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Pres. George M. Weah

# Pay salary before lockdown

## -Public workers demand

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# Continental News

## Nigerian actress fined over lockdown party

**P**rominent Nigerian actress Funke Akindele has been fined \$260 (£210) after holding a party during the lockdown imposed to tackle coronavirus.

She was widely criticised online for the party in her Lagos mansion, held to celebrate the birthday of her husband.

Akindele has appeared in a Nigeria Centre for Disease Control video to raise awareness about coronavirus.

She defended Saturday's party, saying that everyone who was there had been living in her house for several days. "Nobody came from their house to party with us," she said in a video shared on her Twitter feed. However, she did apologise and promised to practise social distancing: Those seen in the video include singer Naira Marley and actress Eniola Badmus, and some Nigerians have questioned whether they have been living with Akindele and her husband. It

is not clear how many people attended the event in Lagos, where all gatherings of more than 25 people have been banned.

Even if the limit was not breached, the video, posted online by Akindele's husband

Abdul Rasheed Bello, known as JJC Skillz, has been widely condemned for setting the wrong example. Akindele and her husband pleaded guilty to violating the lockdown restrictions in a Lagos court, according to a statement

from Lagos State police.

As well as the fine, the couple have also been ordered to do 14 days of community service stipulating that they should both visit 10 important public places within Lagos state to educate the public on the consequences of not complying with restriction orders imposed by the government.

They were also told to submit the names and contact details of everyone else who attended the event. Singer Naira Marley, who was also present at the party, is now in police custody.

Following the furore, the

Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and cleaning products company Dettol have said Akindele has no official ambassadorial position with them, despite appearing on the video they produced together.

They have both emphasised the need for social distancing. Akindele is one of Nigeria's best-known actresses and came to prominence for her series *Jenifa's Diary*, broadcast on national TV. A lockdown was imposed in Lagos, the neighbouring state of Ogun and the capital, Abuja, last week in order to halt the spread of the virus. BBC



Funke Akindele is one of Nigeria's best known actresses

## Virus test centre ransacked in Ivory Coast

Protesters in Ivory Coast's commercial capital, Abidjan, have destroyed a coronavirus centre that was being built in the district of Yopougon.

Residents said it was being built in a crowded residential area, too close to their homes.

Videos on social media show people tearing apart the centre with their bare hands,

smashing construction materials on the ground.

Some appeared to be hurling metal poles into a truck.

The health ministry said the building was never intended as a treatment centre, only as a testing facility. Although, like many African countries, Ivory Coast has had relatively few confirmed coronavirus cases, it has imposed a lockdown in

Abidjan and a nationwide curfew.

On Saturday, health officials urged people to wear masks to try to slow the spread of the virus. The hostile response towards the testing centres is reminiscent of attitudes during Ebola outbreaks in West and Central Africa when some people attacked health workers, suspicious that they were bringing the disease to their communities, rather than offering crucial medical care.

Last week, two French doctors sparked fury by suggesting that an existing tuberculosis vaccine could be tested on African people to see if it cured coronavirus.

The doctors' words have fuelled existing fears that African people are to be used as guinea pigs to test a new coronavirus vaccine, though there is no evidence to support this claim.

Other widespread myths - such as black skin supposedly being resistant to Covid-19, or pepper soup and black tea some providing a cure - have also been debunked. BBC



Fake stories about coronavirus have led to widespread distrust of health officials

## Ghana to supply free water to help combat coronavirus

**G**hana's President Nana Akufo-Addo has announced that his government will pay peoples' water bills for the next three months as the country tries to combat the spread of coronavirus.

Washing hands with soap and water is considered one of the best ways to prevent the

the virus.

In a televised address, President Akufo-Addo said the government has urged the utility companies to ensure a consistent supply of water and electricity and restore any disconnected accounts.

Water-supply tankers will



Police in Ghana have been enforcing a lockdown in three major cities

transmission of the virus.

There have been 214 confirmed cases of coronavirus in the country and five deaths.

Last week, Ghana started a two-week lockdown in three cities - Accra, Tema and Kumasi - that were identified as hotspots for the spread of

also be made available to provide water to vulnerable communities.

Meanwhile, health workers treating patients with Covid-19 will receive a boost to their basic pay and all health workers will also be granted a three-month tax holiday. BBC

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# EDITORIAL

## We must intensify contact tracing

WITH THREE DEATHS and 10 confirmed cases reported now from Liberia's COVID-19 outbreak in less than a month, the need for health authorities to intensify tracing of contacts of the victims' cannot be overemphasized. Since President Weah reported the country's index case on March 16 the infection rate has been rapidly increasing.

THE LONGER WE take to follow up on contacts, leaves room for breeding grounds of potential confirmed cases. The Ministry of Health and the National Public Health Institute should move quickly to trace those contacts out there because those 10 confirmed cases and three deaths didn't evolve in a vacuum.

WHILE A VIGOROUS public awareness is welcome, the authorities should not relax and wait for cases, but get proactive in going after suspected contacts and taking them in for precautionary observation.

A PROACTIVE CONTACT tracing campaign could curtail rapid spread of the virus and help to save lives.

ANOTHER ISSUE OF concern as we fight this virus, is preparations in quarantine centers across the country. A staff of the Ministry of Health, who returned from Sweden recently and was quarantined at the 14 Military Hospital complained of lack of care and poor environment.

NURSES ARE APPREHENSIVE and indifferent in responding or taking care of people in quarantine centers, something that could further worsen their traumatic condition.

FOR INSTANCE, IF so-called quarantine centers lack basic facilities such as electricity, ventilation, food and water, and counseling, patients there are being exposed to death. That shouldn't be the condition at quarantine centers.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD move quickly in addressing such situations that could scare people away from reporting for quarantine. A suspected COVID-19 patient should be condemned to death.

PRECAUTIONARY OBSERVATION AND quarantine centers should provide hope to our people rather than worsen their situation.

EQUALLY SO, HEALTH workers across the country should be taken care of in terms of protective tools and incentives to motivate them on the job.

# COMMENTARY

BY HAROLD JAMES

## Navigating the Pandemic Trilemma

*The broad consensus of the COVID-19 era holds that measures to protect public health imply hard trade-offs with economic growth and political liberty. In fact, there are plenty of ways to adapt political and economic imperatives to policies needed to combat the pandemic.*

PRINCETON - The coronavirus crisis is forcing a dramatic reassessment of how government and the economy function. As Matthew M. Kavanagh of Georgetown University argues in *The Lancet*, the pandemic has revealed a trilemma: it is impossible to have a medically healthy society, a healthy economy, and a healthy democracy at the same time.

The implication is that if we want airlines to keep flying and restaurants and pubs to stay busy, more people will have to get sick and die. On the other hand, if we shut down these activities, the economic downturn will be much more severe than the 2008 global financial crisis, with rates of unemployment similar to those of the Great Depression - and possibly much higher. Many of the businesses - especially small shops, restaurants, and service providers - that are closed "temporarily" will in fact never reopen.

In thinking about the nature of the current crisis, one can also imagine a rigorous and intrusive system for identifying infected individuals and immediately tracing their contacts. With modern surveillance technology, it is possible to determine who sat next to you on the bus, or who handed you a receipt when you went to the store. But while such information can be enormously valuable in containing infections, collecting it implies an equally enormous loss of privacy.

At the moment, the only society that comes remotely close to realizing this surveillance-state scenario is China, under whose "social credit system" every action is monitored and then "graded" by the state. Indeed, as many commentators have pointed out, China's response to the COVID-19 crisis seems to have been more effective than that of any other country.

Does this mean that if one wants to have a democracy, one must choose between a healthy economy and a healthy population, whereas if one wants a healthy economy, one must choose political liberty or physical wellbeing? In macroeconomics, this kind of choice is known as the trilemma.

Such trilemmas (or "impossible trinitities") are not new to macroeconomists. In the early 1960s, economists Robert Mundell and John Fleming pointed out that fixed exchange rates are compatible with free capital movement or an independent monetary policy, but not with both at the same time. And, more recently, Dani Rodrik of Harvard University has applied the idea of a trilemma to globalization, arguing that "democracy, national sovereignty, and global economic integration are mutually incompatible: we can combine any two of the three, but never have all three simultaneously and in full."

Fortunately, on closer inspection, this thinking about impossible choices turns out to be erroneous. Modern economists reject the idea

of the classic macro trilemma, because it turns out that flexible exchange rates actually do not afford much more room for monetary policymaking. Moreover, none of the points in the triangle is absolute: there is no such thing as completely fixed exchange rates, because even the tightest fix (including a currency union) can be broken. Likewise, capital never moves completely freely, as there is always a domestic bias. And even in a closed economy, monetary policy would be subject to external signals.

Proponents of more recent trilemmas should heed the lessons of the original macroeconomic debate. No country ever has complete sovereignty, because external and global events will always affect how governments make choices. Nor can a country or a people ever have complete democracy, because some level of decision-making will always be subordinated to the wishes of others, or delegated to representative bodies. By the same token, we will never have complete globalization, because people and their governments always will make special allowances for the local or domestic setting.

The upshot is that in the real world, apparent trade-offs are not always absolute; rather, they are negotiable, or even illusory. In the case of COVID-19, we must protect public health while also preserving the social and political fabric of our lives. To that end, it is already clear that the release and sharing of medical information across borders will be necessary for organizing an effective coordinated response, not just to this pandemic but also to similar challenges in the future. It is also clear that the response to the crisis absolutely must include widespread testing and contact tracing, which entails a partial - but certainly not a complete - loss of privacy.

As for the economic implications of the pandemic, far from delivering a long-term blow to growth, the virus's severe short-term shock has actually generated new opportunities. Consider the domain of telemedicine, which allows for virtual doctor visits, self-administered blood tests, and many forms of remote monitoring. The medical profession has stood in the way of these innovations, insisting on physical examinations and other artifacts of a bygone era. Now, medicine and many other industries are finally exploring the opportunities offered by twenty-first-century information and communication technologies. It is easy to imagine many companies and sectors sticking with the new practices they've developed during the pandemic after it has passed.

Crises, by definition, always force a choice. One's response can be short-sighted, panicky, and destructive, or it can be radical, innovative, and constructive. It is worth remembering that in addition to China, South Korea has also managed to control the epidemic, and it has done so without abandoning its democracy. There is no reason to think that the choices we make in response to this crisis cannot result in longer-term dynamism and resilience.

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FULLY INDEPENDENT



## O-PED

By Ian Buruma

# America's Gun Virus

*Lobbyists for the US gun industry want gun stores to be counted as "essential" businesses, like food shops and pharmacies, that are exempted from pandemic-related closures. A number of states have readily complied.*

**N**EW YORK - Spooked by COVID-19, Americans not only stripped supermarket shelves of toilet paper and pasta, but also drove gun sales higher than ever. Apparently, many of these recent gun buyers never purchased a firearm before.

Lobbyists for the US gun industry want gun stores to be counted as "essential" businesses, like food shops and pharmacies. A number of states have readily complied, as has the Department of Homeland Security. Jay Pritzker, Governor of Illinois, declared that "firearm and ammunition suppliers and retailers, for purposes of safety and security" should indeed be allowed to continue supplying these alleged necessities.

When it comes to guns, the rest of the world has long viewed the United States as being a little crazy. But there is something particularly odd about this latest rush to buy arms. Conservatives and gun lovers invoke history, tradition, and the late-eighteenth-century text of the US Constitution to defend their right to carry anything from a Glock G-19 pistol to the popular AR-15 assault rifle. In fact, until very recently, the common interpretation of American legal scholars was that gun-buying by individuals to "defend his or herself, their family, as well as their home, business, and property," as Lawrence Keane, senior vice-president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, barely managed to put it, was far from the US founders' intent.

The drafters of the US Constitution's Second Amendment insisted in 1791 that: "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." The origin of this right goes back to the aftermath of the Glorious Revolution in England, when Protestant militias were authorized to bear arms to protect Parliamentary rule from a tyrannical monarchy.

In the US, too, militias of armed citizens were considered a necessary bulwark against a despotic federal state. The potential enemy was what President Donald Trump and his supporters like to call "the deep state," an overweening federal government that should never be allowed to trample on the rights of freedom-loving people.

This is quite different from the motives of people buying assault rifles to defend "his or herself" in the age of COVID-19. What is most feared now is not the government, but lawlessness from a collapsing economy in a health crisis.

Such anarchy would resemble the "war of all against all" that Thomas Hobbes, traumatized by the English Civil War, warned against in the seventeenth century. To preserve the peace and a civilized society, Hobbes argued in *Leviathan*, citizens must hand over sovereignty, and thus the right to use force, to an almighty state. Democracies today are not almighty, but they do claim a monopoly on the legitimate use of force - as do dictatorships, of course.

The US is the great exception. True, President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil would like to emulate the US. Even though most Brazilians oppose private gun ownership, Bolsonaro tweeted recently: "The right to legitimate self-defense cannot continue to be violated!" More guns were sold in Brazil in the first year of Bolsonaro's rule than ever before. More murders are committed with guns in Brazil than in most countries, too.

The US federal government, in any case, was never trusted with a monopoly on the use of armed force. But for the most part, efforts were made - not always successfully, to be sure - to limit violence by restricting the types of guns people could own and the types of people who could own them. Until the 1970s, the National Rifle Association was an organization of gun enthusiasts that focused on firearms safety.

Various efforts were made over the years to expand the Second Amendment to recognize the right of individuals, and not just militias, to bear arms. When a bank robber named Luke Miller challenged a federal gun regulation in 1934 that controlled buying and selling of machine guns across state borders, the NRA supported the Supreme Court decision to stick to the original interpretation of the Constitution and allow the regulation to stand.

But then the NRA, provoked by one of those periodic panics that drive so many Americans to seek guns, switched its position to become a radical proponent of private gun ownership. And when large numbers of Americans panic, race is usually in the background.

Frightful violence was unleashed by gun-toting Ku Klux Klan members beginning in the 1860s, when white southerners sought to restore the racial hierarchy upended by the end of slavery and Reconstruction in the former Confederate states. This resulted in paranoid rhetoric about black men threatening white property and women; shootings and lynching followed.

Echoes of this resounded in the 1970s, when white resistance to court-ordered school integration peaked. Indeed, what really pushed the NRA into active politics and lobbying an individual right to carry guns was the expansion of civil rights for African-Americans under President Lyndon Johnson. This triggered the flight of southern Democrats to the Republican Party, the active involvement of evangelical Christians in right-wing politics, and the demand for a new interpretation of the Second Amendment. Images of Black Panther revolutionaries taking up arms to defend themselves against racism seemed to confirm many whites' worst fears.

Years of lobbying and cajoling by the NRA, and the steady radicalization of the Republican Party, finally paid off in 2008 when five right-wing Supreme Court justices ruled (against the other four) that the Second Amendment guarantees the right of individuals to carry guns to protect "hearth and home."

The "war" against COVID-19, belatedly declared by Trump, is not on the surface the same thing as racial resentment of minorities. But fear of lawlessness is fear of poor and desperate mobs, deprived of jobs and health care. It is fear of a war of all against all - or perhaps not quite all.

Fearful people, not only in the US, seek scapegoats, and they are usually people who look different. They could be black. They could be Asian. As Hobbes rightly concluded from his experience of civil war, an armed society is the worst possible outcome. Under a president who thrives on stoking division, it is a prospect that should scare us all.

## OPINION

By Shashi Tharoor

# India Besieged

*Though Indians have rallied in solidarity to combat the coronavirus pandemic, reasonable questions about the country's lack of preparedness are being posed. But the answers will have to wait until the overriding challenge - avoiding millions of COVID-19 victims - has passed.*

**N**EW DELHI - "India is walking home," declared the headline in *The Indian Express* as newspapers and television screens filled with images of millions of migrant workers, clutching their meager belongings, trekking along India's deserted highways to return to their homes, hundreds of kilometers away.

Such images were last seen in India seven decades ago, when the country's partition and the emergence of Pakistan forced millions of displaced people to stagger across the borders to their new homelands. This time, it was a different kind of man-made tragedy.

On the evening of March 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared, with just four hours' notice, a 21-day lockdown from midnight onward, to prevent the spread of coronavirus. But he had failed to plan for the impact of his announcement on India's vast informal economy.

For the country's affluent professionals, the lockdown meant working online from home, or at best an enforced holiday. For the poor, it was another story. Factories, offices, and shops shut down; construction sites became idle; and restaurants, barber shops, and beauty salons closed. All of them stopped paying wages. Many employers and contractors shrugged off the problem: they were incurring losses, too, they said, so they couldn't afford to pay workers who weren't working.

Unable to earn money to feed themselves or pay rent in congested urban ghettos, India's vast legion of workers packed up and set off for home, often to villages in faraway states. With trains and buses out of service, they walked.

It wasn't easy. There was no food or water, and no rest stations, available along the way. Fatigue and blistered feet were the price that had to be paid for the allure of home, family, and basic sustenance.

When some states considered pressing their idle buses into service to transport the trekkers, the crowds at the bus stations made a mockery of the lockdown. The central government promptly closed state borders and instructed local authorities to provide shelters with food and water to the migrants wherever they were.

Ironically, the attempt to prevent a pandemic has created a humanitarian crisis. Modi took to the radio to apologize for the lockdown, "which has caused difficulties in your lives, especially the poor people," but asked them to bear with him. But, because his government failed to anticipate the exodus, it had jeopardized the lives of those it was anxious to save.

Paradoxically, Modi's government had responded positively and rapidly to the desire of Indian expatriates and migrant workers abroad to come home; thousands flew back on evacuation flights before the lockdown. The contrast with the neglect of the domestic migrant workers, on whom the vast informal economy rests, could not have been more striking. "Wanting to go home in a crisis is natural. If Indian students, tourists, pilgrims stranded overseas want to return, so do laborers in big cities ... We can't be sending planes to bring home one lot, but leave the other to walk back home," tweeted the editor of the online news portal *ThePrint*.

The migrant workers' plight was merely the most blatant reminder of the daunting challenges that India is facing in coping with the COVID-19 pandemic. There's no doubt that quarantining 1.3 billion people is an extreme step and not easy to enforce evenly. "Social distancing" is impossible for the vast majority of Indians, many of whom live a dozen to a room.

Perhaps not surprisingly, enforcing the lockdown has proved exceedingly problematic. Compounding the difficulties, there was also confusion about who was permitted on the streets and for what, with shoppers seeking essential supplies and even medical personnel stopped and in some cases brutally beaten by overzealous policemen wielding lathis (long batons).

Still, despite uneven enforcement, farmers cannot bring in the spring harvest, and reports abound of fresh produce and milk being wasted because the lockdown prevents deliveries. Many basic goods are unavailable, newspaper delivery has ceased, and a recession is inevitable.

The only consolation is that the air above India's most polluted cities has magically cleared. Delhi, where the air quality index typically exceeds 500 (the World Health Organization's safety threshold is 25), is now basking in blue skies and sunshine, with the AQI below 30 most days and, after a rain shower last week, even coming down to seven.

The responses of India's state governments have also varied enormously. The southern state of Kerala, where the first coronavirus cases in India appeared (medical students returning from China), has been hailed as a model for its handling of the crisis.

With a strong health-care infrastructure developed over decades, Kerala coped well with COVID-19. It started testing and tracing early, imposed effective quarantine measures, backed them up with welfare support, and prevented an exodus of migrant workers by feeding them in the state. Despite hosting large numbers of travelers (Kerala is the source of India's largest overseas migrant population, mainly in the Gulf), the state has avoided an uncontrolled outbreak.

Kerala's caseload numbers are high, but that's because it has tested far more people than other states. In Kerala, 220 persons per million have been tested, compared to just one per million in the northern state of Bihar. Low case numbers often reflect testing limitations.

Though Indians have rallied in solidarity, reasonable questions are being posed. How could India have bungled its COVID-19 response so badly, despite having a powerful central government, led by a ruling party with an absolute parliamentary majority and the country's most popular politician? Why were no preparations made for an approaching pandemic, despite public warnings by opposition leaders of the need to do so? Why is India today contemplating not just the catastrophe of contagion, but also the prospect of economic collapse, starvation, increased poverty, and the risk of social unrest?

The answers will have to wait. The overriding challenge is to ensure that this country of 1.3 billion people avoids the terrifying scenario - millions of victims - that doomsayers have foretold.





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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SOLICITATION NUMBER: VA-669-20-00006

ISSUANCE DATE: 03/25/2020

CLOSING DATE/TIME: 04/24/2020 (17:30 local time)

SUBJECT: Solicitation for the USAID Project Management Specialist, (Health Systems Strengthening), Cooperating Country National Personal Service Contract (CCNPSC).

Dear Prospective Offerors:

The United States Government, represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is seeking offers from qualified persons to provide personal services under contract as described in this solicitation.

Offers must be in accordance with Attachment I, Sections I through III of this solicitation. Incomplete or unsigned offers will not be considered. Offerors should retain copies of all offer materials for their records.

This solicitation in no way obligates USAID to award a Personal Services Contract, nor does it commit USAID to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the offers.

Any questions must be directed in writing to the Point of Contact specified in the attached information.

Sincerely,

/s/  
Robert W. Appiah  
Supervisory Executive Officer

#### ATTACHMENT I

##### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

SOLICITATION NO: VA-669-20-00006

1. ISSUANCE DATE: 03/25/2020

2. CLOSING DATE/TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS: 04/24/2020 at 17:30 Monrovia time

3. POSITION TITLE: USAID Project Management Specialist, (Health Systems Strengthening),

4. MARKET VALUE: \$51,630.00 to USD \$82,612.00 equivalent to CCN-12 in accordance

with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of the US Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia. Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value.

5. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: Initial two years with possibility of extension depending on need, performance, and availability of funding. This is considered a permanent position.

Employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of series of sequential contract; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.

6. PLACE OF PERFORMANCE: Monrovia, Liberia with possible travel as stated in the statement of duties.

7. SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED: Facility and computer access

##### 8. STATEMENT OF DUTIES

###### A. BACKGROUND

The HSS Team Lead conducts regular site visits to review program implementation and meets with beneficiaries; based on information collected during visits, s/he adjusts or recommends adjustments to programs/projects/activities as appropriate. S/he reviews performance reports to ensure IPs are in compliance with bilateral government agreements and with performance expectations outlined in their work plans. S/he also ensures monitoring and evaluation systems are in place to capture IP results and contributions to overall portfolio targets. The individual in this position leads the preparation and review of the USAID Operational Plan for HSS and related activities. The HSS Team Lead provides technical and programmatic oversight in the areas of HSS, including county governance and strategic planning, health financing, health information systems and quality improvement.

###### B. BASIC FUNCTION OF THE POSITION

The HSS Team Lead is involved in the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of all USAID/Liberia HSS activities. The Team Lead facilitates communication and ensures collaborative working relationships with high level decision-makers, as well as technical staff in the Ministry of Health, Regional Health Bureaus, USAID/Washington, counterparts with other government entities, and with other donors, private sector partners, and non-governmental organizations working in the area of health systems strengthening, water and private sector. The Team Lead represents USAID and the USG on various high-level governing bodies key to HSS, serves on GOL technical working groups and donor working groups in advancing the policy objectives of the USG while simultaneously supporting coordination and harmonization of health activities in Liberia.

The Health Systems Strengthening Team Lead reports directly to the Deputy Health Office Director, with the responsibility of managing a team of three locally employed staff.

###### MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

###### A. Strategic and Technical Leadership 40%

The HSS Team Lead provides policy and strategic leadership in support of the USAID/USG health program, with a particular focus on health systems strengthening, including health information systems, supply chain, health financing and human resources for health, and private health sector engagement. The Team Lead provides senior policy, strategic, and technical advice and guidance to the Ministry of Health in the planning, drafting and evaluation of GOL HSS reforms. The Team Lead oversees the effective monitoring and evaluation plans for the HSS program, including compiling lessons learned and the dissemination of HSS activity results to appropriate USG staff and partners.

- The HSS Team Lead has the strategic vision, leadership qualities, technical expertise, professional reputation, management experience, and interpersonal skills to fulfill the diverse professional requirements necessary for this position.

- The individual in this role provides policy and strategic leadership to the overall USAID/USG health program, with a focus on health systems strengthening, human resources for health, health financing, supply chain strengthening, and governance and accountability, and private health care.

- S/he develops new HSS activities, assures monitoring and evaluation standards are met, and provides expert technical and programmatic information and assistance as requested by the Ambassador, the USAID/Liberia Mission Director, and the Health Office Director relating to health systems strengthening, including content for reporting documents, speeches, cables, analyses, and briefing materials.

- S/he leads development of a private sector portfolio within the Health Office and serves as the key interlocutor with private sector health and health insurance providers to increase efficiency within the private sector as well as access to private sector services by the poor.

- The individual in this position analyzes HSS issues to identify strengths and weaknesses by leading the design of strategies and programs with respect to GOL needs and within USAID's comparative advantage and mandates.

- S/he provides senior level policy, strategic, and technical advice and guidance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) in HSS, WASH and private health sector engagement.

###### B. Program/Project/Activity Management, Monitoring and Reporting 40%

The HSS Team Lead conducts regular site visits to review program implementation and meets with beneficiaries; based on information collected during visits, s/he adjusts or recommends adjustments to programs/projects/activities as appropriate. S/he reviews performance reports to ensure IPs are in compliance with bilateral government agreements and with performance expectations outlined in their work plans. S/he also ensures monitoring and evaluation systems are in place to capture IP results and contributions to overall portfolio targets. The individual in this position leads the preparation and review of the USAID Operational Plan for HSS and related activities.

- The HSS Team Lead provides technical and programmatic oversight in the areas of HSS, including county governance and strategic planning, health financing, health information systems and quality improvement. The Team Lead directs and oversees new private sector health activities.

- S/he serves as COR/AOR and also provides leadership and overall guidance to COR/AOR or Activity Managers for the portfolio and assists staff in managing systems strengthening or service delivery projects. Additionally, this individual provides technical and supervisory contributions to USG program designs, budget allocations, strategic planning documents and reporting mechanisms.

- S/he conducts site visits on a quarterly basis, at a minimum, and provides hands-on oversight to IPs in Monrovia as well as at the site of implementation.

- The HSS Team Lead ensures monitoring and evaluation systems are in place to capture IP results and contributions to overall HSS portfolio targets, approves annual work plans for health systems strengthening, and maintains detailed and updated project management strategic plans for HSS activities.

###### C. Supervision and Management 20%

The HSS Team Lead will supervise and manage a team of three staff, with direct supervisory responsibility for three individuals. Responsibilities will include ongoing coaching and mentoring of staff, setting professional development goals, identifying relevant training opportunities to advance those goals and strengthen the overall USAID/Liberia Health Office, providing written feedback and performance evaluations, and working with the Executive Officer to determine actions related to performance issues.

The HSS Team Lead is responsible for the financial management of programs, projects, and activities designed to strengthen Health Systems, including ensuring that obligations, expenditures, and budget pipelines conform to action plans; ensuring appropriate and timely incremental funding of activities; ensuring program activities are in compliance with USAID financial regulations, reporting any financial discrepancies to the Health Office Director, Budget Advisor, Finance Team, and/or Office of Procurement Support, keeping Mission Controller and Mission Financial Analysts informed of liquidation of advances; and, reviewing and providing administrative approval for assigned activities. The HSS Team Lead ensures compliance with auditing requirements and the closure of open recommendations and maintains monthly project financial management tracking systems.

- S/he works in a collaborative and instructional manner with members of the USAID/Liberia team with regards to the implementation and oversight of the HSS portfolio.

- The HSS Team Lead ensures that all necessary technical team members possess the adequate level of expertise in the area of HSS, and that USAID team members receive the appropriate levels of training where issues of HSS are concerned.

##### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- a. **Education:** The HSS Team Lead position requires a master's degree in a related field such as health financing, public

health, public administration, or economics.

- b. **Prior Work Experience:** A minimum of 7 years progressively responsible, professional-level experience in health sector program management or related private sector experience is required. At least two years of experience in development-related work, or related fields, for USAID, other donor agencies, GOL organizations, or private-sector institutions which included project design, performance monitoring, and/or the analysis and interpretation of large amounts of data is required.

- c. **Post Entry Training:** Familiarization training in USAID-specific procedures, regulations, and methods, and orientation to working from a donor-Agency perspective, will be provided. Formal COR/AOR training is necessary for proper job performance and will be provided. Training to maintain professional capability in the field, and other courses offered for professional USAID staff, as appropriate; and, courses, seminars, conferences, and other activities in fields related to the function and needed to maintain and update professional qualifications as they become available, subject to availability of funds. Environmental compliance training will be provided.

- d. **Language Proficiency:** Level IV fluency in English is required.

- e. **Job Knowledge:** In-depth professional-level knowledge of development principles, concepts, and practices, especially as they relate to health systems strengthening in Liberia and the region. Mastery of a variety of health development areas including health system strengthening, private sector engagement, health care reform, health information systems, human resources development, and governance and accountability is expected. The HSS Team Lead must have a good knowledge, or the potential to acquire such knowledge, of USG legislation, policy, and practice relating to development assistance; USAID programming policies, regulations, procedures, and documentation, and of the objectives, methodology, and status of assigned activities. The HSS Team Lead must also have knowledge and understanding, or the potential to acquire such knowledge, of the organization and respective roles of the different branches in the GOL in order to enhance effective communication, and to develop consensus on program/project strategy and implementation plans.

- f. **Skills and Abilities:** The ability to plan, organize, manage, and evaluate HSS, water and private sector activities is essential. Verbal communication skills, tact, and diplomacy are necessary in establishing and developing sustainable working relationships and a high level of trust with senior and middle-level GOL officials, and with public and private organizations. Tactful communication skills are also needed when explaining and interpreting GOL attitudes, priorities, and concerns to USAID/USG officials, and in negotiating project plans and resolving project implementation issues with appropriate host-country organizations, technical advisors, implementing partners, counterparts, and peers. Strong technical writing skills are mandatory in order to prepare regular and ad hoc reports, project documentation, and briefing papers. Analytical ability is required in order to interpret public policies, and to assist in the development of revised policies, as necessary; and, to develop and monitor the performance of budgets, and the development of periodic work plans. High technical

- skill level in project programming, policies, and in developing strategies for implementation. The HSS Team Lead must have the ability to work effectively in a team environment, and to achieve consensus on policy, project, and administrative matters. Good computer skills are required to manage activity goals and achievements.

**Clearances:** The ability to obtain medical and security clearances (Public Trust level—building access) in a timely manner is required.

##### POSITION ELEMENTS

- a. **Supervision Received:** The HSS Team Lead works under the supervision of the Deputy Health Team Office Director, who provides overall objectives, suggests approaches to consider, and reviews completed reports and assignments. Most assignments occur in the normal course of the work, but the HSS Team Lead is required to determine those that must be coordinated with superiors. The supervisor provides a review of the assignment, the goals and objectives to be achieved, and the expected results. The HSS Team Lead will seek advice and assistance as required.

- b. **Supervision Exercised:** The HSS Team Lead will supervise a team of three, with direct responsibility for three individuals: Supply Chain Advisor, Health Systems Advisor, and the M&E Advisor. The HSS Team Lead will cooperate closely with several agency and contract employees to oversee their work on results reporting to reconcile HSS performance against targets.

- c. **Available Guidelines:** Available administrative guidelines establish a broad pattern of operations that require a frequent need to exercise judgment and interpretation and provides an opportunity for initiative and innovation. Relevant guidelines include the USAID Automated Directives System (ADS), PEPFAR and PMI guidelines, Country Operational Plans, Health Implementation Plan, Country Development Cooperation Strategy, National Health Strategic Plan, Mission Orders and other directives. Guidelines are often general in nature and not specific to the situation at hand, requiring considerable interpretation.

- d. **Exercise of Judgment:** Independent judgment is required for developing, implementing, and managing programs/projects/activities, many of which are emergent institutions in areas of political and social sensitivity, and for reporting, and for other assignments. Judgment is required to make decisions, based on careful analysis of facts and variables, possible alternatives, and potential political and development implications and impact. The HSS Team Lead must exercise good judgment and completes work independently. S/he monitors implementation of activities and maintains accountability for results achieved.

- e. **Authority to Make Commitments:** The HSS Team Lead exercises the authority given to program/project/activity managers and CORs/AORs and may make administrative arrangements consistent with ADS guidance and Mission policy. The HSS Team Lead takes action and establishes priorities based on available guidelines and professional judgment. Within the scope of the authority delegated, the HSS Team Lead may indicate to ranking counterpart and implementing partner officials that s/he will make a recommendation to USAID on a specific activity issue or problem. The HSS Team Lead has no independent authority to expend USG funds.

- f. **Nature, Level, and Purpose of Contacts:** The HSS Team Lead has a full range of contacts within the U.S. Mission, at all levels, and maintains contact with contractors and grantees implementing USAID-funded programs/projects/activities in the sector. Within the Embassy,

- contacts are with counterpart staff and with senior staff as needed. Host-government, local, and other contacts vary widely with the type of activity being implemented, and may be at any level – including Ministerial, Deputy Minister, Permanent Secretary, Director etc. Frequent and substantive personal contacts with senior-level officials of the GRZ, and with the private sector, are for the purpose of explaining and defending USAID/USG policies, objectives, and procedures, and to transmit and interpret GOL and private-sector attitudes and concerns, and the attitudes and concerns of individual Liberians to senior USAID officials.

**g. Time Expected to Reach Full Performance Level:** One year

**10. AREA OF CONSIDERATION:** Open to All Interested CCNs (Cooperating Country Nationals).

AIDAR, Appendix J. 1 (b) Definitions:

(6) "Cooperating country" means the country in which the employing USAID Mission is located.

(7) "Cooperating country national" ("CCN") means an individual who is a cooperating country citizen, or a non-cooperating country citizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the cooperating country.

##### 11. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

##### 12. POINT OF CONTACT:

All application packages are to be submitted:

**USAID Project Management Specialist (Health Systems Strengthening)**

USAID/Liberia, C/O American Embassy Service Entrance,

Gibson Street, Mamba Point, Monrovia

Or by email to: Agatha W. Mangou, Human Resources Assistant, email: amangou@usaid.gov and

Sylvester Browne, Human Resources Specialist, email: sbrowne@usaid.gov

##### III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

###### A. Education—10 points

USAID will assess educational qualifications that increase the candidate's competitiveness for the position.

###### B. Relevant Work Experience—40 Points

USAID will assess relevant work experience that increases the candidate's competitiveness for the position.

###### C. Knowledge, Skills and Abilities—40 Points

Must possess strong analytical, communication and interpersonal skills. H/she must have strong command of the English language as well as strong computer, writing and speaking skills, including keyboarding/typing skills. Incumbent must possess highly developed organizational and task prioritization/tracking skills.

Demonstrated ability to establish and maintain effective relationships at all levels within the Mission personnel, and high-level Embassy Officers. Incumbent must possess the ability to shift priorities as required and excellent customer service skills and be able to respond sympathetically to all staff in a timely and positive manner.

H/she must be able to speak authoritatively before USAID's personnel and counterparts to negotiate and represent the U.S. Government's best interests to both U.S. and host country individuals.

###### D. Communication and Computer Skills—10 Points

Applicant skills in oral and written communication in the English language, including the ability to obtain, evaluate, and interpret reports, and to effectively communicate organizational mission and policies to staff and partners will be evaluated. USAID will evaluate the applicant's computer skills, including ease and skill in using MS-Office Suite of Applications and Google G Suite applications, and in using the internet to solve problems and conduct research on matters such as regulatory guidance and compliance.

**Total possible points = 100**

##### ADDITIONAL SELECTION CRITERIA

Management will consider potential nepotism/conflict of interest, and visa status when determining successful candidacy.

##### SELECTION PROCESS

After initial screening of applications, only short-listed applicants will be contacted and invited for an interview and a written exercise. Applicants selected for interview will also be evaluated on their reference checks.

##### HOW TO APPLY

Applications shall be submitted no later than the closing date specified, and should include the following:

1. A clearly typed application cover letter that briefly summarizes why you believe you are qualified for this position.
2. Resume or CV.
3. The names and contact details of three references that can attest to your Project Management and Health Systems Strengthening experience.
4. Documentation (e.g. copies of certificates or degrees) that address the minimum requirements of the position.
5. One to two-page writing sample broadly related to Project Management and Health Systems Strengthening development in Liberia.

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** The U.S. Mission provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**No witness directly linked Yekeh Kolubah**

**-Police officer testifies in lawmaker's trial**

By Winston W. Parley

Testifying as government's fourth witness, the head of the Crimes Services Department (CSD) at the Liberia National Police (LNP) Assistant Commissioner of Police Monroe A. Dennis says

Instead, the State witness told the trial at Criminal Court "A" Monday, 6 April that police investigators concluded that Mr. Kolubah was linked to the assault because he was around the incident scene as a senior citizen but did not intervene.

"Directly there was no

have his bodyguard released that morning," Officer Dennis tells the court.

Rep. Kolubah, a fierce critic of President George Manneh Weah is standing trial due to prosecutors claim in an indictment that the lawmaker's bodyguards acted on his order and brutalized victim Emmanuel Freeman who had refused to accept a leaflet offered him for a pending June 7, 2019 protest organized by the Council of Patriots (COP).

Prosecutors allege that Rep. Kolubah came out of this house "with a pistol" in his hand and allegedly remarked: "This is the man, we'll zero him tonight."

The indictment says defendants Oliver Konneh, Abu Keita, Mohammed Keita, and Johnson Skpor illegally arrested Emmanuel Freeman in Gay Town, Old Road Community on 5 June at 4:30, stripped him naked, handcuffed him and severely beat him with sticks, rocks and piece of iron on his head and other parts of the victim's body.

Mr. Kolubah and the rest of the defendants were jointly indicted in relation to the allegation, but he has been granted separate trial by the

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9**



Rep. Yekeh Kolubah

"Directly there was no witness" that told investigators that Rep. Yekeh Kolubah was involved in the assault against victim Emmanuel Freeman.

witness that told us that Yekeh was involved. And he being around as a senior citizen being around and not intervening make us to conclude that he was linked. Basically his intervention with the police to

**Lonestar Cell MTN expands network more rural towns and villages**

Liberia's GSM giant Lonestar Cell MTN announced Monday that the company is continuing its expansion project as it move to cover more rural towns and villages here.

The company said it believes that everyone deserves the benefits of a modern connected life. "That's why the company is expanding its network to reach the most remote towns and villages across Liberia," Lonestar Cell MTN aid in a release Monday.

So far, about hundred and four (104) communities have been connected to the MTN network with new sites launched across 10 counties (Grand Cape Mount, Nimba, Bong, Gbarpolu, Maryland, River Gee, Sinoe, Lofa, Grand Gedeh).

More than 338,000 people in these communities, which were not previously covered by any networks, can now make calls and send texts messages for the first time. The installation of these new sites means that customers no

longer travel longer distances to search for a signal.

"This is part of the significant investment Lonestar Cell MTN is making to improve

Commenting on the new sites, Lonestar Cell MTN's Chief Executive Officer, UcheOfodile said, "We have set a challenge for ourselves



Engineers installing a site in Kpahn Town, Sinoe County

the experience for its customers and deliver reliable data and high-quality voice calls across Liberia," Lonestar MTN release noted.

to lead the delivery of a bold, new digital world in Liberia. Our continued network expansion is our way of ensuring that in the most

**Red Cross humanitarian aid depleted**

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) president Mr. Jerome Clark alarms here that the institution is extremely challenged, saying request for food, non-food items and other IPC materials currently on LNRCS' desks are ten times more than it can afford at the moment because of the depletion of its stocks.

Launching LNRCS' coronavirus (COVID-19) response activities beginning with Montserrado and Margibi Counties Monday, 6 April in

According to him, LNRCS has made several interventions ranging from the distributions of hand washing buckets, dignity kits and other IPC materials aimed at promoting best hygiene practices here.

"Why our priorities are on community health and care, risk communication and community engagement for awareness raising and hygiene promotion, we strongly [believe] that there are other critical areas- including food and Psychosocial support for suspected and confirmed cases- need urgent attention.

He expresses appreciation to the International Committee



Monrovia, Mr. Clark said LNRCS is over stretched because its donors including countries that always provide support are also overwhelmed with this global pandemic, thereby limiting the institution's support for this response.

"The request for food, non-food items and other IPC materials currently on our desks are ten times more than we can afford at the moment because of the depletion of our stocks," he said at the Red Cross office down Lynch Street Monday.

of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) who have given an initial amount more than US\$35,000.00 to support risk communication activities in both Montserrado and Margibi.

He explains that the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has also made other existing humanitarian needs in the country more acute and further making the delivery of humanitarian aid even more critical and urgent.

He calls for increased

remote parts of Liberia, people can now connect to their families and loved ones using the MTN network. The communities we have connected so far are just the start. We will continue to connect more communities as we go along. We are Liberia's brightest network and our customers, who we consider our Y'ellofamily, can rely on us to always provide quality and a f f o r d a b l e telecommunications services everywhere they go."

Ensuring that people across Liberia are connected to the world is just one of the ways Lonestar Cell MTN is working to

be #good in Liberia.

About Lonestar Cell MTN/MTNLiberia

Lonestar Cell MTN/MTN Liberia, Liberia's leading telecommunications provider, was founded in 2001. We are a technology-based company with a focus on winning in everything we do while demonstrating consistency in innovation to meet our unique customer needs. We are a subsidiary of MTN, a leading international telecommunications groups operating in 21 countries across Africa and the Middle East.



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Works Minister denies close contact -with infected deputy**

Liberia's Minister of Public Works Mobotu Vlah Nyenpan, currently in self-quarantine at his residence in Barnesville, outskirts of Somalia Drive has denied ever coming in contact with one of

two weeks however disclosed Mr. Reynolds arrived in Monrovia on the 11th but couldn't recollect which month from an official abroad.

He had called in to the live talk show after reports that health authorities quarantine

There have been unauthenticated reports that Minister Nyenpan returned from Sweden recently and might be a suspected COVID-19 carrier, but the Minister denied ever traveling abroad this year.

According to him, his last official travel out of Liberia was in September 2019, as a member of President George Manneh Weah's official delegation to the African Summit in Japan.

However, news that Minister Nyenpan is suffering from cold and fever, as indicated by him being in self-quarantine, raises public concern here.

He was poised to face series of questions during the talk show, including reports that he held a big party recently at his residence to celebrate his birthday.

The party was reportedly attended by several senior government officials, among them Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, but Minister Nyenpan appeared uncomfortable with the line of questioning and ended the call abruptly. Officials here seem unwilling to report for quarantine after an official trip abroad, preferring to self-quarantine for fear of stigmatization. **-Story by Jonathan Browne**



Minister of Public Works Mobotu Vlah Nyenpan

his deputy ministers James Reynolds, who has tested positive of the COVID-19.

Speaking in a rather shrew voice Monday to Prime FM via mobile phone, Minister Nyenpan who had not reported for work in about

the Head Pastor of the City of Light Church of God, Bishop John Kunkun, where Deputy Minister Reynolds worships.

Health authorities suspect Bishop Kunkun may have come in close contact with Reynolds, who is already in quarantine.

**Embassies ordered**

*Starts from back page*

these distributions and to sensitize our people on the danger of this virus and to tell them that corona is real and no one should doubt the existence of this virus," he says.

Mr. Findley suggests that creating doubt in the mind will put people at risk and hinder the government's fight in the prevention of the virus.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah told a regular press briefing Monday,

6 April in Monrovia that there are a total of 14 confirmed coronavirus cases here with three deaths and three recoveries.

She says health workers are making frantic efforts in getting all of the contacts, saying government still wants to appeal to the people to continue to abide by the health measures put in place to help stop a wide spread of this virus. **--Edited by Winston W. Parley**

**No witness directly**

*Cont'd from page 6*

court.

The indictment alleges that Rep. Kolubah's statement motivated Oliver and the rest of the accused to further beat Emmanuel Freeman mercilessly with sticks and a piece of iron in plain view of the lawmaker and under his alleged instruction.

Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie discharged officer Dennis from the witness stand Monday after briefly restating the witness' responses to the court's questions, saying: he (Rep. Kolubah) was charged based on [grounds that] he did not take appropriate action to have the victim released and that he (Rep. Kolubah) called the police commander who was the CSD Commander.

Earlier testifying Monday morning, Officer Dennis asserted that investigation established that victim Freeman was allegedly attacked at a local shop on the Old Road in the presence of the shop's owner only identified as Naomi, and forcibly taken away by his attackers to Rep. Kolubah's house under gunpoint.

Prior to the alleged incident, Officer Dennis says investigation established that the victim had refused leaflet for the June 7 (2019) protest extended to him by one of the guys in a pickup with Rep. Kolubah's personal bodyguard Abu Keita.

Dennis testifies that the guys later engaged Freeman at Naomi's shop on grounds that his statement for them to bring forth the families of those

organizing the protest before he would accept the leaflet was a show of disrespect, allegedly prompting them to attack him.

Additionally, Dennis says during the investigation, Freeman said after he had been attacked and injured, Rep. Kolubah appeared and said "this is the guy we will zero him."

He alleges further that the investigation established that Rep. Kolubah solicited and facilitated the brutal flogging and humiliation of victim Freeman.

For his part, the State's fifth witness Reeham Mellish testified that he was informed about the attack against Freeman, but he got there when the attackers had already beaten the victim.

He testifies that the attackers allegedly to Freeman to Rep. Kolubah's house, saying Keita cuffed the victim at a market building.

The witness says he left the scene after Rep. Kolubah allegedly said: "this is the man, I will zero him," and further says "yes," when the Court inquires if he didn't see the lawmaker beating or telling somebody to beat Emmanuel.

However, witness Mellish testifies that he saw Rep. Kolubah with a pistol and telling his (Mellish's) friend that he will zero him.

The trial continues Wednesday, 8 April at Court "A", Temple of Justice in Monrovia.

**SIBM Service Liberia donates to West Point**

*By Lewis S. Teh*

To curtail the wide spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19 in Liberia, SIMS Service Liberia (SIBM) Inc. , a Liberian - based organization has donated food and assorted items to the township of West Point and two other communities in support of government's COVID - 19 relief efforts.

According to the local NGO, the donation comes at a time many pregnant women, baby mothers and orphanages are faced with the challenge of feeding the children during this crisis.

Making the donation over the weekend in West Point, Ms. Jarzoe Vivian Bhatti, Chief Executive Officer of the organization said SIBM Service Liberia saw it fit to partner with underprivileged kids including pregnant women and baby mothers concerned in order to provide food for them.

Considering the nature of the pandemic, there are many families that are going through difficulties and orphanages are among the



most vulnerable.

According to her, his organization's intervention is to bring some relief by providing them some food during this crisis.

Items donated in the various communities include 50 bags of Rice, 6 cartons of tide soap and Clorox, and 3 buckets among others.

According to her, SIBM Service Liberia is a nonprofit organization that she established in 2014 prior to the entry of the deadly Ebola virus

disease.

She notes that they carried on awareness and donated food and non-food items across various districts within Montserrado, adding that her farsightedness and the passion she has in everything she does has prompted her to establish the organization.

Meanwhile, the SIBM Service CEO cautions citizens to continue to observe the measures being put in place by health authorities, saying this is not the time to deny

**Advertise with us!**

that this disease is real.

Receiving the donation, the Commissioner of the Township of West Point, Mr. William C. Wea thanks Ms. Bhatti for the donation, saying it is timely.

According to Mr. Wea, this is

the most difficult time in the life of the people of West Point and Liberia at large, adding that the donation came at a time the township is overwhelmed. **--Edited by Winston W. Parley**



# Français

## La PAL se dit déçue du refus de l'Etat du Libéria de payer ses dettes envers les médias

L'Association des Rédacteurs du Libéria (PAL) a exprimé sa profonde déception face au refus de l'Etat du Libéria de régler son endettement auprès des médias libériens qui, depuis deux ans après l'arrivée au pouvoir de ce régime, sont en difficulté.

Vendredi, lors d'une réunion d'urgence à Monrovia, les rédacteurs en

chef ont noté que, malgré les promesses répétées du gouvernement de respecter ses obligations financières envers les médias, il semble avoir délibérément refusé de tenir ses promesses.

En conséquence, les institutions médiatiques traversent une grave crise financière, car leur base publicitaire reste à un niveau bas, aggravé par le non-paiement par le gouvernement

de sa dette, et le fait que le site Web de l'Executive Mansion a, au cours des dernières années, supprimé les avis d'embauche et d'autres publicités des médias locaux.

La situation actuelle oblige les médias à s'effondrer, au milieu du coût quotidien élevé de l'impression, du carburant de générateur et

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Essais cliniques d'un vaccin contre le Covid-19 en RDC: le Pr Muyembe jette le trouble

Vendredi, le patron de la riposte en RDC, le professeur Jean-Jacques Muyembe, déclarait qu'il pourrait y avoir sans son pays des essais cliniques d'un vaccin contre le nouveau coronavirus. Cette annonce a provoqué un tollé dans le pays. Depuis,

le professeur Muyembe a assuré qu'il n'y aurait pas de vaccination au Congo sans essais aux États-Unis ou en Chine. Essais qui, précise-t-il à RFI, doivent recevoir la validation de l'OMS.

Dans sa première réponse, le professeur Muyembe avait évoqué un ami au Canada ;

dans sa deuxième des essais cliniques aux États-Unis ou en Chine. Il y a bien à l'heure actuelle des phases pilotes d'essais cliniques sur trois vaccins aux États-Unis, au Canada et en Chine. Ce sont les premiers pays à passer à l'expérimentation sur des êtres humains pour ces substances cruciales dans la lutte contre l'épidémie (51 autres vaccins n'en sont qu'à la phase de test sur les animaux).

Une longue route avant des essais sur les humains

Mais avant l'homologation et la commercialisation, la route est longue, sans doute plus d'un an. Ces trois vaccins n'en sont qu'aux phases 1 et 2 de test. Ce qui permet d'affiner les dosages, de découvrir les principaux effets secondaires. En général, ces essais se font sur quelques dizaines ou centaines de personnes.

Tant que l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS)

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## Éditorial

### COVID-19 : Il faut intensifier la recherche des contacts

Maintenant, avec l'annonce de trois décès et de 10 cas confirmés du COVID-19 au Libéria en moins d'un mois, il est impératif que les autorités sanitaires intensifient la recherche des contacts des victimes pour briser la chaîne de transmission. Depuis que le président Weah a signalé le cas index du pays le 16 mars, le taux d'infection a rapidement augmenté.

Plus nous prenons du retard dans le suivi des contacts plus nous permettons une prolifération des sites de reproduction de cas confirmés potentiels. Le ministère de la Santé et l'Institut national de santé publique devraient agir rapidement pour retrouver ces contacts, car ces 10 cas confirmés et ces trois décès ont sûrement été en contact avec des gens.

La sensibilisation vigoureuse du public est certainement une très bonne chose, qu'à cela ne tienne, les autorités ne doivent pas se détendre et attendre d'autres nouveaux cas. Il faut qu'ils soient assez proactifs pour rechercher les contacts suspects et les emmener en observation préventive, car c'est une évidence que la recherche des contacts sans perdre le moindre temps peut freiner la propagation rapide du virus et sauver des vies.

La préparation des centres de quarantaine à travers le pays est un autre sujet de préoccupation dans la lutte contre ce virus mortel. Une employée du ministère de la Santé qui était récemment revenue de la Suède et mise en quarantaine à l'hôpital militaire 14, s'était plainte d'un manque de prise en charge et déploré un mauvais environnement.

Les infirmières se montrent inquiètes et indifférentes qu'à répondre ou à prendre soin des personnes transférées dans les centres de quarantaine, ce qui pourrait aggraver encore l'état traumatique des malades.

Par exemple, si les soi-disant centres de quarantaine manquent de services de base telles que l'électricité, la ventilation, la nourriture et l'eau, et des conseils, les patients y seront exposés à une mort certaine. Les centres de quarantaine ne doivent surtout pas ressembler à un camp de concentration.

Le gouvernement devrait agir rapidement pour faire face à des telles situations qui risquent de dissuader les gens de se présenter aux fins de quarantaine. Un patient suspecté de COVID-19 devrait-il être condamné à mort ? Pas question.

Les centres d'observation de précaution et de quarantaine devraient donner de l'espoir à notre peuple, au lieu d'aggraver sa situation. De même, les agents de santé à travers le pays devraient être pris en charge en termes d'équipement de protection et de primes pour les motiver au travail.

**CASE UPDATE**

**3 new cases confirmed as of 12:00 pm, April 5th 2020**

<b>Total confirmed cases</b>		
13		
<b>Total Active cases</b>	<b>Total Recovered</b>	<b>Total Deaths</b>
7	3	3
<b>Total Suspected Cases</b>		10
<b>For more info call: 4455 (toll free)</b>		

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



# Français

## La PAL se dit déçue du refus de l'Etat du

d'autres logistiques que les médias doivent payer quotidiennement dans un contexte de propagation de la pandémie de coronavirus.

Lors de leur réunion le week-end dernier, les professionnels des médias ont averti que comme le gouvernement ne paie toujours pas sa dette due aux institutions des médias ils prendront éventuellement plusieurs mesures, dont notamment la suspension des couvertures et un éventuel

retrait des kiosques à journaux.

Les professionnels des médias ont rappelé qu'à la fin de l'année dernière, lors de la cérémonie de passation de service du président de l'Union de presse du Libéria, le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement (MFDP), Samuel D. Tweahavait annoncé publiquement que le gouvernement libérien était disposé à régler toutes ses dettes vis-à-vis des médias.

## Essais cliniques d'un vaccin contre le

n'aura pas validé ces premiers résultats, il n'y aura pas de phase 3, c'est-à-dire de test à plus grande échelle pour confirmer l'efficacité de ces vaccins. Ce n'est qu'à cette phase que les laboratoires ou consortiums internationaux pourront présenter conjointement, avec un institut de recherche national comme l'Institut national de recherche biomédicale (INRB) en République démocratique du Congo, un protocole d'essai clinique aux autorités nationales. Il y a plusieurs étapes de validation, comme l'obligation faite d'obtenir l'accord du comité d'éthique national.

La nécessité d'un « consentement éclairé »

Reste qu'en RDC, ce que met en cause la société civile, c'est l'absence de consentement éclairé des populations, faute de débats publics sur ces questions. Il faut donc avant tout donner des informations précises au public, selon maître Chris Shematsi, membre du mouvement citoyen Compte à rebours, qui a écrit au professeur Muyembe. Et de rappeler ce que prévoient les principales règles éthiques applicables à la recherche médicale. « Il est extrêmement difficile de réussir des essais cliniques dans un contexte d'opacité, surtout dans un contexte dans lequel les populations qui sont en fine bénéficiaires de ces essais cliniques n'ont aucune maîtrise des termes

du débat. C'est ainsi que nous avons adressé une correspondance au professeur Muyembe en insistant sur la notion de consentement éclairé, explique-t-il. »

« À ce titre, dit encore maître Chris Shematsi, nous avons posé quelques questions. Premièrement, nous avons voulu nous enquerir de l'état de la procédure liée à la candidature de la République démocratique du Congo telle qu'évoquée par le professeur Muyembe lui-même. Nous avons voulu savoir si c'est le professeur qui a, de son propre chef, candidaté pour le compte de la République ou si c'est l'État qui a candidaté pour le compte de la République via ses organes compétents. L'exigence de transparence à ce niveau est un impératif. Deuxièmement, nous avons voulu identifier l'interlocuteur de la République démocratique du Congo dans le cadre de cette démarche. S'agit-il d'un laboratoire pharmaceutique basé au Canada, aux États-Unis ou en Chine ? Pourquoi faisons-nous partie des pays pilotes ? Quel est notre gain en tant qu'État ? C'est une question que l'on doit se poser aussi, le fait de mettre ces informations à la disposition du public va renforcer les liens de confiance entre les autorités de la riposte et les populations. »

Depuis le début de l'épidémie déclarée le 10 mars 2020, la RDC a fait état de 154 cas confirmés et 18 décès. Trois personnes sont guéries.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Harold James

## Pandémie, démocratie et économie

**P**RICETON - La crise du coronavirus remet radicalement en question le fonctionnement des Etats et de l'économie. Ainsi que l'écrit Matthew M. Kavanagh de l'université de Georgetown dans la revue médicale The Lancet, la pandémie serait révélatrice d'un choix à faire entre plusieurs alternatives, car il serait impossible d'avoir simultanément une population en bonne santé, une économie florissante et une démocratie fonctionnelle.

Autrement dit, si nous voulons que les avions continuent à voler, que les restaurants et les pubs gardent leurs portes ouvertes, davantage de gens deviendront malades et mourront. Par contre, si nous mettons l'activité économique quasiment à l'arrêt, la crise financière qui en résultera sera beaucoup plus grave que celle de 2008 et le taux de chômage atteindra, voire dépassera, celui atteint lors de la Grande Dépression. Beaucoup de petites entreprises qui ont suspendu leur activité (notamment dans le petit commerce, la restauration et les services) ne rouvriront jamais.

Dans le contexte de la pandémie, on peut imaginer un système technologique rigoureux et intrusif destiné à identifier les personnes infectées et celles avec lesquelles elles ont été ou seront en contact. Avec les outils de surveillance actuels, il est possible de déterminer qui était assis à coté de vous dans le bus ou qui vous a remis un ticket de caisse lors d'un achat dans un magasin. Ces informations peuvent être précieuses pour contenir une épidémie, mais leur collecte implique un recul impressionnant de la protection de la vie privée.

Pour l'instant, un seul pays au monde s'approche de cette surveillance de masse. C'est la Chine où chaque action des citoyens peut être contrôlée par l'Etat et se traduire en points (crédit social) pour ses derniers. Ainsi que nombre de commentateurs l'ont souligné, la réponse de la Chine à la crise du Covid-19 semble plus efficace que celles de n'importe quel autre pays.

Pour autant, que si l'on veut la démocratie, il n'y a peut-être pas à choisir entre une économie prospère et une population en bonne santé. De même, si l'on veut une économie florissante, il n'y a peut-être pas à choisir entre les libertés civiles et la santé de la population.

Les macroéconomistes qualifient de trilemme ce type de choix entre trois alternatives. Dès le début des années 1960, deux d'entre eux, Robert Mundell et John Fleming, soulignaient qu'un taux de change fixe est compatible soit avec la libre circulation des capitaux, soit avec une politique monétaire indépendante, mais pas avec les deux en même temps. Plus récemment, Dani Rodrik de l'université de Harvard a appliqué cette idée à la mondialisation en disant que "démocratie, souveraineté nationale et intégration économique mondiale sont incompatibles : on peut combiner deux quelconque de ces trois éléments, mais pas les trois simultanément".

Heureusement à y regarder de plus près, cette idée d'incompatibilité n'est pas exacte. Les économistes modernes la rejettent parce qu'un taux de change fixe ne laisse pas beaucoup de liberté quant au choix de la politique monétaire.

Par ailleurs, aucun des trois facteurs entre lesquels il faut choisir n'a un caractère absolu : un taux de change n'est jamais totalement fixe, car aussi rigide soit-il (y compris dans le cas d'une union monétaire), il est possible d'y toucher. De même, la circulation du capital n'est jamais libre à 100%, car il existe toujours des restrictions sur le plan intérieur. Quant à la politique monétaire, même dans une économie entièrement fermée, elle ne peut faire totalement abstraction de ce qui se passe à l'extérieur.

Ceux qui ont proposé plus récemment des tris de facteurs incompatibles simultanément devraient retenir des leçons macroéconomiques de base. Aucun pays ne dispose d'une souveraineté complète, car les événements extérieurs influent sur les choix que fait un gouvernement. Aucun pays, aucun peuple, ne peut parvenir à une démocratie complète, parce que certaines décisions dépendent d'événements extérieurs ou sont déléguées à un corps représentatif. De même, nous ne parviendrons jamais à une mondialisation totale, parce que les peuples et leurs gouvernements auront toujours tendance à privilégier leur propre intérêt.

De ce fait, les compromis n'ont jamais un caractère absolu dans le monde réel ; ils restent négociables ou sont même illusoire. Dans le cas du Covid-19, nous devons protéger la santé de la population tout en préservant la structure sociale et politique. Pour cela, nous savons déjà que la diffusion et le partage des informations médicales au niveau international est nécessaire pour parvenir à une réaction d'ensemble efficace, non seulement face à la pandémie, mais aussi à tout défi similaire qui se présenterait dans l'avenir. Par ailleurs, la réponse à la crise doit absolument inclure des tests à grande échelle et le traçage des contacts des personnes infectées, ce qui suppose une atteinte à la vie privée - atteinte qui se doit d'être limitée.

Du point de vue économique, loin d'infliger un coup à long terme à la croissance, la pandémie génère de nouvelles occasions de développement. C'est le cas de la télémédecine qui permet de réaliser des consultations médicales virtuelles, de s'autoadministrer des tests sanguins et de surveiller à distance des paramètres médicaux. La profession médicale s'est dressée contre ces innovations en insistant sur l'importance de l'examen physique du patient ainsi que d'autres actes d'une époque révolue. La médecine et de nombreux autres secteurs explorent finalement les ressources offertes par les technologies de l'information et de la communication du 21<sup>e</sup> siècle. Nombreux de secteurs d'activités conserveront probablement les nouvelles procédures qu'elles auront développées durant la pandémie.

Par définition, une crise contraint à faire des choix. Ils peuvent se faire sous le coup de la panique en ne considérant que le court terme et conduire plus tard à des effets destructeurs. Mais ils peuvent être radicaux, innovants et constructifs. Au-delà de la Chine, la Corée du Sud a réussi à contenir l'épidémie sans renoncer à la démocratie. Espérons que les choix que nous ferons face à la crise renforceront notre dynamisme et notre résilience à long terme.

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# PERSPECTIVES PERSPECTIVES

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

## Dishonesty. Dual Citizenship

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr. March 31, 2020

Secretary of State (of Liberia)".

Although there is no international convention or agreement on Dual Citizenship or Nationality and/or Multiple Nationality, but they are patent violations of the main, basic Requirements of Citizenship - allegiance, loyalty and patriotism - therefore, laws are made, with the proviso, to be amended or repealed in the event that the socio-cultural, economic and political conditions that gave rise to the passing of such laws are not, any longer valid and effective. But Dual Citizenship or Nationality and/or Multiple Nationality are granted, generally, to applicants for naturalization upon pledges of allegiance, loyalty, patriotism and renunciation of all, previous, nationalities.

Recently, addressing members of her Senate colleagues, Senator NyonbleeKarnagar-Lawrence(LP, Grand Bassa County) "called upon the Senate to reject the nomination of Cllr. NdubusiNwabudikeas chairman of the Nation's National Elections Commission (NEC) in a proposed amendment submitted by the President, passed by both Houses of the National Legislature, signed by the President and awaiting referendum" (Front Page Africa, March 26, 2020).

The Honorable Senator said, further, that "the Legislature and the President 'agreed thata Liberian born to both or one parent with citizenship of another (foreign) country will be given dual citizenship, but will not be appointed to certain government positions, because of being a citizen of two countries, such persons will also be beholding to dual allegiances' (a violation of loyalty and patriotism). But, today, the President, who proposed this amendment, has nominated a Nigerian-born citizen as a Liberian to head the National Elections Commission".

Also, generally, dual citizenship or nationality and/or multiple nationality rest upon grants to naturalization applicants by, almost, all nations in exchange for their pledges of allegiance, loyalty and patriotism, with renunciation of previous nationalities. Now, for the Republic of Liberia, a nation whose People fled from human servitude, cruelty and human degradation, CITIZENSHIP IS CRUCIAL, CRITICAL AND THE ONLY SGNIFICANT OPTION.

Therefore, Article 28 of the Liberian Constitution of 1986, based on the Liberian Alien & Nationality Law passed and approved on May 9, 1974 which provides that "person, at least one of whose parents was a citizen of Liberia at the time of the person's birth, shall be a citizen of Liberia; provided that any such person shall, upon reaching (the age of) maturity (18 years and over) renounces any other citizenship acquired by virtue of one parent being a citizen of another (foreign) country . . .".

Consequently, Liberian Alien and Nationality Law of 1974 and Article 28 of the Constitution of 1986 have, effectively, banned dual citizenship, dual nationality and/or multiple nationality for all time because of the prevailing socio-cultural, economic and political conditions - political infidelity, renunciation of allegiance, disloyalty and lack of patriotism to the Republic. But these conditions, including public/private dishonesty are not only valid, exist and with us today, but also, have increased over time and, "above all else", corruption and stealing of public resources have increased tremendously!!

Therefore both Houses of the National Legislature ERRED and IN SERIOUS VIOLATION of the Alien and Nationality Law of 1974 and Article 28 of the Constitution of Liberia of 1986.

LOSS OF LIBERIAN CITIZENSHIP: Chapter 22, Section 22.1 of the Liberian Alien & Nationality Law provides:

- "Obtaining naturalization in a foreign state . . . provided that citizenship shall not be lost by any person . . . as the result of the naturalization of a parent or parents while such person is under the age of 21 years, unless such person shall fail to enter Liberia to establish a permanent residence prior to his/her twenty-third birthday";
- "Taking an oath or making an affirmation or other formal declaration of allegiance to a foreign state . . .";
- "Exercising a free choice to enter or serve in the armed forces of a foreign state, unless prior to such entry or service is specifically authorized by the President (of Liberia)";
- "Voting in a political election in a foreign state or voting in an election or plebiscite to determine the sovereignty of a foreign state over foreign territory"; and
- "Making a formal renunciation of Liberian nationality before a diplomatic or consular officer of Liberia in a foreign state in such form that may be prescribed by the

Thus dual, Liberian-foreign citizenship or simply "dual citizenship" has been banned, outlawed and rendered "illegal effectively" during the nation's history of 172 years to this today. Unless the prevailing powerful, highly-organized, with millions of US dollar-support, and the "national quest" ARE able to show, upon validated proof, that the socio-cultural, economic and political conditions which gave rise to the passing of the law against dual citizenship no longer exists. But to say that will be sadly untrue, because the evidence to the contrary is all around us and in our daily lives.

There are some critical, relevant and troubling questions which include the Senator's "certain positions in government that dual citizens, including Cllr. Nwabudike, are not allowed to hold".

But the legality of Cllr. Nwabudike's Liberian citizenship is unquestionable and is not one of the questions because the issue of legality had been established by his admission to the Supreme Court Bar years ago. But the troubling question is this Nigerian-born "Smarty's" Liberia-ness, his very close association with "colleagues" of Liberia's dreaded-TWP attorneys and long-time political strategists-operators. Is he a foreign citizen, perhaps, of the USA, in the light of the of Liberia-TWP tradition? This question is as important as it is relevant, given the fiasco history of the former President Sirleaf and Cllr. Jerome Korkoya that took the



nation to the brink of a constitutional crisis. Unfortunately, *Front Page Africa* did not ask this direct question during its exclusive, recent press interview (*Front Page Africa*, March 23, 2020).

Dual Citizenship in Liberia

In a recent article, we held that the passionately-, hotly-debated battle for continual legal DENIAL or amendment-repeal ACCEPTANCE as public Policy of Dual citizenship which has replaced, effectively, the Masonic Craft in socio-cultural, economic and political Liberian affairs ,now, flexes its muscles. Though illegal in Liberia, Dual Citizenship has become the "don" or the undisputed-mastermind and controlled-leader of those Liberians who desire economic, political and social-class symbol; therefore:

- Any Liberian who is "somebody" in Liberian socio-economic and political affairs is or must be a citizen of a foreign country and have two Passports, Liberian and foreign; and
- Any Liberian who wants to be "somebody" in Liberian socio-economic and political affairs strives to acquire citizenship of foreign country. In this way, Dual citizenship has become the primary goal for economic and political achievement and a socio-political class symbol.

Unlike the Masonic Craft, Dual Citizenship, as indicated, is illegal in Liberia; it is against Liberian Laws on Citizenship, Elections, Alien & Nationality and Constitutional Laws for Liberian citizen to hold foreign citizenship while, simultaneously, a Liberian citizen. But Liberian law recognizes that any Liberian citizen may take on naturalized citizenship of foreign country, but by doing so, the Liberian loses his/her Liberian citizenship, although Liberian Plenipotentiary (Ambassador) appointed, recently, to the Court of Saint James in the United Kingdom is a Dual Citizen who holds two passports, Diplomatic Liberian and a US Ordinary passport!

It is important to note that Dual Citizenship Liberia and its

Diaspora-based organizers- supporters have been, and are engaged, vigorously, in seeking amendment/repeal of the laws against dual citizenship by numerous legislations pending before the Legislature, including the Alien & Nationality Law.

The Liberia's Pandora Box

Thus, our country has been, and is, in for a long haul, because that which is being sought to be revealed, perhaps piece-meal, by the Reports is a tip of the iceberg. A detailed comprehensive revelation with public exposure, driven by "guts, courage, the political-will and loyalty/patriotism" reminiscent of the diplomatic Wikileaks, are absolute necessities.

Dragged before the nation's Supreme Court on charges of being a Dual Citizen (US and Liberia), a violation of Elections and Constitutional Law, with overwhelming, validated evidence, Cllr. Jerome Korkoya, then Chairman of Liberia's National Elections Commission (NEC), told the High Court that "Those making the claim (charges against him) are opening a Liberian Pandora Box . . . why come after me . . . take the issue up with the Executive Branch of government (headed by President Sirleaf) that appointed me" (Front Page Africa, June 23, 2017).

Thus, Cllr. Korkoya likened the control and domination of the nation's Government- Governance, economic management and its Political Economy dominated, controlled, by Dual Citizenship and, also, likened to the ancient Greek mythology of the Pandora Box.

Moreover, the massive "control & domination" may be compared to the past Chicago-styled political "system" - smoke-filled and closed-door/back rooms and wheeling-dealing a la the famous, deadly Mafia and Liberia's corps of the highly-educated Dual Citizens - MBAs, MSCs, PhDs, LLMs - who developed Liberia Corruption, Inc. into successful, thriving, big business supported financially, mainly, by government's successful salary/wage allowances policy.

Dishonest beneficiaries of this policy, officials of government, have been, and are, in collusion with foreign-owned vendors of portable electric power generators, expensive vehicles and related merchandise, objects of the salary/wage allowances.

Liberia dual Citizens are, now, in control of the Corridors of State Power and have become a potent political force. All, almost, Dual Citizens own and maintain homes in the foreign countries of their citizenships, countries to which they plan to escape in order to avoid arrest/prosecution for law violations of massive stealing. From the top (former President Sirleaf) through such political notables as Drs. Amos Sawyer and Elwood Dunn (known US citizen) to the bottom of all leading government officials own homes in foreign countries.

Executives and staff of the three Branches of Government - Legislative, Executive and Judiciary - are Dual Citizens (particularly, Finance & Development Planning Ministry (that plans and develops nothing but corruption) and Liberia Revenue Authority).

State-owned Enterprises - National Port Authority (NPA), Liberia Petroleum Refinery Corporation (LPRC), National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCOL), Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), Liberia Airport Authority (LAA), Liberia Maritime Authority (LMA), etc. - are all enclaves for Dual Citizens.

Liberian Law & our Recent Research Findings:

- Firstly, according to the following constitutional provisions, a Liberian citizen who becomes naturalized citizen of a foreign country and, therefore, has lost his/her Liberian citizenship (now an alien) may not engage in the political process and/or stand for and hold elective as well as appointive public office. Such Liberian who, in fact, is an alien, is ineligible to:
  - Stand for election as member of the Legislature (Article 30 of the Constitution);
  - Hold the offices of president and vice president (Article 52(a));
  - Become member of the judiciary (Articles 68(a) & 69(a); and
  - Vote and/engage in the political process (Article 77(b)).
- Secondly, our research information on the Citizenship Status of declared candidates for President during the last October 10, 2017 general elections revealed that of the 12 politicians seeking the presidency of Liberia, including the retiring, none-candidate President Sirleaf, 6 or 50% are US citizens, 4 or 33% are in doubt, while only 2 or 17% are Liberian citizens. Thus, the reason that all, almost, politicians and political parties supported the illegal appointment of Cllr. Jerome Korkoya as Chairman of the NEC in order to secure and protect their self-interests - *Dual Citizenship!*



# Nwabudike is finished!

By Othello B. Garblah

**C**ourt and Immigration officials here have certified that self-proclaimed Naturalized Liberian, Nigerian national, Cllr. A. Ndubusi Nwabudike is not a naturalized Liberian as he has claimed to land several prominent jobs in the George Weah led Government.

Cllr. Nwabudike was first appointed as head of the Governance Commission before being appointed to head the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission in less than two years.

His claims of being a naturalized Liberian was challenged at the Liberian Senate during a confirmation hearing following his nomination by President Weah to head the National Elections Commission or NEC as chair.

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 not allowed-an applicant must be 21.

He submitted a photocopy of what he claimed was his



Cllr. A. Ndubusi Nwabudike

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.

Now, documents obtained and shared by Talk show Host Henry P. Costa from the Criminal Court B indicate that there is no record whatsoever to prove that he did naturalized in 1982 as claimed-Nwabudike lied plain and simple.

"This is to certify that after a perusal of the records of this Honorable Court on the hereinabove name (Augustine Ndubusi Nwabudike regarding his naturalization of May, A.D 1982, we have not found any document up to the issuance of this certificate," Criminal Court B, Clerk of Court Ben George Teah wrote on Monday April 6.

"In furtherance of our check, we communicated with the Liberian Immigration Service and they replied that

after a thorough search of their records they have not found any information on the aforesaid individual regarding his legal residence status or naturalization," the court's clerk added.

Cllr. Nwabudike could face criminal prosecution and perjury charges for lying under oath before the 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.

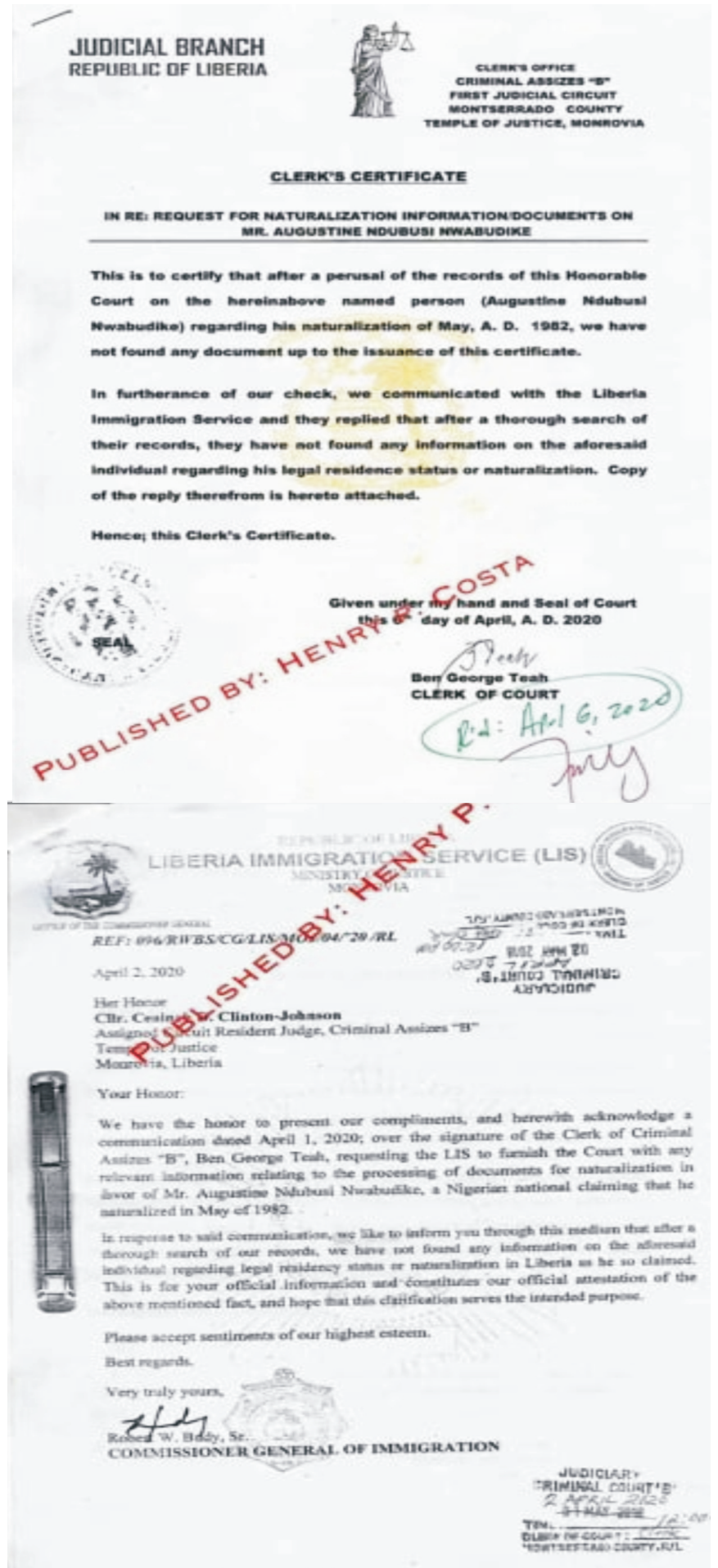
Cllr. Nwabudike was nominated by President George Weah on Friday March 21, to head the National Elections Commission or NEC as chair. He has lied about almost everything including his naturalization papers, date of birth, and references.

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 the passports.



## Pay salary before lockdown

**A**s Liberians brace themselves for an imminent lockdown to prevent spread of the coronavirus, public workers here call on government to pay salaries for at least two months to enable them cope, while staying at home.

Civil servants across the country, including thousands of non-essential staff sent on compulsory leave have not taken pay for March.

But the President of the

Liberia Labour Congress Mulbah Johnson says suspension of businesses is a reason to assist employees.

Speaking to OK FM Monday, he said government should pay at least two months' salaries to empower the workforce amid the current health crisis.

Mr. Johnson also stressed the need to provide protection and increase incentives for health workers in the country because they are on the frontline, leading the fight against the

virus.

There is an imminent lockdown here as the country's COVID-19 confirmed cases jumped from 6 to 14 in barely a week, including three deaths.

"Out of the three new cases, two of them were people who were presenting the symptoms and by the time we were called, they had already died. It's a male and a female; we tested them and they tested positive", said the Minister of Health, Doctor Wilhemina Jallah

According to Doctor Jallah, all three deaths occurred outside of government treatment facility, adding, "They died either at home or in another hospital."

Government had already shutdown schools, churches, mosques, and entertainment centers, including public gatherings of any sort, while considering other options such as imposition of curfew or a lockdown of the country.

Such stringent measures, though necessary for the current crisis, could pose serious economic and social problems in a country with a very weak economy, largely due to mismanagement.







# Embassies ordered closed



Foreign Minister Gbehzohngar Milton Findley

By Lewis S. Teh

The Liberian Government has ordered all its embassies to close as the deadly novel coronavirus ravage the world leaving many countries to put in place lock down measures to curb the virus.

Liberia's Foreign Minister Gbehzohngar Milton Findley told a local radio station that the order is meant to curtail to spread of COVID-19 here.

"At this point the world is

at a very critical juncture and we can't afford to risk the lives of our citizens in foreign land," he says.

As at Monday, 6 April, Liberia had 14 confirmed coronavirus cases with three deaths and three recovery so far. Health officials here say they are making frantic efforts to curtail the spread of this virus.

Minister Findley explains that the government made the pronouncement to close all its embassies around the world about three weeks ago, adding

that the embassies in Japan and China have since closed.

"And we are aware of the chaos this virus is causing to top countries around the world, it's against this backdrop that we have ordered all of our foreign diplomats to work from home and continue to work with their respective countries of assignment," he explains further.

Minister Findley discloses that a chartroom has also been setup for every diplomat outside of Liberia where they will discuss issues relative to their workings, and to put the government on track on issues of national concern especially relating to the progress that are made in tackling the virus.

The Liberian Foreign Minister who had gone to distribute anti - coronavirus materials to citizens in Grand Bassa says the distribution was intended to create awareness in the county on the importance of the virus.

"We thought to carry out

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7**



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# Cameroon turns stadium into isolation centre

Cameroon has turned a football stadium in the country into an accommodation centre for coronavirus patients as authorities grapple with lack of space to lodge and treat the growing number of people testing positive for the virus.

Minister of Public Health, Dr Manaouda Malachie, said on Saturday that the Yaounde military stadium will now serve as one of the large capacity centres in the capital expected to increase the country's

management capacity to more than 3,000 beds.

He had earlier accompanied the Secretary General of the Cameroon Presidency, Mr Ferdinand Ngoh Ngoh, for an inspection of the stadium. Authorities are also using some newly constructed social housing apartments in the country as accommodation centres. Confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the Central African country have hit 650 as it recorded nine deaths and 17 recoveries.

The country was the fifth on



the continent with the highest number of confirmed cases after South Africa, Algeria, Egypt and Morocco as at Saturday. According to the Public Health Minister, the growing number of identified cases of the virus is thanks to a revised government strategy which includes mass generalised testing.

A mass testing campaign began in the country's economic hub, Douala, with community health workers going round neighbourhoods to find potential positive cases.

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