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VOL.10 NO. 176

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2020

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Continental News

Uganda Reports Blood Shortages Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

Health authorities in Uganda say the supply of blood has sharply declined since the start of the coronavirus pandemic as fewer people donate and schools remain closed. The consequences are sometimes deadly.

Students, especially those in secondary school, are the largest group of blood donors in the East African country but schools have been closed since March amid efforts to curb the spread of the virus.

This means the government agency charged with collecting blood is failing to meet its targets.

Dr. Emmanuel Batiibwe, the director of a hospital that looks after many of the poorest residents of the capital, Kampala, cited multiple deaths there in recent months related to blood shortages.

One victim was a woman with pregnancy complications. Children under 5 and patients going into surgery are also among

those frequently in need of a blood transfusion, he said.

In July, Batiibwe's China-Uganda Friendship Hospital received only 18 of a requisitioned 218 units of blood. The next month 68 of 217 units came in, he said.

"There's a problem somewhere," he said, calling the shortage a "disaster."

The head of Uganda Blood

Transfusion Services, Dr. Dorothy Byabazaire, told lawmakers earlier this year that her agency collected 56,850 units of a targeted 75,000 between April and July. Facilities across the country submit blood orders to the agency, and there is a sharing mechanism among facilities in the event of emergencies. But "borrowing"

blood can be time-consuming, Batiibwe said.

The Uganda Red Cross, which helps authorities to mobilize blood donors, said it hasn't been easy to recruit donors during the pandemic. The country has confirmed more than 8,600 coronavirus cases, including 79 deaths. "People don't feed well anymore. People are stressed," said spokeswoman Irene Nakasiita, adding that some willing, potential donors are turned away because their blood levels are too low.

Similar challenges were echoed by Ariho Franco, a donor recruiter for a blood bank operated by Kampala's private Mengo Hospital, who said that while schools are closed they are focusing on public places.

They have set up tents in locations such as the public square in central Kampala. Donors receive soda and cookies.

"The blood shortage is a serious problem because the

few people who are out there that we are able to reach are unable to donate due to various reasons," Franco said. He said blood collection teams are facing challenges in finding donors among communities reeling from the economic impacts of the pandemic. Some people say they are not sure where their next meal will come from, he said.

"At the end of the day some people may only survive by the mercy of God since the little blood that will have been collected will only be reserved for serious emergencies," he said. Blood shortages have been reported elsewhere, including in parts of Europe.

Local media in Romania have cited fear of COVID-19 infections among the reasons for a decline in the number of blood donors. The cities of Iasi and Cluj face a dire situation as some cancer patients needing frequent transfusions and people needing urgent surgery have had to bring their own donors to survive. VOA



A man prepares to give blood at a blood-donation drive organized by the Rotary club and Uganda Blood Transfusion Services in...

Cameroon Reopens Schools Closed Due to COVID Spread

More than seven million Cameroon children and their teachers have returned to schools for the first time since their institutions were closed to stop the spread of COVID-19, seven months ago. The government of the central African state says it has been able to considerably reduce the spread of the disease that has been officially confirmed in more than 20,000 people with 420 deaths. Respect of COVID-19 barrier measures is imperative in all schools.

The oldest student reads rules and regulations to be respected at Government Bilingual High School Essos in Cameroon's capital Yaoundé. The school's administration reports that 1,000 students answered present on day one of the 2020/2021 school year. Among them is 13-year-old form two student Treasure Monyuy. Monyuy says students have new guidelines to follow.

"They [teachers] say that we have to wear our masks. We have to be washing our hands every time. My friends are happy

to go to school. I am happy to go to school because I have been in the house for a long time and I am also happy to see my friend," said Monyuy. The Cameroon ministries of Basic and Secondary Education report that at least seven million children attended classes all over the country. Donald Abega, a pedagogic inspector says he and his peers were deployed to towns and villages to educate students and teachers about following COVID-19 prevention measures. He spoke via telephone from the northern town of Garoua. Nalova Lyonga, Cameroon minister of Secondary Education says schools have been provided with water and face masks, which are obligatory.

She says a maximum of 50 students will be admitted per classroom and a double shift system will be introduced in schools which have more than 50 children per class.

She says where there are more than 50 students registered per class, the first group of students will attend classes from 7 a.m. to 12 noon while the second group begins from 1 p.m. and ends at 5 p.m. VOA



A teacher wearing a face shield teaches a class at the Technical High School of Nkol-Bisson in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

US lauds Mali's transitional government

The US government has termed the establishment of a transitional government in Mali "an initial step toward a return to democracy".

The US State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus urged the transitional government to honour the promise of holding elections

Reconciliation in Mali," she said in a statement.

Ms Ortagus said the US will remain Mali's partner and will work towards achieving the goals to a better Mali: In August, the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo condemned the "mutiny" in Mali and called on all political



within 18 months.

"It will also be important for the transitional government to fulfil its pledges to the Malian people to strengthen governance, combat corruption, reform electoral processes and implement the 2015 Agreement for Peace and

and military actors to work towards the restoration of a constitutional government.

The US Sahel envoy J Peter Pham said the country had suspended cooperation with Mali's military after the coup. Some of the coup leaders had been trained in the US. BBC

EDITORIAL

Liberians should fear for their live

ADMITTANCE BY THE Inspector General of Police Col. Patrick T. Sudue that officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP) contaminated the crime scene of two deceased employees of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) whose corpses were mysteriously found in a parked vehicle early Friday morning, 2nd October on Snapper Hill, Broad Street in Monrovia is very worrisome.

THAT SINGULAR CONFESSION by IG Sudue jeopardizes further investigation into the mysterious deaths of two citizens, who were diligently serving the Motherland up to their suspicious demise, leaving the entire nation hopeless about any possibility of finding their killer(s) or circumstances that led to their death.

WE ARE HIGHLY disappointed in the Liberia National Police for making such public confession of error over a major crime that has kept Liberians speechless and created a sense of insecurity in our society.

WHEN COL. SUDUE appeared at a news conference at the National Police Headquarters in Monrovia on Monday, 5 October with a flying sheet to address the public concerning the death of Albert Peters and Gifty Lama journalists had thought the Police was in possession of a lead.

HOWEVER, RESPONDING TO a reporter's question why police officers drove the car in which the two LRA employees' bodies were found instead of towing it or lifting it from the scene to protect evidence, Col. Sudue disappointingly replied, "This is what we call contamination of the crime scene."

"LOOK I MUST say publicly that there was some errors on the crime scene but those errors on the crime scene were not significant as to destroying the evidence that we had..."

LIBERIANS ARE APPREHENSIVE and rightly so, that this mysterious death case may never go to court or even if there were formal charges, probable suspect or suspects may find escape route within the law, and walk away because of this so-called "contamination of the crime scene."

THE STATE HANDLING of previous mysterious and suspicious deaths had left much to be desired and citizens seem to have mistrust for the system that should guarantee their security at all times.

IT IS ABOUT time the Police and the entire national security apparatus become robust in exercising professionalism during incidents that lead to loss of lives. Liberians expect nothing less because their taxes are paying for these services.

WE CAN BUT only hope that circumstances that led to the mysterious deaths of these two public servants would be established by the relevant authorities, particularly the Police so that perpetrators would face justice and members of the bereaved families can trust the system governing their peace and happiness.

COMMENTARY

By Dalia Marin

Eastern Germany's New Growth Engine

Eastern Germany has suffered from three decades of deindustrialization since the collapse of communism, largely because of poor policy decisions. But by becoming an electric-vehicle powerhouse, the region can help to drive Europe's green transition and secure its own future prosperity.

MUNICH - This week, Germany celebrates the 30th anniversary of its reunification. After years of frustration and gloom, the long-depressed east of the country - the former German Democratic Republic (DDR) - is finally experiencing fresh hope owing, to large new investments in electric-vehicle (EV) manufacturing.

Eastern Germany is fast becoming the European center of future electric mobility. Volkswagen is producing its ID.3 electric car in Zwickau and Dresden. BMW already manufactures its i3 electric car in Leipzig, while the Chinese firm CATL will produce EV battery cells for BMW at a factory near Erfurt in Thuringia. Another Chinese company, Farasis Energy, will make EV battery cells for Mercedes-Benz in the state of Saxony-Anhalt. In addition, Tesla last year announced plans to manufacture electric cars and batteries at a new "gigafactory" in Brandenburg, close to Berlin.

Why are all these firms coming to eastern Germany - and why now? The region's high wages, especially relative to those in Eastern Europe, had long made it an unattractive investment location. But two recent policy announcements have changed the dynamic.

First, in February 2019, German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier unveiled his "National Industrial Strategy 2030," which, among other things, calls for establishing battery-cell production in Germany and elsewhere in Europe. His announcement followed the European Commission's 2017 launch of the European Battery Alliance, which aims to create a competitive European battery sector. Later in 2019, the Commission introduced Battery 2030+, a long-term initiative bringing together research institutions, industry, and public funding institutions.

These commitments from the European Union and the German government triggered a state-led process of agglomeration. EV producers now have an incentive to move to Germany and other European countries in order to be near other EV manufacturers and production sites for key battery inputs.

Second, the European Green Deal introduced by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen aims to support regions in phasing out coal, including by providing subsidies to mitigate the economic impact. Germany has some of the world's largest coal deposits, two-thirds of which are located in the eastern states of Saxony and Brandenburg. EU funding under the Green Deal is enabling eastern German states to offer large subsidies to attract EV producers to the region.

The German government's commitment to electric cars, along with the EU's financial transfers, have given eastern Germany a new opportunity to reindustrialize, and thus generate prosperity and pride. More firms will move to eastern Germany as car companies localize their supply chains. Domestically produced EVs will become cheaper as competition among manufacturers increases

and battery cells no longer need to be imported from Asia. Finally, increased local demand for labor will boost incomes.

This is a major development. Eastern Germany has suffered from three decades of deindustrialization since the collapse of communism, largely because of poor policy decisions. Prior to the October 1990 reunification, the West German government decided to liberalize trade with the DDR overnight, and the East German Ostmark was converted into Deutsche Marks at a rate of 1:1. The currency reform caused eastern German wages to rise to 70% of western German levels, even though productivity in the east was only 30% of that in the west. As a result, East Germany's manufacturing sector immediately went bankrupt.

The Treuhandanstalt, a new institution established by the DDR government, privatized and sold eastern German firms and assets to western companies, often at a symbolic price of one DM, in exchange for job guarantees. This huge subsidy gave western firms an incentive to move to the east, even though the region had lost its comparative low-wage advantage. The tense political atmosphere of those days is well captured in the excellent Netflix series A Perfect Crime, which documents the 1991 assassination of Detlev Rohwedder, the Treuhandanstalt's first president.

The German government subsequently erred in dissolving the Treuhandanstalt after it had sold almost all eastern German firms to western investors. Without the agency's subsidies, investment in eastern Germany dried up, and the region's convergence toward western German per capita income levels stalled.

Germany's bumpy reunification process was shaped by two false narratives. The first was that the Treuhandanstalt was selling out eastern Germany by giving away valuable assets to western firms. But these giveaways were necessary subsidies to induce firms to come to a region that had lost its cost advantage following the currency reform.

The second damaging narrative was that eastern Germany had nothing to sell to the world and a low-value manufacturing sector. But the region had nothing to sell because the currency reform robbed it of the cost advantage that countries at a similar level of development usually enjoy. This narrative had a harmful effect on eastern Germans' psyche, because people suddenly felt they were worth nothing in a market economy. Their self-esteem was probably higher under communism, because East Germany was regarded as a manufacturing pioneer in the Soviet bloc and exported successfully to other Eastern European countries.

In 1990, then-German Chancellor Helmut Kohl predicted "flourishing landscapes" in the east of the country. Many have long regarded his vision as too optimistic, and it still has not materialized. But by becoming an EV powerhouse, eastern Germany can help to drive the green transition and prove Kohl right.

The New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

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

O-PED

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

The Lies That Infected Trump

Like other world leaders who have contracted COVID-19, US President Donald Trump could easily have avoided being infected by observing normal public-health strictures. But Trump's anti-scientific dispensation has deeper roots in recent American politics and culture.

NEW YORK - Unlike tens of millions of people around the world who have contracted COVID-19 because of their poverty, bad luck, vulnerability as essential workers, or poor decisions by policymakers, US President Donald Trump's infection is of his own making. Trump's disdain for science and his brazen disregard for public-health advice led directly to his own illness; far worse, they have fueled America's soaring COVID-19 death toll - now at more than 214,000.

Since the pandemic began, public health experts around the world have begged the public to wear face masks, avoid large gatherings, and maintain physical distance from others, in order to stop the transmission of the virus. Leave it to Trump, a man of pathological disposition, to reject all such advice. Barely two days before announcing that he and the First Lady had tested positive, Trump was mocking Joe Biden for wearing one. "I don't wear a mask like him," Trump said at the first presidential debate. "Every time you see him, he's got a mask. He could be speaking 200 feet away ... and he shows up with the biggest mask I've ever seen."

Rejecting appeals by public health experts and local officials, Trump had been holding large rallies both indoors and outdoors in recent months, with non-masked attendees standing close together. And Trump spurned basic precautions in the White House, including physical distancing of staff and requiring face masks in meetings.

Trump's recklessness not only exposed himself, his wife, and his entourage to COVID-19; it also encouraged his supporters across America to mock public-health warnings and threaten infectious disease experts, thereby contributing to the spread of the disease. Many Americans lack basic scientific literacy and are easily swayed and encouraged by manipulators like Trump and his allies at Fox News. Trump not only blocked an effective federal public-health response, but incited dangerous behavior by his followers nationwide.

Like other world leaders who have contracted COVID-19, Trump could easily have avoided being infected by observing normal public-health strictures. It is not a coincidence that populist politicians in Trump's mold, notably UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, also became infected. Like Trump, both Johnson and Bolsonaro systematically downplayed the threat of the pandemic and brazenly flaunted routine public-health measures. And, like the United States, the United Kingdom and Brazil are among the world's hardest-hit countries, with a COVID-19 death rate of 647 per million population in the US, 687 in Brazil, and 623 in the UK, compared with a global average death rate of 133 per million.

Of course, Trump's anti-scientific dispensation has deeper roots in recent American politics and culture. It fits with two purposes of the modern Republican Party going back to Ronald Reagan. The first is to mobilize the GOP's white, evangelical Christian base. Their rejection of science is rooted in the literal interpretation of Scripture - a belief known as Biblical inerrancy.

The second, related reason is the rabid anti-environmentalism of the modern Republican Party, which has been lavishly funded by Big Oil and Big Coal for decades in exchange for actions to block and reverse regulations aimed at environmental conservation and climate safety. It is no coincidence that Trump not only rejects the basic science of controlling COVID-19, but also rejects basic climate science even in the midst of the horrific wildfires raging in the US west. Just as he declared that the virus would simply fade away, he recently promised that global warming would magically stop: "It will start getting cooler. Just you watch."

As an aside, Bolsonaro is a near-clone of Trump in this respect. With his base of Christian evangelicals and his radical anti-environmentalism, rejection of climate science, and policies favoring Brazil's oil industry, he has governed in the same way.

But Trump does not represent a departure from GOP policies in this respect. A quarter-century ago, Newt Gingrich, as Republican Speaker of the US House of Representatives, forced the closure of Congress's Office of Technology Assessment, which had provided scientific and technological guidance to members of Congress. Gingrich's aim was to prevent environmental science from informing regulations affecting industries that support the Republican Party.

Trump's anti-scientific agenda has endangered the entire world. Under his administration, the US has withdrawn from the Paris climate agreement and the World Health Organization, thereby frustrating the global fight against climate change and against COVID-19. Instead of addressing global crises on the basis of scientific evidence, Trump and his evangelical secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, have tried to launch a Christian crusade against China.

It is hard to know whether Trump's COVID-19 infection will cause more Americans to wake up to the realities of public health and climate change. The truth has been battered long and hard by the Republican Party and its allies. Fox News, evangelical belief in Biblical literalism, and corporate propaganda and campaign contributions have profoundly undermined America's propensity to base policies on science and evidence rather than lies.

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OPINION

By Shashi Tharoor

The UN's Existential Crisis

Far from bolstering multilateralism, COVID-19 has revealed a world of nation-states locked into a destructive zero-sum contest. The United Nations' upcoming 75th anniversary thus risks being remembered as the moment when a lethal virus destroyed the very idea of our common humanity.

NEW DELHI - On October 24, the United Nations will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its founding in 1945, when the historic UN Charter entered into force. Sadly, the organization will do so at a time when multilateralism has never seemed more in peril.

The COVID-19 pandemic has inaugurated a new era of deglobalization. Evidence of isolationism and protectionism is mounting, with many governments loudly emphasizing sovereignty, nationalism, and self-reliance, and questioning treaties and trade agreements. The UN therefore has every reason to worry about its continuing salience.

In his address to the UN General Assembly on September 22, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called COVID-19 a "fifth horseman" of a potential global apocalypse. The coronavirus's emergence, rapid spread worldwide, and rising death toll (now exceeding one million), together with the pervasive fear it has stoked, have been accompanied by a dramatic contraction in world trade and the most calamitous recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is now beyond reach in a world suffering from economic collapse and social dysfunction.

The UN faces an existential crisis, in which its biggest former advocates are challenging the very premises of the multilateralism upon which the organization was founded. Under President Donald Trump, the United States is backing away from multilateralism, prompting French President Emmanuel Macron recently to decry America's unwillingness to remain the international system's "guarantor of last resort." Trump's recent announcement that he intends to withdraw the US from the World Health Organization may be a harbinger of a broader unraveling of the multilateral system painstakingly constructed after World War II.

But Europe also has been buffeted by pandemic-related strains. The continent was once seen as a poster child for the virtues of regional integration, but European solidarity quickly crumbled under the onslaught of the pandemic, with the Schengen area's guarantee of border-free travel being among the early casualties.

In fact, European Union member states threw up national barriers at the first sign of the virus. Italy, the first center of the COVID-19 outbreak outside of China, was initially denied medical equipment by its EU neighbors, who introduced export controls instead of showing solidarity toward fellow Europeans in distress. The credibility of EU multilateralism will take a long time to recover.

The threat to the multilateral world order is accentuated by increasing Sino-American tensions, even as well-meaning liberals warn that China will take advantage of the West's abandonment of the UN by seizing leadership of the multilateral system. But China's multilateralism is largely rhetorical. Its preferred modus operandi, evident from President Xi Jinping's signature transnational infrastructure investment program, the Belt and Road Initiative, is to pursue unequal bilateral arrangements - without multilateral supervision by an independent UN body - that leave partner countries dependent and indebted.

When the WHO attempted to exercise its oversight role in Wuhan at the start of the pandemic, China rebuffed it. Far from showcasing the multilateral system's ability to fight a global health emergency collectively, COVID-19 has demonstrated the waning legitimacy of international institutions.

The WHO's pandemic response showed that many global institutions and their agencies are politicized, manipulated by major powers, and lack independent leadership and purpose. China, a leading player in the WHO, preferred to safeguard its national interests rather than safeguard global public health.

This is not the only area where nationalism and economic parochialism have fractured the post-war international order and diminished the UN's capacity for collective action. Perhaps the most serious global failure relates to mitigating climate change. Once a priority only for scientists and activists, the impact of global warming is now more visible and devastating than at any time in history. Today, climate migrants outnumber refugees fleeing conflict or seeking economic opportunity. Although several world leaders spoke of climate change at the recent General Assembly, there was no renewed commitment to a common effort to tackle it, even though the 2020s are certain to be a make-or-break decade for doing so.

Given that the world is struggling to manage its most pressing existential risk, it is no surprise that other international policy regimes are gridlocked, too. Twentieth-century rules relating to trade, connectivity, innovation, peace, and security have all become forums for perverse unilateral state behavior. The UN Security Council is stalemated by fundamental differences among its permanent members.

To be sure, the UN is still doing vital work around the world. About 95,000 troops, police, and civilian personnel serve in over 40 UN peacekeeping operations and political missions. But unpaid contributions to the UN peacekeeping budget, which is a little over \$8 billion, totaled \$1.7 billion in the last fiscal year. Likewise, \$711 million in assessed contributions are owed to the UN's general budget.

Developing countries remain the UN's core constituency: the organization works for them, serves as a "force multiplier" for their voices on the global stage, and frames the challenges they face as the collective responsibility of all. When a country like India clamors for UN reform, it is acknowledging that the institution has done well enough on a wide range of issues to be worth reforming. Multilateralism protects those who otherwise would be left exposed to the depredations of an unequal world.

But COVID-19 has buffeted the UN. Had the system worked effectively, a global alarm about its danger would have been sounded as soon as the coronavirus emerged, best practices to prevent or limit its spread would have been identified and publicized, and all countries would have been encouraged to adopt them.

Instead, the pandemic revealed a world of nation-states locked in a destructive zero-sum contest. When the current crisis is over, the UN must lead the world in learning lessons about what happened, and assessing how international systems and institutions can be strengthened and radically reformed to forestall a recurrence. Otherwise, the UN's 75th anniversary may be remembered as the moment when a lethal virus destroyed the very idea of our common humanity.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Intentional Mis-Education of Africa

“Education without interrogation, teacher don't teach me nonsense”

That is why dehumanization and colonial violence in Africa intertwined with Christian intrusion.

As a result, the word “colonization of Africa” is a conjuring word for masking the disorganization, and dehumanization of Africa. And it should be called by the rightful and detrimental word association, Dehumanization of Africa, instead of colonization of Africa.

Research and studies indicated that the mother tongue (thinking language) is the best instructional language, an enabler that facilitates better learning, understanding, and transfer of knowledge. Despite these indicators, the colonizers discouraged these enablers and facilitated the self-destroying behaviors.

The colonizers intentional mis-education had a devastating effect of the psyche of Africa, particularly the confusion of six foreign instructional languages, excluding Arabic; English (20 countries), French (20 countries), Portuguese (4 countries), German (3 countries), Spanish (2 countries), and Italian (3 countries). Useless instructional languages on the continent that excluded Africa's heritage.

However, a subtle indirect emphasis was placed on religion to manage the conscience of Africa, to be forever subservient to the colonizers' interests on the continent. And Africa, sheepishly took the bait with the hope of heavenly salvation, when the colonizers did not believe in their own god.

With reference to Dr. John Henrik Clarke's famous quote on religion, “anytime someone says your God is ugly and you release your God and join their god, there is no hope for your freedom until you once more believe in your own concept of God”. Thus, when others impose the image of their deity upon you while you abandon your Gods and accept theirs, you inevitably become their spiritual prisoners.

The introduction of western education was to reshape Africa for government control, religious mission, and economy in favor of the colonizers. Therefore, making it possible for the newly educated African elites that would later become leaders of the church, commerce, industry, and politics, their future masked indirect instruments of change. According to Bishop Jordan, J.P. Shanahan the head of the Holy Ghost Fathers in Eastern Nigeria in the early twentieth century, acknowledged that those who hold the school hold the country, holds religion, hold its future.

Thus, western education and religion were subtle key elements in masking class and race superiority, used to manipulate, dominate, and oppress Africans.

Western education was also designed to instill foreign cultural values, and Africans were craftily manipulated to abandon their own cultures, history, education, languages and traditions. And unfortunately, Africans did not understand that the colonizers did not only colonized people, but they also colonized the interpretation of history itself and was rewritten to favor them at the expense of other people.

Yet, culture is the product of human creativity, imaginative contrivance, the overall concept of self, life, and God, which is uniquely and endemically localized, one's enthrallment. That is why there is no right or wrong culture, superior nor inferior culture, and every culture has a logic of philosophy guiding it.

Consequently, the question is to understand the behavior of the people in that particular cultural space or localities and settings.

What makes one God superior to the other, if the concept of God is an exaggerated worship of the cultural self? According to the Cambodian proverb; “Do not take the straight path or the winding path. Take the path your ancestors have taken”.

That is why African culture, in every facet, is not an accident or inconsequential, nor decorative, or the songs as the west contended. Instead, African culture is about the body of moral and ethical values placed on each member within that cultural space. Cultural values do not limit the intelligence and know-how of the people. However, it is the collective strength of the people within that particular cultural space.

Likewise, Africans cherished the inviolability of their culture because the most fundamental aspect of human identity is their culture, a foundational part of the conscious self. Hence, Africans considered their culture a powerful concept of self-identity and self-esteem which should be respected.



Unfortunately, western education and religion infringed on Africanness, with a subtle but destructive scheme, to replace them with western lifestyles and values, which in essence, very detrimental to Africa's existence.

Culture cannot occur without education, which is the transmission of values and accumulated wisdom of a society, while education is impossible without some form of societal culture. The learning strategies, training, and teaching methods African societies engaged for a very long time were discarded and weakened at the expense of western education.

Furthermore, Apollos Nwauwa argued that, while missionaries used education as an instrument for effective conversion of Africans to Christianity, colonial governments saw education as a means of socially and politically controlling the subjects. In turn, education and religion confused and corrupted the African psyche, as expressed by Chinua Achebe series of books; Things Fall Apart (1958), No Longer at Ease (1960), and The Arrow of God (1964).

That is the state of hopeless disorientation caused by religion and the imposed colonial education. From an African proverb perspective, one who causes others' misfortune also teaches them wisdom. However, the

colonizers left the back door unlocked, with a tool to confront them. The wisdom from the Zambian proverb states that the worlds of the elders do not lock all the doors; they leave the right door open.

Africa's western education was a catalyst and a perceived contradiction; while empowering in one hand, it became alienating and corrupt on the other. The unintended consequences of western education are the consciousness of knowledge, coupled with access to a vast amount of data (information), unparalleled in the history of mankind. The academic consciousness and knowledge are the tools to challenge the colonizer's manipulations.

The Pandora box was opened with renewed awakening and consciousness, as predicted by Pixley Ka Isaka Seme's speech, The Regeneration of Africa on April 5, 1906.

Fantz Fanon avers in Black Skin, White Masks that colonizer internalizes colonialism and its attendant ideologies, and how the colonized internalize the idea of their own inferiority, ultimately emulate and speaking the language of the colonizer at the expense of their language, is to appropriate its world and culture. Since language is the carrier and instrument of culture. Thus, racism functions as a controlling mechanism that maintains colonial relations as 'natural' occurrences.

Instead, western education, theoretical (memorization without thinking) academics without interrogation or practical, provided the workforce for the continuation and exploitation of Africa's resources with the help of the pseudo educated Africans. The German educational policy was designed to train Africans as laborers to ensure the regular supply of workers for the colonial system.

Walter Rodney posited that colonial education in Africa was an education for subordination, exploitation, the creation of mental confusion, and the development of underdevelopment; killing the communalist spirit in Africans and replacing it with a capitalistic one, corrupting the mental sensibilities of Africans by providing selective training to fill auxiliary positions in the colonial service, emphasizing vocational rather than a well-rounded education, disregarding the peoples' cultures in the educational curriculum and fostered the underdevelopment of Africa's intellectual resources.

For example, Nigeria is a society obsessed with titles, where they are addressed by various titles, such as their college degrees; architect, engineer, nurse, teacher, accountant, chartered accountant, surveyor, barrister, SAN, advocate, Pharm, along with other worthless and useless titles; Sir, Dame, Chief, Pastor, Alhaji, Alhaja, Elder, Imam, Prophet, Mallam, Prophetess, Igwe, Chief Dr. Sir, High Chief Alhaji, Double Chief Sir, Man of God, Merit, MD (not medical), PA, CSO, Chairman, etc., that does not enhance or advance the development of the country. Deplorably, they call their rouge politician(s), excellency(ies). Regrettably and unfortunately, Nigerians are exporting these useless attitudes to pollute other African countries, and hopefully, they will not succumb to these negative behaviors that have no relevance to the development of the continent.

Yet, most of these degrees are not advanced degrees, what a paradox, while Nigeria remains the poverty capital of the world and the number three most terrorized country (Global Terrorism Index 2020).

TO BE CONT'D NEXT EDITION

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Prioritize revenue generating sectors

Assistant Mines Minister
By Lewis S. Teh

Assistant Mines and Energy Minister Emmanuel T.T. Swen has underscored the need for national government to prioritize sectors that will generate more revenue for the country.

"It's about time that the

organized under the auspices of the Federation of Liberian Youth or (FLY) in Monrovia.

Making specific reference to the mining sector, he stated that if a comparative analysis is done and research has shown that mining will bring in more money than national park then it is key that said initiative be prioritized.

"What comes out of our

a source of special rock that signals the location of diamonds in any given area has been discovered along the Gola Park, so more people are now rushing to said area.

He wondered in such a case, should the park be maintained or should mining activities go on in the area, suggesting that among the two, what will eventually bring or generate more money for the country generally, should be prioritized.

"It is about time that people in concession areas be more aware and knowledgeable about legal formalities leading to the signing of agreements for the sole purpose of extracting their natural resources in order to avoid the multiple of protests and violence mainly seen in concession areas due to the lack of proper and adequate information to the locals or residents of concession areas", Mr. Swen advised.

The Assistant Minister further stressed the importance for young people in Liberia to get actively involved in advocacy on how natural minerals are properly managed for the betterment of future generations of Liberians.

He explained that when a mineral is extracted from the

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national government identifies revenue generating sectors to bring growth and development to the country and its people", he said.

He spoke on Friday, October 2, 2020 at the launch of the Youth Natural Resource Governance Platform

mineral resources should be used in time and to help develop other sectors of the Country."

He disclosed that people mainly miners are now trooping into the Gola Park due to the discovery of diamond in Sierra Leone, adding that Kimberlite,

President Weah extends Third Regular Session of 54th Legislature

President George Manneh Weah has issued a proclamation for the 54th Legislature to extend its Third Regular Session for a period of one working week, beginning 1 October to 9 October 2020.

According to a Foreign Ministry release issued

one fourth of the total membership of each house, and by proclamation, extend a regular session of the legislature beyond the date for adjournment.

It also provides that the president shall call a special or extraordinary session of that body to discuss or act upon



Monday, 5 October, the proclamation is in concurrence with Article 32(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia.

The provision, according to the release, provides that the president shall, on his own initiative or upon receipt of a certificate signed by at least

matters of national emergency and concern.

In accordance with Article 32 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, a Certificate of Extension was signed on August 31, 2020 by at least one fourth of the total membership of each house,

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"Dangerous & Disgraceful Precedence"

Atty Jackson reacts to Judiciary Inquiry Commission

Liberia's Outgoing Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Atty. Isaac W. Jackson, Jr. has described the Judicial Inquiry Commission's response to his Letter of Complaint against Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor as dangerous and disgraceful for Liberia's jurisprudence.

According to a press release, Atty. Jackson expressed deep disappointment over the Judicial Inquiry Commission's suggestion that Chief Justice Francis Korkpor is above the law, even where it is plain and obvious that the Chief Justice has broken the law, violated the judicial canons and engaged in ethical transgressions contrary to the internationally acceptable norms of natural justice as well as the canons and general principles governing

the practice of law and the actions of judges in the country.

"All persons, including the Chief Justice, must be subordinated to the law and made to answer to its ordinances especially those to whom the public has entrusted

the high honor to interpret the law and administer justice", Attorney Jackson said.

"As Associate Justice Yussif Kaba has attempted to do in the name of the Judicial Inquiry Commission, to hide the Chief Justice from



answering for his obvious violation of the law, principles of natural justice, and misconducts for which he is being accused, does not only establish a disgraceful and dangerous precedence, but also amounts to an act of cowardice and a declaration of guilt likened to a common criminal fleeing from the light of justice", the suspended lawyer said.

Adding: "It reveals the inability of the Chief Justice to legally defend his violation of the law and his unethical conducts, all of which, unfortunately for the country and our aspiration for justice, combine to embarrass and burden the Supreme Court, the highest in our land, with public ridicule and lack of public confidence", Jackson added.

It can be recalled that on September 4, 2020, the Chief Justice, His Honor Francis S. Korkpor read the Opinion in the case Isaac W. Jackson, Jr., v. The Executive Branch of

Government in which he accused Attorney Jackson of "egregious assault and insult" on him as contained in the April 22, 2019 edition of the FrontPageAfrica Newspaper. The Chief Justice, speaking for the Court, ruled against Jackson in his long-running challenge of his dismissal by President Weah, and suspended Jackson's license to practice law in Liberia for one year, and further threatened to extend the suspension to permanent disbarment unless Jackson publishes letters of apology to the Chief Justice within three months.

On September 21, 2020, Jackson complained to the Judicial Inquiry Commission that he was denied his constitutional right to be heard, and that the Chief Justice engaged in ethical transgression by accusing him for the first time in an Opinion, then using the Opinion which he wrote and delivered to

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“Dangerous & Disgraceful Precedence”

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judge Jackson and deny him his right to practice law in the country. Jackson also accused the Chief Justice of unjustifiably and illegally bundling his (Chief Justice's) accusation of “egregious assault and insult” with Jackson's claim against the President. He therefore accused the Chief Justice of acting unethically and prejudicially, and complained to the Judicial Inquiry Commission.

In its response, dated September 29, 2020, the Judicial Inquiry Commission, citing Judicial Canon 40, says, the Commission as currently constituted lacks the competence to entertain a complaint against the Chief Justice of Liberia. Accordingly, while the Judicial Inquiry Commission can review and investigate the alleged misconduct and ethical transgressions of associate justices, judges and lawyers, it cannot even hear complaints of ethical transgressions against the Chief Justice.

Further describing the Commission's response as flimsy and without serious merit, Attorney Jackson lamented that the Judicial Inquiry Commission's response clearly doesn't guarantee him fair and impartial hearing in his own country, Liberia.

According to Attorney Jackson, to express a lack of competence to hear complaints against Chief Justice Korkpor is to unwittingly confirm the US State Department Report of 2019, which points to massive corruption in the Liberian Judiciary; and that both the Grievance and Ethics Committee and the Judicial Inquiry Commission lack appropriate guidelines to deliver their mandates effectively, and are perceived as nontransparent organs which are subject to influence.

“By his claim of the “lack of competence”, is Associate Justice Yussif Kaba, therefore suggesting that the Judicial Inquiry Commission, and indeed himself, lack judicial competence to apply the law and governing standards of ethics against the Chief Justice”, Jackson asked.

The Outgoing Permanent Representative to the IMO wondered: “With this self-declaration of a lack of competence; how can the

Liberian public reasonably expect Associate Justice Kaba to independently function on the Bench of the 5-member Court, or dissent against the Chief Justice, should the objects of justice require him to, if he obviously views the Chief Justice as too powerful, too big and above the law?”

“The scale on which the current judicial officers are violating the law, including at the highest levels of the judicial system of our land, is seriously concerning and deeply troubling for the country's peace, stability, security and democracy”, Jackson observed.

“I am shocked to recently discover that Associate Justice Kaba who heads the Judicial Inquiry Commission, signed the Opinion in my case, Isaac W. Jackson, Jr., v. The Executive Branch of Government, without ever hearing the case. Little wonder therefore that he is desperately engaged in a cover up of the Chief Justice, and ostensibly himself, at a shameful detriment to the integrity of the rule of law, and the independence of the Honorable Supreme Court”, Jackson stressed.

Jackson says, realizing his obvious prejudice and compromise, the honorable thing to have done, if Associate Justice Kaba had any scintilla of respect for judicial proceedings or a commitment to the principles of fairness, he should have recused himself, and ask the Secretary General of the Commission, or the President of the Bar, to preside over the probe against Chief Justice Korkpor since he (Associate Justice Kaba) is conflicted.

“To subject the judiciary and the judicial system in a coverup, and impress the country and the world that justice is selective in Liberia, as Associate Justice Yussif Kaba is attempting to impress, is disgraceful and dishonorable”, Attorney Jackson added.

Jackson reminded Associate Justice Yussif Kaba that although the head of the Liberian Judiciary, the Chief Justice is his colleague, and “first amongst equals”. It therefore ought to reasonably follow that if the actions of Associate Justices can be reviewed and investigated, so, too, can the Chief Justice because intrinsically, in a

democracy, no one, in perception or reality, is above the law.

Meanwhile, the outgoing Permanent Representative to the IMO says the intervention of the international community is crucially important to prevent the reemergence of the ugly ghost of the past whereby judges and justices in Liberia took direct instructions from the President regarding the dispensation of justice in the country.

He emphasized that Liberia's democracy will be meaningless if the powerful and powerless are not equal before and subjects of the same law.

“Therefore, I am calling on the United States Government, ECOWAS, EU as well as human rights organization to take seize of this matter, and prevent the continued abuse of my right, and those of my family members, including my three innocent children and wife, whose livelihood and mine, are now threatened unfairly and unjustly, without any available recourse to justice in Liberia, as pronounced by Chief Justice Francis Korkpor, and subsequently confirmed by Associate Justice Yussif Kaba”, Attorney Jackson pleaded.

“When justice is denied one, it must resonate as a denial of justice to all because in that denial is the precedent to deny justice to all. I therefore extend a special appeal to the moral voices in the country, including the Council of Churches; Catholic Bishop Conference; National Muslim Council and the Liberia National Bar Association as well as other eminent jurists and leaders in the country, to publicly express themselves on this and other deeply concerning issues of injustice, and the growing lack of independence, courage and integrity of the courts. The demand for justice is a responsibility for a society desirous of living in peace to collectively bear. As such, the continued silence in the face of injustice is collectively threatening and dangerous”, Jackson concluded. -**Press release**

118 candidates

Starts from back page

However, this paper has earmarked four counties that are likely to become fierce battle grounds namely; Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Maryland, and Bomi Counties, respectively.

Here in Montserrado, the senatorial seat is currently being occupied by opposition Senator Abraham Darius Dillon of the Liberty Party, a constituent party of the Collaborating Political Parties headed by former presidential candidate, Mr. Alexander Cummings. The ruling Congress for Democratic Change of President George Manneh Weah had held a firm grip on the county since 2005, but lost one seat to Mr. Dillon last year in a by-election in a defeat the ruling Coalition is yet to recuperate from.

During the 2005, 2011 and 2017 general and presidential elections, the CDC topped all political parties that participated not until 2019 when the CPP candidate, Dillon overturned the table by winning over 50 percent of the votes, the highest ever in recent elections for Montserrado.

Now the CDC is in a Coalition with the Liberia People Democratic Party and the National Patriotic Party to face Dillon again.

Following primaries conducted throughout Montserrado County recently, the ruling Coalition has put forward incumbent Montserrado Representative Thomas Fallah, currently enjoying his third term in the House of Representatives, as its candidate for the senate.

Fallah presides over the Ways, Means, Finance and

Budget Committee of the House and is currently vice chairman for operations of the ruling party. There are reports that President Weah has instructed all officials of government to ensure Montserrado County is repossessed at all cost.

The CDC under the leadership of Chairman Mulbah Morlu, Chief Cyril Allen, Alex Tyler and Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, is digging its heels deep into the ground to make a comeback. The political management team of the Coalition is leaving no stone unturned in the impending battle to retake the county in December ahead of the 2023 Presidential election.

But Sen. Dillon currently enjoys the support of the CPP which comprises four political parties: the Unity Party, the Liberty Party, the Alternative National Congress and the All Liberian Party.

The Senator, who has coded himself as the 'light' in the Liberian Senate, is seen here as someone who stands a greater chance of retaining the Montserrado seat. However, the ruling establishment is building up strategies to make him the shortest-serving senator at the Liberian Senate in recent history.

His popularity swelled when he publicly declared his salary, allowance and other benefits to the public, the first ever by any of the 30 senators on Capitol Hill. He also broke the news of senators receiving US\$6,500 each as operational funds immediately after endorsing the State of Emergency declared by President Weah in April. -**Editing by Jonathan Browne**

President Weah extends

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and by proclamation, to extend the Third Regular Session of the 54th Legislature from 1 September to 30 September to discuss or act upon matters of national emergency and concern.

Article 32 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia further requires that when the extension or call is at the request of the Legislature, the proclamation shall be issued not later than forty-eight hours after receipt of the Certificate by the President.

In accordance with Article 32 (b) of the Constitution, the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs says a certificate signed by at least one-fourth of the total membership of each house was laid before the President on 29 September 2020 for the extension of the Third Regular Session of the 54th Legislature for a period of one working week.

It began 1 October and will extend to 9 October 2020, to allow the Legislature the opportunity to discuss and act upon matters of national concern. --**Press release**

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Français

Mort mystérieuse de deux employés de la LRA : La police lance une enquête

Les autorités policières ont annoncé l'ouverture d'une enquête pour faire la lumière sur la mort mystérieuse de deux employés de la LRA (Liberia Revenue Authority).

Albert K. Peters et Gifty A. Lamahont été retrouvés morts dans un véhicule devant la banque UBA à Sniper Hill Broad Street le vendredi 2 octobre. Le regretté Peters était

auditeur interne, tandis que sa partenaire Gifty était chercheur.

Selon des informations non confirmées qui circulaient dans les médias, l'épouse de Peters, Beatrice Andrews Peters, serait suspectée d'avoir quelque chose à voir dans le meurtre de deux individus.

Mais le porte-parole de la police, Moses Carter, lors d'un point de presse le vendredi 2 octobre à Monrovia, n'a pas

confirmé l'information, indiquant que la police ne manquera aucun effort pour faire jaillir la vérité. « La seule chose qu'on puisse confirmer maintenant est que les deux individus ont été retrouvés morts dans un véhicule. La police nationale du Libéria a ouvert une enquête pour faire la lumière dans cette affaire », a-t-il dit.

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The late Albert K. Peters

The vehicle in which the bodies were discovered

The late Mrs. Gifty A. Lamahont

La NEC a dévoilé les symboles du référendum

Les derniers préparatifs menant au dévoilement des symboles pour le référendum national qui sera organisé à même temps que les élections sénatoriales ont pris fin, c'est du moins ce qu'a déclaré le coordinateur du référendum national constitutionnel de 2020.

M Jappah Nah a révélé que l'un des programmes de dévoilement aurait eu lieu

dans le comté de Nimbadu lundi 5 au mercredi 7 octobre, avec la participation de 120 libériens venus des comtés de Grand Gedeh, Bonget Lofa.

Le thème de la réunion des parties prenantes sur les symboles du référendum national est « Porter le référendum au peuple », a révélé M. Nah.

Selon lui, 40 chefs traditionnels issus des comtés

mentionnés ci-haut se réuniraient pour réfléchir sur les symboles, et le lendemain mardi, un autre groupe de 40 participants composé d'autorités gouvernementales locales réfléchirait à l'importance de ces symboles, et le mercredi, le troisième et dernier jour, un autre groupe de 40 personnes procéderaient à l'étude de ces symboles.

Le deuxième programme aura lieu à Buchanan City, dans le comté de Grand Bassa du 12 au 14 octobre 2020 avec la participation de 120 personnes.

« Après le dévoilement des symboles des quatre propositions pour le référendum et l'élection sénatoriale du 8 décembre 2020, une sensibilisation massive à l'éducation civique et électorale et la distribution de symboles seront mises en œuvre dans les 15 comtés », a-t-il dit.

Les Libériens se rendront aux urnes en décembre pour élire 15 sénateurs qui rejoindront 15 autres au Sénat

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L'Organisation des nations unies pour les femmes réaffirme son soutien à la candidature des femmes aux prochaines élections

En prélude aux élections sénatoriales de décembre 2020, le bureau de la représentante de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour les femmes au Libéria a réaffirmé son engagement à soutenir la candidature des femmes, mettant en garde contre le risque de ne pas avoir de femme sénatrice si aucune des candidates ne remporte la victoire.

La seule femme sénatrice dont le Libéria dispose actuellement est la sénatrice du comté de Grand Bassa, Nyoblee Karnga - Lawrence, qui a également participé à la réunion des femmes candidates organisée le 2 octobre à Monrovia par la section nationale du Réseau des femmes leaders africaines.

Karnga - Lawrence cherche à être réélue en décembre, et beaucoup plus de femmes de divers comtés sont également en lice pour les sièges du Sénat

« Ce n'est pas un petit exploit compte tenu de l'urgence au Sénat : il n'y aura peut-être pas de femme si aucune de vous ne gagne. »

L'ancienne juge en chef du Libéria, Gloria Musu Scott, a quant à elle dit aux femmes que « parfois vous allez au Sénat parce que vous avez une passion pour les gens qui souffrent, pour le pays, ou pour faire la différence, ou parfois pour l'avenir et comprendre la tâche, mais quand vous arrivez au Sénat, c'est une culture complètement différente. Et vous savez que la situation dans notre pays est si mauvaise, le désespoir, la frustration, le désespoir, le manque de sens de l'avenir. Parfois, vous vous demandez même pourquoi suis-je venu ici? Pourquoi suis-je venue ici parce que ce que vous êtes à l'intérieur est tellement compromis », a-t-elle dit.

Prenant la parole lors de la réunion, l'ancienne Ministre



de leurs comtés, y compris Edith Gonglo - Weh de Nimba ; Jemima Wolokollie de Montserrado et Mariamu Fofana de Lofa, entre autres. Dans une allocution virtuelle, Mme Marie Goreth Nizigama, Représentante d'ONU Femmes, a déclaré que le Bureau d'ONU Femmes a déjà entrepris l'élaboration d'un plan de communication ainsi qu'un soutien technique pour ces femmes, tout en espérant pouvoir apporter d'autres soutiens stratégiques, en plus d'un plaidoyer de haut niveau indispensable pour réussir au cours des prochaines élections.

« Je vais donc simplement réaffirmer l'engagement du bureau de la représentante d'ONU Femmes au Libéria à suivre les endroits clés où ces candidates ont le plus besoin de soutien », a-t-elle dit.

Elle a profité de l'occasion pour dire merci aux femmes du Libéria pour leur solidarité dans cette lutte, ajoutant :

des affaires étrangères du Libéria, Mme Marjon V. Kamara, a mis un accent sur l'importance de la participation des femmes à la prise des décisions cruciales qui a lieu au Sénat, affectant tous les aspects de la gouvernance nationale.

« C'est pourquoi nous sommes ici aujourd'hui et pourquoi nous devons répondre avec urgence aux présentations que les candidates feront et à leur plaidoyer pour un soutien sous des formes variées », a déclaré Madame Kamara.

La ministre du Genre par intérim, Mme Alice Johnson Howard, a, pour sa part, rappelé que les femmes sont essentielles au développement durable et à la qualité de vie et qu'elles sont majoritaires d'où la nécessité de faire entendre leurs femmes en ce qui concerne la dénonciation des atrocités sociales et

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Français

Mort mystérieuse de deux

Le pays tout entier est sous le choc. L'on se demande la question de savoir qui aurait pu faire ça. Selon Carter, les cadavres des victimes ont été déposés dans la morgue St. Moïse. Il a exhorté les populations à rester calmes pendant que la police fait son enquête pour établir la cause des décès.

« Notre enquête préliminaire a établi que les deux victimes décédées sont des employés de la LRA (Liberia Revenue Authority) », s'est contenté de dire M. Carter. Mme Peters, qui est directrice d'une branche de la Banque Libérienne pour le

développement et l'investissement (LBDI), a fait savoir que lors de sa dernière conversation avec son mari, ce dernier lui avait dit qu'il allait rencontrer quelqu'un autour de la banque UBA.

A en croire l'épouse, comme son mari n'était pas rentré chez lui jeudi soir, elle a appelé presque toutes leurs connaissances, mais en vain. Ainsi, elle se serait mise à la recherche de son mari le lendemain vendredi, et quand elle a vu son véhicule devant la banque UBA, elle l'a ouverte, et voilà son mari sans vie avec à ses côtés une jeune femme, elle aussi morte.

L'Organisation des nations

sociétales.

Selon elle, les femmes ne sont plus considérées comme de simples annonceurs de paix, mais plutôt comme une source de pouvoir et un symbole de progrès, encourageant ainsi les femmes à continuer à défendre ce en quoi elles croient.

Dans sa présentation, la sénatrice du comté de Grand Bassa, Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence, a déclaré qu'elle voulait être réélue parce qu'elle a été testée et qu'elle est sénatrice depuis huit ans,

faisant pression sur les questions féminines au Sénat.

La candidate du comté de Grand Cape Mount, Mme Hawa Corneh Bropkeh, a déclaré qu'elle avait reçu une pétition de son peuple parce qu'il savait qu'il était en difficulté, soulignant que leurs dirigeants qui sont actuellement au Sénat ne parlent pas pour le peuple.

« Et pour que les choses changent, nous avons besoin de représentation. Non seulement une représentation pour les femmes, mais une représentation pour l'ensemble du comté », a-t-elle dit.

La NEC a dévoilé les

libériens. Ils se prononceront aussi sur quatre propositions dans le cadre du référendum national dont l'objectif est de changer la durée du mandat présidentiel de six à cinq ans, la durée du mandat des sénateurs de neuf à sept ans

et la durée du mandat des députés de la Chambre des représentants de six à quatre ans. Les libériens auront aussi l'opportunité de se prononcer sur l'adoption ou non de la double nationalité.

La CEDEAO à propos du 3e mandat d'Alpha Condé : "Nous avons déjà dépassé ce débat"

La mission de la Cedeao qui a séjourné cette semaine à Conakry a douché les espoirs du Front national pour la défense de la constitution (FNDC). La ministre ghanéenne des affaires étrangères et présidente du conseil des ministres de la Cedeao, Shirley Ayorkor Botchway, a fait savoir à Abdourahmane Sanoh et Cie que le débat sur le 3e mandat est révolu.

« Nous avons rencontré le président Alpha Condé pour lui présenter un aperçu général de toutes les rencontres que nous avons eues à Conakry durant notre mission. Il nous a fait savoir qu'il n'encouragera en aucun cas les violences. Il a clairement montré sa

détermination à faire en sorte que le processus électoral soit pacifique », a expliqué la cheffe de la diplomatie ghanéenne au terme de la mission de la Cedeao, de l'Union africaine et des Nations Unies.

Elle a tenu à souligner, lors d'une conférence de presse, que « nous avons rencontré une délégation du FNDC qui nous a fait part de ses préoccupations. Mais à deux semaines de la présidentielle, nous lui avons dit que nous avons dépassé le débat sur la constitution ».

« Puisque la cour constitutionnelle a déjà les candidatures. Il ne reste plus qu'à laisser les citoyens aller aux urnes pour élire le candidat de leur choix.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Dalia Marin

Le nouveau moteur de croissance de l'Allemagne de l'Est

MUNICH - L'Allemagne célèbre cette semaine le 30e anniversaire de sa réunification. Après des années de frustration et de morosité, l'Est du pays, longtemps en situation de dépression - l'ancienne République démocratique allemande (RDA) - entrevoit enfin un nouvel espoir grâce à d'importants investissements novateurs dans la fabrication de véhicules électriques (VE).

L'Allemagne de l'Est est en train de rapidement devenir le cœur européen de la mobilité électrique du futur. Volkswagen produit sa voiture électrique ID.3 à Zwickau et Dresde. BMW fabrique d'ores et déjà son véhicule électrique i3 à Leipzig, tandis que le constructeur chinois CATL produira les cellules de batterie pour BMW au sein d'une usine basée à proximité d'Erfurt, capitale de la Thuringe. Une autre entreprise chinoise, Farasis Energy, fabriquera des cellules de batterie pour les VE de Mercedes-Benz dans le land de Saxe-Anhalt. Tesla a par ailleurs annoncé l'an dernier sa volonté de produire des batteries et des voitures électriques dans une nouvelle « méga-usine » à Brandebourg, près de Berlin.

Pourquoi toutes ces entreprises choisissent-elles de s'implanter en Allemagne de l'Est - et pourquoi maintenant ? Les salaires élevés de la région, notamment par rapport à l'Europe de l'Est, en ont longtemps fait une destination d'investissement peu attractive. Seulement voilà, deux annonces politiques récentes ont changé la donne.

Premièrement, en février 2019, le ministre allemand de l'économie Peter Altmaier a dévoilé sa « Stratégie industrielle nationale pour 2030 », qui prévoit notamment la mise en place d'une production de cellules de batterie en Allemagne et ailleurs en Europe. Cette annonce a été suivie du lancement par la Commission européenne de l'Alliance européenne pour les batteries, qui entend créer un secteur européen des batteries compétitif. Plus tard en 2019, la Commission a introduit Battery 2030+, une initiative de long terme consistant à rassembler institutions de recherche, industrie, et institutions publiques de financement.

Ces engagements de la part de la Commission européenne et du gouvernement allemand ont engendré un processus d'agglomération conduit par l'État. Les constructeurs de VE ont désormais tout intérêt à s'implanter en Allemagne et dans d'autres pays européens pour bénéficier d'une proximité avec les autres sites de fabrication et de production de VE, et par conséquent d'intrants clés dans le domaine des batteries.

Deuxièmement, le Green Deal européen lancé par la présidente de la Commission européenne, Ursula von der Leyen, vise à soutenir les régions dans leur abandon progressif du charbon, y compris en leur versant des subventions pour atténuer l'impact économique. L'Allemagne compte quelques-uns des plus grands gisements de charbon de la planète, situés pour deux tiers dans les länder Est de Saxe et de Brandebourg. Ce financement de l'UE à travers le Green Deal permet aux territoires est-allemands d'octroyer d'importantes subventions pour attirer les constructeurs de VE dans la région.

L'engagement allemand en faveur des véhicules électriques, en parallèle des transferts financiers de l'UE, offre à l'Allemagne de l'Est une nouvelle chance de se réindustrialiser, et par conséquent de générer prospérité et fierté. De plus en plus d'entreprises s'implanteront dans la région à mesure que les constructeurs automobiles y installeront leurs chaînes d'approvisionnement. Les VE produits localement deviendront également moins coûteux à mesure que la concurrence augmentera entre les fabricants, et que les cellules

de batteries n'auront plus besoin d'être importées depuis l'Asie. Enfin, en augmentant elle aussi, la demande locale de main-d'œuvre boostera les revenus.

C'est une évolution majeure. L'Allemagne de l'Est souffrait depuis 30 ans d'une désindustrialisation survenue après l'effondrement du communisme, principalement liée à de mauvaises décisions politiques. Avant la réunification d'octobre 1990, le gouvernement ouest-allemand décide de libéraliser du jour au lendemain les échanges commerciaux avec la RDA, et l'Ostmark est-allemand est converti en Deutsche Marks au taux de 1:1. Cette réforme monétaire entraînera une augmentation des salaires est-allemands jusqu'à 70 % des niveaux d'Allemagne de l'Ouest, alors même que la productivité à l'Est ne représentera que 30 % de la productivité ouest-allemande. Résultat, le secteur manufacturier de l'Allemagne de l'Est mettra rapidement la clé sous la porte.

La Treuhandanstalt, nouvelle institution créée par le gouvernement de la RDA, privatisera et vendra alors les entreprises et actifs est-allemands à des sociétés de l'Ouest, bien souvent à un prix symbolique d'un DM, en échange de garanties d'emplois. Cette forme de subvention majeure incitera les entreprises de l'Ouest à s'installer à l'Est, région pourtant alors privée de l'avantage comparatif que constituaient les bas salaires. L'atmosphère politique tendue de cette époque est nettement illustrée par l'excellente série Netflix intitulée A Perfect Crime, qui revient sur l'assassinat en 1991 de Detlev Rohwedder, tout premier président de la Treuhandanstalt.

Le gouvernement allemand commettra par la suite l'erreur de dissoudre la Treuhandanstalt, après avoir vendu presque toutes les entreprises est-allemandes à des investisseurs de l'Ouest. Privé des subventions de cette institution, l'investissement en Allemagne de l'Est finira par s'assécher, et la convergence de la région en direction du revenu par habitant ouest-allemand sera stoppée.

La difficile réunification de l'Allemagne a été marquée par deux discours erronés, avec premièrement l'idée selon laquelle la Treuhandanstalt aurait sacrifié l'Allemagne de l'Est en bradant de précieux actifs à des entreprises de l'Ouest. En réalité, ces cessions constituaient une forme de subvention nécessaire pour attirer les entreprises dans une région qui avait perdu son avantage de coûts à la suite de la réforme monétaire.

Deuxième discours dommageable, beaucoup ont affirmé que l'Allemagne de l'Est n'avait rien à vendre au monde, et qu'elle présentait un secteur manufacturier à faible valeur. En réalité, si la région n'avait rien à vendre, c'est parce que la réforme monétaire l'avait privée de l'avantage de coûts dont bénéficient généralement les pays au niveau de développement similaire. Ce discours a exercé un effet négatif sur la psyché des Allemands de l'Est, qui ont soudainement eu l'impression de n'avoir aucune valeur dans une économie de marché. Leur estime d'eux-mêmes était certainement plus élevée sous le règne du communisme, lorsque l'Allemagne de l'Est était considérée comme une pionnière manufacturière du bloc soviétique, et qu'elle exportait avec succès vers les autres pays d'Europe de l'Est.

En 1990, Helmut Kohl prédisait des « paysages florissants » dans l'Est du pays. Beaucoup ont longtemps considéré cette vision comme trop optimiste, laquelle n'est certes à ce jour pas encore une réalité. Pour autant, en devenant le cœur de la production de véhicules électriques, l'Allemagne de l'Est peut espérer conduire la transition écologique, et donner raison à l'ancien chancelier.

Police mess up crime scene

By Ben P. Wese & Bridgett Milton

Liberia's Police Inspector General Col. Patrick T. Sudue admits that officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP) contaminated the crime scene of two deceased employees of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) whose corpses were mysteriously found in a parked vehicle early Friday morning on Snapper Hill, Broad Street.

It is yet to be established what led to the deaths of victims Albert K. Peters, LRA's Internal Auditor and Gifty A. Lamah, a Research Analyst at LRA.

Col. Sudue appeared at the press conference at the Police Headquarters Monday, 5 October with a flying sheet to address the public concerning the death of Albert and Gifty.

What message was contained in his flying sheet could not come clear until the police chief began taking questions from the media and subsequently admitting that the crime scene had been contaminated. His response was based on a question as to why police officers drove the car in which the two LRA employees' bodies were found instead of towing it or lifting it from the scene to protect the evidence.

Col. Sudue states that "This is what we call contamination of the crime scene."

"Look I must say publicly that there was some errors on the crime scene but those errors on the crime scene were not significant as to destroying the evidence that we had....," Mr. Sudue claims.

He explains that what normally should have happened was that the person that was on board should have been extracted, the police should have had an ambulance available and put the people on the ambulance and drove on.

He blames the police's failure to follow these steps on a huge crowd that gathered on the crime scene to witness or report the incident.

"But again we had a lot of people there..., look we respect the dignity of everybody, there were lot of people there with gadgets on. People wanted to record and all like that," Col. Sudue

explains.

"So looking at that aspect of taking the people out of the car that was unconscious, we deemed it necessary that what we would do let them just remain on board and someone drive the vehicle to the next

However, the widower of the late Gifty A. Lama, Mr. Sylvester S. Lama, suspects foul play in the death of his wife.

Speaking to Journalists on Monday, October 5, at the St. Moses Funeral Home in the

arrangement to use her car early Thursday morning, 1 October but he called her without response, despite repeated attempts to get in touch with her.

He continues that at about 2 A.M. Friday, 2nd October his



The late Albert K. Peters

The late Mrs. Gifty A. Lamah

point," Sudue continues.

According to him, the LNP investigators did not want to conduct their investigation in the public, narrating that it was because of that they took the decision to drive the vehicle to the John F. Kennedy (JFK) hospital to make sure the unconscious people are attended to.

He recalls that the LNP received a call on 2 October indicating that a parked vehicle opposite the Cathedral Catholic Church on Broad Street had two persons believed to be on board and unconscious.

Immediately, he says police dispatched officers on the crime scene and took the unconscious people in the vehicle to JFK where the occupants were pronounced dead upon arrival.

He adds that the two bodies were taken to the St. Moses Funeral Parlor for further preservation, noting that Montserrado County coroner is conducting an inquest in the presence of the deceased's families after which a report will be furthered to the Justice Ministry requesting an autopsy if the need be.

Over the weekend, police authorities said they had begun investigation into the death of Albert K. Peters and Gifty A. Lamah.

The death of the duo has left the country in shock, as many are wondering what may be responsible for the incident.

Monrovia suburb of Somalia Drive, Mr. Lamah narrated that when the family received the death news of his wife and he personally went on the scene along with his father-in-law, they were prevented from seeing his late wife's body, even at the hospital.

According to him, he and his late wife constructed a house in Brewerville City, behind Moulton Corner in Montserrado County but due to distance constraint, they decided that she and the children should spend the entire week in Monrovia and go home during weekends, which had been ongoing up to her mysterious demise.

He reveals that late Mrs. Gifty Lama and her father had a

sister-in-law dialed the Lone Star MTN number of the deceased and a strange male voice answered, saying 'you will see her tomorrow in a car' and then off the phone.

Mr. Lama calls on the

government to speedily investigate the mysterious death of his wife to ensure justice is served.

He adds that he and his wife usually spent Sundays together at their Brewerville residence during weekends, so claims that they were on separation are far from truth.

According to him, prior to her sudden death, his wife served as Acting Manager for Tax Service at the LRA, and was promised to assume the position formally after two months' probation, something that was never realized up to her death.

"Prior to the incident, my wife complained of too much politics at the job [site] something that was delaying her promotion at her job", he discloses, and laments: "my wife was the only source of income for the family, since I'm not working."

The mysterious deaths of the duo, who worked for the same entity is the biggest riddle to occur under the three years rule of the George Weah administration that the Liberia National Police will have to unraveled as the country becomes tense with political violence ahead of midterm senatorial elections in December. -Editing by Jonathan Browne & Winston W. Parley

**SECTION I. INVITATION FOR BIDS
FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS
(101st Graduation Academics)
IFB NO.: UL/SP/NCB/002/20/21**

September 15, 2020

- The University of Liberia has allotted portion of its Convocation's budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and intends to apply it towards the procurement of Academics for the 101st Graduating Class, 2020.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA), 2010 and approved by the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC) of the Republic of Liberia.
- Specification and quantity:

ItemNo.	Description	Quantity
LOT # 1	Academics LOT 1- Graduate Programs/Visitor/Professors	Assorted
LOT # 2	Academics LOT 2- Undergraduate Programs	Assorted
- Qualification requirements include:
 - Valid Government of Liberia (GOL) Business Registration with Code M7410
 - Valid GOL Tax Clearance
 - Past Performance records including the names and contact numbers of at least 4 clients who had purchased same/similar goods in the last 4 years. They will be used as references to check the performance and quality of the offered model, if necessary.
 - Bank statement for the past three (3) years to present
 - Bids will be examined for proper signature and completeness before consideration for further evaluation.

5. A set of bidding documents in English can be obtained by interested bidders for a non-refundable fee US\$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars) from the Procurement Department, Fendall Campus beginning September 15 – October 14, 2020 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.

6. All bids must be accompanied by a Notarized Bid Securing declaration valid for 60 days after the opening of bids.

7. Interested Bidders are advised to visit the Procurement Department (see address below) to view samples of the fabrics before submitting bids.

8. Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 p.m., October 14, 2020 and will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the Administrative Conference Room (AC1-01), Right wing of the Administrative Complex, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow:

In the upper left corner of the envelop, print:
"SEALED BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF ACADEMICALS"
LOT#: _____
REF.: IFB NO.: UL/SP/NCB/002/20/21

Below the bid reference number, print the bidder's address.

In the middle of the envelop, print the address below:

Procurement Department
Administrative Complex, Right wing, 1st Floor, Room #: AC1-09
University of Liberia
Fendall Campus, Liberia

9. Note that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Signed: _____
DIRECTOR/Procurement Dept.

Approved: _____
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Orange defiant

By Othello B. Garblah

The Orange GSM Company, a network formerly operated by Cellcom is defiant, refusing to pay surcharges on money it has already collected on floor prices set by the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) but is poised to pass the burden on to consumers.

The company recently sent out notices to all its subscribers that it will increase data and voice bundles beginning Monday October 5, 2020. But it failed to inform subscribers that it has for the past months been using the very floor-price set by the LTA for which the latter is now demanding the payment of the surcharges accrued under that transaction.

The LTA issued Order 0016-02-25-19 imposing floor prices and surcharges on on-net voice calls and data.

A floor price is a minimum

prices and surcharges on on-net voice calls and data. Before issuing the Order, the LTA got all stakeholders involved and their inputs were considered. The LTA also conducted public consultations to be able to make informed decisions. Thereafter, the Order was finalized and took effect. This led to the elimination of the famous "Three Days Free Calls," by the two GSM Companies last year September.

Subsequently, when the order went in to force, the two GSM companies requested 6 months after which they will pay into government revenue the surcharges collected from the implementation of the floor price.

So the one major effect of the LTA Order was to abort the famous three days free-call as specifically requested by Orange Liberia and other stakeholders. Orange Liberia and the stakeholders allegedly argued at the time that it was necessary to stop the three days

over Cellcom, and with its sole interest to maximize profit, it did not like the three days free call because Orange Liberia felt it could make more eliminating the three days free calls.

The Government too welcomed the idea likely because of its interest to collect revenue on paid calls, unlike free calls. Since there were no conflict of interests between the GSM companies on the one hand and the Government on the other, the LTA issued the Order which charges a floor price and surcharge in consultation with all stakeholders.

Surprisingly, having eliminated the free call and collected revenue from the floor price as the LTA Order, Orange continued to refuse to pay the surcharge fee to the Government of Liberia as provided for in the same Order.

The order also provides that after it comes into force on April 15, 2019, and on the



Orange CEO, Mr. Mamadou Coulibaly

Pres. George M. Weah

fee impose by an authority preventing operators from charging fees beyond that limitation. Thus, the minimum floor price imposed on on-net voice call is US\$0.0156 per minutes and US\$0.0218 per megabyte for data services.

Data obtained by the New Dawn newspaper indicates that since the LTA Order was introduced both LoneStarCell MTN and Orange made a combined USD104 million as a result of implementing the order. The surcharge portion is 22 million which they are now refusing to pay.

Instead, Orange has presented a picture to put a government, which already looks like its running out of favor with electorates against its people.

How did it happened?

It can be recalled that in 2018 the LTA issued Order 0016-02-25-19 imposing floor

free call because they believed it had no economic benefits to their owners.

The New Dawn investigation at the time revealed that the famous three days free call was introduced by Celcom prior to Orange acquisition of Celcom through purchase as reported. It was likely a business strategy employed by Celcom to increase its customers in order to attract potential buyers like Orange.

The three days free calls having lasted for years, thus Cellcom's customers definitely increased, and Cellcom sold to Orange Liberia. Among other things, the three days free call prompted unfair competition and instability between Cellcom (and later Orange Liberia) and Lonestar Cell MTN. As the result, LTA as the regulator issued the Order with the aim to achieve stability, coordination, and efficiency in the sector.

When Orange Liberia took

sixth month anniversary of the order, there shall be automatically impose, a surcharge on the on-net voice of US\$0.008 per minute, and on the data services a surcharge of US\$0.0065 for each megabyte.

But following the publication of this order in 2019, Orange Liberia continued to engage the LTA by numerous letters, outlining its objection to the order.

While still collecting the floor price charge, Orange Liberia took LTA to court refusing to pay the surcharge. The LTA won the case in the lower court from which Orange Liberia took an appeal before the full bench of the Supreme Court.

Again, while still operating on the floor price as imposed by the LTA, Orange Liberia noted in its inputs during the consultation that the "concept of unlimited, three day free calls" is at the core of its marketing strategy and if

Man 26, charged

Starts from back page

unknown location but he was arrested by police in Kakata, Margibi based upon a tip off and brought to Monrovia for investigation at the police headquarters.

During the investigation, suspect Samuel Bonner allegedly admitted to his guilt and stated that he was always being molested by the victim,

describing the deceased as aggressive and always traveling with weapons to attack people.

"According to him, sometimes in the year 2016, Joshua Boto Davies wounded him (Bonner) in his palm with cutlass for no reason," police reveal.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Prioritize revenue

Cont'd from page 6

soil, it takes what he calls geology and or a very long time or decades before it can be replaced as such, he said, it is imperative that the current ones be well and properly managed so that the direct beneficiaries will enjoy from the nation's resources.

Providing some statistics about the sector, the Assistant Minister Swen revealed that about 80% of artisanal miners are young people, who normally abandon schools at the detriment of their future, making specific reference to Grand Kru County, southeast Liberia, where he visited recently.

"They do not know when they should be in school and

when to go on the mines and this is worrisome for our future growth process", he lamented.

Meanwhile, Swen has urged the young people of Liberia through FLY to get more involved in creating massive awareness and education for their colleagues in the sector to avoid having a big gap of uneducated and unprepared young people in the coming years.

He added that gender, human rights and inaccessibility among others are issues normally observed in mining areas, which need to be addressed. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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stopped, would destabilize the company and create significant risks on its leadership of the market, operations, revenues and taxes.

How did the Supreme Court rule?

So on Thursday September 3, 2020, the Supreme Court, Associate Justice Yussif D. Kaba ruled that the LTA's imposition of surcharges on data services and on - net-voice calls did not invade the Legislature's authority to levy tax, a slap in the face of GSM company Orange Liberia, which had continuously opposed the move.

Associate Justice Kaba went on to say that it was not the intent of the Legislature to preclude the LTA from imposing surcharges on data services and on-net voice calls when it repealed and amended Sections 1165 (Mobile Telephone Usage) and 1022 (B) (2) of the Amended Revenue

Code as Amended 2016.

So what has Orange done since the Supreme Court ruling?

This paper has gathered that Orange Chief Executive Officer Mr. Mamadou Coulibaly, who was recently a person of interest to the National Security Agency (NSA) in relation to a street protest in connection to the LTA surcharges has since been running Orange from Ivory Coast.

But as stated earlier, the company announced that it will impose the said surcharges, as to if it would increase the on-net voice calls and data apart from what the LTA has set is yet to be seen.

However, it has refused to pay its share of the USD22 million accrued from the combined 104 million and want to start payment from current, where as it has been collected floor price charges since the 3 days free calls ended last year.

118 candidates for 15 seats -NEC announces



NEC Chairperson, Davidetta Browne Lansanah

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Head of the December 08, 2020 Special Senatorial election, the National Elections Commission reveals it has received 118 aspirants vying for 15 senatorial seats across the country.

The aspirants include; 20 females, 98 males, 44 independent, 74 political parties and alliances and 17 members of the House of Representatives, respectively.

This is the first in contemporary history of Liberian election for a special

senatorial poll to produce the highest number of incumbent members of the House of Representatives, seeking to go to the Liberian Senate.

Of the total 118 aspirants, Lofa County tops the list with 11 individuals followed by Montserrado and Grand Cape Mount counties with 10 aspirants each, closely chased by River Cess, Margibi, Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh and Gbarpolu Counties, featuring nine aspirants each in the much publicized pending election.

Bong, Grand Bassa and Maryland Counties produced eight aspirants at piece, while Nimba County produced seven with Bomi County registering five, and River Gee and Sinoe Counties putting forth four aspirants each.

Statistics from the National Elections Commission indicates that many Liberians have taken interest in entering the senate.

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Man 26, charged with murder

By Ben P. Wese

The Liberia National Police (LNP) has charged a 26-year-old man identified as Samuel Bonner, alias Pastore, with murder and forwarded him to the Monrovia City Court for allegedly causing the death of one victim Joshua Boto Davies.

Defendant Bonner was later on Monday transferred to the Monrovia Central Prison where he is expected to

remain in detention pending an indictment.

According to a police charge sheet, defendant Samuel Bonner, a resident of Kakata, Margibi County was arrested and acquainted with his constitutional right, investigated and subsequently charged in relation to the death of victim Davies.

He allegedly killed Davies and abandoned the deceased body in Barnerville, Bethel Hill Community on 20 September.

The police say during their investigation, it was revealed that on 20 September at about 2:30pm, an altercation ensued between Joshua Boto Davies (deceased) and suspect Samuel Bonner at Bethel Hill community, Barnerville, which degenerated into a fist fight.

Initially the two men were separated, according to police, but the charge sheet continues that after a few minutes, the late Joshua Boto

Davies returned to where the fight took place and the deceased was held by some community boys in an attempt to prevent further confrontation with suspect Bonner.

"In the process, Joshua Boto Davies tussled with the community boys to free himself, but he was unable," police say.

The victim then allegedly took out a knife and frightened those that were holding him,

leaving them with no option but to escape.

Joshua Boto Davies allegedly returned to fight again, engaging suspect Samuel Bonner with the knife, according to police.

In the process Davies was allegedly stabbed with a broken bottle in his neck by suspect Samuel Bonner which allegedly resulted to his death.

Bonner fled the scene to an

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