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VOL.10 NO. 48

THURSDAY, APRIL 02, 2020

PRICE LD\$40.00

# A Total disgrace

## *-Nwabudike faces criminal prosecution*



**P11**

Cllr. Ndubusi Nwabudike



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# Continental News

## Coronavirus: Top South African HIV scientist dies

**T**ributes are being paid to world-renowned South African scientist Gita Ramjee, who has died from Covid-19-related complications.

"She dedicated many years of her life to finding HIV prevention solutions for women," her colleague and friend Gavin Churchyard told the BBC.

Head of UNAids Winnie Byanyima said Prof Ramjee's death was a huge loss at a time when the world needed her most.

South Africa has the largest number of people living with HIV in the world.

The country has begun a three-week lockdown as part of efforts to stop the spread of coronavirus. "The passing of Prof Ramjee comes as a huge blow to the entirety of the healthcare sector and the global fight against HIV/Aids," the country's Deputy President David Mabuza said in a statement.

"In her, we have indeed lost a champion in the fight against the HIV epidemic, ironically at the hands of this global pandemic. In her honour, we should heed the call to flatten the curve by

strengthening our responses to this global pandemic as well as continue the fight to achieve zero new HIV infections." Prof Ramjee, who died in hospital near the coastal city of Durban on Tuesday, had been working as the chief scientific officer at the Aurum Institute, a leading authority in the fight against HIV and TB.

"Gita was a vibrant person, a real fighter. If she sets her mind

on something, nobody better stand in her way," Aurum head Prof Churchyard, who knew her for many years, told the BBC's Pumza Fihlani.

"That will be my lasting memory of her - how she fought with everything to advance access to healthcare for women in disadvantaged communities." The HIV researcher fell ill after returning to South Africa in

mid-March from the UK, where she had been presenting at a symposium at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

She held an honorary professorship at the LSHTM, as well as the University of Washington and the University of Cape Town.

Two years ago she was given the Outstanding Female Scientist Award by the European Development Clinical Trials Partnerships.

Afterwards she told the HIV Trials Network: "I was absolutely thrilled by this award, as it recognises decades of my commitment to clinical research activities in HIV prevention. What makes it more rewarding is that I now stand among the female giants." She also spoke about her pride in having two successful sons and a

successful husband - and her advice for younger women interested in a career in science: "Love of the job, passion, drive and tenacity are critical traits to have for scientific excellence."

Prof Churchyard said Prof Ramjee would be greatly missed: "To have an African scientist, who is internationally recognised pass - really leaves a huge void for us.

"But Gita firmly believed in building capacity, in sharing knowledge and she did that. She leaves a tremendous legacy behind her and her work will continue.

"As an unrelenting fighter, unrelenting in her fight against HIV, against tuberculosis and now Covid-19. The last thing she would want us to do is to give up. We won't give up, we must keep fighting and working to find solutions." BBC



## Zimbabwe opposition leader removed as party head

**Z**imbabwe's main opposition leader has lost a court appeal to remain president of the biggest opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

Nelson Chamisa's

appointment as MDC leader in 2018 followed the death of Morgan Tsvangirai, a former union leader who had founded the MDC in 1999.

The Supreme Court ruled that that appointment was illegal as Mr Chamisa had not

been elected by a congress as per the party rules.

Despite the internal leadership wrangles, Mr Chamisa won close to 45% of the national presidential vote, losing narrowly to President Emmerson Mnangagwa in 2018 amidst claims of electoral fraud.

The MDC must now hold a congress within the next three months.

Thokozani Khupe, the former vice-president and Mr Chamisa's main challenger, will lead the party till then.

Both claim to be the legitimate leaders of the party. Mr Chamisa has more supporters and a control of the party's assets.

Analysts say his options now will be to appeal the ruling or form another party.

The MDC has split many times since its formation more than 20 years ago - in nasty power struggles that have weakened its performance at elections. BBC



Nelson Chamisa remains hugely popular among MDC supporters

## Botswana confirms first corona virus death

**B**otswana has announced its first coronavirus death just hours after confirming its first cases. The victim was an elderly woman who was discovered to have had Covid-19 after her death.

Botswana's Vice-President Slumber Tsogwane said the 79-

infectious disease even before her tests results came out.

Her results were announced on Tuesday evening - making her the fourth coronavirus case in Botswana.

President Mokgweetsi Masisi on Tuesday declared a



President Mokgweetsi Masisi has declared a lockdown from Thursday

year-old had travelled to neighbouring South Africa and on returning home she had developed a fever.

The woman was put under mandatory quarantine at the hospital where she died four days later. Mr Tsogwane said the woman was buried as a person with a suspected

state of emergency and an extreme lockdown for 28 days. It starts on Thursday and will see everyone barred from leaving their homes except those offering essential services. BBC

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# EDITORIAL

## COVID-19 fight makes life unbearable for citizens

**MEASURES BEING IMPLEMENTED** by the Government of Liberia to prevent spread of the COVID-19, including demolition of marketers' stalls is pushing citizens, most of them already at the margin of society, into grinding poverty and near death.

**LIKE IN MOST** African countries, majority of Liberians survive thru the informal sector, by engaging in petty trade. But the current demolition of market stalls as part of measures to promote social distancing appears to be having serious negative impact on ordinary citizens, making daily sustenance almost impossible.

**AUTHORITIES HERE HAVE** already shut down schools, churches, and mosques, among others as well as restrict large public gatherings in a string of preventive measures to maintain public safety.

**BUT WHAT SEEMS** to be ignored by the government is some form of stimulus package to help vulnerable citizens losing their only means of making life keep surviving until the crisis subsides any time soon.

**GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE SEEMS** one-sided, as focus is placed on shutting down, sending non-essential employees home, amid looming shortages of basic commodities and rising prices. Citizens' survivability is a problem here.

**WHILE WE WELCOME** these early measures, unexpected or corresponding repercussions should not be ignored or brushed aside, as if they do not exist. Students are not in school, parents are sent on compulsory leave and market stalls are being demolished. How do the people survive?

**HUNGER CAN PUSH** anyone to do something he never planned just to stay alive. And the way the authorities are proceeding may attract such deviant options unless current policies or responses are reconsidered.

**SURELY, THE GOVERNMENT** of Liberia is not interested in protecting corpses, but human lives. However, uncalculated measures against COVID-19 could boomerang if care were not taken, as the reality seems to be.

**SHUTTING DOWN BUSINESSES**, particularly in the informal sector in the absence of a national supportive package could become counter-productive not only to the population but the government itself, as it could invite a serious social problem for the entire country.

**WE ARE NOT** prophets of doom, but this is an honest endeavor to get our leaders to consider both sides of the coins before acting.

# COMMENTARY

By Robert J. Shiller

## The Two Pandemics

*Predicting the stock market at a time like this is hard. To do so well, we would have to predict the direct effects on the economy of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as all the real and psychological effects of the pandemic of financial anxiety. The two are different, but inseparable.*

**N**EW HAVEN - We are feeling the anxiety effects of not one pandemic but two. First, there is the COVID-19 pandemic, which makes us anxious because we, or people we love, anywhere in the world, might soon become gravely ill and even die. And, second, there is a pandemic of anxiety about the economic consequences of the first.

These two pandemics are interrelated, but are not the same phenomenon. In the second pandemic, stories of fear have gone so viral that we often think of them constantly. The stock market has been dropping like a rock, apparently in response to stories of COVID-19 depleting our lifetime saving unless we take some action. But, unlike COVID-19 itself, the source of our anxiety is that we are unsure what action to take.

It is not good news when two pandemics are at work simultaneously. One can feed the other. Business closures, soaring unemployment, and loss of income fuel financial anxiety, which may, in turn, deter people, desperate for work, from taking adequate precautions against the spread of the disease.

Moreover, it is not good news when two contagions are, indeed, global pandemics. When a drop in demand is confined to one country, the loss is partially spread abroad, while demand for the country's exports is not diminished much. But this time, that natural safety valve won't work, because the recession threatens nearly all countries.

Many people seem to assume that the financial anxiety is nothing more than a direct byproduct of the COVID-19 crisis - a perfectly logical reaction to the disease pandemic. But anxiety is not perfectly logical. The pandemic of financial anxiety, spreading through panicked reaction to price drops and changing narratives, has a life of its own.

The effects financial anxiety has on the stock market may be mediated by a phenomenon that psychologist Paul Slovic of the University of Oregon and his colleagues call the "affect heuristic." When people are emotionally upset because of a tragic event, they react with fear even in circumstances where there is no reason to fear.

In a joint paper with William Goetzmann and Dasol Kim, we found that nearby earthquakes affect people's judgment of the probability of a 1929- or 1987-size stock-market crash. If there was a substantial earthquake centering within 30 miles (48 kilometers) within the previous 30 days, respondents' assessment of the probability of a crash was significantly higher. That is the affect heuristic at work.

It might make more sense to expect a stock-market drop from a disease epidemic than from a recent earthquake, but maybe not a crash of the magnitude seen recently. If it were widely believed that a treatment could limit the intensity of the COVID-19 pandemic to a matter of months, or even that the pandemic would last a year or two, that would suggest that the stock-market risk is not so great for a long-term investor. One could buy, hold, and wait it out.

But a contagion of financial anxiety works differently than a contagion of disease. It is fueled in part by people noticing others' lack of confidence, reflected in price declines, and others' emotional reaction to the declines. A negative bubble in the stock market occurs when people see prices falling, and, trying to discover why, start amplifying stories that explain the decline. Then, prices fall on subsequent days, and again and again.

Observing successive decreases in stock prices creates a powerful feeling of regret for those who have not sold, together with a fear that one might sell at the bottom. This regret and fear prime people's interest in both pandemic narratives. Where the market goes from there depends on their nature and evolution.

To see this, consider that the stock market in the United States did not crater when, in September-October 1918, the news media first started covering the Spanish flu pandemic that eventually claimed 675,000 US lives (and over fifty million worldwide). Instead, monthly prices in the US market were on an uptrend from September 1918 to July 1919.

Why didn't the market crash? One likely explanation is that World War I, which was approaching its end after the last major battle, the Second Battle of the Marne, in July-August 1918, crowded out the influenza story, especially after the armistice in November of that year. The war story was likely more contagious than the flu story.

Another reason is that epidemiology was only in its infancy then. Outbreaks were not as forecastable, and the public did not fully believe experts' advice, with people's adherence to social-distancing measures "sloppy." Moreover, it was generally believed that economic crises were banking crises, and there was no banking crisis in the US, where the Federal Reserve System, established just a few years earlier, in 1913, was widely heralded as eliminating that risk.

But perhaps the most important reason the financial narrative was muted during the 1918 influenza epidemic is that far fewer people owned stocks a century ago, and saving for retirement was not the concern it is today, in part because people didn't live as long and more routinely depended on family if they did.

This time, of course, is different. We see buyers' panics at local grocery stores, in contrast to 1918, when wartime shortages were regular occurrences. With the Great Recession just behind us, we certainly are well aware of the possibility of major drops in asset prices. Instead of a tragic world war, this time the US is preoccupied with its own political polarization, and there are many angry narratives about the federal government's mishandling of the crisis.

Predicting the stock market at a time like this is hard. To do so well, we would have to predict the direct effects on the economy of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as all the real and psychological effects of the pandemic of financial anxiety. The two are different, but inseparable.

**The New Dawn**  
DAILY INDEPENDENT

## O-PED

By Joschka Fischer

## The Politics of the Pandemic

*Although the full implications of the COVID-19 pandemic remain to be seen, it is already clear that domestic and international politics will - and must - change to prevent an even deeper disaster. We are entering a brave new world in which "big government" and international solidarity are both unavoidable.*

**B**ERLIN - The asteroid has hit, and suddenly everything has changed. But the asteroid that has crashed into our planet is invisible. One needs a microscope, rather than a telescope, to see it.

With COVID-19, the world faces several crises in one: a global health crisis has triggered crises in the economy, civil society, and daily life. It remains to be seen whether political instability will follow, either within countries or internationally. But, clearly, the pandemic has drastically changed life as we know it. While the end of the crisis and its consequences can't be predicted, certain significant changes can be anticipated.

The crisis is not just complex, far-reaching, and threatening to the foundations of individual societies and the global economy. It is also many times more dangerous and extensive than the 2008 global financial crisis. Unlike that episode, the coronavirus threatens millions of lives around the world, and its effects on the economy are not centered in only one sector.

Around the world, most economic activity has been frozen, setting the stage for a global recession. Apart from the death toll and the stability of health systems, the big question right now is how severe the economic downturn will be, and what permanent consequences it will have.

Similarly, we can only guess what effects the virus will have on already-fragile regions, and particularly on refugee camps. Iran seems to be heading for a major humanitarian crisis, in which the poorest and most vulnerable will be the most affected. Beyond that, it is still too early for any remotely realistic assessment of COVID-19's humanitarian consequences.

But past experience tells us that major shocks such as this do tend to disrupt political systems and international relations. Western democracies, in particular, may find their governance called into question. The principles of human rights may be pitted against economic imperatives. The pandemic also invites a generational conflict between young and old, and between authoritarianism and liberal democracy.

And yet an alternative scenario is possible, in which the COVID-19 crisis gives rise to a new solidarity. Lest we forget, an earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean in December 2004 created the conditions for ending the civil war in Aceh, North Sumatra.

In the short term, the countries most affected by the pandemic will become crisis economies: governments will pursue enormous levels of spending and other unconventional measures to prevent a total collapse. The effectiveness of the response remains to be seen. But it is clear that the relationship between the economy and the state will undergo a fundamental change.

In a marked departure from the prevailing wisdom of recent decades, we are already witnessing the return of "big government." Everyone is looking to the state to inject huge sums of money into the economy, and to rescue (or take over) imperiled companies and sectors that are deemed essential. The state's massively increased role will have to be scaled back after the crisis has passed, but how to do so is up for debate. Ideally, governments will transfer the returns that come from re-privatization into a sovereign wealth fund, thus giving the public a share in the post-crisis settlement.

Until then, "big government" - whether the European Commission or national authorities - will be expected to prepare for the next disaster. Rather than being caught completely off guard again, it will need to ensure the provision of as essential medical supplies, personal protective equipment, disinfectants, adequate laboratory capacity, intensive-care units, and so forth.

But that isn't all. The stability, efficiency, capacity, and costs of existing health-care systems will remain a salient issue. The COVID-19 crisis has shown that it isn't really possible to privatize health care. In fact, public health is a basic public good, and a critical factor in strategic security.

There will also be increased, sustained attention to the pharmaceutical sector, particularly the domestic provision of critical drugs and development of new ones. Many countries will no longer be willing to rely on international supply chains that can easily break down in an emergency.

This is not to suggest that the market economy will be abolished. But the state absolutely will assert itself vis-à-vis the business community, at least when it comes to strategic issues. For example, the crisis will invite a major policy push for digital sovereignty in Europe. Its model will not be that of authoritarian China, but that of democratic South Korea, which has established a digital edge.

So far, however, the EU has not played a prominent role in the global response to COVID-19. This is not surprising. In existential crises, people tend to revert to what they know best, and what they know best is the nation-state. But while Europe's nation-states certainly can play an immediate crisis-management role, they cannot resolve the crisis.

After all, the single market, the joint currency, and the European Central Bank are the only mechanisms that can prevent an economic collapse and enable an eventual recovery in Europe. The COVID-19 crisis is thus likely to force Europeans "ever closer" together, requiring even deeper solidarity.

What is the alternative? A return to the world where everyone fends for themselves? For EU member-state governments, that would amount to political and economic suicide.

The COVID-19 pandemic is the first crisis of the twenty-first century that truly affects all of humankind. But more crises will follow, and they will not all come in the form of a virus. Indeed, the fast-forward crisis we are now experiencing is a preview of what is yet to come if we do not address climate change.

The only way to manage generalized threats to humanity is through more intensive cooperation and coordination among governments and multilateral institutions. To name but one, the World Health Organization - and the United Nations more generally - must be strengthened at all costs. COVID-19 is a reminder that all eight billion of us are in the same boat.

## OPINION

By Sigmar Gabriel

## The Lethal Threat of COVID-19 Isolationism

*The pandemic has revealed a vacuum in global leadership that now threatens us all. With the US and China stirring up geopolitical resentment, Europe must embrace its responsibility and reinvent itself on the global stage.*

**B**ERLIN - Under President Donald Trump, the United States is not actively seeking cooperation with other countries in combating COVID-19, leaving the global fight against the coronavirus fractured. Far more than the US-European dispute over the role of NATO, the silence surrounding the pandemic between the two sides shows that one can hardly speak of a transatlantic community.

Even worse, the US is resorting to conspiracy theories. Just as China claims that the coronavirus was developed in US military laboratories and serves to damage China's rise, the Trump administration calls COVID-19 the "Chinese virus," stirring up geopolitical resentment.

At the same time, China is trying to make its mark in the crisis by providing aid to hard-hit countries. It is not the US or Europe that is currently providing the most support to Italy, Spain, or Africa; it is China, which has sent medical teams and supplies. Seldom has it been possible to observe so clearly how China is replacing Western global leadership.

During the Great Recession that followed the 2008 global financial crisis, China was not so strong, and the US was not so self-centered. Shortly after the financial-market jugglers had led themselves and the rest of the world into the abyss, the finance ministers of the world's top 20 economies met to discuss joint responses. So far, despite a recent virtual summit, the G20 has not played a similar role.

Even before the appearance of COVID-19, the antagonism between the US and China was central to resolving Europe's global role. It is clear that Europe would be marginalized in a G2 world, in which the US and China dominate, even though Europe's prosperity is directly linked to the openness of global markets.

But Europe's global role will also be determined by how it deals with the COVID-19 crisis, and the pandemic is weakening its unity, almost to the point of despair. The European Union has failed miserably so far. Only the independent European Central Bank has acted. As in the euro crisis nearly a decade ago, the ECB's "whatever it takes" policy has kept the currency stable and provided member states with the liquidity they need. Until now, neither the European Commission nor the European Council has engaged in anything comparable. On the contrary, Italians probably will never forget that, when people in Lombardy were already dying en masse, Germany imposed an export ban on medical supplies to Italy.

We are currently witnessing the consequences of fair-weather multilateralism: European and international cooperation is easy when it costs nothing. German politicians in particular want "Europe à la carte": they want Germany to be an export champion in good times, benefiting from open borders and frictionless trade, but then turn inward in times of crisis. That is why the Eurogroup of eurozone finance ministers could not agree recently on joint aid for Italy and Spain.

Simply put, COVID-19 is not the only contagion threatening Europe: While Italy and Spain struggle to contain the pandemic, the Eurogroup succumbed to the same "my-country-first" virus that infected the Greek debt crisis a few years ago. The idea that aid to affected eurozone members should be approved only if they implement major reform programs is incomprehensible political stupidity. One can only hope that heads of government will be smarter than their finance ministers - as leaders were in 2015. It is noteworthy that all German economists, even those who have traditionally opposed debt mutualization, now recommend the opposite. After all, Italy and Spain cannot shoulder the necessary financial burden to fight the virus and stabilize their economies. They need all eurozone states to share the necessary loans; whether one calls them Euro bonds or corona bonds is irrelevant.

There is still time to change course in Europe - and internationally. But perhaps the most dangerous consequence of the COVID-19 crisis is that citizens' only protection is the nation-state. As a result, the coronavirus threatens not only people, but also international unification projects, including the European Union, which was established and painstakingly built to end centuries of war on the continent.

Whether Europe can overcome the crisis, maintain its unity, and play a meaningful global role will depend on whether it offers a viable alternative to the "save yourself if you can" sensibility. We can find out only if everyone takes responsibility for Europe's future. Only then will our societies be able to move in the right direction.

Of course, this also means moving into the unknown, which requires courage. We cannot answer every question conclusively, but, in attempting to overcome the COVID-19 crisis, Europe has an opportunity to reinvent itself. We must not squander it.



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## PRESS STATEMENT

BY THE LIBERIAN NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

ON THE NOMINATION AND CONFIRMATION PROCEEDINGS OF NEC  
COMMISSIONERS-DESIGNATE

April 1, 2020

Fellow Compatriots,  
Members of the Fourth Estate:

The Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA "the Bar") is following with keen interest the confirmation proceedings of the six (6) persons, especially the Chairman, nominated by the President of the Republic of Liberia to serve on the Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission (NEC). While LNBA acknowledges that it is the President's exclusive power to nominate these officials pursuant to Section 2.1 of the New Elections Law (1986) and in the exercise of his presidential power under the constitution of Liberia, it wishes to point out the importance of the President's appointing power in the promotion and maintenance of peace, progress and prosperity in Liberia. The Bar particularly encourages the Liberian Senate to exercise its constitutional power of giving consent to ensure that each nominee meets the requirements of the law. In addition to the statutory requirements for appointing officials of Government, the LNBA strongly believes that a vetting process based on the experience and integrity of each nominee would be in line with the letter, spirit and intent of the Constitution and statutory laws of Liberia.

The Bar believes that elections, peace, and socioeconomic development are inseparable. So, it is no doubt that NEC is regarded as one of the most important vehicles in achieving sustainable peace and constitutional democracy in Liberia. Therefore, the success of any democratic elections must begin with amassing public trust, and attaining credibility, in the electoral system and those who are appointed as stewards of the elections system.

The Bar also notes that the public discontentment, apprehension, and outcry and protestation from several members of political parties, civil society groups and other quarters of the public at large that have eclipsed the nomination and confirmation process of the NEC Commissioner designate. The Bar hereby advises the Government of Liberia to ensure that the citizenry have trust in NEC, so as to have an assurance that their will, when expressed at any elections

conducted by NEC, will be reflected through a transparent and credible process, thus effecting Article 1 of the Constitution, which provides that "the people shall have the right ... to cause their public servants to leave office and to fill vacancies by regular elections..."

We specifically call upon the Senate to ensure that Section 2.3 of the New Elections Law (1986), which provides that only Liberian citizens having good moral character are eligible for appointment as Commissioners of NEC, is met by the appointees. Any confirmation, appointment and/or commissioning of any of the nominees that would violate both the New Elections Law and Constitution is likely to cause chaos.

History teaches us that the lack of public trust in the conduct of elections and/or manipulation of elections or election results in the past triggered some of our country's worst experiences. For instance, the forceful removal of President E.J. Roye was partly attributed to the manipulation of the result of a referendum for the increase in the term of office of the Presidency and the arbitrary postponement by him of a pending presidential election. The resignation of President Charles D. B. King and his Vice President stemmed from the conduct of the most fraudulent elections ever in world history in 1927 and is recorded in the Guinness Book of Record as the most rigged election in world history. It was the rigging of the 1927 presidential election that led President King's rivals to lodge a complaint to the League of Nations. The rigged elections of 1985 led to the brutal civil war in our country five years later. Lack of confidence in the electoral process and its results have been at the foundation of conflicts in Liberia. Our government must, therefore, take all measures consistent with law and the public good, to stimulate the trust, confidence in the integrity of the NEC to conduct a free, fair and transparent election, so as to prevent any threat to our fledgling democracy and introduce another fratricidal conflict in our dear country. Confidence in NEC starts with nominating and confirming of persons generally perceived by the voting population to be men and women of integrity, that are independent-minded and experienced in decision-making as well as ensuring that appointees meet the requirements of the law - Liberian citizens that possess good moral character.

Meanwhile, the attention of the Bar has been drawn to the brewing controversy over the citizenship of its member, Cllr. A. Ndubuisi Nwabudike, recently nominated for the position of Chairman of the National Elections Commission. The Bar says Section 17.1

of the Judiciary Law restricts the practice of law in Liberia to only Liberian citizens; therefore, because these continuing doubts being expressed regarding his citizenship and his responses regarding how he obtained his Liberian citizenship and in the effort of the Bar to clear all doubts regarding the citizenship of Cllr. Ndubuisi Nwabudike, the National Executive Council of the LNBA has mandated its Grievance and Ethics Committee to expeditiously conduct an investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding the issues being raised about the citizenship of Cllr. Nwabudike in order to verify whether or not he met the requirements of becoming a citizen of Liberia and provide a clarification to the public, or proceed with appropriate legal steps if a contrary conclusion is reached by the LNBA.

The LNBA assures the Liberian people that, as the general counsel of the Liberian nation, it will continue to perform its role in advocating for and ensuring adherence to the rule of law by all branches of government and the people of Liberia.

Secretary General LNBA

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Marketers to benefit modern structures -after demolition of stalls**

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson T. Koijee, who led City Police Officers in the densely congested commercial district of Waterside recently to demolish marketers' stalls as part city government's COVID-19 regulations, assures

government over the weekend to make the city clean in amid the Coronavirus pandemic in the country.

However, addressing a news conference earlier at the Monrovia City Corporation, he said the demolition exercise is part of social distancing measures in Waterside, one of

country coupled with the Coronavirus crisis.

"The President has assured us that those structures will be modernized in a different location. All stores in the area should now maintain the sanity needed beginning March 31, 2020. Our city must be cleaned and we must ensure the safety of our people. The victims should take heart and not panic," says the Mayor.

When asked about city police officers chasing marketers and taking away their goods, Mayor Koijee denies, at no point in time did any of his officers get involved in such act, dismissing the claims as negative criticizing.

"Myself I'm a victim of huge criticizing and allegation, if anyone think our officers are involved in those acts let them come with evidence".

"We respect our marketers and we earlier informed them before the action. We care for them," Koijee defends.

He calls on Liberians and residents within the bailiwick of the city to adhere to health protocols put in place by the government through the Ministry of Health.

"Help us save yourselves. We must lead the drive in

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



affected marketers they will receive modern structures, but in different locations of the capital.

He maintains the stalls were demolished by the city

the densely populated commercial hubs in the capital.

The demolition angered marketers in the area as they complained of current economic hardship in the

**Rep. Nagbe Sloh deems Nwabudike's appointment as a misstep**

By Lewis S. Teh

Sinoe County Electoral District 2 Representative J. Nagbe Sloh has termed the appointment of Cllr. Ndubuisi Nwabudike by President George Manneh Weah to head the National Elections Commission as complete misstep.

"President Weah's decision is a serious misstep, and for me I really don't care about his credentials. Imagine 14 counties voted this president, is my party the CDC (Coalition for Democratic Change) telling me no one is competent to conduct our election?" Rep. Sloh said recently on a local radio.

Representative Sloh says President Weah's decision to appoint Cllr. Nwabudike is not in the interest of the people of Liberia that elected him as president, questioning those advising the president to make such decision.

Sloh claims that President Weah's decisions, such as bringing a Nigerian to head the National Elections

Commission (NEC), are part of reasons why thousands of partisans went against the ruling party in Montserrado's senatorial by - election last

is why about 14 counties overwhelmingly voted this president. And at this time he can't afford any form of controversy," he warns.

He believes that attention must be given to the fight against coronavirus, rather



Representative J. Nagbe Sloh

year.

"This appointment has sparked serious disenchantment from the public, but as a lawmaker and a CDCian, my cry is the dual allegiance," Rep. Sloh laments.

"We all love this country that

than President Weah appointing a foreign national and causing so much controversy.

It can be recalled that on March 21, President Weah nominated new state officials to the National Elections

**Police charge Pastor for rapping girl, 15**

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Police in Gbarnga, Bong County have charged and sent to court the pastor of the St. John United Methodist Church in Gbarnga for allegedly raping a 15-year-old girl.

Our Bong County correspondent says police refused to speak with the media, but inside source said that Pastor Samuel Karyeah had on several occasions pretended to be the play father of the 15-year-old victim.

Our source says that Pastor Karyeah used to provide some of the victim's needs, including an ITEL phone.

The source who begged not to be named, explains that Pastor Karyeah might have been in a relationship with the girl's mother who has not been identified.

Despite the refusal of the police to provide the charge sheet to the media, an insider says that Rev. Karyeah allegedly raped the girl in September 2019, saying the incident

occurred on two separate occasions.

The insider details that the first time Rev. Karyeah allegedly raped the girl at the Gbarnga School of Theology (GST) Compound, while the second meeting was at the Lelekpaya Community.

Medical report has established that the girl was tampered with.

Our Bong County correspondent says that on Wednesday, 1 April, Rev. Karyeah was handcuffed and escorted by some members of the Liberia National Police including Deputy Police Commissioner of Bong Fredrick Napay to the 9th Judicial Circuit Court in Gbarnga.

The parents of the girl and the defendant have made no comment but some civil society organizations in Bong are calling for justice to prevail.

Rev. Karyeah got married barley six months before allegedly rapping the 15-year-old girl.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

**AME University appoints interim president**

It was a jubilant mood Tuesday, 31 March when the baton of leadership was handed over to Rev. Alvin E. Attah by the Board of Trustees of the University.

Performing the ceremony, the 1st Vice Chairperson of the Board, Dr. Josephine George-Francis, asserted that the Board of Trustees has absolute confidence that under the leadership of Rev. Attah, the University will continue strongly in its pursuit for excellence.

She indicated that the Board is convinced that Rev. Attah has the ability to demonstrate leadership skills necessary for the dynamic pursuit of the goals and objectives embodied in the vision and mission of the University.

In response, the Interim President, Rev. Alvin E. Attah thanked the Board of Trustees for the preferment and embraced his new position with utmost humanity and much honesty. "My driving force remains service with Competence, Integrity, and

Commitment", he said.

Rev. Alvin E. Attah holds a BSc. Degree in Physics from the University of Calabar, Nigeria; a MSc. Degree in Project Management from the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria; a MBA in Management from the University of Liberia, and a MTh. Degree in Theology from the Cuttington University Graduate School of Professional Studies, respectively.

Earlier, he served as an Examiner for the West African Examination Council in Nigeria, a full-time faculty and Research Fellow at the University of Calabar in Nigeria.

In public service, he worked as Deputy National Authorizing Officer at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs in Monrovia; Deputy Minister for Economic Management at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, and most recently, as the Associate Vice President for Administration at the AME University.

Winston W. Parley

Commission, including Cllr. Ndubuisi Nwabudike as Chairman.—*Edited by*

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Commerce Minister warns against profiteering**

In the wake of the arbitrary hike in prices of sanitizers and related products on the Liberian market, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has sounded a strongly-worded warning to businesses trying to profiteer out of the Corona Virus situation.

According to the Commerce Ministry, the concerned business institutions include Sethi Brothers, producers of duraplast buckets, Mano Manufacturing Company, producers of alcohol, Clorox and hand-washing soap as well as sanitizers, and Sunny Brothers, one of Liberia's highest importers of chlorine.

Prior to the Corona Virus outbreak in Liberia, rubber buckets were sold between LRD500.00-LDR600.00 but they cost rose to over LRD1,000.00 per bucket.

The Ministry's strongly-worded statement was issued Monday, March 30, 2020, during a meeting at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town.

In the meeting, attended by the Managements of Sethi Brothers, Sunny Brothers and Mano Manufacturing Company, the Ministry said it was unfair for people to be taking advantage of the Corona Virus situation in Liberia to engage in



Mr. Sethi



Mr. Ricky



Mr. Wolo

exploitative practices in the business sector.

"In times like these, we look forward to you identifying with our citizens like your colleagues are doing in other countries rather than inflict the cost of essential materials during the Emergency Health crisis in Liberia."

The Commerce Ministry authorities also told the gathering that doing business in Liberia is not a right but a privilege; noting further that Government will not allow such privilege to be abused through the inordinate desire of certain business establishments to maximize profit at the expense of the Liberian people.

As part of its ongoing efforts to ensure proper monitoring relative to the issue of arbitrary hike in prices of the named items, Commerce Minister Wilson Tarpeh requested the cited business entities to provide full listing of retailers who are buying from them.

The Commerce Ministry also urged the public to help its inspectors by exposing any form of unwholesome business practices across Liberia.

Meanwhile, speaking during the meeting, the Chief Executive Officer of Sethi Brothers, Paul Sethi, hailed

the Ministry for the meeting, describing it as part of collaboration between government and the invited businesses.

Mr. Sethi, however said the price of the plastic buckets have not been increased by his entity in the last ten years.

He continued that a dozen of the plastic buckets has been sold for US\$27.00, noting that even at present, they are bringing in faucets and related items by air, which, according to Mr. Sethi is costly.

Speaking further, he called on retailers to stop increasing the price of the items and indicated that there are others who are bringing in similar

buckets on the local market and may be the ones causing the problem.

Mr. Sethi equally agreed with the Commerce Ministry authorities that it was unfair for certain people to be increasing the prices of the items at a time Liberians are struggling to contend with the Corona Virus.

Also speaking, Mr. Babani Rickey, of Sunny Brothers, said they have not increased the prices of sanitizing items, including chlorine at the entity.

According to Mr. Rickey, a kilo of the item is sold for US\$5.00. He however pledged not to engage in unfair business practices in the country.

Meanwhile adding his voice to his colleagues, the Administrative Manager for Mano Manufacturing Company, Montgomery Wolo, said the company remains committed to assurances made by its CEO at the onset of the Corona Virus crisis in Liberia, by working along with the Liberian government to defeat the virus.

Mr. Wolo, noted further that Mano Manufacturing Company has not increased prices and has no plans of inflicting additional pains on the citizens during the current health crisis. Like previous speakers, he also said it is dealers out there who are causing the problem. -Press Release

**Liberia's fire chief lauds Chicago Fire Dept. for donation**

The Director General of the Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS) Col. Alex Dickson lauds the Chicago Fire Department of the United States for contributing toward the fight against fire outbreaks here.

According to a press release, the Chicago Fire Department recently donated several firefighting equipment to the Government of Liberia through the LNFS worth several thousand United States dollars.

The equipment includes

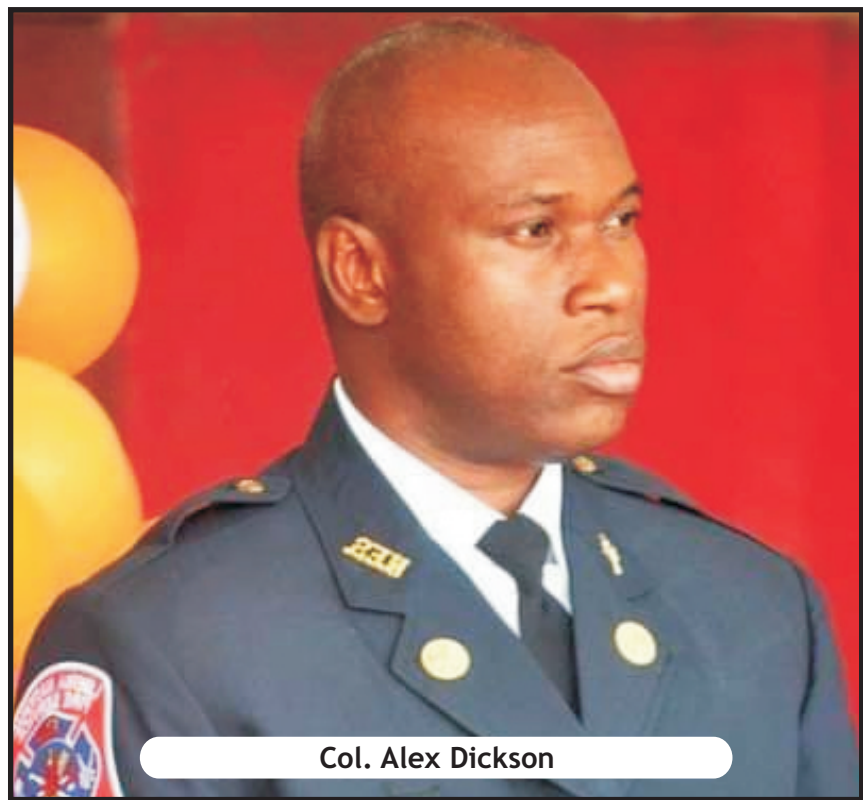
ambulance, First Aid Kits, and fire fighting tools, among other supplies. The move by the Chicago Fire Department is the institution's way of complementing the LNFS in combating fire outbreaks in Liberia which have caused the loss of lives and property.

Col. Dickson assures the Chicago Fire authorities that the materials will be used for the intended purpose and discloses plan to meet with the Minnesota, Columbia and Fairfax fire departments of America for training opportunities for Liberian fire service personnel.

According to him, the meeting will ensure the coming of four fire trainers to Liberia to impart the necessary firefighting knowledge and skills into personnel of the LNFS.

The LNFS is experiencing reform through the attraction of interest from development partners around the world.

Recently, the Government of India donated five fire trucks to the Government of Liberia through the LNFS. - Press Release



Col. Alex Dickson

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**Marketers to benefit**

Cont'd from page 6

combating this disease. We are not in violation, but we are in adherence to the health protocols," he adds.

"You gave us responsibilities and we will make decisions in your interest for your safety. Every shop and business center should use soaps and buckets at all times. Every table should have buckets."

Meanwhile, Mayor Koijee thanks the religious community for cooperating after the closure of churches, mosques and schools, among

others, assuring, "We will not compromise your safety."

The Government of Liberia (GOL's) enforcement of Coronavirus prevent measures at the Waterside General Market in Monrovia, demolishing stalls left the densely populated commercial district virtually a ghost town, as aggrieved and frustrated marketers vehemently protested the move by state security.

# Français

## La nomination de Nwabudike et de Saylor à la tête de la NEC de plus en plus contestée

La plateforme de l'opposition demande au Sénat libérien de ne pas confirmer certaines personnalités récemment nommées à la tête de la commission électorale nationale (NEC). La nomination de Ndubuisi Nwabudike et de Floyd Saylor provoque depuis quelques jours un tollé général dans le pays.

Les partis politiques de l'opposition estiment que la nomination faite par le président George Weah est un affront à l'égard du peuple libérien. Ils demandent que les personnes récemment nommées à la tête de la commission électorale, dont notamment Ndubuisi Nwabudike (président), Floyd Saylor, Davidetta Lasanna et Josephine Kou Gaye (commissaires) nesoient pas confirmées pour manque d'intégrité et pour « crise d'identité ».

Me Nwabudike, un libérien naturalisé autoproclamé d'origine Nigériane, a dit aux sénateurs à Capitol Hill lundi lors de l'audience de confirmation qu'il avait été naturalisé libérien en 1982 à

l'âge de 16 ans, accompagné d'un adulte.

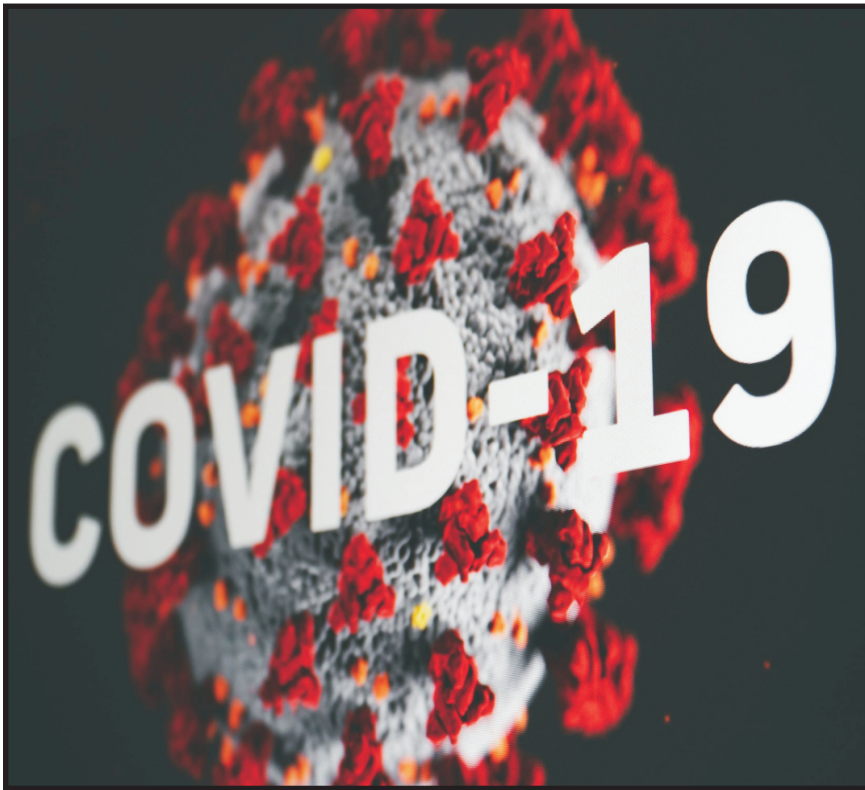
Cependant, le chapitre 21 de la loi sur l'immigration et la nationalité du Libéria stipule qu'un demandeur de naturalisation doit être âgé d'au moins 21 ans au moment de la demande.

Ce processus nécessite une approche en deux étapes - c'est-à-dire faire d'abord une déclaration d'intention de naturaliser devant un tribunal, suivie de la requête en

naturalisation qui doit être déposée entre le deuxième et le troisième anniversaire de la déclaration d'intention.

Mais les experts juridiques disent l'argument selon lequel Me Nwabudike prétend qu'il a été admis au Barreau national du Libéria par la Cour suprême et que, par conséquent, la validation de sa citoyenneté libérienne ne tient pas la route simplement

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Le Parti de la Liberté rejette la nomination de Nwabudike et de Saylor à la tête de la NEC

Le Parti de la Liberté (opposition) s'oppose à la nomination de Me Ndubuisi Nwabudike comme président et de M. Floyd Saylor comme commissaire de la Commission électorale nationale.

Dans un communiqué de presse publié à Monrovia le

26 mars, le Parti de la Liberté a appelé le président George Manneh Weah à retirer les deux candidatures dans un esprit d'équité et de transparence.

Le LP (Liberty Party), en collaboration avec la plateforme de l'opposition, a déclaré que le fait que le

président Weah nommé M. Nwabudike à la tête de plusieurs institutions clés de l'Etat laisse à croire qu'il y a entre eux une relation profonde qui dépasse les limites de l'ordinaire, d'où le risque de paraître comme un acolyte du président et d'être entièrement à son service.

En ce qui concerne M. Floyd Saylor, son intégrité et sa probité morale sont mises en cause par le parti de l'opposition qui l'accuse de s'être livré, en tant que chef du centre des données de la NEC, à de mauvaises pratiques et d'avoir causé de l'embarras au pays lors de la récente élection partielle dans le district 15 du comté de Montserrado en 2019.

« Nous avons cru que maintenant M. Saylor serait volontairement retiré de la NEC, étant donné les innombrables controverses et conflits électoraux qu'il a orchestrés et les

## Mort de Pape Diouf, ancien président de l'OM, emporté par le coronavirus

Pape Diouf, 68 ans, est décédé ce mardi 31 mars du Covid-19, alors qu'il devait être transféré de Dakar vers la France. Il était une personnalité influente du football français et africain. Après avoir été journaliste puis agent de joueurs, le Franco-Sénégalais avait présidé l'Olympique de Marseille de 2005 à 2009.

Avec sa haute stature et son éloquence, Pape Diouf ne laissait pas indifférent. Ce passionné de sports, né en 1951 à Abéché au Tchad, n'aimait de toutes les façons pas la tiédeur. Fils de militaire, il ne manquait pas de caractère. Et il lui en a fallu pour désobéir à son père en suivant une autre voie que la sienne.

Parti à 18 ans dans le sud de la France, Pape Diouf bifurque en effet. « La raison principale qui m'a fait venir en France est que je devais faire l'école militaire, racontait-il à OM Mag en 2008. Quand je suis arrivé, je me suis rendu compte que c'était un véritable engagement dans l'armée et non une école. J'ai refusé de m'engager. J'ai donc dû subvenir à mes besoins en enchaînant les petits boulots. Le premier, c'était en tant que coursier. Ensuite, j'ai été pointeur au port de Marseille puis j'ai fait de la manutention. Bien plus tard, j'ai tenté le concours d'entrée à l'IEP d'Aix-en-Provence que j'ai réussi. » Un journaliste au cœur du réacteur marseillais

Son passage à Sciences Po Aix s'avère toutefois anecdotique. Par le biais d'une connaissance, le Franco-Sénégalais intègre le journal local La Marseillaise. « Ce furent des années fabuleuses pour moi, assurait-il. J'y ai d'abord travaillé en tant que "claviste" (personne qui compose sur un clavier les caractères d'un texte à imprimer, ndlr), puis comme correcteur. En même temps, j'étais déjà pigiste au service des sports. On m'a ensuite proposé de me consacrer uniquement au service des sports. »

Après avoir traité de l'actualité du basket-ball, le journaliste devient responsable de la rubrique football et couvre celle de l'OM. Pape Diouf se retrouve au cœur du réacteur footballistique marseillais.

Virage vers la fonction d'agent

En 1987, Pape Diouf rejoint la rédaction du nouveau quotidien, Le Sport, censé

concurrer L'Équipe. L'aventure s'achève au bout de quelques mois. Le reporter se retrouve alors à un tournant de sa vie. « Au même moment, deux hommes sont intervenus : Joseph-Antoine Bell et Basile Boli, souligne l'intéressé, au sujet de l'ex-gardien de but et de l'ancien défenseur de l'OM. Tous deux voulaient que je m'occupe de leur carrière. Je connaissais les principes et les grandes lignes du métier d'agent de joueurs. J'ai hésité, eu égard à la réputation de ce métier. Au final, j'ai pris la décision de le faire. »

C'est le début d'une période faste. Pape Diouf, doté d'un large carnet d'adresses, se bâtit un solide réseau. Il gère les intérêts de grands noms comme Marcel Desailly, Bernard Lama ou Didier Drogba.

Des résultats à l'OM mais pas de titres

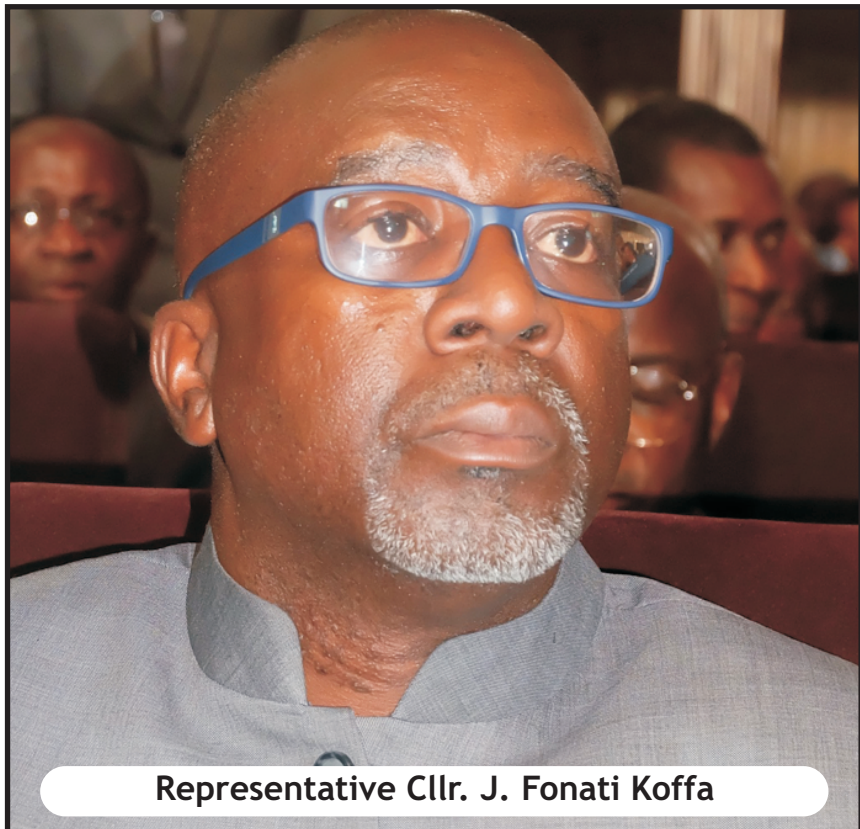
En 2004, nouveau tournant. Pape Diouf passe une nouvelle fois de l'autre côté de la barrière. Il intègre l'OM en tant que manager général du club. Quelques mois plus tard, il devient le président du club phocéen, grâce à l'appui de son propriétaire Robert Louis-Dreyfus.

Après deux premières saisons convenables, durant lesquelles la formation azurée finit 5e du championnat de France, celle-ci franchit un palier. Les Marseillais terminent sur le podium durant les trois exercices suivants.

Mais malgré des résultats plus que probants, Marseille ne remporte aucun trophée notable durant cette période. Et des tensions avec d'autres membres de la direction ont raison de la présidence de Pape Diouf, en juin 2009.

« Une anomalie sympathique »

Durant la décennie qui suit, Pape Diouf reste un observateur et un commentateur assidu du football, français et africain notamment. Fier de son parcours, le binational aimait à se définir comme « une anomalie sympathique », même si son statut de seul président noir d'un gros club européen de football le rendait parfois amer. « C'est un constat pénible, à l'image de la société européenne et surtout, française, qui exclut les minorités ethniques », jugeait-il dans une interview à Jeune Afrique.



Representative Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



# Français

## La nomination de Nwabudike et de Saylor à

parce que la Cour suprême n'a pas pour mission d'enquêter sur les réclamations et que ce n'est pas elle qui attribue la citoyenneté.

Sa citoyenneté a suscité une large opposition parmi les Libériens et les politiciens ordinaires et soulevé des questions d'intégrité et de crédibilité quant à son choix pour diriger la commission électorale du Libéria.

Le président Weah, le 21 mars, nommait à la tête de la NEC, Me Nwabudike en tant que président, Madame Davidetta Browne Lansanah, coprésidente, Me Ernestine Morgan-Awar, M. Floyd Saylor, Barsee Kpankpa et Madame Josephine Kou Gaye Commissaires.

Mais la coalition au pouvoir a qualifié mardi la décision des partis d'opposition de dangereuse. La Coalition pour Changement Démocratique désapprouve également la décision du comité sénatorial sur l'élection de solliciter les opinions des dirigeants des

partis politiques sur l'audition de confirmation du président et des commissaires de la NEC, affirmant qu'il s'agit d'un dangereux précédent pour l'espace démocratique du Libéria.

S'exprimant lors de la réunion convoquée par le comité mardi 31 mars, dans la salle d'audience conjointe du parlement, le président du CDC, Mulbah Morlu, a déclaré que les sénateurs qui sont considérés comme des aînés n'ont pas bien fait de demander l'avis des partis politiques sur la confirmation des personnalités récemment nommées à la tête de la commission électorale. C'est, selon le parti, quelque chose qui ne doit pas être encouragé.

Le parti a dit ne pas se soucier de quiconque est nommé ou dirige la Commission électorale nationale parce qu'il est populaire auprès du peuple libérien. Il a appelé les sénateurs à ne pas se baser sur « les sentiments et le mensonge des leaders de l'opposition ».

## Le Parti de la Liberté rejette la nomination

conséquences économiques et sécuritaires qui en découlent pour notre pays. La présence de M. Saylor au sein de la hiérarchie de la NEC minerait la crédibilité de l'organe électoral et menacerait sérieusement la paix et la sécurité de notre pays », a indiqué le communiqué.

Le Parti de la liberté s'est vanté d'avoir toujours lutté pour des réformes électorales garantes des élections libres, équitables et transparentes au Libéria.

« Nous affirmons que nous ne faillirons jamais à cette responsabilité démocratique sacrée tant que les réformes électorales nécessaires n'auront pas été effectuées pour soutenir notre démocratie. La récente communication de notre leader politique, le sénateur Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, demandant le soutien de ses collègues pour s'enquérir de l'état de préparation de la NEC en ce qui concerne l'organisation des prochaines élections sénatoriales à mi-mandat de 2020, et son respect de l'injonction de la Cour suprême suite au contentieux électoral de 2017, s'inscrivent dans le cadre de la continuation de notre combat pour des

réformes électorales. Nous croyons très fermement qu'au cœur de toute démocratie pacifique et saine, il y a l'organisation des élections libres, équitables et transparentes, qui, à son tour est fonction de la neutralité des mécanismes électoraux, y compris ceux qui président à l'organisation des élections, » a dit le parti.

Le parti a promis qu'en dépit de son engagement dans la lutte contre le COVID-19 au Libéria, il ne perdrait pas de vue ses obligations et continuerait de suivre de près les activités de toutes les instances de gouvernance pertinentes dans le pays et prendrait des mesures rapides si nécessaire.

« Nous voulons rassurer le public que si le président Weah ne retire pas ces nominations, le Parti de la Liberté usera de tous les moyens constructifs à sa disposition pour résister à leur confirmation. Notre leader politique et président, ainsi que nos deux autres sénateurs, mèneront la résistance contre la confirmation de ces candidats et inviteront tous les sénateurs de l'opposition et ceux qui croient que notre paix en tant que pays dépend d'un système électoral crédible à se joindre à nous.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Robert J. Shiller

# Une double pandémie

**N**EW HAVEN - Nous ressentons aujourd'hui les effets anxiogènes de deux pandémies. Partout dans le monde, la première pandémie, celle du COVID-19, nous fait redouter que nos proches tombent gravement malades, voire qu'ils décèdent. La seconde réside dans une pandémie d'inquiétude quant aux conséquences économiques de la première.

Ces deux pandémies sont corrélées, mais ne participent pas du même phénomène. Dans le cadre de la seconde, un certain nombre d'informations effroyables deviennent si virales que nous y pensons constamment. Le marché boursier est en chute libre, apparemment en réaction aux informations selon lesquelles le COVID-19 risquerait de faire disparaître nos épargnes de toute une vie si nous n'agissons pas. Pour autant, à la différence de celle du COVID-19 lui-même, la source d'anxiété sur le plan économique réside dans notre incertitude quant à ce qu'il convient de faire.

Autre mauvaise nouvelle, ces deux pandémies opèrent simultanément. L'une est susceptible d'aggraver l'autre. Les fermetures d'entreprises, l'explosion du chômage et les pertes de revenus alimentent une anxiété financière qui risque en retour de dissuader les personnes désespérément en recherche d'un emploi de prendre toutes les mesures appropriées contre la propagation de la maladie.

Il est également malheureux que la propagation des deux pandémies soit précisément mondiale. En temps normal, lorsqu'une diminution de la demande se limite à un État, cette perte ne se propage que partiellement à l'étranger, et la demande en exportations du pays concerné ne diminue que modérément. Mais cette fois, cette valve naturelle de sécurité ne fonctionnera pas, puisque la récession menace la quasi-totalité des États.

Beaucoup semblent considérer que l'anxiété financière n'est rien de plus que la conséquence parallèle directe de la crise du COVID-19, et qu'elle constitue une réaction parfaitement logique à la propagation d'une pandémie. Or, l'anxiété n'est jamais parfaitement logique. La pandémie de peur financière, qui prend la forme de réactions paniquées face aux chutes des prix et aux changements de discours, revêt une existence propre.

Les effets de l'anxiété financière sur le marché boursier sont sans doute liés à un phénomène que le psychologue Paul Slovic de l'Université d'Oregon et ses collègues appellent « l'heuristique d'affect ». Lorsque des individus sont émotionnellement frappés par un événement tragique, ils ont tendance à réagir avec peur, même si les circonstances ne le justifient pas.

Dans une publication conjointe de William Goetzmann et Dasol Kim, il est expliqué que la survenance de tremblements de terre à proximité influence le jugement des individus sur la probabilité d'un krach boursier du type des effondrements de 1929 et 1987. Lorsque l'épicentre d'un séisme important survient dans les 30 jours se situe dans un rayon de 50 kilomètres, les répondants affirment considérer comme significativement plus élevée la probabilité d'un krach. Voilà comment fonctionne l'heuristique d'affect.

Il semblerait plus logique que les individus craignent une chute du marché boursier en raison d'une épidémie plutôt que d'un séisme récent, mais certainement pas à un effondrement de l'ampleur observée récemment. S'il était largement admis qu'un traitement permette de limiter l'intensité de la pandémie de COVID-19 en l'espace de quelques mois, voire que la pandémie soit susceptible de durer un ou deux ans seulement, le risque sur les marchés boursiers n'apparaîtrait pas si problématique pour les investisseurs à long terme. Il leur suffirait d'acheter, de conserver, et de patienter.

Seulement voilà, la propagation de l'anxiété financière fonctionne différemment de celle d'une maladie. Elle est en partie alimentée par la perception d'un manque de confiance chez autrui, visible dans les baisses de cours, ainsi que par les réactions émotionnelles d'autrui face à ces baisses. Une bulle négative sur les marchés boursiers survient lorsque les individus assistent à une chute des cours, qu'ils tentent d'en comprendre les raisons, et qu'ils commencent à exagérer certaines informations pour expliquer cette baisse. C'est ainsi que les prix chutent systématiquement jour après jour.

La constatation des diminutions successives de valeurs boursières crée un profond sentiment de regret chez ceux qui n'ont pas vendu, ainsi que la crainte de vendre au plus bas. Ces regrets et cette peur l'emportent sur l'intérêt des individus dans le cadre des deux discours de pandémie. Dès lors, l'orientation du marché dépend de leur nature et de leur évolution.

Pour le comprendre, songeons que le marché boursier américain ne s'est pas effondré lorsque la presse a commencé en septembre-octobre 1918 à parler d'une pandémie de grippe espagnole, qui fera 675 000 morts chez les Américains (et plus de cinquante millions à travers le monde). Non, les cours mensuels sur le marché américain conserveront leur tendance haussière entre septembre 1918 et juillet 1919.

Pourquoi le marché ne s'est-il pas effondré ? Première explication probable, l'approche de la fin de la Première Guerre mondiale, à l'issue d'un dernier grand affrontement, la seconde bataille de la Marne de juillet-août 1918, a sans doute éclipsé l'épisode de la grippe, notamment après l'armistice de novembre cette année-là. L'histoire de la grippe aura été moins contagieuse que celle de la guerre.

Autre explication possible, l'épidémiologie n'en était à l'époque qu'à ses premiers balbutiements. Les épidémies n'étaient pas aussi prévisibles qu'aujourd'hui, les populations n'écoutaient pas réellement les conseils des experts, et n'adhéraient qu'avec négligence aux mesures de distanciation sociale. Par ailleurs, beaucoup estimaient à l'époque que les crises économiques étaient des crises bancaires. Or, il n'existait aucune crise bancaire aux États-Unis, où la Réserve fédérale américaine, créée quelques années plus tôt en 1913, était largement considérée comme une garantie contre ce risque.

Mais la principale raison d'une non réaction au discours financier lors de l'épidémie de grippe de 1918 réside sans doute dans le fait que peu de personnes possédaient des actions il y a un siècle, et que l'épargne en vue de la retraite n'était pas la préoccupation qu'elle constitue aujourd'hui, notamment parce que les individus ne vivaient pas aussi longtemps, et que les personnes qui atteignaient un âge avancé dépendaient de leur famille.

Notre époque est de toute évidence différente. Des paniques d'achat s'observent aujourd'hui dans les magasins d'alimentation, là où les pénuries de guerre étaient fréquentes en 1918. Le souvenir de la Grande Récession étant encore très présent, nous sommes certainement inquiets de voir les prix des actifs s'effondrer à nouveau. Quant aux États-Unis, préoccupés jadis par une guerre mondiale, ils le sont aujourd'hui face à leur propre polarisation politique, sur fond de nombreux discours révoltés par une mauvaise gestion de la crise de la part du gouvernement fédéral.

Prévoir l'évolution du marché boursier dans la période actuelle est un exercice difficile. Pour y parvenir, il nous faudrait pouvoir prédire les effets directs de la pandémie de COVID-19 sur l'économie, ainsi que les effets psychologiques bien réels d'une pandémie d'anxiété financière. Car certes différentes, ces deux pandémies n'en demeurent pas moins indissociables.

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Cllr. Ndubusi Nwabudike lied about his nationality

We must be clear, a naturalized Liberian - whether from Nigeria, Ghana, or America and Italy (Negro or Negro descent) - can serve on the National Elections Commission of Liberia. However, the case of Mr. Ndubusi Nwabudike is completely different, he is not a naturalized Liberian!

Mr. Nwabudike claims he was born in Nigeria and his parents are from Delta State in Nigeria. Cf. Frontpage Africa March 27, 2020 online story written by Lennart Dodoo: <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/frontslider/liberian-senate-conducts-confirmation-hearing-today-on-the-controversial-appointment-of-nigerian-born-liberia-as-chairman-of-elections-commission/>. This statement alone affirms that he is a Nigerian citizen. "Every person born in Nigeria after the date of independence either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria." Article 25 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Because Mr. Nwabudike was born in Nigeria after the date of independence and both of his parents were citizens of Nigeria, he is a Nigeria citizen by birth. Id.

There exist credibility and trust issues surrounding the inconsistent accounts that Mr. Nwabudike has given to the public and the Liberian Senate about his background. He has indicated on his curriculum vitae that his place of origin is Montserrado County. Such a blatant lie, and thus a crime or perjury. How then would an Igbo man's origin be Montserrado? I hope the Senate would ask Cllr. Nwabudike about this very strange history account. Our history tells us who the aboriginals of Montserrado or Ducor - is Nwabudike a Bassa man or Vai, or a Congo or Americo-Liberian too? While one nationality may change, no one origin and or birth place ever changed. For instance, President Weah's origin is Grand Kru County, being a resident and Senator for Montserrado County has never changed that fact; Saah Joseph's origin will always remain Lofa County.

Your parents came from Delta State, but your origin is Montserrado County. Really? Making up imaginary stories is not something easy for anyone, including Cllr. Nwabudike. If I were Nwabudike I had better stay quiet than seeking public attention and thus causing self-embarrassment.

An investigation conducted reveals that his claim of Liberian citizenship is unsupported by law. His story is poorly designed, and the inconsistencies are obvious. With all the doubts, Mr. Nwabudike now bears the ultimate burden to prove his Liberian citizenship. Practicing law, obtaining a voter's registration card or holding any previous positions set aside for a Liberian citizen, are not proof of citizenship under the law. One may use any of these scenarios as a "presumption" of his or her citizenship. This is true because our laws say so - a Certificate of Naturalization is legally required. Section 21.7 of the Alien and Naturalization Law. Hence, such certificate must be issued to in accordance with law to be good.

Our law provides that, "[a] person admitted to citizenship by a court ... shall be entitled upon such admission to receive from the clerk of such court a certificate of naturalization, which shall contain substantially the following information: Number of petition for naturalization; number of certificate of naturalization, date of naturalization; name, signature, place of residence, autographed photograph, and personal description of the naturalized person, including age, sex, marital status, and country of former nationality; title, venue, and location of the court issuing the order of naturalization; statement that the court, having found that the petitioner intends to reside permanently in Liberia, and has complied in all respects with all of the applicable provisions of the naturalization laws of Liberia, and was entitled to be admitted as a citizen of Liberia thereupon ordered that the petitioner be admitted as a citizen of Liberia; attestation of the clerk of the court issuing the order of naturalization, and seal of the court." Section 21.7 of the Alien and Naturalization Law (1973). We are also keen to note that the law requires all certificates of naturalization to be filed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Hence, if Cllr.

Nwabudike had naturalized as he claimed, there would be a duplicate copy of his certificate. It is plain and simple that he is not a Liberian.

It is highly probable that Cllr. Nwabudike has misled

the Liberian National Bar Association and the Supreme Court of Liberia by making false declarations to be admitted to practice law, and the Elections Commission to have voted in elections. Our law writers anticipated such conduct, thus there are legal and ethical ramifications for any violation that may have occurred - including prosecution or disbarment in the instant case.

It must be pointed out that Cllr. Nwabudike has tacitly admitted to his citizenship and allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, when he informed us that he was born in Nigeria and his both parents are from the Delta State. He is still a Nigeria citizen pursuant to Article 25 of the Constitution of Nigeria. "Every person born in Nigeria after the date of independence either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria. Because Mr. Nwabudike was born in Nigeria after the date of independence and both of his parents were citizens of Nigeria, he is a Nigeria citizen by birth. Id.

Also, Cllr. Nwabudike fails to tender any proof that he has renounced his Nigerian citizenship to be able to legally obtain Liberian citizenship. Article 29 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria states that "[a]ny citizen of Nigeria of full age who wishes to renounce his Nigerian citizenship shall make a declaration in the prescribed manner for the renunciation. The President shall cause the declaration to be registered and upon such registration, the person who made the declaration shall cease to be a citizen of Nigeria." It is imperative to further point out that Cllr. Nwabudike cannot simultaneously carry both Nigerian and Liberian citizenships.

He claims that he was born in 1965 and came to Liberia in 1988 at the age of 23. Our investigation further shows that he has acquired his primary, secondary and undergraduate education in Nigeria as a Nigerian student and paid local fees up to his alleged graduation in June 1988. In the same June 1988, he enrolled at the University of Liberia Graduate School, and graduated in 1990, and later entered the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law. A careful perusal of his records from the University of Liberia reveals an apparent alteration to his place of birth. While it must also be noted that he attended the University of Liberia as a local student and paid fees charged to all Liberian students. This brings us to the next question when and how did Mr. Nwabudike acquire his Liberian citizenship in June of 1988 and the very same month and year he is said to have graduated from a Nigerian University as a Nigerian student. He is not a Liberian, otherwise he has the burden.

Again, attending the University of Liberia and paying local fees is not a proof of citizenship. It is our considered opinion that Cllr. Nwabudike's claim of Liberian citizenship is an obvious lie. Because it was not possible to have obtained Liberian citizenship without renouncing his Nigerian citizenship consistent with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria quoted hereinabove.

Cllr. Nwabudike, the flabbergasted nominee to head NEC has made frantic efforts to throw a catchall basket to establish his citizenship at all costs - unfortunately, the basket leaks. In another account of his imaginary story, he also claimed that he became a Liberia citizen through his father's purported naturalization in the 1940s. Yet he has not offered his father's certificate of naturalization, but instead tends to use a flimsy war excuse. Clearly, he has made no efforts to search for his or his father alleged certificates of naturalization or his certificate of naturalization and nothing more.

because none exist. The evidence in this case would be Cllr. Nwabudike's certificate of naturalization and nothing more.



Assuming his father had naturalized in the 1940s, under the Liberian Naturalization law that does not make Cllr. Nwabudike an automatic citizen, because he has not chosen Liberia over Nigerian as his nationality since he turned 21. He has not renounced his allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria as provided for under Nigerian law. Under our law, it is only permissible that a child enjoys dual nationality before s/he turns 21 - provided one parent was a Liberia citizen at the time of the child's birth. Because Cllr. Nwabudike has clearly admitted that both his parents are from Delta State this exception does not apply to him.

For the sake of argument, let us agree that his father was a naturalized Liberian, thus his father has forfeited that status before Nwabudike was born, because his father had returned to Nigeria, his country of origin, and stayed more than two consecutive years. Therefore, Mr. Nwabudike could not have acquired his purported citizenship through his father. He is not a Liberia citizen; otherwise, he has that burden. Thank God Cllr. Nwabudike has given us more facts to use. To become a Liberian, Cllr. Nwabudike must renounce his Nigeria citizenship, which he still holds.

It is evident that he continues to beat our system, but his nomination to NEC is the dawning of the new day. Ninety-nine days for rogues one day for the master. What was not done legally, is never done at all. Our institutions like the Liberian National Bar Association and the Court must muster the courage to correct this blunder. Understandably, he deceived everyone, including the Liberian Senate that previously confirmed him. As for the Bar and the Court, Nwabudike's conduct warrants disbarment, because making false declarations during Bar admission process is a cogent basis for disbarment and subsequent prosecution; as for the Government, Cllr. Nwabudike needs to be prosecuted and deported, and the Senate must reject him!

Additionally, it is not feasible that he is on the NEC commission, because his inclusion has the proclivity to undermine public trust in any electoral process and would further dent the credibility of any elections and results.

**Mr. Nwabudike is not in good standing with the Liberian National Bar Association for years. He faces several corruption allegations. TO TRUST SUCH A MAN WITH OUR ELECTIONS, IS LIKE TRUSTING A GOAT WITH CASSAVA LEAF. FRANKLY, PRESIDENT DISAPPOINTS AGAIN BY THIS NOMINATION.**

# A Total disgrace

By Othello B. Garblah & Ethel A. Tweh

Self-proclaimed naturalized Liberian, Nigerian born Cllr. A. Ndubusi Nwabudike could face criminal prosecution and perjury charges for lying under oath before a senate confirmation hearing committee here.

He could also be disbarred as the Liberian National Bar Association now launches investigations in to how he obtained his citizenship based on his inconsistency responses at the hearing.

Cllr. Nwabudike was nominated by President George Weah on Friday March 21, to head the National Elections Commission or NEC as chair. He has lied about almost everything including his naturalization papers, date of birth, and references.

The learned counselor told Senators on Monday March 30, that he naturalized as a Liberian in 1982 at the age of 16, arguing that he was accompanied by an adult, something the country's alien and naturalization law does allowed-an applicant must be 21. He had earlier told a local daily that he naturalized in 1988, after he moved to Liberia in June of 1988, the same year he purportedly completed his undergraduate studies in Nigeria.

His testimonies before senators and documents he tendered in as evidence are all replete with inconsistencies, leaving Senators with no option on Wednesday but to halt his confirmation hearing. On Wednesday for example, Cllr. Nwabudike submitted passports bearing different birthdates, while his school records from the University of Liberia had another birthdate completely different from



Cllr. Ndubusi Nwabudike

the passports.

Earlier on Monday he submitted a photocopy of what he claimed was his naturalization certificate but with no resident permit number. Every naturalized citizen must first obtain a resident permit and must have stayed in the country for 7 years before applying for a citizenship.

If Cllr. Nwabudike's testimony is anything to go by, it means he might have applied for his naturalization papers at age 9.

His controversial testimonies forced the Liberian National Bar Association to announce on Wednesday that it was submitting him to its Grievances and Ethics Committee to look into his citizenship claims. Section 17.1 of the Judiciary Law restricts the practice of law in Liberia to only Liberian citizens.

The LNBA says because of the continuing doubts being expressed regarding Cllr. Nwabudike's citizenship and his responses regarding how he

obtained it, he has been forwarded to the committee for immediate investigation.

**So did it all start at the hearing on Wednesday April 1?**

Cllr. Nwabudike disgracefully consented to a Senate confirmation hearing Wednesday, 1 April that his passport and his records at the University of Liberia (UL) carry different years of birth, amplifying Senators' anger over lies discovered in his personal data.

Unearthing some of the lies in the nominee's data, Grand Bassa County Senator Jonathan L. Kaipay discovered that Cllr. Nwabudike who graduated from the Louise Arthur Grimes School of Law at UL has different year of birth for his school records, and another year of birth for his Liberian passport. Responding to the Senator's discovery, nominee Nwabudike consented that his passport carries October 2,

1963 while his records at the University of Liberia have October 2, 1965, insisting that he does not have control over what is written about him at UL.

The Nigerian - born who claims Liberian citizenship by naturalization failed flat at the hearing to present original documents as evidence that he has actually naturalized, and was also unable to present proof of his denunciation of his Nigerian citizenship. Even after naturalization, Nigerians do not forfeit their Nigerian citizenship until they make declaration renouncing their Nigerian citizenship, and the president registers such declaration, according to Article 29 of Nigeria's Constitution. His failure to present to the Liberian Senate an evidence that he has renounced his Nigerian citizenship and to show proof that his declaration has been registered by the president of Nigeria appear to give the confirmation hearing a suggestion that he may still be enjoying Nigerian citizenship while he carries a Liberian passport. Prior to his nomination by President George Manneh Weah last month to head the prestigious electoral body, the controversial naturalized Liberian lawyer has headed the Liberia Anti - Corruption Commission (LACC) and the Good Governance Commission (GC), apparently with his citizenship issues undetected by Liberia's weak system. Due to the nominee's conflicting testimonies at the hearing, the Senate Committee's Chair Senator Milton Teahjay abruptly ended the hearing, saying they could no longer continue the hearing of this NEC nominee. The self - proclaimed Liberian Cllr. Nwabudike claims to have taken oath in court as a Liberian citizen, but he adds that there is no written document to that. He presented a photocopy of his certificate to Senators, but he says he does not have an original copy of it. Nwabudike tells the Senators that he is a Liberian citizen because he

has voted in Liberian elections on so many occasions. Following Nwabudike's drowning testimony at the Senate confirmation hearing Wednesday, River Gee County Senator Conmany B. Wesseh urged the nominee to withdraw from the position in other to save himself from embarrassment and to save the country.

Sen. Wesseh notes that Cllr. Nwabudike has deceived the Supreme Court by serving on the Bar Association, the President of Liberia and the educational system of Liberia by graduating from the law school as a Liberian. According to Sen. Wesseh, the Nigerian-Liberian national is not honest and he cannot serve in the key position of the country, the National Elections Commission.

Giving a little background of Liberia, Sen. Wesseh says the country has open arms to all the African countries and has allowed them to serve in positions in the country. Also speaking, Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence says the NEC chair - designate is still a Nigerian because he hasn't denounced his citizenship in Nigeria and Liberia doesn't have a dual citizenship.

She adds that by denouncing your citizenship in Nigeria, there are lot of processes, following which a certificate is presented.

But she observes that the nominee has not presented such certificate to the Liberian senate.

Meanwhile, the Senate Committee on Autonomous Agencies and Commissions has submitted to plenary all the other nominated commissioners of NEC, recommending their confirmation in executive session.

But opposition Liberty Party's caucus in the Senate has rejected the confirmation of commissioner - designate Floyd Saylor who was questioned by senators over his handling of elections in Montserrado County District 13 and 15.

Starts from back page

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to support the RIDERS for Health Network, which is transporting lab samples across Liberia during this outbreak. It said CDC is also supporting training of contact tracers through its Field Epidemiology Training Program and Infection, Prevention and Control training for health care workers.

At the same time, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is providing support to healthcare worker case management, infection prevention and control training, and facility readiness among 13 health facilities in Montserrado

## U.S. Embassy announces

county, including Redemption and JFK Hospitals, and assisting with contact tracing and case investigation in Montserrado county. In addition, USAID is supporting staffing and functionality of the 4455 call-in center at NPHIL.

In addition to the U.S. Mission's work in Montserrado and Margibi counties, USAID is also providing support to point of entry surveillance through the Food and Agriculture Organization and county-level training and preparedness for lab and health workers in Bong, Nimba, and Lofa counties USAID is also supporting the re-broadcast of radio shows led by NPHIL, CDC, and WHO experts to community radio stations across Liberia in order to

amplify messages about preparedness and prevention of COVID-19.

"As Secretary Pompeo said, our assistance in this fight "builds upon decades of U.S. leadership in global health and humanitarian assistance. Since 2009, American taxpayers have generously funded more than \$100 billion in health assistance and nearly \$70 billion in humanitarian assistance globally. Our country continues to be the single largest health and humanitarian donor for both long-term development and capacity building efforts with partners, and emergency response efforts in the face of recurrent crises."

## Liberia's COVID-19

Starts from back page

history from Abidjan, neighboring Ivory Coast.

Meanwhile, countdown from the NPHIL outlines the country's current status as:

- Total Confirmed cases ----6
- Total Alive cases-----6
- Total Recovered-----0
- Total Death-----0

The authorities recently declared a 21-day shut down here, affecting the national airport, schools, churches and

mosques, and restricted public gatherings, among other preventive measures.

The Government of Liberia recently received two separate consignments of medical supplies both from ECOWAS and Chinese billionaire Jack Ma to help fight the global pandemic. Items donated include laboratory testing kits, face masks and personal protective equipment or PPEs.

## U.S. Embassy announces Liberia's COVID-19 Response

### -Dished out US\$40 Million to health sector



The U.S. Embassy in Liberia is proud to provide approximately \$40 million this year for assistance to Liberia's health sector, part of our nearly \$100 million in annual assistance. This funding will also help to support Liberia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are working closely with the Liberian Ministry of Health, the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL), and healthcare workers across the country. Earlier today, a special flight from the United States brought a vital supply of "Superscript," an essential component for COVID-19 testing with the reagents already available in Liberia. On its return to the

United States, this same aircraft will support the State Department's global mission to bring home American citizens who have asked for assistance in returning to the United States," an U.S. Embassy release issued Wednesday said.

The U.S. Centers for

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 11**

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## Liberia's COVID-19 cases hit 6

By Jonathan Browne

Liberia's confirmed cases for the COVID-19 have reached six, according to the Ministry of Health and the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL).

Official post by the NPHIL says as of 11:00 pm Tuesday, 31 March 2020 the country registered three fresh cases, bringing the data to six since President George Manneh Weah announced the index case on 16 March.

The first confirmed case was imported from Switzerland by the now suspended Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Nathaniel Blama.

According to the President, upon arrival at the Roberts International Airport in Margibi County, Blama chose not to be quarantined, and instead, proceeded home. Subsequently, his domestic worker was tested positive.

Third case of COVID-19 was confirmed on 20 March involving



63-year-old Linda Ross. Ross recently returned from Italy. Following this third case, the Ministry of Health in Monrovia two days later (22March) declared a national health emergency in Liberia.

Wednesday's three confirmed cases was pronounced here days after health authorities reported a suspected case from Grand Gedeh County, involving a 22-year-old female with travel

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 11**

### Erratum:

We inadvertently published the photograph of Mr. Barsee Kpankpa Wednesday on the front page as that of a NEC nominee.

That was incorrect. This is Mr. Barsee Leo Kpangbai, nominated to the NEC.



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