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Continental News

Malawi braces for a historic presidential rerun

Malawians return to the polls on Tuesday for a rerun of the presidential election five months after the Constitutional Court annulled the results of a disputed vote last year.

Incumbent President Peter Mutharika had initially been declared the winner of the May 2019 election with a slim victory, gaining 38.5% of the vote.

But opposition leaders challenged the results in court citing massive irregularities. Judges agreed with them and nullified the results in February and ordered a repeat of the election.

The opposition has now united under a single candidate and will take on President Mutharika - who is running for a second term in



President Peter Mutharika (L) and his challenger Lazarus Chakwera

office.

For months now, Malawians have been under a political crisis unlike any other they have faced in their history. It's been more than a year since they

turned out in their millions to vote for a new parliament and president.

But in the run up to Tuesday's polls, the country has been bitterly divided.

There have been widespread anti-government protests and violence that threatened to plunge Malawi into an even deeper crisis.

The chairperson of the country's electoral commission also stepped down and a new team to oversee the

election has been put in place. The vote will pit the incumbent, Mr Mutharika, against Lazarus Chakwera, a former evangelist, who has united the opposition under a coalition looking to unseat the ruling Democratic Progressive Party which was formed in 2004 by the current president's brother.

In many ways this election will also be held under different rules after the court ruled that the first-past-the-post system was unconstitutional.

Whoever wins the race, will have to heal the deep divisions in Malawi and end the vicious cycle of violence witnessed over the past year. Tackling corruption, poverty reduction and unemployment are also other key electoral issues.

Malawians hope their voice will be heard and that Tuesday will in some ways mark the turning point for the country. BBC

Somali soldiers end protest over unpaid salaries

Soldiers in the Somali capital Mogadishu have ended their protest over unpaid salaries.

They had blocked roads in the city on Saturday, with some saying they had not received wages in over a year.

Local television footage showed troops blocking vehicles from the African Union peacekeeping force from passing.

The soldiers are fighting the militant Islamist group al-Shabab who said they carried out one of two attacks this weekend killing at least seven

people. Three militants blew up themselves up in a car at a military checkpoint in Bacadweyn town in central Somalia's Galmudug state, killing three soldiers.

The militants set off a bomb when soldiers shot at the vehicle after its occupants ignored orders to stop at a military checkpoint, Maj Abdullahi Ahmed, a military officer in the nearby town of Galkayo told Reuters news agency.

Separately, two bombs were detonated in front of the home of a military official in

Wanlaweyn town, north-west of the capital Mogadishu, killing four people.

"First we heard a blast at the house. The military officer was absent by then. Guards and residents came to find out what caused the blast and then a second blast went off," Mohamed Nur, a police officer in Wanlaweyn, told Reuters.

Al-Shabab wants Islamic law, known as sharia, to be more strictly adhered to in Somalia and is fighting to overthrow the government.

There are reports that the troops blocking the roads in Mogadishu had recently been fighting against al-Shabab militants in the Shebelle region.

The BBC's Will Ross reports that the fact that they are trying to protect the population from attacks from al-Shabab makes the soldiers' complaint even more alarming.

Last year the Somali government - under pressure from international donors - began paying soldiers directly via banks in order to stop commanders from siphoning off some of the troops' meagre salaries.

Officials also found thousands of names of soldiers who did not exist or had long left the army on the payroll. BBC



Local TV footage shows soldiers blocking African Union peace keeping forces

Wives of assassinated Ethiopian generals call for justice

The wife of the late Ethiopian army chief, who was shot dead a year ago today, has said she has failed in her efforts to meet Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in order to be updated on the state of the investigation into her husband's killing that shocked the country.

"I was told it was not possible," Col Tsege Alemayehu told BBC Tigrinya.

Her husband, Gen Seare Mekonnen, was reportedly

suspect is under arrest. But I was not even called to give my testimony. I don't know about what's going on," she said.

"The whole year our hearts are broken, our house is dark," Col Tsege added.

Abeba Zemichael, wife to the Gen Gezai Abera, who was killed alongside Gen Seare, expressed her frustrations as well.

"The judicial process is



assassinated by his bodyguard as part of a plot to seize power in Amhara regional state in northern Ethiopia.

The attack came hours after gunmen in Bahir Dar killed the governor of Amhara, Ambachew Mekonnen, along with two senior officials.

Col Tsege said she had heard nothing but "speculation from social media" about her husband's killing.

"A year ago I was told the

null. Everyone is quiet on this. Both were great leaders. We are depressed and waiting for justice from God," she said. A memorial ceremony for the two generals is taking place in the northern region of Tigray, which is where they are from.

To mark the anniversary the authorities in the capital, Addis Ababa, have named a street after Gen Seare. BBC

EDITORIAL

Easing lockdown amid virus upsurge

LIBERIA IS GRADUALLY, but seriously slipping into a dilemma, as the country embarks on easing some restrictions, for eventual resumption of normal activities amid a rapid increase of new infections.

WHILE TOTAL COVID-19 related deaths is officially at 33, the country has experienced a wave of new confirmed cases in the past two weeks, putting total confirmed cases of the virus at 516, according to the National Public Health Institute of Liberia.

WHAT IS EVEN more worrisome, is that the virus has hit the 54th Legislature, specifically infecting the assistant secretary at the Liberian Senate, Madam Jannave Verdier-Massaquoi, who is currently seeking medical attention at the 14th Military Hospital outside Monrovia.

IT REMAINS UNCLEAR whether Madam Massaquoi had contact with senators on Capitol Hill prior to testing positive. But the Legislature has lockdown for a week to observe the situation.

HOWEVER, THE NATIONAL Public Health Institute of Liberia is reporting strings of new infections in communities across Montserrado County, including King Kray, ELWA, Duport Road and Thinkers Village. Other affected communities are Clara Town, Caldwell, Bardnerville and Gardnersville, respectively - areas that were not highlighted during the 60-day State of Emergency and previous lockdowns imposed by President George Manneh Weah.

JANNAVE VERDIER-MASSAQUOI MIGHT have surely come in contact with so many persons both at home and in the Liberian Senate, who may now become potential contacts that should be traced immediately to avoid continues spread of the virus.

AS PRESIDENT WEAH had already ordered 12th graders across the country to return classes in preparation to write the 2020 WASSCE, the regional exams administered by the West African Examination Council, the latest upsurge of new infections, particularly in Montserrado County and parts adjacent poses serious threat to the entire population that should not be overlooked.

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL DESIGNATE of NPHIL Dr. Mosoka Fallah, recently alarmed that there are about three hundred active Corona-virus carriers freely roaming Monrovia and its environs.

HE SAID TO break the chain of transmission and beat back the looming danger, the country needs to implement more stringent measures, which include a total lock-down, especially in most impacted counties, with no one leaving his or her home, stressing that it is necessary to take the virus off the streets into the communities where they can be contained, traced and isolated.

THE ADVICE OF the NPHIL boss should be heeded to avoid leading this country into a quandary that could present unforeseen devastation.

COMMENTARY

By Bertrand Badré
& Yves Tiberghien

The Pandemic Must End Our Complacency

With an economic downturn as severe as the Great Depression and political conditions similar to those in the run-up to World War I, an international system built on globalization now hangs in the balance. The world desperately needs effective collective leadership - and not just to contain COVID-19.

PARIS - A sudden shock upends routine decision-making and forces leaders to take urgent action. A combination of mistrust, misperception, and fear dissolves the bonds that sustain modern civilization.

The year is 1914, when Europe spent its summer mobilizing for war. But the description could just as well apply to the summer of 2020. The worst pandemic since the 1918-20 influenza outbreak is rapidly morphing into a systemic crisis of globalization, potentially setting the stage for the most dangerous geopolitical confrontation since the end of the Cold War.

In the space of just weeks, the COVID-19 pandemic has shut down one-third of the global economy and triggered the largest economic shock since the Great Depression. Looking ahead, the most important factor that will shape how this crisis evolves is collective leadership. But that crucial component remains absent. With the United States and China at each other's throats, global leadership will have to emerge from somewhere other than Washington, DC, or Beijing.

Moreover, to pave the way for renewed international cooperation, three myths need to be debunked. The first is that COVID-19 qualifies as an unexpected "black swan" event for which no one could have prepared. In fact, public-health advocates like Bill Gates and epidemiologists such as Michael Osterholm of the University of Minnesota have been sounding the alarm for years about the systemic risks posed by coronaviruses and influenza, as have leading intelligence agencies.

The sheer depth of the current crisis is the product of our collective failure to think in non-linear terms or to heed scientists' clear warnings. Worse, COVID-19 is probably just a dress rehearsal for the disasters that await us as a result of climate change - especially after we pass the warming threshold of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, starting in the early 2030s.

The second myth is that COVID-19 has discredited globalization. To be sure, international air travel did spread the coronavirus around the world much faster than older travel methods would have. Yet globalization has also furnished us with the information, medicine, technology, and multilateral institutions needed to defeat not just viruses, but all other collective threats, too.

Because there is now a global scientific community linked through information and communication technologies, the genome of the novel coronavirus was sequenced and made publicly available by January 12, within two weeks of China's report of a cluster of cases. And now, researchers around the world are sharing their findings in pursuit of a vaccine. Never before have so many people across so many countries collaborated on the same project.

The third myth is that our current policy tools and institutional arrangements can see us through the crisis. In fact, international organizations can mobilize only a fraction of the

resources required to contain the virus and its economic fallout. Unless we change how institutions like the World Health Organization operate and do more to leverage the resources of private actors, our expectations will not be met.

The COVID-19 pandemic has come at a critical moment, accelerating a deeper crisis of international cooperation. Resolving both will require significant innovation, and a massive cooperative effort to achieve a stable equilibrium between economic growth and social wellbeing. This will not be easy. Not only must we change our institutions and broader economic systems, but we also must change ourselves.

The agenda we need includes five parts. First, we need to work toward more inclusive leadership at the global level. Given the current difficulties in the US-China relationship, the rest of the G20 must come together to generate new ideas for addressing the crisis in the global trading system, the intensifying zero-sum competition over technology, and the collapse of trust in multilateral frameworks. The European Union, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, Indonesia, India, South Korea, and Brazil, in particular, must play a bigger role in filling the leadership vacuum.

Second, we need new multilevel leadership coalitions comprising civil-society organizations, the private sector, think tanks, and others. When the usual top-down leadership is not forthcoming, others must rise to the occasion.

Third, we need to ensure a smooth process of developing and distributing a COVID-19 vaccine. G20 member states must build on their previous pledges to work with the relevant international organizations and willing private-sector partners in creating a platform for delivering a vaccine fast and equitably. This is an unprecedented challenge that demands an unprecedented coalition.

Fourth, we need more firepower to address the looming financial crisis in emerging and developing economies. The International Monetary Fund should immediately issue a new tranche of its Special Drawing Rights, and the Paris Club of sovereign creditors, coordinating closely with China, must address debtor countries' increasingly unsustainable debt levels.

Finally, the international community must start building the coalitions needed to ensure success at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, and at the UN climate conference (COP26) next year. The world desperately needs more engagement on climate and environmental issues, not least to sever the link between habitat loss and zoonotic-disease outbreaks.

The historian Margaret MacMillan concludes her analysis of the world's march to war in 1914 with a crucial message: "[I]f we want to point fingers from the twenty-first century, we can accuse those who took Europe into war of two things. First, a failure of imagination in not seeing how destructive such a conflict would be, and second, their lack of courage to stand up to those who said there was no choice left but to go to war. There are always choices."

The New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

O-PED

By Anne O. Krueger

What the Global Pandemic Response Is Missing

While developing countries' debt levels have received ample attention in recent months, little has been said about a more immediate problem: their inability to acquire the medical supplies needed to fight COVID-19. To minimize the negative impact, a non-market allocation mechanism must be quickly established.

WASHINGTON, DC - After ravaging the developed world, COVID-19 is now devastating developing and emerging-market countries, most of which lack the medical and financial capacity to combat the pandemic and its economic effects.

For advanced economies, the first line of defense has been social distancing, hand washing, face masks, and widespread lockdowns. But for poorer countries, replicating this response is virtually impossible. Housing tends to be overcrowded, and face masks and soap are scarce. Moreover, water sources and sanitation facilities are often shared and situated in narrow alleys, and many poor people must leave their homes daily to access them or to purchase food. Hence, for poor people who live hand to mouth, an enforced lockdown amounts to a sentence of penury and possibly starvation.

Conditions in many parts of India illustrate the catastrophe that has been unfolding across developing and emerging markets. When Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared a sudden lockdown in late March, millions of migrants lost work and were forced to return to their villages hundreds of miles away. With no means of transportation, they simply started walking, spreading the virus as they went.

Now that India's lockdown has been lifted, and, with hospital capacity having reached its limits, even people presenting with severe COVID-19 symptoms are being turned away. The Washington Post reports that, "Before the pandemic hit, India had only 0.5 hospital beds per 1,000 people, ... compared with 3.2 in Italy and 12.3 in South Korea." Mumbai, a city of 20 million, has just 14 intensive-care-unit beds available for COVID-19 patients. And yet, by the end of July, India is expected to have at least 500,000 cases, up from an estimated 30,000 today.

The circumstances are just as dire in many other developing countries. In addition to lacking hospital capacity, most have little or no productive capacity for personal protective equipment (PPE), medicines, and other critical supplies. And while advanced economies and international institutions are coordinating financial support and debt relief for developing countries, this shortage of essential goods has yet to be addressed.

Making matters worse, at least 75 governments have imposed restrictions or bans on exports of medical supplies, prompting importing countries to start investing in their own capacity. Already, this is leading to a vicious circle in which export restraints encourage import restrictions and vice versa.

In normal times, markets would allocate these resources efficiently, with rising prices leading to lower demand and more supply. But that cannot happen in a global crisis; nor does it help simply to furnish developing and emerging markets with financing. Fresh funds would allow them to bid for supplies in global markets, but the effect would be to send prices higher. Ultimately, because the short-term supply of PPE and other products is inelastic, wealthier countries would crowd out the poor.

If distribution of a vaccine is left to the market, there will be an even more intense bidding war. Without some kind of allocation mechanism, demand would initially far outstrip supply, and the price would skyrocket. Moreover, while supply eventually would increase and price pressures would ease, there would still be problems. If export restrictions persisted, the high-cost production facilities now being built would divert precious resources from programs to help the poor. And because these facilities remain under construction, they won't add any productive capacity during the period of acute price increases, just when it is needed most.

In the long run, the completion of these facilities would mean that more efficient producers in advanced economies could not resume the same level of sales to poorer countries. Those countries would have their own less-efficient medical supply industries, exporting countries would be left with excess capacity, and everyone would be worse off.

Avoiding such a wasteful outcome requires a mechanism for rationing scarce medical equipment until supplies have increased. Rich countries should not simply extend cash or loans to poorer countries to purchase what they need, because they will effectively be financing a bidding war against themselves. Instead of money, countries that need medical supplies and equipment should receive goods in kind.

The international community, for its part, will need to agree on the criteria for allocating medical supplies, and then enforce them to prevent black markets from developing. Obviously, infection rates and public-health capacity (or the lack thereof) should be the major factors guiding allocation decisions. But recipient countries also will need to agree to refrain from wasting scarce resources on building their own productive capacity.

Given that it already has most of the necessary data, the World Health Organization should take the lead on coordinating medical-supply allocation. In an ideal world, everyone would receive the supplies they need without regard to their ability to pay. In the real world, vaccine developers and PPE producers must be able to count on some reward for their efforts, or they won't undertake them in the first place.

With an allocation mechanism, at least such rewards would not be supercharged by a bidding war. More important, governments in developing and emerging-market countries would be better positioned to resist protectionist pressures, and to expend their scarce resources on programs to ameliorate the pandemic and recession. If these governments have a voice at the table, the road to recovery will be much smoother, and the global production of medical supplies will be more efficient and equitable both now and over the long term.

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OPINION

By Mauricio Cárdenas
& Juan Lucas Restrepo

The Pandemic Must Transform Global Agriculture

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the risks of unhealthy diets and the extreme fragility of the global food system. But the economic reconstruction that will follow the pandemic represents a perfect opportunity to provide better nutrition and health for all.

NEW YORK/ROME - The COVID-19 pandemic should spur us to redefine how we feed humanity. The world now has a unique opportunity to adopt long-term measures to promote healthier diets, encourage farmers to produce a wider range of food, and strengthen collaboration among the public-health, food, and agriculture sectors. And agricultural research can play a vital role in transforming food systems and making them more sustainable and resilient.

The need for change is clear. For starters, unhealthy diets are one of the leading risk factors related to COVID-19 fatalities. The SARS-CoV-2 virus disproportionately affects people who are overweight, diabetic, or suffer from cardiovascular disease - all of which are linked to poor diets.

This crisis has also exposed the extreme fragility of the global food system. Social-distancing and lockdown measures to curb the virus's spread have significantly reduced people's incomes and thus global food demand. The resulting decline in food prices between January and May 2020 has profoundly affected the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of smallholder farmers around the world.

Moreover, closures of restaurants and schools, logistical disruptions, and shortages of migrant labor to harvest crops have resulted in huge amounts of wasted agricultural output. Many farmers are increasingly uncertain about starting a new crop cycle, although some highly competitive producers have prospered: for example, Brazil's soybean exports to China reached a record high in the first five months of 2020.

But, given the food system's fragility, any additional supply contraction or export restrictions could rapidly reverse recent price trends. Food prices could rise significantly, further undermining global food security.

Indeed, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimates that at least 14.4 million people in the 101 net food-importing countries could become undernourished as a result of the economic crisis triggered by COVID-19. In an extreme scenario - a reduction of ten percentage points in global real GDP growth in 2020 - that total rises to 80.3 million.

In the short term, therefore, governments must not only provide financial support to individuals and firms affected by the pandemic, but also act to prevent a food crisis. Rather than interrupting trade, policymakers should facilitate it, and improve coordination and information exchange between food producers and buyers, especially at the local level.

Longer-term measures must include promoting healthier eating. In the last 60 years, global diets have become more homogeneous and increasingly dominated by staple foods that are high in energy and low in micronutrients. Three crops - rice, maize, and wheat - provide more than 50% of the calories that humans gain from plants. People in general, but mainly the poorest, do not consume enough nutrient-rich food such as fruits, nuts, seeds, and whole grains. And about 11 million people die each year as a result of unhealthy diets.

Identifying varieties of nutritious crops that can be reintroduced into diets is a top priority. For example, quinoa, fonio (a highly nutritious cereal for which there is growing demand), and African Bambara groundnut contain higher-quality proteins than most major cereals and can grow in harsh environments. Further research could result in higher yields and lower prices, enabling such products to become more widely available. Governments and donors can help by allocating more funding for local producers of these and many other orphan crops.

Furthermore, researchers can use conventional plant-breeding methods to biofortify the crops that dominate current diets, particularly those of the poorest populations. Biofortification means developing nutrient-rich cultivars through selective crossbreeding of a high-nutrient variety with higher-yielding varieties. This involves tapping the genetic traits of thousands of crop varieties that are preserved in gene banks or still exist in the landscapes at their places of origin.

Supply-side adjustments should not end there, because food production is the main driver of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. Agriculture uses large amounts of freshwater, accounts for 30% of global greenhouse-gas emissions, and destroys natural habitats to make room for livestock and crops. And yet agricultural research has long focused on boosting productivity rather than sustainability, with investments geared toward developing better seeds, more disease-resistant animals, and more efficient production techniques for a small number of plant and animal species. Governments have encouraged this trend with financial support, regulatory standards, and trade agreements.

But the race to produce and deliver cheap calories has caused collateral damage, mainly in terms of nutrition and local development. Because the "calories race" relies on value chains that focus on a few basic products from a limited number of countries, many other countries have become net food importers. The pandemic has highlighted their excessive and fragile dependence on a few producers located thousands of miles away and underscored the need for shorter and more diverse value chains.

The current food-production model is also driven by an estimated \$600 billion in annual subsidies to farmers, mainly in advanced economies. Such schemes generate excess supply and lower prices, thus limiting food production in countries that lack the fiscal capacity to support their farmers.

Cutting this Gordian knot requires decisive action on several fronts. We need additional research into food products that could sustain a more diverse and healthier diet; emerging and developing economies could produce many of them. Policymakers must also foster regenerative production systems that promote biodiversity and improve soil and water quality, which would contribute significantly to climate-change adaptation. Governments, international organizations, and NGOs must take the lead in shaping an institutional environment that enables these far-reaching changes in the agricultural research agenda.

The pandemic has underscored the urgent need to transform agriculture. And the economic reconstruction that will follow it represents a perfect opportunity to provide better nutrition and health for all.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

It's time to prioritize tourism

By Joe Monjue

When Lonely Planet, the authoritative global tourism magazine, rated Liberia as a must-visit tourist destination early last year, the endorsement, in essence, was a call to action for the government of Liberia to reimagine tourism and make it a national priority.

The magazine article notes: "Africa's oldest republic, has mountains to climb, cities to explore, broad sandy beaches to play on and national parks to search for some of the continent's most enigmatic wildlife. You can also surf, swim and trek or just kick back in a hammock on the edge of the rainforest. Yet nobody you know has ever been here."

The fact is that Liberia is endowed with unparalleled natural assets: over three hundred miles of sun-kissed beaches, West Africa's largest virgin forest, not to mention lakes and rivers dotting the country from Cape Mount in the West to Maryland County in the east.

Given the proper focus, there is no doubt that

private sector, as well as the challenges they face. Besides, tourism is a business, and it makes sense to have a business-minded individual at the helm.

The agency would work hand in glove with the National Investment Commission (NIC) to help catalyze private investment and strengthening promotional and marketing efforts.

Setting up an agency is one of many steps toward boosting tourism. Firstly, there needs to be a merger of public and private partnerships; the government will need to provide infrastructure, i.e., roads, clinics, etcetera, as well as incentives such as tax breaks, guarantee bank loans to entrepreneurs to get greater participation of the private sector.

It is the entrepreneurs within the private sector that will build hotels, restaurants, and spur a thriving job-creating, supply-chain ecosystem that will help the government increase its tax base, boost foreign exchange, and in essence, expand the economy.

Ordinary Liberian citizens can also benefit by signing up with Airbnb to temporarily rent out their homes or rooms to visiting tourists, as is the norm nowadays in



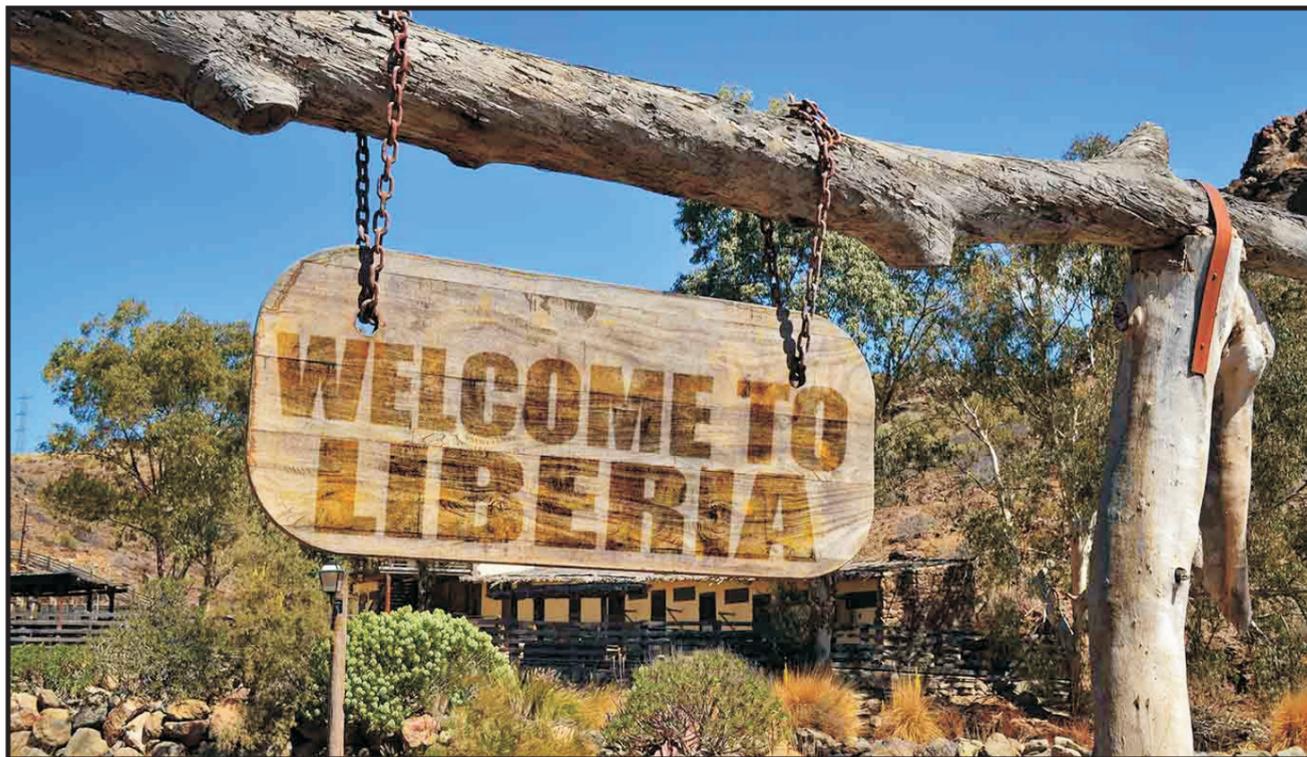
critical that measures such as Visa-free travel to Liberia, or visa on arrival, as well as an aggressive marketing campaign that will promote some of the tourism hotspots.

Tourism is a pretty expensive business. Building the infrastructure that includes a transport network to the various destinations will require a massive infusion of capital, so the Liberian government will need to come up with an out of the box, creative strategy for financing, and reaching out to the Liberian Diaspora for help with development financing via a Diaspora Bond may be the answer.

And here's why. The Liberian Diaspora has one of the highest proportions of remittance per population on the planet; a few years ago, a third of Liberia's GDP came from its Diaspora. In fact, remittances from the global Diaspora eclipsed the revenue collected by the government, according to the then-president Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. There is no doubting the affinity of Liberians abroad for their homeland, so, like Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, and other African countries that have floated Diaspora Bonds, once a plausible presentation can be made, mechanisms, audits and controls put in place to ensure transparency, there will be strong support from Liberians abroad.

Lonely Planet and the global surf community have given tourism in Liberia a thumbs up; now, it is the government's turn to ensure that this multi-million dollar sector is given appropriate attention.

Joe Monjue is an entrepreneur living in Las Vegas, Nevada. He can be reached at monjue@gmail.com



tourism can dramatically become an economic game-changer for the country. Global tourism is a \$1.7 trillion industry. Tourism in Africa contributed 8.5% (or \$194.2bn) of the continent's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2018, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC). So, as the data states, there is an abundance of opportunities in that sector, but how does Liberia monetize its natural tourism resources?

For starters, the country has to have an autonomous agency that serves as a regulatory body; that means decoupling the Bureau of Tourism and Cultural Affairs from the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism where it has been relegated for the past 50 plus years.

Moreover, It is imperative that the newly minted agency be headed by an entrepreneur and not a politician. The reason is simple. Successful entrepreneurs, by nature, are problem solvers; they have the vision, drive, ambition, and stamina, soft skills that are critical to the development of a vibrant tourism sector.

Additionally, the tourism head will also have to get a buy-in from the private sector, a group that will definitely be more comfortable dealing with someone who understands the nuts and bolts of the

tourist-friendly countries. Ghana in February (2019) saw an upsurge in Airbnb rentals from homeowners during the Year of Return, an indication that even the average citizens of that nation are now part and parcel of its tourism ecosystem.

While the establishment of a national tourism agency or authority will serve as a cog for job creation and economic growth, the Liberian government will have to send out feelers and indicators to the international community that it's open for business. So it's mission-



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CDC picks Yallah for Bong senatorial race

By Joseph Titus Yekerryan in Bong County

Ahead of the 2020 senatorial election in Liberia, the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) has endorsed the candidacy of Senator Henry Willie Yallah to run on the party's ticket in Bong

Senator Yallah to contest on the ticket of the ruling party in the ensuing senatorial election.

Representative Cole explains that CDC has built confidence and trust in Senator Yallah as people centered leader, noting that there is a need for him to be given the second chance to serve the

county since his election in 2011.

Representative Cole states that the full house of the CDC in Bong County with no regret, endorses Senator Yallah, describing him as the face of the CDC in the coming 2020 senatorial election in Bong County.

Representative Cole assures Senator Yallah that the party will vigorously campaign for his re-election.

In his acceptance speech, Senator Yallah thanks the CDC for endorsing and announcing his second term bid in the 2020 senatorial election.

The Bong County Senator promises to work tirelessly with the CDC government to better the living condition of citizens of Bong County and Liberia at large.

Further, Senator Yallah tells partisans not to support anyone who continues to play a divisive role among leaders of the county because of their tyrannical leadership style.

He further says Bong County can only develop if leaders and the ordinary citizens are united under one umbrella. At the ceremony, Senator Yallah appointed Representative Cole as his campaign chair, a task Mr. Cole has accepted.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Senator Henry Willie Yallah

County for his reelection.

Reading the endorsement statement in Gbarnga over the weekend, CDC's Jorquelleh District #3 Representative Josiah Marvin Cole stressed the need for

County at the Liberian Senate on the CDC ticket.

Additionally, the CDC county chairman praises Senator Yallah for playing a major role in the completion of some development projects in the

GoL begins disbursement of Civil Servants salaries

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning has begun disbursing salaries checks of Civil Servants for the Month of June to commercial banks as at Friday, June 19, 2020.

Of the 103 spending entities, seventy-two received disbursement, and twenty-four are currently in process and seven are awaiting signatures.

These entities include Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministries of Transport, National Legislature, Ministry of National Defense, Civil Service Agency, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of State, Center for National Documents Records and Archives, Internal Audit Agency General Auditing Commission, Liberia



Broadcasting Systems, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Environmental Protection

Agency, Liberia Board for Nurses/Midwifery.

Others are Community Colleges, BWI, Bureau of

WLCU COVID-19

Starts from back page

WLCU President Ahmed Wazni said the opening of the clinic today fulfilled the long time aspirations and desire of the Lebanese community in Liberia.

The WLCU also undertook and restored the Oxygen plant at the John F. Kennedy Medical Hospital in Monrovia as part of its assistance program to help

successful combating of COVID-19, the Lebanese community intends to procure additional equipment to transform the clinic into a state-of-the-art clinic to boast the country's health care delivery service.

The WLCU President expressed special thanks and appreciations to the President



the Liberian Government combat the disease.

WLCU President Wazni thanked members of the Lebanese community for the great sacrifices as well as the implementing government Ministries and Agencies in making the Clinic operational today.

Wazni promised after the

of the Republic of Liberia for the opportunity, Lebanese Ambassador to Liberia, Mr. Henri Kastoun, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, State, Health, Task Force as well as NPHIL and all the doctors, nurses and staff that are unconditionally sacrificing to provide healthy environment and society.

State Enterprise, CDA, FIU, Human Rights Commission, IIC, Kakata Rural Teacher Training Institute, LRC, LIPA, Liberia College of Physician, LIPO, LMHRA, LMDC, LRRRC, LEITI, Liberia Freezone, LAC, LACC, LACE, CDA, LRC and the GSA.

The rest are office of the Vice President, the Webbo Rural Teacher Training Institute, National AIDS Commission, JFK, Judicial, Liberia Airport Authority, Agricultural and Industrial Training, W.V.S. Tubman University, ZRTTI, Tax Appeal Board, and National Commission on Small Arms, and Wash Commission and Forestry Training Institute.

It continues with NICOL,

Council of Chiefs, NPHIL, NAC, NBC, NCHE, and National Commission on Disabled, National Housing and Saving Banks, NIR, National Lottery, NSA, National Veteran Bureau, PPCC, Rubber Development Incorporated and RREA.

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning informs the public that the Government is committed to paying all civil servants on time.

The Government assures the public that despite the COVID -19 pandemic and its effect on the economy, it is working assiduously to ensure salaries of all civil servants are made current, before the end of the fiscal year 2019/2020.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

GSA disinfects Senate

-following Covid-19 case

By Ethel A Tweh

The General Services Agency has disinfected the Liberian Senate, days after deputy senate secretary Madam Jannave Verdier-Massaquoi, tested positive of the coronavirus.

Mr. Massaquoi, who works at the Ministry of Education, also got infected with the virus while his boss, Minister Ansu Sonii is reportedly down with the virus, seeking medication at the 14th Military Hospital, the government's main treatment center here.

19 response team, Mary T. Broh led a team early Monday, June 22, 2020 to fumigate the senate wing of the Capitol.

The GSA boss disclosed that she received a mail from the Senate chair on Rules, Order and Administration, Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence of Grand Bassa County, asking her to come over to disinfect the building.

Director Broh explained that the disinfection was carried out on the outside of the building, its hallways and steps, noting that she didn't disinfect any senator office or the Office of Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor.

"If any Senator or the Vice President wants their office to be disinfected, they should inform the team to do so", she said. Madam Broh emphasized that Liberians should realize how serious the Coronavirus is and "we need to take it seriously." She urged the Senate to fumigate the entire building for one week and have it washed down before resumption of normal business.

Meanwhile, due to a resurgence of the virus, President George M. Weah has by proclamation extended a 60-day State of Emergency imposed in April by additional 30 days in consultation with the 54th Liberian Legislature.

-Editing by Jonathan Browne



Madam Massaquoi reportedly contracted the virus while caring for her sick husband at home.

The couple is currently seeking medical attention at the 14th Military Hospital outside Monrovia.

It remains unclear whether she had contacts with senators on Capitol Hill prior to testing positive. But the Legislature has lockdown for a week to observe the situation.

GSA Director General and head of the government Covid-

SG interfering

Starts from back page

Court "C," following which the LACC in a communication dated 10 June 2020 informed the Ministry of Justice that it was retrieving cases it forwarded to the ministry, including Singbeh's case.

The indictment accuses the defendants, along with former National Investment Commission (NIC) Executive Director George Wisner of allegedly conspiring to commit economic sabotage in violation of the Penal Law. They face charges of economic sabotage, theft of property, forgery and criminal conspiracy.

Speaking Monday, Cllr. Wesseh said he believes that someone is misinterpreting the law, noting that the Justice Ministry has taken substantial stance by reviewing the witnesses before drawing indictment after receiving the case from LACC.

Dismissing Cllr. Cephus' claim that the matter is a case between two corporate partners, Cllr. Wesseh notes that if an investor brings US\$5m in the country and it gets stolen, it amounts to theft against the public interest and therefore requires government's intervention.

"Even though it derived from a commercial transaction, but the issue is that the money ... was allegedly in the bank and the money got missing. So who do we hold?" he asks.

Liberia's Justice Minister Frank Musah Dean, his deputy Solicitor General Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephas and Montserrado County Attorney Cllr. Edwin K. Martin recused themselves from the economic sabotage trial predicated upon the fact that they represented the private prosecutor in private practice.

According to Cllr. Wesseh, at the end of January this year, the case was turned over to his office to continue with trial after Dean, Cephus and Martin's recusal, saying prosecution already had a copy of the indictment by February

Term of Court.

He argues that substantial action was taken in the case after LACC presented it to the Ministry of Justice, contending that the issue of LACC is moot.

There have been several persons ordered to be arrested for their alleged roles in this case, including defendants Othello Z.B. Karr, Karel Socher, Ales Sranmek, Sherman Longan, Jan Holask, Barry F. Tequah and OusmanFofana.

Others include Gloria Cain, Sylvester Selvkpoh, Patrick Saah Siaphia, Mulbah Kenneh and Patrick Siaphe.

Prosecution claims that defendant Singbeh used his official position to conspire and connive with Gloria Caine, George Wisner, Othello Z.B. Karr, Prince A. Saysay and others to obtain faked and fraudulent "Investment Incentives" for duty free privileges.

The defendants allegedly obtained the faked "investment Incentives" for duty free privileges in spite of the fact that MHM Eko - Liberia was due to engage in crushed rocks and related businesses with US\$7,616,152 capital investment.

According to the indictment, defendant Singbeh opened two bogus accounts in the name of MHM Eko-Liberia, conspired with Karel Sochor, Ales Sramek, Peter Pesek, Jan Holaseh and Gloria Caine by convincing the Czech nationals to transfer US\$2,495,109 and US\$102,000,000 to pay custom duties on equipment imported, employees' salaries and other running cost.

The indictment notes that the total value of properties including cash and equipment stolen directly from the Czech nationals by the defendants is estimated at about US\$5,062,419.10. British national Hans Armstrong has been the Attorney-In-Fact of the two Czech brothers at the rock crushing company that was situated in Margibi County.

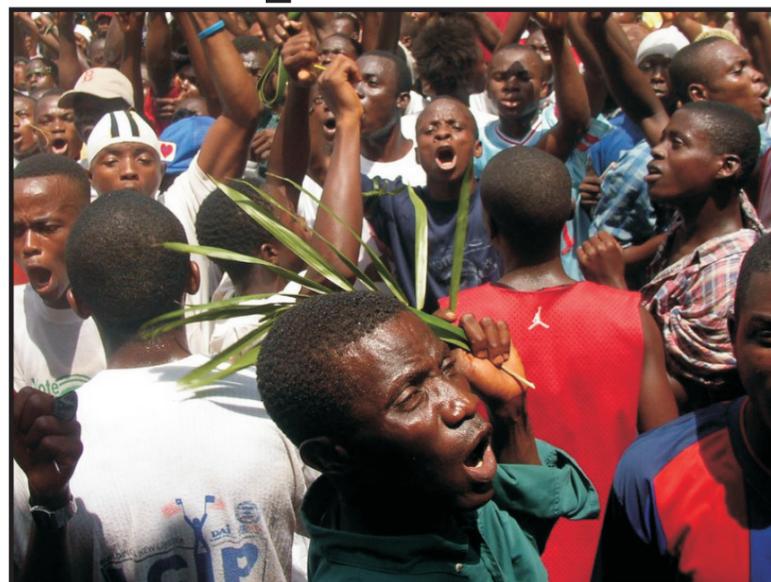
CDC goes to primaries

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) has planned its primaries throughout the country, ahead of the December 08 Special Senatorial elections, partitioning the country into six regions.

Speaking in a news conference at the Coalition headquarters in Congo Town, national chairman MulbahMorlu said the National Executive Committee, in consultation with the Governing Council of the Coalition for Democratic Change, has reached a decision to conduct primaries in all 15 political sub-divisions of the country.

He said the scheduled activities are pursuant to a unanimous resolution of the Governing Council, which requires primaries as a most viable platform for the nomination of candidates to participate in December midterm senatorial polls.

"Consistently, a 'Primaries Organizing Committee' has



been formed and constituted, naming partisan Jefferson T. Koijee as Chairman, Partisan Alexander Saydee, Co-Chairman, Partisan Eric Kpayea, Secretary, etc. The entire process, which starts from 15 to 30 July 2020, will include all fifteen counties decentralized and grouped into Six Regions as follows," he said.

According to him, they include Region-I, constituting

Montserrado and Margibi Counties, will conduct primaries in Montserrado from 15-21 July 2020, under the Chairmanship of partisan Ronald K. Mendscrole, while Region-II, grouping Rivergee and Maryland Counties, is scheduled to elect candidates in Harper City, Maryland from 22-23 July 2020, under the gavel of partisan Andrew Peters.

Similarly, Region-III, which includes Grand Gedeh, Nimba&Lofa Counties, holds primaries in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh from 27-28 July 2020, to be chaired by partisan Moses Kollie, while Region-IV, grouping Grand Bassa, Rivercess& Bong Counties, will conduct primaries in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa from 18-21 July 2020, under the chairmanship of partisan Bill Twehway.

Lastly, Region-V - Grand Kru&Sinoe Counties, goes to the polls in Barclayville, Grand

Kru between 28-29 July 2020, to be chaired by partisan C Mike Doyen; and Region-VI, bringing together Gbarpolu, Bomi& Grand Cape Mount Counties, will hold its primaries in Tubmanburg City, Bomi from 18-20 July 2020, presided by partisan Adama Robinson.

The impending polls are intended to elect 15 senators to refill the 30-seated Senate on Capitol Hill before the 2023 Presidential and Representative elections. - Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Le parti au pouvoir à la recherche d'un joker pour battre Dillon aux prochaines sénatoriales

Trois noms ont été sélectionnés pour s'affronter aux élections primaires de la Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique au pouvoir. Il s'agit des députés Gray et Thomas Fallah et du ministre actuel du Commerce Tarpeh, tous des piliers du régime actuel. Le vainqueur à l'issue de ces primaires aura la

lourde tâche de battre le sénateur charismatique sortant du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius Dillon, du Parti de la liberté

Acarous Moses Gray est l'actuel représentant du district électoral numéro 8 du comté de Montserrado, tandis que le député Thomas Fallah, représente le district électoral numéro 5 du comté de

Montserrado.

Le parti au pouvoir a été sévèrement battu l'année dernière lors de l'élection sénatoriale partielle par le sénateur Dillon, candidat de la plateforme de l'opposition, dans son principal fief, le comté de Montserrado, qui abrite la capitale économique et politique du pays, Monrovia. Considérée jusqu'à présent imbattable dans cette localité très peuplée, la Coalition pour le changement démocratique a été renversée par Dillon avec 55,74% des suffrages exprimés contre les 34,77% pour la candidate du parti au pouvoir, PaulitaWie, une novice sur l'arène politique libérienne.

Ainsi, pour relever la face et reprendre control de ce qui était longtemps considéré son bastion, la coalition, sous la direction de son président MulbahMorlu, de Cyril Allen, d'Alex Tyler et de la vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor, affute toutes les armes à sa disposition, de sorte à ne laisser aucune chance à son

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Me Ndubuisi Nwabudike expulsé de l'Association du Barreau National du Liberia (LNBA)

L'Association du Barreau National du Liberia (LNBA) a expulsé Ndubuisi Nwabudike, un natif nigérian dont la nationalité libérienne est beaucoup contestée. Me Nwabudike est soupçonné d'avoir intégré le groupe de manière frauduleuse.

« Il est devenu membre de l'Association du Barreau National du Liberia par des moyens frauduleux », a dit la LNBA. Avant son expulsion de la LNBA le vendredi 19 juin, le fonctionnaire en disgrâce a continué de présider la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria (LACC), un poste réservé aux avocats, bien qu'il n'ait pas prouvé qu'il est un Libérien naturalisé lors de l'audience de confirmation du Sénat à la suite de sa nomination à la tête de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) par le président Weah.

Le ressortissant nigérian, Me Nwabudike, qui insiste sur le fait qu'il a été naturalisé libérien en 1982, occupait le poste de président de la LACC lorsque le président George Manneh Weah l'a nommé cette année à la tête de la NEC, sa troisième nomination à un poste de responsabilité

en moins de deux ans.

L'audience de confirmation antérieure de Nwabudike s'est passée sans heurte au Sénat. Il fut confirmé président de la LACC sans que le système faible du Libéria ne détecte aucun problème concernant la façon dont il avait acquis la nationalité libérienne, ce qui lui avait permis de pratiquer le droit ici.

Après des mois d'enquête sur sa nationalité libérienne, la LNBA a annoncé vendredi

qu'elle avait recueilli que le certificat de mariage de Nwabudike daté du 22 janvier 1992, déposé par lui-même, l'identifiait comme un Nigérian né le 19 octobre 1960 et non comme un Libérien.

Ayant découvert au moins quatre dates de naissance différentes sur les différents passeports de Nwabudike, le président de la LNBA, Me TiawonGongloe a annoncé que le Conseil exécutif du Barreau a approuvé l'expulsion de celui-ci, déclarant : "Son nom

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



A. Ndubuisi Nwabudike

CPI : la procureure dénonce les vices de procédure dans l'acquittement de Laurent Gbagbo

Depuis ce lundi matin, Fatou Bensouda et son équipe exposent et défendent les raisons qui les poussent à faire appel de l'acquittement de l'ex-président ivoirien Laurent Gbagbo et de son ancien ministre de la Jeunesse Charles Blé Goudé. L'accusation a trois jours pour convaincre.

Comme prévu, l'accusation réclame l'invalidation du procès et l'annulation des acquittements. Ce matin, ses conseils ont pris la parole pendant trente minutes pour défendre cette démarche. Le bureau du procureur dénonce des vices de procédure commis par la chambre de première instance. Le substitut du procureur évoquait ce matin le fait que les magistrats avaient remis leurs motivations écrites six mois après avoir décidé d'acquitter l'ancien président et l'ancien ministre de la Jeunesse de Côte d'Ivoire.

Pour rappel, le 15 janvier 2019, les juges de la chambre de première instance avaient prononcé l'acquittement de l'ancien chef de l'État ivoirien, à l'oral. Une décision présentée comme étant « prise à la majorité ». Et six mois plus tard, les juges avaient rendu leur mémoire écrit, détaillant les arguments qui avaient motivé l'acquittement. Cette décision d'acquittement « n'est pas un patchwork », souligne Me Gallmetzer Reinhold, elle aurait dû être prononcée au moment où le mémoire écrit était prêt. Pour l'accusation, lorsqu'ils ont pris leur décision en janvier 2019, les juges ne pouvaient pas avoir eu le temps d'analyser les 4 600 pièces à conviction et les 96 témoignages présentés au cours des trois années dédiées à l'accusation. Elle estime donc que cela a eu un impact sur le résultat final, c'est-à-dire l'acquittement.

« Fondamentalement injustes »

Du côté des victimes, l'avocate a dénoncé des procédures « fondamentalement injustes ». Elle a aussi rappelé les divergences entre les trois juges, tout au long de l'affaire. Pour Me Paolina Massidda, le procès n'a pas

permis de faire la lumière sur la crise de 2010-2011 : « Le droit à la vérité, à la justice et éventuellement à des réparations a été biaisé en raison de l'incapacité de la chambre de première instance à mener une procédure équitable. Nous avons identifié plusieurs erreurs dans la décision écrite des juges. Ils ne sont pas parvenus à faire la lumière sur la crise post-électorale en Côte d'Ivoire. »

Pour la défense, ces arguments ne sont pas fondés. Pendant deux ans, la procureure a eu le temps, de présenter son cas, les droits de Laurent Gbagbo étaient au cœur des démarches des juges. « Quelle justice aurait été rendue si les juges avaient attendu six mois de plus pour rendre leur décision », s'interroge Me Jacobs.

La Cour pénale internationale a pris des mesures spécifiques en raison de la pandémie de coronavirus. C'est donc une audience particulière sur la forme qui se tient pour trois jours. C'est une audience semi-virtuelle. Les membres de la CPI sont en télétravail depuis plusieurs semaines : c'est une reprise progressive. Tout a été fait pour respecter les gestes barrières : trois juges sur cinq siègent dans la salle d'audience, certains acteurs du procès participent à l'audience depuis une autre pièce du tribunal. Même si les Pays-Bas ne sont plus confinés, que les frontières européennes sont quasiment ouvertes, la Cour reste prudente, elle est donc restée fermée à la presse et au public.

Et seuls quelques acteurs sont présents dans la salle d'audience, dont Charles Blé Goudé, costume bien arrangé et masque sur le nez, qui réside à La Haye et s'est rendu ce matin à la Cour en vélo. De son côté, Laurent Gbagbo suit l'audience par vidéo depuis sa résidence de Bruxelles, tout comme Me Emmanuel Altit, son avocat principal. Les audiences ont été étalées sur trois jours, avec plusieurs pauses afin de corriger des erreurs techniques. C'était notamment le cas lundi matin, au niveau de la traduction qui ne parvenait pas à suivre le rythme.

Français

Le parti au pouvoir à la recherche d'un joker

adversaire. L'équipe de gestion politique de la Coalition ne laisse rien au hasard dans la bataille imminente pour reprendre le comté de Montserrado en décembre avant l'élection présidentielle de 2023.

Le représentant Acarous Gray, qui fut secrétaire général du Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique, a à son compte deux victoires successives aux élections législatives.

Pour sa part, le représentant Thomas Fallah est à son troisième mandat successif à la Chambre des représentants, ce qui fait de lui l'un des législateurs qui ont bénéficié de plus de mandats sous la Troisième République. Fallah est actuellement vice-président des opérations de la CDC et président du comité législatif sur les voies, les moyens, les finances et le budget. Le troisième, le professeur Wilson Tarpeh, qui a bâti sa force politique autour des jeunes intellectuels, en particulier des diplômés et des étudiants de l'Université d'État du Libéria, n'a jamais remporté de victoire électorale. Il a au contraire été sévèrement battue par feu Geraldine Doe Sherif aux élections sénatoriales partielles de 2008. Actuellement, il préside le comité controversé de distribution alimentaire du COVID-19. Selon les informations recueillies dans le couloir du siège de la CDC à Congo Town, Tarpeh part favori parmi les trois, mais sa

gestion du paquet d'aide alimentaire d'une valeur de 30 millions de dollars américains et d'autres scandales financiers pourraient considérablement diminuer ses chances.

De l'autre côté, le sénateur Dillon, l'adversaire à battre, jouit actuellement du soutien total de l'alliance des principaux partis politiques de l'opposition, à savoir le Parti de l'unité, le Parti de la liberté, le Congrès national alternatif et le Parti de tous les libériens.

Dillon, qui n'a passé qu'une seule année au Sénat libérien et considéré par beaucoup comme la « lumière » de cet organe, aurait plus de chances de conserver le siège de Montserrado. Cependant, l'establishment au pouvoir élabore des stratégies pour faire de Dillon le sénateur qui a passé moins de temps au sénat.

La popularité du sénateur Dillon a augmenté quand il a déclaré publiquement son salaire, ses allocations et ses autres avantages, le premier et le seul à le faire.

C'est lui qui a également annoncé la nouvelle selon laquelle les sénateurs avaient reçu chacun 6 500 \$ US à titre de fonds opérationnels immédiatement après avoir approuvé dans une résolution communel'état d'urgence déclaré par le président Weah.

L'argent, dont le total est de 195 000 \$ US, a été distribué parmi les sénateurs au moment même où le personnel de la santé qui était au front dans la lutte contre Covid-19 réclamait en vain des primes et des équipements de protection individuelle.

Me Ndubuisi Nwabudike expulsé

est rayé de la liste des membres de l'Association du barreau national."

« Cette décision sera prochainement communiquée au Président de la République du Libéria, au Président de la Chambre des représentants, au Président Pro Tempore du Sénat libérien et au juge en chef de la Cour suprême du Libéria ainsi qu'à tous les tribunaux de la République du Libéria », a dit Me Gongloe.

Il a en outre révélé que lors de son enquête, le comité des plaintes et de l'éthique de la LNBA a obtenu le 3 avril de cette année du Service d'Immigration du Liberia (LIS) une lettre informant le comité qu'il n'avait aucun dossier sur le statut de résident légal ou la naturalisation de Me Nwabudike au Libéria.

« Le 6 avril », poursuit Me Gongloe, « le comité a également obtenu un certificat du greffier du tribunal pénal "B" indiquant qu'il n'avait aucun dossier sur le statut de résidence ou de naturalisation de Nwabudike ».

Me Gongloe a également précisé que les documents obtenus lors de l'audience de confirmation de Me Nwabudike par le Sénat et le dossier du tribunal de droit civil sur une requête en jugement déclaratoire déposée par le fonctionnaire en disgrâce, contiennent de multiples problèmes qui ont exacerbé le doute quant à la fiabilité de son statut.

Selon Me Gongloe, premièrement, le comité a trouvé un prétendu certificat de naturalisation présenté au Sénat libérien par Nwabudike montrant qu'il avait été délivré

COMMENTAIRE

Par Bertrand Badré
& Yves Tiberghien

Pour un renouveau du multilatéralisme

PARIS - Une crise soudaine bouleverse le processus de prise de décisions et contraint les dirigeants à agir en urgence. Une combinaison de manque de confiance, de perception erronée et de peur rompt les liens qui structurent une civilisation moderne.

Faisons un retour en arrière, jusqu'au début du 20^e siècle. Durant l'été 1914 l'Europe se préparait à la guerre. Mais on pourrait en dire autant au sujet de l'été 2020. La pire crise sanitaire depuis la pandémie de grippe de 1914-1920 se transforme sous nos yeux en une crise systémique de la mondialisation, qui pourrait ouvrir la voie à la confrontation géopolitique la plus dangereuse depuis la fin de la Guerre froide.

En l'espace de quelques semaines, la pandémie de Covid-19 a mis à l'arrêt le tiers de l'économie mondiale et déclenché la crise économique la plus dévastatrice jamais connue depuis la Grande dépression. La manière dont cette crise va évoluer dépendra pour l'essentiel d'un leadership collectif, or cet élément crucial fait défaut. Les USA et la Chine étant à couteaux tirés, il faut chercher ailleurs un nouveau leadership mondial. Par ailleurs, si l'on veut parvenir à une nouvelle coopération internationale il faut détruire trois mythes :

- Premier mythe: le Covid-19 est une catastrophe inattendue (un "cygne noir") à laquelle il était impossible de se préparer. En réalité, des défenseurs de la santé publique comme Bill Gates, des épidémiologistes comme Michael Osterholm de l'université du Minnesota et même de grandes agences de renseignement alertent depuis des années quant aux risques systémiques que posent les coronavirus. La profondeur de la crise que nous traversons est le produit de notre échec collectif à penser de manière non-linéaire ou à tenir compte des avertissements sans ambiguïté des scientifiques. Pire encore, le Covid-19 n'est probablement que la répétition générale des désastres qui nous attendent à cause du réchauffement climatique - notamment au début des années 2030, après le franchissement du seuil de 1,5°C de réchauffement par rapport à la température moyenne de l'ère préindustrielle.

- Deuxième mythe : le Covid-19 aurait discrédité la mondialisation. Il est vrai que les voyages aériens ont répandu le coronavirus à travers la planète beaucoup plus vite que les anciens moyens de transport ne permettaient de le faire. Néanmoins, la mondialisation nous a permis de disposer des informations, du savoir médical, de la technologie et des institutions multilatérales nécessaires pour vaincre non seulement les virus, mais aussi les autres menaces collectives. C'est parce que la communauté scientifique mondiale dispose des technologies modernes de communication et d'information que le génome du nouveau coronavirus a pu être séquencé et rendu public dès le 12 janvier, à peine deux semaines après que la Chine ait informé de l'apparition d'un foyer viral. Et maintenant, partout dans le monde, des chercheurs partagent leurs découvertes à la recherche d'un vaccin. Jamais auparavant, autant de personnes dans un aussi grand nombre de pays n'avaient travaillé ensemble sur un même projet.

- Troisième mythe : nos instruments politiques et nos institutions peuvent nous permettre de sortir de la crise. En réalité, les organisations internationales ne peuvent mobiliser qu'une fraction des ressources qui seraient nécessaires pour contenir le virus et ses conséquences sur l'économie. Pour répondre à nos attentes, il faut

changer le mode de fonctionnement d'institutions comme l'Organisation mondiale de la santé et faire davantage pour mobiliser les acteurs privés.

La crise du Covid-19 a éclaté à un moment critique, accélérant une autre crise déjà profonde, celle qui affecte la coopération internationale. Résoudre ces deux crises exige d'innover en profondeur et de se lancer dans une coopération massive pour parvenir à un équilibre stable entre croissance économique et bien-être social. Nous devons non seulement changer nos institutions et le système économique, mais également nous changer nous-mêmes. Cela suppose d'agir dans cinq directions :

1) Oeuvrer à un leadership plus inclusif au niveau mondial. Etant donné les difficultés que connaissent les relations sino-américaines, les autres pays du G20 doivent collaborer pour trouver de nouvelles idées destinées à répondre à la crise du système de commerce mondial, à l'intensification de la concurrence stérile en matière de technologie et à l'effondrement de la confiance dans les cadres multilatéraux. L'UE, le Royaume-Uni, le Japon, le Canada, l'Indonésie, l'Inde, la Corée du Sud et le Brésil doivent jouer un plus grand rôle pour combler l'absence de leadership.

2) Construire de nouvelles coalitions de leadership multi-niveaux incluant entre autres des ONG, le secteur privé et des cercles de réflexion. Quand le leadership classique de type vertical fait défaut, d'autres doivent émerger.

3) Garantir un processus sans à-coup pour développer, produire et distribuer rapidement et équitablement un vaccin contre le Covid-19. Les pays du G20 doivent appliquer leur engagement en ce sens avec les organisations internationales voulues et les partenaires privés qui se veulent partie prenante. C'est un défi comme on n'en a jamais vu qui exige une coalition sans précédent.

4) Réunir davantage de moyens pour faire face à la crise financière qui s'annonce dans les pays émergents et dans les pays en développement. Le FMI doit émettre dès à présent une nouvelle tranche de ses Droits de tirage spéciaux, et en lien étroit avec la Chine, le Club de Paris des créanciers souverains doit trouver une solution au problème de l'endettement de plus en plus insoutenable de la dette des pays débiteurs.

5) Construire les coalitions voulues pour permettre le succès de la Conférence des Nations unies sur la biodiversité et de la Conférence des Nations unies sur le climat (COP26) l'année prochaine. Le monde a un besoin vital d'une implication plus importante de la communauté internationale sur les questions d'environnement et de climat, notamment pour briser le lien entre perte de l'habitat et zoonoses.

L'historienne Margaret MacMillan conclut son analyse de la marche du monde vers la guerre en 1914 par un message crucial : Si nous voulons pointer les responsabilités de la guerre du point de vue du 21^e siècle, nous pouvons accuser ceux qui ont plongé l'Europe dans la guerre de deux choses : la première, un manque d'imagination pour n'avoir pas réalisé à quel point un tel conflit allait être destructeur ; la deuxième, un manque de courage pour faire face à ceux qui disaient qu'il n'y avait d'autres choix que la guerre. Il y a toujours plusieurs choix.

Le coût de l'inaction atteint déjà des sommets. Plutôt que d'accepter passivement l'écroulement du multilatéralisme, nous devons imaginer les nouveaux mécanismes de solidarité nécessaires face à la crise.

Gov't rejects CBL officials' bond

By Winston W. Parley

Prosecutors here have rejected a bond filed by several ex-officials indicted for their alleged roles in the LD\$16 billion scandal that has rocked the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) for years, saying the bail bond posted for David M. Farhat, Elsie Dossen Badio and Kollie Tamba is utterly

The prosecution therefore requests the Criminal Court "C" at the Temple of Justice to set aside the bail bond filed for David M. Farhat, Elsie Dossen Badio and Kollie Tamba and order their re-arrest until the surety can remedy the defects in the bond.

David M. Farhat, Elsie Dossen Badio, Kollie Tamba and Melissa A. Emeh were listed in

was not included in the third indictment.

The other defendants are former CBL Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks; Dorbor M. Hagba, former Director of Finance; Richard H. Walker, former Director for Banking and Joseph Dennis, former Director for Internal Audit.

The new indictment contains seven charges which are higher in number compared to the five charges levied against the defendants in the previous indictments, and except for Mr. Sirleaf, all his alleged accomplices are reindicted.

The government here indicted the officials in 2019 for their alleged roles in the misapplication of \$16 billion Liberian Dollars printed and shipped to Liberia to replace old local currency after a series of mass protests led local and international institutions to investigate a claim that the money had gone missing.

The billions of Liberian dollars scandal emerged at the CBL when Mr. Sirleaf served as CBL's Deputy Governor for Operations, just as the other defendants did in working in their various positions which they held before their indictment.

Last month prosecutors nolle prosequi (drop charges against) Mr. Sirleaf "with prejudice," and nolle prosequi Hagba, Walker and



defective.

According to the prosecution, the defendants' surety Accident and Casualty Insurance Company (ACICO) has filed numerous bail bonds to secure the release of defendants amounting to US\$1,805,433.18 and those cases are still pending before courts in the country.

the third indictment drawn by prosecution against multiple members of the CBL's Board of Governors and officials for alleged economic sabotage surrounding the \$16 billion Liberian Dollars scandal.

Former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's son and former CBL Deputy Governor for Operations Charles E. Sirleaf

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State of Emergency gets another 30 days

With the rapid increase in new cases of the deadly corona virus, President George M. Weah has by proclamation extended the State of Emergency by additional

30 days in consultation with the 54th Liberian Legislature.

President Weah noted that the decision will afford his government an opportunity to re-examine its COVID-19 response strategy.

The Executive Mansion in Monrovia says the proclamation, which was issued on June 22, 2020, quotes the President as saying that despite the measures that have been put in place to curtail the spread of the virus in the country, including compulsory wearing of facemasks, hand washing and social distancing, cases and deaths from the disease continue to rise.

The Government of Liberia declared a State of Emergency in April in response to the global Coronavirus pandemic. At the time, movements were restricted and the Commander-In-Chief (President George Weah) mandated The Joint Security to help enforce the set of protocols that were recommended by the health authorities.

Those measures expired on June 21, 2020 in keeping with the SOE's time frame.

President Weah said the extension takes immediate effect, pending deliberations at the National Legislature in keeping with the Constitution of Liberia.

The proclamation issued here Monday, June 22, 2020 states that WHEREAS, in response to the global

effect of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the people and residents of Liberia, President George M. Weah has extended the State of Emergency declared on April 8, 2020, and subsequently approved by the Legislature in a Joint Resolution of the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate on April 17, 2020. The document was published into handbills on April 21, 2020.

However, prior to the expiration of the aforesaid Joint Resolution (#002/2020)

President Weah requested the Legislature for an extension thereof, for reasons that notwithstanding all the measures imposed by the State of Emergency, especially the restrictions on the movements of people and the health protocols (stay-at-home order, social distancing and wearing of masks), the incidence of persons infected by Covid-19 pandemic and the incidence of deaths caused by the virus have increased exponentially.

The proclamation also notes that on June 20, 2020, the Incident Management

System (IMS) reported total confirmed cases 626, total recovery 254 and total deaths 34.

In the President's request to the Legislature for the extension of the State of Emergency, he informed lawmakers the extension will provide the opportunity for the Government to re-examine its response strategy to Covid-19 fight and thereby better secure and protect the people and residents of the Republic against the dreadful scourge. **-Press Release**

Dr. Wolloh E. Topor donates to Pleebo Health Center

By Patrick N. Mensah, from Maryland

Former representative candidate from the 2017 election, Dr. Wolloh E. Topor has donated assorted materials to the Pleebo Health Center in PleeboSodoken District, Maryland County, including soap, rams of papers and sanitizers. Dr. Topor has also promised a monthly donation of stationeries to the health facility.

Speaking during the donation over the weekend, he said the gesture comes as a way of buttressing government's effort in meeting health needs of the people, and appeal from the County Health Officer assigned in the County, Dr. Methodius George.

He said Dr. George had called on donors and permanent citizens to contribute to the health center, noting that as a prominent son of Maryland,

was moved to donate just a little of what he has promised to do for the facility.

Dr. Topor disclosed that his foundation is planning to extent services to patients at the health center, by sharing cooked foods and donating bags of rice.

He said the health center deserves more from government, due to services it is providing to residents of the county, recalling that he

himself sought medication there when he fell ill.

Dr. Topor hailed the center for medical treatments provided him during his illness, saying that he couldn't have received such services from any of those bigger hospitals in the country.

Receiving the donation, the Officer-In-Charge at the PLeebo Health Center thanked Dr. Topor for

identifying with the health facility.

Madam Kebehs B. Socree described the donation as timely, saying the facility is actually in need of items provided. She lamented that though the health center is government-owned, it faces enormous challenges.

She disclosed that some volunteers at the center haven't received compensation for two months besides lack of detergents, sanitizers, stationeries for doctors to write down prescriptions to patients, including training for some of the volunteers.

Madam Socree explained that due to the shortage of materials, patients are sometime asked to even buy their own materials.

The OIC added that she uses her private generator to run the facility, while private

homes in the county benefit power from the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC).

However, she said despite the constraints outlined, the center is well sponsored by government and partners in terms of drugs.

At the same time she called on government through its local authorities in the county to recondition community roads to enable ambulances have access into communities, including the road leading to the health facility.

The Pleebo Health Center serves almost half of the population of Maryland County. Situated in a commercial district, it is said to have the highest population due to the operations of two concession companies, Cavalla Rubber Corporation (CRC) and the Maryland Oil Palm Plantation (MOPP). **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Court summons VP Taylor

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's Vice President and political leader of the National Patriotic Party (NPP) Madam Jewel Howard Taylor has been summoned by the Civil Law Court in Monrovia in relation to a petition filed

Ghankay Taylor's rule, forms part of a tripartite arrangement that rules as the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government headed by President George Manneh Weah.

Through the writ of summons from the Civil Law Court, the

petition.

The writ notes that failure to appear, judgment will be rendered against the vice president and all those acting under her authority.

They are also ordered to file their formal appearance or answer before 30 July 2020.

The former ruling NPP faces years of internal conflict, in which the party is sometimes divided between Mrs. Taylor and party chairman Biney.

At one point of the internal crisis within NPP in 2018, Mr. Biney was still battling his expulsion from the party when he and his loyalists retaliated by expelling Madam Taylor as party standard bearer, a decision she challenged.

However, some NPP partisans have called on both Mr. Biney and Vice President Taylor to put aside their differences and unite the party, but the party still has issues before the Civil Law Court where the court has indicated through the writ of summons that it could render a judgment if Mrs. Taylor and those under her authority do not appear.



before the court by NPP chairman James P. Biney and other party officials.

NPP, a former governing party during imprisoned former President Charles

sheriff has been mandated to summon Madam Taylor and all those acting under her authority to appear before the court to meet on the third Monday in June to answer the

Gov't rejects CBL

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Dennis "without prejudice" as Mr. Weeks remained on separate trial. Meanwhile the \$16 billion local currency which prompted their indictment remained a mystery.

While Mr. Weeks was being nolleprosequi on Monday, 8 June for the previous indictment, the prosecution issued a new indictment against him, three of those earlier nolleprosequi and the CBL's Board of Governors for theft of property; economic sabotage; fraud on the internal revenue of Liberia; misuse of public money, property or record; theft or illegal disbursement of public money; criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation.

The defendants are accused by prosecution of flagrantly violating Chapter 15, Section 15.51 of the New Penal Law of Liberia. According to the indictment, the CBL Board of Governors in exercising their corporate power and authority, passed a resolution dated 28 April 2016 for the purpose of selecting and subsequently selected Crane Currency as the vendor to print the Liberian banknotes.

Defendant Weeks and the Board of Governors including Farhat, Emeh, Badio and Tamba are accused of deliberately failing to revert to the Legislature in line with a communication that demanded that appropriate details of the amount or quantity and denominations of the replacing banknotes be submitted to the Legislature prior to the printing and minting of coins.

Additionally, the Board is accused of mandating

defendant Weeks to enter into a contract on June 12, 2019 with Crane Currency to print L\$10,000,000,000 banknotes at the cost of US\$10,121,689.20 before receiving the July 19, 2017 communication [from the Legislature].

At the time of selecting Crane Currency to print L\$5,000,000,000, the indictment says the quantity of Liberian banknotes in circulation at the time was L\$9.940 billion and that a significant number of the banknotes had worn out and mutilated, prompting the need to replace L\$5,000,000,000 approved as the objective of legislative joint resolution.

The indictment says it is demonstrably inconceivable for the CBL Board of Governors to have requested the printing of L\$10,000,000,000 to replace all legacy notes when they knew that the total amount in circulation that should have been replaced was L\$13.792 billion.

The indictment alleges that the defendants conspired to willfully conceal the actual amount in circulation for the purpose of committing theft, depriving the Government of Liberia of its resources.

Further, the indictment notes that defendants Weeks, Hagba, Walker and Dennis knew or had reasons to know that from packing lists reviewed by the investigation, the total amount printed was L\$13,004,750,000 and not L\$15,506,000,000, but "they maliciously and purposely concealed and understated the actual amount..." because they had criminally connived.

Justice Minister, others face arrest

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean and APM Terminals Managing Director George Adjei have been ordered arrested by the Civil Law Court in Monrovia for contempt, with a mandate to detain them at a nearest police station if they are arrested after working hours.

The arrest order dated Monday, 22 June, states that the court wants the officials to be brought before it to show cause why they should not be held in contempt of court for their refusal and failure to obey its order to retrieve a container from APM Terminals.

The matter relates to a case before the Court in which a business group said to be headquartered in Conakry, Guinea known as Agid Sarju Complexe Aro Industrie is accusing its partner company Aria Gida Katku Madd Sanvet Tic Ltd of diverting funds intended to jump start a business agreed upon.

Agid Sarju Complexe Aro Industrie whose principal is a resident corporation in the Republic of Guinea says it appointed one Aboubacar S. Balde as its Attorney - In - Fact to represent its legal interest

here in Liberia.

The group says it is involved in the production of powder juice, lemon tea and other food stuff with headquarters in Conakry.

The group complains that in February 2018, it allegedly entered a partnership

50 percent share, amounting to US\$151,400 in keeping with the agreement, accusing Aria Gida Katku Madd Sanvet Tic Ltd. of receiving the money intended to procure four brand new machines, packages and processing materials to jump start the



agreement with Aria Gida Katku Madd Sanvet Tic. Ltd., for the construction of a production plant in Conakry valued at US\$302,800 with 50 percent capital contribution by each party.

Agid Sarju Complexe Aro Industrie alleges that it wired its

production in three months.

But it claims that Aria Gida Kaktu Madd Sanvet failed to deliver on the promises, and instead requested Agid Sarju Complexe Aro Industrie to transfer additional money due to alleged financial difficulties.

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Agid says it made several transfers which amounted to US\$55,200 and US\$60,139, noting that it paid a total of US\$206,600 and Euro 60,139 which far exceed its share of 50 percent capital contribution as agreed upon.

Agid continues that after full compliance with the agreement, it discovered whtt Aria Gida Kaktu Madd Sanvet only shipped his old machines followed by the shipment of two containers, one of which

valued US\$18,000 and the second which only contained half of its content was valued Euros 10,000.

When asked, Agid Sarju complains that Mr. Reza Akhavein was consistently renegeing and failing to live up to the other terms of the agreement, including the procuring of the four new machines, processing materials, packages and other assorted materials for which Agid had provided US\$300,000.

SG interfering with trial?



Solicitor General Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus

By **Winston W. Parley**

Assistant Justice Minister for Litigation Cllr. Wesseh A. Wesseh terms as interference, Solicitor General Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus' comment that an alleged theft case being pursued by two Czech Republican brothers against several accused had been

withdrawn by the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), despite an indictment drawn already.

Cllr. Wesseh told journalists at his office in Sinkor Monday, 22 June that Cllr. Cephus should have nothing to do with the matter because he has recused himself from the trial, saying

"Well, uh, that is interference of the case, but I

was in Lofa County over the weekend ..., once you're in Lofa you will not monitor the stations except someone call you. So I cannot speak to the fact," Cllr. Wesseh says.

"But as far [as] I'm concerned, the Solicitor General, the Minister of Justice/Attorney General of Liberia and the County Attorney for Montserrado County, three of them are recused from this case," he adds.

Several persons including Senate Secretary Nanborlor F. Singbeh have been indicted here for multiple charges for allegedly dubbing two Czech Republican brothers Pavel and Martin Miloschewsky of US\$5,062,419.10 under the pretense of establishing a rock crushing company MHM Eko - Liberia in which the victims retained the largest share of 70 percent.

The indictment against Nanborlor Singbeh and the rest of the defendants was issued on 8 June by Criminal

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WLCU COVID-19 Clinic opens today

The 53 beds Clinic turned over to the Government of Liberia by the World Lebanese Cultural Union of Liberia (WLCU) formally opens today, June 23.

Since the turning over of the clinic, May 6, the government, the Ministry of Health, National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) and Executive Committee on Corona Virus in Liberia have been working

along with the World Lebanese Cultural Union of Liberia (WLCU) for additional logistics and preparation.

The 53 beds-Clinic is being used as quarantine center and the treatment of persons affected by the Coronavirus.

The construction and equipment of the facility is estimated at U\$350,000.00, funded by the Lebanese residents in Liberia and the anti-COVID-19 special task force of the Lebanese



Community in Liberia.

This is the largest local anti-Coronavirus assistance project, which, also included, provision of food, cleaning materials, utility water, materials to the Liberia National Red cross, communities, clinics, schools and orphanages as well as medical supplies and construction materials to the Military 14 hospital in Schiefflin, Margibi County.

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