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VOL.10 NO. 117

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2020

PRICE LD\$40.00

# Shame and disgrace

**-Sen. Wesseh tells Pres. Weah**



Pres. George M. Weah

Ndubuisi Nwabudike

Sen. Conmany B. Wesseh

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# Continental News

## Ivory Coast PM dies after cabinet meeting

Ivory Coast's PM Amadou Gon Coulibaly has died after falling ill at a ministerial meeting.

The 61-year-old had been chosen as the ruling party's candidate for October's presidential election, after Alassane Ouattara said he would not seek a third term in office.

Mr Gon Coulibaly had only just returned from France where he had received two-months' heart treatment.

President Ouattara said the country was in mourning.

He said Mr Gon Coulibaly had become unwell during a weekly cabinet meeting and was taken to hospital where he later died. "I pay tribute to my younger brother, my son, Amadou Gon Coulibaly, who was for 30 years my closest partner," the president said. "I salute the memory of a statesman of great loyalty, devotion and love for the homeland."

Mr Gon Coulibaly's death creates huge uncertainty over the election.

He had received a heart transplant in 2012 and had travelled to Paris on 2 May for

the insertion of a stent.

He returned last Thursday saying: "I am back to take my place by the side of the president, to continue the task of developing and building our country."

Mr Gon Coulibaly was among the favourites to win the presidential election.

An article in Le Monde on Monday quoted one foreign observer as saying: "If Gon

Coulibaly were unfit, Ouattara would have no choice but to run as a candidate because there is no plan B. "This matter has so far remained taboo because the president has clearly shown his willingness to leave and indicated who his choice was to succeed him."

Mr Ouattara's decision in March not to run stunned the country.

At the time, the BBC's James Copnall wrote from the main city, Abidjan, that there was praise from politicians as Mr Ouattara broke the normal mould for the region of trying to remain in power. Even then it was clear that Mr Gon Coulibaly would be backed as the successor candidate. Mr Ouattara's supporters say he has brought economic growth, stability and a renewed standing for Ivory Coast on the international stage.

But opposition politicians - and many Ivorians - say that the president has not done enough to bring the nation

together, and heal the wounds of the bitter conflict that divided Ivory Coast and then brought him to power.

Around 3,000 people are thought to have died in the war sparked by candidate Laurent Gbagbo's refusal to accept he had lost the 2010 elections to Mr Ouattara, before troops loyal to the current president arrested Mr Gbagbo in April 2011.

The long-running political disputes between him, Mr Ouattara and another former president, Henri Konan Bédié, have been disastrous for Ivory Coast. BBC



Amadou Gon Coulibaly had just returned from heart treatment in France

## Anger over Malawi family cabinet appointees

Malawi's new President Lazarus Chakwera has been criticised for including a husband and wife duo and siblings in his cabinet.

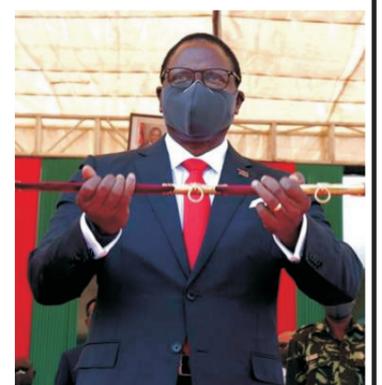
The president's former running mate in the 2019 elections, Sidik Mia, has been appointed minister for transport and his wife Abida Mia is the deputy minister for lands.

Kenny Kandodo is the new labour minister and his sister Khumbize Kandodo is the health minister.

Businessman Gospel Kazako has been appointed information minister and his sister-in-law Agnes Nkusa Nkhoma is the deputy agriculture minister.

Earlier, President Chakwera's first appointee to the justice ministry, lawyer Modercai Msiska, refused to take up the position saying it would look like a reward for representing him in court during the case that nullified ex-President Peter Mutharika's election win.

Some have also pointed out that Mr Chakwera had attacked Mr Mutharika about nepotism in the past and for filling his cabinet with people from his region.



They add that more than 70% of President Chakwera's new line-up is from the central region, his political stronghold.

Some Malawians online reacted with little enthusiasm to the new cabinet:

"I will not lie, I am greatly underwhelmed by the cabinet list. Perhaps our expectations were too high. Husband and wife and the wife's cousin all in one cabinet, really?" Alfie Saweta wrote. Hugo Mlewa said: "He should have avoided family relations, simple... son of... husband of... brother of... Work hard work hard while he is lazy appointing families... Chilima said Malawi is not a family affair... two families. And here he is approving families in cabinet." BBC

## 'Inspiring' South African queen dies of Covid-19

A royal family in South Africa has confirmed the death of Queen Noloyiso Sandile from Covid-19. A sister to the current Zulu monarch, King Goodwill Zwelithini, she served as regent of the amaRharhabe royal family.

Queen Noloyiso was married to the amaRharhabe monarch, Maxhoba Sandile, for over two decades until his death in 2011.

She was then made the regent as her son, Prince Jonguxolo Sandile, was too young to become king. The 56-year-old had been admitted at a hospital for Covid-19-related complications, the public broadcaster SABC reported.

President Cyril Ramaphosa described her as "a bastion of traditional values and an inspiring and principled leader of her people", saying she had played a significant role in the

development of her kingdom in the Eastern Cape.

South Africa has seven officially recognised monarchs representing different ethnic groups and clans. Mr Ramaphosa said:

Under her able leadership, the amaRharhabe firmly grasped the nettle of change and adapted to the demands of modern society, all the while holding proudly to their history, traditions and identity."

Under her able leadership, the amaRharhabe firmly grasped the nettle of change and adapted to the demands of modern society, all the while holding proudly to their history, traditions and identity. "He also commended her as a champion of rural women who challenged patriarchy in her community:

At a time when we face a grave public health emergency in the form of coronavirus, Queen Noloyiso actively mobilised support for the national effort to combat the pandemic, including calling on communities to halt

traditional initiations.

At a time when we face a grave public health emergency in the form of coronavirus, Queen Noloyiso actively mobilised support for the national effort to combat the pandemic, including calling on communities to halt traditional initiations.

The united stand taken by

the seven kingdoms in this regard was a critical intervention to save lives, and we owe a debt to the Queen for the role she played."

The united stand taken by the seven kingdoms in this regard was a critical intervention to save lives, and we owe a debt to the Queen for the role she played." BBC



# EDITORIAL

## COVID-19 response lacks measurable progress

HEALTH MINISTER DR. WILHELMINA Jallah is requesting for additional resources to boost the government's response strategy in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

**BUT THE GOVERNMENT** here seems to be overwhelmed by the exponential growth in confirmed cases from initially two in mid-March to nearly 950 with 41 deaths currently. What is very certain is that both infection and death rates are consistently at the top of the curve.

**HEALTH MINISTER JALLAH** is asking members of the Liberian Senate to allot resources to enhance community engagement and empowerment, inviting church leaders and other religious leaders in the country to join the fight.

**HER COLLEAGUE FROM** the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) Dr. Mosoka Fallah stresses voluntary testing and strict adherence to treatment isolation protocols.

**HOWEVER, WHAT THE** health authorities are not telling the public and policymakers, including President George Manneh Weah is "clear, measurable, and easy-to-understand" indicators on progress made in the fight in the words of ex-finance minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan when he appeared on a live talk show in May.

**HE SAID RELYING** more on the advice of health authorities during a health crisis is the prudent thing to do, but that the Liberian people deserve more concrete and detailed indicators to justify the extension of State of Emergency and lockdown than a nebulous unresolved crisis.

**"AS FAR AS** we know, the Corona virus crisis will remain unresolved for the next year or so until the global community develops a solution through the development of an efficacious vaccine or drug", he emphasized.

**IN OTHER WORDS,** we are as a country, going to live with the crisis for the rest of the year and perhaps beyond, so focus should be placed on containment, constant monitoring and evaluation to come out with indicators that the public can trust, which is not happening.

**INSTEAD, WE SEE** a gradual but steady increase in new confirmed cases and number of deaths! That is scaring and disturbing. Twelve graders are returning to school to prepare for WASSEC without proper preventive health measures in places on various school campuses.

**RATHER THAN JUST** requesting for more resources we join Ngafuan in calling on the authorities to explain in clear terms the epidemiological curve of Corona virus cases in Liberia, as such a curve will show, even on a rough basis, how the numbers of confirmed cases and deaths are expected to evolve over time, under various scenarios, which could include a no lockdown, a more relaxed lockdown, a partial lockdown or total lockdown.

**The New Dawn**  
FULLY INDEPENDENT

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

# COMMENTARY

By Gregory A. Maniatis

## Don't Scapegoat Migrants for the Pandemic

*Fostering a climate of deprivation and fear among migrants will serve only to prolong the COVID-19 crisis and extend the human and economic suffering that come with it. To avoid this scenario, governments urgently need to adopt policies that promote inclusion - as many are already doing.*

**N**EW YORK - Let's be clear: COVID-19 initially spread around the world as a result of well-heeled travelers returning home from cruises, foreign skiing holidays, and international conferences. But many wrongly prefer to blame migrants instead - often with appalling consequences.

For example, Yemeni militias this spring attacked thousands of Ethiopian migrants whom they claimed had brought the coronavirus. Saudi Arabia expelled African migrants en masse, and Chinese landlords evicted Africans from their homes in the city of Guangzhou. The United States, too, regularly deports Central American and Caribbean migrants back to their countries of origin, often after they have been infected in US detention facilities. Malaysia has arrested hundreds of undocumented migrants, including Rohingya refugees, while members of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government have unsurprisingly blamed Muslims for bringing the virus to India.

The scapegoating of migrants is a pandemic in itself. It is not only immoral, but it also undermines our ability to control the virus and ignores migrants' vital role in that effort. Even though many migrants are now formally recognized as essential workers, they (and many minority groups) are suffering disproportionately from COVID-19, with infection rates often double or triple those of other groups - primarily owing to unsafe and exploitative working conditions.

The millions of migrants toiling on farms and in meatpacking plants are particularly vulnerable to the virus. Some 1,500 workers in a German meat factory - most of them migrant laborers from Eastern Europe - were recently diagnosed with COVID-19. In the US, where three-quarters of agricultural workers are foreign-born, outbreaks have been legion. At one poultry company alone, Delmarva, 2,215 workers contracted the virus and 17 died. Migrants - and particularly women - also account for an outside share of other at-risk essential workers, including front-line health-care and home-care personnel, gig drivers, janitors, and cleaners.

Far too often, employers fail to provide migrant workers with sufficient personal protective equipment or access to health care. And migrants who fall ill cannot afford to take time off work, because they are excluded from receiving emergency assistance such as wage subsidies and unemployment benefits.

Many migrants therefore face the impossible choice of disobeying lockdown restrictions or watching their families go hungry. Moreover, language barriers often prevent them from accessing critical information, while being forced to live in cramped spaces puts them at greater risk of infection (as is also true in crowded refugee camps). Worse still, US enforcement agents are even entering hospitals in pursuit of migrants to deport - a tactic that deters many from seeking medical care.

Fostering a climate of deprivation and fear among migrants will serve only to prolong the pandemic and extend the human and economic suffering that come with it. To avoid this scenario, governments urgently need to adopt policies that promote inclusion.

Encouragingly, some are already doing this. During the early stages of the pandemic in March, Portugal ensured that its migrant workers had access to health care and other public services; Italy soon followed suit, albeit in a more limited fashion. In addition, several countries have ended or sharply

curtailed the detention of migrants, and on June 26, a US federal judge ordered the release of migrant children being held with their parents in three federal detention centers.

Other countries have gone further, recognizing that migrants and refugees are an untapped resource. Ireland, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Australia, Colombia, Chile, and Argentina have fast-tracked authorizations for trained health-care workers, many of whom are refugees awaiting asylum decisions. Thailand and Spain offer migrants full access to health care regardless of their immigration status. And even under President Donald Trump, the US Department of Homeland Security has issued undocumented immigrants letters noting their "critical" role.

Inclusive policies like these not only recognize the essential roles migrants are playing during the pandemic, but also set the stage for a faster, more robust economic recovery. By contrast, Singapore, which failed to include migrant workers in its pandemic response, subsequently suffered a second wave of the virus.

Ending the pandemic sooner rather than later will require policymakers to learn as they go from the experiences of their own countries and others. Already, it is clear that governments should take five essential steps.

First, they should regularize migrants, if only temporarily, thus allowing them to access health care, housing, social services, and emergency aid without fear of arrest, deportation, or crippling bills. Policymakers should also pay particular attention to the needs of women migrants, who face increased risks of violence during lockdowns and quarantines.

Second, public-health authorities need to enlist migrant communities in the process of contact tracing, which will be key to controlling the virus until an effective vaccine emerges. To this end, individual health data must be firewalled from immigration enforcement.

Third, governments should reopen national borders to asylum-seekers, just as they are doing for tourists. Violence, droughts, natural disasters, and population displacement have not been on hold during the pandemic, so the 164 countries with measures in place that have restricted access to asylum in some way need to lift those curbs, as Uganda has done.

A fourth priority is to ensure that migrants have fair access to a COVID-19 vaccine once one becomes available. Given how many migrants perform essential, public-facing jobs, they should be vaccinated early, even if they are undocumented.

Finally, governments must release migrants from detention. Such facilities are a breeding ground for disease and are also outrageously expensive, costing states some \$200 per night, compared to about \$10 per night for alternatives.

Far from being one-time measures, these steps should mark the start of deeper structural changes in migration policy. The pandemic has revealed not only the vital contribution that millions of documented and undocumented migrants make to our communities and economies, but also the fact that we are all in this crisis together. How we treat or mistreat the most marginalized populations will therefore determine the fate of our societies.



# Lord, greed has imprisoned us all

Dear Father:

*You know, there is a saying that if you have a problem and you refuse to acknowledge that you have a problem then you are the problems.*

*Hmm, where are you going with this again my son?*

*Father, it is so disheartening that as people of this village we have continued to ignore the problems facing our village. In fact, like one of my former lecturer from our village hill of learning would say, we are in denial. I mean we denied the very problems that have brought us all here in the first place.*

*Father, the things that have kept us way behind our neighbors are still haunting us and not that we don't know, we know them but it is out of selfishness and greed that we ignore them. Yet we would open our wide mouths and point figures at the people before us.*

*What are you saying?*

*Father, look at our village today and tell me if this is where we supposed to be. But we are where we are because of the stupid decisions we make out of our own selfish desires.*

*We vote for leaders we know has no ability to lead us or even understand what it takes to be a leader. But we vote them because of our own personal benefits. "If I can't get it none of them will get it, we will all spoil it and fix it later."*

*Yes, this is a common saying of everyone in our village. Once that crab attitude sets in, we don't care about the consequences-it is either I or no one else in my circles will get it. And for that entire period we all become prisoners of individuals' greed.*

*Yes, and this old Soja man, who is a chief at the Upper end of the Traditional Council can relate. The man is a king maker in his village, once you give him small thing, whatever he says his people follow him the sheep to the slaughter house. What a shame?*

*You know, this often remind me of the story of this Pekin Man village. According to the story, the people in that village decided that they would all keep their gold one place. And so they dug a hole and put all their gold in the put.*

*But for fear that one of them could easily come behind the others and steal away the village wealth, they decided to put a little dragon to the hole as a guard. They fed the dragon till it grew so big and cover the entire hole that they could not have access to their own wealth. The moral of this short story is that greed will imprison us all.*

*Father, when you come to think of our village today, you would know that greed has imprisoned us all. The quality of leadership we have today in our village is as a result of the selfishness of few individuals. And today those few individuals who felt that if they could not get elected no one from their school of thought or who have been in the past struggles with them should get it.*

*We witnessed that in 2005, 2011 and 2017. Yet we sit in little corners and wine but forgetting to know that it is our selfish desires and greed that have delivered onto us the kind of poor leadership quality in our village today.*

**Greed, has imprisoned us all!**

## OPINION

By Dani Rodrik

# China as Economic Bogeyman

*Many Western economists presume that governments are not very good at identifying industries that merit support, and that domestic consumers and taxpayers incur the bulk of the costs. By the same logic, if Chinese policymakers effectively targeted activities where social benefits exceed private benefits, then it is not clear why foreigners should complain.*

**C**AMBRIDGE - As COVID-19 spread from China to Europe and then the United States, pandemic-stricken countries found themselves in a mad scramble for medical supplies - masks, ventilators, protective garments. More often than not, it was to China that they had to turn.

By the time the crisis erupted, China had become the world's largest supplier of key products, accounting for half of all European and US imports of personal protective equipment. "China has laid the groundwork to dominate the market for protective and medical supplies for years to come," according to recent reporting by the New York Times.

When China first turned toward global markets, it had the advantage of virtually unlimited supplies of low-cost labor. But as everyone recognizes by now, China's manufacturing prowess is not the result of unfettered market forces.

As part of its Made in China 2025 policy, the Chinese government targeted ambitious increases in domestic producers' share of global medical supplies. The New York Times report explains in detail how the government provided cheap land to Chinese factories, extended subsidized loans, directed state companies to produce key materials, and stimulated domestic supply chains by requiring hospitals and firms to use local inputs.

For example, Sichuan, China's second-largest province, reduced by half the number of categories for which imports of medical equipment were allowed. Most hospitals were obliged to source everything locally, with only top hospitals allowed to bring in supplies from abroad.

Western media are now replete with accounts of China's "drive to dominate important cogs in the global industrial machine," in the words of the New York Times again. Increasingly, China's role in the world economy is portrayed in terms reminiscent not of "doux commerce" but of imperial aggression. Chinese President Xi Jinping's growing authoritarianism and the escalating trade conflicts with the US obviously play into this narrative as well.

The strategic and geopolitical tensions between the US and China are real. They are grounded in China's growing economic and military power and US leaders' reluctance to recognize the reality of a necessarily multipolar world. But we should not allow economics to become hostage to geopolitics or, worse, to reinforce and magnify the strategic rivalry.

For starters, we must recognize that a mixed, state-driven economic model has always been at the root of Chinese economic success. If one-half of China's economic miracle reflects its turn to markets after the late 1970s, the other half is the result of active government policies that protected old economic structures - such as state enterprises - while new industries were spawned through a wide array of industrial policies.

The Chinese people were the main beneficiaries, of course, experiencing the fastest poverty reduction in history. But these gains did not come at the expense of the rest of the world. Far from it. The growth policies that today arouse other countries' ire are the reason China has become such a large market for Western exporters and investors.

But aren't Chinese industrial policies, such as those deployed in medical supplies, unfair to competitors elsewhere?

We should exercise caution before reaching such a verdict. The standard justification for industrial policy is that new industries produce learning spillovers, technological externalities, and other broad social benefits that render state support desirable. But many Western economists presume that governments are not very good at identifying industries that merit support, and that domestic consumers and taxpayers incur the bulk of the costs. In other words, if Chinese industrial policy has been misguided and misdirected, it is China's own economy that has suffered as a result.

By the same logic, if Chinese policymakers effectively targeted activities where social benefits exceed private benefits, producing improved economic performance, then it is not clear why foreigners should complain. This is what economists call a case of "fixing market failures." It makes as much sense for outsiders to want to block the Chinese government from pursuing such policies as it does to prevent a competitor from freeing up its markets.

This is especially true when the externality in question is a global one, as in the case of climate change. Chinese subsidies for solar panels and wind turbines have produced a decline in the cost of renewable energy - an enormous benefit for the rest of the world.

The economics of industrial policy can get more complicated in the presence of monopolies and market-dominant firms. Industrial policies can be justifiably restricted when they enable the exercise of market power at the expense of the rest of the world.

But Chinese producers are rarely accused of propping up prices, which is the hallmark of market power. More often, the complaint is the opposite. Such considerations probably apply more to the US and European firms that are frequently the dominant players in high-tech markets.

None of this is an argument for other countries to stand idly by while China progresses to ever more sophisticated industries. The US, for one, has a long history of successful industrial policy, particularly in defense-related technologies. There is now broad political agreement in the US political spectrum that the country needs a more explicit industrial policy targeting good jobs, innovation, and a green economy. A bill advanced by the US Senate's top Democrat, Chuck Schumer, proposes to spend \$100 billion over the next five years on new technologies.

## ARTICLE

By KesterKennKlomegah

## Putin talks COVID-19, Libya and Investment with Sassou-Nguesso

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced Russia's readiness to provide COVID-19 aid to the Republic of the Congo during his phone call with the Republic's President Denis Sassou-Nguesso July 6.

"Vladimir Putin noted Russia's readiness to provide aid to the Republic of the Congo to counter the coronavirus infection spread," the Kremlin announced.

During the first week of July, Russia itself was battling more than half a million coronavirus cases, the fourth global spot after the United States, Brazil and India. Republic of the Congo recorded 1557 coronavirus cases since the epidemic began, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, it reported 44 deaths and 501 recoveries.

Russia is very vociferous in tackling the political conflict in Libya. It has been mapping out possibilities of South Africa (as the chair of the African Union), Egypt being a close neighboring state that could be involved in finding solution to Libyan crisis. Now Congo is the chair of the African Union's High Level Committee on Libya.

"Considering the Congo's presidency in the African Union's High Level Committee on Libya, the sides exchanged opinions on the situation in the country. The sides underscored the necessity of peaceful resolution of the conflict through political dialogue involving all Libyan sides."

The president of the Republic of the Congo congratulated Vladimir Putin on the outcome of the nationwide vote on the amendments to the Russian Constitution.



"The sides discussed the pressing issues of bilateral cooperation in the context of implementation of agreements, achieved during the highest-level talks in Moscow in May 2019," the Kremlin said, adding that the two leaders agreed to continue their contacts.

Last year May 23, the business talks between Putin and Sassou-Nguesso took place in the Kremlin. According to the Kremlin report, the package of documents signed following the talks included intergovernmental agreements on cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and mass communications.

The documents also concern the settlement of the Republic of the Congo's debt to the Russian Federation under previously issued loans, cooperation between the Russian Interior Ministry and the Congolese Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization, cooperation in agriculture, and sending Russian military experts to the Republic of the Congo.

In addition, documents on the relations between LUKOIL and the State Oil Company of the Republic of the Congo as well as between TMK (Pipe Metallurgical Company) and the National Petroleum Company of the Congo were signed.

The Pipe Metallurgical Company (TMK) is Russia's leading pipe manufacturer. The project is to build a major oil pipeline, running more than 1,300 km from the port city of Pointe-Noire in the Republic of the Congo to the border with Cameroon.

Congo, with an estimated 5.3 million population, is located in the central-western part of sub-Saharan Africa, along the Equator. It has become the fourth largest oil producer in the Gulf of Guinea, providing the country with a degree of prosperity despite economic instability in some areas and unequal distribution of oil revenue nationwide.

The country has a large untapped mineral wealth, large untapped metal, gold, iron and phosphate deposits. In 2018, the Republic of the Congo joined the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

## SPECIAL

## Declaration and Recommendations by Concerned CSOs on the Impact of COVID 19 on Girls Education

We, Concerned Civil Society of Organizations Liberia interested in the Safety, Education and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of Women:

Taking note of measures announced by the government of Liberia to curtail the spread of the Corona Virus pandemic.

Recognizing that school has long been a haven for girls and that lock down measures leading to the closure of schools presents an overwhelmingly worse situation for girls of school going age.

Realizing that there is still more needs to be done in terms of quality and access to adequate education and COVID-19 deteriorates a situation that is already deplorable and leads to more girls getting pregnant and denied access to schools while being blamed and shamed in their various community and schools.

Understanding that after this period of pandemic, projected statistics will likely show an increase in number of school dropouts by adolescent girls due to forced marriages, teenage pregnancies, and economic difficulties.

Comprehending that popular beliefs has long persisted promoting the exclusion and expulsion of pregnant girls from schools because they served as negative influences on their peers which political language perpetuated stigma and prejudice against pregnant girls who were portrayed as less deserving to an equal right to education.

Determined that education is a right and not something for school authorities to arbitrarily take away as a punishment and the exclusion of pregnant girls from mainstream schools and banning them from sitting crucial exams is discriminatory and will have devastating consequences.

Ensuring that pregnancy does not become the event that determines the rest of vulnerable girls' lives and it is equally important that girls enjoy equal access to education as boys despite their condition.

Appreciating the fact that the government of Liberia has in the past taken concrete actions to ensure that pregnant girls remain in school despite social pressures by the school and the community to keep pregnant teenage girls out of schools.

Recalling that the government of Liberia is a member of the Economic Community of West African States and have signed several human rights protocols affirming the Sexual Right of girls amongst which are the Maputo Protocol, the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, Demanding that the Government of Liberia take urgent and decisive actions to correct past perception leading to unclear language that further shames and stigmatizes pregnant girls.

**We hereby call on the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Education to institute the following actions:**

1. A complete rollout of the Comprehensive Sexual Education Manual in ALL public and private schools making menstrual hygiene products available in schools.
2. Ensure that the National Girls Educational Policy is included in all teacher training colleges and certificate level programs
3. Conduct a massive campaign on SRHR education to engage in policy dialogue with school authority and actively advocate for the integration of SRHR information and services including a wide range of voluntary family planning commodities within schools
4. Send a circular to all schools to ensure pregnancy does not serve as a barrier to enrollment.
5. Ensure that schools adopt an inclusive approach to attendance taking as well as considering the particular needs of girls i.e no girl must be forced to choose a parallel system for attendance however, if that will suit her particular circumstances and she is willing or suggests it, she must be accommodated.
6. Ensure no school has discriminatory laws that ban girls from taking leadership roles within academic institutions because she a girl.
7. Support girls' retention in schools by providing 'stimulus such as schools feeding program and/or economic livelihood training to encourage parents to resend their girls back to school and compensate for the long hours' girls stay in schools to avoid excessive hunger.
8. Ensure guidelines are developed to support and train teachers to recognize and prevent violence against girls and the risk of child marriage and should continue safe referral practices and protection services at the all levels.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Rep. Youngblood will be missed by all

**-Pres. Weah**

The President of Liberia George Manneh, has described fallen Montserrado District #9 Representative

Change (CDC) and was the Chairperson for the House Committee on Executive.

On Thursday, 9 July, President Weah, accompanied by a number of government officials, visited the Sinkor

and close relatives but also by the nation and the sub-region, as she was selfless to all, and courageous and effective in all she did.

He encouraged the bereaved family to trust and count on God for lasting comfort and peace as they mourn the death of their daughter, sister, mother and role model.

He assured the bereaved family that the Government of Liberia would work with them to ensure a befitting home-going as she was an esteemed stateswoman.

Hearing the news of her death on Wednesday, 8 July, President Weah described the late Pelham-Youngblood as one of the matriarchs of the Congress for Democratic Change and now the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change who campaigned vigorously to ensure the coalition won the 2017 general and presidential elections.

President Weah labeled the deceased lawmaker as a pillar of the CDC and a great stateswoman whose active leadership role at the National Legislature contributed enormously to nurturing the country's democracy. She was also a

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Munah Pelham-Youngblood as a symbol of love, a true revolutionary and an astute advocate for justice.

According to a press release issued by the Executive Mansion Thursday, 9 July, Representative Youngblood was a staunch member of the ruling Coalition for Democratic

residence of the fallen lawmaker to console the bereaved family.

Visibly overwhelmed by grief, President Weah managed to tell the mother of the late lawmaker, Elizabeth S. Pelham, and other family members that the late Munah Pelham-Youngblood would be greatly missed not only by the family

## Declaration and Recommendations

Cont'd from page 5

9. Ensure that response measures are based on strong gender analysis and consider harmful gender-based social and cultural norms which influence girls' and boys' vulnerability to infection, exposure, and treatment thus including gender-sensitive approaches in the education response to COVID-19. This includes ensuring that girls and women are at the center of the response and creating systems that monitor girls' enrollment to schools.

10. Enhance girls and women involvement in the response. Consult girls and young women during the full cycle of the response, from needs assessments, design of education and other interventions, to monitoring the effectiveness of the response. This includes any unintended impacts on girls and young women due to school closures. Girls should be involved in decisions about their education.

11. While schools are closed, governments should support teachers, school staff and communities to ensure inclusive methods of distance learning is adopted. Community sensitization on girls' education should continue to protect education advances for girls and support teachers.

12. Re-enforced all laws by putting in strict measures in schools (both private and public) to protect girls from sexual abuse while in school.

13. Ensure awareness and popularization of the Domestic Violence Act including and ensuring that schools' understand their responsibilities under the Act.

Done this 6th day of July 2020 by the undersigned organizations:

1. Network of Peace and Security Women in ECOWAS Countries (NOPSWECO)
2. Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL)
3. Organization for Women and Children (ORWOCH)
4. Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI)
5. Kids Educational Engagement Project (KEEP)
6. Paramount Young Women Initiative (PAYOWI)
7. Liberia Girls Guide Association
8. Women and Children Initiatives (WCI)
9. Formidable Initiatives for Women and Girls (FIWG)
10. Actions for Community Transformation (ACT)
11. Girls for Change
12. Rural Education Sponsorship Program; Enhancing Communities Together (RESPECT)
13. Sister Hand Liberia
14. Women and Children Development Association of Liberia
15. Community Sustainable Development Organization (COSDO)
16. Women Human Rights Defenders Network - INCHR
17. Women Entrepreneurship and Environmental Links
18. Helping Our People Excel, Inc (HOPE)
19. Community Health Education and Social Services (CHESS, Inc)
20. Young Women Christian Association (YWCA)
21. Rising Youth Mentorship Initiative
22. West Point Women for Health and Development Organization (WPHDO)

## Correction officers worry over alleged salary disparities

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Several officers of the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation (BCR) under the Ministry of Justice are complaining of alleged salary disparities, claiming that some BCR officers earn US\$300 while the vast majority allegedly receive US\$150 or US\$160 monthly.

"Imagine we are to be receiving more than USD\$500.00 but it is not so. Some people are getting US\$300 plus while the vast majority of us are receiving 150 or 160 monthly," a BCR officer alleges.

The correction officers who begged for anonymity for fear of dismissal, expressed disappointment that some officers would earn more money than others under this administration.

The officers note that President George Weah's government had vowed to



create a healthy working atmosphere in the public sector, noting that things appear to be the opposite at the Bureau of Correction.

They allege that since the outbreak of the coronavirus in the country, BCR officers have

not received a dime for compensation, describing the government's feeding program as inadequate.

The anonymous officers alleged that besides the salary disparity claim, some of their colleagues receive

rice and good medical care.

When contacted, the Director of Press and Public Affairs at the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Madam Maude Somah says the issue of salary at the ministry is strictly an administrative matter, and as such she could not speak to it.

She however directs our reporter to the office of the

Assistant Minister for Corrections and Rehabilitation who she says would address the matter.

But the Assistant Minister's staffers informed our reporter that their boss was out of office, assuring that he will address the allegations at the appropriate time.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## U.S. supports Liberia's COVID-19 response program

The U.S. Embassy in Liberia says besides funding Liberia's COVID-19 public awareness campaign, the U.S. State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and

County Security Councils and law enforcement personnel.

A U.S. Embassy's release published Thursday, 9 July says this COVID-19 response program, valued at \$32,000,

Liberia (MLDL) program, the INL sponsored a variety of radio programs nationwide and established handwashing and body temperature stations at border crossings and checkpoints in rural communities.

"This support helps Liberian County Security Councils inform Liberians about COVID-19 risks, increase personal safety measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, and protect Liberian security officials who engage with the public as they respond to the COVID-19 health emergency that has spread globally."

Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy in Liberia says it is proud to support Liberia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that as a part of its continued assistance to Liberia's justice and law enforcement institutions, the U.S. State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), in close coordination with Liberian government and civil society representatives, developed specifically a COVID-19 awareness-raising and prevention campaign for rural areas.

was part of INL's Mitigating Local Disputes in Liberia program and administered through The Kaizen Company.

It says through INL's Mitigating Local Disputes in



Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) also donated hand sanitizer, buckets with faucets for hand washing, disinfectant soap, megaphones, and thermometers to Liberian

## Marketers dumping garbage at Waterside Bridge

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Marketers and some wayward Liberians are seriously creating pollution by using the entrance of the King Zolu Duma or Waterside Bridge over the Mesurado River in Monrovia as a dumpsite, including human feces thereby posing serious public health risk.

Those dumping waste at the side of the bridge are doing so in the presence of the Liberia National Police (LNP) and Monrovia City Police assigned at substation near the bridge.

The waste continue to pile up from below the bridge to its top, releasing offensive smell and polluting the air at the inconvenience of customers heading for the Waterside General Market to do business transactions.

A private waste management contractor working in one of the stores adjacent the bridge, Mr. Tommy Jackson blamed the situation on failure of the Monrovia City Corporation and the Environment

Protection Agency (EPA) to intervene.

According to Jackson, what's actually amazing is the fact that people would dump waste openly in the public or in prohibited places while those responsible to enforce city ordinances renege in taking action.

The waterside bridge was reconstructed during the

administration of former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf after it collapsed.

He disclosed that while the waste is being dumped, there were also people selling close to the same environment who continue to battle with bad air pollution that could transmit disease to those

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



## Court fines

Cont'd from page 6

State witness Amos T. Goba, Analyst in the Department of Analysis, Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

Witness Goba had testified that the investigation into the alleged missing billions of Liberian Dollars established that L\$13,004,750,000.00 was printed and shipped, while the bank claimed that only L\$10,359,750,000.00 was printed and shipped, giving a variance of L\$2,645,000,000.00.

He stated that the investigation found communications from the Houses of Representatives and Senate and from former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf addressed to former CBL Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks.

Further, witness Goba said the investigation found a Board Resolution signed by the Board of Governors; a contract; shipping document relating to the shipment to include packing list, bill of living and airway bill.

On the stand Thursday as prosecution's first subpoena witness, Mr. Nanborlor F. Singbeh, Secretary of the Liberian Senate, testified that the resolution was adopted by both the Senate and the House of Representatives, authorizing the printing of the first LD\$5 billion.

Quizzed by the prosecution whether the CBL reverted to the Legislature as per instruction given to it through a communication surrounding the printing of additional money, the witness testifies that he has no record of such.

Asked further whether there was joint resolution passed by both houses in respect of the replacement of the Liberian Dollars legacy notes, Mr. Singbeh replies: "To my knowledge, there was no Resolution..."

He says all resolutions when signed by members of the Senate, obtaining the number required by the Constitution, he signs as Secretary of the

Senate.

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

Defendants Milton A. Weeks, David Fahart, Elsie Dossen Bardio and Kollie Tamba are standing trial for multiple charges including theft and economic sabotage of billions of Liberian dollars printed and shipped to Liberia, following a series of mass protests that prompted local and international investigation into claims that the money went missing.

The fifth defendant Melisa A. Emeh is said to be out of the bailiwick of Liberia and has not been brought to court, therefore the court has granted prosecution's request to grant her a separate trial so as to enable the four other defendants that are available to get speedy trial.

All the defendants on trial have pleaded not guilty for charges of theft of property; economic sabotage; fraud on the internal revenue of Liberia; misuse of public money, property or record; theft or illegal disbursement of public money; criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation.

This third indictment in the case did not include former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's son Charles E. Sirleaf who served as Deputy CBL Governor for Operations when the financial scandal emerged at the bank, because he was nolleprosequi with prejudice in May this year.

Besides Mr. Sirleaf, the prosecution here also entered a nolleprosequi (dropped charges) in favor of defendants Richard H. Walker, Dorbor M. Hagba and Joseph Dennis.

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# Français

## Munah Pelham-Youngblood n'est plus, un coup dur pour le parti au pouvoir

La députée Munah Pelham Youngblood, représentante du district 9 du comté de Montserrado et membre de la Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC, coalition au pouvoir), est décédée à Accra, au Ghana, des suites d'une longue maladie.

La nouvelle du décès de Pelham Youngblood est tombée mercredi 8 juillet, un peu plus d'une semaine après le décès d'un autre cadre du parti au pouvoir et député à la Chambre des représentants, J. Nagbe Sloh, représentant du district n° 2 du comté de Sinoe, à l'Hôpital JFK à Sinkor, dans la banlieue de Monrovia.

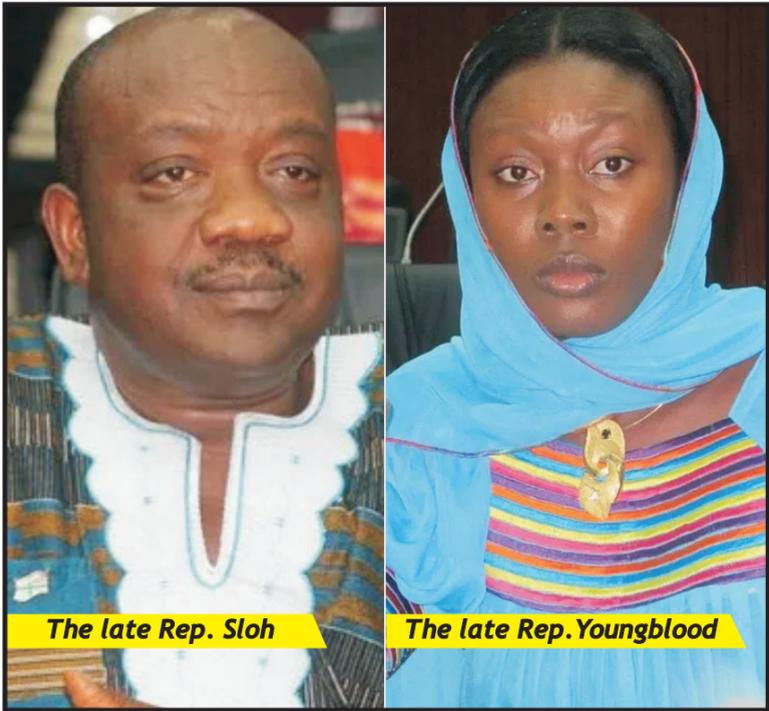
Youngblood souffrait très longtemps d'une maladie. Ne pouvant pas aller aux États-Unis à cause de la pandémie mondiale, elle s'était rendue au Ghana pour se faire traiter. A différents moments, il y a eu des rumeurs non avérées sur les réseaux sociaux selon lesquelles la députée était décédée. C'est pourquoi beaucoup de gens ont eudu mal croire la dernière nouvelle de sa mort qui a frappé le pays.

Les responsables du parti, dont le président du Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique, Mulbah Morlu, ont confirmé la disparition de Madame Youngblood à travers des publications sur les réseaux sociaux.

Malade, la députée Pelham s'était rendue aux États-Unis d'Amérique, en Inde et ensuite au Ghana voisin où elle est finalement décédée.

Les deux récents décès de législateurs ont créé des postes vacants au parlement

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



The late Rep. Sloh

The late Rep. Youngblood

## Côte d'Ivoire : mort du Premier ministre Amadou Gon Coulibaly

Le Premier ministre ivoirien est décédé ce mercredi 8 juillet dans l'après-midi à Abidjan. Il a fait un malaise lors d'une réunion du Conseil des ministres. Il est mort après avoir été évacué à la polyclinique Pisam. Il avait été désigné pour être le candidat du parti au pouvoir, le RHDP, à l'élection présidentielle du 31 octobre prochain.

Il est environ 18h quand la nouvelle est officialisée. La télévision nationale interrompt ses programmes. Le secrétaire général de la présidence, Patrick Achi, ému, lit un communiqué d'Alassane Ouattara qui rend hommage à celui qu'il appelle son « jeune frère », son « fils » : Amadou Gon Coulibaly a fait un malaise à l'issue du Conseil des ministres, mercredi 8 juillet dans l'après-midi, à la présidence. Il est mort à la polyclinique internationale Sainte Anne-Marie (Pisam), à Cocody, peu après son évacuation.

Amadou Gon Coulibaly était âgé de 61 ans et souffrait de problèmes cardiaques. Il s'était rendu début mai à l'hôpital de la Pitié-

Salpêtrière, à Paris, pour un suivi médical suite à une greffe du cœur subie il y a huit ans. Amadou Gon Coulibaly était resté deux mois en France. On lui avait notamment posé un stent. Il avait été hospitalisé à deux reprises et avait observé beaucoup de repos.

Il était revenu vendredi dernier à Abidjan. Accueilli en grande pompe par le président

Ouattara lui-même, la première dame - qui lui avait rendu visite deux fois à Paris -, et une cohorte d'officiels et de ministres, il était apparu fatigué, marchant lentement. Lors d'une déclaration aux personnes venues l'accueillir dans le pavillon présidentiel de l'aéroport, il avait expliqué

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Le représentant Snowe veut provoquer une élection législative partielle dans le comté de Bomi

Le représentant du district n° 2 du comté de Bomi, Edwin Melvin Snowe, comme bon nombre de ses collègues de la Chambre des représentants, semble se préparer pour briguer un siège au Sénat en décembre, ce qui pourrait imposer des contraintes financières supplémentaires au gouvernement qui sera obligé d'organiser des élections partielles.

Déjà, le gouvernement a du mal à financer les élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat qui auront lieu très prochainement dans les 15 comtés. Ces élections seront suivies par des élections présidentielle et législatives en 2023.

Mais Snowe a été pétitionné par l'ancien sénateur du comté de Bomi, Lahai Gbabyte Lansana, pour participer aux élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat du 8 décembre, bien qu'il soit actuellement député du comté.

S'il brigue les sénatoriales et gagne, un siège vacant serait automatiquement créé dans le district n° 2 du comté de Bomi. Il va ainsi falloir que la commission électorale organise une autre élection partielle pour combler ce siège, avec une économie en berne et une pandémie de COVID-19 dont la fin est incertaine.

Notez bien, ce n'est pas le député Snowe seulement. Imaginez si cinq représentants ou plus remportent les élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat, combien de sièges vacants devraient être remplis avant les élections de 2023, et combien coûtera l'organisation des élections partielles qui en découleront, ce, avec un secteur sanitaire végétatif, qui a besoin de tout le soutien pour servir adéquatement la population du pays. De même, le secteur de l'éducation est confronté à des défis, allant du manque d'enseignants formés au manque de laboratoires et de bibliothèques dignes de leurs noms, entre autres.

Si le gouvernement était contraint de dépenser des millions de dollars pour mener des élections partielles alors que d'autres domaines qui sont tout aussi importants risquent d'être négligés, nous ne ferons aucun progrès en tant que peuple.

Snowe et d'autres législateurs en exercice qui se joindraient bientôt à lui devraient reconsidérer leur décision et rester là où ils doivent servir leur peuple plutôt que d'abandonner leurs quartiers pour chercher des pâturages plus verts au détriment de l'économie.

Ce quotidien ne cherche en aucune façon à empêcher quelque citoyen libérien que ce soit d'exercer ses droits constitutionnels, mais lorsque des législateurs dûment élus représentant déjà leur peuple les abandonnent pour des pâturages plus verts, alors ils ne luttent plus pour l'intérêt supérieur de la nation. Pour nous un tel comportement n'a d'autres nom que de la pure cupidité et de l'égoïsme dans toute sa laideur.

Les responsables politiques devraient se conduire de manière à gagner la confiance des gens plutôt que de vouloir tout pour eux-mêmes et de ne pas apprécier où Dieu les a élevés.



# Français

## Munah Pelham-Youngblood

qui doivent être comblés par des élections partielles, alors que le pays se prépare à des élections sénatoriales partielles qui auront lieu en décembre cette année.

Youngblood a été élue députée du district # 9 du comté de Montserrado lors des élections de 2011 sur le ticket du Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC), qui est aujourd'hui parti au pouvoir. Le parti s'est allié à deux autres partis et a remporté l'élection présidentielle de 2017, battant au second tour de l'élection l'ancien parti au pouvoir. Youngblood fut élue pour la deuxième fois en 2017. La défunte représentante Pelham - Youngblood fut actrice avant de se reconvertir à la politique et de remporter l'élection législative de son district électoral en 2011. En tant que législatrice, elle fut présidente du Caucus parlementaire des Femmes Députées et travailla avec d'autres comités

parlementaires, dont les comités parlementaires sur les Affaires étrangères, sur la Banque et la monnaie, la Jeunesse et sports, les Services publics et le Genre et développement de l'enfant entre autres.

Elle était considérée comme l'un des cadres influents du CDC. C'est une femme qui défendait ici et là la vision du parti, principalement quand le parti était encore dans l'opposition.

Malgré sa maladie, la représentante Youngblood a continué de s'exprimer au parlement chaque fois qu'elle revenait dans le pays, et elle était également active sur les réseaux sociaux.

Elle a été empêtrée dans une série de controverses au cours de son bref retour au début de cette année dans le pays, défiant le sénateur de Montserrado Darius Dillon. Elle a choqué les libériens, surtout l'opposition, quand elle a dit dans une vidéo que le président Weah resterait président à vie.

## Côte d'Ivoire :

qu'il se sentait « en forme » et qu'il entendait reprendre le travail immédiatement, ce qu'il a fait.

Quelques semaines plus tôt, mi-mars, le Premier ministre, qui occupait cette fonction depuis 2017, avait été désigné candidat du parti au pouvoir, le RHDP, pour la présidentielle prévue en octobre de cette année. Lors de cette désignation, le président Alassane Ouattara avait déclaré : « Amadou est plus qu'un collaborateur, plus qu'un frère, c'est un fils ».

Toutes les personnalités politiques ivoiriennes, d'Henri Konan Bédié à Guillaume Soro, ont salué mercredi sa mémoire et exprimé leurs condoléances.

Un habitué du sérail politique

Amadou Gon Coulibaly était un habitué du sérail politique. Il baignait dans ce milieu depuis tout petit : il est issu d'une famille influente de Korhogo (nord). Son père était député PDCI-RDA, du temps de Félix Houphouët-Boigny.

Ingénieur des travaux publics de formation, Amadou Gon Coulibaly gravit progressivement les échelons : il est élu député à l'Assemblée nationale de 1995 à 1999, puis maire de la ville de Korhogo en 2001.

À côté de ses fonctions politiques, il assume à

plusieurs reprises de hautes responsabilités au sein de l'administration publique ivoirienne. « AGC », comme on le surnommait, est nommé conseiller technique d'Alassane Ouattara lorsque ce dernier assume le poste de Premier ministre entre 1990 et 1993. Depuis, les deux hommes ne se quittent plus et se vouent une confiance sans faille.

Amadou Gon Coulibaly sera ensuite à la tête de la Direction du contrôle des grands travaux. Fidèle à Alassane Ouattara, il quitte le PDCI et fait partie, au milieu des années 1990, des fondateurs du RDR (Rassemblement des républicains), dans lequel il occupe ensuite plusieurs fonctions au sein du comité central.

Nommé Premier ministre et chef de gouvernement en janvier 2017, Amadou Gon Coulibaly met notamment en œuvre les projets de rénovation des infrastructures à Abidjan, ainsi qu'un vaste programme social pour améliorer l'accès à l'éducation et à la santé

Dans l'entourage du président, on loue volontiers sa « rigueur », son sens de l'« organisation » et sa « force de travail ». Des qualités qui avaient permis à ce technocrate d'être désigné, de manière consensuelle, candidat du RHDP pour la présidentielle d'octobre 2020.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Gregory A. Maniatis

### Évitons de désigner les migrants comme boucs émissaires de la pandémie

**N**EW YORK - Soyons clairs : la COVID-19 s'est avant tout propagée dans le monde parce que des voyageurs nantis revenaient de croisières, de vacances de ski à l'étranger et de conférences internationales. Mais beaucoup préfèrent à tort rejeter la faute sur les migrants, ce qui a bien souvent des conséquences épouvantables.

Par exemple, des milices yéménites ont attaqué ce printemps des milliers de migrants éthiopiens qu'elles suspectaient d'avoir fait entrer le coronavirus. L'Arabie saoudite a expulsé en masse des migrants africains et des propriétaires chinois ont expulsé des Africains de leurs foyers dans la ville de Guangzhou. Les États-Unis, à leur tour, déportent régulièrement des migrants d'Amérique centrale et des Caraïbes vers leur pays d'origine, souvent après avoir été infectés dans des centres de détention américains. La Malaisie arrête des centaines de migrants sans papiers, notamment des réfugiés rohingyas, tandis que les membres du gouvernement du Premier ministre indien Narendra Modi ont, comme on pouvait s'y attendre, accusé les musulmans d'avoir fait entrer le virus en Inde.

Le fait de désigner les migrants comme boucs émissaires est une pandémie en soi. Non seulement cette pratique est immorale, mais elle sape en outre notre capacité à contrôler le virus et ignore le rôle vital des migrants dans cet effort. Même si de nombreux migrants sont désormais officiellement reconnus comme des travailleurs essentiels, ils souffrent de manière disproportionnée de la COVID-19 (eux ainsi que de nombreux groupes minoritaires), les taux d'infection étant souvent deux fois ou trois fois plus élevés que ceux des autres groupes, principalement en raison de conditions de travail dangereuses et abusives.

Les millions de migrants qui travaillent dans les exploitations agricoles et dans les usines de conditionnement de produits de boucherie sont particulièrement vulnérables au virus. Près de 1 500 travailleurs dans une usine de viande allemande - la plupart d'entre eux étant des travailleurs migrants d'Europe de l'Est - ont récemment été diagnostiqués positifs à la COVID-19. Aux États-Unis, où les trois quarts des travailleurs agricoles sont d'origine étrangère, les épidémies sont légion. Dans la seule entreprise d'élevage avicole Delmarva, 2 215 travailleurs ont contracté le virus et 17 sont morts. Les migrants - et en particulier les femmes - représentent également une part démesurée d'une autre catégorie de travailleurs essentiels à risque, notamment le personnel de première ligne en charge des services de santé et des soins à domicile, les chauffeurs de VTC, les concierges et les femmes de ménage.

Trop souvent, les employeurs ne fournissent pas aux travailleurs migrants suffisamment d'équipement de protection individuelle ni d'accès aux services de santé. En outre, les migrants qui tombent malades ne peuvent pas se permettre de prendre des congés maladie, parce qu'ils sont exclus de l'aide d'urgence ainsi que des subventions salariales et des allocations chômage.

De nombreux migrants sont donc confrontés à cet impossible dilemme : soit désobéir aux restrictions de confinement, soit être dans l'incapacité de nourrir leur famille. En outre, les barrières linguistiques les empêchent souvent d'accéder à des informations essentielles. De plus, le fait d'être forcé de vivre dans des espaces exiguës les expose à un risque accru d'infection (comme c'est également le cas dans les camps de réfugiés surpeuplés). Pire encore, les forces de l'ordre américaines entrent même dans les hôpitaux à la recherche de migrants à déporter - une tactique qui dissuade nombre d'entre eux de demander des soins médicaux.

Encourager un climat de privation et de peur au sein de la population des migrants ne servira qu'à prolonger la pandémie et à augmenter les souffrances humaines et économiques qui en découlent. Pour éviter ce

scénario, il est urgent que les gouvernements adoptent des mesures en faveur de l'inclusion.

Heureusement, certains pays ont déjà pris des mesures dans ce sens. Au cours des premières étapes de la pandémie en mars, le Portugal a assuré que ses travailleurs migrants avaient accès aux services de santé et à d'autres services publics ; l'Italie en a rapidement fait autant, quoique de façon plus limitée. En outre, plusieurs pays ont mis fin à la détention de migrants ou l'ont fortement réduite et le 26 juin, un juge fédéral américain a ordonné la libération d'enfants de migrants détenus avec leurs parents dans trois centres de détention fédéraux.

D'autres pays sont allés plus loin, en reconnaissant les migrants et les réfugiés en tant que ressource inexploitée. L'Irlande, l'Allemagne, la France, le Royaume-Uni, l'Espagne, l'Australie, la Colombie, le Chili et l'Argentine ont des procédures d'autorisation accélérées pour les professionnels de santé formés, dont un grand nombre sont des réfugiés en attente de décisions d'asile. La Thaïlande et l'Espagne proposent aux migrants un accès complet aux services de santé, quel que soit leur statut d'immigration. Même sous la présidence de Donald Trump, le Département de la sécurité intérieure des États-Unis a envoyé des lettres aux immigrants sans papiers en mettant en avant leur rôle « essentiel ».

Des mesures de ce genre reconnaissent non seulement le rôle essentiel que jouent les migrants pendant la pandémie, mais elles ouvrent également la voie à une reprise économique plus rapide et plus forte. En revanche, Singapour, qui n'a pas inclus les travailleurs migrants dans sa réponse à la pandémie, a subi par la suite une deuxième vague du virus.

Pour mettre fin à la pandémie dans les meilleurs délais, il faudra que les responsables politiques tirent les leçons au jour le jour des expériences dans leur propre pays comme à l'étranger. Dès à présent, les pouvoirs publics doivent prendre cinq mesures essentielles.

Premièrement, ils doivent régulariser les migrants, même temporairement, en leur permettant ainsi d'accéder aux services de santé, au logement, aux services sociaux et à l'aide d'urgence sans craindre d'être arrêtés, déportés ou de s'endetter. Les décideurs politiques doivent également accorder une attention particulière aux besoins des femmes migrantes, qui font face à des risques accrus de violence durant les confinements et les quarantaines.

Deuxièmement, les autorités de santé publique doivent enrôler les communautés migrantes dans le processus de recherche de contacts. Cela sera déterminant pour contrôler le virus jusqu'à la mise au point d'un vaccin efficace. À cette fin, les services d'immigration ne doivent pas avoir accès aux données sanitaires individuelles.

Troisièmement, les frontières nationales doivent être rouvertes aux demandeurs d'asile, comme c'est le cas pour les touristes. La violence, les sécheresses, les catastrophes naturelles et les déplacements de population n'ont pas cessé durant la pandémie, de sorte que les 164 pays ayant des mesures en place qui ont restreint l'accès à l'asile d'une manière ou d'une autre doivent lever ces restrictions, comme l'Ouganda.

Une quatrième priorité consiste à veiller à ce que les migrants aient un accès équitable au vaccin contre la COVID-19 dès qu'il sera disponible. Étant donné le nombre de migrants effectuant des tâches essentielles en contact avec le public, il faut les vacciner rapidement, même s'ils sont sans papiers.

Enfin, les gouvernements doivent remettre les migrants en liberté. Ces établissements de détention sont un terrain favorable à la propagation de la maladie et sont également scandaleusement chers : ils représentent un coût pour les États-Unis proche de 200 \$ par nuit, contre environ 10 \$ par nuit pour des formules alternatives.

# PERSPECTIVES PERSPECTIVES

Public Policy. Economics. Democratic Politics. Political/Economic Decentralization. Public Dishonesty. Dual Citizenship

## GOVERNMENT/GOVERNANCE AND THE CLAIM OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC STIMULATION

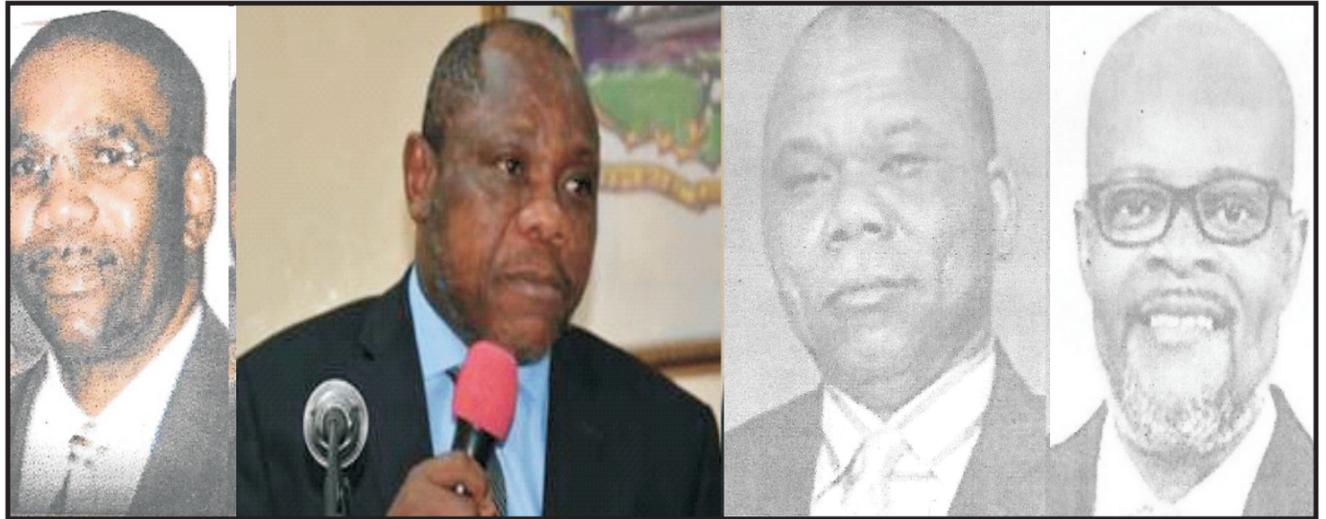
CONT'D FROM LAST EDITION

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.  
June 19, 2020

Now, about the nation's Economy of today, we asked the Honorable Nathaniel Patray, III, Executive Governor of the Central Bank, caught between explaining the disastrous variations of Liberia's foreign exchange rate; his absence globe-travelling while the CBL was being raided by Police on suspicion of the disappearance of the 40-foot container with contents of reported billions of illegally-printed printed Liberian-dollar banknotes; the still-cloudy, unresolved use of US \$25 million for "mopping up excess in circulation"; and his admission of inaccuracies in the CBL Economic analysis, according to his Press Statement hereunder attached. We paused for Honorable Patray's macroeconomic analysis in answer.

### Now the Claim: Stimulation of the Nation's Economy

L-R: Hon. Cllr. Archibald Bernard, Presidential Economic Counsel; Hon. Samuel Tweat, Jr., Minister of Finance & Development Planning; Hon. Prof. Albert Chie, Senate President Pro-Temp; and Hon. Darius Dillon, Senator, Montserrado County.



professional economic performance problems within Government economic advisors.

Elsewhere, during the past, in an article we wrote and asked the question, "where is the locus of the Presidential Public Policy Advisors?" because of embarrassing conflicts in Presidential decision-making. Today, we raise that relevant question but in different form of "what happened to the performance of the Presidential Economic Counsel, related Advisors,

b) The expenditure of US \$25M authorized to mop-up excess liquidity, but expenditure for which there has been no accounting or explanation made to date; and

c) The most recent US \$25M authorized to "stimulate the national economy" but, reportedly wound up in the hands of a "Steering Committee (of Ministers) of Food distribution" of hundreds of thousands of bags of imported rice, gallons of cooking oil and beans to be distributed to Virus locked-down affected communities (they are, almost, nationwide), but reported results of the distribution or complaints by several affected communities and households indicate that the distribution was made only to selected households and that thousands of the affected were left out.

We have serious problem with this approach; in that, the process should have been consistent with the theory of Economic Stimulus but, apparently, it was not. Specifically, Fiscal Policy should have been utilized by increase of government spending, specific transfers and decrease in taxes, a policy action that increases households/consumers' purchasing power nationwide, an economic benefit to buy more goods and services (demand-push) to stimulate the nation's economy. But this was not done; instead, an NGO, the resident Liberia World Food Program was contracted to deliver/distribute the needed food (The Hot Pepperliberia, June 22, 2020).

.World Food Program Transport with difficulty of Road conditions on Ganta/Zwedru Highway

According to Press Release, the Liberia World Food Program "remains committed to collaboration with the Government of Liberia for successful execution of the COVID-19 Household Food Support Program (COHFSP) . . . for people affected by COVID-19 in Liberia. The program (WFP) is providing a month's supply of food (50 Kg of rice, 10 Kg of beans and 1 gallon of vegetable oil per household from the Rice Import Cartel) for around 2.5 million most vulnerable people across all of Liberia. Transportation and distribution will cost approximately US \$3.60 per person and covered under World Food Program budget".

"Broad delineation of Roles between WFP and Government on COHFSP as part of Government strategy to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP was delegated with responsibility of implementing the



and the Senate's and House of Representatives' Research Aides and Advisors?"

For, these are currently computer-trained, highly-educated men and women with MBAs, LLMs, PhDs, etc. with some educated in Economics and are, also, highly-paid salaries with generous allowances. But recently, there have been, and are, charges and counter-charges in the Senate regarding alleged corruption payments to approve national economic stimulus request.

Economic Stimulus Reasonable, Inevitable  
Indeed, the Economic Stimulus and request are as reasonable and inevitable, given the condition of the nation's economy, as our question is reasonable, inevitable and demands mandatory, truthful answers at this point in time of the economy in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic and the following:

a) The recent reported disappearance of billions of Liberian banknotes unauthorized but printed;

The Government of the Republic of Liberia, as we all know, is struggling with the Coronavirus medical management demands (coronavirus's) imposed upon the national economy, let alone stimulation (Economic Stimulus) of the aggregate national economy. But this is exactly that in which our government is engaged, apparently, with

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# Shame and disgrace

By Winston W. Parley

River Gee County Senator Conmany B. Wesseh says President George Manneh Weah is bringing shame and disgrace to himself, showing that he is not governing properly by allowing disgraced Nigerian - born Ndubuisi Nwabudike to head the Liberia Anti - Corruption Commission (LACC) despite his expulsion from the Liberian National Bar Association.

"But if I had the chance to advice, I would say you [are] making yourself shame. You, Mr. President, you are bringing disgrace to yourself because it shows you are not governing properly," Senator Wesseh told a live talk show on Prime FM Thursday morning, 9 July in Monrovia.

The Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) expelled

Liberian, was serving a tenure as LACC chair when President George Manneh Weah appointed him this year to head the National Elections Commission (NEC), his third job in less than two years.

Until his nomination by President Weah to chair the NEC, Cllr. Nwabudike's previous confirmation by the Liberian Senate as LACC chair seemed to have gone smoothly without Liberia's weak system detecting any issues surrounding how he acquired Liberian citizenship which enabled him to practice law here.

Unhappy about how President Weah takes this matter, Senator Wesseh argues that even if you want to investigate, let the person sit down during that period of the investigation, because allowing him to remain in office only shows that "you got no regard for law and order."

prosecute?" Senator Wesseh says.

"What investigation he can undertake when he does not have the moral standing? That's why I say it's a disgrace and it's a shame. And it makes me feel ashamed because I know that, I mean, no proper government will allow that to happen," Senator Wesseh continues.

Senator Wesseh discloses that the Senate has set up a committee headed by Senator Varney G. Sherman which is finding an approach to this matter.

He argues that President Weah is aware that Nwabudike has this problem, given the fact that it led the president to withdraw the controversial official's nomination to chair the NEC.

Beyond that, Senator Wesseh notes that the LNBA did an investigation and

# Rep. Youngblood

Cont'd from page 6

strong advocate for women leadership and empowerment.

President Weah conveyed his deepest sympathies to the bereaved family, the House of Representatives and the Coalition for Democratic Change for the loss of a selfless public servant.

He urged the family of the fallen lawmaker to take solace in the Lord and called on Liberians to remember them in their prayers.

Minister of State for

Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel F. McGill; Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Samuel Tweah; Minister of State Without Portfolio, TrokonKpui; National Port Authority Managing Director, Bill Twehway; and Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister, Mawine Diggs, were among government officials that accompanied President Weah to the home of the fallen lawmaker.--Press release

# Marketers dumping

Cont'd from page 7

selling in the area.

Jackson called on the Monrovia City Corporation and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to move in swiftly to prevent further dumping of dirt before the bridge, as the practice is unhealthy for the country's image.

He said if nothing were

urgently done to address the situation the bridge would soon be overtaken by garbage.

When both MCC and EPA workers in the Township of West Point were contacted on the matter, they refused to call their names, reserving comments. -Editing by

Jonathan Browne



Pres. George M. Weah

Ndubuisi Nwabudike

Sen. Conmany B. Wesseh

the controversial Nigerian - born A. Ndubuisi Nwabudike from the LNBA on Friday, 19 June, saying its investigation found that "he became a member of the Liberian National Bar Association through fraudulent means."

The Bar's investigation was prompted by Nwabudike's failure to prove at a Senate confirmation hearing that he acquired Liberian citizenship through naturalization, as he had claimed.

But even after his expulsion from the LNBA, President Weah still maintains the disgraced official as LACC chairperson, a position reserved for a Liberian national.

Having worked at Good Governance Commission (GC), the Nigerian - born Cllr. Nwabudike who insists he naturalized in 1982 as

Further, he suggests that President Weah is too busy these days to listen to alternative views, and so sometimes, "they see every view which is meant to assist the running of the country as being opposed," and therefore, "the ears are blocked to listen to those views."

The River Gee Senator explains that he doubted an information provided by his own driver suggesting that there was a vehicle that had passed with a jeep ahead of it carrying armed men who were escorting the disgraced Nwabudike to work on Thursday morning, 9 July.

"I said no, it can't be true. You know, it can't be true ..., it's a disgrace to the president himself to allow that to happen. What explanation he gives. What explanation is the president giving to see this man go back to LACC and say, which person is he going to

subsequently issued a position, removing Nwabudike as member of the Bar.

"So technically, if you are not a member of the Bar of Liberia you would not enjoy your being a member of the Supreme Court Bar, you know. Your appearance before the Supreme Court will be questionable. So how are you going to function in this other position that has prosecutorial powers," Senator Wesseh argues.

While expelling Nwabudike, the LNBA said it found that a perusal of his various passports showed his birth dates as October 19, 1960, October 2, 1963, October 2, 1965 and October 2, 1969.

# GOVERNMENT/GOVERNANCE

Cont'd from page 10

COHFSP . . . President George Weah has appointed a National Steering Committee (SC) as an oversight mechanism to ensure that COHFSP is implemented in the best interests of the affected populations. In line with President Weah's speech and the Liberian Legislature's resolution authorizing the State of Emergency, the COHFSP will prioritize the vulnerable populations and the first responder population to wit: the disadvantaged youth, the homeless, orphanages, senior citizens, people with disabilities, health workers, security personnel deployed in the frontline enforcement of the state of emergency".

Estimated cost of the Program and Key Components: According to the WFP release, "the budget of the COHFSP is US \$30 million, comprising the cost of the food basket (rice, beans and vegetable oil) costs storing, transporting, and delivering the assistance to the vulnerable households targeted through this program (WFP). These account for US \$25 million directly from the Government of Liberia and US \$5 million from the World Bank".

The Foregoing WFP Description

The WFP Press Release provides a clear and validated evidence that the GOL/WFP alliance was not an exercise to stimulate to stimulate the nation's Economy. That process (Stimulus Policy) involves the Ministry of Finance (Fiscal Policy) and the Central Bank (Monetary Policy), not a Steering Committee (SC) of Ministers for Food Distribution.

The several complaints against the Steering Committee for Food Distribution lend credible support for ours and others' conclusion that the food distribution program was not an economic stimulus exercise.

We remind Fellow citizens to keep in mind that our current President is the young, newly-introduced individual to national, political leadership and, therefore, depends upon experienced, loyal and patriotic professionals for credible, realistic results, now, and for some time.

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# Court fines lawmaker in CBL case



By **Winston W. Parley**

The Criminal Court "C" in Monrovia has fined Gbarpolu County District #2 Representative Cllr. Kanie Wesso US\$200 for his failure to appear and testify as a subpoenaed witness in the trial of several Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) officials indicted for alleged theft and economic sabotage of billions of Liberian dollars.

Representative Wesso, former House Speaker Atty. J. Alex Tyler, Senate Secretary Nanborlor F. Singbeh and several others were subpoenaed Tuesday, 7 July based on prosecution's request.

In fining the lawmaker, Judge Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay warned Thursday, 9 July that Cllr. Wesseh, "a member of the House of Representatives," especially at counsel - at - law who is also an arm of the court

does play with the law of this country.

"Reference to the sheriff's return, it clearly stated that Honorable Counselor, KanieWesso was served with the Writ of Subpoena, he received it and acknowledged the said subpoena," the judge says.

At the call of the case on Thursday, Judge Gbeisay says Cllr. Wesso did not send any excuse to the clerk of the court nor the judge or place a phone call to the court to say why he was unable to appear Thursday morning.

"Consequently, Cllr. Wesso is hereby fined 200 USD to be paid in the Revenue and receipt be placed in the hand of the sheriff within 24hr. Failure of which this court shall proceed according to law," Judge Gbeisay rules.

Based on prosecution's request, Representative Wesso and the rest of the officials were subpoenaed Tuesday following the testimony provided by second

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9**



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# Last-16 games to be hosted by home teams in CL

The remaining four games of the Champions League's round of 16 can be hosted by the home team, UEFA announced Thursday, instead of playing them in neutral Portugal.

The competition was halted in March because of the coronavirus and is set to conclude with a mini-tournament at an empty stadium in Lisbon next month, starting with the quarterfinals.

However, Barcelona, Bayern

Munich, Juventus and Manchester City will be allowed to host the second leg of their last-16 matches at home.

UEFA confirmed Thursday it had clearance from public authorities in Spain, Germany, Italy and England to let the teams play at home on Aug. 7 and 8. Few or no fans will be allowed in the stadiums. UEFA also said no tickets will be sold to fans for mini-tournament in Lisbon.

"In light of the current situation, the UEFA executive committee felt it prudent to



conclude that UEFA matches should take place behind closed doors until further notice," the governing body said.

In the Europa League, six clubs including Manchester United can also host their outstanding second-leg games in the round of 16 ahead of a mini-tournament in Germany.

Starting on Aug. 12, the Champions League quarterfinals will be played on four straight nights in single-leg knockout games at the home stadiums of Benfica and Sporting Lisbon.

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