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# Continental News

## The deadly flight from Mozambique's jihadist attack

Survivors of the recent Islamist militant attack on Palma in north-east Mozambique have been talking about how they got out amid the bullets and mortar shells, as Catherine Byaruhanga and Kyla Herrmannsen report.

Eusebio Alves Pinto was just finishing his shift at the Amarula Hotel when he saw people fleeing towards the compound. "I asked them what was happening? They said the situation was not good," he told local TV station TVM. "Then I began to hear gunshot after gunshot." He ran back inside.

This was the beginning of a well-coordinated assault on Palma that started on 24 March. The postcard-pretty town itself was already hosting thousands who had fled violence in the surrounding area - the country's northern Cabo Delgado region has been hit by an insurgency for the last four years.

It was besieged and running out of food.

The town's infrastructure has barely been developed

but just 10km (six miles) away the construction of one of the biggest investment projects in Africa was under way. Once completed, the \$20bn (£14.5bn) liquified natural gas plant will help process off-shore reserves.

Despite the uneasy peace in Palma, workers and contractors, both foreign and Mozambican, flew in regularly to develop the project. The Amarula - a focal point for the attack - sits on several acres and was popular

with these contract workers.

But when the militants, linked to the so-called Islamic State, charged into Palma local residents nearby also sought shelter there. Initially, the people inside the compound were able to get messages to family and friends about what was going on, but telephone and internet lines were cut.

Richard Davis, whose name

we have changed to protect his identity, is a South African contractor normally based in the region's capital, Pemba.

He believes that 190 people were sheltering at the Amarula, adding that "the vast majority" were locals.

Mr Davis had arrived in Palma just hours before the attack began and described how a flight coming in after his had to quickly take off again because of gunshots.

The government has said the militants attacked the town from three directions, the airfield being one of them. On that first day, Mr Davis remembers listening "to this battle through the day and night. The following day mortar bombs were landing at our fence, the bullets were hitting the hotel." Fighters from the private security firm Dyck Advisory Group, which had been hired by the Mozambican government to fight the insurgents, were battling with them near the hotel. Mr Davis was one of the lucky ones.

On Thursday he and 19 others were airlifted out of the hotel in helicopters. It would not be possible to extract everyone in the same way.

In Johannesburg, in neighbouring South Africa, 21-year-old Gracie Alexander told the BBC about the messages

she was receiving from her father Nick Alexander who ran a construction company in Palma.

Mr Alexander was also at the Amarula hotel.

"He sent a video of the gunshots that were going on and he told us just to be praying and thinking of him and that he was hoping to be evacuated as soon as possible," his daughter said. Desperate after two days under fire and with hardly any food or water, a plan was devised to drive the remaining 170 people out of the Amarula in a convoy to a nearby beach where boats would take them to Pemba, where Mr Davis was now helping coordinate the rescue efforts. "They decided they had to make a run for it and just try it at least," he said. "There was one armoured vehicle - a 10-seater at the back - and they packed all these women and children from the village into it." Around 17 cars made it out of the hotel but almost immediately the convoy came under attack - 10 vehicles did not make it to the beach. Mr Pinto, the hotel worker, was in the convoy, and felt lucky to have made it out alive.

"I saw dead bodies when we left the hotel. Many people died," he said.

Nelson Matola, who was working in Palma also hid out at the Amarula and was caught up in the ambush. BBC



Anxious relatives in Pemba have been waiting for news about family members in Palma

## Marwa Elselehdar: 'I was blamed for blocking the Suez Canal'

Last month, Marwa Elselehdar noticed something strange. News had broken about a huge container ship, the Ever Given, that had become wedged across the Suez Canal, bringing one of world's major shipping routes to a halt.

But as she checked her phone, online rumours were saying she was to blame.

"I was shocked," says Marwa, Egypt's first female ship's captain.

At the time of the Suez blockage, Ms Elselehdar was working as a first mate, in command of the Aida IV,

hundreds of miles away in Alexandria.

The vessel, owned by Egypt's maritime safety authority, runs supply missions to a lighthouse in the Red Sea. It's also used to train cadets from the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT), a regional university run by the Arab League. Rumours about Marwa Elselehdar's role on the Ever Given were largely spurred by screenshots of a fake news headline - supposedly published by Arab News - which said she was involved in the Suez incident.

The doctored image appears to be from a genuine Arab News story, released on 22 March, which profiles Marwa's success as Egypt's first female ship captain. The picture has been shared dozens of times on Twitter and Facebook.

Several Twitter accounts under her name have also spread false claims that she was involved with the Ever Given. Marwa Elselehdar, 29,



Marwa Elselehdar is Egypt's first female ship's captain

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told the BBC she has no idea who first spread the story or why they did it.

"I felt that I might be targeted maybe because I'm a successful female in this field or because I'm Egyptian, but I'm not sure," she said.

It's not the first time she's faced challenges in an industry historically dominated by men. At present, women only account for 2% of the world's seafarers, according to the International Maritime Organisation. Marwa says she's always loved the sea, and was inspired to join the merchant navy after her brother enrolled at the AASTMT. Though the academy only accepted men at the time, she applied anyway and

was granted permission to join after a legal review by Egypt's then-President Hosni Mubarak.

During her studies, Ms Elselehdar says she faced sexism at every turn.

"Onboard, they were all older men with different mentalities, so it was difficult not to be able to find like-minded people to communicate with," she says. "It was challenging to go through this alone and be able to overcome it without affecting my mental health."

"People in our society still don't accept the idea of girls working in the sea away from their families for a long time," she adds. "But when you do what you love, it is not necessary for you to seek the approval of everyone." BBC

# EDITORIAL

## The sad news coming out of Robertsport

**PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH** Weah and his entourage were not only surprised, but clearly disappointed when local authorities in Robertsports, Grand Cape Mount County could not host the President and his official delegation due to lack of infrastructure as they ended a three-county tour to Western Liberia on Saturday, 27 March. It is hardly believable that Robertsport, a very historic city, does not have official guest house to host the President of Liberia and members of his party on an official visit.

**PRESIDENT WEAH WAS** constrained to stay at Nana's Lounge, a private facility in Robertsport during his tour of the county where he held town hall meetings with Cape Mountaineers. The tour to Western Liberia that took President Weah and his official delegation to Bomi, Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount counties respectively was the second leg of a nationwide tour that began in February in Central and Southeastern Liberia.

"DO WE HAVE LAWMAKERS in this county", the President asked, and continued, "If there is any lawmaker in this county that did not invest in hotel or invest in his own house that when leaders come here they will host them, then they are the problem...you re the Representation or Representative of people and where you live, you can't develop the place for attraction?"

**PRESIDENT WEAH:** "LOOK into our government; we have men and women who are from Robertsport. If I make a list of those officials from Robertsport that are in the government...if they cannot improve this county then they don't have to blame the government."

**RENOWNED LIBERIAN CORPORATE** lawyer Varney G. Sherman is Senator of Grand Cape Mount County, but has no structure in the county that he represents to host the President and entourage. Instead, Sen. Sherman, who formed part of President Weah's tour to the county recently, went on bending knees during the town hall meeting and implored the President to help construct an official guest house in Cape Mount that would host guests from Monrovia and elsewhere.

**BUT VARNEY SHERMAN** is completing two-nine year terms in the Liberian Senate, and he has failed to look back in terms of development to the county he represents along with his colleagues, first beginning with the late Sen. Edward Dagoseh, and his successor Victor Watson, who lost the seat last year to Simeon Taylor, but is challenging the poll result. Besides, Grand Cape Mount has about three other lawmakers in the House of Representatives. And like all other counties in the Republic of Liberia, it had benefited County Development Funds over the years from the previous administration of ex-president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

**SO, THE MILLION** dollar question that President Weah asked in the town hall meeting was, what happened to the CDF? He challenged the entire leadership of the county to return to the drawing board in order to restore dignity to that area. How can a county received millions over the past 12 years plus and does not have a presidential guest house? It's too sad.

**ROBERTSPORT, ENDOWED WITH** so much tourist attractions, is a town in western Liberia, about 10 miles from the Sierra Leone border. It is named after Liberia's first president, Joseph Jenkins Roberts. The town lies on Cape Mount peninsula, a spit of land separating the brackish lagoon Lake Piso from the Atlantic Ocean. It serves as the capital of Grand Cape Mount County. The town used to host the Tubman Center of African Culture, which was built in 1964 to commemorate William V.S. Tubman's sixty-ninth birthday. The institution was meant to be a world-wide center of research, and to support and promote African studies, writes Wikipedia, but the Liberian civil war destroyed the structure, and only the ruins remain.

**DEPITE ITS HUGE** potential for revenue generation, the town virtually lies necked and neglected. The visit by President George Manneh Weah to Grand Cape Mount County is a wake up call to leaders of the county to do more in projecting a good image of the area.

**SENATOR VARNEY SHERMAN** and his colleagues in the Liberian Legislature who hail from Cape Mount should be honest to themselves and know that they owe it to their people, who elected them to bring proud to that beautiful county and by extension, Liberia by channeling county resources to development rather than crying baby.

# COMMENTARY

By Anne-marie Slaughter,  
Samm Sacks

## Changing the Face of Sino-American Relations

**WASHINGTON, DC** - The Sino-American relationship is at its lowest point in decades. Following the recent bilateral summit in Alaska - the first high-level talks since President Joe Biden took office - it is far from clear whether the new US administration understands what it will take to revive it.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said that, while America's relationship with China has some "adversarial" aspects, it also has "cooperative ones." At the Alaska summit, however, there was little sign of the latter, with Blinken and National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan publicly trading barbs with Chinese officials.

Biden said he was proud of Blinken for sitting through an anti-American tirade, but acknowledged that it was not a great start to his administration's relationship with China. The hope now, it seems, is that John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, will have more luck at the upcoming talks with his Chinese counterpart in an area where both sides have expressed a willingness to cooperate.

But what is really needed may be a much broader dialogue. At the last meeting of the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue, held in Beijing in 2016, the large US delegation, led jointly by the secretaries of state and the Treasury, included officials responsible for issues such as climate policy, ocean health, counterterrorism, non-proliferation, food security, and mineral supply-chain practices. Agreements were reached in every area.

If this kind of broad US-China dialogue were to be held today, imagine what the US side of the table would look like. Alongside Blinken and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, we could expect to see Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, Trade Representative Katherine Tai, Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers Cecilia Rouse, White House National Climate Adviser Gina McCarthy (the first woman to hold that position), and Samantha Power, the incoming administrator of the US Agency for International Development. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan, Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra, and Attorney General Merrick Garland would join them.

That would be a far better picture to present to the world - a diverse array of US officials, over half of them women, confronting a phalanx of Chinese men - than the images from the Alaska summit, which could have been taken anywhere between 1972 and the present.

In a similar vein, the United States could propose a bilateral dialogue exclusively on cybersecurity and data-privacy issues, alongside planned dialogues on issues like climate change. Here, again, women would dominate the American side of the table. They include Anne Neuberger (Deputy National Security Adviser for Cyber and Emerging Technology), Jen Easterly (awaiting Senate confirmation as the National Cyber Director),

and Mieke Eoyang (Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber Policy). Shannon Coe, Jennifer Daskal, Melanie Hart, and Cynthia Carras would also be in attendance.

Making these women the public face of the American half of a US-China cyber-policy dialogue would be good for women everywhere. Moreover, much like a single broad dialogue, the simultaneous pursuit of multiple targeted dialogues would highlight the complexity of the bilateral relationship and the importance of cooperation on a wide range of issues.

To be sure, simply replacing male officials with women will not bring about harmony in Sino-American relations. Just ask Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, who has been locked in unproductive negotiations to free Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig since they were arrested in China and charged with espionage, apparently in retaliation for Canada's 2018 arrest of Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's CFO, at the request of the US.

But as Biden well knows, foreign policy - like politics more broadly - is based on relationships created not only at the negotiating table, but also after hours, unwinding over an informal meal and finding common interests and identities. These relationships are necessary to build actual trust and convince senior government officials to drop their figurative masks and reveal the real person.

When Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State, she forged a relationship with Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo, based partly on their shared commitment to their children and grandchildren. That relationship helped the US and China to weather a major diplomatic crisis.

Today, building such relationships - essential to foster trust between high officials - should be a top priority of US leaders, regardless of gender. Such an effort could build on the ties being created through unofficial dialogues.

For example, as the Alaska summit was unfolding, women from the US, China, and Europe gathered via Zoom for a private discussion about internet censorship. This group - including multiple generations of government officials, academics, business leaders, investors, and journalists - meets regularly for candid, off-the-record conversations about some of today's most pressing topics, from artificial-intelligence start-ups to export controls and biotechnology. These relationships could prove very useful to governments.

As Kerry has noted, the US will never accept China's violations of human rights and trade abuses in exchange for climate cooperation. This is the right approach, particularly while the atrocities in Xinjiang continue. But cooperation on climate change - as well as pandemics, cybersecurity, and other shared threats - remains critical. Only with a broad (or multi-pronged) dialogue, led by a different set of faces and fortified by deeper personal relationships, can the US strike the right balance between - to use Blinken's words - the adversarial and cooperative aspects of its relationship with China.

**New Dawn**  
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# OPINION

By Kevin Watkins

## Climate Safety Nets for All

**L**ONDON - As preparations for this year's COP26 climate summit in Glasgow intensify, attention is focused on efforts to prevent a future catastrophe. But real-time climate catastrophes already are playing out in the lives of millions of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. What will COP26 offer them?

Stick a pin in a map of global humanitarian emergencies, and you will most likely land on a crisis that has been caused or aggravated by droughts, floods, and storms. In 2019, extreme weather events pushed more than 34 million people into hunger and food insecurity. In the 55 countries with food-insecurity crises, 75 million children under the age of five are chronically undernourished and face higher risks of diarrhea, pneumonia, and other killer diseases that accompany droughts and floods.

Save the Children is responding to these emergencies. In the Horn of Africa, our nutrition programs are treating the children of farming families devastated by successive droughts, floods, and the worst desert locust infestation in a generation. In the Sahel region, we are working with communities hit by drought and displaced by increasingly deadly conflicts over water. But humanitarian efforts are being overwhelmed by the scale of the crisis - and worse is to come.

COP26 is one of our last opportunities to lock in the measures needed to keep temperatures within the 1.5°-2° Celsius ceiling set in 2015 by the Paris climate agreement. But even 1.5°C of warming would have disastrous implications for poverty and malnutrition in the poorest countries. The evidence from climate science points overwhelmingly toward less predictable rainfall, more extreme, frequent, and protracted droughts, and more destructive storms. Meanwhile, the World Meteorological Association anticipates a long-term decline in food productivity in Africa, the world's most food-insecure region.

Rich countries are already investing heavily in adapting to climate-change threats. When disasters strike, their citizens can fall back on elaborate safety nets, well-financed health systems, and insurance policies covering loss and damage to assets. Flood defenses are being strengthened across Europe, and America's current Farm Bill includes a \$39 billion federal insurance program to protect heavily subsidized producers against crop losses.

Contrast that with the situation facing Africa's farmers. When extreme weather events destroy crops, kill livestock, and drive up food prices, families cope by cutting meals and reducing spending on health and education. Lacking insurance and savings, the poorest households are forced to sell off productive assets, including livestock, effectively closing their route to recovery. Livestock losses during Somalia's 2016 drought cost the country's farmers an estimated \$2 billion - an extraordinary loss for some of the world's poorest people.

The international community's preferred first-line response to climate disaster is to provide humanitarian aid. That aid saves lives, but the current system invariably delivers too little, too late. Last year, donors provided only half of the funding requested by the UN - a record gap. And much of the aid arrived long after the most vulnerable families had already been forced to cut food consumption, withdraw children from school, and sell assets.

There is a better way to support the world's most vulnerable populations. Three years ago, I met women pastoral farmers in Wajir, an arid area in northern Kenya, in the aftermath of a devastating drought. They had managed to avoid cutting meals for children or selling off their livestock because they were receiving cash through Kenya's Hunger Safety Net Programme. As soon as the drought struck, early payments were automatically triggered (based on rainfall data).

Well-designed safety nets succeed where humanitarian aid often fails, because they catch vulnerable people as soon as they start to fall, instead of waiting until they hit the ground; thus, they provide a springboard for recovery. There is abundant evidence from the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and other regions that small cash transfers improve nutrition, increase investment, and boost crop production, especially when targeted to women. And these programs can respond rapidly to a crisis. During the 2017 drought, Ethiopia's safety net was extended to reach an additional three million people.

Early action is the key to rapid recovery. Every dollar invested in recovery during the first few weeks of a drought in the Horn of Africa can save poor farmers \$50 in lost income and assets four months later. When linked to early-warning systems, safety nets can also provide a platform for crisis prevention. In Bangladesh, vulnerable households were provided grants ahead of anticipated flooding, enabling them to relocate. Beyond saving lives and protecting assets, the program reached twice as many people as a previous humanitarian response had, and at half the cost.

Targeted safety-net programs could offer an efficient and equitable way to build resilience against climate change. Unfortunately, they are currently weakest where they are most urgently needed. Fewer than one in five people in low-income countries are currently covered; and in Africa, safety nets are chronically under-financed, fragmented, and poorly equipped to address the critical challenge of responding to child poverty and malnutrition.

Increased finance will be crucial, especially given the post-pandemic fiscal constraints that many developing countries now face. The G7 has already agreed in principle to authorize a new allocation of the International Monetary Fund's reserve asset, special drawing rights (SDRs). Reallocating these funds to the poorest countries would go a long way toward creating the fiscal space to invest in safety nets. So, too, would additional debt relief and the \$25 billion in new funding proposed by the World Bank's International Development Association.

As the host of COP26, the United Kingdom's government should focus its climate-adaptation efforts on galvanizing support for safety nets. Reversing its recent decision to cut the UK's foreign-aid budget by one-third would be a good starting point. Slashing support for nutrition programs and climate-related humanitarian responses in regions like the Sahel and the Horn of Africa is a short-sighted dereliction of leadership, and an embarrassing retreat from multilateralism.

Safety nets are not an antidote for climate injustice. But, linked to decisive action to achieve net zero emissions by mid-century, they could limit the harm suffered by those who bear the least responsibility for the climate crisis. We must seize that opportunity at COP26.

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# O-PED

By Mohamed A. El-erian

## Ensuring a Stronger and Fairer Global Recovery

**C**AMBRIDGE - An old joke about tricky trade-offs asks you to imagine your worst enemy driving over a cliff in your brand-new car. Would you be happy about the demise of your enemy or sad about the destruction of your car?

For many, the shape of this year's hoped-for and much-needed global economic recovery poses a similar dilemma. Absent a revamp of both national policies and international coordination, the significant pickup in growth expected in 2021 will be very uneven, both across and within countries. With that comes a host of risks that could make growth in subsequent years less robust than it can and should be.

Based on current information, I expect rapid growth in China and the United States to drive a global expansion of 6% or more this year, compared to a 3.5% contraction in 2020. But while Europe should exit its double-dip recession, the recovery there will likely be more subdued. Parts of the emerging world are in an even tougher position.

Much of this divergence, both actual and anticipated, stems from variations in one or more of five factors. Controlling COVID-19 infections, including the spread of new coronavirus variants, is clearly crucial. So is distributing and administering vaccines (which includes securing supplies, overcoming institutional obstacles, and ensuring public uptake). A third factor is financial resilience, which in some developing countries involves preemptively managing difficulties from the recent debt surge. Then come the quality and flexibility of policymaking, and finally whatever is left in the reservoirs of social capital and human resilience.

The bigger the differences between and within countries, the greater the challenges to the sustainability of this year's recovery. This reflects a broad range of health, economic, financial, and socio-political factors.

In a recent commentary, I explained why more uniform global progress on COVID-19 vaccination is important even for countries whose national immunization programs are far ahead of the pack. Without universal progress, leading vaccinators face a difficult choice between risking the importation of new variants from abroad and running a fortress economy with governments, households, and firms adopting a bunker-like mindset.

Uneven economic recoveries deprive individual countries of the tailwind of synchronized expansion, in which simultaneous output and income growth fuels a virtuous cycle of generalized economic well-being. They also increase the risks of trade and investment protectionism, as well as disruptions to supply chains.

Then there is the financial angle. Buoyant US growth, together with higher inflation expectations, has pushed market interest rates higher, with spillovers for the rest of the world. And there is more to come.

European Central Bank officials have already complained about "undue tightening" of financial conditions in the eurozone. Rising interest rates could also undermine the dominant paradigm in financial markets - namely, investors' high confidence in ample, predictable, and effective liquidity injections by systemically important central banks, which has encouraged many to venture well beyond their natural habitat, taking considerable if not excessive and irresponsible risks. In the short term, high liquidity has pushed cheap funding to many countries and companies. But sudden reversals in fund flows, as well as the growing risk of cumulative market accidents and policy mistakes, could cause severe disruptions.

Finally, uneven economic recovery risks aggravating the income, wealth, and opportunity gaps that the COVID-19 crisis has already widened enormously. The greater the inequality, particularly with respect to opportunity, the sharper the sense of alienation and marginalization, and the more likely political polarization will impede good and timely policymaking.

But, whereas the old joke hinges on the unavoidability of tough trade-offs, there is a middle way for the global economy in 2021 and beyond - one that maintains a robust recovery and simultaneously lifts disadvantaged countries, groups, and regions. This requires both national and international policy adaptations.

National policies need to accelerate reforms that combine economic relief with measures to foster much more inclusive growth. This is not just about improving human productivity (through labor reskilling, education reforms, and better childcare) and the productivity of capital and technology (through major upgrades to infrastructure and coverage). To build back better and fairer, policymakers must now also consider climate resilience as a critical input for more comprehensive decision-making.

Global policy alignment also is vital. The world is fortunate to have benefited initially from correlated (as opposed to coordinated) national policies in response to the COVID-19 crisis, with the vast majority of countries opting upfront for an all-in, whatever-it-takes, whole-of-government approach. But without coordination, policy stances will increasingly diverge, as less robust economies confront additional external headwinds at a time of declining aid flows, incomplete debt relief, and hesitant foreign direct investment.

With the US and China leading a significant pickup in growth, the global economy has an opportunity to spring out of a pandemic shock that has harmed many people and, in some cases, erased a decade of progress on poverty reduction and other important socioeconomic objectives. But without policy adaptations at home and internationally, this rebound could be so uneven that it prematurely exhausts the prolonged period of faster and much more inclusive and sustainable growth that the global economy so desperately needs.

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## Independent Committee of Experts (ICE)

### On Vetting INCHR Chairperson/Commissioners

C/O Young Women Christian Association (YWCA), Congo Town, Monrovia, Liberia

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Cell: 0777-100-101 | 0777013622 | 0886514308

#### JOB VACANCY NOTICE

#### FOR THE POST OF ONE CHAIRPERSON AND FOUR COMMISSIONERS AT THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (INCHR)

The Office of the Chief Justice of the Republic of Liberia, represented by the Independent Committee of Experts (ICE), is seeking applications from qualified Liberians at home and abroad to occupy the vacant position as Chairperson and four positions of Commissioners at the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR):

**POSITION TITLE:** ONE (1) INCHR Chairperson  
FOUR (4) INCHR Commissioners

#### MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be Liberian citizen

- of at least 40 years of age and above;
- with good human rights record (not have been associated with human rights violation/abuse)
- a non-partisan or without shown political interest;
- not have been convicted by a court for any criminal offense involving financial or moral turpitude;
- and with proven professional competence, knowledge of human rights, and commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.
- The Chairperson shall be a senior lawyer with a proven professional excellence and commitment to human rights and the rule of law.

#### TENURE & OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- The Chairperson shall hold office for six (6) years, Commissioners for five (5) years.
- The Chairperson and Commissioners shall not:
  - hold any other public or government office.
  - engage in any other paid occupation, business, profession or activity.
  - hold any position incompatible with his/her official duties.

#### COMPETENCIES

A Candidate for Chairperson or Commissioner must:

- Be sensitive to issues involving vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, the disabled, detainees, and others who may face the risk of becoming victims of abuses.
- Demonstrate experience in human rights advocacy, monitoring, investigation, reporting, and documentation regardless.
- demonstrate working knowledge of the Paris Principle and other human rights mechanism in the protection and promotion of human rights.
- show knowledge in litigating or otherwise handling cases of human rights violations before judicial or quasi-judicial bodies, as well as in research.
- have experience in lobbying, advocacy, working with authorities responsible for the protection of human rights such as the court, military, police, prison officials and other security agencies;
- have proven record of independence, impartiality, and high degree of integrity.
- have a university degree or equivalent practical experience in a discipline related to the mandate of the INCHR.
- have excellent oral, written and interpersonal communication skills

#### HOW TO APPLY:

- Write a letter of application not more than two pages explaining your suitability for the position you are applying to and submit together with a CV and other supporting document(s).
- Subject line should state: **Chairperson for INCHR or Commissioner for INCHR**
- Send by e-mail to: [expertscommittee7@gmail.com](mailto:expertscommittee7@gmail.com)
- And submit hard copies to:
  - Mrs. Roseline Toweh
  - Chairperson
  - Independent Committee of Experts
  - On Vetting INCHR Chairperson/Commissioners
  - C/O The Young Women Christian Association (YWCA)
  - Congo Town, Monrovia, Liberia
- All applicants should ensure they obtain acknowledgement of receipt (name, date, time & phone #) on a copy of your application submitted.
- Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

**CLOSING DATE: Thursday April 8, 2021 at 15:00 HRS GMT** (Applications submitted after this time will be rejected).

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# AstraZeneca vaccines launch a milestone for Liberia's health sector

## -Health Minister Jallah

By Lewis S. Teh

It was quite a joyous moment here when health officials, dignitaries, including members of the Diplomatic Corps, members of the 54th Liberia Legislature in collaboration with development partners launched the AstraZeneca vaccination campaign.

The nationwide immunization campaign was formally launched last Thursday at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, outside Monrovia.

Performing the launch on behalf of the government, Liberia's Minister of Health Dr. Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah described the occasion as a great achievement for government, and a milestone in the health sector of the country.

Following a total shipment of 123,000 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines thru the COVAX Initiative, a partnership with WHO, CDC, UNICEF, USAID, AU, GAVI, and an additional 27,000 doses from MTN groups, the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Health, WHO, CDC, UNICEF and others called on citizens to embrace the

the art laboratories," she noted, saying, it has been tried in thousands of renowned clinics and approved by W.H.O.

"Besides, these same vaccines are being administered all over the world, including countries in Africa like Ghana, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Morocco, etc", Dr. Jallah said.

She explained the vaccine is voluntary and free, and category of people to be vaccinated include health care workers, government officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, police, soldiers, and marketers, including people with cold mobility, among others.

Doctor Jallah named eight health centers where the vaccines can be taken both private and public, including JFK, Redemption Hospital, JDJ, and the 14th Military Hospital; the rest include St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital, ELWA, SOS, and UN clinics.

According to her, the roll out will be administered to other counties, assuring the public that "once you take the first dose, we guarantee you of taking the second dose."

On behalf of Liberian Senate, Grand Kru County Senator Numeni Bartekwa



immunization campaign for the good of the country.

According to Dr. Jallah, the world is in the midst of the pandemic, and as such, the government, through the Ministry of Health and partners has been working collaboratively on the response - tracking the virus, advising on critical interventions, distributing preventive COVID-19 medical supplies to various health facilities in order to minimize widespread of the virus.

"I'm aware of the mixed feelings people are having towards the launch of this vaccines, but it's about time that we put our mixed feelings aside and embrace this vaccines", the Minister rallied the population.

She said the benefit of the AstraZeneca vaccines has outweighed its risks, noting that it is a critical new tool in the battle against the virus.

"We are confident to say that the Vaccines are safe and I'm encouraging Liberians from all walks of life to be vaccinated because all of the Vaccines were tested in state of

extolled health authorities and partners for officially launching the AstraZeneca immunization vaccines.

He recalled the disaster caused by the deadly Ebola virus, in 2014 and said the tireless efforts made by health authorities in collaboration with partners, saved Liberia, while calling on citizens to embrace the Astra Zeneca vaccines and continue to adhere to the health protocols.

He said the legislature is concern, especially when the people "we look up to for assistance were on their knees than we wonder what would have happened, again the leadership of the Senate has asked me to convey it's heartfelt sentiments to all of the partners for standing with Liberia in these critical times."

Meanwhile, the Country Representative of WHO Doctor Peter Clement, said the launch was a historical day for Liberia, noting that getting vaccinated means a lot to not single group, but for every citizen across the country.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Liberia urged to redouble efforts against money laundering

The Government of Liberia has been told to redouble its effort in the fight against money laundering here.

Speaking at the end of its advocacy mission to the country, the Director General of the Inter-government

Liberia is expected to undergo another mutual evaluation to help protect the country's financial system and the world at large, based on the involvement of every country in corresponding banking or money transfer.

He stated that the sub-

to the Financial Intelligence Unit of Liberia," Justice Aba recommended.

For his part, the Director General of Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit, Modibbo Hamman Tukur, promised to provide capacity development for some staff



GIABA delegation with president Weah

Action Against Money Laundering (GIABA), Justice Kimelabalou Aba, noted that the Liberian government needs to redouble its effort in the fight against money laundering and countering of terrorist financing.

According to Justice Aba,

regional grouping (GIABA) team of professionals will be deployed to do the mutual assessment in Liberia.

"Liberia Legislature and other political authorities need to muster the courage to pass meaningful legislations, provide logistical and financial support

members of the Liberia Financial Intelligence Unit

According to him, Nigeria is prepared to train Liberia FIU locally and internationally, as Liberia gets ready to seek membership from the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

## Mrs. Dorothea Youborbah Menyongar turns 100

The Menyongar Family on Sunday, April 4, 2021 celebrated the Centennial Day of Mrs. Dorothea Youborbah Menyongar.

The occasion was characterized by a Centennial Thanksgiving

Service held at the St. Simon Baptist Church on Horton Avenue in Bassa Community, Monrovia.

The 100th birthday of Mother Dorothea was attended by her children, grand children, great grand children and other family members in Liberia, Sierra

Leone, China, The United Kingdom and the United States of America wishing her long life, good health and prosperity.

The first daughter of the celebrant, Sarah Menyongar Davis, said her mother was born on April 3, 1921 and has been humble throughout the 100 years with the grace of God.

Madam Davis stated that Mother Dorothea is a woman who carries forgiveness and doesn't worry about anything good or bad. Besides she lives peacefully with her neighbors in the community and the society at large.

She pointed out that Mother Dorothea has seven children, but she has three set of twins and a triple among her children as well as 20 grand children with 22 great grand children.

She stressed that it is good to be humble and respectful in society, as this can make God to bless you with long life

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Mrs. Dorothea Youborbah Menyongar

## Defeated CDC lawmaker finally congratulates Sen. Botoe Kanneh

Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change defeated senatorial candidate, incumbent Gbarpolu County District #1 Representative Alfred Koiwood, has finally bowed to Senator Botoe Kanneh, congratulating her on victory in the December 8, 2020 Special Senatorial Election.

The National Elections Commission on March 30, 2021, certificated Madam Kanneh as winner of the senatorial election in Gbarpolu, after months of legal battle.

Immediately after the NEC announced provisional result of the poll last December, Representative Koiwood had claimed fraud and other wide allegations first going before the NEC hearing officer and subsequently to the Supreme Court, but lost all complaints.

Speaking in an interview with reporters in Monrovia, he said development of the county could not be held back, as the interest of the people is more paramount than any individual.

According to him, the

marred by fraud and violence allegedly instituted by Madam Kanneh's supporters, a claimed dismissed by the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the Supreme Court of Liberia.

In its opinion, the Supreme Court of Liberia noted the continued failure of the Ministry of Justice to prosecute election offenders accordingly, poses a threat to the country's peace and existence.

The Court opined that action by the Ministry of Justice led by Cllr. Musa Dean to downplay cases of electoral violence predicts a grim future for Liberia's democracy and its people.

"We fear that if election violence is not handled decisively now, future elections in our country will be disaster-prone," the Court's five Associate Justices wrote in a unanimous ruling relating to the Gbarpolu County electoral dispute case between then Senator-elect Botoe Kanneh (appellant), Coalition for Democratic Change (1st appellee) and the National Elections Commission (2nd appellee).



Gbarpolu County District #1 Representative Alfred Koiwood

Supreme Court of Liberia is the final place for justice in Liberia, noting that there were other avenues available to him to have pursued his case but he decided let go on grounds that the interest of the people of Gbarpolu is bigger than his personal interest.

Rep. Koiwood lauded the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change, his supporters, including his legal team for standing with him during the legal battle with Senator Kanneh.

The certification of Sen. Botoe Kanneh, a dried fish seller, was delayed after Koiwood claimed the poll was

Meanwhile, Rep. Koiwood has disclosed plan to stage a peace and reconciliations tournament shortly in Gbarpolu County to unite supporters of all nine candidates that contested in the December 8, 2020 senatorial election in order to move the county forward.

He said it's about time the legislative caucus of Gbarpolu welcomes Senator Kanneh for the common good of the people and the county.

In a related development, the incumbent lawmaker also expressed disappointment in teachers' retirement process being initiated in Gbarpolu by the Ministry of Education.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Gov't enlists over 850 voluntary teachers on payroll, increases pay of 600 others**

The Liberian Government through the Ministry of Education has announced that it has with immediate effect placed over 850 voluntary public school teachers across the fifteen political sub-divisions within Liberia on payroll.

The move, the

growth and development of the education sector.

The qualification of the new teachers ranges from C-certificate Bachelor and Master degrees.

According to the Ministry of Education, 165 of the newly employed teachers hold bachelor degree in education, 163 are A certificate, 470 are C-

70 teachers in Maryland County, 157 teachers in Lofa County, 86 teachers in Nimba County, 53 in Grand Kru County, 55 teachers in River Gee County, and 69 teachers in Gbarpolu County.

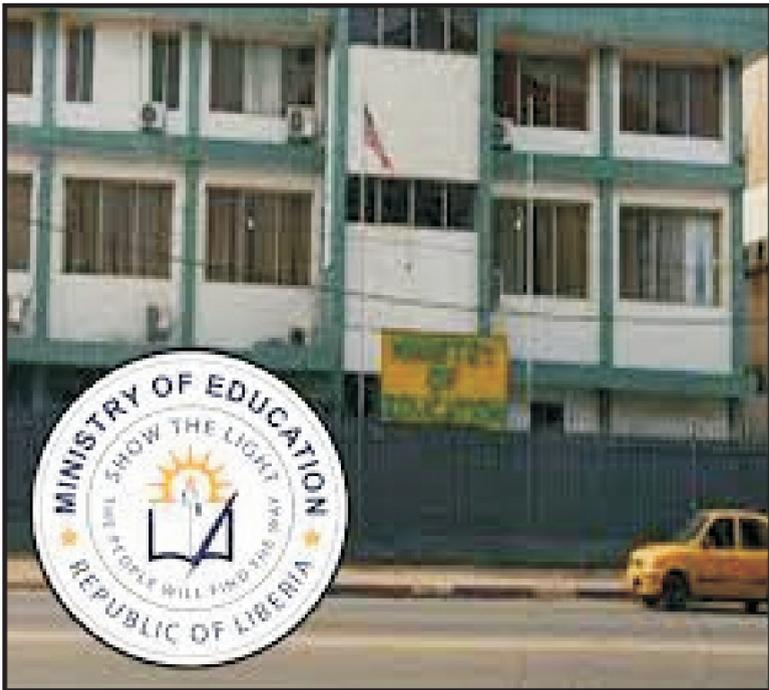
In related development, the Government says it is also planning to employ additional 750 voluntary teachers before the end of the fiscal year 2020/2021 in June 2021. The additional teachers are currently being vetted through special joint committee comprising of the Ministry of Education and the Civil Service Agency of Liberia.

Meanwhile, it says the Ministry of Education has taken a bold step in prioritizing the increment of Public-school teachers' salaries that will commensurate with their current qualification and experience.

The Ministry has already commenced the exercise with the salary increment of about 600 bonafide and legitimate supplementary Public-school teachers, the Government stated. The process of regularizing under-paid Public-school teachers' salaries has taken effect as of March 2021, it added.

Government says the increment is a fulfillment of its promise out of the National Harmonization exercise that

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



government says, is intended to fill in the gap created as a result of the on-going retirement.

The government notes that the employment represents initial recruitment of over 2000 voluntary teachers who have meaningfully been contributing toward the

Certificate, while 35 hold B-certificate from the rural teacher training academy. The monthly wage bill of the new teacher is estimated at US\$124,000 or US1, 488,000 per annum.

In term of county placement, 796 of the teachers will be assigned outside of Montserrado, which will include

**NEC Boss presents Election Certificate to PRP Organizing Committee Chairperson, Richmond Yarkpah**

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has certificated the People Restoration Party, PRP, as a full-fledged registered Political Party in Liberia.

Presenting the certificate of election to the Organizing Committee Chairperson of the People Restoration Party, the Chairperson of NEC, Davidetta Browne Lansanah said, the PRP has satisfactorily met all requirements of Article 79 of the Constitution and Chapter III, Subchapter B of the Revised Guidelines and regulations for registration of Political Parties and independent Candidates.

The NEC Boss said the People Restoration party documents submitted to the NEC was carefully scrutinized by the Political Affairs Section and found that it met all the

registration requirements.

The colorful and well attended accreditation ceremony of the PRP was held today, Friday, 2 April 2021 in the

James M. Fromayan Conference Hall at the headquarters of the NEC on

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



**Entrepreneurs accuse Min. Diggs**

Several local and foreign-owned businesses have accused the Minister of Commerce, Mawine G. Diggs, of refusing to grant them Import, Permit Declaration in order to bring in frozen foods.

According to the businesses owners who spoke to reporters on the basis of anonymity, the Minister's action is creating a monopoly on the market and causing a serious setback for their businesses and at the same time strangulating the economy.

They further alleged that Minister Diggs action is deliberate and intended to give the opportunity to a single business which has already imported tons of frozen food nearing expiration to clear their goods off the market, thereby, creating an undue monopoly and risking the health of Liberians.

benefit a single individual. This is what discourages investors from coming to Liberia. They do it to us all the time," said one of the aggrieved Liberian entrepreneurs.

Frozen foods like chicken feet, pig feet, chicken, turkey, turkey wings, chicken wings, sausage, etc. These foods are part of Liberians every day food, therefore making the demand for them on the market very high.

"We have received sufficient information among our partners and confirmed with our sources within the ministry of commerce that Minister Diggs is deliberately refusing to grant us the IPD because a particular company has tons of goods that they are on the verge of expiring. So, in order to clear it off the market, he needs monopoly - that means, he must be the only supplier and there will be a big



Minister Mawine G. Diggs

Her action, the importers told this paper, is not only strangulating them but risking the jobs of Liberians in their employ and by extension strangulating the country's economy by depriving the country of much-needed revenue.

When contacted by reporters for comments, Minister Diggs said she was on the county tour with the President. She did not respond to follow-up WhatsApp messages even though the app indicated that she read the messages.

"Go to the minister's office, you'll see several applications for IPDs for frozen foods on her desk. She is refusing to sign them. Why? Does she have any idea what she is doing to our businesses? Of course, she does. She knows exactly what she is doing. Strangulating us to

rush to him and all his products will be cleared. That is the game they are playing at the Ministry of Commerce and the Minister, I am aware, has signed up to this," another businessman said.

The issue of restricting and selectively giving out IPDs has been an age-old problem at the Ministry of Commerce as it seems to be gap for exploiting businesses and creating unwarranted monopoly to the advantage of a few businesses while the vast majority struggle to stay afloat.

This creates unfair market conditions and, in many cases, and leaves the market without competition leading to unfair market price, low quality products and limited choices for consumers.

A minister at the Commerce Ministry who spoke on the basis

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

# Français

## Le Sénat donne son accord pour l'impression de 48 milliards de dollars libériens

Le Sénat libérien a rejoint la Chambre des représentants en donnant son accord pour l'impression d'une nouvelle gamme de billets de banque du dollar libérien, totalisant plus de 48 milliards de dollars au cours des trois prochaines années (2021-2023). La nouvelle monnaie sera composée des billets de 20 L\$, 50 L\$, 100 L\$ et 500 L\$ et des pièces de 10 L\$ et de 5 L\$.

Un comité ad-hoc composé du comité sénatorial sur les banques et la monnaie, du comité sur les commissions des comptes publics, du comité sur les voies, les moyens et les finances et du comité sur les affaires judiciaires et les droits de l'homme et la pétition s'est entretenu avec les différents comités de la Chambre des représentants et avec des fonctionnaires de la Banque

centrale du Libéria et avec le Ministre des finances et de la planification du développement pour justifier le besoin d'imprimer de nouveaux billets de banque de la monnaie locale.

Le comité mixte a rencontré pour la deuxième fois les autorités de la CBL, du Ministre des finances et de la planification du

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Le Président Weah fait des promesses pour son second mandat

Le président George M. Weah a promis de dévoiler son plan de développement du pays qui sera exécuté au cours de son second mandat. Il a fait la promesse dans le comté de Grand Capemount.

S'exprimant samedi à Kinjoy à la fin de la seconde étape de sa tournée nationale, M. Weah a rappelé aux citoyens que son régime a encore trois ans pour

convaincre les libériens qu'il est capable de développer le pays.

« Nous avons encore trois ans pour vous convaincre afin que vous nous donniez un 2nd mandat et nous puissions terminer notre travail », a déclaré le président sous un tonnerre d'acclamations d'une foule enthousiaste dominée par les jeunes.

« Nous voulons faire ce que nous pouvons faire au cours des

trois prochaines années afin que le programme en faveur des pauvres puisse être achevé lorsque vous nous confiez un deuxième mandat », a-t-il insisté.

Selon M. Weah, le plan de développement du pays dont dispose son administration sera mis en œuvre au cours de son deuxième mandat. « Nous voulons que vous sachiez ceci, c'est au cours du second mandat que vous nous donnerez que nous allons mettre en œuvre notre plan réel de développement du pays. »

Le président a fait comprendre à la population locale que le bilan de son administration en trois ans est nettement supérieur aux bilans de tous ces prédécesseurs depuis la fondation du Libéria.

« Nous construisons des routes. En plus des routes, nous avons entrepris des projets de construction de logements ruraux, nous avons construit des centres pour les jeunes, des écoles, des universités et des hôpitaux à travers le pays », a dit le président.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Les médias libériens ont aussi besoin de renforcement des capacités institutionnelles

Au cours des deux dernières décennies, ou plus, des partenaires étrangers ont dépensé des millions de dollars au Libéria pour former des journalistes et des rédacteurs en chef sans penser au renforcement des capacités institutionnelles, qui est un élément clé pour les rendre dynamiques.

De la MINUL en passant par d'autres partenaires au développement internationaux, dont l'IREX et l'Internews, des millions de dollars américains ont été consacrés à la formation, mais malgré l'afflux de fonds venus des organisations locales et internationales, l'impact laisse beaucoup à désirer.

La formation à elle seule n'a pas vraiment aidé à renforcer les médias, car le personnel formé professionnellement quitte les maisons de presse pour chercher des pâturages plus verts.

Les médias indépendants en tant qu'entreprise ne fonctionnent pas en vase clos. Il s'appuie sur l'économie pour attirer, maintenir et augmenter les publicités pour sa survie. Mais avec une économie dévastée comme celle que nous avons au Libéria, couplé avec un lectorat médiocre et une diminution des diffusions, les médias sont incapables de payer leurs travailleurs et de les entretenir.

Comme si cela ne suffisait pas, l'impact du COVID-19 sur les institutions médiatiques s'est fait ressentir sévèrement.

Avec cet environnement économique épouvantable, les médias ont été abandonnés au point de périr. C'est au fait l'une des principales raisons pour lesquelles le professionnalisme en matière de journalisme a cédé la place à la médiocrité.

Dans de telles conditions, il faut un changement radical dans la manière dont les fonds destinés à aider les médias libériens devraient être utilisés. Nous suggérons qu'au lieu de dispenser une formation de deux semaines, une semaine ou trois jours aux journalistes, des subventions soient accordées pour permettre aux maisons de presse de renforcer leurs capacités opérationnelles.

Ces subventions devraient être accompagnées de critères que les responsables des médias, y compris les éditeurs, sont tenus de respecter pour en bénéficier. C'est indéniable, certaines institutions médiatiques n'ont pas les moyens pour acheter quotidiennement ne serait-ce du papier journal et faire face à d'autres frais d'exploitation, et encore moins de payer régulièrement le personnel.

Ceci est même aggravé par les retards de paiement des services rendus aux clients, y compris le gouvernement, qui reste le principal annonceur du pays. Les malheurs s'aggravent lorsque des organisations non gouvernementales internationales et d'autres dirigent leur publicité vers le site Web de l'Executive Mansion - le site Web du Président de la République du Libéria prive les institutions médiatiques de revenus publicitaires indispensables.

Et chaque fois qu'il est prêt à payer des frais de publicité, des conditions sont posées, dont être en règle vis-à-vis du fisc. Mais, une entité médiatique en difficulté dans une économie comme la nôtre, où va-t-elle prendre de l'argent pour être à jour avec les impôts? En tout cas, ce débat est pour un autre jour.

Mais la vérité est que les médias au Libéria ont besoin d'une aide sérieuse. Ils n'ont pas la capacité opérationnelle de fournir le type de services dont le public a besoin. Une subvention douce de partenaires internationaux contribuerait grandement à renforcer l'indépendance des médias pour permettre de jouer son rôle essentiel dans notre régime démocratique.

C'est un idéal que les partenaires au développement des médias doivent prendre en considération pendant que nous travaillons ensemble au renforcement de la presse au Libéria. Nous avons eu une série de programmes de formation professionnelle. Mais en l'absence d'institutions dynamiques, les journalistes tournent le dos à la salle de rédaction pour chercher une vie meilleure.

# Français

## Le Sénat donne son accord

développement et des experts, notamment le président de la Banque libérienne pour le développement et l'investissement ou LBDI, M. James Davies, qui dirige l'Association des banquiers libériens, le président de la Liberian Business Association et le doyen du département économique de la Graduate School of Business de l'Université du Libéria.

Au cours des auditions, le panel a examiné la proposition dans son intégralité, y compris la justification de l'impression, le volume d'argent, les implications économiques, le coût, les sources de financement, les mesures de contrôle interne et d'autres procédures.

Le comité a rapporté que tous les témoins experts qui ont comparu ont confirmé la nécessité d'imprimer une nouvelle gamme de billets de banque libériens, et que leur contribution et leurs recommandations ont influencé ses travaux. Le comité a ajouté qu'il y avait des justifications suffisantes pour imprimer de la nouvelle monnaie, et que 89,36% de la masse monétaire libérienne se trouve en dehors du système bancaire et qu'il existe également deux familles distinctes de billets de banque actuellement en circulation, y compris une grande quantité de billets de banque mutilés - facteurs qui ont entraîné de graves problèmes de liquidité dans le

pays.

Pendant ce temps, la Banque centrale du Libéria a affirmé qu'elle ne peut fournir que 21 millions de dollars américains pour les frais d'impression, et que pour que l'impression prenne effet, le gouvernement du Libéria devrait dégager un déficit de 24 millions de dollars américains plus 5 millions de dollars américains pour la logistique.

Le 2 février 2021, la CBL a soumis une demande formelle au Sénat libérien, demandant le remplacement de tous les dollars libériens actuellement en circulation. La Banque a également proposé une réforme de la monnaie conformément à l'article 23 de la loi portant création de la banque centrale du Libéria.

La Chambre des représentants a récemment adopté un projet de loi visant à remplacer les billets de banque actuels par une toute nouvelle famille de billets de banque.

Le mardi 18 février, la Chambre des représentants a voté suite à un rapport de sa commission bancaire et monétaire et à une résolution. Plus de 60 représentants ont signé la résolution en accord pour autoriser l'impression des nouveaux billets.

Selon la résolution, l'impression de 48,733 milliards de dollars de nouveaux billets de banque, comme demandé par la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL), remplacera la gamme actuelle de billets, y compris les 8 milliards de dollars libériens mutilés qui sont en circulation.

## Le Président Weah fait

Selon lui, les documents pour l'appel d'offres pour la construction de la route de Robertsports sont déjà près. Des travaux de construction des routes ont commencé à Kinjoy, dans le district de GolaKonneh. D'ici quatre mois, ces routes seront bitumées. Les projets sont financés par la Compagnie Bea Mountain, une multinationale d'exploitation aurifère, qui a informé le président de son intention de bitumer la principale route de Kinjoy au cours des prochains mois dans le cadre de son projet de développement communautaire.

M. Weah a posé la première pierre d'une école professionnelle qui est aussi

financée par la compagnie Bea Mountain.

Pour leur part, les habitants se sont félicités des bons rapports avec Bea Mountain. Ces rapports étaient au bord de l'effondrement, mais ils se sont considérablement améliorés au cours des trois derniers mois après la visite de l'envoyé du président Weah, le ministre des Affaires intérieures, Varney Sirleaf, avant la visite du président.

Pendant ce temps, le président Weah a exhorté les citoyens à travailler avec leurs législateurs pour identifier leurs besoins de développement afin que les allocations appropriées puissent être faites. En vertu de la loi budgétaire libérienne, ce sont les législateurs qui font les allocations.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Anne-marie Slaughter,  
Samm Sacks

## Modifier en profondeur les relations sino-américaines

WASHINGTON - Voici des décennies que la relation sino-américaine n'avait été si distante. Après le récent sommet bilatéral en Alaska - première conversation de haut niveau depuis l'entrée en fonction du président Joe Biden - on peut se demander si la nouvelle administration des États-Unis comprend ce qui pourrait alimenter un rapprochement.

Aux dires du secrétaire d'État Antony Blinken, si la relation de l'Amérique avec la Chine comporte des aspects « conflictuels », elle comprend aussi des « points de coopération ». Lors du sommet d'Anchorage, pourtant, ces derniers se sont faits discrets, lorsque Blinken et le conseiller à la sécurité nationale Jake Sullivan échangeaient publiquement des piques avec leurs homologues chinois.

Biden a dit être fier que Blinken ait enduré une diatribe anti-américaine, mais a aussi reconnu que la relation de son administration avec la Chine n'entamait pas un départ en fanfare. On espère désormais, semble-t-il, que John Kerry, l'envoyé spécial du président des États-Unis pour le climat, aura plus de chance lors des entrevues à venir avec la partie chinoise, dans un domaine où les deux pays ont exprimé leur volonté de coopérer.

Mais à la vérité, c'est un dialogue bien plus large qui est nécessaire. Lors de la dernière réunion du dialogue stratégique et économique entre les États-Unis et la Chine, qui s'était tenue à Pékin en 2016, l'importante délégation des États-Unis, conduite conjointement par les secrétaires d'État et au Trésor, comprenait des représentants de l'administration dans de multiples domaines, tels la politique climatique, la santé des océans, la lutte antiterroriste, la non-prolifération nucléaire, la sécurité alimentaire et les pratiques d'approvisionnement en ressources minérales. Dans tous ces domaines des accords furent trouvés.

Si un dialogue de cette ampleur entre les États-Unis et la Chine devait se tenir aujourd'hui, imaginons un instant à quoi ressemblerait la partie de la table occupée par la délégation américaine. À côté de Blinken serait assise la secrétaire au Trésor Janet Yellen.

Plusieurs autres femmes y participeraient également : la secrétaire au Commerce Gina Raimundo, la représentante au commerce extérieur Katherine Tai, la présidente du Conseil des conseillers économiques de la présidence Cecilia Rouse, la conseillère de la Maison Blanche sur la politique intérieure en matière de changement climatique Gina McCarthy (la première à occuper cette fonction), ainsi que Samantha Power, future administratrice de l'Agence des États-Unis pour le développement international. L'administrateur de l'Agence pour la protection de l'environnement Michael Reagan, le secrétaire à la Santé et aux Services sociaux Xavier Becerra et le ministre de la Justice Merrick Garland seraient avec elles.

Une telle diversité de représentants du gouvernement des États-Unis - dont plus de la moitié sont des femmes - face à un aréopage d'hommes chinois composerait un tableau frappant. Mais ce n'est pas seulement une question visuelle : placer en première ligne du

dialogue entre les États-Unis et la Chine un groupe témoignant d'une plus grande diversité, où figureraient des femmes exceptionnellement qualifiées, pourrait contribuer à faire évoluer le ton des discussions et à sortir de l'impasse.

Dans une veine similaire, les États-Unis pourraient proposer un dialogue bilatéral sur les seules questions de la cybersécurité et de la protection de la vie privée, accompagnant les conversations déjà prévues sur le changement climatique. Là encore, les femmes seraient les plus nombreuses du côté américain de la table de négociations. Ainsi compterai-elle parmi elle Anne Neuberger (conseillère nationale adjointe pour la cybersécurité et les technologies émergentes), Jen Easterly (directrice nationale pour la cybersécurité, qui attend sa confirmation par le Sénat) et Mieke Eoyang (sous-secrétaire adjointe à la Défense pour la politique de cybersécurité). Shannon Coe, Jennifer Daskal, Melanie Hart et Cynthia Carras feraient elles aussi partie de la délégation.

Que ces femmes deviennent le visage montré au monde par l'Amérique d'un des deux côtés de la table où se négocie la politique de cybersécurité entre les États-Unis et la Chine enverrait aux femmes du monde entier un signal positif. En outre, à l'instar d'un seul dialogue élargi, la poursuite simultanée de dialogues aux objectifs multiples soulignerait la complexité de la relation bilatérale et l'importance de la coopération sur un large éventail de questions.

Certes, le simple fait de remplacer des hommes par des femmes pour représenter le gouvernement américain ne suffira pas à apporter l'harmonie dans les relations sino-américaines. On se rappellera pour s'en convaincre le cas de la vice-Première ministre canadienne Chrystia Freeland, qui consacra de longues négociations, âpres et improductives, pour la libération de Michael Spavor et de Michael Kovrig, arrêtés en Chine et accusés d'espionnage, en représailles, apparemment, de l'arrestation, en 2018, de Meng Wanzhou, directrice financière de Huawei, à la demande des États-Unis.

Mais les femmes pourraient s'avérer particulièrement aptes à l'établissement des relations qu'exige une politique étrangère efficace. Biden ne l'ignore pas, la politique étrangère - comme la politique tout court - se crée non seulement à la table des négociations, mais aussi durant les heures qui suivent, lorsqu'on se détend à l'occasion d'un repas informel, et que les convives se découvrent des sujets d'intérêt communs ou des traits de personnalité partagés.

Lorsque Hillary Clinton était secrétaire d'État, elle avait forgé une relation amicale avec le conseiller d'État chinois Dai Bingguo, fondée pour une part sur leur commune implication auprès de leurs enfants et petits-enfants. Cette relation aida les États-Unis et la Chine à surmonter une crise diplomatique majeure.

Construire ce type de relations - essentielles à l'établissement de la confiance entre hauts responsables - devrait être une des priorités des dirigeants américains, toute question de genre mise à part. Ce sont de tels efforts qui permettent d'entretenir et de raffermir les liens créés aux cours des conversations informelles.

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# Student leader condemns gruesome murder in Maryland

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

In the wake of the gruesome murder of a student from the Pleebo High School in Pleebo City, Maryland County recently, a group of students from the Tubman University in Harper has condemned the murder.

The students under the banner Student Unification Alliance (SUA) frowned on vandalism by motorcyclists and protesters, calling for

uncivilized and brutal murder of a patriot, dutiful and fallen student, who was a resident of Pleebo Sodoken District, describing that act as barbaric and unscrupulous.

He said such alleged ritualistic act is worrisome and scaring, which seems to be a common practice in the county.

He recalled that Maryland County has a glaring history of MYSTERIOUS MURDER of innocent people either for theft or ritual purposes.

Musu reflected that as far

Chelleh), who was also found dead alone Lake Shepherd, in Harper City, and again, the killer (s) walked with impunity, as the authorities failed to make any arrest.

He also recounted that similar to those incidents, Octavos Landford, who was a resident of the Hance Street Community, was allegedly murdered in 2004, and in spite of many calls for the perpetrators to be brought to justice, those behind such killing took a comfortable bath in the pool of impunity as usual.

The student leader continued that another victim, Charles Derrick, was allegedly murdered in 2019, including Bill O. Meyers, but all these cases were allegedly swept under the carpet.

"There are many of these instances in the history of this county (Maryland) that we cannot mention, as souls of Tumu Yuade Allison and many others are anguishing and calling for justice", he lamented.

He said, regrettably, some of these instances did not even claim public attention. "To name few, we will point at the death of Karpeh Allison, a citizen of River Gee, who was residing in Harper. He was allegedly murdered at the Catholic Mission. The culprit (s) who was/were believed to have been thief (ves) remains unknown, even today."

He noted that next was James Morias commonly called (Te'loo-way), a cassava leave grinder, who was pitifully murdered across the Hoffman River in 2016, while laboring to earn a living.

"Considering all of these instances, we are certain that



thorough investigation and prosecution of suspects.

speaking thru a press release, the chairman of SUA Joshua D. Musu admonish all militants, cadres, solidarity forces and the student populace of the William V.S. Tubman University to remain vigilant and responsive as immoral societal issues in the country are on the increase.

Chairman Musu said they denounce very strongly the

back as 1999, similar incident occurred, involving one oldman Pachey-Pachey, who went missing and was later found dead with body parts allegedly abstracted. He noted that relevant authorities at the time could not bring the murderer (s) to book, and impunity prevailed over justice.

He added that the death of Pachey-Pachey was followed by the disappearance of an Immigration Officer (Alphonso

Cont'd from page 6

no matter the situation.

Madam Davis stressed that young Liberians should learn to be respectful in their life journey despite the current challenges confronting the society.

She noted that more young

## Mrs. Dorothea

Liberians lack respect for elder and people in authority which according to her, it is not good for the rebuilding process of Liberia.

She indicated that it is about time to instill disciplinary measures in the Liberian society

to protect the next generation from bad behaviors.

According to the United Nations projections, life expectancy in Liberia from 1950 to 2021 is 64 to 44 years. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Cont'd from page 5

## AstraZeneca vaccines

"Today millions of vaccines have been deployed, and many have also taken it, and I'm calling on Liberians to see these vaccines as an opportunity to save this country", Doctor Clement said.

At the same time, Information Minister

Ledgerhood Rennie, on behalf of President Weah thanked health authorities and development partners for their continuous support to Liberia. He described the launch as a milestone for a country like Liberia, which he noted, is grabbing with lot of issues. "We strongly believe at this

time the receipt of this great donation will help us not just in dealing with this virus that has taken so many lives, but to give a sense that we need as a nation to focus on the safety of our people", the MICAT boss concluded. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# Entrepreneurs accuse

Cont'd from page 7

on confidentiality confirmed the complaint of the Liberian and foreign owned businesses.

The minister said they have been pursuing Minister Diggs to grant the permits but to no avail.

"We have been contacted by several businesses that they are not getting IPDs to import their frozen foods and that is true. We have made several attempts to see how best we can get the Ministry to see the need to grant these IPDs especially for this Easter who she has been resolved not to grant the IPDs. Are we happy about it? No! But she is the Minister and nothing we can do about that," one of the ministers at the Commerce Ministry told reporters when contacted for comments. The Minister asked not be named.

The minister further acknowledged that the restricting IPDs is counter-productive to commerce in Liberia and has been a major issue confronting the Liberian market.

"Creating an unfair market condition is completely

against the President's Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development," the minister added.

Meanwhile, President Weah over the weekend suspended for time indefinite and without pay the Assistant Minister for Commerce and Trade at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with immediate effect.

Mr. Peter D. Somah was suspended early Friday, April 2, 2021, for administrative reasons, the Executive Mansion stated on its website.

Mr. Weah has asked Mr. Somah to report to the office of the President's Legal Advisor.

While it remains unclear what the administrative reasons are, sources within the commerce ministry say Mr. Somah was reported to the President when he tried helping some businesses process their IPDs in the absence of the Minister, though it falls within the mandate of his office.

## Liberia urged to

Cont'd from page 6

International Network of FIUs (EgmontGroup) that presently has 170 countries as members.

He also disclosed that Nigeria and Ghana are ready to help Liberia achieves its desire to join other countries to share information against money laundering and countering of terrorist financing.

The regional FIU boss said Nigeria will provide financial support for the software that Liberia FIU will shortly use, in the enhancement of its work for efficiency in the fight against money laundering and countering of terrorist financing.

GIABA ended its advocacy

mission here last week with a courtesy call on President George Weah. The GIABA delegation expressed optimism that issues proffered to Mr. Weah and other political authorities during their interactions will be timely implemented.

The ECOWAS delegation praised the warm reception received by Mr. Weah, Legislature, Central Bank of Liberia, Ministers of Finance and Justice and the Financial Intelligence Unit of Liberia, when they arrived in the country.

## Defeated CDC lawmaker

Cont'd from page 6

Recently, the Ministry retired more than 80 teachers in the county thus, forcing about twelve (12) schools in the county to shutdown due to lack of teachers in the classroom.

According him, the retirement process should have been done systematically instead of retiring teachers from the classroom and then launching recruitment exercise at the same time, something which he said created setback for students in the county.

Rep. Koiwood vowed to

write the Minister of Education in finding solutions regarding those teachers who were retired from the classroom because of age, noting age for teachers in the country should be extended arguing that when teachers are in their old age, it is when they give all their time.

He said recruitment of young forks into the classroom should be guided by the old forks, based on their experiences from the classroom. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# RIA road project commences

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The Liberian Government has commenced the construction of the Roberts International Airport Highway, following months of debate over the ability of East International, the company contracted to execute the contract.

East International headed by a young Liberian Sakona Kelvin Buima's experience for building such a highway came under heavy criticism when his company name emerged to carry out the road construction work.

Many doubt his experience to execute such a massive project judging by Liberian standard and has called it a hoax.

"Upgrading to Dual Carriageway -- ELWA-Roberts International Airport Highway," cuts across Paynesville City in Montserrado County to Unification Town, in Margibi County.

The four-lane road, which is expected to be completed and dedicated in 2023, is expected to also reduce accidents and improve the movement of people, goods, and services to and from six of the fifteen counties, namely: Margibi, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, Sinoe, Grand Kru, and Maryland.

The RIA road is a project that is long overdue because of the safety hazards presented by its narrowness and darkness. The RIA Highway has been a death-trap since it was built in the 1940's, during World War Two. In the 70 years of its existence, it

Junk River Bridge."

The road station at Marshall Junction will include several facilities, including parking lot, green area, rest rooms, vehicle service center, gas station, food court, and convenience stores.

The RIA highway is the major and most convenient route available for travel between the international airport and the nation's capital city, Monrovia. The highway connects the corridor from the southeastern part of the country, which hosts three major seaports and provides access to major cash crops concessions, such as Firestone Natural Rubber Company and the Golden Veroleum Oil Palm Plantation in the Southeast.

The highway currently



But speaking to our reporter over the weekend, Mr. Buima, insisted that his company is qualified and has all equipment needed for the construction exercise in the country. He told our reporter that the crushing of rocks, the building of the road level called the Cyber layout, the base and the layout are ongoing.

He said his company has also brought in country some experts to give the road the deserving design and lasting duration.

"We are putting in our all to give the RIA road the kind of look that will represent the country that visitors and Liberians will cherish and admire so dearly," he said.

The project is titled:

has claimed the lives of thousands of unfortunate passengers, both Liberians and foreigners alike.

This project has the total cost of US\$94.5 million that is allocated in three major segments. The civil works with the actual construction valued at US\$80 million; design and supervision cost valued at US\$7 million; and the management and resettlement action plan valued at US\$7.5 million. The length of the road is 45 km or 27.8 miles.

The design of the road takes into consideration many factors, including population density, social activities, and the topography, which led the highway into different sections. The new road, when completed, will have a toll location at the

serves as the most reliable road for the movement of a little over 34% of the total population of the country to the capital, Monrovia where centrally established authority, businesses, and socially improved facilities are located.

The East International General Manager further stated that there was a need for critics of the government to be a little patient with the government to take development to the people.

Also speaking to this paper at the construction site, the supervisor of the project, Mr. Tommy Tang said the construction track and work will be completed as spelled out in the contract agreement.

He explained that one of the dedicated aspects of the project is the construction of the Junk River Bridge located in the middle of the road from Monrovia.

He said that the bridge is about 110 meter, and that the Junk River requires serious dedication and planning.

# Speaker Chambers speaks

Starts from back page

the public attention on the main issue of the murder of student Nyemah which has the semblance of ritualism.

The Speaker says he's yet to fathom any logical reasoning as to why people will destroy the Harper Prison and Police Station, where the primary suspect of the murder act was detained, but blamed the situation on persons he referred to as miscreants and dangerous elements in Maryland County who want to subvert, or delay the much needed justice the majority of Marylanders want.

According to a press statement released over the weekend in Monrovia, Speaker Chambers has called on all Marylanders bent on the perpetration of "Gboyo" describing it as a diabolical cultural practice that people must cease and desist from.

He has at the same time categorically condemned such practice referring to it as a sub-human practice, for it has no place in the standing of today's Maryland. The Speaker has also assured the public of his commitment to support the government to investigate, prosecute, and apply the law in its fullness to deter future occurrence.

"About the unprovoked arson attack on my premises in Pleebo City, Pleebo-Sodoken District and the vandalization and destruction of government property including, the impeding of

normal business activities and the movement of peaceful citizens, we believe strongly that same do not represent the majority of our people and the patriotic citizens of our community, Pleebo-Sodoken District and all of Maryland". The Speaker intoned.

Meanwhile, Speaker Chambers in his press statement released in Monrovia lauded and expressed his profound gratitude to President George M. Weah for his decisiveness in taking a hands-on approach to restore calm in Maryland County.

He says, "now that the President has imposed curfew in Maryland County, I crave the indulgence of all persons within the territorial boundaries of Maryland County to abide by the requirements set forth for the enforcement of the curfew".

The Speaker also acknowledged the concerns of all his well-wishers and Honorable Colleagues of the 54th Legislature and other Officials of Government and all of his friends and family members who called and sent messages of encouragement and consolation following the above mentioned incident(s).

He cautioned Liberians in and out of the Country to never see violence as a means to draw attention or settle our disagreements even if they are hurt, but should always find recourse through the law as a path to settle differences.

# Gov't enlists over

Cont'd from page 7

supplementary teachers will be paid equally as regular teachers.

The Government further stated that other teachers with advanced and additional credentials will experience similar increment in their respective salaries.

The Ministry of Education is currently said to be working with the Civil Service Agency (CSA) and the Ministry of

Finance & Development Planning (MFDP) to FastTrack qualified teachers and their benefits that go along with their various positions and assignments especially teachers in the hard to reach counties.

# NEC Boss presents

Cont'd from page 7

9th Street, in Sinkor.

Responding, the Organizing Committee Chairperson of the People Restoration Party, Richmond D. K. Yarkpah described the occasion as remarkable and that the accreditation of the party was a testimony that the job of the

NEC is based on professionalism.

Mr. Yarkpah promised that the PRP will uphold the rule of law in Liberia and the elections guidelines and regulations to restore the dignity of Liberia and make country a better country.

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# Speaker Chambers speaks on arson attack, "Gboyo" killing



House Speaker, Bhofal Chambers says, he wants the culprits of the recent murder of a young student of the Pleebo High School in Maryland County, identified as Mordecial Nyemah to be treated as the primary focus of government security apparatuses under the joint security efforts, currently ongoing in Maryland County, restoring law, order and civility.

Speaker Chambers says whilst he acknowledged the

efforts of GOL joint security operations in the County following acts of civil disobedience and anarchy, he believes that the joint security should focus mostly on what triggered the citizens of Maryland County to behave in the manner they did in Pleebo, and Harper Cities.

"May we as a people and government put the acts of vandalization and destruction of properties in the cities of Pleebo and Harper, including the destruction in of my residence, secondary to the prosecution of

those involved in the murder of student Nyemah." Speaker Chambers stated.

Mr. Chambers who is also the District Representative of Pleebo-Sodoken, Maryland County in the 54th Legislature says, he viewed the burning of his premises in Pleebo City, and that of the vandalization and wrecking of the County's prison and Police Station as a diversionary act to put away or slow the security response, or investigation, and that of

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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## Valencia team leaves pitch after alleges racial abuse

Valencia walked off the pitch following allegations of racial abuse of one of their players, delaying their La Liga match against Cadiz on Sunday.

The match was 1-1 on goals from the hosts' Juan Cala and Valencia's Kevin Gameiro when Mouctar Diakhaby was shown a yellow card following an argument with Cala in the 30th minute.

There was more to the story, though, as Diakhaby says he was racially abused and his teammates decided to



leave the pitch.

The club Tweeted out that the players returned to the pitch at the urging of Diakhaby, who plays center back for Javi Gracia's Bats, and denounces racism of any kind.

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