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# Continental News

## DR Congo senior Muslim cleric shot dead in mosque

A senior Muslim cleric in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has been shot dead while praying in the main mosque in Beni city.

The gunman shot Sheikh Ali Amini during evening prayers on Saturday and then fled, a human rights activist said.

The cleric was a strong critic of Islamic militancy in the region, Reuters news

agency reports.

Eastern DR Congo has been badly hit by instability, including attacks claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group.

Many armed groups operate in eastern DR Congo, a legacy of the conflicts that gripped the region in the 1990s. BBC World Service Africa editor Will Ross says Sheikh Amini's killing during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan has caused a great

deal of shock in Beni, a city with a population of about 200,000.

A prominent human rights activist in Beni, Stewart Muhindo, said this was the first such killing in the city.

"It happened at 19:15 during evening prayers. Shots were fired inside the mosque hitting the imam. The gunman got away as he had an accomplice outside the

mosque waiting with a motorbike," Mr Muhindo told the BBC.

While it is unclear who was behind the attack, much of the violence in the area is carried out by a Muslim rebel group, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), our correspondent says.

IS has taken credit for some ADF attacks, but it is unclear how strong the links are between the two groups.

The ADF was formed more than 20 years ago in neighbouring Uganda to fight alleged discrimination against Muslims. It relocated to eastern DR Congo after being driven out from its bases by the Ugandan military.

The group has increased attacks on civilians since DR Congo's army launched an offensive against it in October 2019.

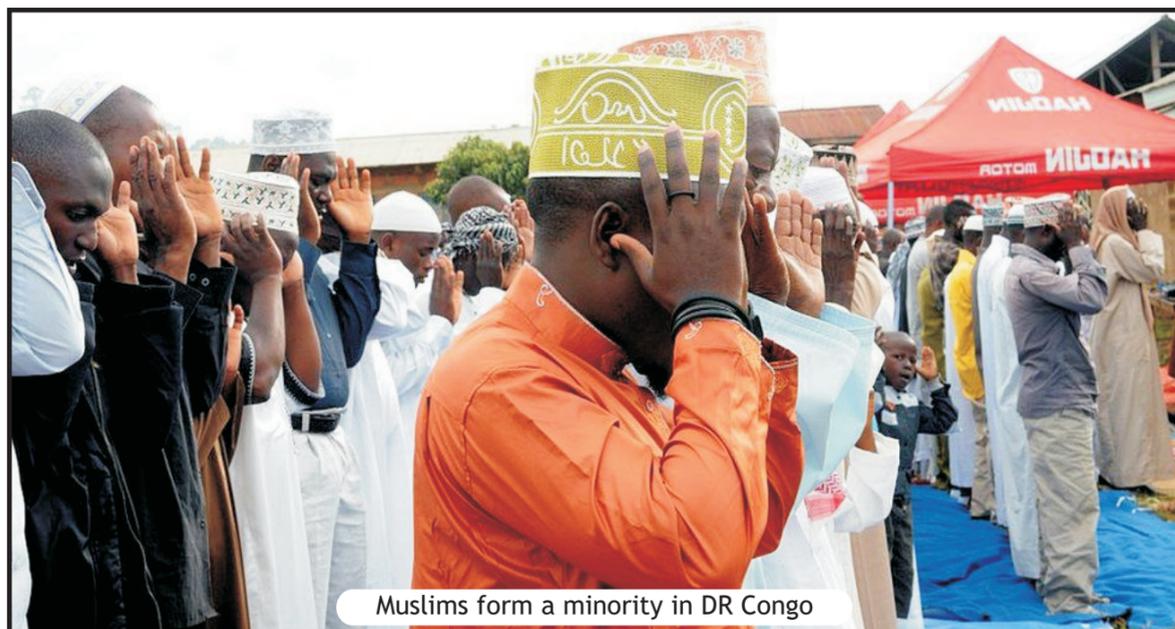
Nearly 200 people have been killed by the ADF since January, the UN says.

Meanwhile, local human rights groups have expressed concern about President Félix Tshisekedi's decision to declare a "state of siege" in North Kivu and Ituri, two provinces of eastern DR Congo worst affected by instability.

They are worried about additional powers being given to the military, which has been repeatedly accused of human rights abuses.

Government spokesman Patrick Muyaya defended the decision, saying: "The objective is to swiftly end the insecurity which is killing our fellow citizens in that part of the country on a daily basis."

More than 2,000 civilians were killed by armed groups in eastern DR Congo last year, according to the UN. BBC



Muslims form a minority in DR Congo

## Why African countries back China on human rights

African countries are not among those calling out China for its treatment of the mostly Muslim Uyghur population in the north-western region of Xinjiang.

In fact some African diplomats recently attended an event in Beijing and lauded China's policy in the region.

At least a million Uyghurs are believed to have been detained in Xinjiang in a sprawling network of camps.

China faces accusations of forced labour, forced sterilisation, torture and genocide - allegations it denies.

The Chinese government has defended the detention camps, claiming they are vocational "re-education centres" for combating terrorism and religious extremism.

"Some Western forces hyping up the so-called Xinjiang-related issues are actually launching unprovoked attacks on China to serve their own

ulterior motives," Adama Compaoré, Burkina Faso's ambassador, was quoted as saying at the event in March dubbed Xinjiang in the Eyes of African Ambassadors to China.

The event was also attended by Sudan and Congo-Brazzaville, whose envoy Daniel Owassa reportedly said he supported what China has called a series of anti-terrorism measures in the region, saying he appreciated "Xinjiang's great development achievements in various fields in recent years".

Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the gathering was an example of Africa's silence on a key global concern.

"[It] might be routine diplomacy, but African governments' willingness to remain silent on Beijing's suppression of rights has real-world consequences," Carine Kaneza Nantulya, Africa advocacy director at HRW, said in a statement.

"[Africans] have often justifiably decried other countries' indifference to their plight and sought global solidarity with human suffering," she added. But

## Curfew imposed in Chad after president's death lifted



Mahamat Idriss Déby took power after his father was killed

The military council in charge of Chad has lifted the overnight curfew that was imposed following the death of President Idriss Déby last month. There has been concern for the country's stability in recent weeks as a rebel group has tried to advance on the capital N'djamena.

The authorities said Mr Déby had died from his wounds

after being shot whilst on the front line of the conflict. The military says it has killed hundreds of the rebels from the group Fact.

There have also been protests against the military take over that followed the president's death. At least six people were killed last week in Chad. Demonstrations have also been held in various cities around the world including Paris. BBC



African countries have not signed up to UN rebukes of China's human rights violations in Xinjiang, Hong Kong or Tibet

Ejeviome Otobo, a non-resident fellow at the Global Governance Institute in Brussels, says African leaders and China have a common understanding, based on three main areas: Human rights, economic interests and non-interference in internal affairs. Increasingly Africa's largely pro-China position is pitting the continent against

the West when it comes to human rights.

During a vote in June 2020 at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva about the controversial Hong Kong national security law, which imposed harsh penalties on political dissent and which effectively ended the territory's autonomy, 25 African countries - the largest grouping from any continent - backed China. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## President Weah was very magnanimous

**PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah** intervened last week by a cash donation of US\$30,000.00 to help with the medical bill of ailing veteran Liberian journalist and Publisher of the Inquirer Newspaper, Atty. Philip N. Wesseh.

**JOURNALIST WESSEH, WHO** has been battling illness for quite a while, was flown to Accra, Ghana late Thursday, 29 April for further medication after intensive medical care at the Fidelity clinic on 20th Street, Sinkor in Monrovia.

**THE PRESIDENT'S INTERVENTION** has been very timely in facilitating the ailing journalist's medical journey to Ghana. We join family members of Journalist 'PNW' as he is affectionately called, members of the Publishers Association of Liberia, who are standing with him, and all practitioners of the journalism fraternity in thanking President Weah for the gesture to save the life of a patriotic son of Liberia.

**BY HIS SINGULAR** contribution, President Weah has demonstrated that he is a true father, who cares for all of the flock God has placed under his watch, as Head of State. Such magnanimity will never go unnoticed in the Liberian society, particularly by members of the Wesseh family, as it has been recorded in history.

**WE ARE EXCITED** because of all of the humanitarian and religious institutions in Liberia, President Weah has stood tall as a dependable leader who understands pains and the darkest hours of life, so he wasted no time in reaching out to Journalist 'PNW.'

**BUT THEN WE** are not so surprised at all. President Weah, like Journalist Wesseh, were both born and reared in slump communities where poverty taught them hard lessons. Notwithstanding their respective humble beginning, they carved separate paths in life and destiny took Philip from D. Twe Memorial High School in New Kru Town to the Journalism profession where he has served with distinction, while Mr. Weah at an very early age in Gibraltar, Clara Town embraced soccer both as a habit and career and eventually reached the zenith of professional football before transitioning to politics and winning the Presidency.

**AND SO DESPITE** being President of Liberia, Mr. Weah understands when one is in a near-death situation and needs prompt attention. This was what President Weah demonstrated last Thursday to Journalist 'PNW.'

**WE CALL ON** other well-to-do members of the Liberian society, including opposition politicians to emulate the kind gesture of the President's by reaching out to people desperately in need rather than turning blind eyes. Helping one another is the best way to live life because we need one another irrespective of our diversity.

**IT IS THEREFORE** our sincere prayer that Philip would receive appropriate medication, recuperate and return to Liberia to continue serving the Motherland in the role God has called him to perform before both friends and foes.

**THE HOLY BIBLE** says give a man his flowers while he's alive, not when he is dead. President Weah is human like every other mortal being. He makes mistakes just as anybody else, but when he takes a positive step he should be recognized and commended like he has done for ailing Journalist Philip N. Wesseh.

# COMMENTARY

By Willem H. Buiter,  
Anne C. Sibert

## Biden's Fuzzy Tax Math

**NEW YORK** - Now that US President Joe Biden's administration has proposed an American Jobs Plan and an American Families Plan, it is looking for at least \$4 trillion in additional tax revenue. Unlike the six pandemic-related fiscal programs enacted between March 6, 2020, and March 11, 2021, these new spending packages are not meant to provide immediate economic stimulus. Because they are social and redistributive programs that focus more on the supply side, they will need to be funded either through higher taxes or spending cuts. And with no such offsetting cuts under consideration, tax increases seem inevitable.

Of course, the revenue gap could end up being considerably larger than \$4 trillion if the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan enacted this past March turns out not to be fully covered by increased deficits alone. In that case, the Biden administration may need to add another trillion dollars to its tax revenue target. But for present purposes, we will consider what it will take to raise \$4 trillion.

The American Jobs Plan is an eight-year spending and tax-credit program requiring \$2.25 trillion of new tax funding, and the (still-inchoate) American Families Plan is expected to be nearly the size of the American Rescue Plan. In both cases, the additional expenditures will occur over ten years, thus requiring an additional \$400 billion per year for the next decade. This target is achievable, but the burden will most likely fall not just on the wealthy but also on the middle class.

The Biden administration's solution is the Made in America Tax Plan, which it unveiled alongside the American Jobs Plan. But the MATP does not quite add up. Biden and his advisers have proposed a bewildering array of corporate tax reforms intended to raise \$2.5 trillion over the next 15 years, with the headline feature being an increase in the corporate tax rate from 21% to 28%. There would also be a 21% minimum levy on US corporations' global earnings, a 15% minimum tax on "book income" (the profits reported to investors, which are often very different from those used to calculate tax liability), and various measures to discourage US companies from moving abroad to avoid taxes.

But notwithstanding these provisions, the fact is that multinational corporations have proved highly adept at relocating their activity to countries with low taxes, fueling decades of tax competition. As a result, global corporate tax rates (weighted by GDP) declined from 46.5% in 1980 to 25.9% in 2020, with the highest rates mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa. Hence, Biden's plan depends on significant international cooperation, and US Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen has duly proposed an international corporate tax that would apply to multinational companies regardless of where they locate their headquarters.

But this kind of coordinated policy is unlikely to succeed. After all, not even the European Union has managed to coordinate its member states' taxes. While Germany and France impose corporate tax rates of 29.9% and 32%, respectively, the Republic of Ireland taxes

corporate income at a rate of just 12.5%.

The Biden administration maintains that its proposed corporate tax increases would raise an additional \$2 trillion over 15 years - or \$1.33 trillion over ten years - from firms' overseas profits. But this estimate seems optimistic. In 2017, the US corporate tax rate was 35%, and corporate-tax revenue was \$297 billion. In 2019 - after the Trump administration's tax reform had reduced the rate to 21% - that revenue figure fell to \$230 billion. For Biden's math to work, the revenue from corporate taxes would need to be \$133 billion higher - around \$363 billion per year.

Moreover, even if the desired corporate tax revenue can be raised, it will come at a cost. A higher corporate tax tends to result in greater capital outflows, a fall in the domestic ratio of capital to labor, and thus lower real (inflation-adjusted) wages. That is why the conventional wisdom of the economics profession is that, beyond the short term, corporate taxes are implicit taxes on labor. Insofar as they distort investment decisions, they are considered even more damaging than explicit wage taxes. There is ample research suggesting that they should be abolished.

In any case, even if the Biden administration can meet its goals for corporate-tax revenue, it will still come up \$2.67 trillion short after ten years. To address this shortfall, federal personal income taxes on those earning more than \$400,000 per year are to be increased. Bearing in mind that those who make \$400,000 per year are somewhere between the top 1% and top 2% of all earners, will this raise an additional \$267 billion per year?

Federal personal income tax revenues are estimated to be \$1.93 trillion for 2021. In 2015, the top 1% earned about 21% of all income and paid about 39% of total income tax revenue; the top 2% earned about 26% of all income and paid about 47% of total income tax revenue. If payment shares are fairly stable over time, the 1% will pay about \$773 billion in 2021, and the top 2% will pay about \$908 billion. From our rough, back-of-the-envelope calculation, the top 1% would need to pay 35% more to meet the Biden administration's revenue goal; similarly, tax payments from the top 2% would need to be 29% higher every year for ten years.

But collecting roughly one-third more in taxes from the affluent on a sustained basis will not be easy. Hitting such an ambitious revenue target most likely will require a broader tax base, rather than just higher taxes on the wealthy. Outside of the US, this might be achieved with an increase in the value-added tax (VAT) - a broad-based single-rate indirect tax with few exemptions that is borne by all consumers. Though a VAT-style tax would not serve Biden's distributional objectives (and may run into constitutional objections), it could at least meet his revenue goal.

For now, however, the current proposals for increases in corporate and personal income taxes are unlikely to fund Biden's post-pandemic fiscal plans fully. A broadening of the tax base will have to be put on the table.

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

# OPINION

By Richard N. Haass

## Biden's First Hundred Days

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - Joe Biden has been president of the United States for one hundred days, less than 7% of the time he was elected to serve. Still, it is not too soon to draw some tentative conclusions about the nature of his presidency.

Biden's principal accomplishment to date is the expansion of the COVID-19 vaccine supply and the acceleration of domestic immunization. Some 220 million doses have been administered in the US since Biden took office. There is more than enough supply to ensure that every adult can be vaccinated. The daily death toll from the disease has fallen from over 4,000 per day to well under 1,000. The economy is poised to take off, with some even worrying that it could overheat.

In these same hundred days, the basic themes of the Biden presidency, articulated in his April 28 address to Congress, have emerged: an emphasis on tackling domestic challenges, a vastly expanded role for the federal government in both stimulating the economy and in providing basic services and financial support for citizens, and a commitment to confront racism, modernize infrastructure, increase the country's competitiveness, and combat climate change. There is also a willingness to raise taxes on corporations and the wealthy to pay for some of what these initiatives will cost. How much of this agenda can be realized remains to be seen; for now, comparisons between Biden and Franklin Delano Roosevelt or Lyndon B. Johnson are understandable but somewhat premature.

Much of what Biden has done or wants to do represents a sharp departure from his predecessor, Donald Trump, and is popular with many Americans. On immigration, however, Biden's approach is proving otherwise. His messaging is seen by some as partly responsible for the surge in people trying to enter the US via its southern border. Meanwhile, ceilings on refugee admissions are too high for many Republicans and not high enough for many Democrats.

It is on foreign policy, though, where the comparisons with Trump are the most interesting. At first glance, Biden could not be more different. He embraces multilateralism and has brought the US back into the World Health Organization and the Paris climate agreement. And his administration is working to reboot the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran that Trump unilaterally exited.

Biden has also restored traditional allies and alliances to a core position in US foreign policy. He has already hosted Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga in Washington and will make his first overseas trip to Europe in June for the G7 summit. No American troops will be withdrawn from Germany, something Trump had announced he would do. And the Biden administration has made human rights a centerpiece of its foreign policy, regularly criticizing Russia and China, sanctioning Myanmar, and publishing a report that holds Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman responsible for the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

But there is more foreign-policy continuity between Biden and Trump than first meets the eye. Take Afghanistan, where the difference between them amounts to just over four months: Trump signed a pact with the Taliban that committed the US to withdraw all its military forces by May 1; Biden has committed to do so by September 11. Just as important, Biden echoed Trump's insistence that the calendar, not local conditions, would determine the timing of the US military withdrawal.

There is considerable continuity when it comes to policy toward China as well. One no longer hears calls for regime change, but the one high-level diplomatic contact between US and Chinese officials could hardly have been less diplomatic. Meanwhile, the Biden administration has kept tariffs and export controls in place, continued to send US warships to challenge China's claims in the South China Sea, repeated the description of Chinese actions in Xinjiang as genocide, sanctioned Chinese officials, and maintained high-level contacts with Taiwan.

As for trade, what is consistent is the lack of initiative. Missing from an otherwise robust policy toward China is any sign that the US is reconsidering its unwillingness to join Asia-Pacific regional trade groupings. Instead, there is a continued commitment to "Buy American" along with talk about foreign policy for the middle class, an otherwise empty slogan that suggests trade will remain a low priority given how controversial it remains with many Americans.

Even on COVID-19, the Biden presidency has embraced something of an "America First" approach when it comes to sharing (or, rather, refusing to share) American-produced vaccines with the rest of the world. This is belatedly changing, with a commitment to share an untapped supply of the AstraZeneca vaccine with others. But the shift is limited, and the delay has provided strategic openings to China and Russia, slowed economic recovery around the world, increased hardship, and given COVID-19 variants more opportunity to emerge and gain traction.

In short, while Trump is no longer in the Oval Office, Trumpism still looms large. His attacks on free trade and immigration, promotion of a narrow "America First" view of the world, and bias toward retrenchment are now and for the foreseeable future part of the political fabric. The country remains polarized; Congress is nearly evenly divided. This leaves Biden limited room for maneuver as he seeks to promote democracy, conduct diplomacy, and reinvent global institutions.

Like all American presidents, Biden still enjoys considerable power and influence. But, as his first hundred days have shown, the one thing American presidents cannot control is the context in which they operate.

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# OP-ED

By Fawaz A. Gerges

## Apartheid in the Holy Land

**L**ONDON - In a new, well-documented report, Human Rights Watch (HRW) asserts that the Israeli government is enforcing a systemic policy to maintain the "domination by Jewish Israelis over Palestinians." The nearly seven million Palestinians in the occupied territories and within Israel itself face collective persecution under an apartheid system.

Pointing to Israeli laws that enshrine extra-political rights for Jews over Arabs living in the same areas, HRW concludes that the Israeli government is "privileging Jewish Israelis while repressing Palestinians, most severely in the occupied territory." While several hundred thousand Israeli settlers live in the occupied territories as full Israeli citizens, the report notes, 2.7 million Palestinians are concentrated in dense population centers under military rule.

Even more ominous are Israel's emerging population-control measures. "The authorities have adopted policies to mitigate what they have openly described as a demographic 'threat' from Palestinians," the report avers. "In Jerusalem, for example, the government's plan for the municipality ... sets the goal of 'maintaining a solid Jewish majority in the city' and even specifies the demographic ratios it hopes to maintain."

The report's central point is that, after decades of HRW (and others) warning that Israel's control of Palestinian life might lead to apartheid, the "threshold" has now been crossed. Indeed, one of the more startling new findings in the report is that even the Palestinians living in Israel are subjected to a form of apartheid rule.

Apartheid and collective persecution are both crimes against humanity under the 1998 Rome Statute. There, apartheid is defined as an "institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other," while persecution describes "the intentional and severe deprivation of fundamental rights" of a group of people.

HRW is the first major international rights body to level such allegations, and its report will have serious implications for Israel and its key Western backers, particularly the United States. After the collapse of South Africa's apartheid regime three decades ago, the world must not tolerate another, and particularly not one located at the heart of a volatile region, where it will serve as a catalyst for extremism and conflict.

In this context, Western inaction would undermine peace as well as Israel's own long-term security. Given the special US-Israel relationship, it will be incumbent on President Joe Biden's administration to remind Israeli officials of just how grave the accusation of apartheid is. The longer the charge sticks, the greater the threat it will pose to perceptions of Israel's legitimacy.

Far from acting on a "longstanding anti-Israeli agenda," as Israel's foreign minister claims, HRW is echoing similar findings by Israeli human-rights organizations. B'Tselem, for example, released a report in January titled: "A Regime of Jewish Supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This Is Apartheid." It based that conclusion on more than 30 years of reporting by human-rights groups documenting abuses in occupied Palestinian territories and within Israel.

HRW's damning report also indirectly implicates US and Western leaders who have been complicit in Israel's illegal actions and persecution of the Palestinian people. Having repeatedly affirmed that human rights is a pillar of its foreign policy, the Biden administration now faces an important early test of its commitment to these norms.

Unlike its predecessors, the Biden administration cannot bury its head in the sand and give Israel another free pass. Failure to act would call into question all of Biden's recent criticism of Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Russia, China, and others for human-rights and rule-of-law violations. It would reinforce a widespread belief among Arabs and Muslims that the US and Europe practice a double standard in the Middle East, rewarding friends and punishing foes. If Biden ignores Israel's systemic discrimination against Palestinians, the US will be open to accusations of hypocrisy and cynicism.

Equally important, Biden has committed his administration to eradicating systemic racism at home - a daunting and worthy challenge. Americans of all colors, including many African-Americans and American Jews, already see a direct connection between promoting human rights abroad and upholding them at home.

Moreover, if Biden and other Western leaders turn a blind eye to state-sanctioned "systematic discrimination," they risk encouraging the Israeli right to commit even more abuses, from annexation of Palestinian land to expulsion of Palestinians from their homes.

The HRW report is a clarion call for Israel's patrons to wake up to the dangers they have encouraged. Biden must not cede the moral high ground that he currently occupies relative to his predecessor. Donald Trump did Israel no favors by giving Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu everything he wanted. By empowering the most anti-democratic and xenophobic forces in Israeli society, the Trump administration brought Israel to its current crossroads.

The world is watching to see if America and the West will find Israeli apartheid as repugnant as they found South African apartheid. If they do, their support for Israel will have to be contingent on Israel's respect for Palestinians' dignity and humanity.

Biden's current prestige gives him leverage. But the time to use it is now. The US must pressure Israel to end its apartheid policies and its occupation of Palestinian lands. A change in US policy is a crucial first step toward creating a Palestinian state that can live in peace alongside its Israeli neighbor.

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## FEATURE

## FEATURE

# Ghana Hit Hard by COVID-19 with a Decline in Commodity Exports

By Suzanne Driscoll from Sharemoney

Over 80% of Ghana's revenue comes from exports of three major commodities: gold, crude oil and cocoa. Unfortunately, shipments of crude oil and cocoa have been drastically reduced during the past year, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With government debt increasing to over 70% of gross domestic product (GDP) and interest payments consuming half of the country's revenue, Ghana's credit rating was reduced to B- in September 2020. Revenue spent on debt servicing increased from 39 percent in 2019 to a staggering 55 percent in 2020. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) disbursed \$1 billion to Ghana in April 2020 due to the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tao Zhang, Deputy Managing Director and Chair of the IMF, commented that "The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting Ghana severely. Growth is projected to slow down, financial conditions have tightened, and the exchange rate is under pressure. The budget deficit is projected to widen this year given expected lower government revenues and higher spending needs related to the pandemic."

## Demand for Crude Oil Drops

With fewer people traveling, shipments of freight reduced and manufacturing halted in many areas, the demand for crude oil as well as prices plummeted during the past year. Just as there was a worldwide increase in production, the International Energy Agency (IEA) estimated that global demand for oil was down by almost 30 million barrels per day (mb/d) during 2020. However, demand for oil is projected to grow by 5.4 million barrels per day in 2021, recovering around 60% of the volume lost to the pandemic in 2020. There should be stronger demand in the second half of 2021 as the world economy recovers.

## Cocoa Viewed as a Luxury Product

Cocoa is the key ingredient in chocolate, for which there was a decline in demand during the pandemic. Ghana is the second largest exporter of cocoa beans in the world, with Ivory Coast being the largest. As the country's main cash crop, over 1 million farmers in Ghana depend on cocoa for their livelihood. The government has provided incentives in recent years to encourage people to expand their farms such as building improved



access roads, establishing minimum producer prices, encouraging the use of fertilizers and insecticides, and providing new seedlings for trees lost during periods of drought. The supply of cocoa did not decrease during the pandemic, but demand declined by 5-10 percent. Restaurants that bought cocoa for their menus were closed, and since no one was traveling, the amount of chocolate purchased in airports also decreased.



## Gold Prices Increase as Production Ramps Up

The price of gold increased during the past year, which was good news for Ghana. They are now the largest producer of gold in Africa, thanks to their lower-cost mines where it is easier to extract deposits. The government also created a friendly business environment by cutting corporate taxes and establishing

a sliding scale of mineral royalties based on the gold price. Ghana also has a standard 10% free-carry stake in all mining companies that provides investors with a high level of assurance.

Plans for the Future to Minimize Disruptions to Ghana's Economy.

Ghana needs to diversify its economy so they are not totally dependent on just the three commodities mentioned above. But with the high amount of debt servicing required each month, this may not be possible in the short term. For such commodities as cocoa, local clusters of production and processing could be established so that if one area of the country is affected by a drought, for example, other areas can still harvest cocoa beans for export. Ghana also needs to strengthen the enforcement of child labor laws in the harvesting of cocoa, or risk backlash from major U.S. importers such as Nestlé, Hershey's and Blommer.

The country will remain dependent on the availability of loans to avoid long-term consequences of the pandemic. But since their credit rating declined, market-based sources of credit will not be available.

Ghana will then have to rely on financial institutions such as the IMF for funding. However, the IMF can impose certain conditions on their loans such as public sector wage freezes. This discourages young adults to enter such professions as medicine and education, which further deepens a crisis such as COVID-19 or an Ebola outbreak. Like many African countries, Ghana spends more on debt servicing than health and education combined. Their tax system needs to be strengthened so that the wealthier residents and companies are paying their fair share.

The IMF could also assist Ghana when agreeing to provide emergency loans. The agency should call all creditors to immediately start talks towards a full debt restructuring as part of the official agreement.

There is certainly hope for the future. The IMF recently forecast that due to the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and vast sums of government aid, global economic growth will accelerate to a record high this year in a powerful rebound from the pandemic recession. The agency expects the world economy to expand 6 percent in 2021, up from the 5.5% it had forecast in January 2021. It would be the fastest expansion for the global economy in IMF records dating back to 1980.



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**EPA commences chemical inventory monitoring**

The Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) is on Wednesday, 5 May 2021 expected to commence a nationwide chemical inventory and effluent quality monitoring across the country.

The exercise which would

national pollutant registry as required under Part V section 51 of the Environmental Protection and Management Law (EPML) of Liberia.

At the end of the exercise, the EPA will develop a registry that accounts for the quantities and locations of all chemical

involved in chemical importation and supply, cement industries, paint production, breweries production, mattress and foam production, mining activities, agriculture plantations are asked to grant the EPA monitoring team unhindered access to their facilities and provide all requested documents including environmental permit(s), effluent discharge license, chemical importation documents, material safety data sheets (MSDS), monitoring reports, and waste management plan.

Authorities of the EPA are also calling on businesses and firms involved in production of detergents and antimicrobials, explosives and emulsions, fumigation and petrochemicals to grant the monitoring team unrestricted access to their facilities and provide all requested documents.

According to the release, the monitoring team will arrive at each facility in an EPA assigned vehicle and team members will display their working Identification Cards and conform to induction protocols as required by the facility's health, safety and environment team.

The EPA reassured the public of its commitment to maintain a safe, clean and healthy environment for this and succeeding generations.



target facilities involved in the sale and use of chemicals is intended to assess proponents' adherence to the 2020 chemical importation, transport, handling and storage guidelines of Liberia.

During the exercise, technicians from the EPA will generate data for the

stockpiled in the country, so as to enable it respond to any future natural or environmental disasters, a release from the EPA said.

The exercise will also bring all chemical importers and dealers into full compliance as required by law.

Facilities or businesses

**Foreign Affairs workers get new corps of officers**

**--As Madam Yar Boayue Yini Wins MOFAWA Elections**

The Chairman of the Elections Commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Workers' Association (MOFAWA), Emmanuel Dao Kamara has released the final results of the April 28, 2021 elections, declaring Mrs. Yar Boayue Yini as President-elect of the Worker Association.

Madam Yar Boayue Yini is the first female employee to be elected as president of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Workers' Association in a competitive electoral process.

Speaking shortly after her election as president of the worker association, Madam Yini called on her contenders to unite for the sake of MOFAWA and the ministry, stating that under her leadership she will bring in new dynamism that will be inclusive of all.

She expressed thanks and appreciation to Minister Dee-

Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., for the level of leadership, noting that under his reform agenda, democracy has improved at the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Reading the final results at the close of the polling, the Commission's Chairman Mr.

Kamara told journalists that of the total 348 valid votes casted for the presidency, Madam Yini received 122 votes, which constitute 35.05%, while her main challenger Madam Christiana M. Wahblo received 120 votes, constituting 34.48%.

For the position of Vice



**NEC discloses cash payment from Gov't**

The National Elections Commission, (NEC), says the Government of Liberia has begun to release funds on the balance of the 3.5 million United States from the conduct of the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Elections.

The Chairperson of the National Elections Commission, Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah said, the Government of Liberia, through the Ministry

during the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections, SSE, will begin.

However, the NEC anticipates that the government will soon transfer the balance of the funds to the NEC.

The Chairperson of the National Elections Commission made the disclosure Friday, 30 April 2021 at the close of the five-day Internal Lessons Learned Conference from the 8 December 2020 Special



of Finance and Development Planning Friday started the process to transfer Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars to the NEC.

Chairperson Madam Browne Lansanah said, as soon as this process is completed and the money is transferred in the account of the Commission, the process to pay liabilities to local and international vendors, who rendered services to the NEC

Senatorial Elections and Constitutional Referendum in Buchanan City, in Grand Bassa County.

Madam Browne Lansanah promised that recommendations from the lessons learned conference, which amongst other things called for the timely submission of the Commission's budget to authorities will be fully implemented.

Presidency Mr. Anthony Chea Kpalleh, Jr. was declared winner, taking 202 votes casted, out of the total valid votes of 350, constituting 57.71%, while Mr. David C. Tekasuah, got 80 votes casted, constituting 22.85%; and Eddie Ville received 68 votes, 19.43%.

For the Secretary General position, Mr. Bryant W. Bolloh, was declared winner with 191 votes casted, constituting 56.34% while his opponents Samuel S. Borbor and Evan Kehn received 95 votes, 28.02% and 53 voted, 15.63% respectively.

Also on the Financial Secretary position, Mr. Podiasco C. Smith was declared winner with 140

votes casted constituting 42.29%; while madam Lydia Johnson Nathan, who ran for the position of Treasure unopposed, was declared the winner and Madam Caroline W. Nyon also won, unopposed as Chaplain General of MOFAWA

Mr. Kamara used the occasion to thanked Minister Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., for providing the atmosphere required for the conduct of the elections. "We are pleased to report that the 28 April 2021 elections were successfully implemented without any incident," he said.

MOFAWA election commission Chairman reported that polls opened on time and counting of votes started immediately after the poll closed.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Liberia, US sign MOU to preserve Providence Island

U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Michael McCarthy joined Minister of Information, Culture, and Tourism Ledgehood Rennie, National Traditional Council Chief Zanzan Karwor, and Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs Deweh Gray at Providence Island to announce a U.S.-Liberian collaborative initiative on preservation of the historic venue and development of recommendations for its reuse.



Also in attendance were Minister of Justice Frank Musah Dean, Mayor of Monrovia Jefferson Koijee, and Stephen Battle, Program Director of the World Monuments Fund.

In 2020, the U.S. Department of State awarded the World Monuments Fund (WMF) a nearly \$100,000 grant from the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP, <https://eca.state.gov/cultural-heritage-center/ambassadors-fund-cultural-preservation>), overseen by the U.S. Embassy

in Monrovia, to conduct a study on preservation and reuse of Providence Island.

WMF selected University of Virginia professor Allison James to lead the study project and to consult with wide-ranging Liberian stakeholders. Professor James is collaborating closely with Dr. William B. Allen, professor of history at the University of Liberia and scholar

of Liberian history.

Providence Island, where indigenous tribes lived for centuries prior to the arrival of formerly enslaved American settlers in 1821, is essential to telling the story of Liberia, its peoples, and nationhood. It is also a symbol of the enduring relationship and people-to-people ties between the United States

and Liberia. And today, Providence Island is also an important green space in central Monrovia and a potential tourist attraction.

Professor James, with the support of the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism (MICAT), first visited Liberia in November 2020. She met with government ministers, the National Traditional Council of Liberia, youth leaders, members of the communities surrounding Providence Island, and other stakeholders. She is currently teaching a class that partners University of Virginia students with University of Liberia students to conduct research projects that will inform the historical information in the final study.

On Friday, the Government of Liberia, represented by Deputy Minister Gray, and the Government of the United States, represented by

Ambassador McCarthy, signed a joint statement to announce their support for the plan to preserve and reuse Providence Island. In addition, MICAT, represented by

Minister Rennie and attested to by Minister of Justice Dean, and the World Monuments Fund, represented by Project Lead Stephen Battle, signed a memorandum of understanding, which states their mutual desire to develop and reinforce their cooperation in conserving the cultural landscape of Providence Island.

Speaking to the prestigious group gathered to celebrate this occasion, Ambassador McCarthy expressed his excitement, "Providence Island continues to be a meeting place, a place of exchange, a place of nature, a place of multiculturalism. It is truly historic ground. And it is and will always be powerful symbol of the enduring U.S.-Liberia relationship."

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Starts from back page **"LACC partners**

fight against corruption," he stressed.

For his part, Commissioner Kaifala thanked the LACC for the learning visit to Sierra Leone and emphasized that these sort of exchanges are necessary given the sisterly

lot can be learned in terms of a governance standpoint on how to solve common problems by looking south sometimes instead of west all the time" Commissioner Kaifala noted.

Cllr. Gbala, who is a development activist and transitional justice expert, described his visit to Sierra Leone as continuation continue of the process of Rebranding and rebuilding the LACC.



relationship that exists between Sierra Leone and Liberia citing the existence of the Mano River Union (MRU) as a case in point.

"Most of our languages are the same, our behaviors are similar and our traditions are also similar. This means that a

During this mission to Freetown, Cllr. Gbala was also honored to have held meetings with the Chief Justice of Sierra Leone Justice Desmond Babatunde Edwards, the Minister of Justice Hon. Anthony Yehwoe Brewah as well as the Auditor General Mrs. Lara Taylor-Pearce Justice.

The LACC delegation to Sierra Leone consisted of the LACC heads of prosecution Cllr. Jerry D. Garlawulo and Investigations Mr. Baba Borkai.

**INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS (Petroleum Products)**  
**IFB No.:UL/SBA/NCB/001/20/21**

The University of Liberia through the Government of the Republic of Liberia has received budgetary allotment from the National Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and intends to apply portion of it towards the procurement of Petroleum Products.

- The University of Liberia now invites sealed bids from eligible registered bidders for the supply of Petroleum Products for the Fiscal Year 2020/2021
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA) and approved by the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC), and is open to all eligible bidders in the Country.
- Specifications and Quantity:

LOT # 1:				
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS	SPECS	QUANTITY	MODE	CONTRACT TYPE
Diesel	AGO	1 gallon	COUPON	FrameWork Contract
Gasoline	PMS	1 gallon	COUPON	Contract

LOT # 2:				
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS	SPECS	QUANTITY	MODE	CONTRACT TYPE
Diesel	AGO	1 gallon	Pump & Truck Supply	FrameWork Contract

- Qualification requirements include:
  - Past Performance records including the names and contact numbers of at-least five (5) clients.
  - Valid GOL Business Registration and Tax-Clearance with Business Activities Code No. G4661
  - Must be registered with the PPCC Vendor Registry
  - List of stations or sub-stations within Monrovia
  - At least one(1) station along the Red-light to Fendall highway(Applicable only to LOT#:2)
- A set of bidding document in English can be obtained by interested bidders for a non-refundable fee: US\$50(Fifty United States Dollars beginning April 26-May 24, 2021 from 8:AM- 4:PM.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Securing declaration valid for 90 days after the opening of bids.
- Sealed Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00pm May 24, 2021 and bids will be opened in the Administrative Conference Room (AC1-01), Right wing of the Administrative Complex, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow:  
 In the upper left corner of the envelop, print:  
**"SEALED BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS"**  
**REF: IFB No.:UL/SBA/NCB/001/020/021**  
 Below is the bid reference number, print the bidder's address.  
  
 In the middle of the envelop, print the address below:  
**Procurement Department**  
**University of Liberia**  
**Fendall Campus**  
**Liberia**  
 Note: that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.  
 Signed: *[Signature]*  
 DIRECTOR  
 Procurement Department  
 University of Liberia  
 Approved: *[Signature]*  
 VP/ADMINISTRATION  
 University of Liberia

# Français

## La CGECL et ses partenaires lancent la réflexion sur les défis du numérique en Afrique et en Côte d'Ivoire

L'édition 2021 de l'African digital week (ADW) qui verra la participation de nombreux pays africains comme ce fut le cas lors de la précédente édition se tiendra sur deux jours en septembre prochain à Abidjan, sur le thème « L'Afrique augmentée ». L'information a été livrée ce jeudi 30 avril 2021, à la Maison de l'entreprise, lors du lancement du forum co-organisé par la commission économie numérique et entreprise digitale de la CGECL, l'Union nationale des entreprises de télécommunications (UNETEL), le Groupement des opérateurs du secteur des TIC (GOTIC) et le Club des directeurs et responsables de systèmes d'Information (Club des DSI). La présidente de la commission économie numérique et entreprise digitale de la CGECL, par ailleurs directrice exécutive de l'UNETEL, Gertrude Koné Kouassi, a indiqué que cette plateforme de partage d'expérience sur les problématiques liées à la transformation digitale et au numérique dans les économies africaines reprend

ses droits après deux années d'interruption due à certaines contingences don't la pandémie de Covid-19.

Des avancées significatives enregistrées

Représentant le ministre de l'Economie numérique et des télécommunications, Roger Adom, la conseillère technique Namahoua Touré a salué la pertinence du thème choisi pour l'édition 2021, surtout pour l'Etat ivoirien qui a entrepris depuis 2012 d'importantes

réformes. Se prononçant sur le thème du panel organisé en amont sur le thème : « L'Afrique à l'ère du digital, où en sommes », elle a dressé l'état des lieux du secteur du numérique en Côte d'Ivoire. Des actions qui ont permis, relève-t-elle, de doter le pays d'un écosystème numérique dynamique, tant au niveau de l'aménagement numérique du territoire, de la distillation des outils et services au sein

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Dégagement des emprises à Conakry : après les bulldozers, le ramassage des gravats

Après quelques mois de déguerpissement des emprises et la démolition des encombrants physiques le long des routes, l'heure est au ramassage des gravats. Cette opération a été officiellement lancée ce samedi 1er mai à Matoto et à Dixinn par le ministre de la Ville et de l'Aménagement du

Territoire, Dr Ibrahima Kourouma. C'était en présence des cadres du gouvernement et des maires des cinq communes de Conakry.

Dans son intervention de circonstance, le ministre de la Ville et de l'Aménagement du Territoire a rappelé que cette opération s'inscrit dans la continuité de ce que le

gouvernement via son département et le gouvernement de Conakry, a entamé entrepris il y a plus de deux mois.

« Dans le programme présidentiel, il a été question que le ministère de la Ville et de l'Aménagement du Territoire et le gouvernement de la ville Conakry fassent en sorte que le cadre de vie des Guinéens à Conakry et sur l'ensemble du pays soit décent. Cela passe forcément par la création d'un environnement sain. Nous sommes passés d'abord par la sensibilisation, le marquage avant de procéder à la démolition des encombrants physiques sur les emprises des voies. Aujourd'hui, nous entamons la phase de ramassage des gravats pour libérer totalement les emprises », a-t-il fait savoir.

Poursuivant, Dr Ibrahima Kourouma a indiqué que les opérations de déguerpissement des encombrants physiques ont concerné toute la ville de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Le président Weah est dégoûté

Les fonctionnaires de l'administration Weah semblent tromper le peuple et le président qui s'en rend compte au fur et à mesure qu'il visite le pays.

Récemment, dans le comté de Grand Cape, le président Weah a été désagréablement surpris en se rendant compte que le sénateur Varney Sherman et d'autres législateurs du comté n'ont pas de domicile ou de lieu pour accueillir une délégation officielle dans le comté qu'ils représentent.

Maintenant dans le comté de Grand Bassa, le président Weah n'était pas que déçu, il était littéralement bouleversé par le fait que les responsables du comté, y compris le surintendant et les législateurs, n'avaient aucun lieu pour le recevoir à part une mairie mal tenue. Il a terminé la troisième étape de sa tournée nationale déçue.

M. Weah : « Regardez ceci, regardez ceci, regardez ceci, regardez autour de vous, regardez ceci et regardez-nous, regardez-nous (décrivant à quel point ils étaient magnifiquement habillés par rapport à l'infrastructure dans laquelle ils étaient assis et l'environnement).

Parfois, il faut que nous ayons une conscience et ayons honte de nous-même. Cet endroit ne représente rien. Vous ne pouvez pas être les représentants des gens et recevoir le Président et l'ensemble du gouvernement ici. Ce n'est pas possible ».

Jetant un regard autour de la salle dans laquelle se tenait la réunion, il a déploré que l'endroit ne soit pas adapté à un tel rassemblement et que même leur propre vêtement contredisait tout.

Les fonctionnaires doivent savoir que la réalité contredit toujours la fausseté. La vérité est que la tournée nationale du président n'a pas été une surprise. Elle était prévue pour 2020, mais elle a été reportée en raison du COVID-19 et d'autres engagements officiels.

Même avant le début de cette tournée cette année, elle avait été officiellement annoncée. Nous sommes donc également surpris que les surintendants de comté et les législateurs ne se soient pas suffisamment préparés à accueillir le président et son entourage. Le surintendant du comté de Grand Bassa,

Janjay Vakpah, la sénatrice Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence et ses collègues législateurs du comté veulent-ils nous dire qu'ils n'ont pas trouvé de peinture à Buchanna, la capitale provinciale, pour donner à l'hôtel de ville une cure de jouvence pour la réunion du président Weah avec les citoyens ? Comme c'est décevant !

Les législateurs ne devraient pas se concentrer sur leurs projets personnels seulement, il faut qu'ils pensent aussi à leurs électeurs, il faut qu'ils pensent aussi à leur comté qu'ils représentent, en particulier lorsque le président effectue une visite officielle. Il doit être reçu et hébergé dans le respect et l'estime réservés à la présidence.

À quoi bon de se vêtir très élégamment et se promener partout pendant que les villes, les villages, les comtés et les personnes qu'ils représentent restent dans des conditions épouvantables. Ce n'est pas du leadership mais de l'hypocrisie !

River Gee, Grand Cape Mount et Grand Bassa, c'est la même histoire : négligence et infrastructures mal gérées et délabrées au point qu'on a l'impression qu'elles ne sont pas des lieux qu'ils représentent en tant que leaders. Pourtant, les membres du pouvoir législatif libérien décident chaque année du budget national et distribuent le gâteau national, s'attribuant même des parts plus importantes.

Il est temps qu'ils changent leur style de leadership en plaçant les personnes et les lieux qu'ils représentent au-dessus de leurs intérêts personnels pour démontrer le véritable leadership qu'on attend d'eux.

# Français

## La CGECI et ses partenaires lancent

de la population qu'au niveau de la compétitivité de l'économie nationale dans son ensemble. Il en découle des avancées significatives en matière de télécommunications et de TIC. « A la fin de l'année 2020 la Côte d'Ivoire enregistre plus de 40 millions d'abonnés à la téléphonie mobile avec un taux de pénétration de 152%. Le nombre des abonnés au mobile money s'élève à près de 25 millions et représente un taux de pénétration de 68,10%. Le chiffre du secteur s'élève à plus de 870 milliards Fcfa, quand la couverture de la population en larges bandes mobiles est de 92,25% et le territoire national desservi par des réseaux larges bandes à fibre optique d'une

longueur de plus de plus de 25000 km don't plus de 5435 km construits par l'Etat », a affirmé la conseillère technique.

D'énormes défis à relever ensemble

Seulement, en dépit de ces bons résultats, la représentante du ministre admet qu'il existe encore des défis énormes à relever ensemble, pouvoir public et secteur privé, afin de dégager des perspectives de développement du secteur. C'est là, soutient Namahoua Touré, que se situe l'enjeu d'un forum comme l'ADW, qui offre un espace privilégié de réseautage, de partage d'expérience et de brassages des cultures numériques. Pour le président du GOTIC, Patrick Mbengue, qui représentait le président de la CGECI, Jean-Marie Ackah, il est « urgent et

## Dégagement des emprises à Conakry :

Conakry et ses environnants. D'où, a-t-il insisté, ce ramassage aussi va concerner les mêmes endroits.

« Nous sommes en train d'avancer, nous allons passer à l'amélioration des espaces libérés. Il y aura des pavages et des embellissements. Je réitère que le souci du président de la République est de faire en sorte que les Guinéens vivent décemment. Conakry doit ressembler aux autres capitales de la sous-région. Le chef de l'Etat ne cesse de le répéter que quand le président turc est arrivé à Conakry, qu'il a dit que Conakry ne ressemble pas à une capitale. Après les premières opérations, nous avons vu une ville beaucoup plus aérée, les citoyens ont apprécié et beaucoup d'entre eux ont salué l'acte (...) », a-t-il expliqué.

Dans la même logique, le ministre Kourouma a souligné que chaque année, son département de concert avec le gouvernorat de la ville de Conakry, élargi aux différentes mairies, fait en sorte qu'il n'y ait pas de cas d'inondation. « Après le déguerpissement, il faut enlever les gravats pour éviter les cas d'inondation. Parce que la Guinée est un pays de forte pluviométrie... », a-t-il indiqué. Pour ceux qui caressent l'espoir de revenir se réinstaller à nouveau après les démolitions, le ministre Kourouma prévient : « certains citoyens tentent malheureusement de revenir et d'autres sont même revenus. Il ne sert à rien de venir se réinstaller dans un

domaine qui ne t'appartient pas. Car, un jour vous le perdrez. Il ne s'agit pas des opérations tampon. Nous avons les entamées et elles s'inscrivent dans la durée. Plusieurs citoyens ont été tués par des gros porteurs à cause de l'occupation anarchique des voies. Jadis Conakry était appelée perle de l'Afrique de l'ouest, aujourd'hui quel visage présente-t-elle. C'est ce mauvais visage que nous voulons effacer », a-t-il promis.

Prenant la parole, le maire de la commune de Dixinn Mamadou Samba Diallo, n'est pas allé avec le dos de la cuillère avant de rappeler que si les opérations étaient en veilleuse, c'est pour juste permettre aux gens de souffler un peu pendant cette période de Ramadan.

« Comme la saison pluvieuse s'annonce et le mois saint de Ramadan s'incline, nous avons jugé nécessaire de relancer les opérations de ramassage des gravats pour faciliter la vie de la population pendant la saison des pluies. Cela à penser à certains citoyens qui n'ont rien encore compris de ces opérations qui sont en cours qu'il s'agit d'un feu de paille. Je dis à l'ensemble des populations de Dixinn que ce déguerpissement des emprises n'est orienté contre personne. C'est dans l'intérêt supérieur de la population. Ceux qui pensent que c'est un feu de paille afin d'y revenir, ils se trompent et c'est à leur risque et péril. Ce qui est dégagé, ne sera jamais réoccupé par quelqu'un d'autre. Ce qui veut dire que ce qui appartient à l'Etat, appartient à l'Etat », a-t-il martelé.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Willem H. Buiter,  
Anne C. Sibert

## L'équation fiscale incertaine de Biden

NEW YORK - Maintenant que l'administration du président américain Joe Biden a proposé l'American Jobs Plan et l'American Families Plan, elle va devoir trouver au moins 4 000 milliards \$ de recettes fiscales supplémentaires. À la différence des six programmes mis en place entre le 6 mars 2020 et le 11 mars 2021 pour faire face à la pandémie, ces nouveaux plans de dépenses n'ont pas pour vocation de produire une relance économique immédiate. Dans la mesure où il s'agit de programmes sociaux et redistributifs axés davantage sur l'offre, ils devront être financés soit par des hausses d'impôts, soit par des réductions de dépenses. Or, cette deuxième option ne semblant pas être envisagée, des augmentations d'impôts s'annoncent inévitables.

Bien entendu, les recettes nécessaires pourraient se révéler considérablement supérieures à 4 000 milliards \$, si l'American Rescue Plan de 1 900 milliards \$ adopté le mois dernier venait à ne pas être pleinement couvert par le seul creusement des déficits. Dans ce cas, l'administration Biden pourrait devoir ajouter 1 000 milliards \$ supplémentaires à son objectif de recettes fiscales. Mais considérons en l'occurrence qu'il lui faudra trouver 4 000 milliards \$, et ce que cela implique.

L'American Jobs Plan est un programme de dépenses et de crédit fiscal qui nécessite 2 250 milliards \$ de nouvelles recettes fiscales, tandis que l'ampleur de l'American Families Plan devrait se révéler comparable à celle de l'American Rescue Plan. Dans les deux cas, les dépenses supplémentaires s'effectueront sur plus de dix ans, nécessitant ainsi 400 milliards \$ de plus chaque année au cours de la prochaine décennie. Bien que cet objectif soit atteignable, la charge ne pèsera sans doute pas seulement sur les plus fortunés, mais également sur la classe moyenne.

La solution présentée par l'administration Biden réside dans le Made in America Tax Plan, qui a été dévoilé parallèlement à l'American Jobs Plan. Or, dans le calcul de ce MATP, le compte n'y est pas. Biden et ses conseillers proposent un nombre spectaculaire de réformes fiscales pour les sociétés, censées permettre de lever 2 500 milliards \$ sur les 15 prochaines années, la principale composante du programme consistant à faire passer de 21 % à 28 % l'impôt sur les sociétés. Il est également question d'un prélèvement minimum de 21 % sur les bénéfices internationaux des grandes sociétés américaines, d'une imposition d'au moins 15 % sur le revenu comptable (profits rapportés aux investisseurs, qui diffèrent souvent très nettement de ceux utilisés pour calculer l'assujettissement à l'impôt), ainsi que de diverses mesures destinées à décourager les sociétés américaines de se délocaliser pour échapper à l'impôt.

Quoi que l'on puisse penser de ces dispositions, le fait est que les sociétés multinationales sont passées maîtresses dans l'art de délocaliser leurs activités vers des pays faiblement taxés, engendrant ainsi plusieurs décennies de compétition fiscale. Résultat, le taux moyen d'impôt sur les sociétés au niveau mondial (pondéré en fonction du PIB) est passé de 46,5 % en 1980 à 25,9 % en 2020, les taux les plus élevés concernant principalement l'Afrique subsaharienne. Ainsi, les projets de Biden dépendent d'une importante coopération internationale, et la secrétaire du Trésor des États-Unis, Janet Yellen, a dûment proposé un impôt international sur les sociétés, susceptible de s'appliquer aux sociétés multinationales quelle que soit la localisation géographique de leur siège social.

Il est toutefois peu probable que ce type de politique coordonnée aboutisse. En effet, l'Union européenne elle-même ne parvient pas à coordonner l'imposition de ses États membres. Là où l'Allemagne et la France appliquent respectivement un impôt sur les sociétés de 29,9 % et 32 %, la République d'Irlande taxe les

entreprises à seulement 12,5 %.

L'administration Biden soutient que ses propositions d'augmentation de l'impôt sur les sociétés pourraient permettre de prélever 2 000 milliards \$ supplémentaires sur 15 ans - ou 1 330 milliards \$ sur dix ans - sur les bénéfices des sociétés à l'étranger. Cette estimation semble toutefois optimiste. En 2017, le taux d'imposition des sociétés aux États-Unis s'élevait à 35 %, et les recettes fiscales issues de cet impôt représentaient 297 milliards \$. En 2019 - après réduction de ce taux à 21 % via la réforme fiscale de l'administration Trump - ces recettes n'atteignaient que 230 milliards \$. Pour que le calcul de Biden fonctionne, il faudrait que les recettes issues de l'impôt sur les sociétés soient supérieures de 133 milliards \$ - c'est-à-dire qu'elles s'élèvent à environ 363 milliards \$ par an.

Par ailleurs, même si le gouvernement parvient à prélever les recettes fiscales souhaitées via l'impôt sur les sociétés, il lui faudra en payer le prix. Une plus forte imposition sur les sociétés a tendance à engendrer des flux sortants de capitaux plus importants, une baisse du ratio national capital-travail, et par conséquent de plus faibles salaires réels (ajustés en fonction de l'inflation). C'est pourquoi le courant dominant de la profession économique estime qu'au-delà du court terme, les impôts prélevés sur les sociétés constituent une taxe implicite sur le travail. Ces impôts biaisant les décisions d'investissement, ils sont considérés comme encore plus dommageables que des taxes explicites sur les salaires. De nombreuses études préconisent d'ailleurs leur suppression.

En tout état de cause, même si l'administration Biden parvient à atteindre ses objectifs de recettes fiscales sur les sociétés, il lui manquera encore 2 670 milliards \$ après dix ans. Pour combler ce manque, l'impôt fédéral sur le revenu des particuliers supérieur à 400 000 \$ par an devra être augmenté. Sachant que les Américains percevant 400 000 \$ par an se situent quelque part entre le top 1 % et le top 2 % des salaires, cela permettra-t-il de collecter 267 milliards \$ supplémentaires par an ?

Les recettes fiscales fédérales sur le revenu des particuliers sont estimées à 1 930 milliards \$ pour 2021. En 2015, le top 1 % percevait environ 21 % du total des revenus, et payait environ 39 % du total des recettes fiscales sur le revenu ; le top 2 % percevait environ 26 % du total des revenus, et payait environ 47 % du total des recettes fiscales sur le revenu. Si les proportions restent globalement stables au fil des années, le top 1 % s'acquittera d'environ 773 milliards \$ en 2021, et le top 2 % d'environ 908 milliards \$. Selon notre calcul approximatif, le top 1 % devrait payer 35 % de plus pour que l'objectif de recettes fiscales de l'administration Biden soit atteint ; de même, les prélèvements fiscaux sur le top 2 % devraient être supérieurs de 29 % chaque année pendant dix ans.

Prélever dans la durée un tiers de recettes fiscales supplémentaires auprès des plus fortunés ne sera pas chose facile. L'accomplissement d'un objectif de recettes aussi ambitieux exigera probablement une assiette fiscale plus large, pas seulement une imposition plus élevée pour les riches. En dehors des États-Unis, l'objectif pourrait être atteint via une augmentation de la taxe sur la valeur ajoutée - impôt indirect à taux unique et à large base, supporté à quelques exceptions près par tous les consommateurs. Une imposition de type TVA ne servirait pas les objectifs de redistribution fixés par Biden (et pourrait se heurter à des obstacles constitutionnels), même si elle lui permettrait d'atteindre ses objectifs de recettes.

Quoi qu'il en soit, pour l'heure, il est peu probable que les propositions actuelles d'augmentation des impôts sur les sociétés et sur le revenu des particuliers suffisent à financer les plans budgétaires postpandémiques de Biden. La question de l'élargissement de l'assiette fiscale devra être mise sur la table.

# MEMO TO CLLR. CHARLES WALKER BRUMSKINE

By: Isaac W. Jackson, Jr.

As twin starting points: Today is your birthday; you departed this life on 20 November 2019. Reflecting upon your courageous fight for a corruption-free Liberia under the rule of Law, it is of deep concern to me how your venerated legacy is being exploited and poorly treated by some of our friends.

Collectively, we struggled to lay the foundation stones of Liberty Party - the political vehicle aimed at advancing the aspirations for a better Liberia. The journey we trekked was not altogether smooth; however, there was a common consensus on public standards of decency that the Party espoused at its formative stages. From what's obtaining nowadays, I am not sure whether you would recognize the political vehicle of integrity you left behind, if your return were humanly possible! Because, those purporting to manage the affairs of the political vehicle have no decent respect for integrity. They are unconscionably flirting with utterly-corrupt individuals and bastardizing the Party's integrity standards which call for those linked to corruption scandals to step aside from whatever positions they hold to clear their names.

Contrary to the standards mentioned supra, the Party now has a chairman who is a condemned FIFA fraudster, congenitally dishonest, and widely known both in Liberia and abroad for corruption scandals. So, I am wondering where the Party is heading with such diametrical departure from its founding practices and principles? Hence, this Memo!

Boss man, besides having this morally bankrupt fellow as chairman, I see others faking and manipulating our people into falsely believing that they had a wonderful relationship with you during your last days on earth. Since I know that this sort of attitude constitutes a mighty deception on an industrial level, I thought to highlight them in this Memo.

At least, those of us who follow from a distance, as a result of our disagreement, are aware that you held a meeting with core members of the Friends of Brumskine (FOB) just before your departure to the USA for medical treatment. In that meeting, you expressed utter disgust about how Darius Dillon [now Senator] insulted you; and that one of the comrades stood-by without saying a murmuring word in your defense. Also, you groaned, and lamented the personal disservice to you when others pledged support to Weah's CDC in reckless disregard of your advice. Today, some of those same people are still pretending that you were on good terms with them during your sad departure from earth. This childish maneuver is utterly despicable!

In their desperate attempts to exploit your venerated legacy, in recent times they attributed to you a legal maxim that you pooh-poohed in the case, CDC and Liberty Party v. The Executive Branch of Government, decided January 11, 2008. Knowing my zero tolerance for nonsense, I red-carded them publicly for being disingenuous.

Also, in an attempt to deceive our people, more recently they employed similar tactics on Spoon TV, talking plausibly about your warm relationship with them; even though, you would have flatly denounced some of their misdeeds. For example, taking money from Albert Chie under the cover of darkness; dividing US\$6,000 with fellow Lawmakers, while PPEs and beddings were in short supply at quarantine centres. Yes, you would have condemned them for threatening to jail Election Commissioners on bogus contempt charges. I emphatically highlighted these cases, especially the one with the NEC Commissioners because one of your Refrains was that, "as Senate Pro Tempore, you NEVER jailed anyone". I recall you telling me on several occasions that a leader doesn't gain the respect of others by abusing the exercise of his/her authority. So, I know that you would have filed such overzealous action under legislative tyranny: in that, the Election Commissioners did not deliberately obstruct legislative functions in the case under consideration.

Boss man, your "small sister, Nyonblee" who left in charge of the Party, even though you were not on talking terms with her until your sad departure, is now proceeding in total disregard of the pillar of reconciliation in the Party. Also, she has proceeded in reckless disregard of your legacy, and the Constitution of the Party by organizing a controversial and bogus Special Convention to inveigle Musa Bility to the Chairmanship of the Party.

I know in 2005, you declined an invitation from Musa Bility's Mandingo Caucus for obvious reasons. But, again, politics being what it is, you compromised your position and hang-out with Bility in 2017. Maybe, if you had known the drama and trauma Bility would have put you through as a result of his pledge to Weah's CDC against your advice, you would have maintained your posture and position of 2005, i.e., staying clear of tainted characters.

Boss man, I heard that you told Romeo Gbarte and some of the comrades that you would have shocked the nation by appointing me as one of your first ministers, had you won the election for the presidency.

I also heard you told Lamii Kpargoi that I surprised you by

being the only FOB and Liberty Party Executive member who stayed with you at your mother's funeral until her casket was deposited in the grave, and fully sealed up. Following your discussion with Lamii, you extended me an invitation thru him to see you. Truth being told, you informed Lamii that most of the things I criticized and screamed about in the Party were true; however, your only problem was the manner in which I articulated those uncomfortable truths.

Boss man, as you look down from heaven upon us, I know you are nodding your head with pleasure, and saying, Bob Jack is once more saying the uncomfortable truths. Yes, sir, I am saying the uncomfortable truths, for you know that I am not a passive soldier, and will not compromise with utter rubbish. So, yes, I am fighting again! However, this time around, you can be consoled by the fact that I am not fighting alone but, along with your Pekin them: Daniel Merchant, Chester Neese, Sampson Dolo, Bishop Lemuel Gbardue, and your sister Clarice Jah - we are fighting for the soul and the long time moral health of the Party. On the other hand, Romeo Gbarte, Jacob Smith, Aruna Fallah and Debar Allen are also fighting in a subtle manner through FOB to launch a lecture series in your honor. I also contributed to their efforts by developing the communication strategy for the lecture series, suggested the names of some of the panelists, and developed the topic with editorial input from Aruna Fallah regarding today's program.

Boss man, knowing that our friends who are purportedly running the affairs of the Party have no solid argument against me, they have escalated their lies against me by saying that I am not a member of Liberty party, and that I am being sponsored by Samuel Tweah, an old pal from the University of Liberia, now Finance Minister. I know you are aware that these are irrational and rubbish arguments. Because, if they are saying that I am not a member of Liberty Party, then what become of the reconciliatory overture that was made by you, which rendered the case at the Supreme Court Moot? Or what about the other subsequent reconciliatory efforts by the Party? By saying that I am not a member of Liberty Party, are they not questioning the intelligence of Madam Clarice Jah, Steve Zargo, Jacob Julius Smith, and Bishop Lemuel Gbadyu - stalwarts of the Party who are associating with me? Do these clowns really



believe that such caliber of sophisticated people will be associating with a non-member of Liberty Party to ferret out their missteps? I can understand why those people in their desperation would glibly gloss over institutional piety, i.e., respecting those who give birth to the thing that's benefiting today.

On the allegation regarding Samuel Tweah; do I have to take money from Tweah to make an obvious argument that Musa Bility is a notoriously corrupt bandit based on that fact that he (Bility) has been linked to myriads of corruption scandals? Heaven knows that the person next to Chief Justice Korkpor that I am unhappy with in the CDC Government is Samuel D. Tweah, Jr. Yes, it is true that Samuel Tweah has been my longtime friend but, since the CDC Government has been sitting on my neck, I have not had any friendly conversation with him. So, how could these people come up with such useless lie? I can understand, their use of the dead cat strategy is aimed at diverting meaningful attention from the efforts to pull corrupt Bility's pants down, and handcuff him to his checkered history. But, their strategy will not work!

Boss man, I'm sure you remember this same rumor surfaced in 2005, that I was influencing you to endorse CDC because of my friend Samuel Tweah. I remember during the Executive Meeting aimed at deciding whether to support CDC or Unity Party, it was this rumor that opened the discussion, when I, in my usual Bob Jack's style, jokingly responded that even if we had endorsed CDC, I would have still explained that we had gone to the CDC to shepherd the process - having said that, I remember everybody laughed, and the meeting stated on a more serious note. Though the consensus in the room at the time was, for us to endorse Unity Party's Ellen Johnson Sirleaf but, through your persuasion, we decided to remain neutral. So, boss man, you are aware that the rumor was not true yesterday, and it's not true even today.

In addition to the barren allegation supra, they have been spewing the shoddy propaganda that Madam Sirleaf rewarded me with Assistant Minister job because I was saying mean things about you. You know, and heaven can testify that the confusion in Party erupted as a result of Nat Toe, Sampson Dolo and others being asked to resign and that Mr. Israel Akinsanya overstayed his role as acting chair.

By the way, how is it rational that a serious professional of Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's caliber will give me a job for merely saying mean things about you, when in fact, I was also fiercely criticizing Madam Sirleaf? Far from the rubbish those clowns are saying, I believe Madam Sirleaf offered me the opportunity to serve her government firstly because of my competence, and secondly because of my pure intellectual and legal argument at the time that she shouldn't go to the TRC because her appearance would have violated Article 61 of the Constitution. I hold this view because it was following this argument that I bumped into Cllr. Morris Saytumah at the Louise Arthur Grimes School of Law, when he said, "I like the argument you are making. When we offer you a place to work in the government will you accept it?" My answer to the question was in the affirmative. About two weeks following my conversation with Cllr. Saytumah at the Law School, he called me in his office, and asked, "if we offer you a place in the Government, will you not be leaking information to Cllr. Brumskine"? I answered in the negative. Then he said, "by evening hours, we will announce you". End of story!

Contrary to the false claim by some people that "they even took me to Madam Sirleaf", I never met Madam Sirleaf during my advocacy. This fact can be authenticated by Tobias Wesseh, then Special Assistant to Cllr. Saytumah. Matter of fact, I was not even desperate for a job at the time because I had just taken up a new job at LBDI as its Legal Assistant.

No rational person in my position at the time would have refused an offer from the Sirleaf administration because I was criticizing my political leader, and also criticizing Madam Sirleaf. I had no friends then. So, what would a rational man do in the case under consideration? In fact, when the appointment was made, ranking members of Liberty Party, United Democratic Party and FOB issued a press release on October 9, 2008, commending President Sirleaf, and also stated that my appointment was a confirmation of the Unity Party-led administration's policy of inclusion. Even you, yourself, boss man, sent me an email congratulating and wishing me well for my appointment in September of 2008.

Boss man, Bility and his people who are accusing me of taking money from Tweah, endorsed Weah's CDC. So, how come they're making it to look like working with Tweah's CDC is a disgusting sin, when in fact, they are responsible for giving CDC power? Knowing that Musa Bility and his likes were driven by their selfish ambitions to curry favor with Weah's CDC, why do they want us to suddenly join them in their frustration with the CDC-led Government? How is it our fault that they were not farsighted? If Mr. Bility were enjoying a cozy relationship with the CDC-led Government, would he have cared about the poor masses? By the way, when Mr. Bility was pledging support to the CDC, did he care to know that some of us would have been at risk? I think Bility and his bunch of greedy friends created their own Frankenstein, let them deal with their creation without dragging my name into their mild frustration. I say mild frustration because if President Weah were to reach out to Bility now, his mild anger will suddenly dissipate.

Boss man, you know that I am not like Bility to trade character for money. Just look at how Bility swaggers with political parties, i.e., LAP, ALCOP, Unity Party, CDC, now LP. You see, I don't pretend in my opposition to wrongdoings. I am not looking for any personal benefit in my opposition to Bility. Matter of fact, others and I, are opposing Bility because he doesn't represent the aspirations of the Party that we established, and we want the best for our Party. I am a bit visible because I am a passionate warrior, and naturally allergic to roguish behavior.

Boss man, this is not the normal intellectual battle. I am told that some of those in this fight have zero intellectual muscles to flex therefore they have resulted to consulting juju men. But, I am not perturbed by this scaring rumor because I am covered by the efficacious blood of Jesus. And so, Boss man, as you look down from heaven upon us, give us the courage to be strong in upholding your legacy by ensuring that Bility relinquishes the Chairmanship in obedience to the established precedent in the Party. Don't let your passing witness the death of integrity in our dear Liberty Party. Knowing that Bility and others treated you so badly in your last days on earth, I ask that your spirit fight back fiercely so that they do not remain at the helm of power in our Party. Let this shame not befall your legacy, and the Party you labored to establish!

Boss man, was the term of endearment used by all of us at the early stage of the movement. And so, with teary eyes and heavy heart, I wish to say rest on, Boss man!

\*The author, B.Sc., LL.B, LL.M, is a Founding Executive Member of Liberty Party, United Democratic Party and Friends of Brumskine (FOB) political arrangement. He defends a political career which arises from his days as a student activist at the University of Liberia.

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# We hold nothing against Turay Family

By Lewis S. Teh

Dr. Philip Ireland, the father of the late Precious Pearl Ireland who was killed by her 16-year-old school mate Jovanus Oliver Turay at the Cyber-Ed Christian School in Congo Town says his family wants nothing from the Turay Family.

While paying tribute over the remains of his late daughter at the Harvest Continental Cathedral Church in Oldest Congo Town over the weekend, Dr. Ireland

immediately following the fatal shooting of victim Precious Ireland on the school campus in Sophie Community, Congo Town.

The victim was rushed to a hospital for medical attention, but was pronounced dead upon arrival by nurses on duty. According to police, suspects Jovanus Oliver Turay and Matthew Gonkerwon were picked up early Tuesday morning at 8:00 AM by the Anti-Robbery Unit of the Liberia National Police (LNP).

The shooter has been placed in a safe home while the police investigate the matter.

The late Precious Ireland was born on 2 December 2006 and

family, we forgive Jovanus, his father and everybody that have to do with that family hundred percent," Dr. Ireland said.

Dr. Ireland further professed blessings upon Jovanus and offered prayers for the suspect, his family and the nation at large.

Additionally, Dr. Ireland said "In fact, to take one step forward, we bless you, we pray for Jovanus, we take one step further again, we ask God he will be a better father, a better husband, we will never serve the enemy, we hold to God. That is our tribute for the beloved Precious."

Referring to some disasters that revenge has caused for Liberia, Dr. Philip Ireland said Liberians have witnessed a series of bloodshed and deep-rooted hatred originating from different reasons that could be peacefully spoken about if addressed.

"We don't want anything. We don't want blood for blood. We don't want any revenge. Our country has seen too much of that, we forgive, we require nothing", he added.

Sharing his memories about Precious' life, Dr. Ireland reflected on the uncontrollable and unwavering love and concern she showed him when he was taken home after a medical report revealed that he had Ebola.

"She often fed me, when I never even had the appetite to eat. She was a beautiful child and very kind and loving soul", Dr. Ireland said.

Speaking on behalf of the government, Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor urged school administrations to include in their administrative staff, a councilor whose responsibility will specifically be to counsel and create an atmosphere that will enable them to confidentially share things that affect them.

She also called on parents to desist from being too busy for their children, and be cautious about the kinds of friends they affiliate



said his family has forgiven the perpetrator and the entire Turay families, and they hold nothing in heart against them.

Dr. Ireland's 14-year-old daughter Precious Ireland was killed in a fatal shooting incident allegedly carried out by suspect Jovanus Oliver Turay in the morning of 13 April at the Cyber-Ed Christian School, causing parents to rush on the campus to take their kids to safety.

Police picked up suspect Turay and 17-year-old person of interest suspect Matthew Gonkerwon

she was laid to rest on Friday, 30 April 2021 at the Kaiser Memorial Cemetery in Brewerville, Montserrado County after being shot dead allegedly by her school mate Turay.

In his final words to his daughter at the Harvest Continental Cathedral in Congo Town before her burial, Dr. Ireland expressed regret over his daughter's sudden demise and openly disclosed that his family forgives Jovanus Turay for his action.

Dr. Ireland stressed the need for reconciliation and peace among families.

"As head of the family, we the

# Jeety feeds over 1,350 inmates

By Ethel A Tweh

Indian Businessman Upjit Singh Sachedeva (Jeety) over the weekend distributed hot cooked meal sufficient to cover over 1,350 inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison or South Beach.

"We have come here to distribute food to them. We have brought ... sufficient food to cover over 1,350 people," Mr. Sachedeva said during the distribution exercise inside the prison compound in Monrovia Friday, 30 April.

Flanked his team from the Jeety Trading Corporation during the distribution exercise, Mr. Sachedeva said he was very grateful to be back at the prison compound as he has promised to once a month feed the prisoners there.

The immediate past Indian Consul General in Liberia revealed that the food available for distribution included rice, beans, meat,

businessman and philanthropist was honored and decorated by Liberian authorities with the rank of Knight Grand Commander of Humane Order of African Redemption during a cocktail reception held in honor of members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps here.

At that event on 23 April, Mr. Sachedeva renewed his pledge to continue his humanitarian and philanthropist works even having ended his tour of duty as India's honorary consul general in Liberia.

Mr. Sachedeva became the first Indian in African history to have been awarded the highest award by a sitting Liberian president since Liberia declared its independence on July 26, 1847.

His efforts in forging friendship, cordiality, peace and love between Liberia and India and enormous contributions to the growth of Liberia's



juice and water.

Mr. Sachedeva noted that he and his team were at South Beach to identify with the inmates because prison is not only a confinement center, but it is also where you are reformed.

According to him, to reform it needs a little bit of [good] food, adding that he sees it as his duty to do a little to solve that.

He told Prison Superintendent Mr. Varney Lake that he was grateful that he had been given the opportunity to go and distribute food to the prisoners, saying that the donation did not come from any source, but from the Jeety Trading Corporation.

Mr. Sachedeva's food distribution at the Monrovia Central Prison came just within a week after the Indian

commercial sector have been recognized by both the past and current governments.

Responding to Mr. Sachedeva over the weekend, Monrovia Central Prison Superintendent Mr. Varney Lake said he was gratified by Mr. Sachedeva's kind gesture, noting that it was not the first, second or third time that the Indian businessman has identified with the prison compound.

"We have been in good partnership with Jeety and his people. They are always here assisting us in the process," Mr. Lake said.

On behalf of the administration and the beneficiaries of the donation, Mr. Lake said he was very grateful and expressed confidence that Mr. Sachedeva will continue as he has always said.

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# "LACC partners with ACC of Sierra Leone"



Leonean press during the signing ceremony, Cllr. Gbala intimated that Sierra Leone has made dramatic strides in their quest for greater integrity in public life and therefore was worthy of study and emulation in the fight against corruption.

He cited the yearly improvements in Sierra Leone's scores on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index and the MCC Scorecard as evidence that Sierra Leone was proceeding diligently in the fight against corruption.

"Our study week here gave us the opportunity to see firsthand the ingredients that have produced those amazing results and to commence a thinking process about how some of those ingredients can be adapted back home in Liberia".

"As we head back home, we leave with a firm sense of the positive effects courageous and upright public leadership can have on the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of Sierra Leone have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) geared towards mutual cooperation, learning and engagement.

The MOU was signed on behalf of the LACC by Acting

Executive Chairman Kanio Bai Gbala and ACC Commissioner Francis Ben Kaifala on Friday, April 30 in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

The MOU which details specific areas of cooperation include provisions for regional cooperation around knowledge-sharing, technical expertise and capacity building.

Speaking to the Sierra

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# Pirlo urges Juventus to secure Champions League football 'at all costs'

Andrea Pirlo acknowledged his Juventus players are mentally drained but urged them to secure Champions League football next season "at all costs".

A late double from Cristiano Ronaldo helped Juve fight back from a goal down to beat Udinese 2-1 on Sunday as they climbed up to third place in Serie A.

The Bianconeri are level on 69 points with Atalanta in second and Milan in fourth,

and two points above fifth-placed Napoli, with four games remaining. Juve's performance against Udinese lacked intensity but the win eased some of the pressure on Pirlo's position as head coach as he explained the reason behind their struggles.

Pirlo told Sky Italia: "When you are not used to fighting for the Champions League, but you have always been used to the Scudetto, something changes in everyone's mind.

"There is a bit of everything. Tiredness, mental fatigue. But



now the goal has changed for a few weeks now and we have to reach Champions League qualification at all costs.

"It will be tiring, but we must get there. The team knows what it wants, it's united to reach the Champions League goal. That's the most important thing."

No team has won more points from behind than Juventus in Serie A this term (17, alongside Sassuolo) and Pirlo praised his players for their capacity to fight back on the day Inter secured the Serie A title.

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