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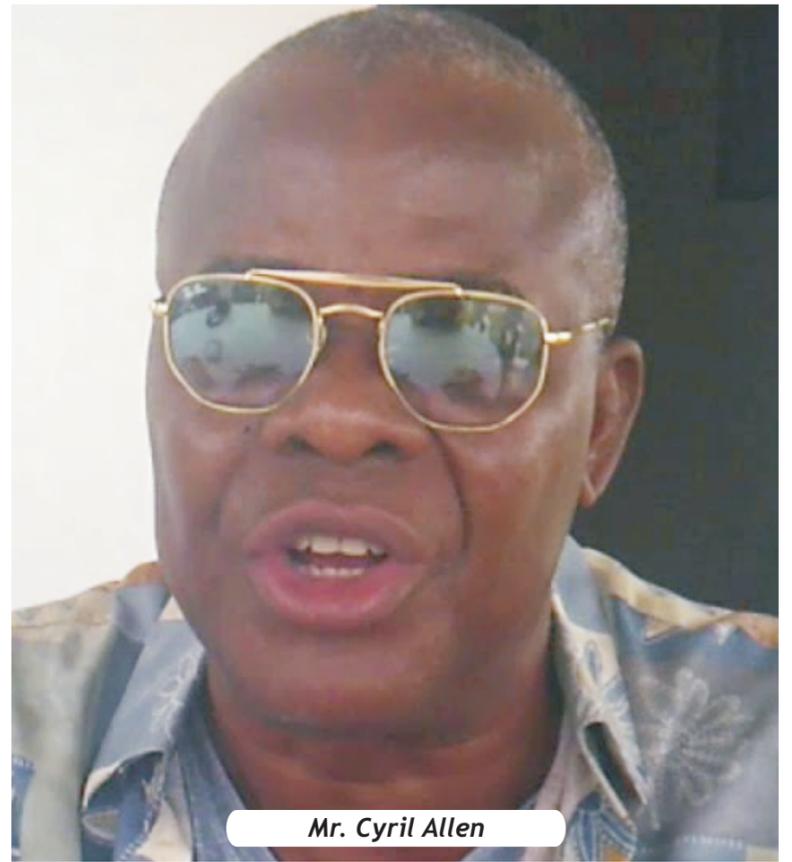
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# “CPP heads for failure”

## -Cyril Allen



Mr. Cyril Allen



Judge Mardea Chenoweth



Defendant Oliver Dillon

# Judge, Dillon to face S/court

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# Continental News

## Ugandan to lose \$1.6 bln in tourism earnings as a result of COVID-19

Uganda will lose \$1.6 billion a year in earnings from tourism as visitors stay away due to the impact of the coronavirus, President Yoweri Museveni said.

Tourism is one of Uganda's economic mainstays as the east African country attracts visitors to see a range of game including lions, giraffes, buffalos and others that roam its savannahs.

Others are drawn by the mountain gorillas in forest in the southwest of the country on the border with Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

"Already Ugandan will lose 1.6 billion dollars per annum from the loss of tourism," Museveni said in a speech late on Monday referring to the impact of COVID-19 on the economy.

The president did not say what time frame he was

referring to. Latest available data from the country's statistics' office shows Uganda earned \$2 billion from tourism activities in 2017, up from \$1.7 billion the previous year.

The International Monetary Fund said last month that Uganda's tourism earnings were expected to fall 54% in the 2019/20 (July-June) fiscal year, and decline

52% in the next year.

Museveni said the economy would also lose a substantial chunk of the \$1.3 billion sent home each year by Ugandans working abroad as many would be out of work due to the global economic downturn following the pandemic.

Uganda has so far recorded 458 cases of COVID-19, with no deaths reported.

Stringent measures implemented to curb the virus's spread including bans

on both public and private transport, temporarily shutting nearly all businesses and closure of borders has wiped out much of economic activity.

The IMF last month nearly halved its forecast for economic growth in Uganda for the financial year ending in June to 3.3% and projects 3.7% growth in the following fiscal year. In the year ended June 2019, the economy grew 6.5%.

-Reuters



## Nigerian reggae legend Majek Fashek dies at 57

Nigerian reggae legend Majek Fashek has died at the age of 57.

The performer, popular for hits such as Send Down the Rain and So Long for Too Long, died in his sleep in New York, his manager Omenka Uzoma told the BBC.

Writing on Instagram, Mr Uzoma said it was "a time for us all to celebrate his achievements, and not mourn".

The musician, whose real name was Majekodunmi Fasheke, also worked with

stars like Jimmy Cliff, Tracy Chapman and Snoop Dogg.

"He's done a lot for Nigeria and Africa," his manager said.

Majek Fashek had been ill for some time but the cause of his death is not clear.

He was drawn to reggae in the 1980s at a point when highlife and juju were more dominant in Nigeria.

The artist said Bob Marley was a major influence as a consequence his musical style and looks mirrored the Jamaican legend.

His 1991 release So Long for Too Long, which carried a strong

political and pan-African message gained Majek Fashek acclaim across Africa.

The song was a call for Africans to rise up, both in the continent and those in the diaspora.

**He sang:**  
*Arise from your sleep Africa*

*Arise from your sleep America*

*There's work to be done Africa*

*He also had a message for black people in the US:*

*Remember, remember, Marcus Garvey*

*Who had a dream for you Africa*

*Remember, remember, Martin Luther King*

*Who had a dream for you America*

He also wrote the song Free Africa, Free Mandela, calling for the release of the leader of the African National Congress in South Africa, Nelson Mandela.

As a sign of his international reach, he appeared in 1992 on the high-profile David Letterman chat show on US television, where he sang So Long for Too Long.

In the mid 2000s there were reports that the musician was struggling with his health.

## Nigerian men arrested for raping 12-year-old girl

Twelve men have been arrested in Nigeria, accused of repeatedly raping a 12-year-old girl over a two-month period.

Police in the north-western state of Jigawa were alerted to the alleged crime when they received a complaint about a man in his 50s luring the girl to a hidden

young women that have sparked widespread anger.

In one case, the family of 22-year-old student Uwavera Omozuwa say she was raped inside a church and bludgeoned to death with a fire extinguisher in the city of Benin.

In the other, a 16-year-old was shot dead by a



The country has an extremely low conviction rate for rape and sexual abuse

place so he could have sex with her.

During a police interview the girl said that 11 other men had also raped her.

She is now in hospital and police have told the BBC there is medical evidence of rape.

The incident follows the killings in the last week of two

policeman in Lagos.

Amnesty International has said that although rape is a crime in Nigeria, the rising number of attacks is due to the failure of law enforcement.

The country has an extremely low conviction rate for rape and sexual abuse. -BBC



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Pictures of an emaciated Majek Fashek shocked Nigerians who were concerned about the star.

In 2015, he spent some time in a drug rehabilitation centre in Nigeria's capital, Abuja.

# EDITORIAL

## The most vulnerable Vs. the rest

**DISENCHANTMENT SEEMS TO** be brewing among Liberians over who is qualified to benefit from ongoing COVID-19 food distribution to communities that authorities say targets 2.5 million most vulnerable households across the country. The COVID-19 food distribution steering committee says the food is specifically for orphanages and hospitals, the blind and physically-challenged, including inmates at the Group of 77, and elderly citizens, among others.

**BUT SOME AGGRIEVED LIBERIANS** are complaining that the categorization of vulnerable and most vulnerable citizens is a deliberate attempt by the government to deny some residents food. They argue that the entire country is affected by the novel coronavirus pandemic, so everyone should benefit from the exercise that has a budget of US\$30 million.

**THE NOISE IS** growing louder each day, as the distribution continues, but the authorities appear determined in going ahead as plan on grounds that resources are inadequate to serve the entire population of 4.5 million people.

**BUT THE POINT** is the government, working in collaboration with international partners, including WHO, IMF, the World Bank and USAID, intends to lockdown each community to exam the health status of residents, as it moves in with food.

**HOWEVER, AGGRIEVED RESIDENTS** are insisting that if an entire community is lockdown during food distribution then everyone should get the food rather than only the most vulnerable.

**THE AUTHORITIES SEEM** to find themselves in a quagmire that would politically haunt them long after the food distribution is over, which may require even higher price to pay at the ballot box.

**OUR HONEST ADVICE** is that government should listen to the outcry and reconsider its decision to serve only the most vulnerable segment of the population, because everyone matters on the day of election when the people, not just the most vulnerable, would desire who gets into the executive mansion, the seat of power.

**RICE IS A** political commodity in Liberia and every government that comes to power should know this. Politicians use rice, the nation's stable food, to win voters over during time of campaign, so when a government announces that it is distributing food to the citizenry amid a global health crisis such categorization of recipients is troubling, to say the least.

**COME TO THINK** of it, President George Manneh Weah announced free electricity to homes for the period of the lockdown and the State of Emergency, but it did not materialize and the Liberia Electricity Corporation is yet to provide explanations, though the President said government made available a total of US\$4 million to the corporation.

**TO BE SELECTIVE** in a population that is very impoverished, where majority of the citizens survive on less than a dollar per day is not just sheer insensitivity but counter-productive to inclusiveness, particularly so when government would have to repay the US\$25 million from the IMF and the US\$5 million grant provided by the World Bank for the exercise.

# COMMENTARY

By Ngaire Woods &amp; Leany Lemos

## Learning to Live with COVID-19

*Leaders in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul have devised a strategy for living with the virus, based on key indicators, expert consultations, and enforceable processes. And it has done so in full public view. There are lessons here for governments in richer countries that have yet to develop such a plan.*

**O**XFORD/PORTO ALEGRE - One of COVID-19's paradoxes has been the way in which some wealthy, high-capacity countries (particularly the United States and the United Kingdom) failed to contain the virus, while some poorer countries and regions with less capacity (including Vietnam, Greece, and the Indian state of Kerala) swiftly brought it under control. Now that countries must plan beyond their lockdowns, an equally stark contrast has emerged.

In the US and the UK, ambiguous containment regimes without clear exit plans have resulted in a policy stalemate between maintaining unsustainable lockdowns and recklessly opening up the economy. By contrast, policymakers in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul have used careful planning to learn to live with the virus.

The state began preparing on March 2, when Governor Eduardo Leite tasked his secretary of planning, budget, and management with assembling a data committee to develop and implement a plan for keeping the state's economy going while combating the spread of the virus. In many other parts of Brazil, the virus remains unchecked, and the country now has the world's second highest number of COVID-19 cases and the sixth-highest death toll. Yet, its fifth-most populous state has responded in a way that many rich countries would do well to emulate.

Five components of Rio Grande do Sul's response stand out.

First, Leite focused from the outset on avoiding the worst possible outcome, rather than simply hoping it would not materialize. Before the pandemic reached Brazil, state officials used data from both Japan and Singapore (where the virus's impact was limited) and Italy and Spain (where it was horrific) to generate mathematical projections, and set out to avoid outcomes resembling the latter. The governor then announced restrictions in mid-March before the state had reported its first COVID-19 death, thus buying time to strengthen the health system's capacity while slowing the virus's spread.

Second, state officials took a data-driven approach to tracking the virus, investing not only in collecting more data, but also in improving systems and hiring outstanding talent to assess the information. The data committee divided the state into 20 regions, each of which has a main hospital with an intensive-care unit (ICU), and has monitored 11 indicators in each region every week.

About half of the indicators measure the virus's spread. They include the number of new hospitalized COVID-19 cases (compared to the previous week), the number of active cases relative to recoveries in the last 50 days, and new hospitalizations and deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. The committee also tracks the number of patients in regular and ICU beds with either COVID-19 or acute respiratory distress syndrome, a related lung disease (because COVID-19 cases are typically under-recorded).

The other indicators measure the capacity of each region's health system. They include the number of available ICU beds relative to both the total population and the number of inhabitants aged over 60, as well as the change in ICU occupancy compared to the previous week.

In addition to intensive data monitoring, the data committee convenes health experts and academics

on a pro bono basis and makes their reports public. More than 150 experts from government and academia are currently examining COVID-19's impact on economic activity, social vulnerability, infrastructure, and mobility in the state. Furthermore, the government created a partnership with a university early on to kick off random testing and surveying habits across the state, which is providing a better sense of the real prevalence of the virus.

The third component of the state's response is a simple, specific, and transparent alert system. Each week, the committee distills the 11 indices into a single figure for each region, which places the region in one of four risk categories. Yellow represents low risk, orange is medium, red is high, and black signifies very high risk, with a full lockdown expected in extreme cases. Because the public can examine the data on which the risk classifications are based, the system helps to build understanding and trust.

Fourth, officials carefully examined how to keep the economy functioning, because the already-indebted state could not afford to support out-of-work people for long. The committee has clearly segmented jobs and economic activities in terms of worker safety (given social-distancing requirements) and their economic importance, giving these factors weights of 70% and 30%, respectively. For example, agriculture is relatively safe, because workers are outdoors and a safe distance from one another, and it is also vital for Rio Grande do Sul's economy. All of the information is publicly available.

Finally, the state government drew up return-to-work protocols for each industry based on consultations with occupational health experts, industry associations, businesses, and workers. By publishing early drafts of protocols and inviting comments, the committee helped to ensure an open and transparent process.

Beyond mandatory measures such as wearing facemasks, cleaning, distancing, and shielding at-risk groups, sector protocols vary depending on the alert level. For example, industry can function at 100% capacity in a yellow region, at 75% under an orange alert, 50% in red regions, and 25% in black regions, with exceptions for essential sectors such as food, energy, chemicals, and health. Retail, which poses a higher contagion risk, may operate at only 50% capacity under a yellow alert, and must close down under a black alert.

While buses and churches have varying seat restrictions depending on the alert level, no mass events are currently permitted. The state is now debating which educational institutions should reopen first, and when, and how to reopen the rest.

Rio Grande do Sul's work-safety policies have now been in place for three weeks. As of the last week of May, less than 20% of the state's COVID-19 ICU beds are in use. The state has 56 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, compared to 720 per 100,000 in Amazonas state, 390 in Ceara state, and 220 in Rio de Janeiro. And its COVID-19 mortality rate is 1.6 per 100,000 inhabitants, far below the rates in Amazonas (42.4) and Rio de Janeiro (23.1).

Rio Grande do Sul's leaders have devised a strategy for living with the virus, based on key indicators, expert consultations, and enforceable processes. And it has done so in full public view. There are lessons here for governments in richer countries that have yet to develop such a plan.

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## O-PED

By Chris Patten

# We Are Hong Kong

*With his recent decision to impose a draconian new security law on Hong Kong, Chinese President Xi Jinping has ridden roughshod over the Joint Declaration and directly threatened the city's freedom. Defenders of liberal democracy must not stand idly by.*

**L**ONDON - In my final speech as Hong Kong's governor on June 30, 1997, a few hours before I left the city on Britain's royal yacht, I remarked that, "Now, Hong Kong people are to run Hong Kong. That is the promise. And that is the unshakable destiny."

That promise was contained in the 1984 Joint Declaration, a treaty signed by China and the United Kingdom and lodged at the United Nations. The deal was clear, and the guarantee to Hong Kong's citizens was absolute: the return of the city from British to Chinese sovereignty would be governed by the principle of "one country, two systems." Hong Kong would have a high degree of autonomy for 50 years, until 2047, and would continue to enjoy all the freedoms associated with an open society under the rule of law.<sup>1</sup>

But with his recent decision to impose a draconian new security law on Hong Kong, Chinese President Xi Jinping has ridden roughshod over the Joint Declaration and directly threatened the city's freedom. Defenders of liberal democracy must not stand idly by.

For over a decade after the 1997 handover, China largely kept its promise regarding "one country, two systems." True, not everything was perfect. China retreated from its promise that Hong Kong could determine its own democratic government in the Legislative Council, and the Chinese government periodically interfered in the life of the city. In 2003, for example, it abandoned an attempt to introduce legislation on issues such as sedition - an odd priority in a peaceful and moderate community - in the face of mass public protests.

Overall, however, even skeptics conceded that things had gone pretty well. But China-Hong Kong relations started to deteriorate after Xi became president in 2013 and dusted off the playbook of aggressive and brutal Leninism. Xi reversed many of his immediate predecessors' policy changes, and the Communist Party of China (CPC) reasserted control over every aspect of Chinese society, including economic management.

Xi toughened the party's grip on civil society and universities, and cracked down on any sign of dissident activity. He demonstrated that his regime's word could not be trusted internationally, for example by renegeing on promises he had made to US President Barack Obama that China would not militarize the atolls and islands it was seizing illegally in the South China Sea. Furthermore, Xi's regime locked up over a million predominantly Muslim Uighurs in Xinjiang and obliterated signs of their culture wherever possible. And, of course, he tightened the screws on Hong Kong.

Last year's protests in the city were triggered by the Hong Kong government's attempt to introduce an extradition law that would in effect have removed the firewall between the rule of law in the territory and communist law in mainland China. The demonstrations were badly handled by Hong Kong's police, whose behavior - including the unchecked use of tear gas and pepper spray - led a small minority of the protesters to resort to unacceptable violence.<sup>1</sup>

An independent inquiry into the reasons for the demonstrations, the mishandling of them by the police, and the behavior of the demonstrators (the overwhelming majority of whom were peaceful) could have helped to calm the community and promote reconciliation. But the proposal was rejected out of hand. In last November's district council elections, Hong Kong's citizens showed whose side they were on by voting overwhelmingly for pro-democracy candidates who had supported the demonstrations.

The protests have stopped in recent months as a result of the city's (successful) measures to combat the coronavirus. But the Chinese authorities clearly expected them to restart, for example to mark the June 4 anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, and no doubt are worried that Hong Kong's democratic parties would go all out for victory in the next Legislative Council elections in September.

This prospect plainly terrified the Chinese government and the hardline officials that it recently put in charge of the territory. The latter had already asserted their determination to curtail Hong Kong's autonomy and had interfered at will in matters that should have been left to the city's government and legislators.

Xi's government has now struck its heaviest blow yet. Taking advantage of the world's current focus on fighting COVID-19 (whose rapid global spread is in part the result of the CPC's secrecy and mendacity), China's rubber-stamp parliament has now bypassed Hong Kong's own legislature and imposed a national-security law on the city. The law covers unspecified crimes such as sedition and secession, and would allow China's version of the KGB, the Ministry of State Security, to operate in Hong Kong, presumably using its customary methods of coercion.

But what is the alleged national-security threat that Hong Kong poses to China's Communist regime? China's leaders fear the very things they promised to Hong Kong in the Joint Declaration, namely the rule of law and the freedoms it protects. The city represents everything Xi's regime hates about liberal democracy, which is why what is happening there is not only a huge challenge for Hong Kong and its people, but also a direct threat to open societies everywhere.

The world simply cannot trust this Chinese regime. Liberal democracies and friends of Hong Kong everywhere must make it clear that they will stand up for this great, free, and dynamic city. Following China's announcement of the new law, over 512 parliamentarians and senior policymakers from 32 countries have signed a statement supporting Hong Kong. The city's freedom and prosperity are at stake; so are the values and interests of open societies around the world.

As the co-signatory to the Joint Declaration, the UK has a special responsibility to show leadership. For starters, Prime Minister Boris Johnson should ask for Hong Kong to be put on the agenda at next month's G7 meeting. He might find inspiration in advice found in the Analects of Confucius: "A gentleman would be ashamed should his deeds not match his words."

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## OPINION

By Jeffrey Sommers

# America's Mis-Police State

*The mass protests sweeping the United States following the death of George Floyd are born of many factors, but chiefly reflect frustration and rage at America's long history of racist law enforcement. Addressing that problem will require reducing the pressures on both urban communities and those tasked with policing them.*

**M**ILWAUKEE - George Floyd's death at the hands - and under the knee - of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin has triggered a wave of peaceful protests and violent rioting in most major cities across the United States. Caught on video for the world to see, the incident has driven home the perception that African-Americans are excluded from America's grand narrative of progress, in which conditions supposedly improve over time.

The data bear out that perception. According to a recent Brookings Institution study, as of 2016, "the net worth of a typical white family is nearly ten times greater than that of a Black family." And though the US accounts for just 5% of the global population, it is home to 21% of the world's incarcerated people, one-third of whom are African-American.

Scarcely a week goes by without a new story about African-Americans dying at the hands of police or vigilantes. Each episode is met with media handwringing and calls for reforms of police procedures. But the problem is never resolved, in part because it is actually many problems.

For starters, many Americans have accepted that they live in a winner-takes-all society of deepening inequality. While the wealth and incomes of those at the very top continue to grow, tens of millions of Americans struggle to afford health care, childcare, and other basic goods. This story has been told many times over. But what often goes unremarked is that the responsibility for managing the social costs of this system has been offloaded onto the police.

Generally speaking, most police in urban areas are white and have little or no experience interacting with the populations within their jurisdictions. The familiarity gap is compounded by the fact that one in five police officers is a military veteran who previously conducted violent pacification efforts in Afghanistan or Iraq. These former soldiers have been primed to see the urban populations they police as threats to their own safety, at best.

That, too, is borne out by the data. For example, in Boston between 2010 and 2015, there were 28 complaints of excessive use of force for every 100 police officers with some military service, compared to 17 complaints for every 100 non-veteran officers. And Boston is hardly alone. America is obliged to place veterans in meaningful work. But, clearly, only individuals with a demonstrated record of effectiveness in de-escalating tense situations should be permitted to serve as police in urban communities.

Chauvin is not a military veteran. But with 18 prior complaints filed against him, he embodies much of what is wrong with America's policing system. After all, America also has obligations to its urban poor. African-Americans in Detroit, Milwaukee, St. Louis, and many other de-industrialized urban areas live in conditions that are closer to those in South Africa and Brazil than to other rich countries.

In poor and economically insecure African-American communities, a multigenerational vicious cycle ensues. Children are born into an environment where interactions with police have long been confrontational rather than cooperative. And the police, in turn, conflate suspicion and hostility with criminality. All too often, police assume that black males are suspects, and treat them accordingly. In response, many African-American men are primed to assume a suspicious and hostile attitude toward the police.

The structures underpinning America's racial disparities are the products of both negligence and design. Fixing them will require a multi-pronged strategy.

The first step is to heed Martin Luther King, Jr., and establish full employment as a core principle of economic policy. US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell has indicated that the Fed faces no effective limit on its ability to fund public investments. In that case, it should take up spending proposals such as those in the Green New Deal and employ disadvantaged workers at good wages to drive advances in clean-energy and other key sectors of the future economy. Those without work records could be directed to public beautification projects at entry-level wages, which would enable them to start developing basic skills.

The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated that much of what was previously considered unimportant work is, in fact, essential. From health-care facilities and food services to transport and sanitation, African-Americans disproportionately hold jobs that we consider least and, ultimately, depend on most.

Yet, taking the federal minimum wage as a baseline, America's essential workers are the lowest paid among high-income countries. Although US GDP has increased by several multiples over the past 70 years, the federal minimum wage is a mere \$0.75 higher than it was in 1950, after adjusting for inflation. The message to America's essential workers has long been, "You don't matter." Clearly, that must change.

Finally, Americans are grotesquely over-armed, and this problem has grown worse since the Tea Party takeover of many state governments during President Barack Obama's administration. In a country with almost 400 million civilian-owned firearms, regulations on gun sales in many states have nonetheless been loosened. As a result, a city like Chicago, despite having a reasonable level of gun control, is awash in firearms, because one need only drive an hour north to buy from Wisconsin's under-regulated markets.

For obvious reasons, America's gun problem contributes to its violent crime problem. It also places significantly more stress on the police. Progressives and police organizations should recognize that they have common ground on the issue of gun control.

There are clear measures that could be taken to reduce the pressures on both our urban communities and those tasked with policing them. It is well within our power to strengthen the economic and social health of our cities while reforming police methods to encourage conflict de-escalation and resolution. There is no longer any excuse for inaction.

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## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# The Future of Russia-Africa Cooperation

By KesterKennKlomegah\*

While celebrating the Africa Day, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed Russia's commitment to offer support and participate in the sustainable development processes in Africa. In a videoconference held May 28 with local and foreign media, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, highlighted the history behind the establishment of the Africa Day, which is observed as an annual holiday symbolizing the desire of the peoples of the African continent for peace, independence and unity.

According to her, "the close nature of friendly ties with African countries, the significant experience of mutually beneficial cooperation dates back to the early 1960s, when the Soviet Union unconditionally supported the desire of Africans to free themselves from colonial oppression. It provided them with substantial practical assistance in shaping the foundations of statehood, establishing national economies, and preparing civilian and military personnel."

In recent years, however, African countries have been actively gaining weight and influence in international affairs, are increasingly participating in solving pressing issues of modern world politics and economics, she said.

The creation of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum was one of the appreciable results of the first Russia-Africa Summit held last year, Zakharova noted, and expressed hope that "the mechanism of partnership between Russia and the African continent created during the summit will allow to establish and broaden cooperation."

## Looking Back

Under the current circumstances, African leaders and business elites try, most importantly, to reflect on how far Africa has gone in building a unified identity and strides made in socio-economic development. These socio-economic developments in some individual countries were achieved by harnessing internal resources and through bilateral and multilateral relations with external countries and cooperation with development partners.

For example, Soviet Union and Africa had very close and, in many respects, allied relations with most of the African countries during the decolonization of Africa. For obvious reasons, the Soviet Union ceased to exist in 1991.

As a result, Russia has to struggle through many internal and external difficulties. For the past few years, it has been struggling to survive both the United States and European sanctions. Moscow still has a long way to catch-up with many other foreign players there in Africa.

Currently, Russia seems to have attained relative political and economic stability. "As we regained our statehood and control over the country, and the economy and the social sphere began to develop, Russian businesses began to look at promising projects abroad, and we began to return to Africa," noted Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov early September during his interaction with students and staff of Moscow State Institute for International Relations.

Emphasizing that the process of returning to Africa has been ongoing for the past 15 years, he further explained: "the return is now taking the form of resuming a very close political dialogue, which has always been at a strategic and friendly level, and now moving to a vigorous economic cooperation. But economic cooperation is not as far advanced as our political ties."

With this understanding, Dmitry Medvedev, while addressing the Russia-Africa Economic forum in July, also added his voice about strengthening cooperation in all fronts. "We must take advantage of all things without fail. It is also important that we implement as many projects as possible, that encompass new venues and, of course, new countries," he said.

In addition, Medvedev stressed: "It is important to have a sincere desire. Russia and African countries now have this sincere desire. We simply need to know each other better and be more open to one another. I am sure all of us will succeed if we work this way. Even if some things seem impossible, this situation persists only until it is accomplished. It was Nelson Mandela who made this absolutely true statement."

Acknowledging undoubtedly that Africa has become a new world center for global development, Russian legislators at the State Duma (the lower chamber) have advocated for supporting business and economic cooperation with Africa. Thus as a step forward, State Duma has established relations with African parliaments.

During an instant meeting held with the Ambassadors of African countries in the Russian Federation, Viacheslav Volodin, the Chairman of the State Duma, remarked: "We propose to move from intentions to



concrete steps. Our people will better understand each other through parliamentary relations." The full transcript is available on the official website.

## Moving Forward

On April 29, Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), a powerful Russian NGO that focuses on foreign policy, held an online conference with participation of experts on Africa. Chairing the online discussion, Igor Ivanov, former Foreign Affairs Minister and now RIAC President, made an opening speech. He pointed out that Russia's task in Africa is to present a strategy and define priorities with the countries of the continent, build on the decisions of the first Russia-Africa Summit.

On the development of cooperation between Russia and African countries, Igor Ivanov pointed out a few steps here: "Russia's task is to prevent a rollback in relations with African countries. It is necessary to use the momentum set by the first Russia-Africa Summit. First of all, it is necessary for Russia to define explicitly its priorities: why are we returning to Africa? Just to make money, strengthen our international presence, help African countries or to participate in the formation of the new world order together with the African countries? Some general statements of a fundamental nature were made at the first Summit, now it is necessary to move from general statements to specificity."

Sergey Lavrov, long ago, asked for more substantive dialogue on Russia-Africa issues, and chart ways for effective cooperation. In an interview with the Hommesd'Afrique, he stressed "time is needed to solve all those issues, but it could start with experts' meetings, say, within the framework of the St Petersburg Economic Forum or the Valdai forum, and other events where business leaders of both countries participate."

Experts from the think-tank Valdai Discussion Club, academic researchers from the Institute for African Studies and independent policy observers have noted Russia's policy, its current achievements and emerging economic opportunities and possibilities for partnerships in Africa. Quite interestingly, majority of them acknowledged the need for Russia to be more prominent as it should be and work more consistently to achieve its strategic goals, - comparing and citing largely unfulfilled pledges over the years.

Established in 2004, it's (the club) primary goal is to promote dialogue between Russia and the rest of the world. It hosted an expert discussion titled "Russia's Return to Africa: Interests, Challenges, Prospects" with participation of experts on Africa. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Africa Department were present.

"I would like to begin my speech with the words of Foreign Minister (Sergey Lavrov), who said, referring to the current situation: 'No more fairy tales,'" joked Oleg Ozerov from the Africa Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. "For us, Africa is not a terra incognita: the USSR actively worked there, having diplomatic relations with 35 countries. In general, there are no turns, reversals or zigzags in our policy. There is consistent development of relations with Africa."

Over the past few years, contacts between Russia and Africa have expanded, and at the same time, this was also due to the African countries' interest in Russia, he added. Nevertheless, Oleg Ozerov is now Ambassador-at-Large with the key responsibility for expediting work on the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum created at the initiative of African participants during Sochi summit. As Head of the Secretariat, the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum, his task is to prepare for the second Russia-Africa summit in 2022 in pursuance of the agreements, achieved during the first Russia-Africa summit held on October 23-24 in Sochi. The Secretariat of the Forum will also organize annual political consultations of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the troika of the African Union.

In 2010-2017, Ozerov served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Saudi Arabia, concurrently from 2011-2017, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. In conclusion, worth to say Russia sees Africa as a key potential partner in the vision for a multipolar world order, and for now, it is well-known that strengthening ties with African countries is among Russia's foreign policy priorities. But, much has to be done to change image, perceptions and the old narratives.

The symbolic Russia-Africa Summit was the result of President Vladimir Putin and the Kremlin authorities' progressive steps taken to move toward a new phase in consolidating political and economic ties broadly at the state levels with Africa. The final declaration, joint declaration, seeks to consolidate the results of the summit. It has undoubtedly reaffirmed the goals of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. *\*KesterKennKlomegah writes frequently about Russia, Africa and the BRICS.*

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# Lonestar Cell MTN donates to Muslim community

Lonestar Cell MTN joined members of the Muslim community in Montserrado to celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr, with a donation of food items. The items, which included bags of rice, oil, water and drinks were presented to the National Muslim Council of Liberia. Yaw AnkomaAgyapong, Lonestar Cell MTN's Chief

Marketing Officer said, "The celebration of Eid is always a major time in the year and is of importance to Lonestar Cell MTN. This year's event is even more significant as Liberia and the rest of the world faces the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. Now, more than ever, we are committed to supporting our customers and communities across Liberia. We are humbled to be able to help our Muslim

family celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr." Receiving the donation on behalf of the Interim Leadership of the National Muslim Council of Liberia, the Chairman, Imam AbdullaiGasmuMansaray, said, "Lonestar Cell MTN has always identified with the people of Liberia and the Islamic community. We say thank you to Lonestar, first, for helping us connect to our family and friends around the world; and second, for always supporting Ramadan and Eid celebrations in the Muslim community."

About Lonestar Cell MTN/MTN Liberia  
Lonestar Cell MTN/MTN Liberia, Liberia's leading telecommunications provider, was founded in 2001. We are a technology-based company with a focus on winning in everything we do while demonstrating consistency in innovation to meet our unique customer needs. We are a subsidiary of MTN, a leading international telecommunications groups operating in 21 countries across Africa and the Middle East.



# Aggrieved youths demand apology from Rep. Cole

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Barely two months after Bong County Rep. Josiah Marvin Cole was accused of labeling some citizens of Wainsue as goats, several aggrieved youths and citizens have given the lawmaker one week ultimatum to apologize for the comment.

He was accused based on an audio recording heard in the county in which he is said to have labeled some youths there as goats.

The aggrieved citizens told journalists at a press conference on Sunday, 1 June that Rep. Cole called them goats.

The group making the claim are connected to an advocacy being taken against the lawmaker regarding a town hall project that he initiated since 2017 but has come to a halt.

"As responsible and respectful citizens, we deem it necessary not to follow the same abusive route that Mr. Cole took but to come up with several counts that we want him to adhere to in one

week," Fumba Keita, the chairperson of the aggrieved youths tells journalists.

Reading the counts, Mr. Keita says the youth group wants Rep. Cole to retract his abusive expression against them.

He says they want Mr. Cole to explain reasons for the failure to continue with the project, and also demand the lawmaker to give account for an alleged US\$4,900 intended for the completion of the Wainsue Town Hall.

Our Bong County correspondent says some forty thousand United States Dollars was given to Rep. Cole last year by DEECO Oil and Gas Limited as payment of social contribution following an assessment of the discovery of oil in the central city of Gbarnga.

Our correspondent adds that since the end of the assessment, Rep. Cole has not

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10**



Bong County Representative Josiah Marvin Cole

# Brownie Samukai damns Senator Tengbeh

By Ben P. Wese

Ex-defense minister Brownie Samukai has seriously hit back at Senator George Tengbeh of Lofa County, saying the senator lacks leadership ability to unite the country.

Mr. Samukai, who was recently tried and adjudged guilty for misapplying retirement funds for soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia, told a live talk show Monday in Monrovia that Senator Tengbeh has lost the mandate of the people of Lofa and is only seeking public attention by calling on plenary to investigate a fellow Senator Darius Dillon for describing the Liberian Senate as rotten and spineless.

A senatorial hopeful for

possibility of being expelled for saying something that infuse? That is his feelings, if someone says you are incompetent than make yourself competent; when journalists are complaining that the bathrooms are stink than fix the bathrooms, that's called leadership," Samukai argued.

He said Liberians should accept the fact that the country would never develop by handouts, saying, "beg of rice, donations or putting money in someone pocket cannot help. Teach the man how to fish, provide better learning environment for him then he will be capable of helping other people."

On Thursday, May 28,



Ex-defense minister Brownie Samukai

Lofa County, he said the move by Senator Tengbeh to have his colleague investigated for also referring to the passes of the recast national budget as "5G" is an abuse of Senator Dillon's constitution right to freedom of speech. According to the former ruling Unity Party official, since the ascendancy of Senator Tengbeh to the Liberian Senate, he has exhibited no leadership skill, so he (Brownie Samukai) has wholeheartedly accepted the mandate of the people of Lofa to contest the pending midterm senatorial election.

"That's not the leadership I want for Lofa or the people of Lofa wants; how can you write your colleagues to have someone investigated with the

Senator George Tengbeh wrote plenary of the Liberian Senate to investigate his colleague of Montserrado County, Senator Abraham Darius Dillon, for allegedly denigrating the Senate.

Tengbeh's communication which appeared on the Senate floor noted that Dillon's willful and intentional behavior has cast a bad image on the Liberian Senate and individual senators. He explained that on May 20, Sen. Dillon accused 23 senators, who affixed their signatures on the COVID-19 recast budget of allegedly receiving bribes. He wants Dillon to authenticate his claim. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Sen. Jallah expresses disappointment

By Ethel A Tweh

Former Senate Pro-tempore Armah Zulu Jallah of Gbarpolu County has expressed disappointment in the Liberian Senate over the passage of the recast budget.

Speaking Monday, 1 June on a local radio station in

frustration at his colleague's passage of the recast budget which the latter believes was short of normal legislative procedures, especially their failure to first receive a committee report before the passage.

Jallah argues that there are lawmakers who have said worse

as rotten, spineless and useless.

Sen. Jallah explains that when the budget is passed by the House of Representatives, it is sent to the Senate. After the first reading of the budget in the Senate, he says it is sent into committee room where it is debated.

When the budget leaves the committee room, Jallah details that it is when a resolution is passed.

In the case of the recast budget in question, the Senate passed a resolution without receiving the budget from the committee room, prompting Mr. Dillon's frustration at his colleagues.

Sen. Jallah indicates that the budget was not debated, yet a resolution was passed, adding: "I cannot tell what is in that budget for the health system of Gbarpolu."

He notes that the coalition establishment of which he's a member is not living up to its promises and the expectation of the Liberian people.

Jallah argues that if the government sends a budget, it should be scrutinized by the Senate before the Senate passes a resolution.

He states that the Legislature, here where he has worked in top leadership position, is the problem of the country.--Edited by Winston W. Parley



Monrovia, Sen. Jallah said he wouldn't use Dillon's words, but insisted that his colleague spoke out of frustration.

Sen. Jallah's comment comes in the wake of the Senate's reported probe into Mr. Dillon's expression of

things than Dillon said, noting that there is no complaint against the Montserrado County Senator.

Recently Dillon accused his colleagues in the Senate of taking bribes to pass the recast budget, describing the Senate

## Police arrest man who impregnates step-daughter

By Bridgett Milton

The Liberia National Police has arrested rape suspect Johnson Chulutu, to face a charge of statutory rape for allegedly impregnating his 15-year-old step-daughter.

Police spokesman H. Moses Carter confirmed to this paper Monday that suspect Chulutah was arrested Sunday night at about 8:00 pm in Mount Barclay Community, Montserrado County and is now in police's custody.

The Liberia National Police last Thursday launched an investigation into an alleged rape case of a 15-year-old girl by her step-father, Johnson Chulutu.

In a video posted on social media, the victim explained that she was living with her mother and her husband in Monrovia when he allegedly committed the act.

She narrated that one day her mother went sell and told

her to lock the door and go sleep, adding that it was at that moment her step-father camouflaged his face and put cloth in her mouth and sexually abused.

The minor continued that after her mother returned from

the market, she reported the abuse, but the mother defended that her husband could not carry on such act.

The victim lamented that after some time, her stomach

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## AFL Chief of Staff vows to enforce mandate

By Bridgett Milton

The Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia Maj./Gen. Prince C. Johnson, III, says vehicles that are being stopped at checkpoints manned by soldiers of the AFL are non-essential vehicles, and the army is acting based on orders from President Weah.

He underscores that unless the military receives another order from the Commander-In-Chief, they will continue to enforce the current mandate of the President.

According to General Johnson, the AFL received orders from the President that all 15 counties in the Republic

Tuesday, Gen. Johnson however notes that exceptions were made for persons designated as essential staff in government offices, banks, supermarkets, and other business establishments such as hotels, petrol stations, and health facilities to travel directly to work and

return directly home. Multiple complaints have come from the public about soldiers grounding dozens of vehicles at various checkpoints, mainly along the Monrovia-Kakata highway, affecting marketers bringing local produce to the capital and those taking goods into the



Maj./Gen. Prince C. Johnson, III,

of Liberia are hereby quarantined, and movements between counties prohibited due to the novel coronavirus.

He says in accordance with the instructions, no person is permitted to enter or leave or in any way, cross the borders of any county into any other county, except for Montserrado County and Margibi County which are quarantined as a single unit.

He adds that throughout this period, only essential residents for reasons of health and food are allowed to move about, which should be restricted to a local community and that has not changed.

Speaking with Okay FM 99.5

interior of the country. Meanwhile, the Chief of Staff says the State of Emergency declared by President George Weah on April 8, 2020 expires this Friday, June 5th noting that until the ban on movement from one county to another is lifted, only essential cars would be allowed to pass thru checkpoints manned by soldiers.

Liberia has moved from an initial index case of the coronavirus on March 16 to total confirmed cases now at 311, including 28 deaths, 167 recoveries and 116 active cases. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# Français

## La Banque centrale a réduit le taux de la politique monétaire à 25%

Le Conseil des gouverneurs de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) a annoncé la réduction du taux de la politique monétaire à 25%. Il y a trois mois, le Conseil avait approuvé le maintien du taux de politique monétaire à 30%.

Cette décision met en évidence la volonté de la Banque à réduire l'inflation de 30% en octobre 2019 à moins de 25% au premier trimestre 2020.

« Le Conseil des gouverneurs a également décidé de poursuivre

l'émission d'instruments à terme plus courts (2 semaines, 1 et 3 mois) au taux directeur ajusté de 25%, et de promouvoir la commercialisation de ces instruments pour encourager les souscriptions des investisseurs. Une campagne de sensibilisation sur les paiements électroniques, y compris l'argent mobile, se poursuivra également, tandis que la politique de partage des transferts de fonds restera suspendue », a déclaré un communiqué de presse de la CBL rendu public au cours du week-end dernier.

L'annonce du nouveau taux de la politique monétaire est fonction de l'évolution économique mondiale et nationale, à en croire, la Banque Centrale.

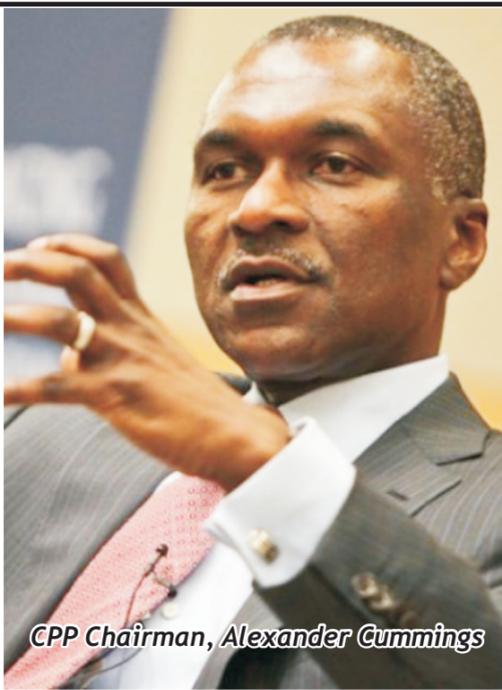
Développement au niveau mondial

L'épidémie du COVID-19 fait des ravages sur l'économie mondiale, freinant les perspectives de croissance avec une perte de production estimée à environ 9 000 milliards de dollars américains. Le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



ro-Temp, Albert Chie



CPP Chairman, Alexander Cummings



Senator Darius Dill

## Une organisation des libériens basés aux Etats-Unis présente 8 000 US\$ à un enfant brûlé

Le PDG de la Fondation Pockets of Miracle, Miracle Gbayee, a présenté samedi 30 mai, 800 dollars américains à Mme Benetta Smith, grand-mère d'un garçon de sept ans connu sous le nom de Martin, qui a récemment subi des brûlures suite à un incendie à Matadii.

Le PDG Gbayee a déclaré que ce geste est une manière pour la fondation d'aider les moins fortunés et les moins démunis au Libéria.

Le 30 avril de cette année, le petit Martin et sa grand-mère se sont vus pigés dans leur maison par des flammes, subissant des brûlures graves. Le malheureux incendie s'est déclaré dans la communauté appauvrie de Matadii Estate, à la périphérie de Monrovia. Depuis lors, le petit Martin continue d'espérer bénéficier d'une aide extérieure de la part des humanitaires, en particulier pour ses médicaments et son éducation.

Heureusement, son état

n'est pas passé inaperçu, car le bureau de la Pockets of Miracle Foundation à Monrovia est intervenu financièrement à hauteur de 800 USD reçus par Mme Benetta Smith, sa grand-mère.

Ils résidaient dans une cabane faite de tôles qui fut ravagée par le feu. Après

l'incident, la photo des dégâts a aussitôt fait le tour des réseaux sociaux, attirant rapidement l'attention du PDG de la Fondation Pockets of Miracle, Miracle Gbayee, qui a immédiatement établi le contact avec les victimes.

Remettant les 800 dollars

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Victim Martin

## Alpha Condé lâche la colombe du dialogue, aux opposants de savoir l'attraper

Le Chef de l'Etat Guinéen vient d'extérioriser via une interview accordée à Jeune Afrique, ce qui l'habite en réalité, pour ne pas dire, son nouveau chantier politique qui pourrait rivaliser avec la lutte contre le coronavirus, si et exclusivement si, ses adversaires politiques pouvaient en extraire la sève à brûle-pourpoint, sans abuser des préalables.

« J'ai toujours été ouvert au dialogue et je souhaite qu'une discussion franche s'instaure, afin que l'élection à venir soit inclusive » a-t-il souhaité dans cette interview, à un moment où la Guinée éprouve la pandémie du coronavirus, doublée d'un climat politique sévère de dialogue, conséquence du désaccord autour du double scrutin du 22 mars dernier.

Qu'à cela ne tienne, cette volonté exprimée par le patron de l'exécutif Guinéen, pourrait certes, se heurter aux intérêts égoïstes inavoués, mais, elle répondra néanmoins, à la demande d'une communauté internationale dont la marge de manœuvre a toujours été étreinte par la souveraineté des Etats. De même, elle nourrira l'espoir que ce climat politique caractérisé par ce manque de dialogue, pourtant réclamé à cor et à cri par la majorité des Guinéens, pourrait être décrié. En attendant de connaître comment l'opposition Guinéenne va attraper la colombe du dialogue lâchée par Alpha Condé, il ne serait pas intrigant d'anticiper avec mon avis, en exhortant les opposants à empoigner cette opportunité avant la présidentielle qui arrive au galop. Car, l'idée même du Président Alpha Condé de choisir Jeune Afrique, un journal continental pour s'exprimer ainsi, n'est pas sans acception. Au regard de l'audience internationale de cet organe, Alpha Condé prend implicitement à témoin l'opinion nationale, mais surtout internationale de sa volonté d'organiser une présidentielle inclusive. Du coup, il avertit ses opposants qui se sont consignés depuis des mois, dans une logique de rapport de forces.

Lorsqu'il emploie l'expression « J'ai toujours été ouvert au dialogue... », le président Guinéen sous-entend que le climat politique actuel ne lui est pas imputable. Bien entendu, en se résignant de rappeler quelques initiatives de dialogue du gouvernement. En cette période de pandémie de covid19, tout rapport de forces avec le pouvoir serait trop risqué. L'appel à

manifestier pourrait être moins suivi par des partisans à Conakry, parce qu'occupés à faire face aux réalités imposées par le coronavirus. Alors que la Capitale est une référence de la réussite de toutes les manifestations. Que dire de l'intérieur qui est coupé de la Capitale ? Où les populations s'intéressent peu à l'heure actuelle aux activités politiques, sinon, pas du tout, à cause de l'arrêt des assemblées générales hebdomadaires dans les quartiers généraux des partis politiques. Comment dans un tel contexte, faire régénérer le réflexe politique chez des partisans qui vivent une situation sanitaire et économique anxiogène ?

Mais, certains opposants très rusés, apercevront peut-être que les menaces de reprendre les manifestations ont dû vite participer à fermenter cette volonté d'Alpha Condé. Alors, si c'était le cas, les législatives n'auraient pas pu avoir lieu, parce qu'il en a vu de toutes les couleurs. Plutôt, le contexte de crise sanitaire généralisée qui réoriente les priorités de la communauté internationale, parmi lesquelles la politique intérieure des Etats l'intéresse moins par rapport à leur santé et leur économie. Justement, c'est au moment où la pression exogène est absorbée par la covid19 que, le Prof. Alpha Condé accomplit son nationalisme. C'est-à-dire, son refus toujours de se voir dicter la voie à suivre par l'extérieur, pour gérer son pays.

Et pendant que l'opposition préconise la reprise des manifestations comme stratégie pour faire plier le pouvoir, la mouvance acère ses armes. D'importantes lois organiques sont déjà sur la table du parlement, notamment, la loi sur la cour constitutionnelle, la loi sur le code électoral et la loi sur la haute autorité de la communication. Tout cela tombe à l'aurore de la mise en place de la nouvelle équipe gouvernementale qui aura la lourde tâche, d'affronter la prochaine présidentielle. La CODENOC, l'autre dispositif politique du pouvoir, se trouve un nouveau nom prémonitoire. Face au déploiement d'un tel arsenal, l'opposition constituée des partis politiques traditionnels, l'UFDG, l'UFR, et le PEDN doit choisir entre exploiter à fond la volonté exprimée par Alpha Condé pour lui permettre de rester dans le jeu politique et s'auto exclure pendant les six (6) ans prochains. Bella KAMANO, Journaliste et analyste politique.

# Français

## La Banque centrale

ralentissement de l'économie mondiale a nui aux marchés financiers, aux prix des produits de base et à la confiance des entreprises et des consommateurs et a conduit à une révision des prévisions économiques mondiales pour 2020 à 3%.

L'économie intérieure libérienne, qui s'est contractée de 2,5% en 2019, reflétant la sous-performance des secteurs non miniers, devrait en outre être affectée par la pandémie de COVID-19, en grande partie en raison de contraintes du côté de l'offre.

Du côté positif, cependant, l'inflation au cours du trimestre s'est modérée à 23,7%, passant de 25,8% au 4ème trimestre de 2019 avec une projection pour le 2ème trimestre encore à 19% avec une bande

passante de plus ou moins 2%.

La croissance du crédit est restée généralement faible, principalement en raison de la baisse de 6,3% des crédits liés au dollar américain. Cette baisse s'explique par une mesure de précaution, induite par une hausse de 2,3% des crédits non performants, qui représentent 19,7% de l'ensemble des crédits.

Vu les développements ci-dessus, tant l'économie mondiale et que domestique, le conseil d'administration de la CBL a unanimement approuvé la réduction du taux de politique monétaire et le soutien à la promotion de la facture CBL et des systèmes de paiement électronique visant à engendrer une baisse de l'inflation au 4ème trimestre 2019, avec la conviction que cette tendance se poursuivra tout au long de 2020.

## Une organisation des libériens basés aux

au petit Martin et à sa grand-mère, Madame Miracle Gbayee, par la voix de son envoyé spécial, a exprimé sa vive inquiétude quant aux conditions de santé du petit enfant. La fondation s'est dite heureuse de venir au secours des personnes qui sont dans le besoin. Elle a exprimé sa gratitude à tous ceux qui, d'une manière ou d'autre, ont contribué au don fait au petit Martin.

En recevant le don, la grand-mère de Martin, Mme Benetta Smith, a dit grand merci à Pockets of Miracle Foundation et ses

partenaires pour le geste, promettant que le montant sera utilisé aux fins prévues.

Miracle Gbayee est une comédienne et humanitaire libérienne de renommée internationale. La Fondation Pockets of Miracle de Miracle Gbayee est profondément impliquée dans l'aide aux moins fortunés ainsi qu'aux défavorisés. Récemment, la fondation a fait don de produits alimentaires au ministère de la Santé pour les personnes mises en quarantaine afin d'aider le gouvernement à combattre le Covid-19.

## Liberia : Le pays des mauvaises nouvelles, le Révérends Dr Edwin A. Gbelly

« Le pays est submergé par de mauvaises nouvelles, et tandis que les citoyens tirent le diable par la queue, les gouvernants ne font que se partager de l'argent », a fait observer le révérend Dr. Edwin A. Gbelly, président de l'église de l'Assemblée de Dieu au Libéria.

Selon l'homme de Dieu, la corruption a pénétré la société et continue d'éroder le tissu social du Libéria. Prononçant l'oraison lors des funérailles de la journaliste sportive H. Sally Gaye le samedi 30 mai à l'église Wesleyan Gardnersville de Stephen A. Tolbert Estate, Gardnerville à l'extérieur de Monrovia, le Dr Gbelly a déclaré que l'autre mauvaise nouvelle est que les élèves sont obligés de s'asseoir par terre pour suivre les cours par manque de places suffisantes, en dépit du budget alloué toutes les années au

secteur de l'éducation.

Préchant sur le thème « Mauvaise nouvelle en bonne compagnie » tiré de l'Évangile de Saint Marc chapitre 5, versets 22 à 35, il a dit que tant la nation que l'église du Libéria ont besoin d'aide, car les gens meurent.

Le Libéria est en proie à une multitude de défis économiques et sociaux, notamment la mauvaise gouvernance, la corruption, la violence domestique et sexuelle et le viol, entre autres.

« L'église est devenue tiède ; notre société est enceinte de mal », a noté le Dr Gbelly.

« La nouvelle qui nous préoccupe aujourd'hui est que votre fille est morte. Une mauvaise nouvelle, - Sally est morte ; une mauvaise nouvelle pour l'Union de presse du Libéria, une mauvaise nouvelle pour l'Église de Dieu, une mauvaise nouvelle pour la famille », a-t-il déploré alors que des parents.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Ngairé Woods  
& Leany Lemos

## Apprendre à vivre avec le COVID-19

**O**XFORD/PORTO ALEGRE - L'un des paradoxes du COVID-19 réside dans la façon dont certains pays riches et à forte capacité (en particulier les États-Unis et le Royaume-Uni) ont échoué à contenir le virus, tandis que certains pays et régions les plus pauvres à plus faible capacité (dont le Vietnam, la Grèce et l'État indien du Kerala) l'ont rapidement maîtrisé. À présent que les pays doivent se projeter au-delà de leur période de confinement, on constate un contraste tout aussi frappant.

Aux États-Unis et au Royaume-Uni, des régimes de confinement ambigus sans plan de sortie clair ont abouti à une impasse politique entre maintien de confinements non durables et réouverture imprudente de l'économie. En revanche, les décideurs de l'État de Rio Grande do Sul au Brésil ont opté pour une planification minutieuse afin d'apprendre à vivre avec le virus.

L'État a commencé à se préparer le 2 mars, lorsque son gouverneur Eduardo Leite a chargé son secrétaire à la planification, au budget et à la gestion de constituer un comité des données chargé d'élaborer et de mettre en œuvre un plan pour maintenir l'économie de l'État tout en luttant contre la propagation du virus. Dans de nombreuses autres régions du Brésil, le virus n'est pas contrôlé et le pays compte à présent le deuxième plus grand nombre de cas de COVID-19 au monde et le sixième plus grand nombre de morts. Pourtant, son cinquième État le plus peuplé a réagi d'une manière que de nombreux pays riches feraient bien d'imiter.

Cinq composantes de la réponse du Rio Grande do Sul se distinguent.

Tout d'abord, Leite s'est concentré dès le départ sur la prévention du pire résultat possible, plutôt que simplement sur l'espoir qu'il ne se concrétise pas. Avant que la pandémie n'atteigne le Brésil, les représentants de l'État ont utilisé des données en provenance du Japon et de Singapour (où l'impact du virus était limité) et d'Italie et d'Espagne (où son impact était terrifiant) pour effectuer des projections mathématiques. Ils ont entrepris d'éviter des résultats comparables à ceux de ces deux derniers pays. Le gouverneur a ensuite annoncé des restrictions à la mi-mars, avant que l'État ne signale son premier décès dû au COVID-19, ce qui lui a permis de gagner du temps pour renforcer la capacité du système de santé tout en ralentissant la propagation du virus.

Deuxièmement, les représentants de l'État ont adopté une approche axée sur les données pour dépister le virus, en investissant non seulement dans la collecte de davantage de données, mais également dans l'amélioration des systèmes et le recrutement de talents exceptionnels pour évaluer les informations. Le comité des données a divisé l'État en 20 régions, chacune ayant un hôpital principal avec un service de soins intensifs et a surveillé 11 indicateurs hebdomadaires dans chaque région.

Environ la moitié des indicateurs mesurent la propagation du virus. Ils comprennent le nombre de nouveaux cas de COVID-19 hospitalisés (comparés à ceux de la semaine précédente), le nombre de cas actifs par rapport aux cas de guérison au cours des 50 derniers jours, et les nouvelles hospitalisations et les nouveaux décès pour 100 000 habitants. Le comité suit également le nombre de patients en soins ordinaires et en soins intensifs, soit atteints de COVID-19, soit de syndrome de détresse respiratoire aiguë, une maladie pulmonaire apparentée (parce que les cas de COVID-19 répertoriés sont généralement recensés à la baisse).

Les autres indicateurs mesurent la capacité du système de santé de chaque région. Ils comprennent le nombre de lits de soins intensifs disponibles par rapport à la population totale et au nombre d'habitants de plus de 60 ans, ainsi que la variation dans l'occupation des soins intensifs par rapport à la semaine précédente.

Outre une surveillance intensive des données, le comité des données réunit des experts et des universitaires de façon bénévole et rend leurs rapports publics. Plus de

150 experts issus du service publics et du milieu universitaire étudient actuellement l'impact du COVID-19 sur l'activité économique, la vulnérabilité sociale, les infrastructures et la mobilité au sein de l'État. En outre, le gouvernement a créé dès le début un partenariat avec une université afin de lancer des tests aléatoires et d'enquêter sur les usages dans l'ensemble de l'État, ce qui fournit une meilleure idée de la prévalence réelle du virus.

La troisième composante de la réponse de l'État est un système d'alerte simple, spécifique et transparent. Chaque semaine, le comité fait la synthèse des 11 indices en un seul chiffre pour chaque région, ce qui place la région dans l'une des quatre catégories de risque. La catégorie jaune représente un risque faible, l'orange un risque moyen, la rouge un risque élevé et la noire un risque très élevé, avec un confinement complet à mettre en place dans les cas extrêmes. Comme le public a accès aux données sur lesquelles sont fondées les classifications de risques, ce système contribue à renforcer la compréhension et la confiance.

Quatrièmement, les représentants politiques ont soigneusement examiné les modalités d'un maintien du fonctionnement de l'économie, parce que l'État déjà endetté ne disposait pas des ressources suffisantes pour venir en aide aux personnes sans emploi pendant bien longtemps. Le comité a clairement segmenté les emplois et les activités économiques en termes de sécurité des travailleurs (compte tenu des exigences de distanciation sociale) et d'importance économique, donnant à ces facteurs une influence de 70 % et 30 %, respectivement. Par exemple, l'agriculture est relativement sûre, parce que les travailleurs sont à l'extérieur et à une distance sûre les uns des autres. Ce secteur d'activité est également indispensable à l'économie du Rio Grande do Sul. Toutes les informations sont accessibles au public.

Enfin, le gouvernement de l'État a élaboré des protocoles de retour au travail pour chaque secteur d'activité, sur la base de consultations auprès des spécialistes de l'hygiène du travail, des associations industrielles, des entreprises et des travailleurs. En publiant les premières ébauches de protocoles et en invitant les intervenants à formuler leurs commentaires, le comité a contribué à assurer un processus ouvert et transparent.

Au-delà des mesures obligatoires telles que le port de masques faciaux, l'hygiène, la distanciation et la protection des groupes à risque, les protocoles sectoriels varient en fonction du niveau d'alerte. Par exemple, l'industrie peut fonctionner à une capacité de 100 % dans une région jaune, à 75 % en cas d'alerte orange, à 50 % dans les régions rouges et à 25 % dans les régions noires, à l'exception de secteurs essentiels comme l'alimentation, l'énergie, les produits chimiques et la santé. Le commerce de détail, qui présente un risque de contagion plus élevé, peut fonctionner à seulement 50% de sa capacité sous alerte jaune et doit être fermé en cas d'alerte noire.

Bien que les autobus et les églises aient des restrictions de fréquentation variables selon le niveau d'alerte, aucun événement de masse n'est actuellement autorisé. L'État débat actuellement sur les institutions d'enseignement qui doivent rouvrir en premier, et sur le moment et la méthode de réouverture du reste de ces institutions.

Les mesures de sécurité au travail du Rio Grande do Sul sont en vigueur depuis trois semaines. Depuis la dernière semaine de mai, moins de 20 % des lits de soins intensifs pour le COVID-19 sont occupés dans cet État. L'État compte 56 cas pour 100 000 habitants, contre 720 pour 100 000 dans l'État d'Amazonas, 390 dans l'État de Ceará et 220 à Rio de Janeiro. Son taux de mortalité dû au COVID-19 est de 1,6 pour 100 000 habitants, bien inférieur aux taux d'Amazonas (42,4) et de Rio de Janeiro (23,1).

Les dirigeants de Rio Grande do Sul ont mis au point une stratégie pour vivre avec le virus, fondée sur des indicateurs clés, des consultations d'experts et des processus ayant force exécutoire. Cette démarche a en outre été mise en place en toute transparence. Les gouvernements des pays riches qui n'ont pas encore élaboré un tel plan pourront en tirer des leçons pour leur propre compte.

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**Less fortunate Liberians boo CDC, MCC -for taking away cooked foods**

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Dozens of less fortunate and destitute Liberians receiving free hot meals prepared by Indian Consulate General to Liberia, Shri Upjit Singh Sachdeva are upset by what they term the continues taking away of food by vehicles from the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) when government stimulus food package is yet to reach into various communities.

Speaking to reporters recently at the Jeety Trading

Joseph Mah, Comfort Toe and Nancy Samuel want both institutions to account for food being taken away as the initiative by the Indian Consulate General is intended to assist ordinary Liberians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hundreds of less fortunate people including, way-wards commonly referred to here as zogoes in various slum communities, including Logan Town, Slipway, Vai Town, West Point, Trance Town, Center Street, Randall Street beach, and King Gray beach 1&2, among others queue in their numbers daily to patiently

most of our colleagues not to receive their share of the cooked meal being distributed by the Jeety Trading Corporation (JTC)", they lamented.

They termed the action as shameful and disgraceful, considering the fact that the two entities have the financial means to buy and cook food for themselves, so there was no reason they should continue to load their vehicles with meals intended for less fortunate people in society, who have no means of fishing for themselves.

They noted that it is highly shameful that the institutions would run to a foreign businessman who came to Liberia to do business but decided to intervene in the health crisis by feeding the less fortunate daily without any contribution from government that continues to promise food distribution that is yet to be provided.

The angry and frustrated less fortunate Liberians are demanding explanations from the two institutions as to where and to whom cooked meal being received from Mr. Jeety is taken when government has an obligation to provide for her citizens, particularly amid a global crisis.

At a departure scene of the vehicles loaded with cooked food, the less fortunate Liberians booed City Police officers accompanying the hot meal from the premises of the corporation.

Meanwhile, when reporters contacted both MCC and CDC personnel at the loading point in Vai Town on where the foods were being taken, they declined to comment.

However, Indian Consulate General, Shri Upjit Singh Sachdeva, told journalists to go ahead and report whatsoever information they have about the ongoing hot meal distribution. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Corporation in Vai Town, Bushrod Island where the food is prepared, they disclosed the MCC and the CDC dispatch two double-cabin pick-ups daily for cooked food which is taken to unknown destinations.

They complain that as a result of the situation, some of their colleagues are being denied food due to hoarding by the corporation.

Four less fortunate Liberians, who identify themselves as Patrick Swen,

await the hot meal.

According to them, the destination of the cooked food received by the MCC and the CDC is unknown, which raises questions about the CDC-led government sincerity to take food rations to residents under the State of Emergency and lockdown.

"The government people brings their vehicles at Mr. Jeety compound and cooked meal loaded are taken to undisclosed locations which is very frustrating and caused

**Police arrest man**

Cont'd from page 7

protruded, so her mother took her for pregnancy test, which proved she was three months pregnant. As a result of the pregnancy, her mother sent her to Lofa County to live with her grandmother where she remained and subsequently gave birth.

Early Wednesday, May 27,

2020, the Liberia National Police arrested Madam Mary Chuluty, wife of suspect Chuluty.

Police spokesman Carter also confirmed the victim has been brought back to Monrovia and is in the care of the Ministry of Gender. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

**EU provides budgetary support during COVID-19**

The European Union says it has transferred a non-reimbursable grant amounting to EUR 6.25 million (nearly USD 6.9 million) to the Government of Liberia in the second half of May. The grant arrived on May 29, 2020 in the revenue account of the Government to support the country's budget.

This was the third payment under the EU's budget support programme called "Moving Liberia forward - Improving service delivery and public

the COVID pandemic. This is indeed very good news for Liberians. We hope that this budget support will help the Government deal with the health and economic challenges and reduce the hardship of Liberians during the current state of emergency." She continued "Last year the government took two courageous and necessary steps reforming the Government's wage system and signing up to a program with



investment". Disbursement of this payment comes after a fast-track approval by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development.

Ambassador Hélène Cavé, Head of the European Union Delegation to Liberia, said: "Our central services in Brussels approved the disbursement of EUR 6.25 million in record speed in the light of urgent needs caused by

the International Monetary Fund. I am very happy that the Liberia Anti-Corruption Agency checked that public officials correctly declared their assets and that the Liberia Revenue Authority raised outstanding money from forestry." She added "I would like express my heartfelt thanks the Liberian Government for the close cooperation with the European Union which allowed for the rapid processing."

Cont'd from page 6

**Aggrieved youths demand**

told the public that there is oil at the Jor-river banks in Gbarnga.

Our correspondent notes that there was a resolution signed by majority members of the Bong County Legislative Caucus about the usage of the money in Jorquellah District #3, but it has allegedly been downplayed by Rep. Cole.

A copy of the resolution in possession of this paper mandated that US\$4,900 be used from the money to complete the Wainsue Town

hall construction.

Since the signing of the resolution on 19 August 2019 at the Capitol in Monrovia, our correspondent says the project still remains in its 2017 status.

Additionally, a copy of a letter in possession of our correspondent from Internal Affairs Minister Varney Sirleaf mandates the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) to make a payment of the US\$4,900 to the Bong Shopping Center as contractors of the Wainsue Town Hall Completion.

When contacted to respond to the allegations levied against him, Rep. Cole refused to make a comment. **--Edited by Winston W. Parley**

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# “CPP heads for failure”

By E. J. Nathaniel Daybor

A member of the governing council of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change has been talking. He says the Collaborating Political Party (CPP), is heading for failure.

Mr. Cyril Allen further stated that the CPP lacks the political numerical strength to win the 2023 Presidential election ahead of the ruling

Speaking in an interview with this paper at his Duazon residence in lower Margibi County on Tuesday June 2, Allen said that the CPP cannot capitalize on the errors of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change on grounds that the CPP itself failed to contribute to the developmental agenda of the country since its existence.

Allen who chairs the board of directors of the National Social

President George Manneh Weah administration.

The chairman emeritus of the former National Patriotic Party said CPP leaders will not be accepted by the general populace because of their Americo-Liberian biological connection.

“I tell you this; this country will not give power to Americo-Liberian descendent for the next 20 years. The country comprises of 15 local tribes and this generation led by the younger generation has diverted tension to the tribal people and Americo-Liberian or Congou people,” he said.

Commenting on the role of former Vice President, Ambassador Joseph Boakai in the CPP, Allen opined that Boakai is not electable, he lacks the political charisma and movement of gathering support for the presidency.

Speaking on the happenings at the Liberian Legislature, Allen accused both Speaker Bhofal Chambers and Senate Pro tempore of reportedly dividing the legislature at the detriment of President Weah.

Allen noted that CDC has only 34 lawmakers at the House of Representatives and seven senators at the Liberian Senate.

According to him, the two leaders have failed government and has further divided the legislature this is haunting the operation of government.



establishment.

Mr. Allen intimated to this paper that the CPP will find it difficult, if not impossible to find a suitable candidate for the standard bearer on grounds that all the political leaders of the four collaborating political parties are not settling for anything less than the standard bearer.

Security and Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP), said since the election, opposition political parties have failed to use their influences to lure investors here to create employment opportunities for their partisans. Instead, he claimed the opposition community sit by and unnecessarily criticize

# Who takes CPP

Starts from back page

come October.

He said the CPP is the most excellent concept that has emerged in recent contemporary politics in Liberia, and that he has always stood by the UP, which is now a member of the Collaboration.

“When Unity Party was putting up a candidate in 2017, I stood by it publicly; I went to BBC, ELBC and other media outlets made it very clear,” Samukai noted.

The ex-minister maintained that he will subscribe to the CPP on condition that he would have the right to make his own decision as a person.

“They want us as a party to be representing the CPP, so that the decision of those political parties that are involved, to make sure those political parties undertake the process to provide candidates of their parties but under the banner of the CPP, recognizing that others will not be competing in the same areas,” he explained.

But speaking Tuesday, June 2nd, on Truth FM 96.1, the

national vice chair of the UP Cole Bangalu, similarly disclosed that he will vie for the Lofa senatorial seat on the CPP ticket.

“I’m saying as National Vice Chair of the Unity Party and an affiliate of the CPP, I see nobody who can make me afraid and I can assure you, take it from me today, that I will be the face of the CPP during the midterm senatorial election, a rather overly confident Bangalu said.

According to him, since he joined the Unity Party, he has never wavered or backed off from any Unity Party activities, noting that his works in Lofa County have positioned him as face of the county.

Liberians are expected to go to midterm senatorial election this year where 15 of the 30 senators on Capitol Hill would seek re-election, but the National Elections Commission that should conduct the poll has consistently complained of lack of funds to carry on the process. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# Judge, Dillon to face S/Court

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia’s Supreme Court has ordered defendant Oliver Dillon and Circuit Judge Mardea Chenoweth’s appearance before it this week with complete copy of the proceedings into a murder case after prosecutors filed a bill of information that requests the court to uphold Associate Justice Joseph Nagbe’s judgment denying Dillon a bail.

Defendant Dillon’s denial to bail by Justice Nagbe in chambers automatically overruled an earlier judgment handed last year at Criminal Court “A” when Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie granted the defendant bail, saying the critical elements of murder which are premeditation and malice afford thought did not exist in the case.

Despite Judge Willie’s recusal from the trial and

prosecution’s subsequent transfer of the case under Judge Chenoweth’s jurisdiction in Margibi County, the prosecution is still in an unhappy situation with the lower court judges because Dillon still got admitted to bail by the second court, this time by Judge Chenoweth.

Defendant Dillon, a brother of Montserrado County opposition Senator Darius Dillon and Coordinator for Decentralization at the Ministry of Transport was indicted for the alleged murder of one Emmanuel Koffa, Jr., following a reported tussle with the deceased and two others at a criminal gang infested area on 12 April, 2019 in Gardnerville.

Based on a bill of information filed by the State, the Supreme Court has ordered Judge Chenoweth and defendant Dillon to appear before its full bench at the Temple of Justice on Friday, 5 June at 9:00 a.m. to show cause

if any, why the prosecution’s bill of information should not be granted.

By granting defendant Dillon a bail “...until the state is ready to carry on this case,” prosecution equates the action of Judge Chenoweth who sits at an inferior court, to allegedly “reviewing, setting aside and overruling the decision or judgment” of her superior, Associate Justice Nagbe, who had earlier reversed her colleague’s decision granting Dillon a bail.

The prosecution therefore requests the Supreme Court to set aside and restrain Judge Chenoweth from “reviewing, setting aside and overruling” the decision or judgment of Associate Justice Nagbe, contending that admitting Dillon to bail is in total contravention of Justice Nagbe’s ruling.

Under Judge Chenoweth’s gavel in March this year, prosecutors complain that she

granted defendant Dillon bail on the basis of their absence from the case’s hearing on its assigned date, but the State also accuse the judge of having the mindset “either for some vested interest to set defendant/ Respondent Dillon free....”

“Since the Solicitor - General is not here, neither did he send anybody, this court will now grant the defendant Oliver Dillon bail until the state is ready to carry on this case,” the prosecution quotes Judge Chenoweth as ruling in the matter.

On 18 November 2019, the first presiding judge in the case, Judge Willie recused himself from the alleged murder trial of Mr. Oliver Dillon, insisting that the “court cannot change its view” that the elements for murder were not present [in the case].

In the events leading to Dillon’s charge, the police had reported that the incident scene was infested with criminal gangs who rain terror on peaceful residents to take away their belongings.

The police indicated that “there is no history of quarrel or misunderstanding between the victim [Emmanuel] and accused [Dillon] and there was no arrangement for them to meet at the place of the incident.”

In a murder case investigators seek to establish that the accused had planned with malice and criminal intent to take the life of another person prior to the killing of that person as a reason for levying a murder charge which carries maximum penalty of death or life time imprisonment upon conviction.

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# Who takes CPP ticket for Lofa?

## Brownie Samukai or Cole Bangalu:



By Ben P. Wese

The battle to contest on the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) ticket for Lofa County in the upcoming midterm senatorial election has begun here with two stalwarts of the former ruling Unity Party declaring their intentions,

respectively for the CPP ticket.

The CPP, which recently signed a working framework to contest for the Presidency in 2023, is comprised of the Alternative National Congress (ANC) Unity Party (UP) All Liberian Party and the Liberty Party (LP).

Declaring his intention for

senatorial race Monday when he appeared on a live talk show in Monrovia, former Defense Minister Brownie Samukai, who is a full member of the former ruling Unity Party disclosed that he will contest on the CPP ticket

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# Footballers should 'take a knee', says Kick It Out chair

Footballers should "feel free" to protest over the death of George Floyd and "should take a knee", says Kick It Out chair Sanjay Bhandari.

The Football Association said it would take a "common sense approach" to any such protests.

Protests have been held in the USA after African-American Floyd, an unarmed black man, died after being restrained by Minneapolis police.

Bhandari said players

taking a knee would be a "very powerful image".

"If they feel they want to protest, then they should. They should feel free to do that," he told BBC Radio 4's Today Programme.

Four players in the Bundesliga, including England forward Jadon Sancho, are under investigation for breaching rules over making political statements in games at the weekend. The same rules are in place in England.

"It's a fundamental human right to express your beliefs,"



Bhandari said. "My suggestion is that they should take a knee."

"I would say that taking a knee when you score a goal and have the whole team do it, the referee is not going to book an entire team. It's a very powerful image and a gesture of solidarity."

In a statement, the FA said it "strongly condemns discrimination of any kind" and that it has "endeavoured to ensure that football in England is both diverse and inclusive in recent years".

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