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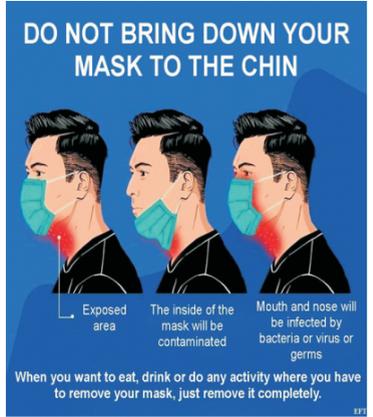
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# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT



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# Tweah lies on Ellen?

Pres. Weah

Min. Tweah

Ex-Pres. Sirleaf

**P11**

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# Continental News

## Wrecked Mauritius oil spill ship breaks in two

A Japanese bulk carrier that has leaked hundreds of tonnes of fuel oil off the Mauritius coast has broken apart, authorities in the island nation say.

The MV Wakashio ran aground on a coral reef on 25 July with 4,000 tonnes of the fuel, causing an ecological emergency.

Most of the fuel had already been pumped out, officials said, but on Saturday the ship's condition worsened.

Mauritius is home to world-renowned coral reefs, and popular with tourists.

The MV Wakashio ran aground at Pointe d'Esnay, a known sanctuary for rare wildlife. The area also contains wetlands designated as a site of international importance by the Ramsar convention on wetlands.

"At around 4.30pm [12:30 GMT], a major detachment of the vessel's forward section was observed," the Mauritius



Aerial footage showed the remains of the MV Wakashio

National Crisis Committee said in a statement on Saturday. About 90 tonnes of the fuel were believed to be still on board when the vessel split.

The committee said booms had been reinforced near the vessel to absorb any more oil

that leaked out. Coast guard vessels have been positioned in the area.

Mauritius has said it will seek compensation for the leak from "the owner and the insurer". Japanese firm Nagashiki Shipping has

pledged to respond to requests for compensation. Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth said in recent days that more than 3,000 of the 4,000 tonnes of oil from the ship's fuel reservoirs had been pumped out. The removed fuel has been transferred to shore by helicopter and to another ship owned by the same Japanese firm. One of the best assessments of the spill has come via Earth observation assets.

The US analytics company Ursa Space Systems looked at the situation using radar data from the Finnish Iceye satellites, which are especially effective at picking out oil on water. It found a 27 sq km spill by 11 August. BBC World Service environment correspondent Navid Singh Khadka says a spill three times the size of this was averted. Nevertheless a uniquely biodiversity-rich marine ecosystem has been polluted with nearly 1,000 tonnes of fuel oil.

Last week, Mr Jugnauth declared a state of emergency and appealed for international help.

Since then, volunteers have also been collecting straw from fields and filling sacks to make barriers against the oil.

Others have made their own tubes with tights and hair to add to the effort, and some have been cleaning up the island's beaches.

Their actions went against an order from the government asking people to leave the clean-up to local authorities. Greenpeace Africa has warned that "thousands" of animal species were "at risk of drowning in a sea of pollution, with dire consequences for Mauritius's economy, food security and health".

An oceanographer and environmental engineer in Mauritius, Vassen Kauppamuthoo, told the BBC that local residents were now "breathing heavy vapours of oil", and there was a "mixture of sadness and anger" over the spill. Police in Mauritius say they have been granted a search warrant, allowing them to board the vessel to take away items of interest such as the ship's log book in order to help with an investigation. The ship's captain will assist officers with their search. BBC

## Zimbabwe rejects criticism by Catholic bishops

Zimbabwe's government has dismissed a letter by Roman Catholic bishops highlighting corruption, poverty and human rights abuses.

"There is no crisis, political or otherwise," said Information Secretary Nick Mangwana.

He accused the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishop's Conference (ZCBC) of joining groups seeking "to manufacture

crises". The bishops had called for an urgent resolution to the country's economic and political challenges.

"The struggle in Zimbabwe, has resulted in a multi-layered crisis of convergence of economic collapse, deepening poverty, food insecurity and human rights abuses," said seven bishops from the Zimbabwe's main cities and towns in a letter released on Friday.

"Corruption in the country has reached alarming levels," they added.

Zimbabweans have been protesting against alleged government corruption and a deepening economic crisis with inflation running at more than 700%.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has, however, blamed his political opponents of working with foreigners to try to destabilise the country. He called them "bad apples" and warned that he will "flush" them out.

His government has recently attracted heavy criticism over a crackdown targeting anti-government protesters which has resulted in several people being assaulted and arrested. Prominent journalist Hopewell Chin'ono was charged last month with inciting public violence. He is still in detention after being denied bail.

He had exposed alleged corruption in the health ministry during the purchase of medical supplies to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

Images of police assaulting protesters have been shared online sparking a global

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campaign using the hashtag #ZimbabweanLivesMatter to highlight rights abuses. "Fear runs down the spine of many of our people today. The crackdown of dissent is unprecedented," the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishop's Conference said in their letter.

"Voices of various governments, the European Union, the African Union, and the UN on the desperate situation in Zimbabwe have not only confirmed the seriousness of the human rights breaches by government agents but the need to rally behind #ZimbabweanLivesMatter," they said.

But writing in the state-owned The Herald newspaper, Mr Mangwana defended the government.

"Zimbabwe, like most countries in the world, is currently grappling with challenges attendant to illegal sanctions, drought and the coronavirus pandemic," he said.

He said President Mnangagwa had demonstrated his commitment to fight

corruption, highlighting the arrest of high profile individuals and strengthening of anti-corruption bodies.

The information secretary also said the bishops had ignored the impact that close to two decades of economic sanctions had had on the country.

However, his senior colleague, Information Minister Monica Mutsvangwa, was scathing in her criticism of the church leaders, particularly of ZCBC's president Archbishop Robert Ndlovu from the minority Ndebele ethnic group.

She described him as "evil minded", and accused him of fanning ethnic division and made comparisons to the role of the Church in the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Opposition party MDC Alliance called the comments "incendiary hate speech" and "unacceptable".

"The singling out of a Ndebele archbishop... is discrimination on tribal grounds," tweeted MDC-Alliance spokeswoman Fadzayi Mahere, warning against the reviving of Zimbabwe's "history of genocide". BBC



Police have been accused of strong-arm tactics against anti-government protesters

# EDITORIAL

## Minister Samuel Tweah is now campaign manager

IT HAS BECOME very glaring that Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah has become campaign manager for the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change senatorial aspirant for Montserrado County, Thomas P. Fallah.

WHILE MINISTER TWEAH has all rights to support a candidate of his choice in the impending December 8th midterm senatorial election, but leaving his basic schedules as Ministry of Finance to personally accompany incumbent Representative Thomas Fallah into communities like he has done recently in Amagashie, Chocolate City, Battery Factory, Plank Field community, and other areas is not only despicable, but officially unnecessary for his status.

WE AGREE THAT the governing CDC, which both Tweah and Fallah are members of, is desperate to reclaim the Montserrado County senatorial seat from incumbent Senator Abraham Darius Dillon of the opposition Liberty Party. But for the Minister of Finance to present himself as the public face of Rep. Fallah, who has suddenly become a philanthropist, dishing out millions of Liberian dollars to various communities, creates room for suspicions and perceptions.

EVEN WORST, THIS is happening at the time when the National Elections Commission has not officially declared campaign open for the midterm senatorial elections. The Minister of Finance has already begun to make campaign promises to residents of communities visited, pledging development that had never been thought of in the three years of this administration.

WITH THE SUDDEN dishing out of cash to voters, even before the official campaign, it is now glaring that Rep. Thomas Fallah will become the most financially prepared candidate in the race for Montserrado County, given the visible involvement of Minister Samuel Tweah.

THE PUBLIC MAY never get to know how many millions are being budgeted by the ruling establishment just to win in Montserrado County and it would be very difficult, if not impossible to clearly distinguish whether such resources are public money or private strength in an election.

HOWEVER, WHAT IS very clear is that the current Tweah-Fallah collaboration is just a tip of the iceberg of things to expect when official campaign shall have started for the senatorial polls.

THIS IS NO joke, Liberians are on the verge of witnessing one of the politically unfair campaign ever in the nation's history, where the ruling party, armed with national resources is gearing up to go against highly disadvantaged and poorly prepared opponents. This is not the kind of democracy the people envisaged under the CDC-led government that is organizing these elections.

IF OUR FINANCE Minister is leading Fallah's campaign at this early stage, what would be the role of the Inspector General of Police, who has been accused consistently of running a partisan police force? Memories are still fresh on our minds of the recent violence in Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County, a stronghold of the CDC where stone-throwing and machete-wielding youths chased opposition leader Alexander Cummings and Montserrado County District#10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah out of the county.

WE ARE HIGHLIGHTING these concerns so that our leaders should realize that they are no longer in opposition, but now control power and they have a duty to exercise power discretely for the peace and confidence of all within the law.

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# COMMENTARY

By Philippe Le Houérou

## Priorities for Saving the Private Sector

*With investment plummeting across the developing world, governments urgently must extend assistance to the private sector to ensure a strong recovery when the time comes. Given that resources are strained, policymakers should approach the problem with three guiding principles in mind.*

WASHINGTON, DC - For most countries, navigating the protracted economic slump brought on by COVID-19 is starting to look more like a marathon than a sprint. According to our estimates at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), domestic private investment and foreign direct investment in emerging economies will fall this year by almost \$700 billion and \$250 billion, respectively, and may not return to pre-crisis levels until 2023.

Worse, the crisis is exacting a massive toll on the world's poor and most vulnerable, jeopardizing decades of hard-won development gains. The World Bank warns that we are about to witness the first increase in global poverty since 1998, with up to 100 million people being pushed into extreme poverty.

How governments and firms navigate this uncertain period between shock and recovery will determine whether there is a sound economic foundation upon which to revive employment, long-term growth, and global development efforts. The situation demands that we reorganize and fix markets. Many companies have had no choice but to reshape their business models, now that the pandemic is accelerating changes in how we work, consume, and communicate. These trends could reshape entire industries, creating opportunities for those with the innovative capacity.

But governments, too, must seek creative ways to adapt their economies and protect viable firms, while quickly unwinding those that should disappear because they are insolvent or obsolete. This will be a time of trial and error, requiring strategic vision and pragmatism on the part of business and political leaders.

Countries can do three things to speed up the recovery. The first task is to adapt the rules of the game to new realities. A prolonged crisis means that emerging economies will increasingly find themselves ill equipped to help thousands of companies renegotiate their debts. In many low-income countries, an insolvency proceeding averages more than three years, a half-year longer than the global norm. But with informal out-of-court mechanisms and simplified court proceedings, governments can give viable businesses an opportunity to weather the storm and avoid lengthy legal processes and costly and cumbersome negotiations. Developing countries can also increase the threshold for insolvency and adapt debt-restructuring rules to prevent unnecessary liquidation of firms that are struggling for no other reason than lockdowns.

Second, governments must adopt a "do-no-harm" principle when organizing their responses. Wherever possible, the public sector should limit or simply suspend its arrears to private contractors, especially in

job-rich sectors and critical supply chains. That will mitigate the damage to balance sheets, prevent viable businesses from going bankrupt, and limit the kind of ripple effects that could delay the recovery.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, public-sector arrears represent 3.3% of GDP. Clearing them could create the equivalent of a large stimulus package. At the same time, decision-makers should resist the temptation to use much-needed public money to prop up "zombie" firms with unviable business models. Achieving a strong recovery will require a level playing field for private companies.

Finally, all countries need to think strategically about their spending. Some sectors and industries should be retooled, and others should be phased out. For example, as countries and markets shift toward lower-carbon forms of energy and production, it would be counterproductive to continue subsidizing energy-inefficient industries.

Now is the time to start creating and nurturing the businesses of tomorrow. There are many key areas to choose from, including "green" value chains, recyclable personal protective equipment, resilient tourism, and gender-balanced work environments. In countries with large gaps in access to digital financial services, embracing technologies such as mobile money and artificial intelligence could hasten the process of digitalization, setting the stage for robust growth.

But if these countries are to attract investors, they will need to create opportunities - starting now. That is why IFC has made it a high priority to help lay the foundations for boosting private investment and private-sector growth in the developing world. Accelerating private investment will require policy and regulatory reforms to create the right conditions for business, and to generate bankable projects. This was true before the pandemic, and the urgency of reform is even greater now.

Development practitioners, for their part, need to step up their efforts to foster investable opportunities. That means restructuring and recapitalizing firms, investing equity in support of growing businesses and start-ups, and promoting public-private partnerships to attract investors back to emerging and developing countries. To that end, rather than passively waiting for investors, development-finance institutions need to approach them directly with investment proposals, which would generate feasibility studies and get the ball rolling on various opportunities.

The economic downturn from COVID-19 will inevitably affect many sectors and jobs. But there is hope yet for a strong recovery, provided we learn from past crises. Policymakers need to muster all their creativity to keep the private sector afloat, and to prepare companies for the return to growth.

## O-PED

By Anders Åslund

## The Economic Factor in Belarus

*Because international investors have avoided Belarus and its authoritarian regime, the country has long suffered economic stagnation. But all the signs suggest that the rot is concentrated at the top, which implies that a change in political leadership could really change everything.*

**S**TOCKHOLM - Following a fraudulent election on August 9, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko's authoritarian rule may soon come to an end. Massive protests are sweeping the country, and workers from many critical sectors going on strike. And if Lukashenko falls, Belarus's prospects for establishing a normal market economy are surprisingly strong.

Under Lukashenko, Belarus has maintained a Soviet-style, state-dominated economy that has been stagnating since 2012. Lukashenko, in power since 1994, has concerned himself with nothing other than remaining in charge and enabling his family and a close circle of cronies to enrich themselves. The public sector comprises three-quarters of the economy, which is highly dependent on heavy industry and dominated by just a few big state-owned enterprises (SOEs). The five most important enterprises - the potash company Belaruskali, the two largest oil refineries, the Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ), and the Minsk Automobile Plant (MAZ) - tend to be subsidized and inefficient, and the economy overall is heavily regulated.

Belarus's economy has remained highly dependent on Russia. Its low-quality industrial goods are not competitive in the West, so it relies on Russia to buy them, while selling the West potash and refined oil. Until recently, Russia was subsidizing the Belarusian economy by furnishing cheap energy worth some 10% of the latter's GDP. But, with bilateral relations deteriorating in recent years, the Kremlin has gradually eliminated these subsidies in order to pressure Lukashenko's regime.

Lukashenko has said that he wants all Belarusians to earn an average wage of \$500 per month. But, because that is more than the economy can support, the country has suffered recurring foreign-exchange crises. In 2009-10, Belarus received a bailout from the International Monetary Fund, but the government violated the terms of the arrangement and has since received no funding. By the end of 2011, inflation had surged to 109%, at which point Russia came to Lukashenko's assistance.

Since then, Lukashenko has tried unsuccessfully to appeal to both Russia and the West for financial support. For the European Union, Belarus is a delicate issue. While EU leaders want to defend democratic principles, which implies punishing Lukashenko and his cronies for their repeated violations, they want to maintain some leverage in the country, and thus have been careful not to force Lukashenko into Russian President Vladimir Putin's arms.

After Lukashenko released all of Belarus's political prisoners in 2016, the EU lifted its personal sanctions against him, and the IMF, the World Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) started cautiously re-engaging with the country. The United States, however, has maintained its personal sanctions against Lukashenko.

The Belarusian economy cries out for liberalization and privatization, and it has the basic ingredients for launching such a process. The country has many assets, and it has maintained the best of the Soviet education system, offering excellent training in mathematics and natural sciences. Despite being under authoritarian rule, Belarus has become the home of a substantial software industry. And many of the large diaspora are ready to return when the time is right.

Moreover, Belarus stood out in the Soviet era as one of the best-functioning of the 15 Union Republics, and that has remained true, with Lukashenko tolerating capable technocrats across all ministries. As a result, Belarus still has the best state administration of any former Soviet republic, including a competent central bank and ministry of finance. To take one recent example, while Lukashenko was dismissing the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Health was reporting data on cases meticulously to the World Health Organization. Insofar as there is political rot in Belarus, it seems to be concentrated mostly at the very top of the system.

Not surprisingly, international investors have largely avoided Belarus (though it did manage to raise \$1.25 billion in Eurobonds in late June). But precisely because Lukashenko has never been able to attract much international financing, the country's total public debt amounts to only \$18 billion - or 29% of GDP - according to the finance ministry.

With annual inflation under control, at about 5%, and with all the relevant international financial institutions already re-engaged, Belarus is well positioned to make the shift to a properly functioning market economy. Under new leadership, it should be able to attract enough international funding to maintain macroeconomic stability, and its well-educated, highly disciplined workforce would finally be able to realize its potential. Fortunately, lifting the existing price regulations on around one-fifth of Belarusian consumer goods and liberalizing domestic trade should be relatively easy. Belarus's strong macroeconomic institutions can manage the inflationary pressure.

Subsidies to SOEs will need to be curbed as well. Here, too, Belarus benefits from the fact that, unlike other post-Soviet countries, there are no oligarchs and little sign of state capture by big businessmen. Most of the complaints about corruption are concentrated within the narrow circle surrounding Lukashenko.

But these starting conditions could make privatization more difficult, simply because there are no big private companies to serve as a model. If the bulk of inefficient SOEs are sold on the market, Belarusians fear that risk-loving Russian businessmen will swoop in to snatch them all up at fire-sale prices.

After all, the Russian potash company Uralkali has long tried to take over Belaruskali, and the Russian petrochemical giants Rosneft and Lukoil have their eyes on Belarus's two big oil refineries. Given these risks, the best option is probably to give away most enterprises in the form of individual shares to their current employees.

Whatever is decided, the West should stay engaged. If Lukashenko falls, Belarus will need an IMF program as soon as a new government is installed, and the World Bank and the EBRD would be needed to assist with deregulation and privatization.

The EU will also have a role to play. It should welcome a new government by activating its Eastern Partnership program for Belarus, and invite Belarusian students to participate in the Erasmus student-exchange program. The importance of such civilian engagement in deterring or neutralizing Russian interference must not be underestimated.

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## OPINION

By Slawomir Sierakowski

## Belarus's Moment of Truth

*While the Belarusian security apparatus has stepped up its violence against peaceful protesters, the demonstrations themselves have evolved to maintain the moral high ground. There is no longer any question that President Alexander Lukashenko has lost any remaining shred of legitimacy.*

**M**INSK - The protests that have roiled Belarus since Sunday's stolen presidential election are evolving, with mass demonstrations giving way to more dispersed mobilizations on the model pioneered in Hong Kong. Because such "liquid" protests arise spontaneously and quickly gather massive numbers of participants, they are much harder for the state to suppress.

But that may not matter, because the authorities are also shifting their approach, replacing merely defensive tactics with offensive measures aimed at intimidation. After suppressing the initial protests on Sunday and Monday, the police have been lining the streets of Minsk, blocking off many areas and selectively stopping passing cars to detain and beat their drivers.

Only by luck did I avoid a similar fate on Tuesday night while hitching a ride around Minsk. Since then, I have witnessed many beatings and have recorded many instances of security forces dispersing protesters with gunfire, as well as documenting the injuries caused by their liberal use of rubber bullets.

The security forces' intent in dragging drivers out of their cars is clearly to make an example of them. The choice of victims may even be strategic, at least in cases where police have stopped young men who might have joined the protests had they not had the idea beaten out of them.

The protests have been dispersed across several locations in Minsk, including Pushkinskaya, the Kamennaya Horka neighborhood, and the Riga shopping center, where barricades are going up. These three locations have become a kind of tripartite Maidan Square - the heart of the 2014 protests in Kiev that brought down Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

On the third day of the protests, the area around Pushkinskaya was covered with flowers to commemorate the victims who had been beaten and shot. Whereas the police had managed to block the intersection from all sides on Tuesday, by Wednesday a group of women protesters had claimed the area.

Wednesday was the moment of truth, and most demonstrators appeared not to have been cowed by the official violence. Women took the lead, organizing a large "Women Against Violence" demonstration. They lined Victors Avenue, Minsk's main thoroughfare, with their arms outstretched, flashing the victory/peace sign. Passing drivers honked their horns in support. Some women courageously held these positions all day.

Women also conducted a softer, more fluid form of protest around various city squares, rather than provoking a direct confrontation with baton- and gun-wielding police. And doctors protested outside of hospitals, dressed in white coats and holding banners calling for an end to the state violence.

In both cases, the tactic was designed to sharpen the moral difference between the two sides by posing an implicit question to the security forces: "Will you attack us, too? Will you beat us, too?" The riot police, not knowing what to do, did little. And when they did try to move against the women occupying the intersection at Pushkinskaya metro station, they did not dare attack them outright. Across Minsk, cars have been deliberately driving at a mere 20-30 kilometers per hour (12-18 mph) in order to create gridlock and block the police.

The protest movement has quickly gotten better at anticipating police tactics and reacting peacefully, despite the security forces' escalating violence. At around 2 a.m. Wednesday morning, I saw dozens of armored cars and buses full of riot police, and it was estimated around 7,000 people had already been arrested - which also means beaten - including several dozen journalists. In Gomel, so many people have been arrested that police vehicles are being used to detain them for lack of space. Under these high-temperature conditions, one young man died.

Security forces are also now using live ammunition against the protesters. Unlike in Ukraine in 2014, where paid thugs in civilian attire assailed protesters in Maidan Square, the Belarusian police have taken this task upon themselves. Many demonstrators suspect that the Belarusian police ranks include troops sent from Russia, but I cannot confirm this.

It is clear that Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko's characteristically crude methods are poorly adapted to these new forms of protests. His regime is just as unprepared for the appearance of women and physician demonstrators as it was for a widely popular presidential campaign led by a woman challenger, Svetlana Tikhanovskaya. Neither Lukashenko nor his cronies knew what to do about Tikhanovskaya, so they resorted to shutting off the Internet and closing the stadiums where she was scheduled to speak.

Since the election, however, the opposition may be gaining the upper hand. As the protests have continued this week, many police officers have shed their uniforms and declared that they will not brutalize their fellow citizens. Similarly, in Grodno, when a regime apparatchik tried to organize workers to proclaim their support for Lukashenko, they all shouted Tikhanovskaya's name instead. That sentiment seems

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# LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

With Jones Mallay

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## Did Madam Jewel Taylor and Laymah Gbowee failed miserably to fight Systemic Sexual Abuses and Gross Domestic Violence Against Innocent Liberian Children, Girls, and Women Legally in Liberia?

Post-war Liberia has raised a dramatic and indisputable profile of several unique women personalities across Liberia. Few among the most prominent and celebrated are 48-years old Layman Roberta Gbowee, a Nobel Peace Laureate, a trauma counselor, a peace activist, founder/president of the Gbowee's Peace Foundation Africa; and head of the Women Peace and Security Network Africa based in Ghana and Madam Jewel Howard Taylor, the 57-years old, current Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, former Senator of Bong County, ex-wife of the then notoriously known convicted war criminal Charles Gankay Taylor, and a zealous and active founding member and chairperson of the Notorious National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), which subsequently gave birth to the National Patriotic Party (NPP) which now has a very staunch political ties with the Congress For Democratic Change (CDC) in a shakable political Coalition.

Liberia is definitively sinking gradually in a much deeper and much greater human calamity in the form of a social warfare mounted fearlessly against innocent and vulnerable children, girls, and women especially under the watchful eyes of the government of the Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), which Madam Taylor's NPP is a beneficiary.

It is beyond description to see Liberia being terribly and unconditionally engulfed with infested dangerous sexual and domestic violence male-predictors who are persistently vandalizing innocent children, women, and girls and walks away majestically with strong and unstoppable impunity.

Angry sources in Liberia who are in acknowledgment of this dangerous and ongoing menace, revealed that sexual and domestic violence is at the highs of Liberian society, since the Liberian civil carnage ended technically around 2015 and practically in 2016. Since then, there has been a Sharpe increased in sexual and domestic violence at a huge magnitude.

The angry sources further lamented that in 2016, there were 700 sexually assaulted cases and UP under the then President Sirleaf did nothing. In 2018 there were 1,145 and the CDC did nothing. In 2019 there were 2,590 cases and the CDC did nothing. The beginning of early 2020 there had been over 500 cases and the CDC is doing nothing. These terrible figures do not include records on women brutalities and summary killings by evil men across Liberia.

Some political skeptics wonder as to what had been the consolidated and moral standing of past and present governments in Liberia, which also includes the then President Sirleaf's government and the present CDC led government under President Weah? It appears that the issues of sexual assaults coupled with a much deeper and unreportable domestic violence cases have now become the new norm in the Republic of Liberia with a lot of talking, with little or no action taken legally to grab those nefarious men and have them placed in cages.

This is also a clear massive failure on the part of the Ministries of Gender, Internal affairs, Justice, and the Liberia National Police Force whose priorities are far from protecting children girls and women from the deadly hands of sexual predictors across Liberia.

With such massive institutional failures, on the part of the current government of Liberia under President Weah to cultivate the will needed to identify and put behind bars those sexual deviants who are still parading confidently in towns and cities across the countryside of Liberia. However, two renounced personalities who are not expected to fail on this matter in the persons of Madam Laymah Roberta Gbowee and Madam Jewel Howard Taylor are rather the most disappointing in all of these unthinkable scenarios due to their huge inactiveness to take some concrete and legal actions against the LNPF, Gender, Internal Affairs, and Justice Ministries, rather than constantly visiting and consoling families and parents whose child or children had been visually vandalized in all manner of gross disrespect by parading evil minds across Liberia.

Madam Laymah Roberta Gbowee and Madam Jewel Howard Taylor are few of our most wonderful and celebrated iconic mothers, dependable sisters, guaranteed and forceful activists and officials in Liberia. They are very significant personalities in the Liberian society. Their presence has not been felt among children, girls, and women who have been and continues to be abused systematically, killed or disappeared in silence.

Madam Gbowee did not obtain her Nobel Prize in isolation, she earned it on the back of the Liberian crisis with focused on peacebuilding and a strong emphasis on women's and girls' rights in Liberia. The Nobel Prize was given to her as a national service fee for a job well done. It is simply in recognition of her continues service to fight for women and girls' rights in Liberia. But Madam Gbowee's inactive role since she earned the Noble Prize in 2010 is not in alignment with her objective for which she was awarded the Noble Peace Prize.

Madam Gbowee will need to wake up, because, the International Community especially the Noble committee is keeping eye on her concerning the ongoing abuses of children, girls, and women in Liberia. Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor for her part, should have used her unique office to mount a strong fight against women and girls' continues abuses such as rape, domestic violence, women and girl brutalities, and all sorts of other abuses but to no avail, she is even sleeping three times then the most fearless forest lions.

VP President Jewel Taylor had not used her office legally to fight the growing abuses against children, girls, and women in many respects. The VP's constant quest to identify herself with many victims of rapes and domestic violence cases in Liberia. It is a good mood, but not necessarily a timely one, considering the alarming abuses being mounted against children, girls and women in Liberia. Madam Taylor will need to put in place some form of strong legal framework through which cruel men are identified and punished legally for abusing children, girls, and women in Liberia. It is not too late for these unique personalities to show case in their fight against this social calamity.

# Senators want GAC audit staffers' payroll

By Ethel A Tweh

Majority of the Senators on Capitol Hill are in agreement with a committee's recommendation to have the staffers' payroll audited by the General Auditing Commission (GAC).

The Liberian Senate debated the committee's report Thursday, 13 August in relation to their staffers' salaries.

Senators Varney Sherman, Johnathan Kaipay and Commany Wesseh, among others, say the GAC need to conduct a comprehensive audit on the staffers' payroll to determine who are those that are working and the ghost names that are on the payroll.

For his part, Sinoe County Senator J. Milton Teahjay says he is in agreement

(CSA) and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to tell the Senate if its staffers' Liberian dollars salaries were actually cut off.

Senator Dillon is a member of the ad hoc committee set up to investigate the staffers' payroll. He says he has in his possession a video that some officials from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the CSA told some of the aggrieved staffers that the Liberian dollars component of their salaries were not cut off.

He also says they have been telling their staffers that their Liberian dollars were cut off but the video seems contrary, thereby asking plenary to cite those two agencies to tell the Liberian Senate and their staffers what actually



Spokesperson Charles Brown

with the recommendation for the GAC to take over the audit.

But he fears that when the ghost names are discovered, the Senate will be forced to fire those people, noting that this will not give the Senate a good face.

"We are politicians and we are in political season. If we fire those that will be discovered, the public will not understand it that way. They will say instead of us who should be promoting employment are the ones taking jobs from people and it might go against us," Senator Teahjay claims.

Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon however says the plenary of the Liberian Senate should invite the Civil Service Agency

happened to the salaries.

Also speaking, Senator Saah Joseph says the Senate needs to submit its staffers' payroll to the CSA so that the staffers can be permanent employees.

He however says their colleagues at the House of Representatives have already submitted their staffers' payroll to the CSA, urging the Liberian Senate to do the same.

Meanwhile, the presiding Officer Senator Albert Chie of Grand Kru County says the committee should carry on its work as he takes into consideration all the suggestions made by the Senators.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

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# Liberia to conduct fish stock assessment

The Director General of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) Emma Metieh Glassco has disclosed that Liberia is to shortly conduct its first ever comprehensive independent national fisheries stock assessment.

a means of obtaining a strong national fisheries independent data set to verify regional stock survey data as well as form a strong basis for fully maximizing the socio-economic potential of fisheries resources.

According to a press release from NaFAA, the first independent stock assessment,

national fisheries stock assessment in the Liberian waters.

Making the disclosure over the weekend in Marshall City, lower Margibi County, she said, "There has over the years existed a critical need for an independent national fisheries stock assessment in the Liberian waters so as to gather scientific data over the actual biomass of the fisheries stocks".

Madam Glassco stated that the Guinean government in a communication to Liberia mentioned "they have carefully analyzed Liberia's request for technical cooperation and assured that they have the capability to accomplish said request for fish stocks assessment in Liberia".

She said Guinea National Center for Fisheries Science of Boussoura is now proposing that Liberia develop a possible partnership agreement between the two countries in charge of marine resources.

Guinea is planning to dispatch a delegation to Liberia to hold discussions with NaFAA leadership to schedule for the execution of the project.

Madam Glassco recalled that the last regional fish



NaFAA Boss, Emma Metieh Glassco

Independent assessments conducted on the Liberian fish stock up to date have been done at regional level by international partners, usually for a few days and on few species of concern within the region.

An independent national stock assessment will provide

which will result to a big economic boost for Liberia, will be implemented as a result of a negotiation with the government of the Republic of Guinea.

DG Glassco said the Government of Guinea has officially agreed to conduct the comprehensive independent

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

# Pleebo marketers to boycott elections

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland

With daily increase of food prices in Maryland County, marketers there say they would boycott the pending

rice in Maryland is currently being sold between 4,700 Liberia dollars and 5,000LD due to several constrains cited by importers in the county, including bad roads and high

Maryland Electoral District #2, a local rice seller, ServinaWion said, it is worrisome the price of rice continues to skyrocket.

According to her, the



senatorial unless retail price of a 25kg bag of rice is sold for either 2,500 or 3000 Liberian dollars in the county.

The price of a 25kg bag of

taxes.

Speaking last week Wednesday, August 12, during regular market hours in the Pleebo General Market in

increment of price and taxes is seriously hampering petty traders, who survive from

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

# Pres. Weah receives report from NPHIL probe committee

President George Manneh Weah has received report from the special investigative committee tasked to probe reported breaches in the health and administrative protocols which guide the issuance of Covid-19 test results by the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL).

According to an Executive Mansion release dated Friday, 14 August, the committee headed by Dr. Linda Birch, President of Liberia Medical and Dental Council (LMDC), presented its report on Friday, 14 August.

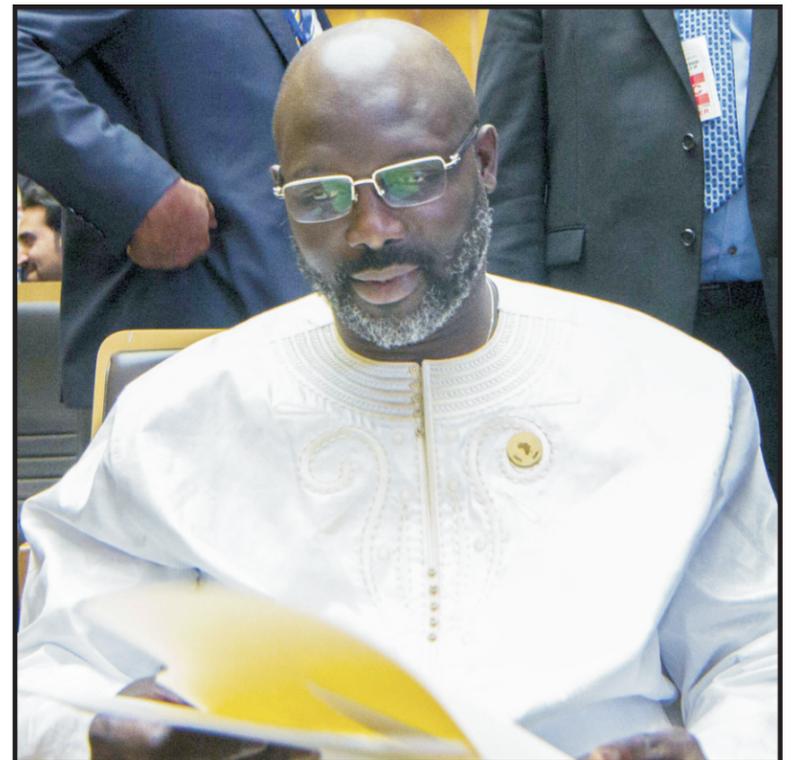
The release says Dr. Birch thanked President Weah for

taken in order to remedy the situation.

Other members of the committee were Minister of Justice, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mawine Diggs and a representative each from the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO).

President Weah suspended for time indefinite, the Director General of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia Dr. Mosoka Fallah for ethical, professional and administrative lapses.

He also asked Dr. Fallah to cooperate with the investigative committee, while Dr. Patrick Kpanyan, Deputy Director General of NHPIL act



giving her the opportunity to chair the committee, saying the report is comprehensive and includes findings and recommendations.

"Here is the report in keeping with the mandate given us. This report is also accompanied by evidence", she pointed out.

Having received the report, President Weah thanks Dr. Birch and the entire committee for carrying out the task.

"I will go through the report keenly and do what is best as the health and welfare of Liberians and residents alike remain paramount", President Weah says.

The committee was charged with the responsibility of finding out whether there have been systemic breaches in the reporting procedure of COVID-19 results and recommend actions to be

during the course of the suspension.

President Weah set up the special investigative committee in the wake of several allegations in recent weeks against health authorities by aggrieved individuals who were tested for Coronavirus as part of the protocols governing travels.

It also followed a meeting the President held on Monday, 10 August with key health stakeholders and international partners supporting the country's COVID-19 response.

The committee was given 72 hours to submit its findings.

The President said while he commends health practitioners for the positive work so far in curbing the spread of COVID - 19 in the country, he will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the health and welfare of Liberians remain paramount.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# 150 countries benefit from India medical supplies

**--As Liberia receives drugs to combat Covid-19**

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Government of Liberia (GoL) over the weekend received an assorted medical supply from the Government of India to combat the novel Coronavirus pandemic in Liberia.

India which is also affected by the virus has supplied medicines to at least 150 countries including Liberia.

On behalf of Indian Ambassador to Ivory Coast Y. K. SailasThangal, the India

both developed and under - developed.

Jeety points out that the medical donation comprises a total of 480,000 pieces of medicines, including 450,000 tablets, 20,000 infusions and 10,000 injections.

He names some of the medicines as Metronidazole 5 mg / ml infusion, Levocetirizine 5mg, Montelukast 10mg, Ceftriaxone 500mg (injection), Ceftriaxone 1 GM, (injection), Chloroquine tab, Paracetamol 500mg tab,

from the Government of India will again be delivered in two weeks to the Government of Liberia to help with the fight against the pandemic.

Receiving the medical supplies on behalf of the Liberian Government, Acting Foreign Minister Henry Fahnbulleh expresses gratitude to the Government of India for the donation which he says came at the time that Liberia is desperately in need of medical supplies to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

He discloses that the Government of India has continued to identify with Liberia, not only doing good times but also in difficult and bad times as well, which is highly commendable.

He notes that the medical supplies will be used to affect the lives of Liberians affected by coronavirus pandemic and other diseases in the country.

For her part, Health Minister Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah who received the medical supplies from Acting Foreign Minister Henry Fahnbulleh says the donated medical supplies will be placed at the central drugs storage facility for onward distribution to the various medical facilities across the country.

She expresses joy that some of the donated supplies are those that are badly needed at health facilities in the country to treat sick people trooping at government-run health facilities during this crucial period of the country's history.

The donation ceremony was graced by other senior government officials, among others, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Consul General to Liberia Jeety presented the medical supplies to Liberia's Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Henry Fahnbulleh at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia.

Jeety says the donation is intended to supply and augment the Government of Liberia's efforts in combating coronavirus pandemic, which has killed roughly a million around the globe, as well as devastating many economies,

and Ibuprofen 400mg tab, among others.

He discloses that the biggest credit for the decision to lend helping hand to Liberia goes to the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, and the Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. S. Jaishankar, through whose instrumentalities the donation was delivered to the Government of Liberia.

He further emphasizes that a second donation of medical supplies of essential medicines

# Man jailed for rape in Maryland County

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland

Thirty-eight years old Daniel Toe has been incarcerated for allegedly raping an 11-year-old minor in Pleebo, Maryland County, southeast Liberia.

On Saturday, August 8, 2020, parents of the victim alerted the Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberia National Police in Pleebo that their daughter had been sexually abused by the suspect.

She was immediately rushed to the Pleebo Health Center in the county where health authorities conducted examination and confirmed penetration.

Narrating the entire ordeal at her resident on Thursday,

sexually abused her.

According to her, she tried shouting for help, but the suspect stuffed bed sheet in her mouth, preventing her alarming.

She said her friend forcibly opened the room before Toe released her, pleading with her not to tell her parents about what had happened, as doing could land him to jail.

Though the suspect denied the allegation when he was arrested by the Liberian National Police Detachment in Pleebo, he spent a night behind bar before being forwarded to the Pleebo Magisterial Court.

While at the Court Tuesday, August 12, the court indicated that suspect Daniel Toe



August 13, the minor said, she went to visit a friend, who is a relative to the suspect in Zone #6, Catholic Missing.

She said while there, suspect Toe, whom she has never had prior acquaintance with, called her friend Ade, to prepare some food for him, something, which the according to her, the friend did.

The victim continued that after the food was ready, Toe ate and she and Ade decided to leave, but the suspect called her (victim) into his room and asked her for sex.

She said she vehemently refused and tried escaping from the room, but fell down at which time suspect Toe

committed statutory rape, which is above its jurisdiction, therefore, transferring him to the Fourth Jurisdiction Court in Harper for trial.

The crime is in violation of Section 14.70 of the Revised Rape law of Liberia which states, A person who has sexual intercourse with another (Male or Female) has committed rape if; (a) He intentionally penetrates the Vagina, Anus, Mouth or any other opening of another person (Male or female) with his penis without the victim's consent.

Penalties include life imprisonment or 10 years sentence, depending on gravity of the crime. —*Editing by Jonathan n Browne*

# Police charge dismissed NTA staff

The Liberia National Police (LNP) has arrested, investigated, charged and forwarded to the Monrovia City Court a dismissed National Transit Authority (NTA) employee Eugene David, 40, with multiple crimes ranging from criminal conspiracy, criminal facilitation and terroristic threat, respectively, following alleged threats against his former boss Herbie McCauley.

According to police, suspect Eugene David was arrested on 12 August based

on a complaint filed by Herbie McCauley, NTA Managing Director on alleged terroristic threat.

Police say they established during their preliminary probe that suspect Eugene David planned to burn complainant McCauley's house and terminate his life.

It was further established, according to police that suspect Eugene David is a dismissed employee of NTA who out of dissatisfaction decided to contact another employee, James Kawah who was also suspended for time- indefinite to assist in the execution of the

plan against complainant McCauley.

But police indicate that James Kawah noticed that the alleged plan was criminal and he did not support such act, thereby contacting the complainant, Herbie McCauley to report the alleged plot.

In view of the alleged plan, coupled with eye witness' account, the police have charged suspect Eugene David with the commission of the crimes criminal conspiracy, criminal facilitation and terroristic threat, respectively and forwarded to

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court over the weekend for prosecution.

The crimes are in violation of Chapter 10 Section 10.4,

Section 10.2 and Chapter 14 Section 14.24 of the Revised Panel Law of the Republic of Liberia, the police say.

# Français

## Le personnel de la vice-présidence dit ignorer que leur patronne Taylor avait été testée positive au Covid-19

Le bureau de la vice-présidente Jewel Howard - Taylor, par la voix de son service de communication, a affirmé qu'il ne sait pas si Mme Taylor a été testée positive au coronavirus. Tout ce qu'il sait c'est qu'elle a des problèmes respiratoires.

Phillip Singbeh, attaché de presse adjoint au bureau de la vice-présidente, a confié

notre correspondant dans le comté de Bong que le rapport médical dont il a connaissance indique que Mme Howard-Taylor souffrait d'une maladie respiratoire. Il ne peut donc confirmer ni nier que sa patronne, est atteinte du Covid-19.

« L'essentiel », a-t-il insisté, « c'est que la vice-présidente Taylor répond positivement à son traitement, selon un

rapport de l'hôpital spécialisé du Ghana où elle est admise ».

M. Singbehne comprend pas pourquoi les détracteurs de la vice-présidente du Libéria lui en veulent pour s'être rendue au Ghana pour se faire soigner. « Les médecins du Libéria ont conseillé à Mme Taylor de se rendre au Ghana pour un traitement approprié. Il est nécessaire parfois que nous cessions de tout politiser et faisons face à la réalité. Après tout, elle n'est pas la seule à se faire soigner à l'étranger », a-t-il déclaré.

Il a invité les Libériens à prier pour la vice-présidente pour un prompt rétablissement, au lieu de se plaindre du fait qu'elle ait quitté le Libéria pour se traiter ailleurs.

Une communication signée par la ministre de la Santé, Dr Wilhemina S. Jallah, indique que la vice-présidente du Libéria, Jewel Howard - Taylor, a été testée positive au COVID - 19 le 10 août, et qu'elle a demandé à quitter le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Des députés exigent la suspension du fonds de fonctionnement de la LACC et le gel du salaire de son président

Des membres de l'Assemblée législative demandent la suspension du financement de la Commission Anti-Corruption du Liberia (LACC) aussi longtemps que son actuel président continuera de demeurer à sa tête.

Dans une communication qu'ils ont adressée à leurs collègues membres de la Chambre des Représentants, les députés Rustonlyn Suacoco Dennis et

Francis Dopoh, respectivement représentants des districts électoraux n° 4 du comté de Montserrado et n° 3 du comté de River Gee, ont demandé que les fonds opérationnels de la LACC soient suspendus et le salaire et les avantages sociaux de Me Nwabudike soient gelés.

La communication qui date du 11 août a cité les controverses qui entourent la nationalité de Nwabudike qui est soupçonné d'avoir acquis la citoyenneté

frauduleusement. Les législateurs estiment que cette affaire a mis en doute l'intégrité de la LACC.

« Nous apprécierions que tous les problèmes entourant la fraude présumée de citoyenneté soient résolus avant que tout décaissement de fonds opérationnels à l'intention de la LACC ne soit fait, car cette affaire pourrait nuire à l'intégrité même de cette institution qui est sensée moraliser la vie publique des fonctionnaires libériens. Veuillez noter en outre que seuls les citoyens libériens ont droit à diriger cette commission », ont écrit les représentants.

A noter qu'il y a quelques jours, le ministre d'Etat aux affaires présidentielles, Nathaniel McGill, avait affirmé que le président Weah n'avait pas l'autorité constitutionnelle de limoger l'actuel président de la LACC car il occupe un poste "permanent".

Le Libérien autoproclamé d'origine nigériane n'a pas réussi à convaincre les libériens comment il a acquis

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Alpha Condé, Alassane Ouattara et la soif du 3ème mandat : Des faits qui expliquent le jeu trouble de la CEDEAO dans la crise togolaise

En 2017, des manifestations populaires réclamant la fin du règne des Gnassingbé ont eu lieu au Togo. Alors qu'ils nourrissaient eux-mêmes l'envie de s'éterniser au pouvoir, Alpha Condé et Alassane Ouattara s'impliquent dans la résolution de la crise et pèsent sur les décisions prises par la CEDEAO. Avec leur soif pour un 3ème mandat aujourd'hui, on peut aisément comprendre les raisons de l'échec de la médiation de la CEDEAO.

En 2017, le vent de la révolution populaire s'est encore levé sur le Togo. A l'initiative du Parti national panafricain (PNP) de Tikpi Atchadam, toute la population réclame la fin de la dynastie des Gnassingbé. Devant l'ampleur de la contestation, Faure Gnassingbé fait appel à la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) pour tenter une médiation. Une première vague de médiateurs parmi lesquels l'ancienne ministre de la Guinée Aïchatou Mindaoudou et Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Représentant spécial des Nations Unies en Afrique de l'Ouest est récusée par l'opposition togolaise. En cause, la personnalité de ces médiateurs qui ont aidé Faure Gnassingbé à se maintenir au pouvoir en 2005.

Devant ce refus, la CEDEAO nomme le président ghanéen Nana Akufo-Addo à la tête de la médiation. Il est secondé par son homologue guinéen Alpha Condé. Mais en décembre 2018, avec la tenue des élections législatives organisées de façon unilatérale par le RPT/UNIR, les Togolais sont unanimes à conclure à un échec de la médiation de la CEDEAO.

Des chefs d'Etat favorables à la dictature au Togo

Si dans les débats, certains observateurs accusent l'opposition togolaise de n'avoir pas été pragmatique dans sa lutte, ils doivent aussi convenir que l'organisation communautaire qui s'est impliquée dans la résolution de la crise a joué un rôle déterminant, mais assez trouble dans l'enlisement de cette crise.

En 2018, alors qu'il était médiateur dans la crise togolaise, Alpha Condé nourrissait l'envie de se présenter pour un 3ème mandat dans son pays, en violation de la Constitution qui limitait le mandat présidentiel

à deux. Il ne pouvait que jouer dans le camp de Faure Gnassingbé qui, lui, se préparait à entamer un 4ème quinquennat à la tête du pays. Ce n'est qu'après l'épisode Togo qu'Alpha Condé que l'on disait démocrate et contre le pouvoir à vie, s'est mis à dérouler son programme dans son pays. Il commence d'abord par faire distiller au sein de l'opinion nationale son envie de rempiler pour un 3ème mandat en modifiant la Constitution. Il entretenait lui-même le suspens autour de la question jusqu'à l'annonce officielle du référendum constitutionnel qui s'est tenu le 22 mars 2020. Avec la nouvelle Constitution, Alpha Condé peut s'offrir son 3ème mandat.

Avec son homologue guinéen, Alassane Ouattara fut un acteur clé des négociations entre le pouvoir et l'opposition togolaise. Il est souvent intervenu et consulté même par les acteurs politiques togolais. Alors qu'il affichait une attitude favorable aux revendications de limitation de mandat présidentiel portées par l'opposition à Faure Gnassingbé, le président ivoirien se voyait bien président de la République pour un 3ème mandat. Même si, malgré le référendum du 30 octobre 2016 qui a vu sauter le verrou de la limitation du mandat présidentiel, il a toujours affirmé ne plus vouloir être président de la République après 2020.

Il vient de surprendre le monde entier en faisant découvrir son vrai visage, celui d'un homme avide de pouvoir. « J'ai décidé de répondre favorablement à l'appel de mes concitoyens me demandant d'être candidat... Je suis donc candidat à l'élection présidentielle du 31 octobre 2020... Le risque que notre pays recule dans bien des domaines, tout cela m'amène à reconsidérer ma position », a déclaré Alassane Ouattara. Lui qui se disait conscient de son âge avancé et déclamaient son envie de passer la main à une jeune génération se voit tout d'un coup rajeuni par le décès de son Premier ministre Amadou Gon Coulibaly et le seul capable de diriger son pays. D'ailleurs, nombre d'observateurs estiment que la parenthèse Amadou Gon Coulibaly n'était qu'une diversion. Si Alassane Ouattara voulait réellement passer la main, ce ne sont pas les ressources humaines qui

# Français

## Le personnel de la vice-présidence

pays pour se faire soigner.

«Je suis heureuse de présenter mes compliments et de vous informer que S.E. Madame Jewel Howard - Taylor, a été testée positive au COVID - 19 le 10 août 2020, et elle a demandé à quitter le pays pour se faire soigner », indique une communication de la ministre de la santé diffusée sur les réseaux sociaux.

« Conformément aux conseils de son médecin, le système de gestion des incidents (IMS) lui a accordé l'autorisation de se déplacer pour se faire soigner », ajoute la communication qui date du 11 août.

La communication a fait son chemin sur les médias sociaux alors que l'Agence de presse du Libéria (LINA) faisait l'objet de vives critiques pour avoir cité une source non confirmée dans sa publication selon laquelle la vice-présidente Taylor était positive au Covid-19, contredisant ainsi le communiqué de presse rendu public par la vice-présidence libérienne qui faisait état d'un simple malaise respiratoire.

La LINA a présenté des excuses " citant

l'inexactitude de son rapport », mais la communication de la ministre de la Santé vient de confirmer ce qu'avait publié l'agence de presse.

La vice-présidente du Libéria a été évacuée d'urgence le mardi 11 août à Accra au Ghana pour des traitements dans un hôpital spécialisé.

A en croire le communiqué de presse rendu public par le bureau de la vice-présidence, La Vice-Présidente Howard-Taylor avait été admise à l'hôpital Aspen Medical Facility, à Sinkor, Monrovia, le vendredi 7 août, 2020, suite à des complications respiratoires.

Selon ce communiqué, le numéro deux du régime actuel avait répondu favorablement aux traitements et que son état de santé était stable.

Cependant, le médecin traitant aurait conseillé que la Vice-Présidente bénéficiât davantage d'attention médicale dans un hôpital spécialisé dans le diagnostic et le traitement des malaises respiratoires comme celui dont elle souffre.

Jusqu'au mardi 11 août, le Libéria comptait 1252 cas confirmés de COVID-19 dont 432 cas actifs, 82 décès et 738 guéris.

## Des députés exigent la

la nationalité libérienne. C'était lors d'une audition de confirmation au Sénat après sa nomination à la tête de la Commission électorale nationale début avril 2020

Me Nwabudike avait été nommé par le président George Weah le vendredi 21 mars, mais lors de sa confirmation, il a menti sur presque tout, y compris ses papiers de naturalisation, sa date de naissance et ses références.

Son témoignage devant les sénateurs et les documents qu'il a présentés comme preuve lors de l'audience de confirmation étaient tous pleins d'incohérences. Le président George Weah n'a eu d'autres choix que de retirer sa nomination quelques jours après que les sénateurs ont interrompu les auditions de confirmation.

Maintenant tous les politiciens, à part ceux qui sont de la mouvance présidentielle, demandent

son limogeage en tant que président de la LACC, le poste qu'il occupait avant sa nomination avortée à la tête de la NEC.

L'Association du barreau national du Libéria, dont il était membre il y a à peine deux mois, ne s'est pas fait prier. Elle l'a expulsé de l'organisation pour faux et usage de faux.

« Le simple fait que le pétitionnaire (Me Nwabudike) n'ait pas été en mesure de prouver sa citoyenneté devant la Chambre du Sénat lors de son audition de confirmation, (et jusqu'à présent il ne l'a toujours pas fait), justifie suffisamment qu'il n'a jamais été un citoyen libérien, mais plutôt un faux, alors il ne devrait pas avoir droit à un jour au Libéria pour être considéré comme citoyen », a écrit la LNBA dans une requête en tant qu'intervenant pour étayer la requête du gouvernement après que Nwabudike ait porté l'affaire devant le tribunal de droit civil.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Philippe Le Houérou

## Comment aider le secteur privé en temps de crise

WASHINGTON - Un peu partout dans le monde, faire face au ralentissement économique interminable dû au Covid-19 est une épreuve qui tient du marathon. Selon les estimations de l'IFC (l'International Finance Corporation qui appartient au Groupe de la Banque mondiale), dans les pays émergents, l'investissement privé intérieur et l'investissement direct étranger diminueront cette année respectivement de presque 700 milliards et 250 milliards de dollars. Et ils ne devraient pas retrouver leur niveau d'avant-crise avant 2023.

Pire encore, la crise appauvrit encore davantage les plus misérables et les plus vulnérables et remet en question des décennies de progrès durement obtenus dans la lutte contre la pauvreté. Selon la Banque mondiale, nous allons assister à la première augmentation mondiale de la pauvreté depuis 1998 - elle estime que jusqu'à 100 millions de personnes pourraient être entraînées dans l'extrême pauvreté.

La manière dont les Etats et les entreprises navigueront entre crise et reprise dans cette période d'incertitude fera que nous aurons ou pas une base économique saine pour relancer l'emploi, parvenir à une croissance durable et bâtir une stratégie de développement mondial. La situation exige de réorganiser et de restructurer les marchés. La pandémie accélère la transformation de notre manière de travailler, de consommer et de communiquer, aussi beaucoup d'entreprises n'ont-elles d'autre choix que de transformer leur modèle économique. Les tendances qui se dessinent pourraient conduire à refonder entièrement des secteurs professionnels et à créer des opportunités en matière d'innovation.

Les Etats eux aussi doivent faire preuve de créativité pour adapter leur économie et protéger les entreprises viables tout en laissant disparaître celles qui sont insolubles ou obsolètes. Ce sera une période d'essais et d'erreurs qui exigera vision stratégique et pragmatisme de la part des dirigeants politiques et des dirigeants d'entreprises. Chaque pays peut faire trois choses pour accélérer la reprise :

- Adapter sa réglementation à la nouvelle réalité. Du fait de la durée de la crise, les pays émergents vont avoir de plus en plus de difficultés à aider des milliers de sociétés à renégocier leurs dettes. Dans beaucoup de pays à faible revenu, les procédures de faillite durent en moyenne plus de trois ans, soit 6 mois de plus que la moyenne mondiale. Cependant, grâce à des mécanismes informels et à des procédures juridiques simplifiées, les Etats pourraient permettre aux entreprises viables de surmonter les difficultés en leur évitant des procédures juridiques interminables et coûteuses ou des négociations compliquées. Les pays en développement peuvent aussi augmenter leur seuil d'insolvabilité et modifier les règles de restructuration de leur dette pour leur éviter la liquidation si elles se trouvent en difficulté du seul fait du confinement.

- Ne pas nuire dans ses choix politiques. Autant que possible, le secteur public doit limiter ou suspendre ses arriérés de paiement aux

entreprises privées, notamment dans les secteurs bien pourvus en emplois et dans les chaînes d'approvisionnement cruciales. Cela permettra de limiter les dégâts causés aux bilans, d'éviter la faillite d'entreprises viables et de réduire les causes possibles de retard à la reprise. En Afrique sub-saharienne, les arriérés de paiement du secteur public représentent 3,3% du PIB. Les solder pourrait représenter l'équivalent d'un plan de relance de grande ampleur. Les décideurs doivent résister à la tentation d'utiliser le précieux argent public pour sauver des entreprises zombies au modèle économique fragile. Parvenir à une reprise forte exige de faire preuve d'équité à l'égard des entreprises privées.

- Réexaminer ses dépenses publiques. Certains secteurs doivent être aidés, d'autres non. Ainsi lorsqu'un pays (ou un marché) est en transition vers une production ou une énergie à faible émission de carbone, il serait contre-productif de continuer à subventionner les secteurs à forte émission.

Le moment est venu de créer et d'aider les entreprises de demain. Il peut s'agir entre beaucoup d'autres choix cruciaux, d'encourager les chaînes de valeur "vertes", la production d'équipements de protection individuels, au tourisme résilient ou la parité professionnelle hommes-femmes. Dans les pays où toute une partie de la population n'a pas accès aux services financiers en ligne, l'adoption du paiement par téléphone portable ou de l'intelligence artificielle pourrait accélérer la numérisation et préparer le terrain pour une croissance forte.

Néanmoins, si un pays veut attirer les investisseurs, il doit créer dès à présent des opportunités. C'est pourquoi en ce qui concerne les pays en développement, l'IFC a comme priorité essentielle le soutien à la relance de l'investissement privé et à la croissance du secteur privé. Accroître le flux de l'investissement privé suppose des mesures adaptées et une réforme réglementaire pour créer des conditions favorables aux entreprises et susciter des projets viables. C'était vrai avant la pandémie, mais la nécessité de réformer est encore plus forte aujourd'hui.

De leur côté, les praticiens du développement doivent multiplier les opportunités d'investissement. Cela passe par la restructuration et la recapitalisation des entreprises, l'achat d'actions pour soutenir les start-up et les entreprises qui se développent, ainsi que par le soutien aux partenariats publics-privés pour attirer à nouveau les investisseurs vers les pays émergents et en développement. Pour cela, les institutions spécialisées dans le financement du développement doivent faire des propositions qui offriront aux investisseurs, après études de faisabilité, tout un éventail d'opportunités.

La crise économique due au Covid-19 affectera de nombreux secteurs et beaucoup d'emplois. Mais si l'on retient les leçons du passé, on peut espérer que le redressement économique sera suffisamment puissant. Les responsables politiques doivent faire preuve de créativité pour préparer les entreprises au retour de la croissance et permettre au secteur privé de survivre.

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Russia's Lukoil finds a new home in Senegal

By KesterKennKlomegah

Undoubtedly, a number of Russian companies have largely underperformed in Africa, which experts described as primarily due to multiple reasons. Most often, Russian investors strike important investment niches that still require long-term strategies and adequate country study. Grappling with reality, there are many investment challenges including official bureaucracy and technical hitches in Africa.

Lukoil, the largest Russia's oil company, has had a long history, going forth and back with declaration of business intentions or mere interests in tapping into oil and gas resources in Africa. In the past, Lukoil have said in separate reports about its business deals in a number of African countries including Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. These are coastal countries on the Gulf of Guinea (Atlantic Ocean) in West Africa.

Besides technical and geographical hitches, Lukoil noted explicitly in its official reports that "the African leadership and government policies always pose serious problems to operations in the region." It said that the company has been ready to observe strictly all of its obligations as a foreign investor in Africa.

Lukoil has moved to Senegal. Predominantly rural and with limited natural resources, Senegal is classified as a heavily indebted poor country, with a relatively low Human Development Index. Most of the population is on the coast and works in agriculture or other food industries. Other major industries include mining, tourism and services.

Energy is produced by private operators and sold to the Senelec Energy Corporation. According to a 2020 report by the International Energy Agency, Senegal had nearly 70% of the country connected to the national grid. Current government strategies for electrification include investments in off-grid solar and connection to the grid. Senegal has a population of approximately 15.9 million.

In spite of that, business is business. Quite recently, Lukoil, one of the largest Russia's oil companies, publicly declared that it finally concluded an agreement with Cairn Energy PLC to acquire a 40% interest in RSSD (Rufisque, Sangomar and Sangomar Deep) project in the Republic of Senegal for \$300 million in cash.

The agreement provides for potential bonus payment to Cairn Energy PLC of up to \$100 million after the commencement of production. The transaction is subject to customary conditions, including the approval by the Government of the Republic of Senegal.

The blocks of the project covering 2,212 sq. km are located on the deepwater shelf of the Republic of Senegal 80 km from the shore with the sea depth of 800-2,175 meters. The blocks include two discovered fields: Sangomar and FAN.

The Final Investment Decision (FID) on the Sangomar field was taken early 2020 and the field development has begun. According to the Company's estimates, the recoverable hydrocarbon reserves of the Sangomar field total approximately 500 million. The field is planned to be launched in 2023, with designed production level of 5 million tons of crude oil per year.

The RSSD project is currently implemented under a production sharing agreement. Woodside is the

project's operator with 35% stake. Other participants are FAR (15%) and state-owned company Petrosen (10%).

"Entering the project with already explored reserves at early stage of their development is fully in line with our strategy and allows us reinforcing our presence in West Africa. Joining the project with qualified international partners will allow us to gain additional experience in development of offshore fields in the region," said VagitAlekperov, President of PJSC Lukoil.

Early this year, precisely on January 28, during his briefing with President Vladimir Putin on the 2019 performance and activities of the Lukoil holding, VagitAlekperov noted the unique window of opportunity that opened up after the summit held with African countries late October 2019 in Sochi.

"In fact, we are beginning to work actively in West

For now in Africa, it has one success story. For the past ten years, Lukoil company's operations in the Republic of Ghana where it focuses on upstream exploration. The reserves evaluated on the blocks proves to be sufficient for their industrial development.

On the opposite side, Russian news agencies reported that Lukoil exited projects in Cote d'Ivoire, where it had led exploration in the deep offshore. The company confirmed the information about leaving the projects to TASS News Agency.

In August 2015, Lukoil also pulled out of the oil and gas exploration and drilling project that it had began in Sierra Leone. According to Interfax, a local Russian News Agency, the company did not currently have any projects and has backed away due to poor exploration results in Sierra Leone.

It reported that drilling in West Africa, including Côte



Africa: we have started working in three countries and another four have offered to launch joint work. This is unprecedented. This summit gave an impetus to Russian companies to work in one of the most promising markets: West Africa," he told Putin in the Kremlin.

After Putin noted that it was surprising African colleagues had asked only for collaboration and nothing else, Alekperov reassured that "today, it is not just a declaration but these are real projects: in the Republic of the Congo, in Ghana, we are now looking at a number of other countries, and Cameroon."

Its media release shows that Lukoil's portfolio is quite extensive. It works in 32 countries worldwide, conduct geological exploration both in the West and in Africa.

d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone, did not bring Lukoil the expected results, as preliminary technical results did not demonstrated commercial hydrocarbon reserves. According to official reports, Lukoil has been active in a number of countries with a high level of political and economic risks that could significantly complicate the work of the company in a particular region, and even lead to its termination.

Russia's Lukoil is one of the world's biggest vertically integrated companies for production of crude oil and gas, and their refining into petroleum products and petrochemicals. The company is a leader on Russian and international markets in its core business and its key mission is to harness natural energy resources for human benefit and supports long-term economic growth, social stability, prosperity and progress in the regions where it operates.

# Tweah lies on Ellen?

By E. J. Nathaniel Daybor & Bridgett Milton  
With additional file by Othello B. Garblah

Liberia's Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel Tweah told a political gathering here over the weekend that former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf had far bigger budgetary allocation for her office unlike President George Manneh Weah.

According to him, ex-President Sirleaf allocated US\$20 million in the past national budget, while her successor, President Weah currently receives US\$9 million in the national budget for his office.

But the 2017/2018 budget copy of which is in the possession of this paper says otherwise. President Sirleaf's budget for FY17/18 was \$7.3 million. The budget lines shows that she has never had a \$20m budget.

In fact, if the 2017/218 budget is anything to go by,

the Ministry of state. So by and large the Ministry of State budget has been around \$7.5 million" the source said.

However, speaking at an endorsement ceremony for Montserrado County senatorial aspirant Thomas Fallah, held in Battery Factory, Plank Field community on Saturday, August 15, Minister Tweah explains the former President last budget was USD20 million and that the balance US\$11 million generated from the Executive Mansion budget is being spent on construction of roads throughout the country by President Weah.

Representative Fallah, who represents Montserrado County District#5, is vying for the county's senatorial seat in the December 8th midterm senatorial elections.

Both Tweah and Fallah are members of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change headed by President Weah.

Prior to becoming a lawmaker in 2005, he sold planks at retail price in the densely populated commercial district of Paynesville outside Monrovia.

Fallah notes that since his colleagues from the Liberia Plank Dealers Association petitioned him in 2005 to get into politics, his work over the years proved that he should be trusted for bigger work.

He similarly attacks the opposition for criticizing the ruling establishment, saying, the government is hated because it is now represented by the masses, particularly children and people who the political elites consider as "good for nothing people."

"They cannot accept the realities of today's governance process - to see commoners' children heading the government is something that the political elites cannot accept; as a result, they are fighting with blood and sweat to make the government appears ugly that can only be achieved through lies."

Reading the endorsement statement on behalf of the Liberia Plank Dealers Association, Alvin Kanneh, an official of the association describes work of the lawmaker as overwhelming, adding that it shows that people from humble beginning always put their best into everything they engage in.

He recalls that Fallah was once a plank seller, and his election to the House of Representatives has brought development to Montserrado County Electoral District #5, so if elected senator, he would serve the entire county.

On behalf of his colleagues, he vows that they will work closely with Representative Fallah to ensure he's elected to the senate on December 08. Half of the 30 senators at the Capitol are going for re-election.

Meanwhile, days after Montserrado County Senator Darius Dillon submitted a draft bill to the Liberian Senate, calling for reduction of senators' monthly salary, Finance Minister Samuel Tweah has opposed the call.

Speaking over the weekend in Amagashie community, Paynesville, where he accompanied senatorial aspirant Representative Thomas P. Fallah, he said lawmakers' salaries should not be cut because their constituents depend on them for financial support.

He said the government has already cut lawmakers'

# Liberia to conduct

Starts from page 6

stock assessment was conducted in 2019, and this will be the first historic national independent stock assessment to be conducted in Liberian waters. She maintained that the pending stock assessment will lead to several opportunities for investment in the country's fisheries sector.

She noted that the pending research would provide the possibilities for fisheries investment, attract several potential fisheries investors to Liberia and lead to the provision of huge job opportunities for Liberians locally.

"Liberians mainly seafarers who have been trained internationally will be deployed on several European and other international fishing vessels that would apply for investment and at the same time increase fish and fish products across Liberian markets".

The fisheries research will also create possibilities for other investors to establish and operate processing plants within fishing communities which would also lead to job creation and export of fish products.

# Pleebo marketers

Starts from page 6

hand and to mouth.

She added that though roads in the southeast of the country are deplorable, but business people use other means to take goods to Marylanders

Madam Wion disclosed importers transport goods thru sea, from neighboring Ivory Coast, so they shouldn't use the road situation to hike prices of basic commodities.

Another marketer, Marthaline Weah lamented that they have been wasting their time in voting for politicians who care less about their plight, questioning the rationale of regularly electing people, who have brought no improvement in the standard of living of citizens.

"See, we have lawmakers in our county and country who can't even show us their farm, but after every six or nine years they will come and want us to vote them again", Madam Weah further lamented.

"Why you think rice importers will not hike prices every day?" she asked.

The marketers said as long as price of rice continues to rise without any intervention from government, they will not participate in the pending

midterm senatorial elections.

Madam Weah said it is difficult to buy a 25kg bag of rice for 4,700 or 5, Liberian dollars and sell retail to earn profit, something, she noted is causing them to wanting t leave the market.

However, the superintendent of the Pleebo General Market Paul Nimpson has called on marketers to remain calm, as efforts are underway to address the hike in prices.

Superintendent Nimpson said in the soonest possible time the issue about rice price and bad roads in the county will be laid to rest.

He called on the government to listen to the cries of marketers and also to grant them authorization to move into the modern market that was built in the county.

County Fiscal Affairs and Acting Superintendent, Anthony W. Bedell, recently called a meeting at the Pleebo City Hall and informed rice importers to sell 25kg bag of rice for US\$18.00, which is equivalent to 3,600 Liberian dollars, but it seems the call went unheeded. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



that means President Weah earns USD1.7million more than former President Sirleaf.

In FY12/13, the Ministry of State which includes the Presidency and the Executive Protection Service (EPS) had a budget of \$7.5 million for their core activities (compensation and operations) and \$1.8 for Projects thereby bringing the total to \$9.4 million.

In FY16/17, the approved budget was \$7 million for core (compensation and operations) and \$7 million toward the renovation of the Executive Mansion bringing the total to \$14 million.

A former senior official in the Sirleaf government that worked on the FY16/17 budget told this paper Sunday night that they could have put the Executive Mansion renovation somewhere else "but the most appropriate place, we thought, was under

The Finance Minister accuses members of opposition political parties of using lies and falsehood to gain political favors from electorates.

However, he says Liberians are not fools to believe lies and falsehood allegedly being projected by the opposition community, describing President Weah as a kind-hearted person whose dreams is to improving living conditions of Liberians.

Also speaking at the event, incumbent lawmaker Thomas Fallah notes that the endorsement ceremony by his fellow plank dealers is overwhelming and welcoming.

Fallah, who presides over the House of Representatives' Committee on Ways, Means, Finance and Budget, vows that if elected senator, he will not fail, as doing so would kill the vision and political opportunities of others wanting to follow his foot step.

salaries, so there is no need to effect additional salary reduction in the Legislature.

Senator Dillon is calling for reduction in senators' salary from US\$7,000 to US\$5,000, adding that the cut, if placed in a special account, could be used to improve the health and education sectors of the country.

According to him, it makes no sense for lawmakers to personally pay students' fees when the cut salary could

improve the entire education system, where every Liberian child will have an opportunity to acquire better education.

But Tweah countered that during the 53rd Legislature, budget of the Legislature was about \$49 million and when the current administration came to office, it was reduced to US\$33 million, so there is no need for further cut in lawmakers' salaries. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

## Sevilla stun Man Utd to reach Europa League final



Europa League thoroughbreds Sevilla reached yet another final as substitute Luuk de Jong struck in the 78th minute to earn them a 2-1 victory over Manchester United on Sunday.

United, already beaten in two domestic semi-finals this season, looked on course to make it third time lucky when Bruno Fernandes scored from the penalty spot in the ninth minute.

But former Liverpool player Suso levelled in the

26th minute, and the Spaniards showed all their European know-how to weather a United storm on a humid night in Cologne.

Inspired goalkeeper Yassine Bono came to Sevilla's rescue on several occasions, and when United's energy levels dipped, De Jong stole in to snatch victory.

Sevilla will meet either Inter Milan or Shakhtar Donetsk in the final in Cologne on Friday, when they will be going for their sixth title in the competition since 2006.

While Sevilla have a chance to restore Spanish pride, United's defeat underlined a poor European season for English clubs, who provided all four finalists in last season's Europa and Champions League competitions.

United were the only English club to reach a continental semi-final this season after Manchester City were dumped out of the Champions League by Lyon on Saturday.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side may ask themselves how they allowed this one to slip through their fingers.

They made a dream start when Diego Carlos brought down Marcus Rashford in the area just after the striker fired across goal. The referee pointed to the spot, handing United their 22nd penalty of the season in all competitions, and Bruno Fernandes, who almost turned in Rashford's shot, smashed his spot kick past Bono.

## Messi wants immediate Barca exit

Long-term striker seeks Camp Nou departure. Lionel Messi has reportedly told Barcelona that he wishes to leave the club immediately rather than entertain a potential exit in 2021, according to journalist Marcelo Bechler.

The Argentina star, widely considered one of the greatest players in the history of the game, has spent his entire senior career at Camp Nou, presiding over a



footballing dynasty for well over a decade.

But now, the forward wishes to bring his stay at the Catalan club he helped elevate to further greatness on the global

stage to an end after their 8-2 humiliation by Bayern Munich meant the club ended the 2019-20 campaign with no silverware.

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### Liberia COVID-19 Daily Case Update by County

Report as of Aug. 14, 2020

<b>Total Confirmed</b> 1257 (3 new)	<b>Total Deaths</b> 82 (0 new)	<b>Total Recovered</b> 788 (18 new)
<b>Active Confirmed Cases</b> 387	<b>Deaths by County</b>	
<b>Confirmed cases by County</b>	<b>Recoveries by County</b>	
Bomi: 16 (0 new)	Bomi: 0 (0 new)	Bomi: 11 (0 new)
Bong: 35 (0 new)	Bong: 5 (0 new)	Bong: 26 (0 new)
Gbarpolu: 10 (0 new)	Gbarpolu: 2 (0 new)	Gbarpolu: 1 (0 new)
Grd. Bassa: 48 (0 new)	Grd. Bassa: 0 (0 new)	Grd. Bassa: 38 (4 new)
Grd. C/Mt.: 1 (0 new)	Grd. C/Mt.: 0 (0 new)	Grd. C/Mt.: 1 (0 new)
Grd. Gedeh: 7 (0 new)	Grd. Gedeh: 0 (0 new)	Grd. Gedeh: 3 (0 new)
Grand Kru: 18 (0 new)	Grand Kru: 0 (0 new)	Grand Kru: 11 (8 new)
Lofa: 45 (0 new)	Lofa: 11 (0 new)	Lofa: 31 (0 new)
Margibi: 66 (0 new)	Margibi: 6 (0 new)	Margibi: 34 (0 new)
Maryland: 27 (0 new)	Maryland: 2 (0 new)	Maryland: 22 (2 new)
Monts.: 882 (3 new)	Monts.: 42 (0 new)	Monts.: 541 (4 new)
Nimba: 55 (0 new)	Nimba: 11 (0 new)	Nimba: 30 (0 new)
Rivercess: 5 (0 new)	Rivercess: 2 (0 new)	Rivercess: 0 (0 new)
River Gee: 36 (0 new)	River Gee: 0 (0 new)	River Gee: 35 (0 new)
Sinoe: 6 (0 new)	Sinoe: 1 (0 new)	Sinoe: 4 (0 new)

**3 new confirmed cases, No new death and 18 new recoveries reported as of 10:00 pm, 14<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2020.**

**Cases by Gender:** Female: 436 (1 new), Male: 821 (2 new)

**Deaths by Gender:** Female: 29 (0 new), Male: 53 (0 new)

**Recovery by Gender:** Female: 278 (10 new), Male: 510 (8 new)

**Location of Deaths:** Death in COVID-19 Treatment Unit: 10 (0 new), Death in health facility: 45 (0 new), Death in community: 27 (0 new)

**Contacts under follow up: 836 (21 new)**

NOTE: These data are subject to epidemiological reclassification. Data by: Liberia COVID-19 Incident Management System

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