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P11
ONE STORY

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Continental News

Man arrested after 40 rapes in one town

Nigerian police say they have arrested a man after 40 people were raped in one town over the period of a year.

A mother in the northern town Dangora caught the man in her children's bedroom, according to police spokesman Abdullahi Haruna. The man ran away but neighbours gave chase and caught him, he added. The man was arrested on Tuesday.

The police say the spate of rapes included an attack on an 80-year-old and children as young as 10 years old.

There has been a recent wave of rapes and killing of women in Nigeria, which have led to a national outcry, with thousands signing a petition and using the hashtag #WeAreTired. Dangora is a small town in Kano state about 85 kilometres (55 miles) south-west of Kano city, making it difficult for police to access, reports the BBC's Mansur Abubakar from Kano. The chief of the town, Ahmadu Yau, said the arrest

is a welcome development.

"People of Dangora are so happy at this time and we hope justice will be served appropriately."

Residents told the BBC that they had lived the last year in fear, even in their own homes, because they had heard that a serial rapist was climbing fences and raping women indoors.



*On the news of the arrest, one woman said:
"We can now sleep with our eyes closed"*

"We can now sleep with our eyes closed," one woman told the BBC.

Recent cases that have shocked Nigeria

University student Uwavera Omozuwa is allegedly raped and dies in a church after her head is smashed with a fire extinguisher; a suspect has been arrested

A 12-year-old girl is raped over two months in north-west Jigawa state; 11 arrests have been made

Tina Ezekwe is killed by a policeman in south-west Lagos state; two policemen have been arrested

Barakat Bello is allegedly gang-raped and murdered in south-west Oyo state; no arrest has been made

A 17-year-old girl is gang-raped in south-west Ekiti state; two arrests have been made

If you have been affected by sexual abuse or violence in Nigeria, help and support is

available at Naptip.

If you are in the UK, you can find advice at BBC Action Line.

The results of a survey published by NOI Polls in July 2019 suggested that up to one in every three girls living in Nigeria could have experienced at least one form of sexual assault by the time they reach 25.

It is not uncommon for rape to go unreported - with some victims and their families, fearing stigmatisation, police extortion and a lack of trust in the judicial process, choose not to report cases to the authorities. BBC

Dozens killed in attack in northern Nigeria

At least 59 people have been killed in a suspected jihadist attack in north-eastern Nigeria.

Gunmen entered a remote village in the Gubio district of Borno state on Tuesday afternoon, killing dozens.

The village was also razed, in what is believed to have been a reprisal attack, according to local reports.

who carried out the attack, both the jihadist group Boko Haram and an offshoot which fights under the banner of the Islamic State group have carried out deadly attacks in the north-east of Nigeria.

Boko Haram, which sparked global outrage in 2014 when they abducted more than 270 schoolgirls in Chibok in Borno state, is also active in neighbouring Chad,



No group has yet claimed the attack. The AFP news agency said that 59 bodies had been recovered, while Reuters reported that 69 people were killed.

Reuters reported that the militants suspected villagers of sharing information about their movements to security forces, while AFP said jihadist fighters had been killed by locals trying to protect livestock. While it is unclear

Niger and Cameroon.

In March, its militants ambushed and killed at least 47 Nigerian soldiers in the country's north east, before killing almost 100 soldiers in Chad the following day.

The group's decade-long insurgency has left thousands dead and displaced many more. BBC

Tanzania opposition leader injured in attack

Tanzanian opposition leader Freeman Mbowe has been attacked and injured by unknown people in the capital, Dodoma.

A spokesman for his Chadema party has confirmed

the incident to BBC News Swahili.

He said the party leader was heading home on Monday evening when the attackers struck and left him with an injured leg.

The party later tweeted that

Mr Mbowe is being treated at a hospital.

Mr Mbowe has been critical of President John Magufuli's response to the coronavirus pandemic, accusing him of promoting policies that could harm the health of Tanzanians.

President Magufuli has in the past accused the country's health officials of exaggerating the coronavirus crisis, and has even declared the country "coronavirus-free" thanks to prayers by citizens.

The attack on Mr Mbowe comes after a prominent critic of the Tanzanian government, Tundu Lissu, announced that he would run for president on a Chadema ticket.

Mr Lissu, who is in Belgium where he's had a series of operations after his car was sprayed with bullets in 2017, said Tanzania has endured economic, political and diplomatic difficulties for the last five years. BBC



Chadema party leader Freeman Mbowe © is being treated in hospital

EDITORIAL

Another US\$25m to go in thin air

THE GOVERNMENT OF Liberia seems to be struggling to expend or justify the expending of the US\$25 million stimulus package approved thru a Joint Resolution by the 54th Legislature to ease economic burdens of citizens in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

THE JOINT RESOLUTION partly reads, "That the initial request for US\$25 million is hereby approved for the Food Support Program with the modification that all of the 15 counties within the Republic shall be covered as affected counties for food support and additional amounts needed shall be submitted for re-appropriation. Procurement under this program must first accommodate locally produced food. That the Food Distribution Program must prioritize the vulnerable population and the first responder population to wit: the disadvantaged youth, the homeless, orphanages, senior citizens, people with disabilities, health workers and security personnel deployed in the frontline of the enforcement of the State of Emergency and that all restrictions imposed by the President pertaining to the movement of persons and hours applicable is hereby approved and modified only to the extent that all persons appearing in public streets and buildings must wear a protective device that covers at least the nose and mouth."

THIS TOOK EFFECT on April 9, 2020. But two months after, the Food Distribution Program is yet to visibly impact even the most vulnerable residents of Monrovia, let alone Montserrado and Margibi Counties dubbed as "most affected counties" in the pandemic.

THE CHAIRMAN OF the food distribution steering committee, Commerce Minister Wilson Tarpeh disclosed recently that the International Monetary Fund provided a grant of US\$5 million to augment the stimulus package to US\$30 million. However, the actual distribution seems largely elusive, for lack of better choice of words.

WHAT IS EVEN more worrisome is that the State of Emergency has ended and President George Manneh Weah has emphatically said it will not be renewed. The Executive Mansion quotes the President as saying that given Liberia's level of experience from the coronavirus and its mode of transmission, including strides being made in its containment, coupled with developments in other countries, there is no need for extension of the SOE.

HENCE, THE GOVERNMENT is about to re-open the country, beginning with resumption of normal flights at the Roberts International Airport effective 21st June including activities of hotels, guest houses, gaming centers and schools. Meanwhile, there is no food as was budgeted, despite continuous assurance by Chairman Tarpeh to the public.

LIBERIANS ARE NOW becoming apprehensive, and rightly so, that this US\$25 million stimulus package would not face the same fate of the US\$25 million mop up of excess liquidity in the economy, which this administration has failed to account for in spite of public pressure.

SADLY, WE ARE seeing packages of food being taken to selective communities by the Tarpeh-led committee in a spring frog style amid outcry from residents that food is not reaching them amid speculations that health workers are preparing to protest for lack of incentive.

SOONER OR LATER, we are going to see the government coming out with report, whatever it may be, on how the distribution was carried out even with the glaring knowledge or reality that nothing much is being done with this allotment.

OUR HONEST ADVICE to the government is not to take the Liberian people for granted by taking money from the national coffers under the pretext of wanting to give them food when the process is shrouded with uncertainty and sheer farce.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

Which Economic Stimulus Works?

During the initial shock from COVID-19, it was understandable that governments and central banks would respond with massive injections of liquidity. But now policymakers need to take a step back and consider which forms of stimulus are really needed, and which risk doing more harm than good.

NEW YORK - Governments around the world are responding forcefully to the COVID-19 crisis with a combined fiscal and monetary response that has already reached 10% of global GDP. Yet according to the latest global assessment from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, these stimulus measures may not boost consumption and investment by as much as policymakers are hoping.

The problem is that a significant portion of the money is being funneled directly into capital buffers, leading to an increase in precautionary balances. The situation is akin to the "liquidity trap" that so worried John Maynard Keynes during the Great Depression.

Today's stimulus measures have understandably been rolled out in haste - almost in panic - to contain the economic fallout from the pandemic. And while this fire-hose approach was neither targeted nor precise, many commentators would argue that it was the only option at the time. Without a massive injection of emergency liquidity, there probably would have been widespread bankruptcies, losses of organizational capital, and an even steeper path to recovery.

But it is now clear that the pandemic will last much longer than a few weeks, as was initially assumed when these emergency measures were enacted. That means these programs all need to be assessed more carefully, with an eye to the long term. During periods of deep uncertainty, precautionary savings typically rise as households and businesses hold on to cash for fear of what lies ahead.

The current crisis is no exception. Much of the money that households and businesses receive in the form of stimulus checks will probably sit idle in their bank accounts, owing to anxieties about the future and a broader reduction in spending opportunities. At the same time, banks will likely have to sit on the excess liquidity, for lack of credit-worthy borrowers willing to take out fresh loans.

Not surprisingly, excess reserves held in US depository institutions nearly doubled between February and April, from \$1.5 trillion to \$2.9 trillion. For comparison, excess reserves held in banks during the Great Recession reached just \$1 trillion. This massive increase in bank reserves suggests that the stimulus policies implemented so far have had a low multiplier effect. Clearly, bank credit alone is not going to lead us out of the current economic stalemate.

Making matters worse, today's excess liquidity may carry a high social cost. Beyond the usual fears about debt and inflation, there is also good reason to worry that the excess cash in banks will be funneled toward financial speculation. Stock markets are already gyrating wildly on a daily basis, and this volatility could in turn perpetuate the climate of increased uncertainty, leading to still more precautionary behavior, and discouraging both consumption and the investment needed to drive the recovery.

In this case, we will be facing a liquidity trap and

*By Joseph E. Stiglitz
& Hamid Rashid*

a liquidity conundrum: massive increases in the supply of money and only limited uses for it by households and businesses. Well-designed stimulus measures could help once COVID-19 has been brought under control. But as long as the pandemic is still raging, there can be no return to normalcy.

The key for now, then, is to reduce risk and increase incentives to spend. As long as firms are worried that the economy will remain weak six months or a year from now, they will postpone investment, thereby delaying the recovery. Only the state can break this vicious circle. Governments must take it upon themselves to insure against today's risks, by offering compensation for firms in the event that the economy does not recover by a certain point in time.

There is already a model for doing this: "Arrow-Debreu securities" (so named for the Nobel laureate economists Kenneth Arrow and Gérard Debreu) would become payable under certain predetermined conditions. For example, the government could guarantee that if a household purchased a car today, and the epidemic curve remained at a certain point six months from now, its monthly car payments would be suspended. Similarly, income-contingent loans and mortgages could be used to encourage the purchase of a wide range of consumer durables, including housing. Similar provisions could apply to real investments made by firms.

Governments also should consider issuing spending vouchers to stimulate household consumption. This is already happening in China, where local governments across 50 cities are issuing digital coupons that can be used to buy various goods and services within a certain timeframe. The expiration date makes them potent stimulants of consumption and aggregate demand in the short term - when it is needed most.

With the pandemic likely to last much longer than was originally assumed, still more stimulus will be necessary. Although the United States, for example, has already spent \$3 trillion on various forms of assistance, without more - and, one hopes, better-designed - measures, that money will have merely prolonged the lives of many enterprises by a few months, rather than actually saving them.

One approach that has been working in several countries is to provide assistance to firms on the condition that they retain their workers, supporting wage bills and other costs in proportion to an enterprise's decrease in revenue. In the US, Representative Pramila Jayapal, a congresswoman from Washington State, has proposed legislation along these lines, as have several senators.

Poorly designed stimulus programs are not just ineffective, but potentially dangerous. Bad policies can contribute to inequality, sow instability, and undermine political support for government precisely when it is needed to prevent the economy from falling into a prolonged recession. Fortunately, there are alternatives. But whether governments will take them up remains to be seen.

OP-ED

By Minxin Pei

Chinese Diplomats Behaving Badly

At a time when China's reputation is suffering and its relationship with the United States is in freefall, the country's diplomats should be focused on differentiating China's foreign policy from that of US President Donald Trump. Yet they are doing just the opposite.

CALREMONT, CALIFORNIA - Chinese diplomats have long had a reputation as well-trained, colorless, and cautious professionals who pursue their missions doggedly without attracting much unfavorable attention. But a new crop of younger diplomats are ditching established diplomatic norms in favor of aggressively promoting China's self-serving COVID-19 narrative. It is called "wolf warrior" diplomacy - and it is backfiring.

Shortly before the COVID-19 crisis erupted, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi instructed the country's diplomatic corps to adopt a more assertive approach to defending China's interests and reputation abroad. The pandemic - the scale of which may have been far smaller were it not for local Wuhan authorities' early mistakes - presented a perfect opportunity to translate this directive into action.

And that is precisely what Chinese diplomats have been doing. For example, in mid-March, the foreign ministry's newly appointed deputy spokesman, Zhao Lijian, promoted a conspiracy theory alleging that the US military brought the novel coronavirus to Wuhan, the pandemic's first epicenter.

Similarly, in early April, the Chinese ambassador to France posted a series of anonymous articles on his embassy's website falsely claiming that the virus's elderly victims were being left alone to die in the country. Later that month, after Australia joined the United States in calling for an international investigation into the pandemic's origins, the Chinese envoy in Canberra quickly threatened boycotts and sanctions.

But, unlike the fictional special-operations agents after which they are named (from a popular Chinese action movie), China's wolf-warrior diplomats have not been rewarded for their recklessly confrontational style. Far from burnishing China's international image and placating those who blame the country for the pandemic, their actions have undermined China's credibility and alienated the countries it should be wooing.

Why change tack in the first place? One reason is China's current combination of historical insecurity, rooted in its so-called century of humiliation, and heady arrogance, fueled by its immense economic clout and geopolitical influence. So keen are China's leaders to gain the respect they feel their country deserves that they have become highly sensitive to criticism and quick to threaten economic coercion when countries dare to defy them.

Another reason is the current regime's emphasis on political loyalty. Under President Xi Jinping's highly centralized leadership, Chinese diplomats are evaluated not on how well they perform their professional duties, but on how faithfully and vocally they toe the party line. This is exemplified by the appointment last year of Qi Yu, a propaganda apparatchik with no foreign-policy experience or credentials, as Party Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - an important post traditionally held by an experienced diplomat.

If aggressively pushing the Communist Party of China's preferred narrative is a matter of professional survival, diplomats will do it, even if they recognize that it is counterproductive (as many probably do). They certainly will not try to persuade their political masters to change course. Whereas diplomats risk paying a heavy price for conscientious dissent, they seem to suffer no consequences - from criticisms in official media to demotions or dismissals - for destructive loyalty. When pushing the CPC-approved narrative produces negative results, it is, in Party parlance, an issue of tactics, not the "political line." Punishing loyal diplomats for "tactical errors" would make them more reluctant to do the CPC's dirty work in the future.

By removing any incentive for diplomats to temper their approach and offering a convenient excuse for setbacks, this logic entrenches bad policy. It does not help that China lacks a free press and political opposition to highlight the failures of the wolf-warrior approach. Unlike Western diplomats, those in China do not have to fear public ridicule or criticism. All that matters is what their bosses say - and their bosses want wolf warriors.

This is a mistake. At a time when China's reputation is suffering and its relationship with the US is in freefall, the country's diplomats should be focused on differentiating China's foreign policy from that of US President Donald Trump.

It is Trump who recklessly promotes conspiracy theories and aggressively responds to any perceived slight with threats and sanctions. It is Trump who foolishly alienates friends and partners, rather than cultivating mutually beneficial relationships. And it is Trump whose belligerent insistence on his country's superiority has eroded its international reputation and undermined its interests.

OPINION

By James K. Galbraith

The Illusion of a Rapid US Recovery

The United States has built an economy based on global demand for advanced goods, consumer demand for frills, and ever-growing household and business debts. This economy was in many ways prosperous, and it provided jobs and incomes to many millions. Yet it was a house of cards, and COVID-19 has blown it down.

AUSTIN - As protests roil the United States, the country's center-left economists gaze brightly into their crystal balls. Harvard's Jason Furman, formerly chair of US President Barack Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, has warned Democrats - eager to defeat President Donald Trump in the November election - that "the best economic data ... in the history of this country" will emerge just before voters head to the polls. Paul Krugman is likewise predicting a "fast recovery." The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office agrees. The stock market seems equally optimistic.

The arithmetic behind this thinking is simple. The CBO expects real GDP to shrink by 12% in the second quarter, and by 40% in annual terms. But it forecasts a third-quarter rebound of 5.4% - resulting in spectacular annual growth of 23.5%.

That is certainly possible: already in May, unemployment figures took a favorable turn, and it is looking like the second-quarter slump may not be as bad as projected. But, even if the CBO is right on both counts, GDP at election time would be seven percentage points below its first-quarter level, and unemployment would be above - possibly far above - 10%.

Let's assume that the optimists are right about the third quarter. What happens next? Will the economy continue merrily along, with incomes and jobs bouncing back? Or will it stay in depression, requiring a new revolution - or, more precisely, a new New Deal - to save it?

To assess this question, Furman, Krugman, and the CBO share a mental model. They regard the pandemic as an economic shock, like an earthquake or the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It is a disruption to a solid structure, a deviation from normal growth. To get America moving again, what is mainly needed is confidence, perhaps aided by stimulus. If consumers channel their pent-up demand into new spending, this "shock-stimulus" model dictates, then businesses will revive investment, and soon enough, all will be well once again.

This is how mainstream center-left economists and policymakers have thought about recessions and recoveries since at least the 1960s, when President John F. Kennedy and his successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, pushed through tax cuts. But it ignores three major changes in the US economy since then: globalization, the rise of services in consumption and employment, and the impact of personal and corporate debts.

In the 1960s, the US had a balanced economy that produced goods for both businesses and households, at all levels of technology, with a fairly small (and tightly regulated) financial sector. It produced largely for itself, importing mainly commodities.

Today, the US produces for the world, mainly advanced investment goods and services, in sectors such as aerospace, information technology, arms, oilfield services, and finance. And it imports far more consumer goods, such as clothing, electronics, cars, and car parts, than it did a half-century ago.

And whereas cars, televisions, and household appliances drove US consumer demand in the 1960s, a much larger share of domestic spending today goes (or went) to restaurants, bars, hotels, resorts, gyms, salons, coffee shops, and tattoo parlors, as well as college tuition and doctor's visits. Tens of millions of Americans work in these sectors.

Finally, American household spending in the 1960s was powered by rising wages and growing home equity. But wages have been largely stagnant since at least 2000, and spending increases since 2010 were powered by rising personal and corporate debts. House values are now stagnant at best, and will likely fall in the months ahead.

Mainstream economics pays little attention to such structural questions. Instead, it assumes that business investment responds mostly to the consumer, whose spending is dictated equally by income and desire. The distinction between "essential" and "superfluous" does not exist. Debt burdens are largely ignored.

But demand for many US-made capital goods now depends on global conditions. Orders for new aircraft will not recover while half of all existing planes are grounded. At current prices, the global oil industry is not drilling new wells. Even at home, though existing construction projects may be completed, plans for new office towers or retail outlets won't be launched soon. And as people commute less, cars will last longer, so demand for them (and gasoline) will suffer.

Faced with radical uncertainty, US consumers will save more and spend less. Even if the government replaces their lost incomes for a time, people know that stimulus is short term. What they do not know is when the next job offer - or layoff - will come along.

Moreover, people do distinguish between needs and wants. Americans need to eat, but they mostly don't need to eat out. They don't need to travel. Restaurant owners and airlines therefore have two problems: they can't cover costs while their capacity is limited for public-health reasons, and demand would be down even if the coronavirus disappeared. This explains why many businesses are not reopening even though they legally can. Others are reopening, but fear they cannot hold out for long. And the many millions of workers in America's vast services sector are realizing that their jobs are simply not essential.

Meanwhile, US household debts - rent, mortgage, and utility arrears, as well as interest on education and car loans - have continued to mount. True, stimulus checks have helped: defaults have so far been modest, and many landlords have been accommodating. But as people face long periods with lower incomes, they will continue to hoard funds to ensure that they can repay their fixed debts. As if all this were not enough, falling sales- and income-tax revenues are prompting US state and local governments to cut spending, compounding the loss of jobs and incomes.

America's economic plight is structural. It is not simply the consequence of Trump's incompetence or House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's poor political strategy. It reflects systemic changes over 50 years that have created an economy based on global demand for advanced goods, consumer demand for frills, and ever-growing household and business debts. This economy was in many ways prosperous, and it provided jobs and incomes to many millions. Yet it was a house of cards, and COVID-19 has blown it down.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Team Andy climaxes COVID - 19 food distribution in District #13

By Lewis S. Teh

Supporters of former representative Aspirant in Montserrado County Electoral District #13 Mr. Andy Bropleh Jallah have climaxed phase two of their COVID - 19 food distribution to various communities.

Speaking to this paper recently following the distribution, the Chairman of the group under the banner Team Andy, Mr. Emmanuel Zor says the distribution marks the climax of their group's donations of food and non-food items including anti-coronavirus materials to residents, particularly the elders, less fortunate and underprivileged children in the district.



"In these troubling times our leader Mr. Andy Bropleh Jallah has asked me to inform residents that their welfare remains his foremost priority," Mr. Zor says.

Speaking to several community dwellers during the presentation of the donation, Mr. Zor says it is their leader's own way of identifying with the people of District #13, particularly the elderly, widow, underprivileged kids and orphans.

"As you may be aware of the danger this virus has caused the entire world, our leader Mr. Andy Bropleh Jallah who is currently residing in the United States says you can't fight this virus

on empty stomach," Zor continues.

"It's against this backdrop that he thought it wise through his supporters here under the banner Team Andy to bring these relief items while you observe the stay home order," he adds.

Zor indicates that he had been asked by Andy to inform everyone that he (Andy) still has his people in mind, urging them to abide by all of the preventive measures in order to minimize the spread of the virus.

Communities that benefited from the donations include Billimah Community, Jamaica Road, Bassa Town Community and Battery Factory Plank Field Community, among others.

The items donated include rice, oil, clora, pop soap and water drums, among other things.

Receiving the donation, Billimah Community Secretary General Mr. Abraham Sirleaf extolls Team Andy for the donations and promises to reach out to the most needy.

"I'm overwhelmed Andy didn't forget us. We saw him during the campaign period, he

helped to construct our bridge, and today we are receiving another donation from him. This is a clear manifestation that he's a true son to us," Mr. Sirleaf says.

Also Speaking, two elders of Jamaica Road Community Bobby Prosser and Shadrach Bango express delight over the donations, terming it as timely.

According to them, it is unusual to see young people undertaking such an initiative by identifying with older folks, suggesting that this has been done by the national government, especially during crises.

"Today is a joyous day for us on this island particularly we the people of Electoral District #13 in Jamaica Road, Bassa Town here. This is the first of its kind for someone to think of us, even our national government has failed to take on this initiative, Mr. Jefferson B. Weah, a resident of the community says.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Rep. Grant backs Pennue for senatorial race

Representative Alex Cheasia Grant of Grand Gedeh County Electoral District #3 has pledged support for the senatorial bid of Representative Zoe E. Pennue of Grand Gedeh Electoral District #1.

According to Rep. Grant, Representative Pennue has over the years worked for the people of Grand Gedeh so it is about time for him to be supported for the senate.

He described Pennue as a man who means well for his people. Grant, who chairs the governing CDC legislative caucus, declared his support for Pennue on Monday, June 8, in an interview with journalists at the Capitol, disclosing that he is working out modalities for Representative Pennue to join the CDC.

Representative Grant also chairs the House Committee on Election. He said the pending midterm senatorial election is critical and a constitutional matter that should be looked at keenly.

He said the House has



received a request from President George Manneh Weah that the October 8th date for midterm election be changed, adding, issue that has to do with the change in date of the poll is currently being scrutinized by members of the House of Representatives.

He assured that they will do everything humanly possible to conduct the midterm election this year.

He clarified that US\$ 17 million being discussed in public for the conduct of the midterm senatorial election is a proposal from authorities of the National Elections Commission, noting that up to present, authorities of NEC are yet to provide a fixed budget to members of the House for the pending poll.

Fifteen of the 30 senators on Capitol Hill are going for re-election this year ahead of Presidential and Representatives elections in 2023. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

PARTNERS PROJECT



Call for Tender Security Firm Welthungerhilfe Liberia Country Program LBR-1056 & LBR-1053



INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE SECURITY FIRM for GBEDIAH OFFICE, RIVERCESS COUNTY and GREENVILLE OFFICE, SINOE COUNTY

Both Ebola Support Program, Phase II LBR-1053 and EULAP PARTNERS Programme LBR-1056, is a development program of the Republic of Liberia, co-financed by the Federal Republic of Germany through the German Development Bank (KfW) and implemented by Welthungerhilfe. It is within the scope of this program to request for quotation registrar security firm in Cestos City, Rivercess and Greenville City, Sinoe Counties.

Welthungerhilfe invites LOCAL SECURITY FIRMS or COMPANY having requisite experience and capacity in security for Gbediah office/hospital site and in Greenville City, Sinoe Counties

This invitation to bid is for the provision of the security component of the required works to be undertaken for two offices one in Gbediah City under LBR-1053 in River-Cee and Greenville City under LBR-1056, Sinoe County to be provided by Welthungerhilfe.

Interested bidders are therefore required to attend the Pre-Bid Meeting to be held at Gbediah office/hospital site and Greenville Office on the 12th June 2020 at 10:00AM. Details of the bid and Bid forms will be given during the Pre-Bid Meeting. Immediately after the Pre-Bid Meeting, site visit to the offices and hospital sites will be conducted.

Important Schedule of Activities:

- 12th June 2020, 10:00 AM
- 19th June 2020, 5:00 PM
- 22th June 2020, 10:00 AM

Bids must be submitted to WHH-offices in Gbediah, River-Cee or in Greenville, Sinoe Counties or in Monrovia.

Stephane Pauwels

Logistics Expert
Welthungerhilfe-Monrovia

Date: 08th June 2020



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NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION
NEC

FORM: PP-001

FORM FOR NOTIFICATION TO THE COMMISSION

Note: Any political party or independent candidate who submits notification to the Commission less than 180 days before the general election will not be eligible to contest said election

1. Name of the proposed political party:
ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

OF LIBERIA

2. Abbreviation/acronym of the name of the Proposed Political Party:
E.F.F.L.

3. Address and Location of the Organization Committee of the Proposed Political Party:
ZAYZAY COMMUNITY PAYNESVILLE LIBERIA, Email: liberiaeconomicfreedomfighters@gmail.com Tel: (+231) 776 77111 / 858 96967 / 771091701

(Please include Street/Community Number/Name, email, cell phone Number, Box Number, etc.)

4. Name of Chairman of Organizing Committee of the Proposed Political Party:
EMMANUEL C. B. GONQUOI



5. Address of Chairman of the Organizing of the Proposed Political Party:
LAKPAREE 200, AIRFIELD ROAD SIKKOR, MONROVIA - LIBERIA

(Please include Street Numbers, Community Name, email, Phone Number etc.)

7. Objectives of the Proposed Political Party:
TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP FOR LIBERIA POLITICALLY THROUGH GOVERNMENT AND THE RULE OF LAW

14. Assistant DC for political affairs
15. Assistant DC for mobilizations
16. Assistant DC for student affairs
17. Assistant DC for press and publicity
18. Assistant DC for youth affairs

Provincial People's Assembly which elects the Provincial Command Team (PCT).

A Regional People's Assembly which elects the Regional Command Team (RCT).

Branch People's Assembly which elects the Branch Command Team (BCT).

EFFL structures terms of office a. BCT – 2 years b. RCT – 3 Years c. PCT – 4 years d. CCT – Years

Branches of the EFFL shall be ward-based, but can be recognized in demarcations decided by the CCT.

Every member of the EFF shall belong to a branch, which is the basic unit of activity for members. A Branch General Assembly is a normal meeting of the general membership of the EFFL in the branch and shall be convened every three months to receive reports on the state of the organization, fill vacancies and deal with any other issue that affects the branch and its membership. Each Branch shall be registered with the CCT and shall consist of no less than 100 members. A BCT is elected every two years by a Branch People's Assembly. The BCT shall comprise of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Treasurer and not more than 10 (ten) members who will hold office for two years.

17) EFFL STUDENT COMMAND TEAM

The Student Command Team shall be established as an autonomous structure existing in all institutions of higher learning and post-secondary education and training institutions

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMAND STRUCTURES:

a. The responsibilities and duties of all Command structures should be clearly stated in the constitution.

b. Should include a provision that says that members who miss 3 meetings in sequence without sound apologies shall be removed from the Command Teams.

c. No member of the EFFL shall be allowed to occupy two organizational positions at the same time. Once elected to the other structure, the member is automatically no longer a member of the structure they served before, and the General Assembly shall be the only platform to replace the vacated position.

1) The political line of the EFFL is the fundamental and crucial factor in the interaction between EFFL and the larger material world. It is the lifeblood of the organization and should be at the heart of every member's activity and duties.

The life of EFFL and hence that of the revolution compels a very high level of commitment from each member which in turn shall be guided by the struggle to develop, grasp and apply our political line and through that process sharpen it.

2) In refining and carrying out the political line, EFFL acts as a collective. Every member's actions in any given situation can make a huge difference—positive or negative. At the same time, the organization is expected to enable its members to pull together so as to understand why it is necessary to struggle for and achieve our strategic goal of Economic Freedom of Liberia in our lifetime. Members are expected to channel their insights and initiative into a collective process and this in turn enables a more comprehensive analysis of reality, and a much more meaningful mobilization of the people to transform that reality. This is way beyond what any single individual acting alone, or even a loose affiliation of individuals could ever achieve.

3) Inside the EFFL, members are expected to thrash out their differences, be faithful to the revolutionary ideas of the organization through good and bad times and through this whole process look out for each other. In this way we express our revolutionary outlook and collectivity while at the same time boosting the morale of membership.

4) Also inside the EFF there should always be much collective discussion and struggle over ideas of what is to be done, over right and wrong ideas in the development of the revolutionary line and practice to which all members are expected to contribute; this is the life blood of the organization. But against the ideological enemies of Economic Freedom in our lifetime we close our ranks as a collective forming an iron wall of unity and allegiance to the revolution and hence making it impossible for them to break our ranks.

5) Learning or education is an active process that requires members to self-develop and seek clarity where they don't understand or feel confused. Finally, the political development of each member is a revolutionary responsibility of all engaged in struggle.

6) Unity is a paramount principle of the EFFL. The sowing of disunity within the ranks of the EFFL and the oppressed will be severely dealt with.

Sect 4 Members of the EFFL are accordingly expected to:

1) Study and apply the theoretical line of the organization being Marxist, Leninist and Fanonian philosophical thought and tools of analysis in a living way.

PROPOSED ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF LIBERIA (EFFL)

No.	Name	Age	Sex	Address/Phone	Voters Registration #	Signature	Date	Photo
1	Pelecia B. Sirleaf	35	F	0823024121 Gbarnga	722935337		01-10-19	
2	Robert Toe	70	M	0823024121 Gbarnga	722935337		01-10-19	
3	James Saylee Jr	19	M	0823024121 Gbarnga	722935337		01-10-19	

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BEFORE ME THIS DAY OF
S. PETER BISHOP-KWAN
COMMISSION EXPIRE 1 JUN 2013
NOTARY PUBLIC

No.	Name	Age	Sex	Address/Phone	Voters Registration #	Signature	Date	Photo
1	Lasana M. Sirleaf	53	M	0823024121 Gbarnga	722935337		12-10-18	
2	Daula F. Sanie	24	M	0823024121 Benefield	722935337		12-10-18	
3	Musa Sirleaf	29	M	0823024121 Benefield	722935337		12-10-18	

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No.	Name	Age	Sex	Address/Phone	Voters Registration #	Signature	Date	Photo
1	Joseph Jackson	46	M	0823024121 Kola Town	722935337		12-10-18	
2	Mamie Daniel	29	F	0823024121 Kola Town	722935337		12-10-18	
3	Ngbevou Gaye	24	F	0823024121 Kola Town	722935337		12-10-18	

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No.	Name	Age	Sex	Address/Phone	Voters Registration #	Signature	Date	Photo
1	Stephen Wolo	61	M	0823024121 Gbarnga	722935337		01-08-19	
2	Abraham B. Bush Jr.	43	M	0823024121 Felskore	722935337		01-08-19	
3	Victoria Mah	37	F	0823024121 Gbarnga	722935337		01-08-19	

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Français

Qui de la banque centrale et du Sénat a le pouvoir d'imprimer de nouveaux billets de banque ?

Qui de la banque centrale et du Sénat a le pouvoir d'imprimer de nouveaux billets de banque ? Voilà ce qui a fait l'objet de débat houleux entre le comité sénatorial sur les opérations bancaires et de la monnaie et les autorités de la Banque centrale du Libéria.

En tout cas les deux organes réclament l'exclusivité du pouvoir d'imprimer de nouveaux billets de banque.

C'était lors d'une audience publique qui

s'esttenue mardi dans les locaux du Sénat au Capitole à Monrovia. L'audience portait sur les modifications de la loi portant création de la Banque centrale du Libéria.

Le débat est surgi après que les autorités de la CBL et le président de la Banque Libérienne pour le Développement et l'Investissement (LBDI), une entreprise commerciale, ont demandé que le Sénat accorde le pouvoir d'imprimer des devises locales à la Banque centrale quidat présenter un rapport au parlement libérien

tous les deux ans.

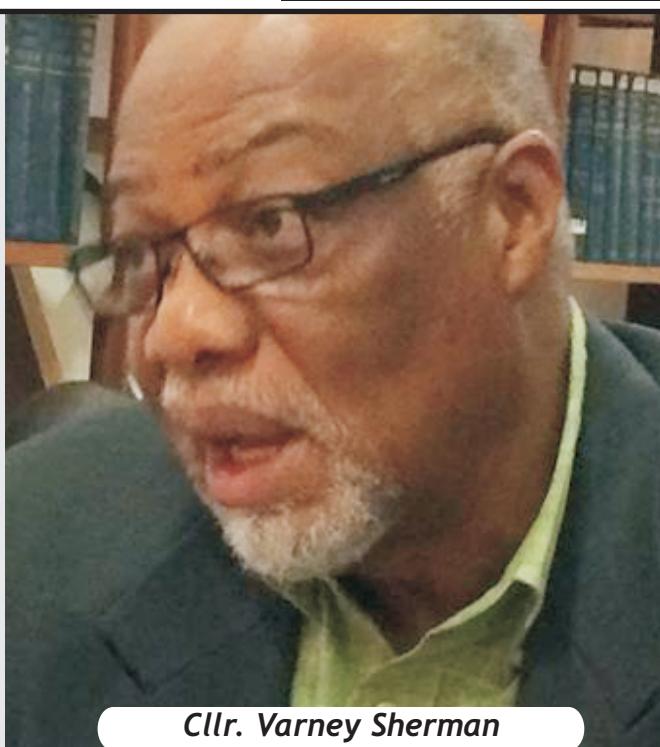
« Pas question », dira le sénateur Varney Sherman du comté de Grand Cape Mount, qui dit craindre que cela nenuise totalement à la Constitution de 1986 du Libéria. Selon lui, les rédacteurs de la Constitution savaient exactement pourquoi l'impression de la monnaie doit être totalement approuvée par le pouvoir législatif.

Le célèbre avocat d'entreprise a fait valoir que

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



CBL Augustine Tarlue



Cllr. Varney Sherman

Weeks veut que sa caution soit reconduite dans l'affaire des 16 milliards

Les avocats de la défense représentant l'ancien gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL), Milton A. Weeks, ont plaidé auprès du tribunal pénal «C» à Monrovia pour le maintenir dans la caution qu'il avait déposée pour obtenir une libération provisoire dans le cadre du procès dans l'affaire de la disparition présumée de 16 milliards de dollars libériens.

A noter que toutes les charges dans cette affaire ont été abandonnées après qu'un nouvel acte d'accusation pour blanchiment d'argent a été ajouté aux accusations antérieures contre les responsables de la CBL en 2019.

En août de l'année dernière, la Cour avait ordonné aux cinq responsables de la CBL qui étaient jugés à l'époque de déposer chacun une caution de 1 058 000 000 LD, le tout totalisant 5 290 000 000 LD.

Cependant, l'accusation, en dépit de l'abandon des charges précédentes, a introduit un nouveau de nouvelles charges, pour la troisième fois, dans l'affaire contre les responsables

de la CBL, cette fois, d'autres membres du Conseil des gouverneurs de la banque ont été inculpés de sabotage économique.

Le nouvel acte d'accusation allègue que les défendeurs savaient que le montant total imprimé par Crane Currency en

vertu du deuxième contrat était de 13 004 750 000 L\$, ce qui représentait un excédent de 2 645 000 000 L\$, complotant ainsi pour voler le gouvernement du Libéria en dissimulant le montant excédentaire imprimé.

Les accusés n'auraient



Ex-Governor Milton Weeks

Le livre blanc publié par la Chine sur sa lutte contre le COVID-19 a une valeur scientifique mondiale, selon des experts internationaux

De nombreux observateurs étrangers sont convenus que le livre blanc publié dimanche par le Bureau d'information du Conseil des Affaires d'État de la Chine, intitulé "Combattre le COVID-19 : la Chine en action", revêtait une valeur scientifique de niveau mondial pour tous les pays souhaitant s'inspirer de l'expérience de la Chine en matière de lutte contre l'épidémie.

Le gouvernement chinois a publié ce livre blanc pour garder une trace des efforts du pays dans la lutte contre le virus, partager son expérience avec le reste du monde, et exposer clairement ses idées sur la bataille mondiale contre l'épidémie, selon le livre blanc.

Lee Hee-ok, directeur de l'Institut Sungkyun des Études chinoises de l'Université Sungkyunkwan de la Corée du Sud, a déclaré que la gouvernance efficace et les mesures antiépidémiques énergiques du gouvernement chinois avaient permis à la Chine de contenir très rapidement le nouveau coronavirus.

Expliquant que la Chine avait adopté une méthode d'aide et de soutien consistant à jumeler chacune des 16 villes les plus touchées dans la province du Hubei avec une province ou une municipalité chinoise donnée, M. Lee a indiqué que cette approche avait permis de mettre en place un solide réseau d'entraide pour prévenir et contrôler l'épidémie.

La construction opportune d'hôpitaux de campagne a par ailleurs permis de traiter les patients présentant des symptômes bénins de manière à la fois rapide et massive, ce qui a joué un rôle important dans l'endiguement précoce de la maladie, a ajouté M. Lee.

Du 24 janvier au 8 mars, pour porter assistance immédiate à la province du Hubei et à la ville de Wuhan, la Chine a mobilisé 346 équipes médicales nationales, composées de 42 600 travailleurs médicaux et de plus de 900 professionnels de la santé publique, indique le livre blanc.

Ronnie Lins, directeur du Centre Chine-Brésil pour la Recherche et les Affaires, a quant à lui déclaré qu'il était impressionné par le fait que du personnel médical venu de toute la Chine se soit rendu à Wuhan pour lutter contre l'épidémie, ajoutant que seule une action concertée de la part de l'ensemble de la société pouvait prévenir et contrôler efficacement l'épidémie.

Le livre blanc fait savoir que la

déclaré que 359 750 000 dollars, c'est-à-dire 2,6 milliards de moins que le montant imprimé, un montant non autorisé, au détriment du gouvernement du Libéria.

À l'exception du fils de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson, Charles E. Sirleaf, qui était à l'époque le sous-gouverneur de la banque centrale chargé des opérations, presque

Chine a exploité les avantages de la science et de la technologie, et pleinement appliquée des innovations techniques et scientifiques à sa lutte contre le COVID-19.

Dans la bataille contre le nouveau coronavirus, la Chine a toujours adopté une attitude strictement scientifique, et s'est appuyée sur des technologies de pointe comme le big data et l'intelligence artificielle, a fait remarquer M. Lins.

Le livre blanc publié par la Chine sur sa lutte contre le COVID-19 constitue une ressource scientifique et médicale d'une valeur inestimable, a pour sa part indiqué Alfredo Bruno, directeur du Centre national de référence sur la grippe et les autres virus respiratoires de l'Institut national de recherche en santé publique de l'Équateur.

«Dès le début (de l'épidémie), la Chine s'est efforcée de détecter rapidement le virus et de le séquencer génétiquement», a affirmé M. Bruno, soulignant que le Centre national des données génomiques de Chine avait publié les informations ainsi obtenues dans une banque de données génomiques mondiale.

«Cela a permis à chaque pays de développer des outils de diagnostic, qui ont à leur tour permis de détecter rapidement le nouveau coronavirus, contrairement à ce qui se passe pour d'autres épidémies», a expliqué l'expert.

Pour ce qui est de la coopération internationale en matière de lutte contre la pandémie de COVID-19, le livre blanc indique que la Chine a appelé à la création d'une communauté mondiale de santé pour tous.

Les pays du monde doivent se soutenir les uns les autres et travailler de concert pour contenir la propagation du virus et protéger la santé et le bien-être de toutes les populations à travers le monde, selon le livre blanc.

M. Bruno a également salué les dons faits par la Chine à de nombreux pays touchés par la pandémie, qualifiant ces dons d'une grande aide.

Il s'est en outre déclaré «entièrement d'accord» avec l'appel de la Chine à une meilleure coopération mondiale face à la pandémie de COVID-19.

«La seule façon de la surmonter est de faire preuve d'unité, quelles que soient nos convictions politiques ou nos conditions sociales», a affirmé M. Bruno.

tous les membres du conseil des gouverneurs de la Banque et des fonctionnaires ont été inculpés.

Parmi les accusés figurent l'ancien gouverneur exécutif de la CBL, Milton A. Weeks; Dorbor M. Hagba, ancienne directrice des finances; Richard H. Walker, ancien directeur des opérations bancaires et Joseph Dennis, ancien directeur de l'audit interne.

Français

Qui de la banque centrale et du Sénat a le pouvoir

le simple fait que les autorités de la Banque centrale n'ont pas le pouvoir d'imprimer de l'argent, et a dit que présenter un rapport tous les deux ans ne signifie pas que la banque agira absolument à l'insu du pouvoir législatif.

Pour sa part, le président du comité, le sénateur Marshall Dennis, a déclaré que le parlement est prêt et disposé à travailler avec la CBL à tout moment, cependant rien ne peut le pousser à porter atteinte à la Constitution juste pour faire plaisir aux autorités de la Banque centrale.

L'administration George Weah a fait appel aux services de Crane AB, une société américaine pour imprimer 4 milliards de dollars libériens, des coupures de 500 dollars libériens.

En mars, la CBL a publié une demande d'impression, sollicitant des propositions pour l'impression de billets supplémentaires.

Le gouverneur exécutif de CBL, J. Aloysius Tarlue, Jr., a déclaré que la sélection de Crane AB (« Crane ») « est le résultat d'un processus d'appel d'offres compétitif et transparent qui a été ouvert à plusieurs imprimeurs de devises majeures à travers le monde ».

Il avait juré que "la CBL tiendrait le peuple libérien pleinement informé de chaque étape du processus de passation des marchés, jusqu'à et y compris l'arrivée et l'injection des billets de banque supplémentaires dans l'économie libérienne".

L'impression de nouveaux billets de banque par la CBL sous l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a été entachée de scandales. Des anciens dirigeants, y compris l'ancien gouverneur exécutif Milton Weeks, avaient fait l'objet de poursuite judiciaire, avant que les charges retenues contre eux eût été abandonnées.

Une enquête indépendante commandée par l'USAID via Kroll Associates, Inc., une société américaine, a établi que la CBL avait commandé une nouvelle devise totalisant 15,0 milliards de LRD à Crane Currency en deux tranches en 2016 et 2017.

L'enquête de Kroll a identifié des divergences à chaque étape du processus de contrôle des mouvements de billets à destination et en provenance de la CBL lors de l'examen indépendant, notamment : l'approbation de l'Assemblée législative pour l'impression de nouveaux billets n'a pas été respectée.

Le Dr Dukuly reconnaît que seule le parlement a le pouvoir constitutionnel de

donner l'ordre d'imprimer de l'argent, et a dit que présenter un rapport tous les deux ans ne signifie pas que la banque agira absolument à l'insu du pouvoir législatif.

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COMMENTAIRE

Par Joseph E. Stiglitz & Hamid Rashid

Quelle est la bonne manière de stimuler l'économie ?

NEW YORK - Les gouvernements du monde entier ont réagi vigoureusement à la crise de la COVID-19, avec une réponse budgétaire et monétaire combinée qui a déjà atteint 10% du PIB mondial. Pourtant, selon la dernière évaluation mondiale du Département des affaires économiques et sociales des Nations Unies, ces mesures de relance pourraient ne pas stimuler la consommation et l'investissement autant que ce que les décideurs politiques n'espèrent.

Le problème est qu'une partie importante de l'argent est acheminé directement vers des réserves de fonds propres, entraînant une augmentation des stocks de précaution. La situation s'apparente au « piège à liquidité » qui a tant inquiété John Maynard Keynes pendant la Grande Dépression.

Les mesures de relance d'aujourd'hui ont naturellement été déployées à la hâte - presque dans la panique - pour contenir les retombées économiques de la pandémie. Bien que cette approche « pompier » n'ait été ni ciblée, ni précise, de nombreux commentateurs diraient que c'était la seule option à l'époque. Sans une injection massive de liquidités en urgence, il y aurait probablement eu des faillites généralisées, des pertes de capital organisationnel et une récession encore plus profonde.

Pourtant, il est désormais clair que la pandémie durera beaucoup plus longtemps que quelques semaines, comme cela avait été initialement supposé lors de l'adoption de ces mesures d'urgence. Cela signifie que ces programmes doivent tous être évalués plus attentivement, dans une perspective de long terme. Pendant les périodes d'incertitude profonde, l'épargne de précaution augmente généralement car les ménages et entreprises s'accrochent à la trésorerie par crainte de ce qui les attend.

La crise actuelle ne fait pas exception. Une grande partie de l'argent que les ménages et les entreprises reçoivent sous forme de chèques de relance restera probablement inutilisée sur leurs comptes bancaires, en raison des inquiétudes quant à l'avenir et d'une réduction plus générale des opportunités de dépenses. Dans le même temps, les banques devront probablement s'asseoir sur leur excédent de liquidité, faute d'emprunteurs solvables désireux de contracter de nouveaux prêts.

Sans surprise, les réserves excédentaires détenues dans les institutions de dépôt américaines ont presque doublé entre février et avril, passant de 1,5 billion à 2,9 billions de dollars. À titre de comparaison, les réserves excédentaires détenues dans les banques pendant la Grande Récession n'avaient atteint que 1 billion de dollars. Cette augmentation massive des réserves bancaires suggère que les politiques de relance mises en œuvre jusqu'à présent ont eu un faible effet multiplicateur. De toute évidence, le crédit bancaire à lui seul ne nous sortira pas de l'impasse économique actuelle.

Pour agraver les choses, l'excès de liquidité actuel peut entraîner un coût social élevé. Au-delà des craintes habituelles au sujet de la dette et de l'inflation, il y a également de bonnes raisons de penser que l'excédent de trésorerie des banques ne soit orienté vers la spéculation financière. Les marchés boursiers connaissent déjà de folles fluctuations quotidiennes. Cette volatilité pourrait à son tour perpétuer le climat d'incertitude accrue, conduisant à un comportement encore plus prudent et décourageant à la fois la consommation et les investissements nécessaires pour permettre une reprise.

Dans ce cas, nous serons confrontés à un piège à

liquidité, ainsi qu'à une énigme de liquidité : une augmentation massive de la masse monétaire combinée à une utilisation limitée de celle-ci par les ménages et entreprises. Des mesures de relance bien conçues pourraient aider une fois que la COVID-19 aura été maîtrisée. Mais, tant que la pandémie fait rage, il ne peut y avoir de retour à la normalité.

La clé pour l'instant est donc de réduire les risques et d'augmenter les incitations à dépenser. Tant que les entreprises craignent que l'économie reste faible pendant encore six mois ou un an, elles retarderont l'investissement, retardant ainsi la reprise. Seul l'État peut briser ce cercle vicieux. Les gouvernements doivent se charger d'assurer contre les risques actuels, en offrant une compensation aux entreprises dans le cas où l'économie ne se rétablirait pas à un certain moment.

Il existe déjà un modèle pour ce faire: des « titres Arrow-Debreu » (portant le nom des économistes lauréats du prix Nobel Kenneth Arrow et Gérard Debreu), dont le paiement serait déclenché par certaines conditions pré-déterminées. Par exemple, le gouvernement pourrait garantir que, si un ménage achète une voiture aujourd'hui et que la courbe épidémique demeure à un certain niveau dans six mois, les remboursements mensuels de son crédit auto seraient suspendus. De même, des prêts et hypothèques conditionnels au revenu pourraient être utilisés pour encourager l'achat d'une large gamme de biens de consommation durables, y compris du logement. Des dispositions similaires pourraient s'appliquer aux investissements réels réalisés par les entreprises.

Les gouvernements devraient également envisager d'émettre des bons d'achat pour stimuler la consommation des ménages. Cela se fait déjà en Chine, où les gouvernements locaux de 50 villes émettent des bons numériques qui peuvent être utilisés pour acheter divers biens et services dans un certain délai. La date d'expiration en fait de puissants stimulants de la consommation et de la demande globale à court terme - au moment où c'est le plus nécessaire.

La pandémie étant susceptible de durer beaucoup plus longtemps que ce qui avait été initialement supposé, il faudra encore davantage de stimulants. Bien que les États-Unis, par exemple, aient déjà dépensé 3 billions de dollars pour diverses formes d'assistance, en l'absence de mesures nouvelles - et, on l'espère, mieux conçues, cet argent aura simplement prolongé la vie de nombreuses entreprises de quelques mois, sans les sauver réellement.

Une approche qui a fonctionné dans plusieurs pays consiste à fournir une assistance aux entreprises à condition qu'elles conservent leurs travailleurs, en soutenant la masse salariale et les autres coûts proportionnellement à la baisse des revenus de l'entreprise. Aux États-Unis, la parlementaire Pramila Jaypal, membre du Congrès de l'État de Washington, a proposé une législation dans ce sens, comme l'ont fait plusieurs sénateurs.

Des programmes de relance mal conçus ne sont pas seulement inefficaces, mais potentiellement dangereux. De mauvaises politiques peuvent accroître les inégalités, semer l'instabilité et saper le soutien politique au gouvernement, précisément au moment où il est nécessaire pour empêcher que l'économie ne tombe dans une récession prolongée. Heureusement, il existe des alternatives. Il reste à voir si les gouvernements les accepteront.

Les opinions exprimées ici ne reflètent pas celles des Nations-Unies ou de ses États membres.

ARTICLE**ARTICLE**

Nigeria: Biafra Seeks Freedom to Embark on Development

Nigeria gained its independence in October 1960. Since then the British colonial ideology has strongly influenced the division of Nigeria into three regions - North, West and East - and further exacerbated the already well-developed economic, political, and social differences among Nigeria's ethnic groups. The Igbo in the Eastern states have been struggling for peace necessary for development after the Civil War ended in 1970.

The Nigerian Civil War was fought between the Government of Nigeria and the State of Biafra from July 1967 to January 1970. The Biafra represented nationalist aspirations of the Igbo people, whose leadership still felt they could no longer coexist with the Northern-dominated Federal Government. The Eastern River States are devastated, millions of the population deeply impoverished while resources remained untapped.

In June, Kester Kenn Klomegah interviewed Emeka Umeagbalasi, the Board Chair of International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law. Intersociety is a registered Nigerian rights, democracy and security advocacy group, it thematically campaigns for civil liberties and rule of law, democracy and good governance, and public security and safety. In this interview, Umeagbalasi highlights persistent human rights violations, the weaknesses of the federal governance and steps needed to address the current situation in the region as well as the development of the Eastern region of Nigeria.

Here are the interview excerpts:

What is the level of human rights violations in the Biafra today?

The level of rights violations and abuses against the Igbo in the Biafra State is grisly and on industrial scale. This is with particular reference to four generations of human rights: Civil and Political Rights, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Group Rights and Environmental Rights. Under Group Rights, they are subdivided into structural rights violation or violence and cultural rights violation or cultural violence. These four generations of human rights have been violated with reckless abandon in present Igbo Nation (Biafra). Their perpetrators are also divided into state actors and non-state actors, all state aided and shielded.

In the area of structural violence or rights violations, there has been large scale political exclusion and segregation and massive citizens' disenfranchisement or denial of participation of the Igbo people in the country's political or democratic process. Few allowed to participate are usually friends or agents of the Caliphs now in charge of the country's Presidency. Structurally or socio-environmentally speaking, there has been state backed or aided invasion of Igbo lands and their forceful occupation by the Jihadist Fulani herdsmen and their imported Shuwa Arab Brothers.

There are cases with attendant loss of lives or threats of same, abduction for ransom, sexual violence and religious radicalism including rape, forced pregnancies and, overt and covert conversion of vulnerable Igbo women to Islam. Parts of these, too, are land seizures and destruction of farmlands, crops and economic trees. In the same structural violence or rights violations, there is gross disproportional representation of Igbo people in the present Nigerian top security forces and political or public office appointments.

In physical violence aspect or mass killings and maiming, there has been state actor mass killing of innocent and defenseless Igbo citizens - mostly young men and some women and maiming of others. Victims of both are in their multiple hundreds including no fewer than 480 massacred by the Nigerian military and the police and not less than 500 others shot and terminally injured. See "Intersociety: the Nigerian Military Massacre in Eastern Nigeria: 2015-2017: Jan 2019 (updated in Jan 2020)".

There are also countless cases of tribal hatred and racial profiling leading to indiscriminate arrests, long detention without trial, captivity torture and trumped-up charges and trials perpetrated against Igbo citizens.

In the area of Socio-Economic Rights violations, Igbo Nation and the land are the most victimized. Apart from being under permanent siege by Nigeria's security forces with gross rights abuses and violations particularly by the Police, Army, Navy and Air Force; the region also witnesses the highest level of broad-day official corrupt practices in Nigeria, to the extent that according to our field study conducted in Oct 2019, "not less than \$1b or N306b was illegally collected as bribes by the Police and the Military from road users between August 2015 and Oct 2019 or a period of four years and two months."

What armed groups are currently active, prominent and operating in the region?

There is no single armed group of Igbo extraction operating in the region. The only armed group now ravaging the region is the Nigerian Government backed Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and their imported Shuwa Arab Brothers from Niger, Chad, Sudan, Mali and their 'technical assistants' from the Maghreb and Sahel regions of Africa.



On what conditions could the near 30,000 Igbo people were massacred be considered "genocide" in the country?

Correctly, between 45,000 and 50,000 and "not 30,000" mostly Igbo citizens were massacred between May 1966 and December 1967, during which over 1.67 million mostly Igbo citizens were also internally displaced. Categorizing their massacre as 'genocide' is a matter of local and international law provisions. For instance, in the eyes of the Rome Statute of Int'l Criminal Court of 1998, signed and ratified by Nigeria in Sept 2001, the massacre is not 'trieable' before it having taken place before the coming into force of the Statute in 2002.

Except the UN Security Council decides to create a genocide tribunal, yet it will have an incurable legal deformity, even if given backdated legal effect. Retroactive criminal legislations or provisions are almost obsolete or out-fashioned around the globe. In other words, diplomatically, the massacre was a genocide, but legally not seen as such, owing to the timeframe of the incident. The only exception arises if the present 'Igbo Nation' or "Biafra Nation-State" becomes a United Nation recognized and enlisted Republic or Independent and filed on the basis of 'inter-

State' before the Int'l Court of Justice at The Hague. Controversies bordering on 'time, place and space' of the genocide may, again, rear their ugly heads.

Do the political elites, business people and experts (academics) share similar views, interpretation and consider the effects of the war as "genocide" in the history of Nigeria?

Of course, they do. As a matter of fact, among the 'attentive Igbo public', 'Biafra' is openly pronounced and among 'the un-attentive Igbo public', 'Biafra' lives in their minds. Generations born after the brutal and genocidal Civil War are conscious of "Biafra" as a liberation slogan than the genocide aspect of the War. This is because they were not yet born during the Civil War. On the other hand, surviving generations who witnessed the Civil War are more conscious and enlightened about the "genocide" content of the Civil War they witnessed during their time.

Do you estimate that there will be a qualitative difference and widening cultural gap between the Hausa cum Fulani (North), Yoruba (West) and Igbo (East) in Nigeria?

Of course, there has always been such difference, which also applies uniformly all over the world. But the truth of the matter lies on the fact that Nigeria's present and successive leaders have widened the gap to its present maddening and boiling point; all done through bad leadership and steady promotion of radical tribalism and religiosity. The best cure for these lie within the confines of provision of good governance, healthy economy and institutionalization of 'peaceful coexistence' using people oriented or approved Constitution. Look at the case of China and, to a large extent, India; countries of widened ethno-religious multiplicity, yet bound strongly by their rapidly growing economies.

Still in the light of hostilities, armed attacks and development pitfalls, it is likely the breakaway of Biafra from the rest of Nigeria. What are your arguments here?

This is also not peculiar to Igbo Nation or the Biafra; it is a normal phenomenon with global trend. When people are pushed to the wall or have what they share dearly in common including values like existence, identity, religion and development inherited from their creation; brutally attacked or made to face imminent extinction, it becomes a struggle for survival and in such struggle, anything can happen including resort to attainment of statehood using violence or nonviolence.

What possible solutions human rights groups have offered to halt the growing threats in the Biafra?

A whole lot of them, but governing authorities only listen and ready to make amend when they see those conduct atrocities as "governmental anomalies" or "mistakes", or "blunders". It is a different ball game, when they see them as 'legitimate policies'; just the same way the West regarded 'Atlantic Slave Trade' of 1400s to 1800s as "legitimate trade". So the situation in Nigeria is seen by the present governing authorities beyond 'anomalies', 'mistakes' and 'blunders'; to the extent that it is like hitting the rock advising them or getting them to change and make amend.

What do people remember and say, already 50 years, about the civil war (1970) in Nigeria? What are the popular sentiments among the people there?

To the extent that after 50 years of brutal and genocidal civil war, little has changed in Nigeria, is enough to get the Igbo people deeply worried. The popular sentiments among the population are: "since the country is not working, Nigerians must be allowed to decide their immediate and future destinies; particularly whether to live together or to live apart in peace and with dignity"; as a onetime Haitian President once advised the United States of America to "allow Haitians to live in poverty with dignity".

TO BE CONT'D

Say no to referendum

Just months before the holding of the mid-term senatorial election which is expected to include a referendum on reducing the length of presidential and legislative terms and the right to dual nationality, the political leader of the Vision for Transformation Party is urging citizens here to reject the referendum.

Dr. Jeremiah Whapoe, who is an organizing member of the Rainbow Coalition, a coalition comprising of more than 11 opposition political parties say altering the portion of the Liberian constitution that speaks to the issue of dual citizenship is not in the interest of the Liberian people.

Dr. Whapoe in an exclusive interview with this paper Monday during which time he spoke on a wide range of issues said the country is not

constitution, only persons of black African origins may obtain citizenship, although Liberian law allows members of other races to hold permanent residency status.

Article V, Section 13 of the 1847 Constitution states: "The great object of forming these Colonies, being to provide a home for the dispersed and oppressed children of Africa, and to regenerate and enlighten this benighted continent, none but persons of colour shall be eligible to citizenship in this Republic." The phrasing "persons of colour" was changed to "Negroes or persons of Negro descent" in a 1955 revision.

Article 28 of the 1986 Liberian Constitution also states: "Any person, at least one of whose parents was a citizen of Liberia at the time of the Person's birth, shall be a citizen of Liberia, provided that any such person shall upon

According to him, accepting dual citizenship here will undermine Liberia's sovereignty, warning further that it has a lot of disadvantages because more money will be leaving the country than coming in.

But Gbarpolu County Sen. Armah Jallah who countered the argument then said accepting dual citizenship will be more beneficial to Liberia as a whole.

Sen. Jallah argues if a foreign national is granted a Liberian citizenship, he or she will feel free to invest in Liberia, knowing that he is a citizen.

For his part, Bong County Sen. Henry Yallah believes that dual citizenship will bring development to the country, noting that Liberians will benefit a lot from it.

President George Manneh Weah re-awakened the dual citizenship debate here just a



prepared to grant non-negro citizenship here. He further noted that it is just dead wrong to entertain dual citizenship and yet deny individuals the right to hold elective positions.

He believes that for Liberians who have naturalized elsewhere and intend to be accepted through the dual citizenship clause should be allowed to hold elective positions except for the position of President and vice president.

The Liberian Aliens and Nationality Law prohibits dual citizenship except in limited circumstances. This has been criticized as detrimental to links between Liberia and the diaspora.

Liberia confers nationality solely on the basis of race. Under the current Liberian

reaching maturity renounce any other citizenship acquired by virtue of one parent being a citizen of another country."

It adds that no citizen of the Republic shall be deprived of citizenship or nationality except as provided by law; and no person shall be denied the right to change citizenship or nationality.

It could be recalled that during a debate on the provisions last year, lawmakers argued that

Liberia shouldn't encourage dual citizenship because it will cause divided loyalty.

Senator Sen. Gbleh-bo Brown of Maryland County argued at the time that being a citizen of two countries undermines the loyalty of the individual, saying everyone should hold loyal only to a particular country.

year while delivering his first annual message before the joint chambers of the Legislature in January 2018, when he described the Constitution racist.

Like his predecessor, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President Weah is supportive dual citizenship, including people of non-negro descent, arguing that it could lead to rapid development.

But according to Dr. Whapoe, whatever form in which politicians are decorating this provision about the dual citizenship, one thing that he opposes is the fact that dual citizens can't hold elective positions. He said mockingly, if you want to give non-negro citizenship you just as well allow them to hold elective positions too.

LPRA rallies local companies' involvement in oil and gas sector



LPRA

Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority

The Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (LPRA) recently held a meeting with representatives of the Liberia Business Association (LBA), Liberia Chambers of Commerce (LCC) and the Patriotic Entrepreneurs of Liberia (PATEL) as part of effort to ensuring that Liberian-owned companies fully participate in the country's ongoing offshore petroleum licensing round.

During the meeting held on Friday, 5 June, LPRA explain the processes and relevance of Liberian companies participating in the licensing round.

LPRA Director-General, Archie Donmo stressed during the meeting the significance of Liberian companies participating in the petroleum sector.

"I encourage everyone to take advantage of this tremendous opportunity which is potentially one of the means of promoting private sector growth in this country," he says.

Participating institutions at the meeting lauded LPRA for the initiative, expressing interest in working with the authority in ensuring that Liberian companies are fully involved in the petroleum sector particularly during the 2020 offshore licensing round.

According to LPRA, the calls for more Liberian companies' involvement in the 2020 offshore licensing round hinges on President George Manneh Weah's inaugural promise that "Liberians will not be spectators in their own economy."

The desire to incorporat

more Liberians or indigenous businesses is further based on the indigenization mandate by the Liberian government as required in Section 36 (a) of the Amended Petroleum Law of Liberia which sets aside a mandatory 5% interest in all petroleum agreements to companies owned by natural persons of Liberian citizenship.

To facilitate the enforcement of this provision, LPRA is conducting pre-qualification of Liberian companies and has issued a request for expression of interest.

The pre-qualification process which started 17 March this year was scheduled to end on 30 June. However, due to an appeal from the Liberian business community, especially the LCC, LBA and PATEL and in consideration of the state of emergency as a result of the Covid-19, the authority has extended the deadline for expression of interest to 31 July.

LPRA also believes the total involvement of Liberians in the sector will also help to spur growth and enhance financial capacities of locals—which in turn will help to alleviate poverty.

The oil and gas sector, with the help of the government through the LPRA, would be a pacesetter for a Liberian middle class.

Nine offshore blocks in the Harper Basin are being tendered during the licensing round. This region represents Liberia's most prospective geological regions and the only unexplored and undrilled region in West Africa Transformed Margin.

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Neymar faces criminal complaint for homophobia



A Brazilian gay rights activist has filed a criminal complaint against Neymar for homophobia, after the football superstar called his mother's boyfriend an anti-gay slur in comments leaked to the media.

The São Paulo prosecutor's office confirmed to AFP it had received the complaint, which it must now examine to decide whether to open a

case against the Paris Saint-Germain and Brazil star.

Neymar's communications team declined to comment on the complaint.

The case was brought by activist Agripino Magalhaes, who said on Instagram he planned to press charges against Neymar and his friends for "criminal homophobia, hate speech and death threats" over comments made in a private conversation on a gaming site.

In the audio recording, Neymar, 28, can be heard using slurs against his mother's new boyfriend, Tiago Ramos, as he and his friends discuss a supposed fight between the couple.

Ramos, 22, and Neymar's mother, Nadine Goncalves, 52, announced in April they were dating.

Brazil's tabloid press was soon running lurid stories about Ramos, a model who is openly bisexual.

Neymar and his friends were discussing rumors that the new couple had had a violent fight, after Ramos was hospitalized last Tuesday with arm wounds sustained at Goncalves's house, according to police.

Neymar said his mother had lied to her family, indicating he did not believe her story that Ramos had tripped on the stairs and cut himself on a pane of glass.

One of his friends can be heard saying that they should assault Ramos with a broomstick in the anus.

Sports

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Man-U cancel friendly after Stoke boss tests positive for COVID-19

Manchester United's friendly against Stoke City was cancelled at the last minute on Tuesday after the Championship club's manager Michael O'Neill tested positive for COVID-19.

Stoke had arrived at United's training ground for the game when they were informed of O'Neill's positive test. The Northern Irishman had tested negative in the

previous five rounds of testing, Stoke said in a statement.

"Stoke can confirm that manager O'Neill has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus following the latest round of testing on Monday (June 8)," said Stoke, who play in the second tier of English football.

"He will now follow the relevant guidance and undergo a period of isolation, whilst continuing to be in regular virtual contact with his



coaching staff and players."

Soccer in England has been suspended since mid-March due to the pandemic but the Premier League is set to restart on June 17, with the Championship following suit three days later.

United are fifth in the top flight, three points behind Chelsea, and will resume their campaign against Tottenham Hotspur on June 19.

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