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Families protest at St. Moses *-demand bodies of missing children*



One of the protester at the scene



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Continental News

Nigeria to deploy anti-riot police nationwide

Nigeria's police chief has ordered the nationwide deployment of anti-riot officers to quell violence following protests against police brutality.

Mohammed Adamu's announcement came as an indefinite 24-hour curfew was imposed in the commercial hub of Lagos.

Lagos state Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu said that criminals had hijacked protests "to unleash mayhem".

The protests began with calls for a hated police unit to be disbanded, but morphed into demands for wider reforms.

President Muhammadu Buhari dissolved the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (Sars), accused of illegal detentions, assaults and shootings, on 11 October.

But the demonstrators have called for more changes in the security forces as well as reforms to the way the country is run. Mr Adamu said in a statement that he ordered the deployment of the Police Mobile Force (PMF) "to protect lives and property of all Nigerians and secure critical national infrastructure across the

country".

He has also ordered the massive deployment of police operatives to strengthen security around prisons.

Mr Sanwo-Olu announced the curfew for Lagos, which has a population of about 20 million people, on Tuesday after saying the protests had "degenerated" into violence.

In a series of tweets, Mr Sanwo-Olu said that he had "watched with shock how what began as a peaceful #EndSARS protest has degenerated into a monster that is threatening the

well-being of our society".

"Lives and limbs have been lost as criminals and miscreants are now hiding under the umbrella of these protests to unleash mayhem on our state... we will not watch and allow anarchy in our dear state." The curfew came into force at 16:00 local time but protesters in the Lekki and Alausa parts of Lagos had not dispersed, 15 minutes after a curfew kicked in.

Instead, they were singing the national anthem at Lekki

toll gate - one of the main roads into Lagos's business district. The curfew will affect millions of people. Only essential workers will be allowed out.

The announcement of the curfew comes after reports that people set fire to a police station in the Orile part of Lagos state. Videos posted on social media show the police station burning, with people standing outside cheering.

It is not clear if there were officers inside the building at the time or how the perpetrators managed to set the building aflame. Some would say it was inevitable

that as the protests continued the authorities would turn to an old trick - looking away when the first sparks of violence appeared, only to use it as an excuse to quash peaceful protests.

Security operatives have been largely indifferent as thugs attacked peaceful protesters across the state from last Thursday. To be fair to the police, they too have not been spared, getting attacked on Monday and having a police station burnt on Tuesday.

Many will feel the decision to deploy anti-riot police is a hasty one. But things were beginning to spiral out of control with full-blown riots in some parts of the country. BBC



Nigeria has been hit by protests against police brutality

'Islamist rebels' free 1,300 prisoners in Congo

More than 1,300 prisoners have escaped from a jail in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo's Beni city after suspected Islamist rebels attacked the facility, officials have said.

The Allied Defence Forces (ADF) was thought to have

launched the assault to free its members, the mayor said. Only about 100 inmates remained in Kangbayi prison, the mayor said. The ADF was formed more than 20 years ago in neighbouring Uganda to fight alleged discrimination against Muslims. It relocated to eastern DR Congo after being driven out

from its bases by the Ugandan military. The group has not yet commented on whether it was behind the attack.

Beni's mayor Modeste Bakwanamaha told Reuters news agency that the attackers came in large numbers and managed to break the jail's door using electric equipment.

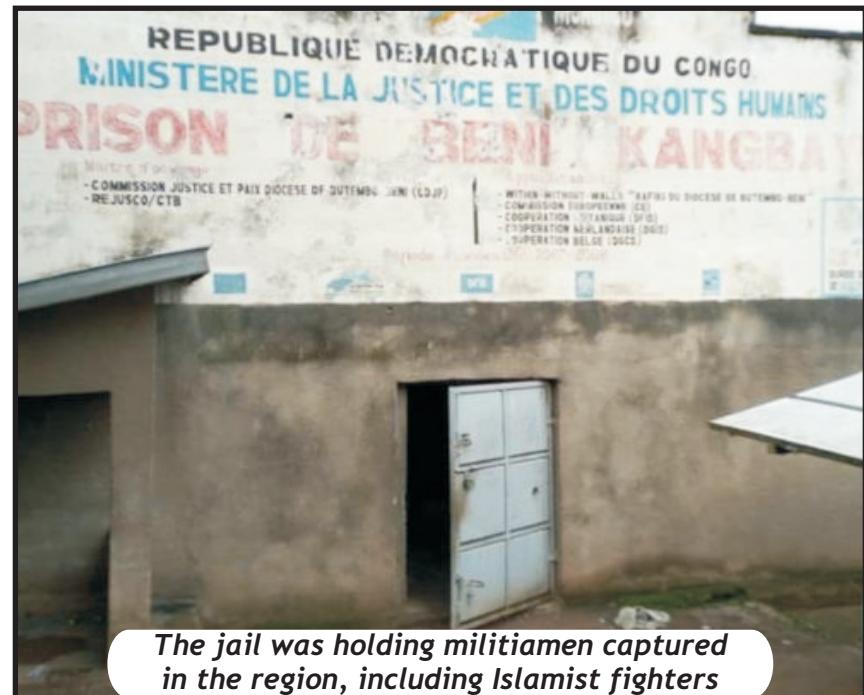
"We believe it was the ADF who did this," he was quoted as saying. Police managed to capture 14 escapees, UN-backed Radio Okapi reported.

Two inmates were shot dead during the raid, which started at around 04:30 local time, police said on Twitter.

The army spokesman in Beni, Lt Anthony Malushay, told the BBC that an operation to capture the prisoners who escaped was under way.

In 2017, hundreds of prisoners escaped from the same jail, which holds a variety of militiamen - including ADF fighters.

The ADF is one of many rebel groups operating in eastern DR Congo, a mineral-rich area where government



The jail was holding militiamen captured in the region, including Islamist fighters

Trump set to remove Sudan from terrorism blacklist

US President Donald Trump has said Sudan will come off a list of state sponsors of terror if it pays compensation of \$335m (£259m).

Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok responded by saying the funds had been transferred but there was no immediate US confirmation.

Sudan has been listed since 1993 when al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden lived there as a guest of the government.

The compensation relates



to al-Qaeda's 1998 bombing of US embassies in Africa.

The attacks in Tanzania and Kenya killed more than 220 people and the compensation money is to be paid to "US terror victims and families", Mr Trump said. Relations between the US and Sudan have improved since President Omar al-Bashir was ousted after mass street protests last year.

Mr Bashir had ruled the conflict-ridden African nation for 30 years.

and UN forces have long battled to bring stability.

The group has been accused of widespread atrocities in the region.

Dropping Sudan from the blacklist will be very welcome news in the country, where food, fuel and medicine are getting more expensive and scarce, BBC Africa senior correspondent Anne Soy reports. In a tweet, Donald Trump wrote: "GREAT news! New government of Sudan, which is making great progress, agreed to pay \$335 MILLION to U.S. terror victims and families.

"Once deposited, I will lift

Sudan from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list. At long last, JUSTICE for the American people and BIG step for Sudan!"

The US president has the power to remove a nation from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list. Congress then has 45 days to object.

Sudan is currently one of four countries - along with Iran, North Korea and Syria - on the blacklist. BBC

The ADF has reportedly killed 570 civilians since the Congolese army launched an operation against them in November last year. BBC

EDITORIAL

Welcoming IIA's effort in auditors' mysterious deaths

NEWS THAT THE Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) in Lake Mary Florida, America, has written the United States Government to help with investigation into the mysterious deaths of four government employees in Liberia, including three professional auditors and a manager is encouraging. It is not just welcoming but would bring relief to families of the victims, who are very eager to establish how their relatives died suspiciously at different times under separate circumstances.

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah while speaking at his family church in Rehab Community outside Monrovia recently, appealed to the U.S. government to assist with investigation into the mysterious deaths that have left Monrovia residents panicking and restless.

IIA PRESIDENT AND Chief Executive Officer Richard F. Chambers in a formal communication to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, dated 16 October 2020 writes, "While evidence of any wrongdoing in the recent deaths of the four auditors so far appears inconclusive, the United States and Liberia have a special relationship dating back more than 160 years and supporting this notable ally would be an important gesture of our countries' commitment to each other's security."

THE LETTER WITH copy published online, continues: "As you may be aware, four government auditors in Liberia, including the country's senior auditor, recently met with their untimely deaths, and it is our understanding that Liberia President George Weah has reached out to the United States for help in investigating the incidents. The Institute of Internal Auditors, a U.S.-based organization representing public-and private-sector auditors in Liberia and nearly 200 countries and territories, respectfully urges you to accept President Weah's request and authorize the assistance of appropriate U.S. expertise and resources to help review circumstances around the deaths."

WE HAIL MR. CHAMBERS for selflessly moving to solicit his government's support, as earlier requested by President George Weah in unearthing facts surrounding the mysterious deaths. This important to lay all misinformation, disinformation and interpretations to rest, and bring perpetrators to justice.

WE BELIEVE WHOEVER did those killings along with their accomplices has again beamed the world's attention on Liberia for all sinister motives, particularly just as the country prepares for senatorial election and national referendum in December.

NOT ONLY THAT, these suspicious deaths signal to the rest of the world that Liberia is not safe for investment and economic activities thus, subjecting the country to isolation and abandonment.

THIS IS WHY it is very important that Liberian authorities exert all efforts to get to the bottom of these mysterious deaths to restore public confidence both at home and abroad.

IT IS OUR hope that Secretary of State Pompeo would respond favorably to the request to put U.S. government's expertise and resources at the disposal of the Government of Liberia in professionally bringing these matters that seem very related to close.

IT IS HIGHLY regrettable and disappointing that these fine sons and a daughter of our country - Albert Peters, Assistant Commissioner for Internal Audit, Liberia Revenue Authority; Victoria Asmah 'Gifty' Lamah, Manager, Tax Payer Services Division, LRA; George Fahnboto, Auditor, LRA; and Emmanuel BartenNyeswa, Director-General, Internal Audit Agency of Liberia respectively, were discovered dead at different locations in just over eight days, from October 3-10, 2020.



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COMMENTARY

The Time Bomb at the Top of the World

People all over the world are already losing their homes and livelihoods to deadly fires, floods, storms, and other disasters. With scientists now expecting the Arctic Ocean to be almost ice-free in late summer, far worse could be yet to come.

SAN DIEGO - It is hard to imagine more devastating effects of climate change than the fires that have been raging in California, Oregon, and Washington, or the procession of hurricanes that have approached - and, at times, ravaged - the Gulf Coast. There have also been deadly heat waves in India, Pakistan, and Europe, and devastating flooding in Southeast Asia. But there is far worse ahead, with one risk, in particular, so great that it alone threatens humanity itself: the rapid depletion of Arctic sea ice.

Recalling an Alfred Hitchcock movie, this climate "bomb" - which, at a certain point, could more than double the rate of global warming - has a timer that is being watched with growing anxiety. Each September, the extent of Arctic sea ice reaches its lowest level, before the lengthening darkness and falling temperatures cause it to begin to expand again. At this point, scientists compare its extent to previous years.

The results should frighten us all. This year, measurements from the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colorado show that there is less ice in the middle of the Arctic than ever before, and just-published research shows that winter sea ice in the Arctic's Bering Sea hit its lowest level in 5,500 years in 2018 and 2019.

Over the entire Arctic, sea ice reached its second-lowest extent ever on September 15. Amounts vary from year to year, but the trend is inexorably downward: the 14 Septembers with the least sea ice have all been in the last 14 years.

But sea ice is not only covering less area; it is also thinner than ever. The oldest sea ice (more than four years old), which is more resistant to melting, now comprises less than 1% of all sea ice cover. First-year ice now dominates, leaving the sea cover more fragile and quicker to melt. Scientists now expect the Arctic Ocean could be almost ice-free in late summer within a decade or two.

The effects would be catastrophic. In the extreme scenario, which could happen within decades, loss of all ice during the entirety of the sunlit months would produce global radiative heating equivalent to adding one trillion tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. To put this in perspective, in the 270 years since the Industrial Revolution began, 2.4 trillion tons of CO₂ have been added to the atmosphere. About 30% of the Arctic warming has already been added to the climate because of the ice lost between 1979 and 2016, and more warming follows quickly as more of the remaining ice is lost.

This extreme scenario would drive climate change forward by 25 years, and it is hardly farfetched. Just last month, a block of ice about twice the size of Manhattan broke off from the largest remaining Arctic ice shelf, in Northeast Greenland, after record summer temperatures.

Meanwhile, on land, the Greenland Ice Sheet is also in peril. With Arctic warming occurring at least twice as fast as average global warming,

Greenland's rate of melting has at least tripled over the last two decades. It is believed that this will become irreversible in a decade or less. Eventually, this melting will cause sea levels to rise by up to seven meters (23 feet), drowning coastal cities, though this peak will most likely not be reached for hundreds of years.

Compounding the problem of accelerating Arctic warming is the self-reinforcing feedback risk of permafrost thawing. With about twice as much carbon locked away in permafrost as is already in the atmosphere, releasing even some of it could be disastrous. Permafrost thawing would also release even more potent greenhouse gases: nitrous oxide and methane. As global temperatures rise, it also is possible that even more methane could be emitted from the East Siberian Arctic Shelf's shallow seabed.

Clearly, urgent action is needed to mitigate these tremendous - even existential - risks. Rapidly reducing CO₂ emissions is necessary, but not nearly sufficient. In fact, studies show that even rapid cuts in CO₂ would mitigate only about 0.1-0.3°C of CO₂ warming by 2050.

That is why it is also vital to slash emissions of so-called short-lived climate pollutants: methane, black carbon, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and tropospheric ozone. Such action could mitigate six times as much warming as reductions in CO₂ emissions by 2050. Overall, eliminating emissions of these super pollutants would halve the rate of overall global warming, and reduce projected Arctic warming by two-thirds.

Some progress is being made. Almost four years ago, in Kigali, Rwanda, 197 countries adopted an amendment to the Montreal Protocol focused on phasing out HFCs. (Already, the Montreal Protocol has facilitated the phase-out of nearly 100 chemicals that fuel global warming and endanger the ozone layer.)

Moreover, in the United States, the Senate reached a bipartisan deal last month to cut the production and importation of HFCs by 85% by 2036. California, for its part, has slashed black carbon emissions by 90% since the 1960s, and will halve the remainder by 2030. And the US Climate Alliance - a bipartisan group of 25 state governors - has set the goal of reducing methane emissions by 40-50% by 2030.

These are laudable goals. But reaching them - let alone the more ambitious targets needed to stem the rise in global temperature - will require us to overcome strong headwinds, beginning with US President Donald Trump's administration, which opposes emissions-reduction targets.

Even if Trump loses next month's election, the Arctic - and the entire planet - will be in grave danger unless the new administration radically strengthens efforts to cut emissions of both CO₂ and short-lived climate pollutants. People all over the world are already losing their homes and livelihoods to deadly fires, floods, storms, and other disasters. Far worse could be yet to come.

OP-ED

By José María Figueres

Getting to Low-Carbon High Seas

The global shipping industry's annual greenhouse-gas emissions total more than one billion tons, making it a critical front in the fight against climate change. But whether the sector's emissions will shrink or grow over the next decade will depend largely on what governments decide in the next few months.

NEW YORK - This month, delegates from governments around the world are meeting (virtually) for a crucial, albeit under-the-radar, climate summit at the United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO). The topic is how to decarbonize the global shipping industry, which accounts for over 80% of world trade and more than one billion tons of greenhouse-gas emissions per year - more than any but the top-five emitting countries.

This massive source of emissions cannot be ignored. Our fossil-fuel addiction is having a disastrous impact on the planet, particularly on our oceans. Increased heat and acidity, melting sea ice, and decreasing oxygen levels are wiping out coral reefs, threatening marine life, and undermining the ocean's ability to function as a key ecosystem and climate regulator. Considering that every second breath we take comes from the ocean, our own health is directly linked to that of this natural system.

Scientists warn that we have just ten years at most to take the steps needed to keep global warming within 1.5 °C of pre-industrial levels, and thus to avert significant risks to nature and humanity. Yet, despite a surge in public concern about the climate crisis, the IMO's meetings still attract barely a flicker of media attention. Most people have no idea who is representing their country in these talks, much less whether their governments are supporting or opposing stronger climate standards.

Back in 2018, nearly all countries supported the adoption of a meaningful decarbonization roadmap for halving the global shipping sector's emissions by 2050. But the crucial question of how to enforce this target has remained unanswered. Governments will try to break the impasse at this month's IMO meeting, and again at the 75th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC75) next month.

To that end, countries as diverse as China, India, France, and Nigeria are already coalescing around a sensible proposal: "goal-based operational efficiency." Under this approach, which is not as technical as it sounds, the international community would agree on targets for the maximum amount of carbon dioxide that each type of ship may emit per ton of cargo per mile traveled. With these caps in place, shipowners will then decide for themselves how to meet the decarbonization targets. With a steep enough target - reducing CO₂ intensity by, say, 80% by 2030 - the shipping industry can both achieve emissions reductions in line with the Paris climate agreement and accommodate further growth in global trade.

As always, the devil will be in the details. One potential problem is that Japan and a few other countries are pushing to delay mandatory enforcement of tighter CO₂ regulations until 2029 or 2030. If they succeed, the shipping industry's annual emissions will continue rising throughout this decade, pushing the Paris targets further out of reach.

But if governments can get their act together and adopt tough CO₂ regulations, shipowners will have no shortage of options for meeting the new targets. For example, Flettner rotor sails can cut fuel consumption by more than 8%, and air-lubrication systems can reduce it by another 12%. Despite their demonstrated effectiveness, neither system has been installed in more than a handful of the world's 60,000 or so commercial vessels. And even if shipowners are short of cash to invest in these commonsense measures, merely reducing their vessels' speed by 20% would cut emissions and fuel costs by 24-34%.

To be sure, getting the industry to net-zero emissions also will require a much broader shift away from fossil-fuel propulsion systems. But, here, the shipping industry itself is ahead of the laggard governments that are trying to block progress at the IMO. Under the auspices of the Getting to Zero coalition, more than 120 major companies are already working to commercialize zero-emission vessels within the next ten years.

These plans will yield far-reaching benefits for developing countries that are rich in renewable energy. Clean shipping offers a triple win: In addition to shrinking the burden of air pollution, it also reduces hefty oil-import bills and boosts inward investment to national renewable-energy sectors. For example, according to a study by the Environmental Defense Fund, Chile could unlock up to \$90 billion of investment in renewable-energy infrastructure if its ships were to shift from fossil fuels to green hydrogen-based fuels manufactured with renewable energy.

As with so much else in the climate debate, the real obstacle to achieving a sustainable future is not technology, but politics. If governments can finally agree to set tough emissions regulations for all the world's ships at the IMO this year, they will have charted a course for a cleaner, greener global trade system, powered by abundant renewable energy. That would be good for the planet, the ocean, and humanity.

OPINION

By Oscar Jonsson & Taylor Owen

How to Govern the New Digital Domain

For too long, and on too many issues, policymakers have left the governance of technology in the hands of those who design it. Governments face three imperatives in mitigating the digital economy's negative effects, and they can no longer afford to stand by.

MONTRAL/MONTREAL - Today, as our economic and social lives increasingly move online owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the digital and physical domains are becoming more integrated than ever. And now more than ever, governance and regulation of a hyper-powered digital world must catch up.

Besides triggering the most severe economic crisis since the Great Depression, COVID-19 is also accelerating technological trends that were already well underway. One of the most notable is that big tech is getting bigger. The tech-heavy NASDAQ index is up by 30% so far in 2020, while the combined market capitalization of Apple, Amazon, Facebook, and Alphabet (Google's parent company) has passed \$5 trillion. As a result, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos's personal fortune has increased by over \$70 billion, or 68%, since the pandemic began, while Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's net worth has risen by \$30 billion to \$87.8 billion.

This growing concentration of power and wealth in the hands of a few global digital firms will shape national and international politics as we emerge from the pandemic. The big tech companies gain value from intangible assets such as data, algorithms, and intellectual property, rather than just tangible assets such as physical labor or goods and services, and have taken advantage of weak digital governance to avoid paying taxes and social-security contributions. Our global governance system was built for the tangible world, and governments have been far too slow to adapt laws and regulations to build an equitable digital economy.

The growing gap between the digital economy's winners and losers is evident in skyrocketing inequality and the erosion of the middle class, which the pandemic is likely to exacerbate in the short term. The political center also has shrunk, with support for left- and right-wing extremist parties increasing. Belief in democracy and trust in media have declined in both Europe and the United States: today, a mere 30% of US millennials think it is essential to live in a democracy. All these trends risk being amplified in the near future, to the benefit of illiberal populists.

The pandemic also has increased global geopolitical rivalries and highlighted the reality that great-power confrontation increasingly takes place in the digital domain, in areas owned by global private firms. Facebook and Google, for example, are becoming contested terrain for both national and international struggles, as the 2016 and 2020 US presidential election campaigns, as well as other elections around the world, have shown.

Meanwhile, national policymakers are struggling to assert technological sovereignty in order to govern data and the digital giants. Governments of some large European countries have been unable to implement their own COVID-19 contact-tracing protocols owing to the stranglehold of Apple and Google, which in effect decided between themselves how the world's 3.2 billion smartphones could - and could not - be used to fight the pandemic.

Policymakers must urgently come to terms with these developments. In *The New Digital Domain*, our recent report for IE University's Center for the Governance of Change, we recommend three sets of imperatives for policymakers.

First, we need new governance models for the digital economy. These should include a new forum for diplomatic and global coordination to overcome the current balkanization of data governance. Neither China's state-centric approach nor the firm-centric US approach allow individuals to control their personal data. By contrast, the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation goes further in this direction. The problem is that the three zones defined by these approaches cannot "talk" to one another. As a result, no tech firm or legislation can be truly global, because it is impossible to comply with all three zones' rules simultaneously.

We also need an international body to shape global standards and regulations for the platform economy. This institution could advise on best practices, monitor risks arising from new technologies (including their impact on civil society), and develop regulatory and policy interventions to address them. Today's digital domain is undermining our ability to arrive at a common understanding of facts. To prevent an epistemological crisis, we need an information space that is a public good, rather than one that seeks to maximize profit.

Second, we need new economic governance models. The digital economy is driven by proprietary technology, and by its nature favors first movers and economies of agglomeration. Governments need to create a level playing field for innovators and laggards, and devise smart, agile regulations to ameliorate the impact of technological disruptions in traditional sectors. Policymakers should also develop new ways to protect gig-economy workers and offer them the same forms of socioeconomic security enjoyed by ordinary workers, albeit through different mechanisms.

Third, we need a new social contract to end the social fracture and polarization of politics. The status quo of an untaxed and largely unregulated digital economy is no longer tenable. The failure to tax the gains of large public firms is constraining governments' ability to provide social public goods and services. We need to establish a new global regime to tackle the problem of tax arbitrage by multinationals whose value is derived largely from the intangible economy.

In addition, promoting and regulating inclusive and innovative working arrangements could help to repopulate less developed areas, and contribute to narrowing the regional disparities that contribute to political polarization. Education is the most effective tool for social mobility, but its costs are increasing while curricula are slow to adapt to the changing needs of the digital economy. Providing effective, up-to-date, and affordable education for citizens is crucial.

FEATURE FEATURE

The main drivers of the highest corporation taxes around the world

By Lucy Desai

While corporation tax rates are influenced by the country's definition, there's clearly a pattern with developing countries and emerging economies paying higher rates to sustain the country.

The top five richest countries in the world's corporation tax are relatively varied, with Luxembourg standing at 27.08%, Norway at 22%, Iceland at 20%, Switzerland at 18% and Ireland at 12.5%. It would appear that some countries' cultures factor into how much tax they pay. For example, Scandinavian countries are proud to pay higher taxes to contribute to social welfare.

On average, Africa has the highest corporation tax rate throughout the world's continents at 28.45% and South America, the second highest with an average

corporation tax.

It is unclear whether South America, as an emerging continent, is charging higher taxes in order to raise government revenue or to benefit from businesses that are looking to expand internationally and enter new markets. According to research, South America is becoming a popular choice for business to enter, with strong trade links and an advantageous geographic location. Indeed, South America is a large continent where some countries are business friendly and others are harder to penetrate.

Africa: the continent with the highest average corporation tax

Being the poorest continent in the world, Africa unsurprisingly has the highest average corporation tax at 28.45%. With the highest in this data being Zambia at 35% and the lowest being Libya and



rate of 27.63%. However, Europe stands at the lowest rate of 20.27%. Does this contradict the claim that developed countries pay higher tax?

OECD explained that corporation tax plays a key part in government revenue. This is particularly true in developing countries, despite the global trend of falling rates since the 1980s. Let's take a closer look at two continents, South America and Africa, paying the highest corporation tax rates in the world.

South America has most countries in highest corporation tax top 10

According to data analysed, Brazil and Venezuela have the highest corporation tax at 34%, followed closely by Colombia at 33%, and Argentina at 30%, making South America the continent with the most countries in the top 10 who pay the highest

Madagascar at 20%, South Africa stands roughly in the middle at 28%, slightly above average for Africa overall. Does this mean that South Africa is the safest bet for business?

South Africa is one of Africa's largest economies, with 54 diverse countries in terms of political stability, development, growth, and population. As South Africa has been a relatively slow growth area over the years, corporation tax dropped from 34.55% in 2012 to the current rate – but was this effective? GDP in South Africa has fluctuated quite dramatically since the 1960s. Business favours countries with political stability, which is something South Africa doesn't currently have. Furthermore, South Africa's government debt to GDP sits roughly in the middle of the continent's countries – is this influencing their corporate tax rate?

Country	Continent	Tax (%)
Puerto Rico	North America	37.5
Zambia	Africa	35
Brazil	South America	34
Venezuela	South America	34
France	Europe	33.3
Columbia	South America	33
Morocco	Africa	31
Japan	Asia Pacific	30.62
Mexico	North America	30
Argentina	South America	30
Germany	Europe	30
Australia	Asia Pacific	30
Philippines	Asia Pacific	30
Kenya	Africa	30
Nigeria	Africa	30
Congo	Africa	30
Belgium	Europe	29
Pakistan	Asia Pacific	29
Sri Lanka	Asia Pacific	28
New Zealand	Asia Pacific	28
South Africa	Africa	28
Luxembourg	Europe	27.08
Chile	South America	27
Canada	North America	26.5
Algeria	Africa	26
India	Asia Pacific	25.17
Jamaica	North America	25
Chile	South America	25
Ecuador	South America	25
Netherlands	Europe	25
Spain	Europe	25
Austria	Europe	25
South Korea	Asia Pacific	25
Bangladesh	Asia Pacific	25
China	Asia Pacific	25
Indonesia	Asia Pacific	25
Zimbabwe	Africa	25
Tunisia	Africa	25
Greece	Europe	24
Italy	Europe	24
Malaysia	Asia Pacific	24
Israel	Middle East	23
Egypt	Africa	22.5
Norway	Europe	22
Denmark	Europe	22
Turkey	Europe	22
Sweden	Europe	21.4
United States	North America	21
Portugal	Europe	21
Russia	Europe	20
Finland	Europe	20
Iceland	Europe	20
Afghanistan	Asia Pacific	20
Azerbaijan	Asia Pacific	20
Kazakhstan	Asia Pacific	20
Thailand	Asia Pacific	20
Vietnam	Asia Pacific	20
Cambodia	Asia Pacific	20
Taiwan	Asia Pacific	20
Saudi Arabia	Middle East	20
Jordan	Middle East	20
Yemen	Middle East	20
Madagascar	Africa	20
Libya	Africa	20
Slovenia	Europe	19
Czech Republic	Europe	19
Poland	Europe	19
United Kingdom	Europe	19
Belarus	Europe	18
Croatia	Europe	18
Switzerland	Europe	18
Ukraine	Europe	18
Singapore	Asia Pacific	17
Hong Kong	Asia Pacific	16.5
Lithuania	Europe	15
Georgia	Asia Pacific	15
Maldives	Asia Pacific	15
Kuwait	Middle East	15
Iraq	Middle East	15
Ireland	Europe	12.5
Cyprus	Europe	12.5
Bulgaria	Europe	10
Qatar	Middle East	10
Hungary	Europe	9
Barbados	North America	5.5

Bio: Lucy Desai is a content writer at QuickBooks, a global company offering the world's leading accountancy software.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NEC gives CPP's Samukai green light

The Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission (NEC) on Tuesday October 20, upheld the ruling of its hearing officer giving former Defence Minister J. Brownie Samukai a green light to contest in the upcoming

All seven members of the Board of Commissioners (BOC), Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah, Co-chairperson Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves, Commissioners Boakai A. Dukuly, Cllr. Ernestine Morgan Awar, Floyd Oxley Saylor, Barsee Leo Kpangbai and Josephine Kou Gaye heard the case and



December 8 midterm senatorial election.

The unanimous ruling of the NEC BoC confirmed and affirmed the acceptance letter issued to the Mr. Samukai of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) to contest the in Lofa County as a CPP candidate.

signed the ruling.

The case grew out of an appeal action for Preliminary Injunction filed by Korvah Jorgbor et al of the City of Monrovia as Objectors versus Brownie J. Samukai, first respondent and the Collaborating Political Party, CPP, Intervener-Respondent.

Reading the ruling of the BOC of NEC Tuesday 20 October 2020 following arguments by the two parties, the Co-chairperson of NEC Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves said "the acceptance letter of Co-Appellee Brownie J. Samukai of the Collaborating Political Parties, qualifying him and placing his name on the listing of qualified aspirants/candidates to contest the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Election in Lofa County is hereby confirmed and affirmed.

Co-chairperson Cllr. Reeves said in addition to the Board's ruling, Section 24.6 of the Criminal Procedure law states that the taking of an appeal shall stay the enforcement of the judgement, sentence or order from which the appeal is taken and arrest all further proceedings pending decision on the appeal.

The NEC Co-chairperson cites in this case the interpretation of the Supreme Court in Article 20 (b0 of the Liberian Constitution that on "announcement of an appeal, no execution shall issue on a judgement, nor shall any proceeding be taken for its enforcement until final judgement is rendered.

Youth wants Liberians go back to the soil

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong County

A Liberian youth from Bong County Samuel Babajah has called on citizens of the country to unite and go back to the soil, expressing his frustration at Liberia's dependence on populated countries like China and India for the importation of its staple, rice.

Speaking to our correspondent in Bong County on one of his farms in Belequelleh Clan, Mr. Babajah says going back to the soil can be the only option that will help reduce hardship.

He says Liberia is a country of just less than five million people, adding that it is very much frustrating for it to depend on China and India for the importation of rice.

According to him, uniting and going back to the soil can be the best interest for the country as many people will

become self-employed and not depending on the government all the time.

He suggests that agriculture is an important element in the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) because it provides employment and income for many.

Mr. Babajah tells journalists that there are many young people in Liberia who can help to move the country forward through agriculture, adding that "maximizing the usage of the soil can build the Liberia we want because farming can put food on your table and money in your pocket."

He believes that if at least 50% of the country's population gets involved in farming activities, it will be a significant contributing factor in addressing food insecurity.

He adds that hunger is an issue of growing concern

nationwide, and farmers can play a critical role in helping individual families gain access to healthy, fresh, locally produced food.

"Producing at least our staple food (rice) can help boost our economy. You are aware that Liberia spends over \$200 million to import rice annually. So imagine if we are producing food," he says.

Right now, he says the country's budget is little over five hundred million United States Dollars, noting that if Liberia can be able to get such an amount from the soil, the National Budget can increase to billion dollars.

Mr. Babajah concludes that as a youth of Bong County, he will continue to invest in the soil to help people who are struggling.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Market women campaign for President Weah

By Lewis S. Teh

United Women for Peace, a local women group has vowed to re-elect President George Manneh Weah for second term in office in 2023.

"We the United Women for Peace have reached a decision to support the re-election of President Weah in the next election", the women vowed.

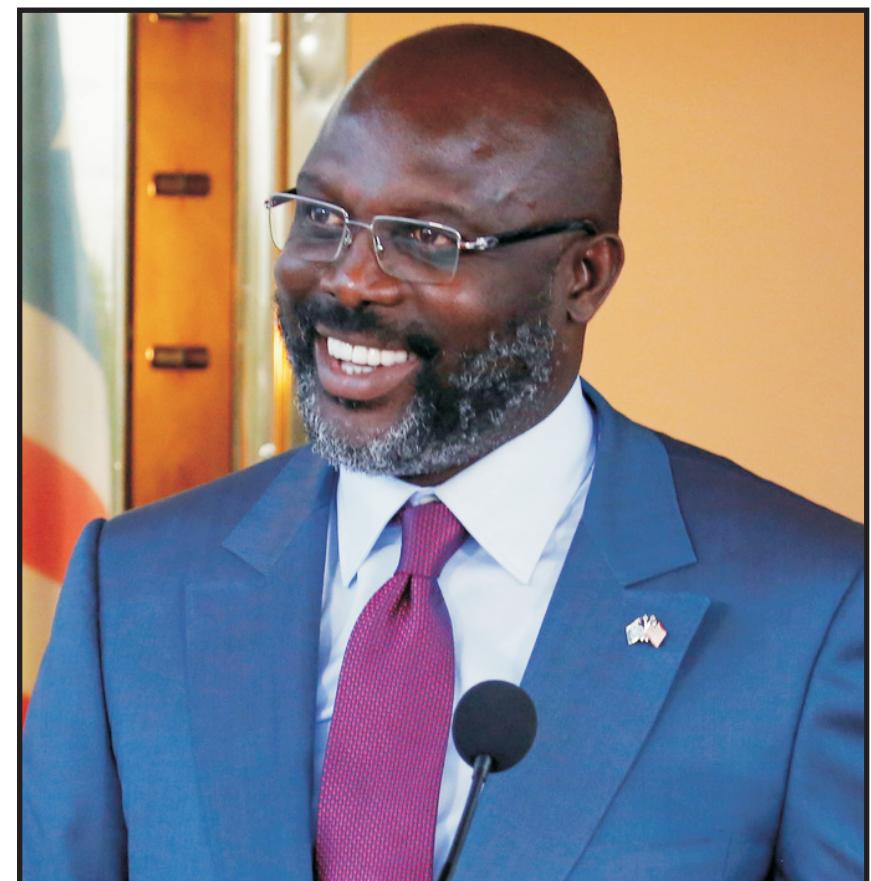
They made the vow on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at the official launch of the organization in the Borough of New Kru Town, Electoral District#16, Montserrado County.

The ceremony brought together scores of market institutions and market women, from various districts across the county. The women

the incumbent President, justifying that he's a true leader who cares about his people "particularly some of us who are bread winners for our families."

In their endorsement for President Weah, the women also argued Mr. Weah is the only Liberian leader who has shown interest in lifting Liberians out of poverty, noting that the leadership ability he President has exhibited over the past two years is something worth commending.

The women identified several developments carried out by President Weah, including construction of market buildings across Montserrado, scholarships for students, assistance to private



said their decision to support President Weah is based on his vision for market women across Liberia, irrespective of political or tribal affiliation.

Speaking during the official launch, the group president Ms. Esther Cooper said, they are excited over President Weah's recent groundbreaking program in Duala, Bushord Island for the construction of a modern market building or the Duala Market.

"Upon hearing the news that President Weah was breaking ground to construct a modern market for marketers in Duala we the women became excited", Ms. Cooper said. She said the market project is something that has trickled their decision to think of no one else to support than

school teachers and payment of students' WASSCE fees, among others.

Meanwhile, the group urged Liberians to allow President Weah to complete his tenure for the forward march of the country, saying "if we make mistake by electing people who don't have this country at heart then we should hold ourselves responsible."

Prior to the groundbreaking in Duala, President Weah recently dedicated the newly constructed 14 Omega Market building in VOA community, Paynesville outside Monrovia, and has promised to construct market buildings across the country, given that his own late mother was a market woman.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

62 women in four communities received interest free loan

Sixty-two women in four communities in Montserrado and Margibi Counties have received a zero percent interest loan of \$ 75.00 USD each to restart or upgrade their small business impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

PAYOWI records that many women and girls had expressed that during the

women and girls who are clustered in the least profitable formal and informal sectors, each woman in the pilot project has received the meager amount of \$75.00 United States Dollars, the equivalent of closely \$15,000 Liberian Dollars to start or upgrade their small business.

Beneficiaries of the program include young and adult

huge quantities for wholesale purpose. And eventually they started to reach into her business capital to help ensure her family was fed.

The loan is to be repaid within three months as of the disbursement date with no interest. The group of women will together decide the next activity to be supported with the For example, whether to



peak of COVID-19 lock-down in Liberia, economically, the various public health measures enforced by the Liberian Government resulted in reduced incomes, amidst spike in prices of basic commodities as well as disruption of various means of livelihoods.

To help respond to the ongoing severe economic hardship at varying degrees across gender, especially for

women, heads of households, single mothers and widows.

Beneficiaries, Mercy Tokpa and Margaret Freeman of the Mount Barclay community, said the loan will enable them restart their charcoal business that suffered massive decline as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown. The ladies explained that the increase in transportation and travel restrictions prevented them from purchasing the charcoal

establish a formal village saving loan in their communities or loan a new set of women in the community to follow the same payment arrangement.

Diana D. Jarka, women leader from Duahzon community thank PAYOWI for the hand extended them and see it as an opportunity for the women to "get back on

► CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Former AFL officer, others jailed -for abduction and torture

By Ben P. Wese

An ex-officer of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) Cheeseman Cole and several others have been sent to court by Police here for allegedly kidnapping and torturing 27 persons suspected to be homosexuals.

The victims were rounded up along the Roberts International Airport highway in Margibi County and subsequently remanded at the Monrovia Central Prison in the capital.

According to charge sheet from the Liberia National Police, defendants Emmanuel Tarpeh, Marcus, Galayi, James and Junior to be identified, violated Chapter 14, Section 14.20 (Aggravated Assault) Chapter 10, Section 10.1 (Criminal Attempt to Commit Murder), Chapter 17, Section 17.11, (Possession

and Sale of Physical Objects for lethal use) Chapter 14, Section 14.51 (Felonious Restraint) and Chapter 15 , Section 15.53 (Theft of Property), respectively.

Police investigation detailed that on October 8, 2020, a search and seizure warrant was issued on the premises of defendant Cole, following a tipoff that the

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14 Omega Market caretakers at each other's throats

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The head of the caretakers team of the 14 Omega General Market in Paynesville City, Madam TewahBondo and the President of the Liberia Vegetable Sellers Association (LVSA) Sumo Mulbah are at each other's throats, trading accusation and counter-accusation for LRD100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Liberian Dollars).

Addressing reporters at the 14 Omega General Market on 19 October, 2020 Madam Bondo, aunt of the chief butler to President George Weah, Miss FindaBondo, accused Mr. Mulbah of signing for LRD100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Liberian Dollars) from Finda's office, which he's yet to account for.

This paper has not independently verified this information with Miss

market to pave road leading there, brush back of the market where vehicles would offload goods and construct an 18-room latrines.

According to her, she did not do anything wrong, noting that those accusing her are aware of everything that she did. She added that if she misappropriated money from the market, her accusers are not the ones to query her but the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC) that selected her as caretaker head for the Omega market.

Madam Bondo then threatened to drag Mulbah and others to court for alleged character assassination, if they fail to prove allegations being made against her.

But in reaction, the President of the Liberia Vegetables Sellers Association (LVSA) Sumo Mulbah alleged



FindaBondo.

According to her, Mulbah and others selected by the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC) to manage the affairs of the Omega General Market, pending full completion of the project, decided to distance from her and others on the caretaker team.

She explained that her trouble with Mulbah and others started when she decided to collect money from street sellers at the Paynesville Redlight general market based on agreement reached amongst members of the caretaker team to facilitate work at the 14 Omega market.

Madam Bondo said funds collected were used to purchase fuel oil for the yellow machine working at the

that Madam Bondo was sent to the office of the Mayor of the Paynesville City Corporation with a communication from the Chairman of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) MulbahMorlu for employment with the PCC from where the PCC seconded her to work along with the leadership of the LVSA at the Omega market site to enhance operation of the project.

He claimed that while working together, Madam Bondo secretly began to collect money from street sellers at the Paynesville market for selling spots, issuing them receipts without consent of other members on the caretaker team.

According to Mulbah, the

► CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Français

Contentieux pré-électoral : la Cour suprême face à une situation délicate et sans précédent

La Cour suprême du Libéria fait actuellement à une situation délicate après le recours de l'opposition qui exige l'émission d'une ordonnance contre le pouvoir législatif qui n'aurait pas notifié à temps la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) après le décès de deux législateurs pour organiser des élections partielles conformément à la constitution.

La Collaboration des Partis Politiques (CPP), plateforme de l'opposition, reproche au pouvoir législatif son prétendu refus de se conformer à l'article 37 de la Constitution libérienne concernant la notification de la Commission Electorale Nationale de deux sièges vacants dans un délai constitutionnel qui est de 30 jours après le décès des

question de délai. Mais concernant le cas présent, il y a un délai qui s'est déjà écoulé. C'est donc une situation délicate », a déclaré le juge en chef Korkpor.

« Voilà, vous avez déposé un mandamus pour obliger le pouvoir législatif à faire quelque chose dans les 30 jours alors qu'en fait, cela ne peut pas être fait parce que les 30 jours sont déjà passés », a-t-il dit.

Dans son recours soumis à la Cour suprême contre la NEC et le gouvernement dans son ensemble, la CPP se demande si l'article 37 de la Constitution impose une obligation légale au législateur et à la NEC.

Cette disposition citée exige qu'en cas de vacance au sein de l'Assemblée législative causée par un décès, une démission, une expulsion ou autrement, le président de l'Assemblée législative en informe la NEC

et si leur incapacité à fixer la date des élections partielles dans le délai constitutionnel est contraire aux valeurs démocratiques.

« Où je suis assis ici, je pense à ça parce que tous les autres cas de mandamus que nous avons traités jusqu'à présent devant ce tribunal, ils ont été déposés pour contraindre quelqu'un dans un délai imparti non encore expiré. Mais dans ce cas particulier, le délai imparti est expiré. Comment peut-on obliger quelqu'un à respecter le délai quand le délai est passé ? », a interrogé le juge en chef.

Répondant au juge en chef, Me Benedict Sannoh, représentant la CPP, a reconnu que « c'est une situation délicate », mais il a exhorté la Cour suprême à

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représentants Nagbe Sloh du comté de Sinoeet de Munah Pennoh Youngblood comté de Montserrado.

Qualifiant la question de très délicate, le juge en chef Francis S. Korkpor, lors de l'audience du lundi 19 septembre dans la salle des audiences de la Cour suprême, a posé la question à l'avocat de la CPP de savoir s'il ne pense pas que « cela en ouvre une autre vague pour que le tribunal dise par exemple, élargir le mandamus car cette affaire est sans précédent ».

« D'une part, je suis d'accord avec vous que si vous étiez venu avant l'expiration du délai, on vous dirait, mais les gens ont encore le temps de faire ce que vous demandez. Le mandamus n'a lieu pour obliger quelqu'un à faire quelque chose qu'il refuse de faire, sans qu'il soit

dans les 30 jours qui suivent et celle-ci doit organiser des élections au plus tard 90 jours à compter de la date où elle a accusé réception de la notification.

La CPP demande également si la Constitution envisage la tenue d'une élection partielle pour combler les vacances créées à l'Assemblée législative dans un délai maximum de 120 jours.

Troisièmement, la CPP veut une réponse si la NEC et le pouvoir législatif se sont conformés à leur obligation légale en fixant au 8 décembre 2020 la date des deux élections partielles causées par le décès des représentants Nagbe Sloh et Munah Pennoh Youngblood.

La CPP souhaite également que le tribunal détermine si le mandamus peut incomber à l'Assemblée législative et à la NEC si elles ne se conforment pas à leurs obligations légales,

décider que même si le mandamus n'est pas accordé, l'avis de la Cour suprême doit aborder les questions de la violation, en particulier à la lumière de la litanie de violation afin qu'il ne puisse y avoir de récidive.

L'ancien ministre de la Justice Me Sannoh a insisté sur le fait qu'il est important de donner sa position en raison de la litanie de violations de la Constitution et faire comprendre au législateur que l'article 37 est obligatoire et qu'il s'agit d'une obligation légale que le pouvoir législatif doit respecter.

Pour lui, l'Assemblée législative n'est pas différente de l'exécutif parce qu'ils sont tous créés à partir de la Constitution, par conséquent, si des mandamus sont émis contre l'exécutif, ils peuvent alors également s'appliquer au pouvoir

Guinée : l'opposant Cellou Dalein Diallo s'autoproclame vainqueur de la présidentielle



Cellou Dalein Diallo, ancien premier ministre et ex-gouverneur de la banque centrale guinéenne, n'a pas la réputation d'être un homme impatient. Et, pourtant, le principal adversaire au président sortant, Alpha Condé, n'aura pas attendu vingt-quatre heures ni la clôture de la compilation des résultats par la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (CENI) pour annoncer, lundi 19 octobre, sa victoire à la présidentielle en Guinée dès le premier tour du scrutin.

Quelques heures seulement s'étaient écoulées depuis la fin des derniers dépouillages, terminés tard dans la nuit, la plupart du temps à la lumière des lampes électriques comprises dans le kit électoral fourni par la CENI aux quelque 15 000 bureaux de vote répartis dans ce pays qui pointe en queue de peloton mondial en termes de développement technique et humain. Apparemment, il ne fallut pas longtemps pour rassembler tous les résultats. Tout comme fut extrêmement brève la durée de la déclaration du président autoproclamé, alors que le potentiel explosif du sujet est grand.

« Malgré les graves anomalies qui ont entaché le bon déroulement du scrutin du 18 octobre et au vu des résultats à la sortie des urnes, je suis victorieux de cette élection dès le premier tour », a annoncé très officiellement Cellou Dalein Diallo aux médias et à quelques centaines de partisans surexcités, entassés à Conakry dans la cour du siège de son parti, l'Union des forces démocratiques de Guinée (UFDG). Le leader de l'opposition a ensuite invité les Guinéens « épis de paix et de justice à rester vigilants et mobilisés pour défendre cette victoire de la démocratie ». A ces mots, les dizaines de chauffeurs de moto-taxi

présents dans l'assistance sont repartis au guidon de leurs machines pétaradantes parader dans les rues du quartier Hamdallaye, acquis à l'UFDG, au cri de « Cellou président ».

Pour expliquer sa précipitation, le chef de l'opposition guinéenne, déjà battu deux fois à la présidentielle par Alpha Condé, a affirmé au « Monde Afrique » que « le pouvoir est en train de frauder en changeant les résultats en sa faveur ». Aucun chiffre confirmant cette victoire ni détail des anomalies n'ont été avancés.

« Personne ne croit plus en rien »

« Que ces faits de trucage soient réels ou pas, nous n'en savons rien, mais cela montre surtout l'état de défiance absolue envers les institutions nationales et les voies de recours légales. Personne ne croit plus en rien. Cette déclaration peut être dangereuse, en ne laissant d'autre option que la rue et la violence », déplore, anonymement, un acteur de la société civile, opposant déterminé au pouvoir d'Alpha Condé mais embarrassé par cette victoire autoproclamée à la hussarde.

En 2010 et 2015, les succès du président sortant avaient déjà soulevé de violentes contestations, sur fond d'accusations de fraudes. Cette année, sa candidature n'a été rendue possible qu'après l'adoption controversée d'une nouvelle Constitution, à l'issue d'un référendum boycotté par l'opposition. La répulsion politique entre ces deux pôles opposés, attisée par une forme de populisme ethnique, est absolue.

La prise de position de la CENI, seule autorisée à annoncer les résultats mais accusée d'être inféodée au pouvoir, n'y changera probablement rien. La

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Français

Contentieux pré-électoral :

législatif, surtout si l'exercice est une fonction ministérielle, une obligation légale. Pour sa part, le juge associé Yusuf D. Kaba a posé la question de savoir s'il n'était pas de la responsabilité des parties prenantes du processus électoral, les citoyens par exemple qui seront affectés par la non-représentativité de déposer le recours au terme du délai des 30 jours.

Le juge Kaba a indiqué que l'Assemblée législative devait agir dans les 30 jours, elle n'a pas agi jusqu'à 70 jours. « Pourtant, les partis politiques, les associations, les citoyens individuels étaient tous parties à cette affaire, mais ils n'ont rien fait pour exiger de l'Assemblée législative ce qu'elle était censée faire ».

« De plus, personne n'est venu corriger les lacunes de l'Assemblée législative dans cette affaire, mais la CPP a attendu que l'Assemblée législative corrige l'erreur qu'elle avait commise avant de déposer un recours pour demander au pouvoir législatif de faire ce qu'il déjà fait », a-t-il conclu.

« Le résultat aurait été le même, que le mandamus ait été demandé avant que les 30 jours se soient écoulés. Donc, que vous veniez le 31^e jour ou que vous veniez le 32^e jour, cela n'aurait aucune importance en ce qui concerne cette violation particulière. C'est donc une

chose délicate car nous ne pouvons pas venir avant le 30^e jour, car nous espérons qu'en tant que législateurs, ils respecteraient leur devoir constitutionnel et feraient ce qui était juste », a rétorqué l'avocat de l'opposition.

Quant à l'avocat de la commission électorale Me Michael Wilkins Wright, il a indiqué que pour que la NEC agisse et déclenche le processus d'organisation d'une élection partielle dans le délai de 90 jours, il faut qu'elle ait reçu une notification de la part du pouvoir législatif.

« L'obligation légale qu'a la NEC est d'organiser des élections partielles dans les 90 jours qui suivent la réception de la notification. La suggestion de Me Sannoh selon laquelle, dans un esprit de coordination, la NEC aurait dû se rendre à l'Assemblée législative pour lui rappeler de lui soumettre une notification parce que le temps presse est irréaliste », a-t-il dit.

« La NEC n'est pas obligée de chercher quoi faire. Non non. Son travail est défini par la loi. L'obligation légale imposée à la NEC ne commence pas tant que l'Assemblée législative n'a pas fait son travail en premier », a-t-il ajouté.

Pour conclure, il a fait savoir qu'en ce qui concerne la NEC, elle n'a aucune raison de penser qu'elle a violé la constitution, priant le tribunal de voir l'affaire à partir de l'angle de la NEC qui, selon lui, est prête à se conformer de la loi.

Guinée : l'opposant Cellou Dalein Diallo

commission a jugé la déclaration de l'opposant « prématurée », « nulle et de nul effet ». Selon l'AFP, la CENI pourrait annoncer les résultats « avant la fin de la semaine », résultats qui devront ensuite être validés par la Cour constitutionnelle, une autre institution démonétisée.

Prenant acte du « déroulement globalement pacifique » du scrutin de dimanche, l'Union africaine (UA), la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cédéao) ainsi que l'ONU ont, dans un communiqué commun, jugé « regrettables » les annonces des résultats en dehors de la voie légale. Ces organisations ont également appelé les populations « au calme et à la retenue ».

Enfin, et sans surprise, le Rassemblement du peuple guinéen (RPG), au pouvoir, a

aussi « condamné sans réserve une déclaration irresponsable ». Signe de la volatilité de la situation, il a appelé ses partisans à rester « calmes, sereins et mobilisés », tout en se déclarant en coulisse, au plus haut niveau du pouvoir, assuré de la victoire au premier tour. L'UFDG fait état de trois morts. Des affrontements, tant redoutés dans un pays où les nerfs sont à vif, ont éclaté après la prise de parole de M. Diallo. « Alors que des jeunes célébraient pacifiquement la victoire, les forces de sécurité ont tiré sur la foule, entraînant la mort de trois jeunes garçons et plusieurs blessés par balles », a écrit le leader de l'UFDG sur les réseaux sociaux, parlant de « nouveaux crimes à mettre à l'actif d'Alpha Condé ». Le parti a présenté les morts comme Thierno Nassirou Sylla, Mamadou Saidou Diallo et Abdoulaye Diomba Diallo, 13, 14 et 18 ans.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Mario Molina
& Durwood Zaelke

La bombe à retardement au sommet du monde

SAN DIEGO - Il nous semble bien difficile d'imaginer de plus grands cataclysmes dus au changement climatique que les incendies qui ravagent les États de Californie, de l'Oregon et de Washington, ou le cortège d'ouragans qui ont longé - et parfois ravagé - la Côte du Sud des États-Unis. Nous connaissons également des vagues de chaleur meurtrières en Inde, au Pakistan et en Europe, ainsi que les crues torrentielles dans le Sud-Est asiatique. Mais des calamités bien pires nous attendent. Dont une en particulier, qui représente un risque si grand qu'il menace à lui seul l'humanité tout entière : la fonte rapide de la banquise de l'Arctique.

Une « bombe climatique » de ce genre nous évoque un film d'Alfred Hitchcock. En effet, à un certain point, un tel phénomène pourrait plus que doubler l'accélération du réchauffement climatique - et nous comprenons mieux dès lors en quoi ce compte à rebours suscite nos plus fortes inquiétudes. Chaque année au mois de septembre, la superficie de la banquise de l'Arctique atteint son plus bas niveau, avant qu'une nuit sans fin accompagnée d'une chute des températures ne favorise sa nouvelle expansion. À ce jour, les scientifiques ont mesuré que sa superficie est équivalente à celle de l'année précédente.

Ces résultats devraient nous glacer d'effroi. Cette année, les mesures effectuées par le National Snow and Ice Data Center de Boulder au Colorado montrent qu'il y a moins de glace au milieu de l'Arctique qu'au cours des années précédentes et une toute nouvelle étude montre que le niveau de la banquise dans la Mer de Bering a atteint son plus bas niveau depuis 5 500 ans en 2018 et 2019.

Sur l'ensemble de l'Arctique, la banquise a atteint sa deuxième plus faible superficie le 15 septembre. Les données varient d'une année sur l'autre, mais la tendance est inexorablement à la baisse : les 14 septembre ayant le moins de surface de banquise se situent tous dans ces 14 dernières années.

Non seulement la banquise couvre une surface de plus en plus petite, mais en outre, elle n'a jamais été aussi fine. La banquise la plus ancienne (de plus de quatre ans), qui résiste le mieux à la fonte, représente à présent moins de 1 % de la couverture glaciaire. La neige d'un an représente la plus grande quantité, ce qui fragilise d'autant plus la couverture glaciaire et accélère sa fonte. Les scientifiques s'attendent à présent à ce que l'Océan Arctique voie fondre quasiment toute sa glace en été d'ici une ou deux décennies.

Les conséquences risquent d'être catastrophiques. Dans le scénario extrême, qui pourrait se concrétiser d'ici quelques décennies, la fonte de toute la glace durant la totalité des mois d'ensoleillement pourrait produire un réchauffement mondial par rayonnement équivalent à mille milliards de tonnes de CO2 supplémentaires dans l'atmosphère. Pour nous donner une idée de ce que cela signifie, dans les 270 années écoulées depuis le début de la Révolution industrielle, 2,4 mille milliards de tonnes de CO2 ont été ajoutées à notre atmosphère. Près de 30 % du réchauffement de l'Arctique a déjà été ajouté au climat suite à la perte de glace entre 1979 et 2016 et davantage de réchauffement s'ensuit à cause d'une plus importante perte de glace.

Ce scénario extrême pourrait accélérer le changement climatique de 25 ans - et il est loin d'être improbable. Le mois dernier, un bloc de glace deux fois plus gros que Manhattan s'est détaché du plus gros morceau restant de la banquise Arctique, dans le Nord-Est du Groenland, après des températures record enregistrées durant l'été.

Pendant ce temps, sur le continent, la calotte glaciaire du Groenland est à son tour en danger. Alors que le réchauffement de l'Arctique se produit à un

rythme deux fois supérieur à celui du réchauffement de la planète, le rythme de fonte du Groenland a au moins triplé depuis les deux dernières décennies. On suspecte également que ce phénomène deviendra irréversible dans une décennie ou avant. En fin de compte, cette fonte va conduire à une élévation de sept mètres du niveau des mers, qui va submerger les villes en bord de mer, même si ce pic ne sera pas atteint avant plusieurs centaines d'années.

Pour encore agraver la situation, le problème de l'accélération du réchauffement de l'Arctique se transforme en un effet de boucle de rétroaction qui risque de faire dégeler le permafrost. Alors que le double de la quantité de carbone actuellement captive au sein du permafrost est déjà libérée dans l'atmosphère, en relâcher ne serait-ce qu'une partie aurait des effets désastreux. Le dégel du permafrost pourrait libérer également des gaz à effets de serre encore plus puissants, comme du protoxyde d'azote et du méthane. Alors que les températures mondiales sont en hausse, il se peut également que davantage de méthane soit émis depuis le fond marin à faible profondeur du Plateau arctique de Sibérie orientale.

Il faut de toute urgence des actes concrets pour atténuer ces risques énormes - pour ne pas dire existentiels. Une réduction rapide des émissions de CO2, si elle est nécessaire, elle est loin d'être suffisante pour autant. En fait, des études montrent que même des réductions rapides des émissions de CO2 ne vont atténuer que près de 0,1 à 0,3 °C de réchauffement par le CO2 d'ici 2050.

C'est pour cette raison qu'il est essentiel de réduire de façon drastique les émissions de polluants à courte durée de vie : méthane, carbone suie, hydrofluorocarbones (HFCs) et ozone troposphérique. Une action de ce genre pourrait atténuer six fois plus de réchauffement que les réductions en émissions de CO2 d'ici 2050. Dans l'ensemble, éliminer les émissions de ces super-polluants pourrait diviser par deux le rythme du réchauffement de la planète et réduire les prévisions de réchauffement de l'Arctique de deux tiers.

Certains progrès ont été réalisés dans ce domaine. Il y a près de quatre ans, à Kigali au Rwanda, 197 pays ont adopté un amendement au Protocole de Montréal, centré sur un plan d'élimination progressive des HFC. (Le Protocole de Montréal a d'ores et déjà permis l'élimination progressive de près de 100 produits chimiques qui provoquent le réchauffement de la planète et mettent en danger la couche d'ozone).

En outre, aux États-Unis, le Sénat a conclu un accord bipartite le mois dernier, en vue de réduire la production et l'importation de HFC de 85 % d'ici 2036. La Californie a réduit quant à elle ses émissions de carbone suie de 90 % depuis les années 1960 et va diviser par deux le restant d'ici 2030. Par ailleurs, l'organisation américaine Climate Alliance - un groupe bipartite de 25 gouverneurs - s'est fixé pour objectif de réduire les émissions de méthane de 40 à 50 % d'ici 2030.

Ces ambitions sont louables. Mais leur réalisation - sans parler des objectifs plus ambitieux qui sont nécessaires pour enrayer la hausse des températures de la planète - va exiger que nous ayons le dessus dans un conflit face à une forte opposition, à commencer par celle de l'administration du président Donald Trump, qui s'oppose aux objectifs de réduction des émissions.

Si Trump perd les élections du mois prochain, l'Arctique - et la planète entière - seront en grave danger, à moins que la nouvelle administration ne renforce radicalement ses efforts de réduction des émissions de CO2 et de polluants à courte durée de vie. Des individus du monde entier perdent déjà leurs logements et leurs moyens de subsistance face à des incendies, des inondations, des tempêtes et d'autres calamités. De pires catastrophes que celles-ci restent peut-être à venir.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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in compliance with their legal duty by setting 8 December 2020 as the date for the two by - elections caused by the death on 20 June 2020 of Sinoe Rep. J. Nagbe Sloh and the death on 8 July 2020 of Montserrado Rep. Munah Pennoh Youngblood.

It also wants the court to determine whether mandamus can lie on the Legislature and the NEC if they did not comply with their legal duties; and whether their failure to set the by - election date within the

Chief Justice calls

Justice Korkpor, when Cllr. Cephus "start writing like this, then it gives wrong signal to the public that the Supreme Court has no jurisdiction over the Legislature and they themselves start believing it."

"So what she did is unconstitutional to say show cause to see why the petitioners' petition should not be granted? It's unconstitutional, the action of the Justice?" the Chief Justice asks.

In response, Cllr. Cephus says he was referring to the office of

jurisdiction over the case we mandate you to come," he continues.

"It's not the Speaker we're speaking to, our colleague heads a branch of government. We have that authority to do that," Chief Justice Korkpor says.

Finally Cllr. Cephus says he concedes, having earlier insisted that the only thing the Supreme Court could do was to declare the act unconstitutional, but to mandate.

According to Cephus, Legislature is a branch of the Liberian government, it's not a ministerial office or a ministerial duty, emphasizing that it's a co - equal branch of this government.

"The power granted this court pursuant to Article 2 of the 1986 Constitution there are four powers. The power to review, the power to interpret, the power to declare and the power to mandate," he continues.

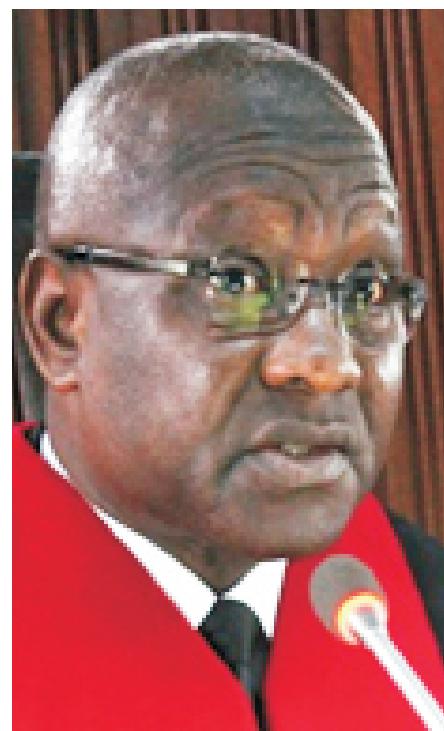
He adds that when the Legislature performs an act that is considered illegal or unconstitutional, "the only thing this court can do is to declare that act unconstitutional and that declaration is pursuant to Article 2, but to mandate, no."

Earlier in his opening statement, Cllr. Cephus alleged that when he received the CPP's petition, he circulated it around the world and he didn't find anywhere in the world where there has been anywhere in time a writ will issue in the form of mandamus against the Legislature.

He argues that the language and context of Article 37 is clear and unambiguous, saying it refers to a presiding officer which can be any member at the time presiding.

But in CPP's petition, Cephus notes that his colleagues named the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the 103 members of the Legislature.

He insists that if the respondents had not acted in the pale of the law, there would be no scheduled election, saying the entire petition is naked.



Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor



SG Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus

constitutional time frame offends democratic values.

During the argument Monday, Chief Justice Korkpor read Count 13 of Cllr. Cephus' returns before the Court which in part declares as illegal and unconstitutional, Associate Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh's instruction and mandate for the Legislature to appear before her on or before 15 October 2020 by filing its returns.

In this case Cllr. Cephus represents the Legislature and the Executive branches.

He claims that "in so far as it relates to the person and office of the Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives and the members of the 54th National Legislature," the mandate of Associate Justice Yuoh instructing and mandating the House of Representatives and the Legislature to 'appear' by filing their returns before her is illegal and unconstitutional.

Further, Cephus insists in the returns that Justice Yuoh's mandate or order violates the constitutional doctrine of separation of power.

But according to the Chief

he states that many times the Supreme Court has had prohibitions upon prohibitions filed against the House of Representatives, the Senate, or sometimes a faction of the Senate or a faction of the House of Representatives would file these remedial writs.

He adds that "this Supreme Court does not call a party and say please come," adding: "We don't use the word we request."

"This court acts through mandate, order, directive, these are the words from the court because we don't bring the parties to court. They were brought by people and to the extent that we feel and it is correctly so that we have

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62 women

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their feet".

Margaret Freeman a group member of Mount Barclay community who empowerment opportunity

According to PAYOWI, the funds do not come back to the organization but be used as an economic support empowerment funds for women in four communities.

The total of four thousand six hundred and fifty (\$4,650.00) United States dollars

was made possible by the Feminist Humanitarian Network through Actionaid International.

According to PAYOWI's Executive Coordinator, Facia Harris the project the Economic Empowerment activity is to help women care givers receive business start-up, stimulus, and expansion support to assist them mitigate the economic impact of the Coronavirus crisis.



Former AFL officer

Cont'd from page 7

missing persons were being kept in a white fence owned by him [Cole] and his collaborators.

The investigation revealed that during the search, defendant Cole was found hiding in the bathroom that connects to his bedroom along with several items found inside the house.

Items discovered inside the house include one single barrel handmade pistol, two live rounds, one Liberian Passport belonging to one Emmanuel Freeman, one of the complainants, assorted citizen and ordinary ID cards, one AFL uniform trousers, one AFL rain coat, AFL overnight jacket, kitchen knife, screw driver, scissors, one black itel phone belonging to Alpha Grulée, alias Abenego, an AFL helmet along with One Hundred Six United States Dollars.

The investigation also revealed that defendant Cole is in the constant habit of charting with the victim on Facebook and inviting him to his RIA highway resident where he usually grabbed, tied, and beat him after which he took

the victim's phones and money with a warning not to tell anyone or else, their alleged sexual activity would be exposed thru Facebook.

According to the Police, about 27 persons have fallen prey to defendant Cole's activities at different dates and time. Cole allegedly admitted to have interacted with six of the defendants by beating them afterward taking their phones and money under the pretense of disciplining them, but denied ever seen or interacting with Dominic Youconjah and Winston Toe.

However, Police investigation established through defendant Emmanuel Tarpeh's testimonies that defendant Cole interacted with victim Youconjah and Toe on separate dates and time at his residence during which he tied and beat them and took away their money and phones.

The investigation said all the victims that defendant Cole allegedly mal-handled were seen alive and talked to, except Youconjah and Toe, who are yet to be physically seen.
Editing by Jonathan Browne

Families protest at St. Moses

By Ben P. Wese

The compound of the St. Moses Funeral Parlors was a scene of intense protest, not for the deceased staffs of the integrity institution here, but for three staff members who reportedly went missing and are fear dead.

Family members of the staffs now feared dead besieged the funeral parlor, which is near the Topoe Village along the Somalia Drive Tuesday, October 20, demanding that its proprietor, Mr. Moses Ahoussouhe to produce the three persons who, according to police are already dead.

The protest comes as Pathologists hired by the Liberian Government are performing autopsies on the remains of three staffers of the Liberian Revenue Authority and the head of the country's Internal Audit Agency who all died under mysterious circumstances.

The spokesperson of the

"We're standing in front St. Moses to demand Moses to bring back our brothers [that] he took from here alive and we will continue to be here until we can get the result we want to hear that our children have been found and alive," some angry family members say.

The protesters besieged the entrance of the St. Moses Funeral Parlour, denying pathologists that are carrying on the autopsy on the bodies of the two deceased employees of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) access to the funeral home.

The LRA employees' corpses were found in a packed vehicle on Broad Street recently, sparking fear as additional two persons died mysteriously within that same period.

A team from the Liberia National Police (LNP) arrived at the St. Moses Funeral Parlour Tuesday and put the situation under control.

But the protesters promised to continue their protest on Friday and Saturday, targeting

three missing people and establish the cause of the accident.

When this paper arrived at the home of the Blamo family in Brewerville Township, the mother of Blamo, Jr. Madam Roselyn Blamo explains to this paper that her husband Robert Blamo, Sr. and St. Moses have been long time friends.

According to her, her husband always worked for St. Moses. Madam Roselyn Blamo narrates that on Friday, her husband received a call from St. Moses requesting him to allow his son Blamo, Jr. to go to Bomi Hill to repair his bike.

"My husband told Moses that our [son] has never been out of town to work, but Moses kept calling that he was sending someone with [a] bike to come pick Blamo Jr. up," she explains.

"Moses even sent us the bike person's number and we were in communication [with] the bike man till he came, pick up my son and his friends and they left," Madam Blamo narrates further.

With tears rolling down her cheek, Madam Blamo says further that since then, her son, his friend and the bike man left Brewerville, they have been calling Blamo, Jr. and St. Moses, but couldn't get them.

"We decided to call the bike man who picked the call and told us that our son and his friends arrived safely and were with St. Moses before he left for his town," she continues.

According to her, they kept calling Blamo, Jr. and his phone kept ringing, but no answer. Additionally, she says St. Moses could not also be reached at all.

"We kept worrying until Sunday morning when we got a call from my big daughter, telling us that someone called her that our son and his friends are dead," Madam Blamo laments.

She says when her daughter got home hurriedly, she told the family that someone had claimed to have found Blamo, Jr.'s wallet and identified the family name from Blamo's Identification Card that was in his wallet.

According to her, the caller indicated that it was through that she was contacted.

Since the incident, the mother says St. Moses has not called the family directly, but he's only using his employees at the funeral home to give information.

She says this has gotten her husband angry and he went out to the funeral home. Prior to going to the funeral home, she says her husband went to the Police Central Headquarters to report the case.

the days that the funeral home usually carries out removals.

Police Spokesman Moses Carter who was also on the scene confirms in an interview that three people are dead of alleged drowning, extending the police's condolences to the victims' families.

But later, Mr. Carter contradicted his previous statement that they are still in search of the missing people and their bodies are yet to be found.

In the new version of his statement, Mr. Carter says the report received at central from the police investigators in Bong County says a canoe carrying six people allegedly sank in the St. Paul River.

He narrates that three persons survived while the other three remain at large.

The Police spokesman laments that they contacted the families of the three missing persons, adding that investigation is ongoing in Bong County to find the bodies of the

14 Omega Market

Cont'd from page 7

caretaker team did not have any money, so Madam Bondo requested him (Mulbah) to lend her some money from the account of the Liberia Vegetable Sellers Association in the tune of US\$3,000.00 (Three Thousand United States dollars) but she has allegedly refused to reimburse the amount.

He said the money in question was taken from the Liberia Vegetables Sellers Association's coffer over a three-year period and she promised to have refunded the money, which is yet to happen.

He said they advised Madam TewahBondo at the time to stop collecting money from street sellers at the Paynesville Redlight market on grounds that they were not authorized by the Mayor of the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC) to collect money from marketers, but she ignored the advice.

He said most of the street

sellers, who Madam Bondo collected money from, alarmed that they wanted selling spots already paid for to enable them transfer to the 14 Omega General Market after confronting some members of the caretaker team on the matter.

"When we approached Madam Bondo about the marketers' claim of collecting money from them for market-spots, she told us that we wanted to undermine her leadership and so we chose to alert the Mayor of Paynesville City on the matter and about our subsequent withdrawal from the caretaker team", he said.

Mulbah warned Madam Bondo to concentrate more on how she will refund the money borrowed from the Liberia Vegetable Sellers Association rather than looking for people to use as scape-goat for her selfish motive. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



aggrieved party Lovette Johnson says their friends and brothers in persons of Robert Blamo, Jr., 29, Siafa and Blamo were all motorcycle technicians specialized in heavy duty motor bikes.

She says the three men were working with Robert Blamo Sr., the father of one of the victims.

According to Lovette, since Saturday, 15 October Mr. Ahoussouhe who popularly is called by the name of his funeral home St. Moses, allegedly called the father of the late Blamo, Jr., asking the father to allow his son Blamo, Jr. to go to Bomi Hill at the Jungle Gym Diamond Creek to help fix his motorbike.

While preparing for service on Sunday morning, Lovette Johnson narrates that they were surprised to receive a call informing them that their children got drowned in the river and since then, their bodies are yet to be found.

the days that the funeral home usually carries out removals.

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At the funeral home, she says the employees there did a conference call including her husband and St. Moses, and in that alleged call, she claims that St. Moses told her husband that he was sleeping when Blamo, Jr. and his friends decided to come back to Monrovia unknowingly to him.

However, Madam Blamo indicates that another information she gathered from Bong Mines indicates it was Moses who allegedly instructed three employees from his Diamond Creek to escort her son and his friends.

She wonders how St. Moses could be telling the family that

he did not know of the three men's decision to leave.

She states that her husband requested to go to Bong Mines where the incident occurred, but St. Moses allegedly told her husband that it was risky for him to go at the incident scene because the town has put its devil outside.

Madam Blamo also denies police's information that they have been in contact with the bereaved families.

She says there is no time police have ever called her or her husband until Mr. Blamo himself reported the case on Monday at central.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Six killed in tragic motor accident



By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong County

At least six persons are feared dead following a car accident on the route from Bong County Tuesday morning, 20 October involving a cocoa truck from Guinea that was headed to Monrovia.

Eyewitnesses say the truck ran off the road leading to the accident.

The truck with plate number 2300 according to eyewitnesses, was allegedly on very excessive speed when

the driver lost control and almost dumped into a nearby valley.

One of the eyewitnesses Jonathan Tumba told journalists that when he arrived on the scene, he saw the only survivor of the accident in a very critical condition.

According to Mr. Tumba, the survivor who was also a passenger, managed to have explained that the truck driver was sleeping, leading to the accident.

There have been rumors that unknown criminals allegedly beat the only survivor in order

to steal the goods on the truck. However the eyewitness did not comment on this claim because he says he went on the scene late.

Four bodies are reported to have been recovered so far while the remaining two are still under the truck.

Our Bong County correspondent says police officers from Salala, lower Bong County have gone on the scene to investigate the actual cause of the accident.

-Edited by Winston W. Parley

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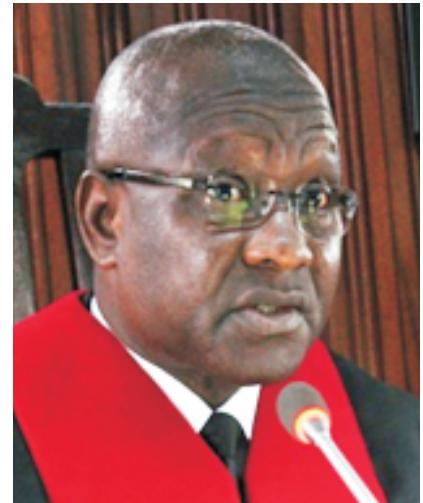
Chief Justice calls SG to order

By Winston W. Parley

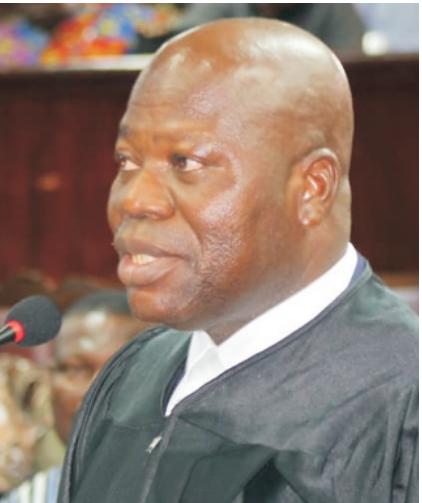
Liberia's Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr., has warned Solicitor General Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus against making claim that the Supreme Court does not have jurisdiction over the Legislature in a situation of mandamus, saying such writing gives the wrong signal to the public and the lawmakers, urging him to stop.

The CPP case concerns the

"You are Solicitor General of the Republic of Liberia, when you speak, it goes with authority. So when you are writing something like this and it is carried through your brief, people tend to believe it. Don't do that!" Chief Justice Korkpor warned Cllr. Cephus Monday, 19 October during argument into a petition for a writ of mandamus filed by opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP).



Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor



SG Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus

alleged failure of the Legislature to abide by Article 37 of the Liberian Constitution to notify the NEC of two vacancies in the Legislature within constitutional time of 30 days after the deaths of Sinoe County Rep. NagbeSloh and Montserrado County Rep. MunahPennoh Youngblood and cause by - elections to be held.

The CPP wants an answer if the NEC and the Legislature are

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