aspire à raviver la confiance des investissements du secteur privé dans l'économie avec plus de 2000 nouveaux emplois qui devraient être créés pendant la phase de construction, et à mesure que les volumes de production augmenteront, ses équipes d'exploitation généreront également 1 000 nouveaux emplois supplémentaires, ciblant les Libériens.

Le projet d'expansion, en vertu de l'accord modifié, qui englobe les installations de traitement, ferroviaires et portuaires, promet de devenir l'un des plus grands projets miniers de toute l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Il comprendra la construction d'une nouvelle usine de concentration et une expansion substantielle des opérations minières. La première expansion est prévue dès 2023 et pourrait atteindre 15 millions de tonnes par an. Ce qui pourrait stimuler le PIB.

L'accord qui est critiqué dans certains milieux devrait également renforcer la capacité du gouvernement du Libéria à répondre aux besoins d'autres utilisateurs, dont les mineurs guinéens, d'utiliser l'infrastructure libérienne pour leurs exportations. L'AML s'est engagé à conclure un accord multi-utilisateur avec le gouvernement du Libéria après la ratification de l'accord modifié.

Vu que l'économie mondiale est étouffée par la pandémie de COVID-19, les Libériens devraient faire preuve de patience et être optimistes quant à l'avenir plutôt que de chercher à jeter l'eau de bain avec le bébé. Nous avons besoin d'investissements étrangers directs pour développer notre économie et les entreprises qui sont déjà sur le terrain ne devraient pas être effrayées, comme cela a été le cas de Sime Darby dans les comtés de Bomi et de Grand Cape Mount. ArcelorMittal et le gouvernement du Libéria ont jugé nécessaire de procéder à un amendement depuis août 2016 avec l'ancienne administration Sirleaf. Cela démontre combien l'entreprise tient au partenariat avec le Libéria et au maintien des opérations à flot et son intention d'offrir des solutions gagnant-gagnant telles que l'utilisation des usines de HFO qu'elle avait achetées en 2014 pour fournir de l'électricité dont le pays a si grandement besoin.

Les négociations en cours avec l'administration Weah ont commencé sérieusement le 17 septembre 2020, et il y a eu 54 rencontres avec le gouvernement, l'entreprise et ses conseillers internationaux au cours des 53 semaines qu'il a fallu pour conclure le 10 septembre 2021. Cinquante d'entre elles portaient sur le partage des infrastructures comme l'exigeait le gouvernement du Libéria.

Le Libéria a été le premier pays africain à se conformer à l'Initiative pour la transparence des industries extractives (ITIE). En tant que membre fondateur de l'ITIE du Libéria, ArcelorMittal Libéria a joué un rôle essentiel dans la déclaration de ses paiements au gouvernement, ce qui était essentiel pour les rapports de conformité de l'ITIE. En outre, AML a versé 3 millions de dollars US par an aux pays dans lesquels elle opère. À ce jour, l'entreprise a versé 45 millions de dollars pour cet engagement. En réponse aux plaintes des citoyens selon lesquelles les fonds ne bénéficiaient pas aux communautés affectées, AML a convaincu le gouvernement du Libéria pour que 20 % de ces fonds soient gérés directement par ces communautés. Ce programme a démarré en 2020.

À ce jour, la direction de l'AML a dépensé 1,7 million de dollars sur le programme de bourses d'études qui a permis à 29 Libériens de faire des études dans des universités à l'étranger. Elle a rouvert le centre de formation professionnelle de Yekepa en 2017 en dépensant 7 millions de dollars pour rénover ce centre de formation à la pointe de la technologie. Il compte à ce jour 159 apprenants. Sa première promotion qui compte 48 étudiants est sortie récemment en 2021.

Les Libériens doivent être honnêtes avec eux-mêmes : quelle autre entreprise dans le pays a fait autant en seulement 15 ans, et est prête à en faire encore plus ? Nous croyons fermement que l'Accord de développement minier amendé offre d'énormes offres dont les Libériens devraient profiter.

# Français

## Kroll et le FMI sont impliqués dans l'opération

unique dont la conception de l'échantillon est reproduite sur tous les autres billets, y compris les billets de 20, 50, 500 et 1 000 dollars libériens.

Le choix du billet de 100 L\$ serait dû au fait qu'il constitue la plus grande composante des billets en circulation, et aussi pour trouver un équilibre entre le volume et le coût.

Se débarrasser des anciens et infuser de nouveaux billets

Le Comité technique de la CBL pour la réforme monétaire a travaillé avec les experts du FMI sur un projet de plan de mise en œuvre du changement de monnaie afin de procéder à un remplacement ordonné en tenant compte des contraintes opérationnelles et logistiques de la CBL, notamment la capacité de stockage, la capacité de traitement, la capacité de destruction, et la capacité de transport.

La CBL a dit avoir identifié quelques installations supplémentaires, y compris l'ancienne Banque nationale, pour le logement et l'épargne (NHSB), l'ancienne succursale d'Ecobank de Voinjama et CBL Gbarnga Hub et continue de recruter de la main-d'œuvre supplémentaire et d'utiliser des incinérateurs de destruction massive pour compléter l'actuelle machine de destruction de billets.

Le plan final définira le montant exact à apporter dans le pays au cours de la période de deux ans (2021-2022) pour répondre à la demande de liquidités en 2023 compte tenu de la restriction imposée par le parlement national selon laquelle il n'y aura ni impression ni livraison en 2023. Le plan requiert la mise en œuvre de l'opération de remplacement en grande partie à travers les banques commerciales sous la supervision et le suivi de la CBL. Le plan devrait être finalisé et approuvé cette semaine, et la copie finale sera partagée avec l'exécutif.

Pourquoi de nouveaux billets de banque?

La Banque centrale du Libéria a fait savoir que l'impression de nouveaux billets de banque fait suite à une demande du pouvoir législatif d'introduire une nouvelle famille de billets et de pièces. À cet égard, la CBL a commencé à travailler avec Kroll et IMF pour travailler sur la conception. Les travaux de conception ont été lancés par le TCCR début mars et Kroll s'est impliquée en avril suite à la signature de leur engagement à travers l'USAID. En raison des connaissances et de l'expérience limitées de la CBL TCCR dans la conception des devises, la Banque a dû s'appuyer de manière significative sur les apports et

les conseils techniques de Kroll, tout en veillant à ce que la CBL prenne les décisions finales sur chaque aspect et composante du processus de conception. Le processus de conception a été intensif de sorte que les nouveaux billets et pièces répondent aux meilleures normes internationales en termes de caractéristiques de conception, y compris les caractéristiques de sécurité. La première série de conceptions qui ont été approuvées par le Conseil des gouverneurs et l'Exécutif ont ensuite été révisées en faveur d'une conception plus améliorée produite par Kroll qui a ensuite été approuvée par le Conseil des gouverneurs et l'Exécutif.

Selon la Banque centrale, face aux contraintes de temps et à plusieurs défis opérationnels associés au processus de réforme monétaire et à ses implications pour le programme de facilité élargie de crédit (FEC), le FMI, Kroll, le ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement (MFDP) et CBL ont accepté un processus d'approvisionnement en trois étapes : (1) approvisionnement d'urgence à fournisseur unique de 8 milliards de dollars L (4,0 milliards de dollars d'ici novembre et 4 milliards de dollars d'ici janvier 2022) ; (2) un appel d'offres ouvert pour les billets restants, y compris le solde 100s, les 20s, les 50s, les 500s et les 1000s ; et (3) un achat concurrentiel ouvert séparé pour les pièces.

**Achat d'urgence** d'approvisionnement unique de 8,0 milliards de dollars : Un contrat d'attribution directe à fournisseur unique avec Kroll était la meilleure option dans les circonstances, principalement pour les raisons suivantes : 1) Kroll disposait déjà des plaques et d'autres matériaux d'origine pour le billet de 100 L\$ précédemment émis, et 2) sa capacité tant pour la production de papier que pour l'impression des billets de banque.

Le premier lot de l'envoi de 4,0 milliards de L\$ arrivera par avion d'ici le 26 novembre 2021 et le deuxième de 4,0 milliards de L\$ par mer d'ici janvier 2022. Une récente communication avec Kroll confirme que la production et l'impression des 8,0 milliards de LD est en cours.

Les 4 premiers milliards de L\$ seront uniquement destinés à l'injection de liquidités, tandis que le second 4 milliards de L\$ sera utilisé pour commencer l'exercice d'échange en commençant par les billets de banque mutilés. Les conceptions et spécifications finales des billets restants étant terminées, l'appel d'offres concurrentiel ouvert de masse devrait commencer sous peu. Cependant, selon la CBL, afin de faire avancer ce processus, les approbations finales pour la conception des billets de 20, 50, 500 et 1000 dollars sont requises de toute urgence.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par José Manuel Barroso

### L'épreuve de la préparation aux pandémies

**B**RUXELLES - La pandémie de la COVID-19 nous a inculqué une pléiade de dures leçons. La plus importante étant que les épidémies de maladies infectieuses présentent des risques non seulement à la santé publique, mais aussi à la sécurité dans le monde. Comme la prolifération des armes nucléaires, le terrorisme et les changements climatiques, la COVID-19 a révélé que les pandémies peuvent rapidement ébranler l'équilibre social et le bien-être économique.

Cela relève maintenant de l'évidence. Pourtant avant la crise de la COVID-19, les maladies infectieuses apparaissaient en filigrane des préoccupations internationales concernant la sécurité. Pour qu'aboutissent les efforts visant à changer cet état des choses en mettant en place de nouveaux mécanismes de financement et de contrôles pour les plans de secours en cas de pandémie, les demi-mesures ne suffiront pas à la tâche. Pour éviter que l'histoire ne se répète, les préparatifs doivent être le reflet de l'ampleur réelle du défi. Il nous faut désormais reconnaître que les pandémies représentent l'une des plus graves menaces à la sécurité dans le monde et l'une des plus probables.

Pour empêcher les pandémies futures, il faudra non seulement investir au même niveau que pour les autres menaces à la sécurité mondiale, sur lesquelles des sommes pharaoniques sont régulièrement dépensées, mais adopter également une toute nouvelle orientation de pensée sur la sécurité dans le monde. La pandémie représente une nouvelle forme de crise mondiale, qui est causée et exacerbée par les maillages de plus en plus serrés du monde moderne.

La pandémie de la grippe espagnole il y a un siècle était une crise de même acabit. À l'époque, la plupart des gens vivaient dans des milieux ruraux beaucoup moins peuplés et les voyages étaient bien plus lents et le fait d'une infime minorité. Nous avons assisté à une chose semblable en 2008-09, alors que les économies se sont effondrées comme des dominos. Ce fut la première crise mondiale du siècle et nous en sommes encore à essayer de comprendre la crise qui définira assurément ce siècle : celle des changements climatiques.

Dans chaque cas, le dénominateur commun est que la crise exige des solutions qu'aucun État individuel ne peut amener de son propre chef. On ne peut lutter contre une maladie infectieuse au moyen de contre-mesures traditionnelles en matière de sécurité comme des sanctions économiques, des échanges diplomatiques bilatéraux, des moyens dissuasifs ou des manœuvres militaires. Il faut plutôt faire appel à la collaboration scientifique, à des réseaux de santé capables d'adaptation et à des investissements à long terme dans les réseaux de santé mondiale. Il ne sert à rien de démontrer sa force et d'intervenir unilatéralement pour protéger son territoire national. La collaboration internationale, le multilatéralisme stratégique et la compassion transnationale sont les seuls instruments valables pour sortir de ce genre de catastrophes.

Si l'on en juge la répartition dans le monde des vaccins contre la COVID-19, la réaction nécessaire se fait attendre. Le coronavirus gagne encore du terrain et le manque de coordination à l'échelle mondiale en est la principale raison. Au lieu de

trouver des modes de coopération vers des solutions communes à une crise sans précédent, les pays persistent à mettre leur intérêt national en priorité, aux dépens de l'intervention mondiale nécessaire.

La solution mondiale au problème de répartition des vaccins est la facilité d'accès mondial aux vaccins COVID-19 (COVAX) créée l'année dernière. En assurant un accès équitable aux vaccins pour les habitants des pays les plus pauvres, non seulement COVAX sauve des millions de vies et en protège des centaines de millions d'autres?; l'organisme offre également le meilleur chemin vers la reprise. Même d'un point de vue strictement économique, COVAX est beaucoup plus économique que toute forme de mesure de relance budgétaire ou monétaire.

Il y a maintenant plus de 1,5 milliard de doses de vaccins produites chaque mois – un incroyable exploit moins d'un an après l'agrément du premier vaccin et à peine 18 mois après la pandémie. On prévoit que plus de 12 milliards de doses auront été produites d'ici la fin de l'année. Même si cela suffit pour vacciner tous les adultes sur la planète, il y a loin de la coupe aux lèvres, car la répartition est tellement inéquitable. Scandaleusement, ce n'est que 3,1 % des personnes vaccinables des pays à faible revenu qui ont reçu au moins une dose, en moyenne, comparé à plus de 71,1 % des personnes dans les pays à revenu élevé.

Cette disparité est aussi immorale qu'elle manque dangereusement de vision. En prolongeant la pandémie et en laissant plus de possibilités au virus de produire de nouveaux variants, le monde entier en pâtit. Mais cet échec ne pourra être corrigé tant que les États n'agiront pas à l'échelle internationale. Même si plus de 190 pays appuient COVAX, bon nombre de pays peinent à trouver l'équilibre entre la protection de leur propre population et des interventions qui servent l'intérêt de tous en ce qui concerne la santé mondiale et la relance de l'économie mondiale.

La mobilisation d'un plan mondial d'urgence est nécessaire tant pour mettre fin à cette crise que pour éviter la prochaine. La santé des gens n'est pas la seule en jeu. Comme la COVID-19 l'a prouvé, les pandémies peuvent pousser des millions de personnes dans la pauvreté et restreindre leur mobilité comme jamais auparavant. De telles conditions peuvent pervertir l'équilibre des pays les plus stables, en augmentant les menaces de polarisation politique, les troubles sociaux et la violence. Plus la crise perdure, plus grande est la menace.

Les crises mondiales obligent à mondialiser les ressources essentielles – dans le cas qui nous concerne aujourd'hui, les vaccins. Les États du G20 ont le pouvoir de montrer la voie en cessant de se constituer des réserves pour leur seul bien propre et d'interdire les exportations de vaccins qui ont entravé l'approvisionnement et en effectuant plus de dons de doses à COVAX. Mais aussi urgentes que puissent être de telles mesures, elles sont avant tout des solutions de fortune – qui règlent une crise faisant partie d'une crise encore plus vaste. Pour éviter de répéter les mêmes erreurs qu'avec la COVID-19, des mécanismes de préparation pandémique plus étendus et fondés sur le modèle de la mise en commun des ressources à l'échelle mondiale que COVAX a mis de l'avant. On ne peut attendre que la prochaine épidémie devienne également une menace envers la sécurité mondiale. Car si jamais ce moment arrive, il sera déjà trop tard.



# Weah: Together we can make the difference

President George Weah says, together the world can make the difference in the fight against climate change.

“Together, we can make a difference as a shared community of global citizens with a common destiny. Together we can heal the world from the scourges of climate change”, Weah told world leaders and delegates at the ongoing climate

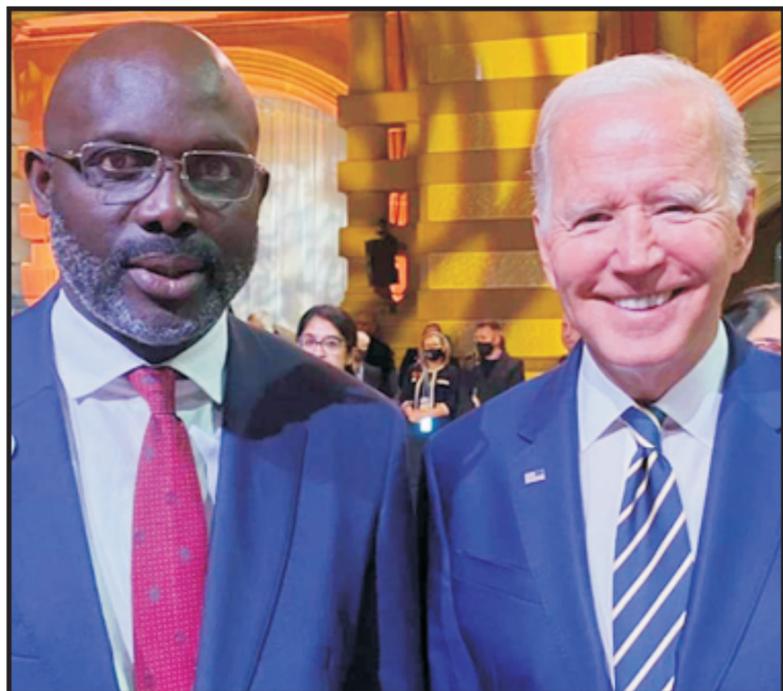
Continuing, President Weah maintained: “Together, we can save this earth from the deadly consequences of global warming. Together, we can bring humankind into harmony with nature.”

Cognizant of COP26 being held at a time the world is reeling from the devastating and disruptive consequences of the deadly Coronavirus pandemic, the Liberian Chief Executive and Campaigner for conducive

who maintain and protect the largest remaining tracts of forest reserves, receive the lowest benefits for these ecosystem services”, President Weah pointed out.

He called on delegates at the conference to address the imbalance and stressed the need to shift the existing mismatch in climate investments, saying “we, who are the richest in terms of forest resources and biodiversity, are the poorest in terms of socio-economic development. Although we bear the brunt of the impact of climate change, we benefit the least from the existing solutions and financial arrangements currently in place for tackling climate change.”

“I believe that one of the ways that this can be done is to establish an African Carbon Credit Trading Mechanism. With your support, Liberia will be willing to host a conference in the near future to explore the details and structure of such an entity. We will work with Pan-African and other global financial institutions to develop a long-term regulated market for African carbon credit,” he pointed. Weah opined that he is “convinced that these initiatives will increase the chances of all African countries that depend on their forest reserves to attain sustainable economic growth and national development in line with the vision set out in the 2030 Agenda.”



change conference in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

Addressing world leaders and delegates at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (UNCCC), dubbed the Conference of Parties (COP26), on Monday November 1, 2021, Weah said it takes collective action to meet the commitments of the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework on Climate Change.

climate said Climate change presents an even bigger threat to the world and to our common humanity.

He admonished the global community to seek common action to save the planet, and bring equity and fairness in order to achieve the objectives under the Paris Accord.

“We are all aware that there is an inherent imbalance in the current architecture of climate financing. Countries like Liberia,

# Visiting American doctors provide free medical services

A delegation of 30 doctors from America is in Liberia, offering free medical services to residents of Montserrado County.

The Liberian Senate says the Doctors, who are specialised in various medical cares, are in the country upon the invitation of Montserrado County Senator Saah Joseph for the next two weeks to provide medical outreach to all 17 electoral districts of Montserrado.

As part of their initiative, the team was in Nyahn Town, Todee District, rural Montserrado to cater to over 500 residents.

The beneficiaries include elderly people, pregnant women, and children who have medical complications.

The team is also giving out used clothing to kids and baby mothers.

Meanwhile, Senator Joseph who recently returned from the United States with the visiting doctors, said this is just one of

many benefits of his visit to the U.S. for the people of Montserrado. **-Press Release**



# Lawmaker storms

Starts from back page

But the Speaker was reminded by other Lawmakers, including Representatives Dixon Seibo of Montserrado County district #16 and Acarous Gray of Montserrado County district#8, who insisted that the House was in open session and every activity there should be open to the public. They underscored the House Chambers is a public space, which gives Journalists the right to provide coverage.

In his protest, Rep. Kolubah argues that since the Supreme Court of Liberia Justice in

Chambers Cllr. Joseph Nagbe instructed the House of Representatives in July this year to lift his suspension, he's yet to receive his salaries.

The district10 lawmaker says on several occasions, he has written Speaker Bhofal Chambers, Deputy Speaker J. Fonati Koffa and the chairman on Rules, Orders and Administration Rep. Johnson N. Gwiakolo but has received no response.

The House leadership is yet to comment on Rep. Kolubah's claims. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# Liberia holds first

Starts from back page

and complex process at hand.

Against this background, he continued, the MAP Liberia Land Platform, a nationally owned process comprising the LLA and other key government agencies, CSOs, the private sector, academia and research institutions, international development partners and local communities, will be hosting this major Land Conference.

He said the conference will take stock of successes achieved so far in the implementation of the law, analyze and highlight challenges, identify opportunities and generate recommendations and commitments for way forward.

He disclosed that the conference will be taking place from 1 - 3 February, 2022 in the Port City of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, bringing together around 165 participants from across Liberia's 15 counties under the theme: Celebrating 3 years of the LRA: Celebrating 3 Years Of Liberia's Land Rights Act (LRA) 00 -Achievements, Key Challenges And Opportunities!

The conference is being organized around eight major themes, listed as follows: Mapping of activities and actors in Liberia land sector; Status of regulations, policies and procedures to implement the land law; Customary land rights formalization; Promotion and Protection of Women's and youth's land rights; Monitoring of progress in land governance; Decentralization of land services; Linkage of tenure security to responsible agricultural investment and food security and Land sector coordination.

Planning and executing of

the conference are being carried out under the auspices of the following organizational arrangements: National Organizing Committee (NOC) comprising the Liberia Land Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), the College of Agriculture and Forestry of the University of Liberia and Secretariat of the MAP Liberia Land Platform.

Thematic groups named above will guide the content aspect of the conference, supported by a Logistic Committee, Media Committee and Organizing Secretariat.

Government and Donors supporting the conference include: the Government of Liberia, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Land Coalition (ILC), the World Bank, the United Nations System, the German Government through Welthungerhilfe (WHH), the European Union, ECOWAS, United States Agency for International Development, and the Swedish International Development Agency.

Other international organizations will provide technical support including the Washington based Rights and Resources International, the Paris based Institute for International Development (IISD), among others.

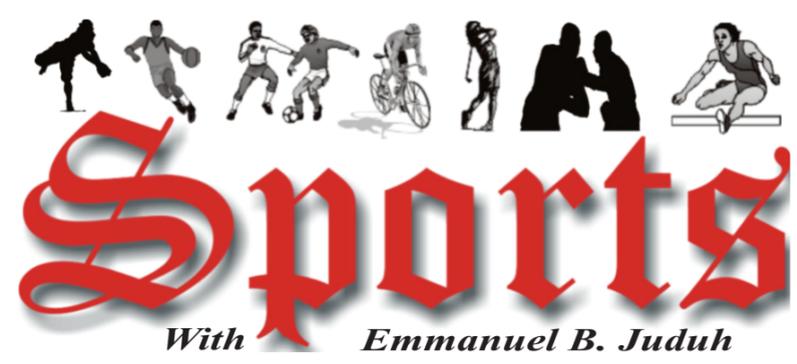
Most of these donors will be supporting the conference through their implementing programs run by international and local NGOs. The donors and their international and national partners have already pledged financial, material and technical resources in the tone of 60% of the proposed \$160,000 budget of the conference.--

**Press release**

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# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT



VOL. 11 NO. 193 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2021 PRICE LD\$40.00

## Lawmaker storms session for unpaid salaries



Rep. Yekeh Y. Kolubah

through Chambers raising his voice, knocking chairs and desks in demand of pay.

Rep. Kolubah was suspended for 16 days sitting by Plenary, the highest decision-making body of the House on Thursday, March 25, 2021 without salaries, allowances and benefits for constantly raining insults at President George Weah, Speaker Chambers and some of his colleagues within the confines of the Legislature.

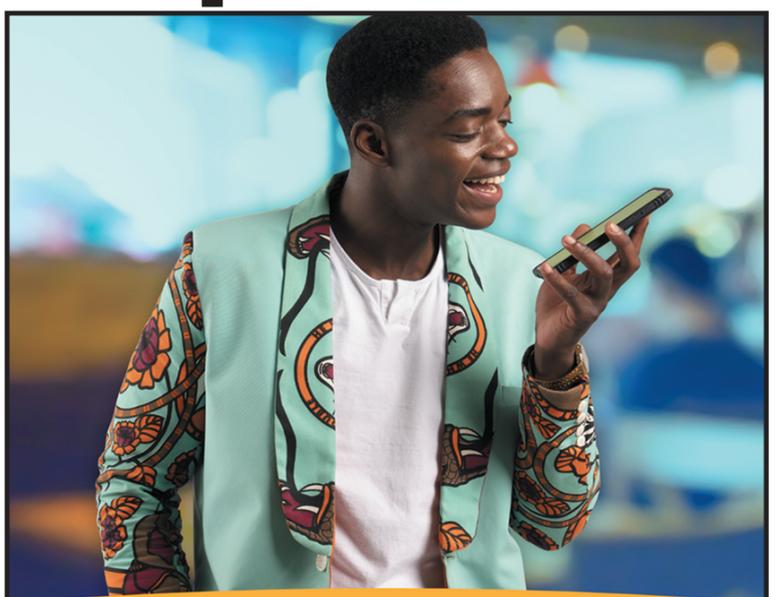
As tension flared in Chambers Tuesday, Speaker Bhofal Chambers of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change demanded legislative reporters covering the 5th day special sitting to immediately halt live coverage of the unfolding development.

**By Bridgett Milton**  
Montserrado County District # 10 Representative Yekeh Y. Kolubah storms the special session of the House here, demanding his

salaries that have not been paid for months.

Normal business in the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill came to a standstill Tuesday, November 02, 2021 as the opposition lawmaker walked

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