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TRULY INDEPENDENT
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TRULY INDEPENDENT

VOL.10 NO. 122

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2020

PRICE LD\$40.00

GOLSAC
GOOD LEGACY SOCIAL & ATHLETIC ORGANIZATION SAYS:
COVID-19
Let's Prevent its spread NOW! Follow the Regulations set by the Health Authorities

- WASHING YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY
- MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING
- WEAR YOUR FACE-MASK

HOTLINE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 4455

Who's telling the truth?



Prof. Wilson Tarpeh



Jamima Wolokollie



-GAC to find out at Commerce



Pro-Temp Albert Chie

US\$500,000 disappears from senate coffers

-Staffers' money

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Continental News

Sudan blasts 'unilateral' move as Nile dam fills

Sudan says River Nile water levels have dropped as a reservoir behind Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance dam has filled up, hitting out at "any unilateral actions taken by any party". Egypt has also demanded "quick official clarification" from Ethiopia.

Both Sudan and Egypt are downstream, and fear the large dam will greatly reduce their access to water. Ethiopia sees the hydroelectric project as crucial for its economic growth and improving electricity supplies. "If Ethiopia doesn't fill the dam, it means Ethiopia has agreed to demolish the dam," Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed told parliament earlier this month. But state media have backtracked after reports on Wednesday that suggested the dam was being filled deliberately, though without making it clear whether the dam's gates had been closed.

On Thursday Sudan's foreign ministry quoted an Ethiopian official as saying Ethiopia was not filling the dam and had not closed its gates. Earlier this week, talks

between the three nations over the \$4bn (£3.2bn) Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (Gerd) ended without agreement, Ethiopian officials said, blaming "unchanged and additional and excessive demands of Egypt." Dialogue and a fair solution were needed, Sudan's Information Minister Faisal Saleh was quoted as saying on Monday by Reuters.

Sudan said water levels are

dropping by 90 million cubic metres (mcm) per day - equivalent to about 36,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools - at the al-Deim water station which borders Ethiopia. Years of fraught negotiations have failed to reach a consensus on how and when to fill the reservoir, and how much water it should release.

Egyptian Foreign Minister

Sameh Shoukry has previously warned that filling and operating the dam without an agreement "that protects the downstream communities... would heighten tensions and could provoke crises and conflicts that further destabilise an already troubled region". A conflict between Egypt and Ethiopia, which are both US allies, would put millions of civilians at risk. On Wednesday its Water Minister Seleshi Bekele appeared to confirm the satellite images showing dam water levels rising, with state broadcaster EBC quoting him as saying it was "in line with the dam's natural construction process". But hours later EBC backtracked, saying it apologised for "erroneous" reporting that incorrectly quoted the water minister as saying the process of filling the

dam had started.

"[Mr Bekele] said negotiations on the Gerd would continue in a manner that would ensure the interests of Ethiopia", EBC clarified.

Satellite images taken between 27 June and 12 July show a steady increase in the amount of water being held back by the dam. Two unnamed Ethiopian officials who spoke to AFP news agency have respectively blamed this on heavy rains outpacing the dam's ability to push water downstream, and it being a normal part of construction that has not stopped flow altogether. When fully operational, the dam will become the largest hydroelectric plant in Africa, providing power to some 65 million Ethiopians, who currently lack a regular electricity supply. BBC



The dam's construction, seen here in December 2019, began in 2011

Covid-19: Malawi president urges prayer and fasting

Malawi President Lazarus Chakwera has called on citizens to join him in fasting and prayer against the spread and impact of coronavirus in the country. The president urged "all religiously inclined citizens and residents of Malawi" to fast and pray for three days starting Thursday.

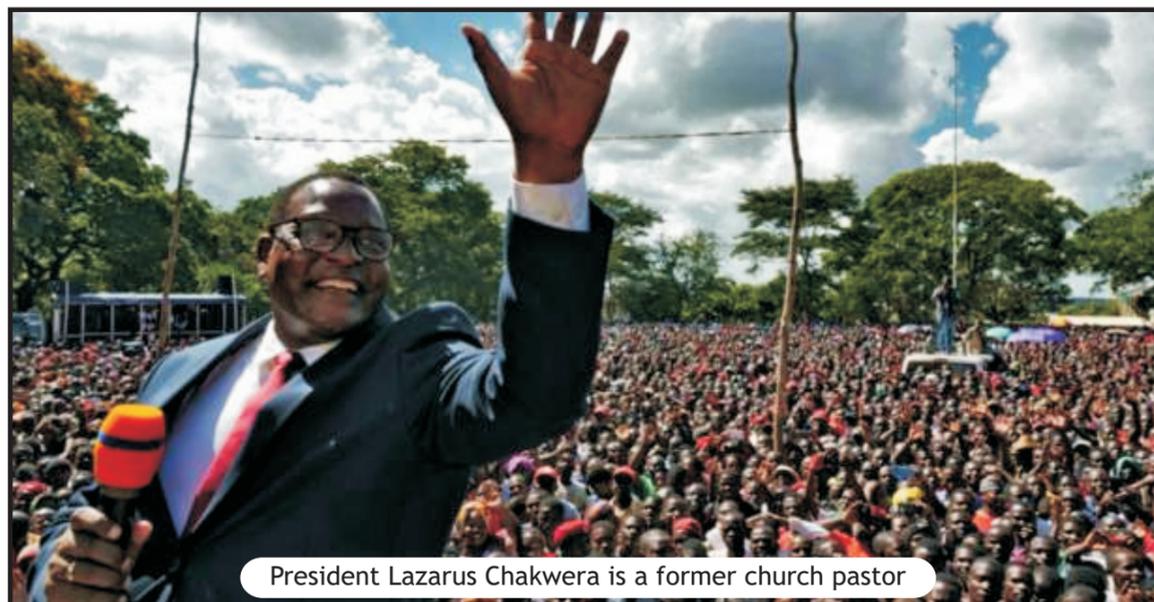
He has also declared Sunday a national day of thanksgiving.

"The president asks that prayers be lifted up for the recovery of those infected and affected by the virus; the protection and sustenance of healthcare workers on the front-lines of the fight, the protection and diligence of those who have not yet contracted the virus, the effectiveness of the presidential task force on Covid-19," a statement signed by Information Minister Gospel

Kazako said.

The president is a former church pastor, who led the Malawi Assemblies of God church for 24 years.

He became leader of the opposition Malawi Congress Party in 2013 without having any previous political experience, and was elected president in the 23 June election rerun, beating incumbent Peter Mutharika. BBC



President Lazarus Chakwera is a former church pastor

Rwanda reopens churches after four months

Rwanda has allowed churches to reopen but with strict conditions meant to limit the spread of coronavirus, according to a statement by the prime minister's office.

Churches and schools were ordered shut across the country on 14 March, hours after the first case of Covid-19

the Council of Catholic Bishops in Rwanda recently told the BBC that when they were allowed to reopen "Catholic tradition order of Mass would remain the same, but the how would change".

Rwandans online have praised the decision while others have complained that bars - which remain closed -



was reported.

Churchgoers will now have to be registered at the entrance, maintain 1.5m (4.9ft) distance and must wear masks

Congregants must not give offerings in cash

Children under the age of 12 will not be allowed in.

Bishop Philippe Rukamba of

should also be allowed to open.

Schools will remain closed until September.

Rwanda has recorded 1,435 cases of Covid-19 and four deaths. BBC

EDITORIAL

The leakages at the Ministry of Finance

THE LIBERIAN PEOPLE may never get to know clearly how much of their taxes paid into government coffers are leaking into pockets of unscrupulous individuals or officials thru illegal withdrawals from dormant GoL accounts with commercial banks here.

BUT IF ONGOING probe by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning into circumstances leading to the alleged withdrawals of L\$6 million and US\$68,000 respectively from various official accounts with one of the commercial banks in the country, GN Bank Liberia Limited, is anything to gauge by then the depth of the bleeding of the state coffers is deeper than image.

FINANCE MINISTRY AUTHORITIES are claiming innocence, and have called in the National Security Agency (NSA) to probe the syndicate, which they say occurred from "Unapplied Accounts" with GN Bank Liberia Limited.

FINANCE MINISTRY SOURCES are revealing that two checkbooks went missing recently from the Ministry specifically which department, we hope the NSA investigation will unravel the details. But it is said that those missing checkbooks were allegedly used to forge signatures of relevant authorities in withdrawing said amounts.

THE LEAKAGES ARE happening at a time the economy is in a serious nose-dive with businesses shrinking and laying off employees, while critical sectors such as health and education are in a quagmire amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

LIBERIA'S COMPTROLLER General Janga Augustus Kowo, whose office manages government checks, says it observed suspicious transactions of late, which prompted calling in the NSA to investigate. However, we may never know how many of such transactions may have slipped his watch and trickled into unscrupulous pockets, robbing the citizenry of their taxes.

SECONDLY, THE ISSUE of a government functionary such as the NSA probing another state institution, in this case, the Ministry of Finance that makes budgetary allocations for all other ministries and agencies, including the NSA itself, leaves a very thin line for honesty and transparency.

OUR APPREHENSION IS founded on the case involving the government General Auditing Commission auditing the US\$25 million mop up of excess liquidity, which was administered by the Technical Economic Management Team headed by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel D. Tweah, and the Central Bank of Liberia, shrouded in lack of transparency and accountability.

A SO-CALLED "smart account" subsequently commissioned by President George Manneh Weah into the US\$25 Million following public pressure is yet to produce findings despite clear and empirical evidence that the entire exercise was marred by serious discrepancies from start to end.

WE THEREFORE, WONDER how far and transparent would the NSA probe at the Finance Ministry go in unraveling the syndicate and bringing out all perpetrators (whether small or big fish) to face the law rather than probing on the surface and covering up.

COMMENTARY

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

G20, Heal Thyself

As the world's largest economies, the G20's members have one overriding responsibility at their finance ministers' upcoming meeting: to agree on actions to suppress the pandemic. Ensuring effective public-health measures is today's essential economic policy.

NEW YORK - The G20 ministers of finance meet this week under the auspices of Saudi Arabia, which holds the group's presidency this year. But it is hard to imagine the G20 countries leading the world, as they like to pretend that they do. Most of them can't effectively lead themselves through the current COVID-19 crisis.

As the world's largest economies, the G20's members have one overriding responsibility at the upcoming meeting: to agree on actions to suppress the pandemic. A few G20 countries are doing well; the laggard countries need to take urgent measures to stop the spread of the virus. All G20 countries need to cooperate on global-scale policies to overcome the health crisis.

An overview of the G20 countries is sobering. Many are so poorly governed that they have been utterly ineffective in containing the pandemic. Judging by data from the past two weeks, the biggest G20 failure, at 176 new cases per day per million population, is Brazil, led by the reckless populist Jair Bolsonaro, who has himself now contracted the virus. The second-biggest failure is the United States, led by the Bolsonaro of the north, Donald Trump, with 137 new cases per day per million population. The two other G20 countries with more than 100 new cases per day per million population are South Africa (129) and Saudi Arabia (112).¹

The next tier of countries, reporting 10-100 new cases per day per million population, includes Russia (47), Mexico (43), Turkey (16), India (15), and the United Kingdom (11). These countries are all at risk of a significant rise in transmission, with Mexico and India appearing to be at the greatest risk.

Six of the G20 countries currently report 1-10 new cases per day per million population - reasonably low rates that make possible decisive suppression of the virus in the near future: Canada (8), France (8), Germany (5), Indonesia (5), Italy (4), and Australia (3).

Only three of the G20 countries report under one new case per day per million population: South Korea (0.96), Japan (0.9), and China (0.01). These three northeast Asian countries have displayed the necessary combination of political leadership, public-health professionalism, and responsible behavior (wearing face masks, maintaining physical distancing, and enhancing personal hygiene).

An epidemic is a social phenomenon and needs a social response. As South Korea, Japan, and China have shown, the virus can be suppressed - that is, new cases can be brought to near zero - if a basic logic is followed. Those who are infected with the virus need to protect those who are not infected. They can do this in four ways during the two weeks while infectious: keep their physical distance; wear face masks; stay at home and away from others; and remain in a public quarantine if the home is not safe.

This protection does not have to be perfect; indeed, it won't be. It has to be good enough, however, to ensure that on average an infected individual infects less than one other. All people must be cautious until the pandemic is suppressed. That means wearing face masks in public places, keeping a prudent distance from others, and monitoring ourselves and our close contacts for symptoms. Officials must make available testing sites and support services for the isolation of infected individuals, whether at home or in public facilities. Managers of workplaces must take precautionary measures, including remote work or safe physical distancing on site.

The egregious G20 failures have in most cases started at the top. The likes of Bolsonaro and Trump are braggarts, bullies, dividers, and sociopaths. Their countries' massive death tolls have moved them neither to expressions of sympathy nor to effective public-health policies. One sees similar perverse behavior among other G20 strongmen. Whereas women leaders (in New Zealand, Finland, Denmark, and elsewhere) have a superior track record on the pandemic, the G20, alas, has no woman leader.

Trump is a special case, because he governs the world's greatest military power. The sociopathy of a US president is a worldwide tragedy, unlike that of a Brazilian president (though Bolsonaro's sociopathy affects the world through an anti-environmental agenda that fuels the wanton and deliberate destruction of the Amazon). Trump's decision to withdraw the US from the World Health Organization in the midst of the pandemic battle has immediate global repercussions. The same is true of his efforts to launch a new cold war with China, instead of saving his own country and cooperating with China to help the rest of the world fight the pandemic.

In this, China obviously has much to offer. It has used the world's most decisive measures to suppress a fulminant pandemic (after the first outbreak in Wuhan) and may well be on the way to producing the first useful vaccine.¹

Yet societal outcomes are not just the result of political leadership. They also depend on culture and social responsibility. The Confucian culture of northeast Asia emphasizes social cooperation and pro-social personal behavior such as wearing face masks. American hotheads, stoked by Trump, loudly proclaim the freedom to reject face masks - that is, the freedom to infect other Americans. One would rarely hear such a claim in northeast Asia.

What is also notable is the failure of US business leaders to take measures to contain the epidemic. One of America's leading entrepreneurs, Elon Musk, demanded the reopening of the economy (and his business), rather than using his engineering genius to help contain the virus. Other top business leaders, too, have contributed little or nothing to suppressing the epidemic. This, too, is part of American culture: money over lives, personal wealth over the social good.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan



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 fingers 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 Naïm Abou-jaoudé Nick Robins

A Just Post-Pandemic Transition

Just as unbridled climate change will do serious damage to the economy and its workers - not least by exacerbating natural disasters and contributing to pandemics - so, too, will failure to improve human-capital management and safeguard workers' wellbeing. That is why both climate action and social protections must be embedded in COVID-19 recovery strategies.

LONDON - It will take time for the COVID-19 pandemic's economic consequences to come into full view. But some of the costs are already becoming apparent, beginning with the devastation the crisis will wreak on the global workforce. With climate change also threatening to hurt the world's most vulnerable workers, the need for a holistic crisis response that emphasizes both justice and sustainability could not be greater.

The numbers paint a grim picture. The International Labor Organization warns that 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy - almost half the global workforce - are in "immediate danger of having their livelihoods destroyed." The African Union reports that, in Africa alone, nearly 20 million jobs, in both the formal and informal sectors, are at risk. In the United States, the New York Times estimates that, despite a headline unemployment rate of 13.3% - already higher than in any previous postwar recession - actual unemployment is closer to 27%.

Clearly, governments must act to protect workers from the COVID-19 shock. But if such efforts are to put economies - and their workers - on a stronger footing beyond the current crisis, they must also advance the goals encompassed in the 2015 Paris climate agreement - including the vision of a "just transition" that it articulates. This means not only shifting to sustainable patterns of development, but also safeguarding workers' rights and livelihoods in the process.

Too often, it is assumed that progress on sustainability must come at the expense of economic growth and employment. Employees in polluting sectors fear that the climate transition will result not only in "stranded assets," but also in "stranded workers" - and perhaps for good reason. Former mining towns and villages in the United Kingdom still have not recovered from the coal industry's demise in the late twentieth century.

Yet this outcome is far from inevitable. The International Renewable Energy Agency predicts that, with more investment in renewables, jobs in the sector could reach 42 million globally by 2050 (four times their current level). Energy efficiency measures would create 21 million additional jobs, and system flexibility 15 million more. Simply put, with sufficient investment in the green economy, there will be enough jobs.

Yet ensuring that this leaves workers better off will also require a concerted effort to guarantee that the new jobs are good jobs, and facilitate a smooth transition for workers displaced from other industries (such as fossil fuels). The only way to achieve this is by adopting a truly integrated approach, in which governments, companies, trade unions, and investors all work to guarantee that climate initiatives take into account workers' needs.

In recent years, environmental, social, and governance considerations have been gaining traction in business, investment, and policy circles. Yet too often a siloed approach has predominated, with actors tackling these critical dimensions of long-term performance separately.

This will not suffice. Just as unbridled climate change will do serious damage to the economy and its workers - not least by exacerbating natural disasters and contributing to pandemics - so, too, will failure to improve human-capital management and safeguard workers' wellbeing. More broadly, building a sustainable economy - and the long-term investment returns that flow from it - will be impossible, amid high levels of unemployment, inequality, and disruption.

To avoid that outcome, shareholder engagement must be used to push companies not only to implement a just-transition strategy, but also to bolster transparency through public disclosures. More than two-thirds of the engagement initiatives currently being pursued by Candriam (of which one of us, Abou-Jaoudé, is chief executive) directly address the energy transition, fair work conditions, and business ethics - pillars of a just transition.

Moreover, investors should encourage companies to deploy capital - such as through a new generation of investments and bond issuance - to support renewal and diversification in communities affected by the transition. Investors and companies should work with governments to ensure that a just transition is placed at the heart of policymaking, not least in terms of COVID-19 recovery planning, so that stimulus funds can help build the clean, inclusive economy of the future.

Never before have our societies - including governments, public bodies, investors, and companies - been as committed to sustainability as they are today. Not only have the world's governments committed to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; over 11,000 companies across 157 countries have also committed their support.

But this is only the first step; these actors must now follow through on their climate commitments - and make sure that their efforts advance, rather than undermine, social imperatives. This is not only the ethical choice; it is the best way to ensure future economic dynamism. Only by integrating environmental and social imperatives into our business models and economic policies can we secure long-term growth and prosperity - and build the resilience we need to weather future shocks.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

New Kru Town Stadium stinks with feces

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The D. Twe High School Sports Stadium in the Municipal Borough of New Kru Town, suburb of Monrovia is being used by residents as toilet.

Huge feces have overwhelmed the sports stadium, oozing unpleasant smell over the environment, and posing potential health hazard.

Our reporter who visited the borough reveals that unscrupulous individuals use beneath the stadium to ease themselves with no regard to environmental threats.

Some of the feces have been there for a protracted period, while others are very fresh human waste.

Students using the route to the D. Twe High School campus from the direction of the government-run Redemption Hospital are constrained to walk faster to

avoid the oozing odor.

Prior to the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic in Liberia, the school had security officers who were usually seen at the campus entrance, monitoring movement of people, but presently there are

no security officers posted at the entry thereby, creating free passage for unscrupulous residents to abuse the environment.

There are indications that the stadium has been abandoned because of its

deplorable roof, which needs repair. Zincs covering the facility are completely damaged, leaving pot holes.

Some residents near the stadium, including Eddie Koon Wleh expressed serious apprehension over attitude of some individuals, who use the stadium as latrine, endangering inhabitants.

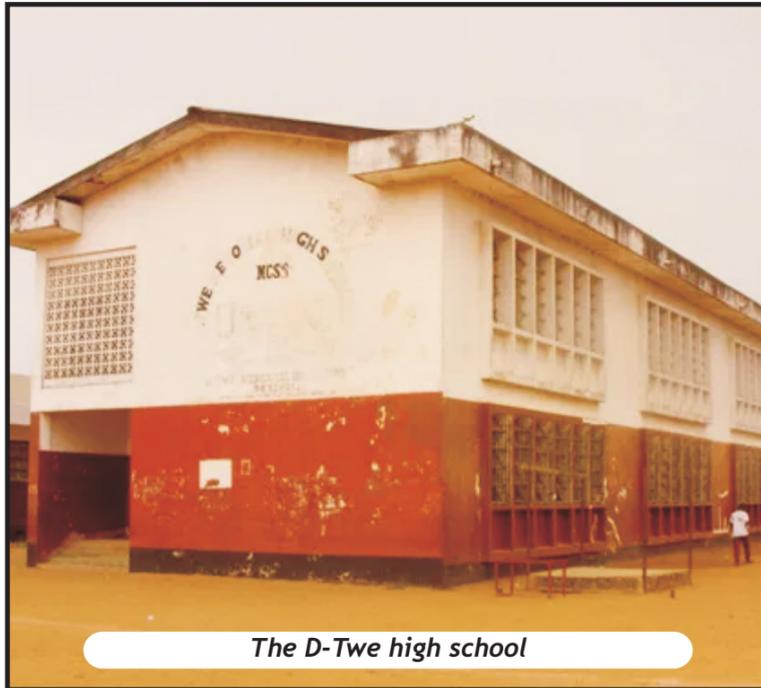
Eddie confirmed that people have been seen entering the premises under cover of darkness to ease themselves with impunity, noting that the feces is causing serious pollution to the environment.

He recalled that similar thing happened when unscrupulous persons were in the constant habit of using the back of the Redemption

Hospital to throw garbage and human feces, but they were stopped later after inhabitants blocked the road used to get to the rear of the hospital.

He called on authorities of the Liberia Football Association (LFA) and the leadership of the New Kru Town Sports Association that control the Second and Third division football leagues to immediately do something about the stadium.

When this paper contacted football authorities in the borough about the prevailing feces at the stadium, a caretaker who preferred to be anonymous, said those responsible to protect the facility are not taking their job seriously. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



The D-Twe high school

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Muslim Task Force faces constraints -in COVID-19 fight

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The National Muslim Task Force on COVID-19 says lack of essential materials to fight the virus at various Mosques in Monrovia remains a serious challenge for the organization.

Task force leader Mohamed Alied Bah explains that the group lacks spraying cans, thermometers, and other essential materials to fight the pandemic among Muslims in the country.

According to Bah, while the task force is doing everything humanly possible to stop the spread of the coronavirus, the fight is challenging due to the absence of essential materials.

He says since the organization was asked by the National Public Health Institute of Liberia to conduct training for volunteers to be assigned at the various mosques, they have not

received a dime from anyone.

He laments that some of the places created for worship by Muslims are not proper, noting that worshippers there do not adhere to preventive measures being instituted by the government.

He adds that the recent closure of mosques across the country by the government compelled some Muslims to open worship places at their own convenient, ignoring health protocols announced by health authorities here.

According to him, the organization has conducted series of training for over 1,000 monitors but due to voluntary factor attached to the work, most of those already trained are reluctant to go in the field.

Mr. Bah made the statement when he officially presented the organization's training report to Mr. Francis J. Nagbe of the Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia, who deputized for Director-General, Dr. Mosoka Fallah.

He disclosed that the group conducted training at several mosques across Monrovia, including Central Monrovia, Bushrod Island, Caldwell Township and Old Road, among others where volunteers were trained in disease prevention and control.

Receiving the progress report, Mr. Nagbe expressed gratitude to the task force for the wonderful job done and pledged NPHIL's continuous partnership to eventually seeing the coronavirus wept out of Liberia. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



SURVEY NOTICE

SURVEYOR'S LICENCE
 Name: Robert B. Thomas Sr.
 License No: 104
 REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
 July 13, 2020

The general public is hereby notified that the undersigned registered licensed surveyor Mr. Robert B. Thomas, Sr. has been duly authorized by Hon. Francis L.M. Horton to conduct a re-survey of two (2) acres of land in favor **AMANDA INTERNATIONAL INC.**

The said two (2) acres of land to be re-surveyed is lying and situated in Central Virginia, Montserrado County.

The re-survey will commence on Saturday the 24th day of July A.D. 2020 at the hour of 10:00A.M.

Therefore, all those have interest in said survey, are asked to come along with their deed(s), diagram(s) and area map, to be represented technically by surveyors as to avoid future land dispute.

This announcement should claim the attention of the following individuals and they are:

1. Atty. Yancy K. Horton
2. Community Chairman
3. Police Commander
4. Milton Gaye, Comptroller of the LNP
5. Josephine Washington 0775-654-741
6. STN
7. DGA
8. PV & MV
9. Maimah Vincent 0770-150-180/0886-900-545
10. John Tubman =MTT 0775-526-886-Gurley Mason
11. JKW =0777-003-961 Brumskine Traman
12. MMG
13. M.T.T
14. B.J.
15. T & E.O.
16. J.G.
17. Alice Robert Gerring
18. Mamia Ash of Clay Ash-Island
19. S. Togba Nyeswah
20. The general public to be present on the day of the above mentioned survey.

Signed:
Robert B. Thomas, Sr.
 Registered Land Surveyor
 Cell#:0770328528/0888328528

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

No authorization given to print LD\$10bn

Former Speaker Nuquaye testifies

By Winston W. Parley

Former House Speaker Mr. Emmanuel Nuquaye, now Director General at the Liberia Aviation Authority (LAA), testifies that no

by the letter written to the CBL, no authorization was given in the form of a letter to even create a ground for an argument as to the mode of authorization whether through letter or resolution," he said as

printing and shipping to Liberia L\$13,004,750,000.00 without authorization, and allegedly understating the printed amount as L\$10,359,750,000.00, giving a variance of L\$2,645,000,000.00.

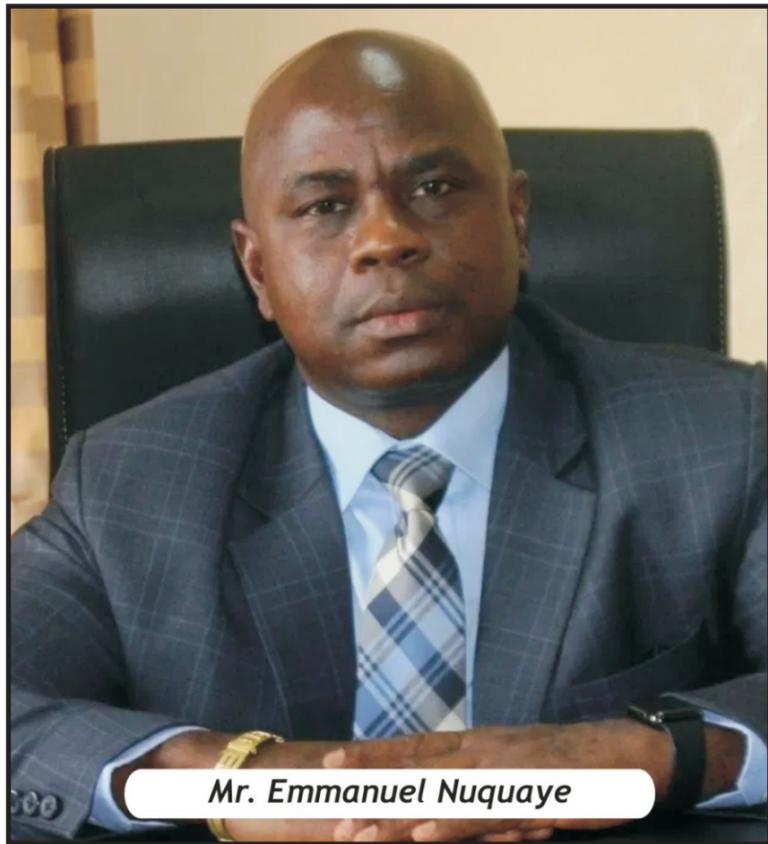
All the defendants on trial including of former CBL Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks, David Fahart, Elsie Dossen Bardio and Kollie Tamba have pleaded not guilty for charges of theft of property; economic sabotage; fraud on the internal revenue of Liberia; misuse of public money, property or record; theft or illegal disbursement of public money; criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation.

Mr. Nuquaye who served as Speaker of the House of Representatives from October 2016 to January 2018 testifies that the House of Representatives did not sign any Joint Resolution to print \$10 billion Liberian Dollars, adding that there is no such resolution.

"I have no knowledge about the printing of the 10billion Liberian Dollars banknotes," former Speaker Nuquaye testifies.

Mr. Nuquaye, a 2017 vice presidential candidate on a ticket with former ruling

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Mr. Emmanuel Nuquaye

authorization was given the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) to print additional LD\$10 billion.

"As we have clearly established and can be seen

State - subpoenaed witness Thursday, 16 July.

The government here indicted several CBL officials including the bank's Board of Governors, accusing them of

Jeety COVID-19 free meals reach 200,000 beneficiaries

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Jeety Trading Corporation COVID-19 hot cooked meal distribution has benefited 200,000 vulnerable and less fortunate Liberians, according to Indian Consul General to Liberia, Shri Upjit Singh Sachdeva, a.k.a. Jeety.

Mr. Sachdeva discloses that free food distribution this week brings to 200,000 plates of hot meals served to less-fortunate people across Monrovia and its environs.

The distribution, which started nearly three months ago, has witnessed cooked food being delivered to children, elderly people, physically-challenged and people living with mental health, among others.

Jeety further reveals that though the financial cost attached to the ongoing food distribution is huge, he

intends to continue the exercise until the Government of Liberia shall have declared Liberia a Coronavirus-freed country.

He notes that many ordinary Liberians depend on the free daily hot meal for

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Indian Consulate Shri Upjit Singh Sachdeva and members of his free food distribution team

NPP Maryland Chapter in disarray

By Patrick Mensah, Maryland County

In the wake of the embattled National Patriotic Party's pending primary in Maryland County, several officials of the party are tussling over the NPP chairmanship in the county. The NPP is expected to conduct primary from July 22 to 23, 2020.

Mr. JohnnnKodjo Wilson, labor commissioner for Maryland and co-chair for administration of the county chapter, pronounced himself recently on a community radio station as county chairman, while another NPP partisan MokoWeiah declared himself as secretary general, followed by Anthony BuduLandford, who claimed he still remains the legitimate county chairperson.

Landford argued that he has not been legitimately relived of his post by the national

the NPP is a constituency member, had agreed that no one will contest on the ticket of the National Patriotic Party in a county, where it already has an incumbent senator or lawmaker.

He said, Senator Morais remains the legitimate candidate for the party because he is a full member of the NPP, which is a constituent member of the Coalition, and an incumbent senator as well as chair for NPP lawmakers in the 54th National Legislature.

However, he further revealed that reliable sources have informed him that the National Patriotic Party is expected to go for primary this month to choose a candidate that will contest on its ticket during the December 8, 2020 senatorial election in Maryland County.

This would mean that



executive committee of the party neither served a communication, indicating reasons for his dismissal.

According to him, he was elected during the Buchanan Convention in 2016 as chairman for the NPP Maryland County chapter amid the recent self-proclaimed chairmanship by Mr. Wilson.

The leadership battle among local officials of the party comes just after Landford endorsed the senatorial bid of Maryland County Senator H. Dan Morais, a senior executive of the NPP.

Senator Morais' endorsement to re-contest for senate in December was done in Pleebo, Maryland Electoral District#2 on June 27, 2020.

Landford disclosed that the governing Coalition for Democratic Change, of which

incumbent Senator Dan Morais will go to the primary against NPP national chairman James P. Biney, also a Marylander and former member of the House of Representatives.

The current fight over the county chairmanship has brought serious confusion between supporters of both men in the county.

But Landford said he doesn't see the party going for primary in the county, as is being speculated, maintaining that doing so will contradict the agreement that established the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change, which is marriage among the Congress for Democratic Change, the National Patriotic Party and the Liberian People Democratic Party.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Jamima Wolokollie wants loan program audited

Dismissed Deputy Commerce Minister for Small Business Administration, Madam Jamima Wolokollie has called for a comprehensive audit of the loan program initiated by the government titled, Small Business Pro-Poor Development Fund (SBPDF).

The call comes barely a week after Commerce Minister Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh clarified his involvement in disbursement

Coalition for Democratic Change, President George Manneh Weah dismissed Madam Wolokollie conduct incompatible with her status as a public official. She was subsequently expelled from the CDC.

Addressing a press conference in Monrovia on July 8, 2020, Minister Tarpeh denied he was single-handedly disbursing loan to beneficiaries from his office.

He presented pieces of

and that, Mrs. Wolokollie, then as one of the "A" signatories to the loan account, is knowledgeable or should be knowledge about the processes governing the loan.

However, in her latest response, Mrs. Wolokollie is calling on the General Auditing Commission (GAC) to audit the entire Small Business Pro-Poor Development Fund (SBPDF) or an independent panel be constituted, drawing its membership from the religious community and other moral institutions to investigate the program and make findings public to allay the apprehension of Liberians.

She described Minister Tarpeh's recent press conference as a failed attempt to cover up his alleged dishonesty and lack of courage to do public business with transparency and accountability, particularly in managing the SBPDF.

On the question of money spent to repair her then assigned vehicle, Mrs. Wolokollie clarified that after she endured several months without a vehicle, Minister Tarpeh directed and approved the request for US\$ 3,040.00 to be used for the repair of her assigned vehicle and the repair work was done by Africa Motors Service Center, evidenced by available documentations.

She exhibited documents showing that Prof. Tarpeh instructed that US\$3,040.00 be taken from the US\$8,000.00 allotted for radio jingles to publicize the loan program.

She further challenged the Commerce Minister to prove he ever spent the remaining US\$ 5,000.00 for radio Jingles and other means of publicity before the disbursement of the loan. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Madam Jamima Wolokollie

of the Government of Liberia's US\$ 3 million dollars loan to small businesses.

President George Weah in December 2018 launched the Small Business Pro-Poor Development Fund (SBPDF), with an initial contribution of US\$ 1 million from government, while the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) committed to give US\$2 million, bringing the total to US\$ 3 million.

Since then, the public corridors have been overwhelmed by speculations and disagreements over how the loan was being handled by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Dismissed Deputy Minister Wolokollie, about three weeks ago, opened up on both the social and conventional media, claiming that she had been kept in the dark by her boss, Minister Tarpeh, who, according to her, took over disbursement of the loan, expending over US\$ 513, 00.00 to purported beneficiaries, who are yet to be properly identified.

But days after her appearance on OK FM 99.5, where she also made some strong comments about issues in the governing

documents which he claimed bear evidence that Mrs. Wolokollie had been involved in the administration and disbursement of the loan prior to her dismissal by the President.

He termed Madam Wolokollie's outburst as maliciously twisted comments aimed at burying the facts surrounding the loan program and defame his good name and the reputation of the Commerce Ministry.

Tarpeh explained that the loan program is administered, managed and operated by the LBDI, with the Commerce Ministry only providing strategic oversight and guidance as a sector Ministry

Margibi citizens begin US\$35,000 project for administrative building

By Ben P. Wesee

Citizens of Mboo Statutory District in Margibi County District #2 have started a fundraising campaign under the banner "Operation to Help Construct a Public Building for Mboo Statutory District," with the aim of raising US\$35,000 to construct an administrative building.

According to Mboo Statutory District Superintendent Mr. Charles S. Karlon, since the establishment of Mboo through an Act passed by the Legislature, it has been unable

Mr. Karlon notes that though they appreciate past and present leaders for paving the way for Mboo's operations in the county, it is now time for citizens residing in Margibi to consider the institution as their own by contributing to the campaign.

MrKarlson further mentions that when the building is completed and dedicated, it will serve as motivation for other districts, communities and counties across the country not to just wait for the government to carry on



to have its own office space.

Superintendent Karlon says, the lack of office space for public officials in that part of the county has been a huge challenge for the residents of Mboo.

As appointed officials, he says following a mass meeting with residents in and out of Liberia, they have all reached a decision to start a campaign that will enable them to raise some money to build office space that will benefit the Government of Liberia and residents of the district.

development in their various places but work together to get what they need within their districts.

Meanwhile, the Mboo Statutory District Superintendent has called on the county authorities, local leaders, humanitarians, international NGOs and meaningful Margibians to help support the effort of Mboo residents in order to keep their dreams alive and be more encouraged to carry out more projects within their district.--
Edited by Winston W. Parley

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Français

Après les accords de Linas-Marcoussis sous Gbagbo, voici les accords de la Riviera-Golf sous Ouattara

Ouattara au pied du mur de sa feuille de route de la Riviera-Golf après la réunion avec Macky Sall et Jean-Yves Le Drian relatif à la présidentielle.

Jean-Yves le Drian est retourné en France comme il est venu : sur la pointe des

pieds. Pourtant, l'inamovible ministre hexagonal des Affaires étrangères était en mission commandée en Côte d'Ivoire; l'hommage national à Amadou Gon Coulibaly n'ayant servi que de prétexte pour couvrir l'opération.

En effet, le mardi 14 juillet 2020, une réunion au sommet a

réuni les présidents Alassane Ouattara et Macky Sall du Sénégal (pour le compte de la CEDEAO), Jean-Yves le Drian et les ambassadeurs Michael Grau d'Allemagne (pour le compte de l'Union européenne) et Richard K. Bell des USA (pour le compte de la communauté internationale). Le thème à l'ordre du jour : l'impasse de la situation politique en Côte d'Ivoire.

Ce pays-phare, où la communauté internationale est intervenue militairement en 2011 pour installer Ouattara, est à la croisée des chemins. Et les signaux politiques, qui n'ont jamais été verts, passent de l'orange au rouge : le vide se crée au niveau de l'Exécutif, le candidat du pouvoir est décédé et, dans un climat délétère, l'Opposition, qui dénonce les fraudes à l'enrôlement, conteste les règles du jeu électoral. La Côte d'Ivoire danse sur une poudre et les parrains sont

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Le Sénat confirme la nouvelle patronne de la commission électorale nationale

Le comité Sénatorial sur les agences autonomes et les ministères a confirmé la nomination de la nouvelle présidente de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) - Mme Davidetta Brown - Lansannah, sans tenir compte du recours déposé devant la Cour suprême du Libéria par l'ancien procureur spécial Me Arthur T. Johnson. Dans son rapport présenté le 15 juillet à la plénière, le comité présidé par le sénateur du comté de Bong, Henrique Togba, a indiqué que Mme Brown - Lasannah est la personne la mieux indiquée pour le poste et recommandé sa confirmation. C'est bien ce qu'a fait le Sénat à l'unanimité. Le comité sénatorial a fait cette recommandation en dépit du recours M. Johnson auprès de la Cour suprême.

Me Johnson a indiqué que même si la loi sur la constitution du Libéria donne au président le pouvoir de nommer, avec le consentement du Sénat, le président et les membres de la Commission électorale

pour une période de sept ans, cela ne lui donne pas le droit de les licencier ou de prolonger leur mandat. La loi dit cependant que ces fonctionnaires ne peuvent être limogés qu'en cas d'une faute prouvée.

A noter que les deux femmes, c'est-à-dire Mme

Teplah Reeves et Mme Davidetta Browne Lansannah, étaient respectivement commissaire et coprésidente de la commission électorale et leur mandat était de 7 ans. Cependant elles ont été nommées par le président George Manneh

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Davidetta Browne Lansannah, Chairwoman Designate of NEC

Éditorial

Enième scandale financier : Que donnera l'enquête en cours ? Rien

Il se peut que les contribuables libériens ne sachent à jamais le montant réel qui a fini par atterrir dans les poches des individus sans scrupules après les nouvelles des retraits illégaux et frauduleux d'une énorme somme d'argent des comptes du gouvernement auprès des banques commerciales.

Une enquête a été lancée au ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement pour faire la lumière sur les circonstances qui entourent le retrait présumé de 6 millions de dollars libériens et 68 000 \$ US de divers comptes officiels auprès de l'une des banques commerciales du pays, GN Bank Liberia Limited. Ces derniers événements montrent combien le saignement des caisses de l'État est plus profond que ce que nous voyant en surface.

Les autorités du ministère des Finances qui clament leur innocence ont invité la National Security Agency (NSA) à enquêter sur « une organisation mafieuse qui, selon eux, auraient procédé à une série de retrait des "Comptes non appliqués" de l'Etat auprès GN Bank Liberia Limited.

A en croire certaines sources au ministère des Finances, le ministère s'est aperçu récemment de la disparition de deux chèquiers. Les malfrats se seraient servis de ces chèquiers en falsifiant les signatures des autorités compétentes pour procéder aux retraits.

Ce crime économique est commis précisément au moment où l'économie libérienne est en chute libre, où l'on assiste à un concert de licenciements massifs des employés, et où les secteurs critiques tels que la santé et l'éducation sont devenus impuissants face à la pandémie mondiale du COVID-19.

Le contrôleur général du Libéria, Janga Augustus Kowo, dont le bureau gère les chèques du gouvernement, a déclaré avoir observé récemment des transactions suspectes et invité la NSA à intervenir. Cependant, nous ne saurons peut-être jamais combien de ces transactions ont pu avoir lieu sous son regard ni le montant réel de l'impôt des contribuables a fini dans les poches des fonctionnaires sans scrupules, au grand dam du peuple.

Deuxièmement, le fait qu'une organisation gouvernementale comme la NSA même une enquête dans une affaire qui implique une autre institution gouvernementale, le ministère des Finances, qui alloue des lignes budgétaires à tous les autres ministères et organismes, nous amène à entretenir peu d'espoir quant à la transparence dans cette affaire.

Nous avons encore en mémoire l'affaire de la gestion calamiteuse des 25 millions de dollars décaissés pour, dit-on, éponger l'excès de liquidités en circulation et la disparition mystérieuse de plusieurs milliards dollars de la banque centrale. On ignore toujours le contenu du rapport d'enquête de la commission d'audit dans cet énième scandale économique qui impliquait l'équipe technique de gestion économique dirigée par le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samuel D. Tweah. Le soi-disant « compte intelligent », commandé par la suite par le président George Manneh Weah à cause de la pression du public, n'a rien donné en dépit des preuves claires et empiriques qui démontrent que l'ensemble de l'exercice a été entaché de graves irrégularités du début à la fin.

Nous nous posons donc la question de savoir dans quelle mesure l'enquête de la NSA arrivera à exposer et démanteler la soi-disant organisation mafieuse qui règne en maître absolu au ministère des Finances et de la planification du développement et continue de dépouiller l'Etat du peu d'argent dont il dispose.

Français

Après les accords de Linas-Marcoussis sous Gbagbo,

à la manœuvre pour désamorcer la bombe avant une présidentielle à hauts risques. Selon la décision n°049/CEI/PDT du 10 juillet 2020 fixant la date de dépôt des candidatures à l'élection du président de la République, la période de ce dépôt court du jeudi 16 juillet au lundi 31 août 2020.

Le RHDP est orphelin et toutes les campagnes de presse invitent Ouattara à se remettre en lice. Car, au sein de la majorité présidentielle, caporalisée par le RDR, l'offre politique pour remplacer Gon Coulibaly est très faible et les clans ont détéré la hache de guerre dans une lutte fratricide.

Mais une nouvelle candidature de Ouattara est contestée et par l'Opposition qui soutient son inéligibilité et par les partenaires extérieurs qui disent : « Deux mandats, ça suffit », surtout que Ouattara a été félicité, des USA en France, quand il a déclaré qu'il passait le témoin à une nouvelle génération. L'autre nœud gordien de la crise politique ivoirienne est l'organisation même de la présidentielle le samedi 31 octobre 2020. La réforme du Code électoral, en son article 54 alinéa 13, a introduit le parrainage des candidatures. Le communiqué du Conseil des ministres du lundi 13 juillet 2020 précise que chaque candidat à l'élection présidentielle doit être parrainé par des électeurs de dix-sept régions ou districts autonomes et représentant au moins 1% de l'électorat de la région ou district

concerné. Seulement voilà.

Selon l'article 11 nouveau du Code électoral, la CEI doit afficher la liste électorale provisoire trois mois au plus tard avant l'élection, c'est-à-dire le 31 juillet. Et la liste définitive est arrêtée quinze jours avant le scrutin, soit le 16 octobre, étant donné que durant cette période « tout électeur inscrit sur la liste de la circonscription électorale peut réclamer l'inscription d'un individu omis ou la radiation d'un individu indûment inscrit » (article 12 nouveau du Code électoral).

Le Conseil constitutionnel ne pouvant valider une liste provisoire, techniquement, il va donc s'avérer impossible à des candidats de répondre, en deux semaines, aux critères de parrainage. C'est pourquoi, alors que la Cour africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples (CADHP), sur saisine du PDCI-RDA et par arrêt en date du mercredi 15 juillet, donne trois mois au pouvoir pour une réforme en profondeur de la CEI, les acteurs extérieurs, missionnés à Abidjan, militent pour le report du scrutin et la mise en place d'un gouvernement de transition d'un semestre environ.

Sa mission est celle confiée aux Seydou E. Diarra, Charles Konan-Banny et Soro K. Guillaume sous Laurent Gbagbo : organiser un scrutin crédible, juste et transparent dans un climat relativement apaisé. Ainsi, après le Linas-Marcoussis de Gbagbo dans la banlieue parisienne, voici Alassane Ouattara au pied du mur de sa feuille de route de la Riviera-Golf. Le monde se révèle un perpétuel recommencement.

Le Sénat confirme la nouvelle patronne

Weah et confirmées par le Sénat avant la fin de ce mandat. C'est bien cela que le juriste Johnson qualifie d'inconstitutionnel, d'où le recours à la cour suprême.

Il croit qu'il est illégal qu'un fonctionnaire nommé à un poste pour un mandat déterminé soit limogé ou nommé à un autre poste avant la fin de son mandat.

« Par conséquent, étant donné que les mandats de Mme Browne-Lassannah et Mme Reeves sont encore en cours, elles ne peuvent pas

être licenciées ni nommées à d'autres postes. Elles ne peuvent être limogées qu'en cas de faute grave », a dit Me Johnson. Il craint que le pouvoir sacré et constitutionnel du Sénat de confirmer les fonctionnaires nommés par le président de la République soit devenu un simple acte symbolique et cosmétique qui n'a aucun effet réel et fonctionnel. Il demande ainsi au tribunal d'invalider la nomination et la confirmation des deux dames.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jeffrey D. Sachs

Le G20, la pandémie et l'économie

NEW-YORK - Les ministres des Finances du G20 se rencontrent le 18 juillet en téléconférence sous les auspices de l'Arabie saoudite qui préside le groupe cette année. Néanmoins les pays du G20 ne gouvernent pas la planète à leur guise, car la plupart d'entre eux ont déjà beaucoup de difficultés à se gouverner eux-mêmes face à la crise du COVID-19 et à ses conséquences.

Représentant les plus grandes économies de la planète, les membres du G20 ont une responsabilité majeure lors de ce sommet : se mettre d'accord sur des mesures destinées à éradiquer la pandémie. Quelques pays du G20 ne s'en sortent pas trop mal, par contre ceux qui sont en difficulté doivent agir de toute urgence pour arrêter la propagation du virus. Et tous les pays du G20 doivent coopérer pour adopter une politique globale visant à surmonter la crise sanitaire.

La vue d'ensemble des pays du G20 est déprimante. Beaucoup d'entre eux ont été si mal gouvernés qu'ils ne sont absolument pas parvenus à contenir la pandémie. A en juger par les chiffres des deux dernières semaines, c'est au Brésil que la situation est la plus grave, avec 176 nouveaux cas journaliers par million d'habitants (son dirigeant irresponsable, Jair Bolsonaro, est lui-même atteint par le COVID-19). Derrière le Brésil, sous la conduite du Bolsonaro du nord, Trump, on trouve les USA, avec 137 nouveaux cas journaliers par million d'habitants. Deux autres pays du G20 alignent plus de 100 nouveaux cas journaliers par million d'habitants : l'Afrique du Sud (129) et l'Arabie saoudite (112).

Derrière ces pays lourdement frappés, avec 10 à 100 nouveaux cas journaliers par million d'habitants, il y a notamment la Russie (47), le Mexique (43), la Turquie (16), l'Inde (15) et le Royaume-Uni (11). Ces pays sont exposés à une augmentation significative de la diffusion du virus - le Mexique et l'Inde semblent les plus exposés.

Six pays du G20 rapportent entre 1 et 10 nouveaux cas journaliers par millions d'habitants, une fourchette relativement basse qui permet d'envisager la disparition du virus dans un avenir proche. Il s'agit du Canada (8), de la France (8), de l'Allemagne (5), de l'Indonésie (5), de l'Italie (4) et de l'Australie (3).

Seuls 3 pays du G20 rapportent moins d'un nouveau cas journalier par million d'habitants : la Corée du Sud (0,96), le Japon (0,9) et la Chine (0,01). Ces trois pays d'Asie du Nord-Est ont bénéficié de la combinaison nécessaire d'un leadership politique, du professionnalisme des spécialistes de santé publique et du comportement responsable de la population (utilisation des masques, maintien de la distanciation sociale et soucis de l'hygiène personnelle).

Une épidémie est un phénomène qui touche une société, elle exige une réponse collective. La Corée du Nord, le Japon et la Chine montrent qu'il est possible d'éradiquer le virus (autrement dit n'avoir que très peu de nouveaux cas) en faisant preuve de bon sens. Les personnes infectées doivent protéger celles qui ne le sont pas lors des deux semaines durant lesquelles elles sont contagieuses. Elles peuvent le faire de plusieurs manières : par la distanciation physique, le port du masque, le confinement à domicile ou dans un lieu prévu à cet effet.

Ces mesures ne doivent pas nécessairement être appliquées de manière draconienne, ce n'est guère possible, mais elles doivent l'être suffisamment pour qu'une personne infectée en contamine moins de une en moyenne. Autant que le COVID-19 n'a pas

disparu, chacun de nous doit faire preuve de prudence en appliquant les mesures de distanciation sociale et en surveillant l'apparition de symptômes chez lui-même et chez les personnes avec lesquelles il est régulièrement en contact. Les responsables politiques doivent faciliter l'accès aux tests de dépistage et organiser l'aide aux personnes infectées en quarantaine, que ce soit ou non à domicile. En ce qui concerne les entreprises, les chefs d'équipe doivent prendre les mesures de protection nécessaires, notamment en organisant le télétravail et les mesures de distanciation sociale sur les lieux de travail.

Dans la plupart des cas, les gros échecs des pays du G20 ont pris naissance dans les strates supérieures de la société. Bolsonaro, Trump et ceux qui leur ressemblent sont des vantards, des petites brutes, des diviseurs et des sociopathes. Malgré le grand nombre de décès dans leurs pays, ils n'ont pas mis en place une politique efficace de santé publique et ils n'ont fait preuve d'aucune compassion à l'égard des victimes. Malheureusement on ne compte pas beaucoup de femmes au pouvoir parmi les membres du G20 ; or les pays qui ont une femme à leur tête (Nouvelle-Zélande, Finlande, Danemark, et encore d'autres) s'en tirent bien mieux face à la pandémie.

Le fait que Bolsonaro soit un sociopathe impacte relativement peu le reste du monde (bien que sa politique antiécologique contribue à la destruction de l'Amazonie). Sociopathe lui aussi, Trump est un cas spécial, car il est à la tête de la première puissance militaire mondiale - c'est une tragédie qui touche toute la planète. Sa décision de retirer les USA de l'OMS en plein milieu d'une pandémie est lourde de conséquences immédiates sur le plan international. Il en est de même de la nouvelle guerre froide qu'il essaye de lancer contre la Chine, au lieu de protéger son pays en collaborant avec elle pour aider le reste du monde à combattre la pandémie.

La Chine pourrait être très utile à cette fin. Elle a pris les mesures les plus décisives pour stopper une pandémie fulminante après son apparition à Wuhan et elle pourrait bien être sur la voie de développer le premier vaccin contre le virus.

Ce qui se passe au niveau d'une société n'est pas le simple résultat de décisions politiques, cela dépend aussi de sa culture et de l'attitude de chacun. La culture confucianiste de l'Asie du Nord-Est met l'accent sur la coopération et les comportements qui tiennent compte d'autrui comme le port du masque. Soutenues par Trump, les têtes brûlées américaines proclament bruyamment leur droit à ne pas porter de masque - autrement dit leur liberté d'infecter autrui. On n'entend guère ce type de discours en Asie du Nord-Est.

Il faut souligner la passivité des dirigeants de grandes entreprises face à la pandémie. L'un des plus connus d'entre eux, Elon Musk, a réclamé le redémarrage de l'économie (et par conséquence de son entreprise), plutôt que d'utiliser son génie créatif pour aider à contenir le virus. C'est là aussi le résultat de la culture américaine : l'argent compte plus que les vies humaines, la fortune personnelle l'emporte sur l'intérêt général.

Les ministres du G20 parleront sûrement d'argent (budget, relance économique, politique monétaire), et il le faut, mais seulement après avoir discuté des moyens d'éradiquer le virus lui-même. Il est impossible de protéger l'économie si l'on n'arrête pas la pandémie. Autrement dit, une politique de santé publique efficace est indispensable pour sauver l'économie.

US\$500,000 disappears from senate coffers

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

From all indications it has become glaring that over US\$500,000 allocated in the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 national budget as Liberian dollar salary component for staffers of the Liberian Senate has gone missing here with staffers now crying for their Liberian dollar salaries, which they have not received since July, 2019.

Both staffers of the Liberian Senate and the House of Representatives protested here Tuesday this week for the Liberian dollars component of their salaries that have not been forthcoming for a year now.

plenary, Maryland County Senator James Gble-bo Brown said when the Senate committee realized that the government had cancelled the Liberian dollars salary component of staffers at the Capitol as a result of the salary harmonization policy, the leadership went in the Senate's internal budget and allotted over US\$500,000 to spread among staffers to ease their economic burden.

According to him, it was agreed upon the allocation was made, but expressed shock the amount has not been reflected in the take-home-pay of the staffers' something, he said, was addressed since July last year during the budget hearing

Minister Tweah told plenary that deductions were effected at other agencies, ministries and branches of government but not Legislative staffers as being projected in some quarters.

Meanwhile, the President of the Civil Servants Association of Liberia, Johnson Moibah said cancellation of employees' salary is totally in violation of the Public Financial Act of Liberia, and whosoever is engaged in such practice, should desist, as his leadership is prepared to support staffers of the Capitol in bringing the Senate leadership's feet to the fire.

Johnson assured the



Spokesperson Charles Brown

Spokesperson Charles Brown from the Liberian Senate lamented that it is unlawful for lawmakers to cut their [staffers'] legitimate salary unilaterally, arguing that their earnings should have rather been increased or maintained.

Speaking to this paper following their meeting, which was marred by tense exchanges and bitterness, Brown said the leadership of the Liberian Senate has allegedly reneged in responding to their concerns about salaries.

According to him, about 600 staffers are being affected by the alleged salary arrears, lamenting, "If you cannot improve the lives of your staffers, whose lives will you improve?"

However, members of the Liberian Senate strongly debated Wednesday in the temporary chambers of the Senate during their regular session that if pending protest announced by staffers of the Capitol would be aborted, the Committee on Ways, Means and Finance should account for over US\$500,000 allotted for staffers' salaries.

Giving the narration in

and allocation.

Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah, who submitted the draft national budget for FY 2021 (US\$535 million) to the House of Representatives Wednesday, July 15 for scrutiny and subsequent passage, clarified

that the his ministry did not temper with salaries, allowances and other benefits for staffers at the Capitol because the Legislature is a political ground, and that doing so would have created more political tensions and rift between the Finance and Development Planning Ministry and the leadership of the 54th Liberian Legislature.

aggrieved staffers the Association is seriously concerned about their plight, and called on Speaker Bhofal Chambers and Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie to speedily address the matter or else, pending unspecified actions could make the grounds of the Capitol uncomfortable for lawmakers.

Senate Pro-Tempore Chie, through voting in plenary, mandated the Senate Committee on Ways, Means, and Finance to investigate the matter and report to plenary in the soonest possible time.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

No authorization

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Unity Party (UP) presidential candidate Joseph Nyumah Boakai, says he has no information absolutely on the printing of LD \$10 Billion by the Central Bank.

He says what he knows is that members of the House of Representatives raised issues about mutilated money on the market after the bank, with the full authorization through a [Legislative] Joint Resolution, had printed and brought into the country LD\$5 billion to be infused in the market to replace mutilated banknotes.

Additionally, he says the Legislature sent a communication to the CBL, instructing it to introduce coins of lower denominations on the Liberian market based on information provided by former CBL Executive Governor Dr. Mills Jones that minted coins were sitting in the vault of the CBL.

"To the best of my certain knowledge, there is no paragraph or provision in that communication that authorized the CBL to print 10billion Liberian Dollars," witness Nuquaye continues.

"NO. The paragraph did not authorize the printing of additional banknotes. If the Legislature contemplated the printing of additional banknotes, it would have ... used the word "print" instead of "introduce," Mr. Nuquaye argues.

He explains that the word "introduce" as used in paragraph three was intended for the CBL to infuse into the economy coins that were printed and are being kept, adding: "and even as we speak being kept in the vault of the CBL."

The CBL officials were indicted for the alleged theft of billions of local currency 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.

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.

Jeety COVID-19

Cont'd from page 6

their survival, so nothing will stop his company, Jeety Trading Corporation (directly involves in the food preparation) from moving on with the distribution to ensure Liberians stay home and stay alive during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Indian Consul General, who operates a chain of building material stores across Liberia, says he has received many commendations from the general public every time the distribution team shows up in a community, expressing gratitude to him for the good work he is doing for the country especially, during the coronavirus pandemic.

He vows to continue working with the leadership of the less-fortunate Liberians to ensure something is seriously done about their plight.

However, Jeety warns people in the habit of selling the food to others to desist, as

it is not meant for sale, but rather free of charge.

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic here in March, the Indian Consul General to Liberia has continued to help less-fortunate people most of whom have no source of income to make a living.

He told the Voice of America recently in an interview that one of the greatest things human beings can do on earth is not to only love their fellowman but to also share whatsoever they have with those who cannot afford.

Mr. Sachdevaprayed that God will continue to give him strength to provide humanitarian assistance to destitute and venerable populations as a means of helping them to desist from their bad habits and do something positive. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Who's telling the truth?

By Othello B. Garblah

The General Auditing Commission or GAC has been invited to audit the Small Business Pro-Poor Development Fund (SBPDF), a government loan scheme managed and operated by the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) intended to empower local Liberian owned businesses.

The move has become necessary following repeated accusations and counter accusations between Commerce Minister Wilson Tarpeh and his former Deputy Jamima Wolokollie who co-ran the program about the misapplication of the fund.

The amount involves is US\$2 million. One million being a startup amount deposited by government as a guarantee to the bank should borrowers default on payment, while the additional 1 million was chipped in by the LBDI.

The accusation

It all started just days after Madam Wolokollie was dismissed by President George Weah for what he said was a string of actions incompatible with her (Madam Wolokollie) status as a senior government official.

Madam Wolokollie went on a tirade using both her social media platform and traditional media to not just condemned the ruling party after her dismissal and doing what she said was the wrong things, but also that the "US\$3 million" which was being speculated that she mismanaged was in fact being mismanaged by her former boss, Wilson Tarpeh. She alleged that Prof. Tarpeh has hijacked the loan scheme and was distributing the fund at will at the ministry and she knew nothing about its implementation.

"Ok like, I said the other day, I am going to repeat again. The Government of Liberia decided that it will give small micro loan to small businesses. And the Government was going to give USD1m and LBDI (Liberia Bank for Development and Investment) said they were going to give USD2m. And the President said Samuel Tweah, Wilson Tarpeh stay off this loan.

I vetted the (beneficiaries) and the bank said everything was ok, that I have done well. After that my boss whenever I went to the bank they will send me back to my boss. From that day on, my boss took over my office and took over the loan. I never saw that loan again.

They also refused to give me a document concerning the loan. The only document



was on a flying sheet to say this is what I have given out-USD 513,000. Then when he sent me that piece of paper, I wrote to him requesting him to give me an audit report and to give me the names and telephone numbers of those small businesses. Every document have been hidden from me," Madam Wolokollie alleged. "Anything about this loan is between Wilson Tarpeh and his office. So I don't want to hear people to telling me about this US\$3m. It's my boss. I don't have the money," she added.

The counter accusation

But Prof. Tarpeh at a press conference to counter Madam Wolokollie described as blatant lie allegations she had been or is parading against him concerning the loan project. Minister Tarpeh displayed several documents including two checks that were co-signed by Madam Wolokollie to withdraw monies from the US\$1 million deposit.

The first checked issued to BSC Monrovia and signed for by one William Reid Dennis II, was accompanied by a Memorandum from Madam Wolokollie making a payment request to Mr. Wilfred T. S. Bangura II, Deputy Commerce Minister for Administration to pay BSC Monrovia US\$34,600 from the account.

Madam Wolokollie's Memorandum dated March 2, 2019 reads: "Kindly accept my compliment! I write to request payment in favor of BSC Monrovia for providing Business Skills Training to Microfinance Institutions as per agreed contract with the Small Business Administration (SBA). The amount to be paid is Thirty four thousand six hundred United States Dollars (34,600.00)."

The amount of 33, 216 was paid after the government deducted its tax from the 34,600.

Minister Tarpeh said he initially declined to approve the payment because there was no competitive bidding in

awarding the contract. He alleged that Madam Wolokollie single handedly picked BSC Monrovia for the training.

However, he explained that he refused to approve the payment but after legal advice, one of his deputies, also a signatory to the account co-signed with Madam Wolokollie.

Mr. Tarpeh further explained that the second withdrawal from the account again upon the request of Madam Wolokollie was US\$8,380.0 paid to Liberia Events Marketing Services for public relations about the loan scheme. Again Minister Tarpeh said Madam Wolokollie unilaterally picked the service provider. This time he co-signed the check to effect payment.

He noted that those were the only two withdrawals from the account-a total of US\$41,596, leaving a balance of 958,403.2 of what should have been the loan guarantee. He said those were the only two withdrawals that were allowed because they were in line with the loan program.

A bank statement dated as at July 3, 2020 revealed the account has a balance of 957,582.34 following bank charges. The statement shows only two withdrawals in the combined amount of 41, 596.

Minister Tarpeh questioned the dishonesty of Madam Wolokollie saying how she could tell such a blatant lie that she knows nothing about the account when in fact she co-signed the only two withdrawals.

Mr. Tarpeh insisted with documents presented to this paper that he has no contact with any of the loan beneficiaries and in fact the bank used its own credit standards to disburse the loans to those who have received so far and that no cash is being distributed within the ministry as being

insinuated by Madam Wolokollie.

GAC Invite

In the wake of high public sentiments surrounding the SBPDF loan scheme, and the joining of Madam Wolokollie's campaign by some prominent women who feel that their colleague is being maligned by officials at the Ministry of Commerce, on Wednesday July 15, 2020, Minister Tarpeh wrote the GAC to conduct a full audit of the loan program.

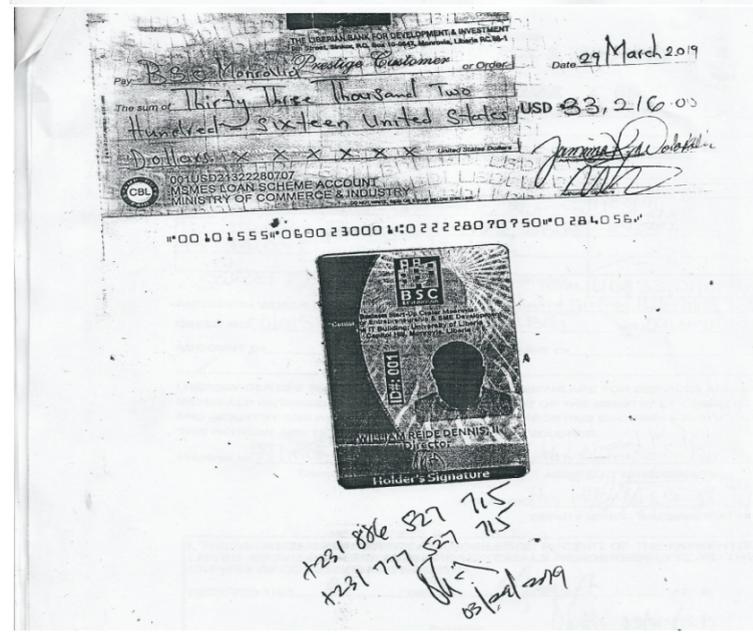
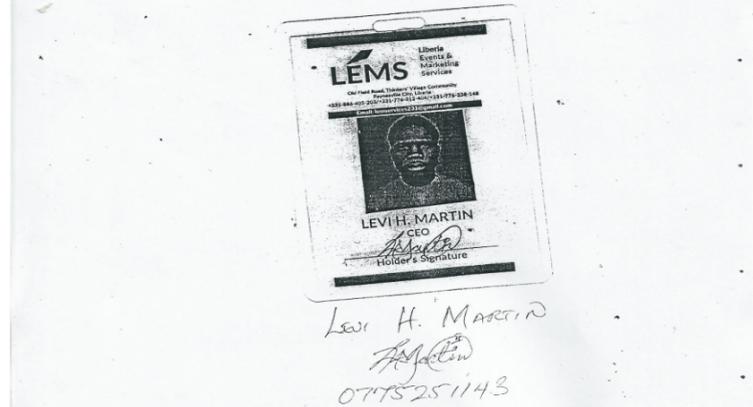
Excerpts of the letter dated July 15, 2020 reads: "The Ministry of Commerce and Industry presents its compliments. As you may be aware in 2018, H. E. Dr. George Manneh Weah officially

launched the Small Business Pro-Poor Development Fund (SBPDF), to support Liberian owned small, medium enterprises.

The initial startup amount was US\$1,000,000.00 (One Million United States Dollars), which was matched with an additional US\$1,000,000.00 (One Million United States Dollars) by the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment.

In view of the above, I am kindly requesting your good office to conduct a full audit on the above program as at June 30, 2020. Thus the program is being managed and operated by the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment.

I and members of my financial team at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will be available for any meeting deem necessary that will assist you with the audit process."



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“I will Resign if...”

-Deputy Speaker Moye

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong

Liberia's Deputy House Speaker Prince Kermue Moye has threatened to resign his post as Deputy Speaker if any documentation proves that he ever denounced his membership with the former ruling Unity Party (UP).

Mr. Moye's statement

comes amid serious political discussions on social media by some of his critics from Bong County, suggesting that no lawmaker from the county has remained with a political upon ascending to the Legislature.

But Moye challenges those making such claim to provide evidence that he left the Unity Party for any political party in the country.

Moye insists that he still maintains his membership with the Unity Party since he joined ranks with the party prior to his election as Representative of Jorquelleh District #2.

He states that he has always influenced the collaboration of other political parties with the UP without denouncing his membership with the party.

But he alleges that some of his critics have on countless occasions denounced their membership with their political parties during election periods, though he did not say who are those he is referring to.

According to Mr. Moye, he has always been a staunch partisan of the Unity Party despite the number of high ranked positions he continues to occupy at the Legislature.

Deputy Speaker Moye terms the claim as a devil-minded idea from politicians.
-Edited by Winston W. Parley



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Real Madrid top Villarreal to claim La Liga crown

Real Madrid wrapped up the title in LaLiga with a game to spare thanks to a classy victory over Villarreal. Karim Benzema scored a goal in each half as Real Madrid clinched a 34th LaLiga title with a 2-1 victory over Villarreal.

The Frenchman's 20th and 21st league goals - the second of which came from a contentious penalty - of the season ultimately earned a win at Estadio Alfredo Di Stefano that meant Barcelona's result

against Osasuna was rendered immaterial.

Zinedine Zidane's men were in control against game opponents until Vicente Iborra's late header made for a nervy finish, but a 10th straight win since LaLiga's resumption means Madrid are champions with a game to spare. Benzema has scored seven times in that run and it was fitting his contribution should round out their title success given the striker's goals and a solid defensive base have been the



pillars of Madrid's campaign. This game did not initially look like being the banana skin it had the potential to be and it felt a matter of time before Madrid found an opening, albeit bar Luka Modric's long-range drive their early endeavours proved fruitless. The opener arrived after 29 minutes, though. Casemiro picked off Sofian Chakla's pass and Modric quickly laid into the path of Benzema, who drilled through the legs of Sergio Asenjo.

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