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Supreme Court reverses NEC's decision



Associate Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh



NEC chairperson Madam Davidetta Brown Lassanah

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Continental News

Nigeria VP promises justice for shooting victims

Nigeria's vice-president has promised justice for victims shot during protests against police brutality.

Amnesty International said the security forces killed at least 12 people in the main city Lagos on Tuesday.

The security forces denied killing protesters, causing more anger.

Gunshots continued to be heard in an area of Lagos on Thursday, following Wednesday's unrest that saw buildings torched and looted and police shooting into the

air to enforce a curfew.

The state government imposed an indefinite round-the-clock curfew in Lagos, a coastal city which sprawls over several islands and mainland suburbs and has a population of about 20 million, on Tuesday evening. The protests began about two weeks ago with mostly young people demanding the disbandment of a notorious police unit, the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (Sars), using the hashtag #EndSars to rally crowds to the streets.

The protests morphed into

demands for wider reforms to the police, and an end to alleged bad governance.

Earlier this year Amnesty said it had documented at least 82 cases of torture, ill treatment and extra-judicial execution between January 2017 and May this year against members of Sars.

In a series of tweets, Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo did not confirm that the security forces shot dead protesters on Tuesday, but said that his "heart goes out to all the victims of the Lekki shootings,

and also the policemen and all other men and women who lost their lives in the past few days in different parts of Lagos & other states".

"I spoke to some of those in hospital.

The pain of these terrible events is palpable in our towns and cities, and some losses are irreplaceable, but we can and will get justice for all of them," he said. On the Lagos mainland on Thursday, a BBC reporter heard gunshots in the Surulere area and saw tyres burning.

In the suburb of Lekki, a few miles from the toll gate where Tuesday's shooting happened, another journalist posted a video of a popular shopping mall ablaze. The High Court on Lagos island, the

city's oldest neighbourhood, was also set ablaze on Wednesday.

Residents said the building was looted by vandals who took away goods that had been confiscated by the court, and that the blaze lasted long into the night.

A major Nigerian TV station with links to a ruling party politician was also torched, while the palace of the most senior traditional leader in Lagos was ransacked.

Amnesty International Nigeria said 10 of the 12 people killed on Tuesday were at the Lekki toll gate.

Evidence from hospital records and witnesses showed "the Nigerian military opened fire on thousands of people who were peacefully calling for good governance and an end to police brutality" at the toll gate, Amnesty added. BBC



UK calls for an end to violence in Nigeria



The British Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, has called for an end to violence in Nigeria where protests against police brutality have been taking place for two weeks.

Mr Raab said the Nigerian government "must urgently investigate reports of brutality at the hands of the security forces and hold those responsible to account".

He said he was deeply concerned by the violence and alarmed by widespread

reports of civilian deaths.

Human rights group Amnesty International said at least 12 protesters were killed by the Nigerian army and police at two locations in biggest city, Lagos, on Tuesday. The military has denied any involvement.

A petition calling for the UK government to sanction the Nigerian government and officials in Nigeria for human rights violation has almost 200,000 signatures. BBC

Mining company accused of lead poisoning in Zambia

A group of Zambian women and children have filed a class action lawsuit against a subsidiary of the mining company Anglo American for alleged mass lead poisoning.

The lawsuit claims that more than 100,000 people may have been poisoned,

over generations, by exposure to toxins from a lead mine in Kabwe district.

Anglo American South Africa (AASA) was a shareholder in the mine from 1925 to 1974, when it was nationalised.

It said it would "defend its position".

The company noted that

while it was aware of reports about the lawsuit, it had not yet received the claim.

It also said that it was never a majority owner of the Kabwe mine. But lawyers representing the victims allege that AASA is liable because of its role "controlling, managing, supervising and advising on the technical, medical and safety aspects of the mine's operations".

The Kabwe mine was nationalised and operated as a state-owned body for 20 years before its closure in 1994. The lawsuit was filed in a South African court on Wednesday. It calls for financial compensation, medical screening of children and women, and a clean-up of the area.

Lawyers said the claimants, who are "principally young children", were suffering from "alarming levels of lead poisoning".

They said victims have



experienced a range of conditions, including psychological damage, and damage to their organs.

"In pregnant women, lead they ingested as children is absorbed into their bones and released during pregnancy," they said.

In a report last year, Human Rights Watch said more than one-third of the population of Kabwe - more than 76,000 people - live in lead-contaminated areas.

There have been several major attempts to clean up the area since the mine was closed in 1994. But Kabwe's "Black Mountain" - millions of tons of waste - remains in place, the BBC's Andrew Harding reports.

In 2018, Anglo American was one of several mining companies to agree a compensation deal for tens of thousands of South African miners who contracted deadly lung diseases while working underground. BBC

EDITORIAL

No place for electoral violence

THE GOVERNMENT OF the United States thru Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, last week sounded a caveat to African countries preparing for elections, including Liberia to respect the rule of law by allowing citizens to engage in political dialogue and support their choice of candidates, parties, and platforms.

MR. POMPEO SAID in a statement issued over the weekend thru the United States Embassy in Monrovia that the conduct of elections is important not only for Africans, but also for defenders of democracy around the world.

SPECIFICALLY, THE UNITED STATES has vowed to closely watch actions of individuals who interfere in democratic process on the Continent and will not hesitate to consider consequences, including visa restrictions for people that would be responsible for election-related violence anywhere in Africa.

THIS CAVEAT FROM Liberia's traditional partner America, comes just at a time Liberians are gearing up for midterm senatorial elections on December 8, 2020. The December poll is to elect 15 senators to join 15 incumbent at the Capitol to complete the 30-member Liberian Senate before the next presidential election in 2023.

BUT AHEAD OF the poll, political rallies, mainly by the opposition have been disrupted repeatedly by violence, with fingers-pointing and threats of violent reaction.

ALTHOUGH SECRETARY POMPEO'S warning was not specifically directed at Liberia, but this country being a historical friend of America should listen and act accordingly. Liberia cannot afford to dwindle in violent or fraudulent elections because we should be torchbearer for young democracies on the Continent.

AS SECRETARY POMPEO emphasized, it is important that all sides have equal opportunity to participate peacefully in the democratic process void of repression and intimidation. This has not been the case at recent rallies held across the country, particularly in Monrovia and parts adjacent by opposition candidates, including Senator Abraham Darius Dillon of the Collaborating Political Parties.

WE RECALL THE incident of CPP leader Alexander Cummings' visit to Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County along with opposition Lawmaker Yekeh Kolubah months ago, where they were violently chased out of the county by machete-brandishing thugs expressing loyalty to President George Manneh Weah.

OUTCOME OF A government investigating into the violence is still pending despite a joint statement issued by Foreign Missions in Monrovia, calling for speedy probe.

EVERY LIBERIAN SHOULD endeavor to keep our elections and democracy peaceful and participatory. Whether a candidate comes from the opposition CPP, the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or is an Independent, he or she has right to campaign and seek votes in counties, communities, towns and villages without fear of being chased away with machetes and stones.

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COMMENTARY

By Michael J. Boskin

Inequality and Its Discontents

Former US President John F. Kennedy famously proclaimed that "a rising tide lifts all boats." In a growing economy, the absolute well-being of those near the top and the bottom are positively correlated, so the most important policies to pursue are those that promote strong economic growth and full employment.

STANFORD - Inequality has been seizing ever more of the public's attention in recent years, reflected everywhere from papal encyclicals and economic tomes by French socialists to technical academic debates and the demotic language of politicians and pundits. The health and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have further elevated these concerns.

But which aspect of inequality should we be worried about? There are inequalities of opportunity and inequalities of outcome; there is overall inequality, and there is inequality at the tails of the distribution. Should we be more worried about absolute or relative positions - mobility or stability? What is really more important, the distribution of the economic pie or the level and growth of living standards?

In China over the past four decades, inequality has soared, even as hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of abject poverty. In the United States today, after-tax per capita GDP is 50% higher than in less unequal Denmark and Sweden, where higher taxes fund huge welfare systems. Among the American states, California has the highest poverty rate once one adjusts for its 20% higher average household size and 15% higher cost of living.

Moreover, consumption and disposable income are considerably less unequal than the oft-quoted market income figures. Average measures taken over a longer term tend to show less inequality, reflecting the fact that many people are poor or rich only temporarily. Many of my university students currently have low incomes, but will almost certainly be very well off later in their lives. It is not surprising that natural age-earnings profiles and measures of life-cycle wealth accumulation would show considerable inequality at any point in time. All data sources have strengths and limitations, be it sample size, frequency, item coverage, or comparability (especially relevant in the case of international data).

Accounting as best as I can for these factors, I have compiled the following summary of major trends in US inequality in recent decades. Since around 1980, the skill premium in wages has grown substantially, whereas lower-skill real (inflation-adjusted) wages have grown more slowly (not to be confused with a decline). This reflects technology's bias toward skilled labor, globalization's negative effects on less-skilled wage earners, and the composition of labor-skill supply and demand.

During this period, overall inequality increased in almost all advanced economies (though some believe it will reverse), suggesting that domestic policies could not have been the primary cause. Similarly, after a long period of stability, labor's share of national income has declined in all major economies.

Meanwhile, though social mobility has remained at considerable levels, it likely declined, including inter-generationally. Changes in the wage distribution have been concentrated mostly in the top half, and though there has been a relative increase in wealth at the very top, it is less than some commentators claim.

Indeed, there has been a huge increase in cash and in-kind transfer payments. One-sixth of US income comes from such payments, and the rate in Western Europe's social-welfare states is even

higher. America's unfunded entitlements liabilities have grown to several times the already-high national debt.

While inequality in disposable income (and even more so in consumption) remains substantial, it is much lower than inequality in market incomes. After adding transfers and subtracting taxes, one finds that the income of the top 1% in the US falls by over one-third, while that of the bottom 20% triples.

Finally, until recently, only limited progress was made in combating poverty, despite the proliferation of several scores of programs costing \$1.2 trillion per year. In the three years prior to the COVID-19 crisis, however, the acceleration of economic growth was accompanied by a reduction in poverty to the lowest level ever. Median incomes rose far more than in the preceding eight years, and wages grew most rapidly at the bottom. The income gap between those with a college degree and those without narrowed, as did the gap between whites and minorities.

Where do these broad trends leave us? Former US President John F. Kennedy famously proclaimed that "a rising tide lifts all boats." (More accurately, a rising tide lifts the most boats and leaves the fewest grounded or sunk.) In a growing economy, the absolute well-being of those near the top and the bottom are positively correlated, so the most important policies to pursue are those that promote strong economic growth and full employment.

In this context, there is not much scope for major expansion of the welfare state without seriously harming economic growth and thus inter-generational equity. Any such expansion is limited by the ever-larger unfunded liabilities for Social Security, Medicare, and their state and local analogs, as well as by the negative incentive effects of higher explicit and implicit taxes (reflecting the rate at which recipients lose benefits as income rises).

By consolidating, modernizing, and better targeting existing programs, the US could free up resources for where they are most needed. The federal government does not need 47 job-training programs in nine agencies, costing some \$20 billion per year and yielding poor results. Likewise, slowing the growth of Social Security spending on those who already have considerable other resources could reduce the need for higher future taxes and help achieve President Franklin D. Roosevelt's original goal of providing a "measure of protection ... against poverty-ridden old age."

Moreover, educational reforms, such as greater school choice and merit pay, can improve opportunities for disadvantaged children. And taxing a broader base of economic activity and people can keep rates as low as possible while still adequately funding the necessary functions of government.

While some on the left and libertarian right push for a universal basic income, it would be far better simply to subsidize low wages for those able to work. That would raise incomes, provide stronger work incentives, and get more people onto the economic ladder than would high minimum-wage mandates that price people out of the market and create welfare dependency. And while the direct costs of wage subsidies would be substantial, they would be heavily offset by the reduction in payments from existing programs.



Lord, this is a village living in fear!

Dear Father:

Hmmm, this one na, it hard to talk oo. You mean da how we will be going one by one. You wake up in the morning bomb! They find someone body in the car, somewhere by a road or the beach. The thing is so scaring.

What's happening again my son?

Oh, Father, hmm, da the way people dying in our village nowadays! talking here so oo. And the way people talking it sef, it already na start making some of us scary-the entire village is living in fear right na.

Tell me something!

Yes, oo Father, it na easy. The other day two people-a man and a woman working with our big tax house were found dead in their car parked on the main street.

Ehn?

Da na alloo, now we hear, they say another one from the same place was murdered too. Hmm, this time when you leave your house and go back home you moth have a small thanksgiving service oo because right na we don't know. So my son oo, you want tell me the entire village na get security?

Father, even the security people sef, you go to them they will speak big book da they na equip. The only people you see with big, big gun them da the people guarding our big, big people them. For the rest of the village, we just have to look up to the Old Man up there to send his boys to look after us at night.

Then da na small thing yor going through oo.

Um, Father da the one you talking slow like that so. Ehn da the thing them we can be talking here and the other people who are not living in this village can say we talking bad about the government every day.

But you see God na like ugly. One other one was here the other day. I na say they say, from his own sefmouth telling the whole world the things we are going through in this village. And this is a man, a whole pastor oo, he will get on Face to Face and be defending our government and causing everybody who say bad thing.

So, he came down from Uncle Sam's village to visit and not only did he see for himself but all the bad things that we are going through here he experienced almost half of them just for that short time.

You joking!

Father, this one da na joke oo. The man say the place he was sleeping the children opened the window to fish in his room, the same thing we can experience here every day. He na stop there oo. He say while he was preparing to leave the village, they stole his phone.

The man say, while turning around to the place the children jerk his phone, some of the same children came and say he should give them money to go collect it.

He say the children brought their big man for the rogue them in da community to him. The man say he must pay money. He got vex, he went to the police, the police say they na equip to go after the children.

The police people sef, sef tell the man say they know the area the boy can be but they na equip to go there.-see trouble!

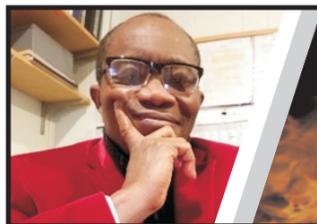
But this is somebody who sitting down comfortably in Uncle Sam's village oo. When he ready to put his mouth on people here defending the Footballer as if allor us here are bad people who na like the man.

Now, him sef, sef say the way he saw things, if we na careful we will fight war here again-God forbid!

He say even on the street, the rogue them are all over the place trying to jerk people things and securities will tell you they na equip to protect the poor citizens. This one da na Congou people doing oo.

You see Father, da the thing about our brother and sister them who are not living in this village. When outside there, they think their lives are more superior than those of us that are hear. In fact, they think, they are the most educated, most civilized and most everything and they alone get the best ideas and when they come home and taste just a little of what we live with then they get all over the place.

We who wearing the shoes say it hurting, you say we are lying, we just want to draw attention-now I jus waiting to see whether his posts on Face to Face will change from now on.



LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

If Liberia's 5th President Was a Nigerian, who Then is or isn't a Liberian?

The 5th President of Liberia Edward James Roy, was a Nigerian. He was the first pure descendent of an Ibo tribe in Nigeria. His Nigerian parents were taken as slaves to North Carolina but later migrated to Newark, Ohio USA, where he was born on February 3, 1815. Roye was the first pure black slave to occupy the executive mansion as head of state and commander-in-Chief, Armed Forces of Liberia. He arrived in Liberia in 1846 one year before independence was announced and he became president in 1870.

What is seriously and exceedingly laughable, is the fact that a Nigerian and other strange national like Jamaicans, Ghanaians, and Senegalese all of whom from systemic slave backgrounds served as Presidents of Liberia at different times interval. The question becomes; who then is or not a Liberian? Even the so-called natives or inhabitants of the land before the emergence of the so-called slaves did not own the land legally or constitutionally, it was the slaves who finally named the land, and legalized its existence.

The inhabitants of natives who occupied the land now called Liberia before the advent of the slaves from the US didn't have any legitimate, legal, or constitutional documentation to claim land, the slaves did. The natives were rather a group of loose individuals who were potential wanderers and traders from Mali, Ghana, Ivory Coast Guinea, Sierra Leone, etc., who settled in those dark forests and later owned multiple spots for themselves illegally.

The so-called natives were rather covered by slaves who officially discovered the land, named it, legitimized its status, created a government, created a constitution, and declared official independence in 1847 under the very noses of those who called themselves natives or inhabitants of the Land, before the emergence of the slave's junta. The land was first named by a Portuguese explorer Oct. 6 1462 as Grain Coast or Pepper Coast under the noses of the same so-called natives who had no idea of statehood, needless talks about a constitution. Who then is a Liberian and who owned the land officially, the Native or the Slaves?

Who is or isn't a Liberian is a big issue? Millions of other nationals around the world possess Liberian passports and also call themselves Liberians who are involved in the multinational business as Liberians around the world. For example, Liberia Maritime head office in the US is heavily possessed by foreigners who called themselves Liberians. Today there are 3, 377 ships currently flying the Liberian flags and every worker at the US Maritime office carries Liberian passports but doesn't know where Liberia is even located in Africa.

The majority of other Africans bordering Liberia called themselves citizens of Liberia as soon they crossed into Liberia. For example, Guinea borders Liberia in the North. Guineans who crossed to Liberia referred to themselves as Liberians. The bulk of them hides under the shield of the religious Muslim culture as well as the Mandigo tribe especially when the late Doe referred to them as citizens.

Today the Mandigo tribe is protected by the feeble 1986 Liberian Constitution initiated by the late Pres. Samuel Doe. Today, the Mandigo tribe has succeeded to have their district call "Quinobodo" exclusively to themselves with no other tribe in their midst which is one of the most dangerous precedents the late Doe ever put into motion in the constitution. Sierra Leone also bordered Liberia on the West. A great deal of the Mandi tribe crossed from Sierra Leone into Liberia and referred to themselves as Liberians, the same is with those who hailed from Ivory Coast and Guinea.

When the Liberian civil genocide broke and many Liberians settled in foreign parts especially in refugee camps across Africa, those countries nationals, like Ghanaians, Togolese, Nigerians, Guineans, Sierra Leoneans, and Ivorians took advantage of huge overseas traveling opportunities under the banner of Liberian refugees and were opportune to travel as Liberian all over the world as Liberian refuse to escape from the civil wars brought upon them by Charles Taylor, Prince Johnson, and other warlords.

Most of the above nationals are getting ample benefits as Liberians when the true native Liberians are being denied regularly. Another emerging group that is using their leverage to become citizens of Liberia are the Lebanese, Fulani, Jamaicans, Ivorians, and ordinary Nigerians and Ghanaians especially those in the fishing category in Liberia.

Today, the question remains who is a Liberian, and who owns Liberia? Is it the natives, the foreigners, or the slaves who discovered the land under the noses of the so-called natives and the mixture of other close inhabitants? The issue of who is a Liberian will one day trek another war in Liberia.

PERSPECTIVES PERSPECTIVES

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

Response/Reaction To “Election (Electoral) Blues” Grew Out of “Top Legal Battle Emerges”

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.
October 21, 2020

According to the newspaper (NewDawnLiberia, October 19, 2020), the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) represented by their Chairman, the Honorable Alexander Cummings who is, also, Political Leader of the ANC Political Party, applied to the Supreme Court for a Writ of Mandamus against the National Elections Commission (NEC) to halt the election process until the final voters' registration Roll (FRR of 2017) is fully cleaned up for a truly democratic free, fair and transparent elections. For, Liberia's "Partners-in-Progress" and the world are watching.

The voter-roll clean-up was mandated by the Liberian Senate, the House of Representatives, recommended by the ECOWAS and ruling by the Supreme Court of Liberia. But the Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in Chambers denied issuance of the Writ; therefore, the CPP appealed to the full Bench for the Writ; thus, the showdown and the Election Blues.

Mandamus is motivated by Article 37, the requirement of the Liberian Constitution which provides that, "In the event of a vacancy in the Legislature caused by death, resignation and expulsion or otherwise, the presiding officer shall, within 30 days, notify the NEC thereof. The NEC shall, not later than 90 days thereafter, cause by-election to be held provided that where such vacancy occurs within 90 days prior to the holding of general elections, the filing of the vacancy shall await the holding of such general elections". Meanwhile the NEC, with reported, apparent, support by the Executive and Legislative Branches of government, disregarded and refused to comply with the Supreme Court Ruling.

Now the sitting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court wonders about the application of Mandamus, in this case and at this time presents a "tricky situation" - opens a can of worms and expands the office of mandamus because of the unprecedented nature of the issues. Indeed, we agree; but analogously, almost all medications of modern Medical Practice/profession come with less negative "Side effects" which the patient must take with the much more positive.

This "tricky situation" is pregnant with several tricky self-interested illegal and immoral alliances involving some government line executives, some members of the Legislature, some legal professionals (judges, prosecutor-defense lawyers) and some prominent officials who have been and are



the crucial supporters of illegally-appointed NEC chairpersons for obvious reasons, in violation of law.

Cllr. Benedict Sannoh, Counsel for the CPP, also, agreed with the "tricky situations" argument. But he argued that the "Supreme Court must make a determination, even if the Mandamus is denied; that the decision of the Court should and must address the violations" in the light of the violation's ripple effect, "in order to avoid re-occurrence"; that the Legislature is not a sacred cow and "must understand that Article 37 is mandatory and legal obligation that the Legislature must uphold; that the Legislature is not different from the Executive because they are all creatures of the Constitution; and that Mandamus had been issued against the Executive before and can lie; therefore, Mandamus can, also, lie against the Legislature".

Cllr. Michael Wright, Counsel for the NEC said "for

the NEC to act to trigger the 90 days, it must be notified by the Legislature . . . the NEC is not required, in other words, to go round looking for work to do. No, no. Its work is defined by law. The legal duty imposed upon NEC does not commence until the Legislature has done its work, first". That is to say, in his words, that the Legislature did not inform the NEC about vacancies in the Legislature.

Counsel for the Legislature and Executive, Solicitor General Cllr. Seymah Cephias argued that "there is no compelling evidence that the Legislature has not performed as required" - has notified the NEC of vacancies in the Legislature - contrary to the admission by Counsel for NEC, Cllr. Wright.

This, in fact, is continuous tactics designed to delay and deny justice.

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Paulita Wie vows to strengthen local governance

By Bridgett Milton

Former senatorial candidate and deputy minister for urban affairs at the Ministry of Internal Affairs Paulita C.C. Wie vows to strengthen capacities of mayors and township commissioners in Liberia.

Minister Wie says her goal

She vows to give them skills and knowledge to meet objectives of the urban department at the Ministry.

Deputy Minister Wie gave the promise Thursday in Monrovia at a diagnosis validation workshop on National Urban Policy for Liberia toward implementing the SDGs and New Urban agenda here. The

Democratic Change (CDC) contested for the senate during the 2017 senatorial by-election in Montserrado County, but lost to now Senator Abraham Darius Dillon of the Collaborating Political Parties, CPP.

She specifically notes the aim of the work is to increase knowledge on national urban policy and strengthen capacity of key stakeholders across Liberia on sustainable and inclusive national urban policymaking.

She adds that the Ministry of Internal Affairs has a responsibility to constantly improve, promote and coordinate between National Government and local governmental functionaries in counties, districts, municipalities and townships as well as supervise, guide, harmonize, mentor, monitor and advocate for financial and logistics support across cities.

Wie discloses that in 2018 she visited all 15 counties in Liberia and saw the need for funding, logistics and coordination in cities and towns.

She lauds the United Nations settlement program (UN Habitat) and other international partners for support toward the program.

For his part, Maryland County Senator Gbleh-bo

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Madam Paulita Wie

as deputy minister for urban affairs is to strengthen the capacity of local authorities to enable them take on greater responsibility in a decentralized government.

workshop was organized by UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Miss Paulita C.C. Wie from the governing Coalition for

MICAT, PUL, others meet over alleged threat on journalist's life

The Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism on Wednesday October 21, met with radio talk-show host, Mr. T-Max Jlateh and the Press Union of Liberia (PUL), following allegations made by Mr. Jlateh of "threats to his life". The meeting also involved representatives of the Inter-Religious Council, the National Civil Society Council and some senior Journalists.

Mr. Jlateh, who was accompanied to the gathering by his lawyers, provided his account of the "threats", while reiterating his earlier complaint filed with the PUL - in which he alleged being alerted to pending plots against him and his family, and in some instances, being pursued by unmarked vehicles.

The radio talk-show host also said that he harbors no

personal problem with the Liberian Leader President George M Weah, emphasizing that he has not personally received any threats from President Weah.

The PUL President Mr.

Charles Coffey also informed the Information Ministry of incidents of threats against some journalists and asked that the Ministry intervenes to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



PUL President Charles Coffey



Information Minister Ledgerhood Rennie

Maryland County Health Team resumes work

By Patrick N. Mensah

Following weeks of boycott by health workers in Liberia, the Maryland County health team has resumed work in the county, disclosing its decision is based on intervention by international partners.

Prior to the end of the nationwide strike, several patients who visited the Pleebo Health Center in Electoral District#2, Maryland County, Southeast Liberia like in most parts of the country were turned away due to lack of services.

The health workers had protested for improved incentives, including hazard benefit for the Coronavirus pandemic, better condition of work and salary increment,, among others.

Speaking to this paper in Pleebo City, a 30-year-old

lives.

"I think this is the time now for government to speak or address the plights of those health workers because see, our country is still engulfed with this issues of corona virus and the only people who are trying to help are the health workers and they sometime go on strike because of salaries, while patients need treatments; it is very bad", she had lamented prior to resumption of work by the County Health Team.

She then called on the administration of President George Weah to always address needs of health workers, noting that it very important for health workers to be at health facilities rather than staying home or protesting in the street.

Another female resident,



The Pleebo Health Center

victim from Zone #7 Community, narrated that on October 1, 2020 amid the protest, she visited the Pleebo Health Center due to stomach pain but did not receive medication because of the boycott.

Miss Annie Hoto said though it is wrong for government to pay less attention to plight of health workers, it's also important for health workers to respond to the health needs of citizens and residents seeking medication.

She noted that if health workers abandon work to go after pay and benefits, death rate among patients could increase across the country.

Miss Hoto added that though government failed to address the plights of health workers, it was important that they return to work to save

Cecelia Wleh from Andersonville in Karluway, Electoral District#3, Maryland County, narrated that she earlier visited the health center before the protest and received medication with instructions to return to complete her treatment, but when she went back at the health center, the facility was empty.

According to her, by then she had spent about four hours in the health center during early morning hours but she couldn't see any of the health workers saying, "My son thank God you have come, I visited this health center in September this year and I was asked to come back within two weeks but see, since I came, no one to even attend to me."

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberian entrepreneur calls for transformation

The Chief Executive Officer for John's St. Paul Rum Product of Liberia has stressed the significance for Liberian businesses to transform from street vending to entrepreneurship, if they should take over the

urge Wednesday, 21 October when his rum products were exhibited at Renault's Showroom on Capitol Bye-pass in Monrovia.

He noted that Liberian businesses can be transformed when government empowers Liberian entrepreneurs to be

He stressed that empowering local businesses will create more Liberian entrepreneurs and boost investment across the country.

According to him, while it is true central government needs taxes to carry out its functions, small Liberian businesses should enjoy flexibility in tax payment rather than shutting them down.

He pointed out that closing Liberian small businesses due to delay in payment of taxes will not help to strengthen entrepreneurship among Liberians, who are striving in the business community.

Mr. Richardson further urged government to do everything possible to ensure Liberian businesses advance to another level instead of mere street vending, noting that the private sector is the engine for economic growth in any nation and Liberia is no exception.

He emphasized that the private sector, through entrepreneurship has potential to create huge jobs and boost effective tax generation in Liberia, but local businesses need to be empowered initially. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



CEO John T. Richardson

country's economy CEO John T. Richardson said, transformation of Liberian businesses will go a long way to ensuring Liberians take ownership of the economic status in the nation.

Mr. Richardson made the

competitive with their foreign counterparts in the business community here.

He observed more Liberians have been involved in street vending over the years which has not made any major transformation in advancing Liberian-owned businesses.

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Liberian international

represented in a foreign land. The Gbema king said he also studied sounds of musical legends that he saw as role models in the music industry and created his own modern form of Gbema music that has spread in the industry like wild fire.

Even though Kzee-Bigname is not the first Liberian artist who is active in Gbema music, other local musicians here before him such as Caesar Gartor, Fatu Gayflor, Junior Boy or African Soldier, spiced their music with heavy drum beats that are characteristic of most songs on the Continent. But the international artist is responsible for the re-emergence and popularization of the genre in Liberia's post-war music history.

Kzee-Bigname also said growing up as refugee, he had a dream that through him,

the world would experience and embrace the traditional music of his homeland, noting that today, that dream is being realized though not on a huge scale.

"I am currently working on an album that has high anticipation from my management, fans and music lover all around the world and this album will consist of multiple international features."

Recalling his past, the Gbema King added that as a refugee he struggled and produced Kakaleka Babies, which became an immediate success in Liberia and Ghana.

Encouraging more artists to follow his foot path in the industry, Kzee-bigname

narrated that since he was crowned king of Gbema music, no other artist have challenged him for the title and that he keeps winning awards each time he gets nominated.

Kzee is known for his rapping and singing skills in various kinds of Gbema beat.

Gbema is a form of traditional Liberian music that incorporates lots of congos, bongos, kick drums, rhythm guitars and bass sounds that increases tempo of songs. The international artist believes as an artist it is important to stick to a root that inspires the next generation to appreciate the rich Liberian Culture. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

PHIL, MERCK partner to reach girls with HPV vaccine in Liberia

A partnership has begun between Public Health Initiative Liberia (PHIL) and MERCK & Co, an American Multinational Pharmaceutical company for the conduct of social mobilization to increase the demand for the Human Papilloma or HPV Vaccine for the prevention of Cervical Cancer.

PHIL in fulfillment of the partnership is currently working with the Ministry of Health's Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) to conduct the social mobilization and community engagement exercises to increase the demand for the HPV vaccine in the country.

Cervical Cancer is caused by the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) which is the leading cause of cancer found in

immunization services for girls at the age of 9 to prevent Cervical Cancer.

Given that HPV is a sexually transmitted infection, the vaccine is highly effective when administered to children. Currently, the government is prioritizing girls that are nine-years-old.

The vaccination is ongoing at all public and private health facilities in the 15 counties that do offer immunization services and is being administered twice, one after every six months for girls at the age of nine.

The need for the ongoing mobilization and community engagements cannot be overemphasized as the shutdown of schools coupled with the fear of visiting facilities because of COVID-19 among Liberians has affected



Liberian women between the ages of 15 to 45-years. Studies found that there are over 100 types of HPV, with at least 14 known to cause cancer. According to WHO, types 16 and 18 are mostly responsible for 70percent of cervical cancer cases in the world. HPV is the main cause of cervical cancer, which is leading cancer in Liberia women between the ages of 15 and 45. Studies found that there are over 100 types of HPV, with at least 14 known to cause cancer. According to the WHO, types 16 and 18 are mostly responsible for 70 percent of cervical cancer cases.

In November of 2019, the government of Liberia through the Ministry of Health's Expanded Program on Immunization with support from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance launched the HPV Vaccine as part of the routine

the demand generation activities around this vaccine.

PHIL executive Director Madam Joyce L. Kilikpo believes that the support from MERCK came at a critical time as all efforts are being made by governments and partners in ensuring important services such as routine immunization is not affected badly due to the COVID19 outbreak as was seen during the Ebola outbreak of 2014-2015.

As was with the lockdown requirement, planned health facility outreach activities and mass campaigns were all suspended as such, the country is seeing a reduction in routine immunization coverage particularly, the HPV Vaccine which was introduced barely 3 months before the Coronavirus outbreak.

"We cannot afford to let the history repeat itself as was

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Français

Sénatoriales : La mouvance au pouvoir forme son équipe de campagne

La Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC), mouvance au pouvoir, a annoncé son équipe de campagne nationale qui coordonnera les affaires du parti lors des élections sénatoriales prévues le 8 décembre dont l'objectif est de pourvoir à 15 sièges au Sénat libérien.

Le professeur Wilson K. Tarpeh, directeur général de

l'Agence de protection de l'environnement (EPA), a été désigné pour diriger l'équipe de campagne. L'annonce a été faite lors d'une conférence de presse à Monrovia, le mercredi 21 octobre, par le président national de la CDC, MulbahMorlu.

L'enjeu des élections sénatoriales est si important que la tension est au maximum. Tous les regards sont désormais fixés sur la Cour suprême qui

devrait rendre son verdict après avoir entendu le recours de l'opposition qui réclame un nettoyage complet des listes électorales définitives et l'imposition d'un mandamus contre le pouvoir législatif et la commission électorale.

Le parti au pouvoir qui cherche désespérément à reprendre le contrôle du comté de Montserrado a choisi le représentant Thomas

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Les habitants de Bong Mines disent ne pas avoir entendu parler d'une quelconque noyade

Le mystère entourant la disparition subite de trois jeunes dont le propriétaire de la morgue privée St Moses a loué les services il y a quelques jours n'a pas l'air de vouloir livrer ses secrets, du moins pas maintenant.

Les habitants de Bong Mine ne seraient pas au courant de la mort par noyade de trois jeunes dans le fleuve Saint-Paul. « C'est une étrange

nouvelle en provenance de Monrovia que nous apprenons, selon laquelle les victimes se seraient noyées dans le fleuve Saint-Paul. C'est bien inquiétant. », ont-ils dit aux familles endeuillées.

Mardi dernier, des proches et amis de Robert Blamo (29 ans), SiafaBoimah (33 ans) et Blama, ont manifesté devant la morgue Saint-Moses à TopoeVillage,

exigeant de son propriétaire Moses Ahoussouheles corps vivants des trois hommes jeunes.

Selon Lovettee Johnson, qui se fait passer pour porte-parole des manifestants, les jeunes disparus étaient tous des mécaniciens moto.

A en croire la version des faits de Lovettee, Samedi passé (15 octobre), M. Ahoussouhe, qui est communément connu sous l'appellation de son entreprise funéraire Saint-Moïse, aurait appelé le père du Blamo Junior pour lui demander de permettre à son fils d'aller à Bomi Hill, dans une localité appelée Jungle Gym Diamond Creek, pour réparer sa moto.

Et le lendemain dimanche matin, alors que la famille s'apprêtait pour aller à l'Eglise, elle a été informée du décès des trois jeunes par noyade et du fait que leurs corps n'avaient pas encore été retrouvés.

Selon le porte-parole de la police, Moses Carter, l'information qu'a reçueles



Siaka Sayon the convicted driver

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Mali : l'ex-président Keïta de retour à Bamako deux mois après avoir été renversé



Après avoir démissionné dans la nuit du 18 août, l'ancien chef de l'Etat a passé huit semaines aux Emirats arabes unis pour des soins.

L'ancien président malien Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta (« IBK »), renversé le 18 août par un coup d'Etat militaire, est rentré mercredi soir 21 octobre à Bamako après un séjour médical aux Emirats arabes unis, ont constaté des journalistes de l'AFP.

Arrêté par les militaires mi-août, le président Keïta, 75 ans, avait démissionné quelques heures plus tard. Détenu par la junte pendant plus de deux semaines, il a été autorisé à quitter le Mali le 5 septembre pour recevoir des soins aux Emirats arabes unis. Son avion de retour a atterri mercredi soir, a indiqué une source aéroportuaire. Des journalistes de l'AFP ont vu peu après un convoi précédé d'un motard pénétrer dans sa résidence de la capitale malienne.

« C'est le président « IBK » qui vient d'arriver », a déclaré devant son domicile un membre de la garde présidentielle. Quelques dizaines de riverains l'ont accueilli en scandant « Vive « IBK » » et « Bonne arrivée ». Son départ à l'étranger pour des soins avait été envisagé peu après sa chute, à la suite,

selon ses médecins, d'un court accident vasculaire cérébral (AVC).

« Raisons humanitaires »

Les militaires avaient expliqué avoir autorisé son « évacuation sanitaire pour des raisons humanitaires pour une durée maximum d'un mois », un délai « extensible uniquement sur avis médical » et qui « ne pourrait excéder trois mois, auquel cas le suivi médical se fera au Mali ».

La Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cédéao) « s'engage à assurer le retour de l'ancien président Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta aussitôt après son séjour médical suivant les conditions susmentionnées », avait indiqué dans un communiqué le colonel Malick Diaw, numéro deux de la junte.

Sous pression de la communauté internationale, les auteurs du putsch se sont engagés à rendre le pouvoir à des dirigeants civils élus au terme d'une période de transition d'une durée maximale de dix-huit mois. Un président de transition a été nommé, ainsi qu'un premier ministre, tous deux des civils. Les colonels se sont néanmoins réservés les postes-clés dans le gouvernement de transition.

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Français

Sénatoriales : La mouvance

Fallah comme candidat pour affronter le candidat de la Collaboration des Partis Politiques (CPP), à savoir notamment le sénateur Abraham Darius Dillon, qui est soudainement devenu populaire depuis qu'il a révélé le salaire des parlementaires jusque-là gardé secret. La tâche de porte-parole de l'équipe a été confiée au député de la circonscription électorale n° 8 du comté de Montserrado, Acarus Moses Gray. Il sera aidé par M. Samora Wolokollie, ministre adjoint des Finances.

Quant à l'ancien représentant du comté de Montserrado, Gabriel Nyankan, il s'est vu confié l'aspect de la propagande.

M. Andrew Peters du Parti patriotique national est nommé directeur national de campagne, tandis que la ministre du Genre, Mme Pison Saydee-Tarr, prendra en charge les médias et la communication.

Pour sa part, le président de la Ligue des jeunes de la CDC et maire de Monrovia, Jefferson T. Kojee, il est responsable des opérations, et le Dr Samora P. Z. Wolokolie est chargé des politiques et de la stratégie.

La trésorerie a été confiée à M. John S. Youboty, avec à ses côtés M. Randolph C. J. Cooper, agent des finances et M. Bill Twehway, coordonnateur régional. Répondant aux critiques faites au Président George Manneh Weah comme quoi sous son régime l'économie se porte mal, le président Morlua fait valoir que le Chef de l'Etat travaille sans relâche pour changer les choses, et expliqué que les défis auxquels le Libéria est confronté datent de la date de fondation du pays.

Selon lui, le président Weah a construit plus de routes que l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf et les choses sont maintenant en train de rentrer dans l'ordre.

Morlua profité de l'occasion pour exprimer sa gratitude au peuple du Libéria et aux militants de la CDC pour leur soutien indéfectible au président Weah pendant les temps difficiles.

« L'économie a chuté de façon drastique en raison du départ de la Mission des Nations Unies au Libéria (MINUL) et de la communauté internationale du Libéria. Les dirigeants de l'opposition accusent donc aveuglément et à tort le président de quelque chose dont il a hérité », a-t-il dit.

Les habitants de Bong Mines

enquêteurs de la police du comté de Bong fait état du chavirement d'une pirogue transportant six personnes dans le fleuve Saint-Paul, trois personnes ont survécu tandis que les trois autres sont toujours portées disparues.

Les trois personnes portées disparues seraient des étrangers dont Saint Moses aurait loué les services.

Mais dans un entretien avec le New Dawn, Robertline Blamo, fille de M. Robert Blamo, a fait savoir que son père et les familles des autres jeunes disparus auraient été informés par les

habitants de Bong Mine que l'information selon laquelle une pirogue a coulé dans le fleuve de leur ville était une nouvelle étrange pour leur, car ils n'en savaient rien.

A en croire Robertline, ce sont ces informations contradictoires qui ont poussé les familles endeuillées à manifester devant la morgue à Topo Village.

Quant à M. Moses Ahoussouhe, depuis que la nouvelle du décès des trois jeunes est tombée, les familles endeuillées ne l'ont pas vu ni entendu. Il se serait caché de peur qu'on ne lui fasse du mal.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Michael J. Boskin

Le malaise des inégalités

STANFORD - Les inégalités ont attiré de plus en plus d'attention de la part du public ces dernières années. Elles sont mentionnées partout, des encycliques papales aux tomes économiques rédigés par des socialistes français, des débats universitaires techniques au langage populaire des politiciens et des pseudo-experts. Les conséquences sanitaires et économiques de la pandémie de la COVID-19 ont encore accru ces inquiétudes.

Mais de quel aspect des inégalités faut-il s'inquiéter ? Il existe des inégalités de chances et des inégalités de résultats ; il y a une inégalité globale et il y a une inégalité aux extrémités de la distribution. Devrions-nous nous inquiéter davantage des positions absolues ou relatives - de la mobilité ou de la stabilité ? Qu'est-ce qui est vraiment le plus important, la répartition du gâteau économique ou le niveau et la croissance du niveau de vie ?

En Chine, au cours des quatre dernières décennies, les inégalités ont grimpé en flèche, alors même que des centaines de millions de personnes sont sorties de la pauvreté la plus abjecte. Aux États-Unis, aujourd'hui, le PIB par habitant après impôt est de 50% plus élevé que dans les pays moins inégaux que sont le Danemark et la Suède, où des impôts plus élevés financent d'énormes systèmes de protection sociale. Parmi les États américains, la Californie a le taux de pauvreté le plus élevé lorsque l'on ajuste pour la taille moyenne de ses ménages qui est de 20% plus élevée et son coût de la vie qui est de 15% plus élevé que la moyenne nationale.

De plus, la consommation et le revenu disponible sont considérablement moins inégaux que les chiffres des revenus marchands souvent cités. Les mesures moyennes prises à plus long terme tendent à montrer moins d'inégalités, reflétant le fait que de nombreuses personnes ne sont pauvres ou riches que temporairement. Bon nombre de mes étudiants universitaires ont actuellement de faibles revenus, mais seront certainement très bien lotis plus tard dans leur vie. Il n'est pas surprenant que les profils âge-revenus naturels et les mesures d'accumulation de richesse tout au long du cycle de vie montrent une inégalité considérable à chaque point dans le temps. Toutes les sources de données ont des points forts et des limites, qu'il s'agisse de la taille de l'échantillon, de la fréquence, de la couverture des éléments ou de la comparabilité des données (particulièrement en ce qui concerne les données internationales).

Tenant compte du mieux que je peux de ces facteurs, j'ai dressé le résumé suivant des principales tendances des inégalités aux États-Unis au cours des dernières décennies. Depuis environ 1980, la prime de qualification dans les salaires a considérablement augmenté, tandis que les salaires réels (corrigés de l'inflation) pour les faibles qualifications ont augmenté plus lentement (ce qu'il ne faut pas confondre avec une baisse). Cela reflète le biais de la technologie en faveur de la main-d'œuvre qualifiée, les effets négatifs de la mondialisation sur les salariés moins qualifiés et la composition de l'offre et de la demande de main-d'œuvre plus ou moins qualifiée.

Au cours de cette période, les inégalités globales ont augmenté dans presque toutes les économies avancées (même si certains pensent qu'elles vont s'inverser), ce qui suggère que les politiques nationales n'auraient pas pu en être la cause principale. De même, après une longue période de stabilité, la part du travail dans le revenu national a diminué dans toutes les grandes économies.

Pendant ce temps, bien que la mobilité sociale soit restée à des niveaux considérables, elle a

probablement diminué, y compris entre les générations. Les changements dans la répartition des salaires ont été concentrés principalement dans la moitié supérieure, et bien qu'il y ait eu une augmentation relative de la richesse tout en haut, c'est moins que certains commentateurs ne prétendent.

En effet, il y a eu une augmentation considérable des paiements de revenus de transfert en espèces et en nature. Un sixième des revenus américains provient de ces paiements, et le taux dans les États à forte protection sociale d'Europe occidentale est encore plus élevé. Le passif des droits non capitalisés aux États-Unis est passé à plusieurs fois la dette nationale pourtant élevée.

Si l'inégalité de répartition du revenu disponible (et plus encore de la consommation) reste importante, elle est bien inférieure à l'inégalité des revenus marchands. Après avoir ajouté les transferts et soustrait les impôts, on constate que le revenu des 1% les plus riches aux États-Unis diminue de plus d'un tiers, tandis que celui des 20% les plus pauvres triple.

Enfin, jusqu'à récemment, seuls des progrès limités ont été accomplis dans la lutte contre la pauvreté, malgré la prolifération de plusieurs dizaines de programmes coûtant 1 200 milliards de dollars par an. Cependant, au cours des trois années précédant la crise de la COVID-19, l'accélération de la croissance économique s'est accompagnée d'une réduction de la pauvreté à son niveau le plus bas jamais atteint. Les revenus médians ont augmenté beaucoup plus qu'au cours des huit années précédentes, et les augmentations de salaire les plus rapides ont été concentrées dans le bas de la distribution. L'écart de revenu entre les titulaires d'un diplôme d'études universitaires et ceux qui n'en ont pas s'est rétréci, tout comme l'écart entre les blancs et les minorités.

Que peut-on déduire de ces grandes tendances ? Pour emprunter une citation célèbre de l'ancien président américain John F. Kennedy, « une marée montante soulève tous les bateaux ». (Plus précisément, une marée montante soulève le plus de bateaux et laisse le moins de bateaux échoués ou coulés.) Dans une économie en croissance, les bien-être absolus de ceux qui se trouvent près du sommet et de ceux qui se trouvent tout en bas sont positivement corrélés. Les politiques les plus importantes à suivre sont donc celles qui favorisent une forte croissance économique et le plein emploi.

Dans ce contexte, il n'y a pas beaucoup de place pour une expansion majeure de l'État-providence sans nuire gravement à la croissance économique et donc à l'équité intergénérationnelle. Une telle expansion est limitée par les passifs non provisionnés de plus en plus importants de la sécurité sociale, l'assurance-maladie et leurs équivalents étatiques et locaux, ainsi que par les effets incitatifs négatifs d'une augmentation des impôts explicites et implicites (reflétant le taux auquel les bénéficiaires perdent des prestations lorsque leur revenu augmente).

En consolidant, modernisant et en ciblant mieux les programmes existants, les États-Unis pourraient libérer des ressources pour les utiliser là où elles sont le plus nécessaires. Le gouvernement fédéral n'a pas besoin de 47 programmes de formation professionnelle dans neuf agences, qui coûtent quelque 20 milliards de dollars par an et donnent de mauvais résultats. De même, ralentir la croissance des dépenses de sécurité sociale pour ceux qui disposent déjà d'autres ressources considérables pourrait réduire le besoin de lever de nouvelles taxes à l'avenir et aider à atteindre l'objectif initial du président Franklin D. Roosevelt de fournir une « mesure de protection ... contre la vieillesse en proie à la pauvreté. »

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Judicial staffers

work effective Monday, October 19, 2020 pending the outcome of the investigation," it concludes.

In another communication dated 8 October under the signature of Civil Law Court "B" Clerk Nah J. Wollor and approved by Civil Law Court "B" Judge Scheaplor R. Dunbar, a request was made to Court Administrator Cllr. Elizabeth B. Nelson for the transfer of bailiffs Brenda Geekor and Cynthia Wildoh.

The communication cites the two bailiffs' unwillingness to work, habitual absence from work and refusal to wear uniforms.

The NewDawn has contacted the head of communication at the Judiciary Atty. Ambrose

us."

Earlier on 13 October, Finance Minister Samuel Tweah told protesting judicial staffers that the government will restore cuts in their salaries that have necessitated their protests over the past weeks, saying this month each of them will receive US\$153 representing the first three months, in addition to their October pay.

"We're giving three months in October, and I didn't make any firm commitment in terms of timing, but I did say that we will continue to search and overtime continue to meet them," he said.

The meeting with the Finance Minister followed a sustained protest at the judiciary with judicial staffers

name.

It remains unclear why the judicial staffers targeted Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor in their protests against cuts in their salaries, despite the Judiciary issuing a clarity in September informing the aggrieved employees that the cuts in salaries were not done by the Judiciary and that the cuts affected all employees in the government sector.

Minister Samuel Tweah informed the judicial workers during the meeting that 15,000 real human beings, including Immigration officers, were lifted from as low as US\$40.00 per month for years, to US\$120.

To do that, he said about 9,000 Liberians who were making more had to make that sacrifice, meaning the government took money from those who were earning more and passed it on to those who were making less.

He revealed that the government team recently identified US\$2.2m on account of some government employees who were getting two or three salaries in the same government.

According to a presentation by the Technical Team from the Ministry Of Finance, the Judiciary's wage bill was reduced from US\$15.4m to US\$12.8m, leaving a difference of US\$2.6m.

The team indicated that ideally anybody who is working under the Judiciary is affected by 16 percent reduction which is done when the basic salary and allowance are combined.

The team noted that allowances were not taxed prior to the harmonization program, revealing also that the total payroll for the judiciary is around 2,000 or 1,800. Based on the technical team's presentation, some of the judicial workers who for instance, are earning a basic salary of US\$125 plus an allowance which prior to the harmonization program was in the tune of US\$150, would get a combined total of US\$275 by then. The team noted that it is the US\$275 that is supposed to be reduced by the 16 percent because the Judiciary's budget is reduced from US\$15.4m to US\$12.8m. When the 16 percent is applied to the US\$275, the employee in this category like a bailiff for instance, would be left with US\$231.



Nmah, referencing the letter addressed to Archie Ponpon to get the judiciary's response, but Atty. Nmah says the letter is clear, declining to speak further on the matter because he was not in the know.

Courage Jackson, one of the protesting judicial workers from the Omega Magisterial Court told the NewDawn newspaper Thursday that the head of security at the Temple of Justice has called her for investigation for abandoning her post.

In an interview, Mr. Archie Ponpon claims that over 19 persons are undergoing investigation, noting that the Chief Justice has again started another "war with

demanding Liberian dollars component of their salaries.

The protest was marred by anti- Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor slogans and drumming with gallons and pot tops. In the process the protesters were dragged by riot police later in the day, and some of them including protest leader Archie Ponpon were left unconscious.

It followed failed negotiations with authorities at the Judicial branch of government that led to the aggrieved judicial staffers' protest in extension of several weeks of protests for Liberian dollars component of their salaries allegedly cut, as they assembled outside the court, beating drums and chanting Chief Justice Francis S. Korpor's

Maryland County Health

Cont'd from page 6

Cecelia stressed that it is unfair for citizens seeking medical treatments at various health centers in the county to be denied medication as a result of protest.

She said although government has an obligation to cater to health workers, but health workers shouldn't punish citizens due to authorities' failure to address their concerns.

When contacted, the administrator of the Pleebo Health Center, Mr. Garrison Sayon declined to comment on grounds that he wasn't the rightful person to speak on the situation except head of the National Health Workers Union of Liberia.

However, the Assistant Secretary-General of the National Health Workers Union of Liberia (NAHUL) speaking on a community radio station in the county via mobile phone alleged that government failed to provide essential medical drugs and equipment to health facilities especially, referral

hospitals.

Mr. Deemi T. Dearzrua said, Liberia's poor health system has resulted to deaths of many citizens, blaming the situation on lack of priority.

He explained that key concerns were presented the government, including granting the NAHUL a certificate of recognition as a trade union, better salaries and hazard benefits, considering that the COVID-19 has exposed them to more danger.

The government has refused to grant such recognition arguing, doing so would contravene the "Decent Work Act" which prohibits union for civil servants.

He previously disclosed that if their plights are not addressed by the government their stayed home action will not stop.

However, Dearzrua said they resumed work following intervention by international partners. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

PHIL, MERCK partner

Cont'd from page 6

with Ebola. With lessons learned from Ebola, our focus is again community engagement for the uptake of routine immunization services - it is at the front and center of what we do during this fight against the COVID-19 pandemic," -Joyce L. Kilikpo, the Executive Director said. She thanked MERCK & Co for the partnership and support.

Merck and Co, also known as Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD PTY D) outside the US and Canada is one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world. The company is providing financial support to PHIL for the social mobilization and community engagement exercise.

About PHIL

Public Health Initiative Liberia (PHIL) was conceived in 2011 by Liberian Health Professionals living in the diaspora to contribute toward the effectiveness of the health care delivery system of Liberia through leadership, partnership, innovation, advocacy and empowerment.

PHIL management team consists of a group of qualified, competent, committed and dedicated Liberians health professionals with a wealth of experiences acquired through working with national and international development organizations including (the Red Cross, International Medical Crops, the World Health Organization, United Nations Children Fund and Medicine Sans Frontier Belgium) in countries like Haiti, Sudan, Pakistan and Liberia among others, they have good understanding on implementing donor funded projects (USAID, European Union and Global fund).

Despite the relative success of the 2007-11 National Health Plan, Liberia continues to have very poor health indicators - especially among women and girls in rural areas - with a heavy burden of infectious disease. PHIL program will address some of these challenges through capacity building of community-based health workers and

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Supreme Court reverses NEC's decision

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's Supreme Court has reversed a decision reached by the National Elections Commission (NEC) which summarily denied independent Margibi County senatorial aspirant Mulbah Jackollie a due process, ordering the electoral house to hear Mr. Jackollie's complaint before making a determination.

Associate Justice Sie - A-Nyene G. Yuoh, presiding in chambers, ruled Thursday, 22 October after hearing Mr. Jackollie's petition that the

However, Jackollie indicates that the NEC prevented the process, demanding that he must be present to have his photo taken or his name will not be submitted.

Jackollie informs that court that on 23 September, he filed a complaint before the NEC chairperson Madam Davidetta Brown Lassanah, asking that the decision be reversed.

But he notes that his complaint was not heard, thus prompting him to ask the Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus to compel the NEC to include his name on the roll.

The Associate Justice

mandate.

She notes that had the NEC complied with the aged old principles of law, it would have been well situated to determine whether Jackollie's application was fake, whether he was not ill and would have allowed him to exhaust the appeal process to the fullest.

She reminds the NEC that it has the duty to protect all the contestants, ruling that mandamus will lie, completing the commission to conduct a hearing into the case.

Paulita Wie vows

Cont'd from page 6

Brown describes the validation workshop as very good, noting that it is all about strengthening the governance system in the country. However, Senator Brown observes that development of policies is good but implementation should matter more.

"We have developed policies for a very long time, we have developed laws for a very long time; it is about time we move to implementation", he emphasizes.

He recalls that three years ago, the President of Liberia signed the Local Government Act into law with a specific section that spells out areas

that should qualify to become cities, but since then, it has not been implemented.

According to the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Service or LISGIS, by 2008 Liberia's total urban population was 47 percent, comprising of total population of 3.5million. With a growth rate of 4.7 percent, it is estimated that out of a population of over 4 million, 2 million Liberians lived in urban areas by 2008, a figure projected to be higher in 2020. Approximately 40 percent of the urban population lives in the Greater Monrovia area.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Senatorial aspirant Mulbah Jackollie

NEC chairperson Madam Davidetta Brown Lassanah

Associate Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh

NEC without hearing. Jackollie's complaint had declined to allow his lawyer and staffers to proceed with submission of his requirements to put him on the provisional list of senatorial candidates.

In a ruling at the Temple of Justice, Associate Justice Yuoh orders a writ of mandamus issued against the NEC while also instructing the commission to hear Jackollie's complaint, and to accord him a due process of law before making a determination.

Subsequently NEC's legal counsel Cllr. Michael Wilkins Wright says the NEC accepts the court's ruling and does not appeal before the full bench of the Supreme Court, adding that the commission will proceed to implement the orders of the court to accord the petitioner a due process.

On 5 October, Jackollie filed the petition for a writ of mandamus against the NEC, alleging that prior to the September 21, 2020 deadline to submit his requirement to the commission, he fell ill and the doctor recommended that he take a bed rest.

He laments that his lawyer and staff then proceed to the NEC office to submit his documents before the day of the deadline.

then ordered an alternative writ of mandamus, ordering the NEC to file its returns.

According to Justice Yuoh, the NEC in filling its returns argued that Mr. Jackollie failed to meet the requirement and deadline.

The NEC also disputed Jackollie's claim that he was sick, and decided that having failed to comply with his guideline to complete the process, the commission could not be compelled to place his name on the provisional listing.

Further, NEC contended that there was no legal duty imposed upon it to accord the respondent due process because he had failed to meet the requirement and deadline. However, Associate Justice Yuoh disagrees with the NEC's argument that there was no legal duty imposed upon it to accord the petitioner due process, noting that the Supreme Court has mandated that the NEC must ensure that a hearing is accorded in line with due process of law to set the basis of the determination to be made.

She wonders how the commission reached the conclusion without first inviting Mr. Jackollie, saying to summarily reject his complaint is not only wrong, but also against the Supreme Court's

owing the ruling, Mr. Jackollie told journalists that he is not surprised by the outcome of the case from the Supreme Court because his lawyer presented his case very well, urging the court to continue in this manner it dealt with the case.

He says he did not intend to stall the election process, but all he had asked for is due diligence, describing the NEC's decision as unfair. Jackollie says he has his medical report to show that he is now strong.

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MICAT, PUL, others

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guarantee the safety of all Journalists and Media workers throughout the country.

In response to these matters, Information Minister Ledgerhood J. Rennie reassured Mr. Jlateh and the PUL that the government's commitment to creating an enabling environment for the respect of the dignity of the human person, freedom of expression and a high level of political and social tolerance irrespective of views expressed and actions taken remain cardinal.

"This government is not in the business of taking people's lives, neither interested in violating the fundamental rights of any of its citizens", Minister Rennie reassured.

The Information Minister assured Mr. Jlateh that his concerns about "threats to his

life" will be forwarded to the Ministry of Justice for further action.

Minister Rennie said as a journalist himself, he understands the plight of his media colleagues and will work towards improving the media landscape, but he also used the occasion to frown on incendiary language and reportage by some media outlets - saying the media and all citizens have a co-responsibility to ensure the consolidation of Liberia's peace and democracy.

The Information Minister said he will work to ensure a regular dialogue with the PUL and Civil Society Organizations as a means of addressing differences between and amongst journalists and civil actors.

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
 LIBERIA IMMIGRATION SERVICE (LIS)
 MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
 MONROVIA

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL

CONFIRMATION CLEARANCE

This confirms that **Madam Mercy Jargbah**, of Barnersville, Dry Rice Market, reported to the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) reference to her missing Liberian passport with number **L-209126** issued in Monrovia. As an attestation, please see **(Interpol Confirmation Clearance)**. We at LIS have inserted said information into our damaged/lost/stolen passport database.

In view thereof, this is for your official information as it constitutes our official attestation of the above mentioned fact and request that you render her any assistance as it relates to her missing passport.

Given under my hand and seal this 21st Day of January A. D. 2020, in the City of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia.

Robert W. Budy, Sr.
 COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION

Judicial staffers face mass suspension

-Following protest for salaries



By Winston W. Parley

Several staffers of Liberia's Judicial branch of government who took part in recent protests for salaries are facing suspensions, transfers and investigations, more than a week after the government, through Finance Minister Samuel Tweah

conceded to the workers' claim and assured that it would pay the first three months this October.

In a suspension letter dated 19 October and addressed to the aggrieved judicial workers' leader Mr. Archie Ponpon, the author identified as R. Stephen Wontee, Deputy Personnel Director at the Judiciary,

indicates that Ponpon accused Chief Justice Francis S. Korpor of sending people to his (Ponpon's) house to kill him.

According to the communication, this accusation was repeated and allegedly confirmed by Mr. Ponpon at a meeting that the Chief Justice held with employees of the Judiciary at the ground floor of the Temple of Justice on 8 October 2020.

The communication continues that this is a serious allegation which the Chief Justice categorically denies as having no iota of truth, but merely intended to besmear him.

"In this regard, the matter has been sent to the Minister of Justice/Attorney General for full scale investigation," he adds.

"In view of the above, you are hereby suspended from

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Liberian international artist Kzee stresses cultural values

By Ben P. Wese

One of the Liberia's international artists based in Australia, Kolando Baby Zulu, popularly known as 'Kzee-Bigname' urges local musicians here to produce songs or music that portrays Liberian culture.

Speaking to this paper in an exclusive interview via mobile recently, the multiple Gbema (a gener of music that portray Liberian culture)

awards winner disclosed that being a strong advocate for women's right, he thought it necessary to dedicate portion of songs on his upcoming album to speak against continuous violence women face daily in Liberia.

Since the Liberian superstar announced the date to release his latest album, the social media has had no peace, as fans and music lovers in and out of Liberia take to their Facebook and Instagram pages to



comment about the up-coming album that is still being cooked in studio.

According to Kzee-bigname, when growing up as a refugee in Ghana, he carefully followed various kinds of genre in the musical industry and decided that Gbema music was the only music that would fulfill him as an artist, noting that it speaks and showcases the tradition and culture of the country he

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