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# 1 in 3 high-risk persons test positive

## -Dr. Jallah

# Several arrested over Covid-19 measures



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# Continental News

## China promises non-discriminatory treatment of Nigerians, others

Following a formal protest by the Federal Government over the shabby treatment of Nigerians in Guangzhou, the People's Republic of China has promised better, non-discriminatory treatment of Nigerians and other Africans.

The Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry said the authorities of Guangdong where some Nigerians were evicted from their homes and hotels last week, were working to improve their working method.

The Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Zhao Lijian, in a statement on Sunday, stated that the provincial government would henceforth provide health management services without differentiation, designate hotels for the accommodation of foreigners required to undergo medical observation and adopt price adjustment for those in financial difficulties.



He noted that the authorities would also set up an effective communication mechanism with foreign consulates-general in Guangzhou and reject all racist and discriminatory remarks.

A viral video had shown

some Nigerians in Guangzhou being evicted from their homes and chased down the street by Chinese policemen.

The Nigerians complained that they were placed under compulsory 14-day quarantine, adding that

despite testing negative for COVID-19, the authorities insisted that the quarantine period would be extended by another two weeks, a directive they resisted.

The Chinese officials were also said to have confiscated the passports of the Nigerians.

A second viral video also showed a Nigerian diplomat berating a Chinese official over the incident.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama, consequently summoned the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, Dr Zhou Pingjian, over the maltreatment of Nigerians in China.

The ministry confirmed in a tweet last Thursday that Onyeama engaged with the envoy over the eviction and stigmatisation of Nigerians in

his home country.

But Lijian in his statement said, "The Guangdong authorities attach great importance to some African countries' concerns and are working promptly to improve their working method."

"The measures include: to provide health management services without differentiation, to designate hotels for the accommodation of foreigners required to undergo medical observation and adopt price adjustment for those in financial difficulties; to set up effective communication mechanism with foreign consulates-general in Guangzhou; and to reject all racist and discriminatory remarks."

Source: The Punch

## Handshakes and gatherings banned in Ethiopia

It is the first working day in Ethiopia after restrictions put in place by a state of emergency declared to combat the coronavirus pandemic were announced over the weekend.

It is not clear if the restrictions have had much of an impact yet.

Large gatherings had already been banned and schools had been closed in early measures to combat the spread of Covid-19, the

diseased cause by the virus.

The state of emergency was announced last week but details of its implementation were released on Saturday.

The decree has banned gatherings of more than four people unless there is an absolute necessity, in which case permits need to be acquired from authorities. Handshakes are also not allowed.

People now also have to wear masks in public

Public transport operators

have to cut their seat occupancy by half, while hotels and restaurants are not allowed to have more than three customers on a table

Landlords cannot evict tenants and neither can they increase rent

Employers are prohibited from laying off workers on the grounds that business has slowed down

People who break these restrictions could face a three-year prison sentence, the decree says.

The authorities have said that ordering a complete shutdown of Africa's second most populous nation might not be practical but they hope these restrictions will help in curbing the spread of the virus.

Here in the capital, Addis Ababa, things are as quiet as they have been since the first set of restrictions were put in place a few weeks ago, but there does not appear to be a dramatic change prompted by Saturday's announcement.

People can still be seen on the streets of the city in groups of more than four and without face masks.

Also, there are not more than the normal number of members of the security forces on the streets. Source: BBC News, Addis Ababa



## Covid-19: Kenya reports six new cases

An additional six people have tested positive for Coronavirus bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the country to 197.

In a statement, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said that of the six, two

positive for coronavirus disease, bringing to 197 the total number of confirmed cases in the country," he said.

The CS said that one Kenyan, a patient from Siaya had died from coronavirus. This brings the



had a history of travel while one recently travelled from Mombasa.

"In the last 24 hours, we managed to test 766 persons. A total of six persons tested

total of fatalities to eight.

Mr Kagwe said Kenyans should not relent in the fight against coronavirus.

Source: Sunday Nation

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# EDITORIAL

## Tough measures for tough time

**LIBERIA'S LARGELY IMPOVERISHED** 4million population has been placed under a State of Emergency and lockdown, as part of government's measures to mitigating the spread of the Coronavirus that has killed five persons with according to latest report from health authorities, 51 confirmed cases.

**BUT AS SOME** public health specialists have criticized, lockdown may not be an effective approach for disadvantaged and poor countries where daily survival is a serious challenge even in the best of times.

**SUCH IS THE** reality for Monrovia's improvised residents who lack money to store up food during the national quarantine. Since the start of the lockdown here Saturday, April 11, state security, including the military has been engaged in running battles with desperately hungry residents searching for food to buy at various markets.

**EVEN COMMERCIAL BANKS** in Monrovia are overwhelmed with in flock of people going to withdraw money for the upkeep of the family during the 14 days lockdown.

**AMID THE CAT** and mice engagement, the government is yet to present an economic package or plan to help the population that is already on its knees due to a badly managed economy that has left the authorities here struggling to even pay salaries and local vendors.

**WITH FOUR COUNTIES** (Montserrado County, Margibi County, Nimba County, and Grand Kru County) under a "STAY AT HOME" for the next 14 days, the question of food, electricity and water should be addressed with urgency.

**DESPITE CITIZENS' OUTCRY**, the government is mute on these concerns that could mainly affect children and the elderly in various homes besides the COVID-19. Not even people with disabilities are being mentioned in the current crisis; their health and survivability are being left to fate.

**REGIONAL NEIGHBORS SUCH** as Ghana and Guinea are a far departure when it comes to coronavirus strategies, especially citizens' welfare. While these two countries are providing free electricity, water, freeze on rental and transportation for their people amid lockdown, Liberians are left alone to provide for themselves in a challenged economy.

**MOST GOVERNMENTS IN** Africa seem to be more focus on doing something to get Western governments and partners' attention than really acting in the best interest of their people. In Liberia, the government of President George Manneh Weah managed in paying one month salary for Civil Servants.

**BUT BESIDES CASH**, the authorities could offer tax break for business houses selling basic commodities such as food, drugs, gasoline, including public transport to ease stress on citizens. This is not happening, as the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) has placed an advertisement on President Weah's Coronavirus song dubbed "Weah's Project", calling on COVID-19 panicked residents, already in a lockdown, to pay their taxes, including real estate.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

# COMMENTARY

By Dalia Marin

## How COVID-19 Is Transforming Manufacturing

*As the COVID-19 pandemic escalates, the advanced economies seem to be geared up for a manufacturing renaissance. But while this may reduce risks for large firms, it probably will not benefit very many advanced-economy workers, let alone the developing countries from which production is being shifted.*

**M**UNICH - As the COVID-19 pandemic escalates, the risks inherent in global supply chains are more apparent than ever. Rather than await a return to business as usual, with manufacturing activities concentrated in countries where labor is cheap and plentiful, advanced-economy companies are shifting their focus to the lowest-wage workers of all: robots.

Firms began relocating production to low-wage countries in the early 1990s, aided by the fall of the Iron Curtain, China's global integration and eventual accession to the World Trade Organization, and the rise of containerization. The period between 1990 and the 2008 global financial crisis has been called an era of hyper-globalization in which global value chains accounted for about 60% of global trade.

The 2008 global financial and economic crisis marked the beginning of the end of this era of hyper-globalization. In 2011, global value chains stopped expanding. They have not grown again since.

This reversal was driven by uncertainty. From 2008 to 2011, the World Uncertainty Index - constructed by Hites Ahir, Nicholas Bloom, and Davide Furceri - increased by 200%. To compare, during the 2002-03 outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), the WUI rose by 70%. After the United Kingdom voted in 2016 to leave the European Union, it surged by 250%.

When uncertainty rises, global value chains suffer. Based on past data, one can predict that a 300% increase in uncertainty - as the COVID-19 pandemic seems likely to produce - would reduce global supply-chain activity by 35.4%. Firms no longer consider the cost savings of offshoring to be worth the risk.

At a time when adopting robots is cheaper than ever, the incentive to reshore production is even stronger. The arithmetic is simple. A company in, say, the United States would have to pay an American worker a lot more than, say, a Vietnamese or Bangladeshi one. But a US-based robot would not demand wages at all, let alone benefits like health insurance or sick leave.

Investment in robots is not new. Advanced-economy firms have been pursuing it since the mid-1990s, led by the automotive industry, which can account for 50-60% of a country's robot stock. In Germany - a global leader in robot adoption - robots per 10,000 workers in manufacturing stood at 322 in 2017. Only South Korea (710 robots per 10,000 workers) and Singapore (658 per 10,000) have a higher ratio. The US has 200 robots per 10,000 workers.

In fact, when the 2008 crisis struck, some

countries, such as Germany, already had enough robots to minimize the importance of labor costs in production. Many others, aided by the sharp post-2008 decline in interest rates relative to wages, boosted robot adoption and reshored a larger share of production.

The same is likely to happen today. Based on monetary policy so far, a 30% drop in interest rates can be expected, as central banks try to offset the damage of the COVID-19 pandemic. Past data indicate that this could bring a 75.7% acceleration in robot adoption. (It will not bring an unbridled boom in robot adoption, because rising uncertainty also deters investment.)

This trend will be concentrated in the sectors that are most exposed to global value chains. In Germany, that means autos and transport equipment, electronics, and textiles - industries that import around 12% of their inputs from low-wage countries. (Overall, the German economy imports 6.5% of the inputs it uses.)

Globally, the industries where the most reshoring activity is taking place are chemicals, metal products, and electrical products and electronics. The chemical industry stands out as the top reshorer in France, Germany, Italy, and the US.

This trend poses a major threat to many developing countries' growth models, which depend on low-cost manufacturing and exports of intermediate inputs. In Central and Eastern Europe, some countries have responded to this challenge by investing in robots themselves. The Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Slovenia (which have large foreign-owned auto sectors) now have more robots per 10,000 workers than the US or France. And the strategy seems to be working: they remain an attractive offshoring destination for rich countries.

Low-cost manufacturing hubs in Asia may have a harder time, especially in the wake of the pandemic. China, which secured its economic rise by establishing itself at the center of many global value chains, will face particularly serious challenges, despite its plans to shift to higher-value-added activities and boost domestic consumption.

Between rising protectionism (especially in the US under President Donald Trump) and the COVID-19 pandemic, the advanced economies seem to be geared up for a manufacturing renaissance. But while this may reduce risks for large firms, it probably will not benefit very many advanced-economy workers, let alone the developing countries from which production is being shifted. For that, governments will need to implement policies suited to this new economic order.

## 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 Richard N. Haass

# At War With a Virus

While war should normally be a policy of last resort, not confronting a determined enemy that poses an imminent threat can be deadly. Putting off the decision to go on the offensive against COVID-19 - treating a war of necessity as a war of choice - has proved extraordinarily costly in terms of lives lost and economic destruction.

**N**EW YORK - US President Donald Trump has labeled himself a wartime president, and many others around the world are using similar language. It's a description that raises an obvious question: What does the history and nature of war tell us about fighting a virus?

While war should normally be a policy of last resort, not confronting an enemy that is determined to attack and poses an imminent threat can be deadly. Indeed, the enemy morphed from a local outbreak in Wuhan, China, into a global pandemic precisely because the Chinese authorities squandered precious weeks before confronting it. China's leadership initially covered up the outbreak and allowed millions of people to leave Wuhan even though many carried the virus with them.<sup>1</sup>

The United States also manifested a widespread initial reluctance to go to war. This comes as little surprise. War as a last resort is one of the tenets of "just war" theory, the body of thinking that emerged in the Middle Ages and was intended to make wars less common and less violent.

The problem, though, is that it takes two to avoid conflict, and the virus was determined to bring it on. Putting off the decision to go on the offensive against COVID-19 - treating a war of necessity as a war of choice - has proved extraordinarily costly in terms of lives lost and economic destruction.

Once leaders recognized that war was necessary, they soon realized they had no weapons. A vaccine is an estimated 12-18 months off; antiviral drugs could be available sooner, but they, too, will not come soon. As former US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld put it, "You go to war with the army you have, not the army you might want or wish to have at a later time." As a result, this is a war that must be fought for the foreseeable future in ways designed to frustrate the enemy rather than defeat it.

The best tactic available now is dispersion, to offer the enemy fewer targets. Relatively weak militaries often employ this method by avoiding set-piece battles against stronger forces. Dispersion, in today's parlance, means social distancing.

The problem is that social distancing was postponed in many countries or is being applied unevenly. It is often said that speed kills; when it comes to heading off or limiting pandemics, it is delay that kills. The countries that have fared best against the coronavirus, like South Korea and Singapore, acted quickly and decisively.

This war is also being waged with a lack of defensive equipment. One of the most important tasks is to identify those who have been infected and trace their contacts. Both groups need to be isolated quickly. This is the only way to understand the threat, to break through what the Prussian military strategist Carl von Clausewitz is credited with calling the "fog of war."

But the testing needed to identify those who are infected is simply not of sufficient quality or available in sufficient quantity in most countries. Closing borders can be helpful (particularly early on, before the virus becomes widespread in a society), but it is no panacea. Similarly, mass testing to reveal who has developed immunity to the virus, which is essential for people to be able to gather safely, whether for work or play, is not yet available.

The strategy must be to play for time until we are equipped to attack COVID-19 with antiviral drugs or, better yet, a vaccine. Dispersion and testing are needed to accomplish this.

The last question is when to end the war. Trump and many of his counterparts around the globe are understandably in a hurry to restart the economy. We and they must have the discipline not to rush. We need to fight a holding action on the economic front by providing relief to workers and businesses, until the war on the virus is mostly won and recovery can begin in earnest. Terminating the war too soon will only extend its duration and increase its cost.

Much of the world entered this war in a condition close to unilateral disarmament. That can never happen again. Countries must maintain stockpiles of protective gear and medical equipment, increase resources devoted to "peacetime" research and development of relevant therapies, and rehearse responses to a pandemic at all levels of government. Too many doctors, nurses, first-responders, police, and fire personnel - those working on the front lines - are being sent into battle without armor. And too many casualties lack access to the medical care all of us need them to have.

Countries also need to embrace joint action. Just as one builds coalitions to fight conventional wars, allies are needed to fight pandemics. We will need to enlist others to respect rules and meet standards when it comes to reporting, fighting, and containing infectious disease outbreaks. And richer countries will need to come together to strengthen poorer countries' public-health capacities, not just for humanitarian reasons, but also out of self-interest. We are only as strong as the weakest among us.

This war should not have surprised us. It was predictable and was predicted. Pandemics are not black swans; they are baked into the cake of globalization. And they can start anywhere. This time it was Wuhan. Next time, it could be Wichita.

And there will be a next time, if not COVID-20, then perhaps COVID-21 or some other pathogen. Borders and sovereignty can be breached; little stays local for long. The challenge is to be ready so that an outbreak does not become a pandemic, and a pandemic does not become a catastrophe.

# PRESIDENT WEAH ADDRESS TO THE NATION

## ADDRESS TO THE NATION

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GEORGE MANNEH WEAH  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

**ON THE  
CURRENT STATUS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN LIBERIA  
THE EXECUTIVE MANSION  
CAPITOL HILL  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA**

**8 APRIL 2020**

### Fellow Citizens and Foreign Residents:

We are all witnessing the devastation caused by the Coronavirus pandemic around the world. Hundreds of thousands of persons around the globe have been infected by it, thousands have died as a result of contracting it, and many more thousands are predicted to die. The disease has overwhelmed more advanced health care systems in many countries, and has brought the economies of several developed nations almost to a complete halt.

The sad reality of millions of victims and thousands of deaths around the world should give all of us cause to pause and think about what we must do collectively to protect ourselves from this dreadful pestilence. The horrific scenarios that are beginning to emerge should serve as sufficient warning for everyone of us to spring into action.

The Government of Liberia continues to work with determination, diligence, and focus, to combat this deadly COVID-19 disease. You will recall that a Special Presidential Advisory Committee on Coronavirus (SPACOC) was established two months ago, under my leadership, as soon as it was perceived that the disease was likely to develop into a global pandemic of epic proportions, that could possibly affect this country.

As Chairman of SPACOC, I have personally presided over many strategy and operational meetings, with the aim and objective of coordinating the fight against the Corona disease in Liberia. I have also instituted the Executive Committee on Corona Virus (ECOC) as the operational arm of SPACOC that will focus on community initiatives and outreach.

As head of both committees, I am directly involved with the day-to-day activities with our health experts, members of the Cabinet, and our international partners, in order to help mitigate the spread of the virus, at the same time explore ways and means to help ease some of the economic challenges that this virus will cause to our our country and people.

### Fellow Liberians:

Although our health teams are working assiduously to complete the testing of scores of contacts, we have to recognize that the COVID-19 virus has now entered a new phase in our country, as we move from protection to containment. The dynamics of our management of the disease have been significantly changed, and will require much stronger additional measures to delay the spreading of this highly infectious virus, and keep our public safe.

### Fellow Liberians:

This global pandemic is killing thousands of people around the world. It knows no borders, and there is yet no vaccination or cure. The global spread of this virus represents the greatest threat to the health and well-being of the people of Liberia since the Ebola epidemic suffered by our country from 2014 to 2016. It has already arrived in Liberia, and confirmed cases are now on the rise.

THEREFORE, by the Authority granted to me under Articles 85, 86, 87, and 88 of the Liberian Constitution, and after due consultation with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate, as required by law, I, George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, hereby declare a State of Emergency, to exist in and throughout the Republic of Liberia, for a period of three (3) weeks, renewable until the threat to Liberia from the Covid-19 virus no longer exists.

### My Fellow Liberians:

As a first step under the powers hereby granted me under this State of Emergency, the Speaker and the President Pro-Tempore are to convene the 54th Legislature in Joint Session on tomorrow, Thursday, the 9th of April, 2020 for justification and endorsement of this State of Emergency by Joint Resolution, in accordance with Article 88 of the Liberian Constitution. I further announce, under this State of Emergency, that all 15 counties in the Republic of Liberia are hereby quarantined from 11:59 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2020, until further notice. movements between counties are strictly prohibited. No person shall be permitted to enter or leave or in any way cross the borders of any county into any other county, except for Montserrado County and Margibi County which are quarantined as a single unit.

As a further measure under this State of Emergency, all Liberians and residents within the borders of Montserrado County, Margibi County, Nimba County, and Grand Kru County are to STAY AT HOME for the next 14 days, beginning at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2020.

Throughout this period, residents may leave home only for essential journeys for reasons of health and food, which should be restricted to your local community only, and be limited to a single person per household for a maximum of one hour.

Exceptions shall be made for persons who are designated as essential staff in government offices, banks, supermarkets, and other business establishments such as hotels, petrol stations, and health facilities to travel directly to work and return directly home. All such commercial activities are to be closed no later than 3:00 p.m.



All non-essential businesses and Government offices will remain closed, with the exception of essential businesses, health facilities and a few key government offices, such as the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Central Bank of Liberia, the National Port Authority, the Liberia Revenue Authority, the Monrovia City Corporation, and the Liberia Broadcasting System, and accredited media, where only a skeleton staff will be given passes to work.

Other government offices may be designated as exempt based on the essential nature of their function. Meanwhile, non-exempt government employees and people in the private sector are encouraged to work from home.

Also exempted from these restrictions are: (a) production, distribution, and marketing of food, beverages, pharmaceuticals, and medicine; (b) environmental and sanitation activities; (c) members of the security forces assigned to lawful duties; (d) essential staffs of electricity, water, telecommunications, banking, and hotels, and (e) the staff of fuel stations.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is hereby instructed to engage the leaders of the various marketing associations in counties under this STAY AT HOME order to make satisfactory arrangements about the operation of markets during this period, so as to ensure the observance of social distance and enhanced hygiene protocols.

In all other counties not under this STAY AT HOME order, residents are to stay within their respective local communities until otherwise ordered. I have ordered the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia and the Chairman of the National Joint Security to enforce this stay-home policy beginning as of the effective date. Further measures will be imposed from time to time under this State of Emergency.

### Fellow Liberians:

I want to encourage Liberians and foreign residents to abide by these measures - even under the most difficult of circumstances.

We have to ask ourselves why we should abide by these measures. The answer is to simple: to save lives. Remember, the life you save may be your own, or mine. We should all learn from the experience of Ebola. We all will have to give up certain freedoms for the time-being, until we can get through this. That is why we have found it necessary to declare this State of Emergency. Stay at home and be safe.

### Fellow Liberians:

Let me now take this opportunity to give thanks and appreciation to our brave health workers, including doctors and nurses and all other persons involved in the fight against this deadly disease. Your courage, your dedication, and your professionalism inspire us all. In this regard, I would like to call on all retired health workers in Liberia, to join hands with your counterparts to reinforce our capabilities and strengths to fight COVID-19, with your vast experience and expertise. We need all hands on deck at this time.

I ask everyone to get on board and abide by the health measures and protocols that have been introduced. The enemy today is the virus, not each other.

In the meantime, I would like to call upon all our political and religious leaders, social media groups, students, teachers, civil society and the general citizenry to join us in this fight against Corona. We are all in this together as Liberians, regardless of your political affiliation or religion. We must therefore come together as ONE PEOPLE at this critical time of peril for our Nation. Let us use our time, talents, and social media platforms to educate our people on the basic hygiene and social distance practices that can keep them safe, and to encourage them to abide by the laws and regulations.

We can defeat this virus if we all commit ourselves to respecting all the measures that have been outlined. If we are undisciplined, we will be the cause for it to spread. But if we behave properly, and observe all regulations and health measures, we can also be the cure that will stop Corona in our country.

As I close, I ask the Almighty God to save our country Liberia, and the rest of the world from this deadly coronavirus.

### My Fellow Liberians:

Let us all rise, and stand together, to fight Corona!!  
Let us do it for ourselves; our children, and our country, Mama Liberia.

I thank you.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Lonestar Cell MTN announces low-cost voice and data bundle

Lonestar Cell MTN says it has begun offering an affordable telecommunications bundle to help customers stay connected to what matters the most.

help them stay productive as they work from home and stay in touch with friends and family.

It further states that the bundle is part of Lonestar Cell MTN's Y'ello Hope package,

minutes to call Lonestar Cell MTN numbers, 2 minutes to call customers on other networks and 100 SMS for 7 days. This daily allocation is provided to subscribers automatically each day for the 7-day validity period.

Commenting on the offer, Lonestar Cell MTN's Chief Marketing Officer, Yaw AnkomaAgyapong, said, "During these times, as we practice social distancing, we want to ensure that our customers can still maintain vital connections to the people and things that matter the most. We are pleased to bring this bundle to market, in conjunction with the LTA, and hope it helps ease the burden on our subscribers. And, of course, there is the added feature of making this a MoMo-exclusive, which means our customers can stay safe and protected while they purchase this bundle from the comfort of their homes using Mobile Money without risking their health."

MTN Mobile Money enables safe, fast, and convenient transactions on \*156# and signing up for it is free. To sign up, customers just need to

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The company noted that the bundle, which was developed under the auspices of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) will provide some relief to customers and

which is exclusively available via MTN Mobile Money and can be purchased by dialing \*156\*19#. The bundle, which costs 200 LRD, provides customers with a daily allocation of 80MB of data, 8

## Police Deputy warns public

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The Deputy Inspector General of Police for Operations warns here that violators of the three weeks State of Emergency issued by President George Manneh Weah will bear the full consequences.

Col. Melvin Sackor, speaking on Prime FM Monday in Monrovia said the Police and the Joint Security will not relent in enforcing the State of Emergency.

Already, several persons, including women were

whether the Police have withholder cells for violators when further quizzed if the only measure to get residents off the streets is by beating.

"Look my brother, other presidents issued stay home order immediately but our President gave 72 hours grace period for everyone to get their food and medication but Liberians just refused to adhere to order of the President. Get this; this order is about safety and safety of our country. Our people are



## Residents decry security terror! -many flogged, brutalized

President George Manneh Weah's State of Emergency backed by a 14-day lockdown is gradually turning into a terror game here as Joint Security forces, including soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia, the Liberia National Police, City Police officers, agents of the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency and Boy Scouts terrorized and brutalized residents.

The nightmare, which started on Saturday, 11 April across the city at various markets, saw security officers armed rattans chased panicked citizens going to buy food, flogging and forcing them to return to their various homes, as early as 10 and 11:00 AM, contrary to the 3:00PM deadline imposed by the government.

Residents of Monrovia and parts adjacent, specifically Caldwell Township, Montserrado County have decried security excesses in communities, including arbitrary arrest and illegal discharge of fire arm by the Director of the City Police

Thomas G. Garwo.

Director Garwo, a former Police officer, was dishonorably disrobed from the Liberia National Police, but still carries weapon.

The Public Relations Director for the Monrovia City Corporation PekelehGbuapaye, clarified on Truth FM that City Police officers are restricted to

enforcing city ordinance and they don't carry arm.

But speaking to Truth Breakfast Show subsequently on Monday, the City Police Chief defended that he is a trainer at the National Police Training Academy in Paynesville, so he was still entitled to arm.

However, he denied illegal discharge of arm in the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



reportedly manhandled by Joint Security officers on last Friday. Sackor reemphasized that the Police will remain robust in clearing the streets of violators.

When questioned what happens to violators, he went mute, but insisted that the streets will be cleared and violators will be dealt thru every available method in ensuring the mandate of the President is respected.

Col. Sackor failed to state

hard-headed, so we have to be drastic in enforcing the laws and the orders of the president," he said.

Last Friday, officers of the Liberia National Police, the Drugs Enforcement Agency, the Armed Forces of Liberia and the Liberia Immigration Service stormed various communities in Monrovia, chasing and reportedly beating residents, who were sitting on porches of their respective homes.-

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Liberia records 59 COVID-19 cases

### -Doctor Masoka Fallah discloses

By Lewis S. Teh

The National Public Health Institute of Liberia or NPHIL says total confirmed COVID-19 cases in Liberia have reached 59, urging residents to keep observing all protocols to

restraint and follow health protocols.

“As we speak, we are down with 59 confirmed cases of corona virus, but the good thing is that we also have four (4) persons who are recovering from our treatment centers and

Montserrado County four (4).

However, he reported that a lady is currently on the run, suspected of contracting the virus but has refused to be quarantined, and that she could put more citizens at risk, “because you can’t tell who all may come in contact with her.”

He said each time health authorities place a call to the lady in question, she would switch off her phone, noting that the lady’s action has prompted NPHIL to inform the Ministry of Justice to pursue her whereabouts.

The rapid spread of the coronavirus prompted President George Manneh Weah to institute additional restrictive measures, including declaration of a 21-day State of Emergency that is renewable and lockdown of all 15 counties for 14 days, among other precautionary actions.

The President’s action is in accordance with Articles 85, 86, 87 and 88, respectively of the Constitution of Liberia, and following due consultation with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate, as required by law. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



Doctor Masoka Fallah

avoid spread of the virus.

NPHIL Director-General Doctor Masoka Fallah, in a live mobile interview Monday, April 13, reiterated the need for citizens to exercise

will soon be discharged; this is also good news”, added.

Doctor Fallah continued that death toll in the country still stands at five (5) with Nimba County recording one (1) and

## “No Coronavirus case in Bong” -Health Minister clarifies

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Liberia’s Health Minister Wilhelmina Jallah, has announced that the test conducted on the specimen collected from a patient suspected of COVID-19 at Phebe Hospital in Gbarnga is negative.

She made the pronouncement recently on Super Bongese Radio 104.9 via telephone, bringing relief to residents as there is no coronavirus case in the county.

The specimen was collected recently and taken to Monrovia for testing because Phebe Hospital does not have the equipment to test for the virus.

“When we said 52 negative cases, the one from Phebe was included,” Dr. Jallah says.

It can be recalled that the surveillance officer of the Bong County Health Team, Emmanuel Dweh and the Medical Director at the Phebe hospital, Dr. Jefferson Sibley, announced a suspected case

of the deadly coronavirus disease in Bong County.

Prior to the test, Dweh and Sibley had said the suspected person had been isolated and the specimen was collected for further verification.

They spoke at the regular Incident Management System through the One Health Coordination Meeting at the Bong County Health Team’s office in Suakoko.

But after the test, Minister said the person who was suspected has proven negative and that Bong County has reported no case of the Coronavirus so far.

Through her phone-in interview, Dr. Jallah admonished citizens of the county not to forget to put to practice every necessary precaution which will ensure the speedy fight of the virus.—Edited by Winston W. Parley



Health Minister Wilhelmina Jallah

## Lonestar Cell MTN

Cont’d from page 6

visit any Lonestar Cell MTN service center or registered MoMo agent with a valid identification card and fill out an application form.

Lonestar Cell MTN, with its Y’ello Hope package, is supporting the national COVID-19 response to end the outbreak and ensure that its customers, employees and the public are safe. Since the announcement of the first case in Liberia, the company has:

- Donated 500 phones to help with contact tracing and low risk contact monitoring
- Provided 10 free SMSs a day on \*170# to all customers to help people stay in touch at no cost to them
- Enabled customers to use ayoba, an instant messaging platform, to chat, share photos and videos and more at no data cost

• Suspended transaction fees on MoMo transactions (person-to-person and person-to-merchant) for a month to encourage cashless transactions to halt the spread of the virus

• Launched a public awareness and hygiene education via SMS, social media and radio

• Made access to online educational resources free of charge

• Donated free talk time to over 100 medical personnel and frontline health workers to enable them talk with each other free of charge

• Connected customers with essential health information via caller ring back tunes and USSD code (\*445#)

• Facilitated a toll-free helpline (4455 or 0880000664) for customers to get access to emergency care

## Gov’t is the

Starts from back page

the best health systems and best scientists.

“Again, the Government of Liberia is the stumbling block and that decision is in the hands of the Government of Liberia,” he says.

He notes that back home, it is very unfortunate that when he tries to give expert advice, some people would take things differently for their own motives.

In the wake of the increasing coronavirus cases which have hit 50 with five deaths, the Liberian scientist questions the authorities here as to why is it that Liberia only has one health laboratory which is not adequately equipped since the 2014 - 2016 Ebola crisis up to date.

With one health laboratory available, he wonders what is quality of samples of specimen that are taken from suspects from other parts of Liberia before they reach the one testing center to be tested, saying “when we raise

questions about the status of health centers, others term it

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# Français

## Confinement ou couvre-feu ?

Les Libériens sont-ils soumis à un couvre-feu ou à un confinement dans le cadre de la lutte contre le coronavirus ? c'est la question que se posent la plupart des libériens vu que les forces de sécurité et de défense pourchassent et battent à coup de matraques commerçants et clients hors des marchés.

En effet, les vendeurs et les acheteurs des produits alimentaires ont été pourchassés et battus au marché Redlight à Paynesville le samedi 11 avril, le premier jour de la mise en application de l'état d'urgence de 21 jours déclaré la semaine dernière par le président George MannehWeah pour contenir la propagation du coronavirus ici.

Il faut que les autorités expliquent davantage s'il s'agit d'un couvre-feu où les habitants sont interdits de circuler dans leurs communautés après 15 h 00, étant donné la confusion qui entoure l'application de la mesure mise en place par le président Weah, qui avait pourtant autorisé le public à se déplacer librement à l'intérieur de leurs quartiers pour des raisons de santé et

de nourriture.

Depuis l'entrée en vigueur de l'Etat d'urgence, Monrovia et ses environs ressemblent à une ville fantôme, les forces de sécurité et de défense ont envahies rues et les coins de la ville pour veiller au respect des mesures.

Des commerçants et leurs clients ont été pris à partie. Certains ont été poursuivis et battus à coup de matraque aumarché de Redlight, à Paynesville, à Gardnerville, à

Clara Town et dans d'autres parties du comté de Montserrado. Les forces de sécurité interdisent à quiconque n'est muni d'un laissez-passer délivré par les autorités de se promener dans leurs quartiers ou de s'asseoir devant leurs maisons après 15 h 00. Les maisons les plus proches des rues principales ont particulièrement fait les frais

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Flambée des prix : le ministère du Commerce appelle à la collaboration des citoyens

Le ministère du commerce appelle à la collaboration du public dans la lutte contre la flambée des prix des denrées alimentaires. Le ministère accuse des commerçants peu scrupuleux d'augmenter les prix à l'aveuglette à la faveur de l'Etat d'urgence et du confinement du pays tout entier. « Il est très difficile de

démasquer les commerçants qui se rendent coupables de ces pratiques négatives, à moins que les populations s'impliquent », a fait valoir le ministère.

Un communiqué de presse rendu public par le ministère du Commerce indique que dans le cadre de sa campagne de sensibilisation, « l'unité de sensibilisation et de la

protection des consommateurs exhorte les consommateurs à toujours demander des reçus lors des transactions, à vérifier les dates de production et d'expiration et à signaler les mouvements étranges de marchandises dans des endroits isolés, entre autres ».

Il souhaite également que les consommateurs déposent des plaintes s'ils s'aperçoivent que leurs droits ont été violés suite à des transactions pour obtenir réparation immédiate et appropriée.

Le communiqué indique que tandis que le ministère du Commerce continue de prendre des mesures, y compris des amendes, la confiscation des marchandises et des avertissements, contre ceux qui tentent de profiter de la situation sanitaire actuelle du pays pour exploiter les consommateurs, il croit fermement que la participation massive du public est essentielle pour vaincre le COVID-19.



## Éditorial

### A des moments difficiles des mesures difficiles

Les plus de 4 millions de libériens, dont la plupart vivent déjà sous le seuil de la pauvreté, sont placés sous état d'urgence et confinement, dans le cadre des mesures prises par le gouvernement pour atténuer la propagation du coronavirus qui a tué cinq personnes et infecté 50 autres.

Mais comme l'ont dit certains spécialistes de la santé publique, le confinement pourrait ne pas être une approche efficace pour les pays défavorisés et pauvres où la survie quotidienne est un défi sérieux, même dans le meilleur des cas.

C'est bien le cas pour les habitants de Monrovia qui sont si pauvres qu'ils ne sont à même de stocker de la nourriture pour assurer leur survie pendant toute la période de la quarantaine nationale. Depuis que l'Etat d'urgence est rentré en vigueur samedi 11 avril, les forces de sécurité et de défense, dont l'armée, ont fait une descente musclée sur les populations désespérément affamées et à la recherche de nourriture dans les divers marchés.

Même les banques commerciales de Monrovia ont été submergées par une multitude de clients qui voulaient retirer de l'argent pour entretenir leurs familles pendant les 14 jours de confinement.

Pendant que les forces de sécurité et de défense et les populations désespérément affamées se livrent au jeu de chat et de souris, le gouvernement, lui, n'a, jusque-là, présenté aucun plan économique pour aider la population appauvrie par la mauvaise gestion de l'économie par les autorités qui ont du mal à, ne serait-ce, payer les salaires des fonctionnaires et les dettes intérieures.

Avec le confinement de quatre comtés (Montserrado, Margibi, Nimba et Grand Kru) pendant une période de 14 jours, la question de la nourriture, de l'électricité et de l'eau devrait être traitée urgemment.

Pendant que les populations se lamentent face à la faim et au manque des services de base, le gouvernement fait la sourde oreille est resté bouche bée comme s'il ne se sent pas concerné par les préoccupations soulevées qui risquent d'affecter principalement les enfants et les personnes âgées dans les différents foyers. Même les personnes handicapées ne sont pas mentionnées dans la crise actuelle ; leur santé et leur capacité de survie n'intéresserait personne.

Les pays voisins dans la sous-région, tels que le Ghana et la Guinée, n'ont en aucun cas négligé le bien-être de leurs citoyens, fournissant gratuitement de l'électricité, de l'eau, le gel des frais de locations et la gratuité du transport tout au long de la période de confinement. Pendant ce temps, les Libériens sont laissés pour compte. Ils sont confinés sans aucune mesure d'accompagnement dans un contexte de crise économique aiguë.

La plupart des gouvernements d'Afrique semblent se concentrer davantage sur la nécessité de faire quelque chose pour attirer l'attention des partenaires que d'agir réellement dans le meilleur intérêt de leurs populations. Au Libéria, le gouvernement du président George MannehWeah a réussi à payer un mois de salaire aux fonctionnaires.

Mais en plus de l'argent liquide, les autorités pourraient offrir un allègement fiscal aux entreprises qui vendent des produits de base tels que la nourriture, les médicaments, l'essence, y compris les transports en commun, afin de soulager le stress des citoyens. Cela semble impossible d'autant plus que l'Autorité Libérienne des Revenus a au contraire publié une annonce, appelant les populations paniquées par le COVID-19 à payer leurs impôts, y compris les biens immobiliers.

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# Français

## Alpha Condé, IBK, Alassane Ouattara : ces Présidents sapeurs-pompiers pyromanes

La propagation de la maladie à Coronavirus en Afrique a permis de mettre à nu le caractère de certains dirigeants qui, après avoir « embrasé » leur pays veulent maintenant éteindre le feu. Dans le même temps, d'autres dirigeants continuent d'attiser le feu dans leur pays. Au rang de ces dirigeants, trois chefs d'Etat de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Alpha Condé de la Guinée, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita du Mali, Alassane Dramane Ouattara de la Côte d'Ivoire : ces Présidents ont tous engagé le combat contre la maladie à Coronavirus. Outre le fait de sensibiliser leurs populations sur les dangers que représente la maladie, certains d'entre eux se disent prêts à faire d'énormes sacrifices pour voir le mal quitter leur pays. Au fond, ils sont tous reconnus pour être des sapeurs-pompiers pyromanes. en espérant que la CPI va ouvrir une enquête à leur rencontre.

Alpha Condé appelle à des élections dans un contexte de Coronavirus

Il savait pourtant que la maladie à Coronavirus ravageait le monde. Il était bien conscient que le Covid-19 était bien conscient sur le sol guinéen au moment de la tenue des ces élections couplées, notamment les législatives et le Référendum, le 22 mars 2020. Néanmoins, le Président Guinéen Alpha Condé, a fait fi des recommandations de l'organisation mondiale de la Santé, d'éviter les regroupement et la promiscuité, et a organisé son scrutin, comme si de rien n'était.

Et le fait que les cas de contamination se soient multipliés au lendemain de ces élections, alors que la veille un seul malade avait été « officiellement » annoncé,

porte le doute sur la vérité des chiffres du Covid-19 annoncés par les autorités dans ce pays de l'Ouest. Et c'est après avoir bien exposé sa population au danger que le Président Alpha Condé tente de prendre le taureau par les cornes. Parce que le taureau l'attendait pour qu'il termine et venir le prendre par les cornes. Surtout lorsqu'on sait qu'en Guinée près d'une dizaine de journalistes ont été infectés au Coronavirus. Est-lors de la couverture de ces élections, alors exposés aux postillons de ces ministres guinéens malades aussi de Covid-19? Qui sait.

Ouattara poursuit ses opérations d'enrôlement des jeunes en vue d'élections

Alors que l'opposition ivoirienne appelle à la suspension des opérations d'enrôlement des électeurs en vue d'obtenir la carte d'identité qui sera indispensable pour voter lors de la Présidentielle d'octobre, le gouvernement ivoirien fait le sourd. Même le saccage de centres d'enrôlement par des personnes qui se disent mécontentes du déroulement de l'enrôlement en pleine épidémie du Coronavirus, n'a pas convaincu Alassane Ouattara de suspendre ces opérations.

La propagation du Coronavirus semble ne pas être une préoccupation pour l'Office ivoirien de l'état-civil et de l'identification, qui dit avoir pris des mesures sanitaires afin de garantir la continuité de l'opération d'enrôlement. Son Directeur général, Sitionni Gnénin Kafana, a invité au respect des consignes en vigueur dans les centres d'enrôlement. Il insiste sur l'observation des mesures sanitaires préconisées par le gouvernement. Malgré la barre des 500 cas de Covid-19 franchie en Côte d'Ivoire, Ouattara laisse se poursuivre ces opérations qui exposent sa population.

## Confinement ou

ces deux derniers jours.

Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du confinement, l'on pose la question de savoir qu'est-ce que les forces de sécurité attendent des personnes qui souhaitent quitter leur domicile pour utiliser les toilettes ou aller chercher de l'eau, par exemple, vu ce qui s'est passé à Clara Town et dans d'autres quartiers, où certains habitants ont été pourchassés samedi alors qu'ils voulaient se détendre. Clara Town, comme plusieurs autres quartiers de la capitale, est un bidonville, où la plupart des ménages dépendent des

toilettes publiques.

La plupart des maisons dans certaines parties de Montserrado, en particulier les bidonvilles, sont construites sans toilettes ni système d'eau courante. Les gens sont souvent obligés de s'éloigner de leurs maisons pour utiliser les latrines ou chercher de l'eau.

Les populations placées sous confinement appellent les autorités à veiller à ce que de l'eau potable soit mise à leur disposition pour éviter toute autre flambée de maladie d'origine hydrique pendant que les Libériens luttent contre le coronavirus.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Dalia Marin

## Comment le COVID-19 est en train de transformer l'industrie

MUNICH - Alors que la pandémie de COVID-19 s'intensifie, les risques inhérents aux chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales sont plus évidents que jamais. Plutôt que de s'attendre à un retour à la normale, avec des activités industrielles concentrées dans des pays où la main-d'œuvre est bon marché et abondante, les entreprises des économies développées changent leur fusil d'épaule et se concentrent sur les travailleurs ayant les plus bas salaires de tous : les robots.

Au début des années 1990, les entreprises ont commencé à délocaliser la production vers des pays à bas salaires, aidées par la chute du Rideau de fer, par l'intégration mondiale de la Chine puis par son adhésion à l'Organisation mondiale du commerce, ainsi que par la montée en puissance de la conteneurisation. La période entre 1990 et 2008 a été désignée comme une ère d'hypermondialisation dans laquelle les chaînes de valeur mondiales ont représenté environ 60 % du commerce mondial.

La crise financière et économique mondiale de 2008 a marqué le début de la fin de cette ère d'hypermondialisation. En 2011, les chaînes de valeur mondiales ont cessé de croître. Leur croissance n'a pas repris depuis cette date.

Cette inversion a été motivée par l'incertitude. De 2008 à 2011, l'Indice mondial d'incertitude - mis au point par Hites Ahir, Nicholas Bloom et Davide Furceri - a augmenté de 200 %. Par comparaison, au cours de l'épidémie de syndrome respiratoire aigu sévère (SRAS) de 2002-2003, l'IMI a augmenté de 70 %. Après le vote du Brexit du Royaume-Uni en 2016, il a grimpé de 250 %.

Lorsque l'incertitude augmente, les chaînes de valeur mondiales en pâtissent. Sur la base des données antérieures, on peut prédire qu'une augmentation de 300 % de l'incertitude (que la pandémie de COVID-19 semble susceptible de produire), va réduire l'activité des chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales de 35,4 %. Les entreprises ne considèrent plus que les économies de coûts de la délocalisation soient encore rentables.

À un moment où l'adoption de robots est plus économique que jamais, l'incitation à relocaliser la production est encore plus forte. Le calcul est simple. Une entreprise, par exemple aux États-Unis, devrait payer un travailleur américain beaucoup plus cher que, par exemple, un travailleur vietnamien ou bangladais. Mais un robot basé aux États-Unis n'a pas du tout besoin de salaire, encore moins de prestations comme l'assurance maladie ou les congés maladie.

L'investissement dans les robots n'est pas nouveau. Les entreprises à économie développée la poursuivent depuis le milieu des années 1990, l'industrie automobile étant un fer de lance dans ce domaine, qui peut représenter entre 50 et 60 % du stock de robots d'un pays. En Allemagne - un leader mondial dans l'adoption de robots - le nombre de robots pour 10 000 travailleurs dans l'industrie se situait à 322 en 2017. Seule la Corée du Sud (710 robots pour 10 000 travailleurs) et Singapour (658 pour 10 000) ont un ratio plus élevé. Les États-Unis ont 200 robots pour 10 000 travailleurs.

En fait, lorsque la crise de 2008 a frappé, certains pays, comme l'Allemagne, avaient déjà assez de robots pour minimiser l'importance des coûts de main-d'œuvre dans la production. Beaucoup d'autres, aidés par la forte baisse des taux d'intérêt post-2008 par rapport aux salaires, ont stimulé l'adoption de robots et ont relocalisé une plus grande part de la production.

Il en va de même aujourd'hui. Sur la base de la politique monétaire actuelle, on peut s'attendre à une baisse de 30 % des taux d'intérêt, car les banques centrales tentent de compenser les dégâts causés par la pandémie de COVID-19. Les données passées indiquent que cela pourrait entraîner une accélération de 75,7 % dans l'adoption de robots. (Cela ne causera pas un boom effréné dans l'adoption de robots, car l'incertitude croissante décourage également les investissements.)

Cette tendance va se concentrer dans les secteurs les plus exposés aux chaînes de valeur mondiales. En Allemagne, cela concerne le matériel automobile et des transports, l'électronique et le textile - des secteurs d'activité qui importent environ 12 % de leurs intrants en provenance de pays à bas salaires. (Dans l'ensemble, l'économie allemande importe 6,5 % des intrants qu'elle utilise.)

À l'échelle mondiale, les industries à la plus forte activité de relocalisation sont celles des produits chimiques, des produits métalliques, des produits électriques et de l'électronique. L'industrie chimique se démarque comme étant le meilleur secteur de relocalisation en France, en Allemagne, en Italie et aux États-Unis.

Cette tendance constitue une menace majeure pour les modèles de croissance de nombreux pays en développement, qui dépendent de l'industrie à faible coût et des exportations d'intrants intermédiaires. En Europe centrale et orientale, certains pays ont répondu à ce défi en investissant eux-mêmes dans les robots. La République tchèque, la Slovaquie et la Slovénie (qui ont de grands secteurs automobiles appartenant à des entreprises étrangères) ont maintenant plus de robots pour 10 000 travailleurs que les États-Unis ou la France. Et cette stratégie semble fonctionner : ces pays restent une destination de délocalisation attrayante pour les pays riches.

Les centres industriels à bas prix en Asie risquent de s'en tirer à moins bon compte, surtout à la suite de la pandémie. La Chine, qui a assuré sa croissance économique en s'établissant au centre de nombreuses chaînes de valeur mondiales, sera confrontée à des défis particulièrement sérieux, malgré ses plans visant à passer à des activités à plus forte valeur ajoutée et à stimuler sa consommation intérieure.

Entre la montée du protectionnisme (en particulier aux États-Unis sous la présidence de Donald Trump) et la pandémie de COVID-19, les économies avancées semblent se tenir fin prêtes pour une renaissance de l'industrie. Mais bien que cela puisse réduire les risques pour les grandes entreprises, cela ne bénéficiera probablement pas à beaucoup de travailleurs des économies développées, sans parler des pays en développement dont la production est en train d'être déplacée. Pour cela, les gouvernements devront mettre en œuvre des mesures adaptées à ce nouvel ordre économique.

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Honor Liberian Citizenship - Deny Nwabudike's Petition

By Lewis Brown

At a time when attention is focused on fighting the Coronavirus Pandemic, Mr. A. Ndubuisi Nwabudike is seeking a Declaratory Judgment "to declare his right to Liberian Citizenship". The request beguiles an intent to circumvent personal responsibility in inviting the courts to do for Mr. Nwabudike what he has obviously and publicly failed to do for himself, and seeks to gratuitously impugn the integrity of the court.

I am not an officer of the court. The truth also is that the judge does not have to listen to me, or entreat my opinion with any serious consideration. However, I am too proud a citizen of Liberia to will myself into silence as the collective intelligence of our nation is being undeservedly intruded upon and challenged. While it resides within the purview of the courts to determine, I believe Mr. Nwabudike's request presents the nation with a deeper consideration of the shared values of our Liberian citizenship, and the extent to which we are called upon to always cherish, honor and protect it.

The primary basis for Mr. Nwabudike's request to the court is speculation "by some group of persons hiding under the banner of the LNBA to challenge his status as a Liberian citizen". This speculation is anything but frivolous. While from the perspective of the Liberia National Bar Association, it may only concern Mr. Nwabudike's license to practice law, everywhere else in the world, as it also is in Liberia, without prejudice to Mr. Nwabudike, to lie to immigration authorities, falsify citizenship records and documents, and or misrepresent ones citizenship, including to the highest court, so as to benefit from a country's schooling system, or the practice of law, as speculated, if proved, are grounds for arrest and deportation.

Despite this, the LNBA is not made a party to his petition so as to afford it a right to respond. Mr. Nwabudike elects to enjoin the relevant authorities of the Ministry of Justice with which he recently "associated ... and successfully prosecuted a case of "Economic Sabotage" involving the former Defense Minister and others." The Ministry of Justice can be expected to do the right thing, but commonsense commands us to wonder whether or not the Ministry which has not accused him, and with which he associates, can be reasonably expected to seriously question his Liberian citizenship, without correspondingly drawing their work, association, credibility and judgment into question. As Shakespeare would swear, there has got to be method to this madness!

Throughout his submission, Mr. Nwabudike dazzles with various provisions of the Constitution of our country. At first glance, it impresses a useful knowledge of the Liberian Constitution. Upon deeper reading however, it is easy to discover that rather than support his request, the constitutional citations actually undermine it, and screams at the obvious lack of understanding of the letter, spirit and intent of the Constitution. For example, Article 27(a) which is cited in Count #6 says: "All persons who, on the coming into force of this constitution were lawfully citizens of Liberia shall continue to be Liberian citizens" (emphasis mine).

Article 27(a) does not nilly-willy confer citizenship upon anyone merely upon the coming into force of the 1986 Constitution, without the right to ever be questioned as to its lawful acquisition. This is especially true now that his lawful acquisition of Liberian citizenship is the issue of contest, for which, on account of his withdrawal, public utterances, the available records, or lack thereof, there are more than sufficient reasons to question the lawfulness of his acquisition of Liberian

citizenship.

Mr. Nwabudike knows, or ought to know, that the burden to purge himself of the risks to his unlawful acquisition of Liberian citizenship, at any time over the life of Article 27(a) of the Liberian Constitution, is not on the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law which he attended, nor is it to be transferred to the Honorable Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia before whose bar he has practiced law. This burden is forever placed upon his head. That he may have misled the respected law school and the Honorable Court with fake and or falsified documents, as it is being speculated, and given that he has offered very little publicly to dissuade otherwise, cannot amount to a favorable and convincing evidence of his lawful acquisition of Liberian citizenship. It is merely an attempt to shift the burden of proof of his legal acquisition, and in that regard, is disingenuous, deceptive, irresponsible, and defies the clarity in the letter, spirit and intent of Article 27(a).

It is easy to see that the operative word of Article 27(a), which unambiguously expresses the intention of the framers, is the word lawfully. There can be no plainer meaning therefore that prior to the coming into force of the 1986 Constitution, all who acquired Liberian citizenship had a burden placed upon them to do so lawfully, at the risk to themselves that the unlawful acquisition of Liberian citizenship, if proved to be so, can and must be, dutifully denied.

Clearly, the framers of the Constitution could never have instructed that any of its subjects derive any legal advantage and benefits from unlawfulness. As lawyers would point out, "quod contra legem fit, pro infectohabatur" - what is done contrary to the law, is considered as not done at all.

A second example of the misrepresentation of the Liberian Constitution is found in his reliance on Article 95(a), in which he asserts that "for anyone to question the acts of the PRC Government during its existence runs counter to provisions of the Organic law." Again, this is an errant and deceptive interpretation of Article 95(a) whose relevant condition for reliance as well as the intent of the framer is found in the conditional phrase: "...in so far as it is not inconsistent with any provision of this Constitution" (emphasis mine). Article 28, which unambiguously commands the singularity of Liberian citizenship at maturity, which essentially denotes personal choice and adult consent, by the renunciation of other citizenship acquired through parentage.

Accordingly, not only is the lawful acquisition of Liberian citizenship at issue on account of Mr. Nwabudike's own public failings at Confirmation Hearings before the Liberian Senate, he has also invited reasonable questions about his renunciation of his Nigerian citizenship which he acquired by birth, and cannot be legally denied him, unless and until he renounces same, in accordance with Nigerian law. To attempt to shield himself under Article 95(a), so as to be permitted to violate Article 28, runs counter to the letter, intent and spirit of the Constitution, and alls the honesty of his claims into question.

Mr. Nwabudike argues further that to "require an applicant for Naturalization to denounce and obtain a certificates (sic) of renunciation from his/her country before coming to Liberia to apply for naturalization raises the question of "upon what travel documents would the prospective candidate for naturalization travel to Liberia?" Mr. Nwabudike is right - the anticipation of the law cannot be that an applicant for citizenship must become stateless as a condition to lawfully acquire naturalization.

However, Mr. Nwabudike is wrong to impress that he needs to travel to Nigeria to renounce his Nigerian citizenship, or that by taking on Liberian citizenship, a renunciation of his Nigerian citizenship effectively obtained. As a citizen by birth of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mr. Nwabudike is entitled, by the Constitution



Cllr. Ndubuisi Nwabudike

of Nigeria, to take on the citizenship of another country without that naturalization amounting to a loss of his Nigerian citizenship. This is according to Chapter III, Articles 28 and 29 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

A formal process of renunciation is required before citizens by birth can lose their Nigerian citizenship. This process does not require a travel outside ones naturalized country if an Embassy of Nigeria is located near the country's capital.

The Nigerian law simply requires the submission of relevant documents testifying to proof of Nigerian citizenship as well as a completed application for renunciation form, whose signing must be duly notarized. These documents can be submitted to the Nigerian Embassy in Monrovia, and would bear the same weight as if they were hand-delivered in Abuja, the Headquarter of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Of course, Mr. Nwabudike knows this! After all, this, too, falls in the common knowledge of why embassies exist and enjoy internationally-acceptable sovereign statuses and designations.

I cannot understand why Mr. Nwabudie would elect to misrepresent this common fact.

Notwithstanding, ours is a country enriched by our proud history of friendship and openness to all peoples of the world, especially brothers and sisters of negroid descent. We will remain a better and stronger nation by continuing to do so, knowing that Mr. Nwabudike's attempts at deceptions and less than honorable representations do not, in any way, represent the gratefulness, honesty, love and respect of many who are proud to take on Liberia's citizenship, or are simply content to live with and among us. The truth also is that while this is entirely on Mr. Nwabudike, it challenges our commitment to upholding the rule of law in the country.

I therefore urge a denial of Mr. Nwabudike's request knowing that such denial can never weigh against our proud history and legacy as a trailblazing nation, and a beacon of light for all who seek freedom and justice. For people everywhere who hunger for freedom and opportunity, Liberia's light must continue to shine and inspire. This, too, is Liberia's destiny. In shining that light, however, we must never slumber in our country's defense, or compromise in the face of its abuse.

Let there be no mistake: Liberia owes a reciprocal duty to the world to share its citizenship, and by doing so, to avail without hindrances, all of the enjoyments of rights and privileges it confers. And so, at the heart of Mr. Nwabudike's request is not only his "right to Liberian citizenship" but also the right of all Liberians to value and honor our citizenship, however imperfect our circumstances may be, and to always ensure it is acquired lawfully.

If Liberians do not value who we are, who will?

# Several arrested over Covid-19 measures

By Winston W. Parley

Police and other officers within the joint state security force here have arrested several persons for allegedly violating a lockdown measure banning movement of people after 3pm in the fight against Coronavirus.

The arrests of the unspecified number of persons come as the joint state securities here face criticisms of beating, chasing people from market places and forcing those at home to leave their porches and stay indoors in the first few days of enforcing the stay-at-home measures.

By Sunday, 12 April Liberia had recorded 50 cases with five deaths resulting from the Coronavirus disease.

Our sources say those arrested are being held in police custody without lawyers available to represent them as most public and private institutions here remain partially or totally non-functional under a State of Emergency announced on 7 April by President George Manneh Weah, with a lockdown starting Saturday, 11 April.

In declaring the State of Emergency last week, President Weah named



certain key institutions that must continue to operate with only their essential staff, including the Central Bank of Liberia, Finance Ministry, the National Port Authority, and the Liberia Revenue Authority, among others, but he did not mention if lawyers could work.

President Weah indicated that non-exempt government employees and people in the private sector are encouraged to work from home.

With lawyers' presence not felt under these measures which have seen many arrests of violators, it remains a point to ponder how a party held

beyond 48 hours by security forces could take advantage of habeas corpus which the Constitution requires to be utilized at all times even during state of emergency.

Legal experts say "habeas corpus is typically a remedy when someone is being unlawfully detained in a government detention center."

Article 87 (b) of Liberia's 1986 Constitution says in part that "The writ of habeas corpus shall remain available and exercisable at all times and shall not be suspended on account of any state of

emergency."

Incidents of state security forces chasing, beating both food sellers and buyers out of market places, and further forcing residents from their porches to stay indoors have been prompting questions here if Liberians are under curfew or a lockdown as government combats coronavirus.

In a follow up on Monday, 13 April, Police Spokesman Moses Carter confirmed the arrests of those he says were in violation of the measures, but he fails to disclose how many persons are in police custody for such violation.

Mr. Carter indicates in the phone interview with this paper that police will use the law to restrain the movement of those arrested, adding that police have 48 hours to determine whether to send them to court or to release them.

"We will use the law. We will restrain their movement for 48 hours. We have 48 hours to make a determination whether to send them to court or to release them," he says.

In a related development, Mr. Carter says five impersonators purporting to be police officers have been arrested and placed in police custody.

Earlier on Monday, Deputy Police Inspector General for Operations Col. Marvin Sackor told a local radio station in Monrovia that the Covid19 measures require people to stay indoors, though he says he can understand if people are on their porches but not walking around or playing lulu with next door neighbors.

He says at this point there is no law about fine or jail if people violate the measures, adding that police have done awareness for the public to abide by lawful orders.

Col. Sackor says he is not ordering police to beat people, but warns that if anyone fails to abide by the measures, there's consequences for their action as Coronavirus will collapse the Liberian health system if the disease is not controlled.

Quizzed regarding what security institutions are part of the joint security taskforce, Col. Sackor clarifies that boy scouts and Motorcycles Task Force are not part of the operation, urging the public to call the police if any of these institutions are caught carrying on the operation.

Further, he says the joint security team can look at some of the functions of the Monrovia City Police to see how they can help the operation.

He names the Liberia National Police, the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency and the Liberia National Fire Service which are under the Ministry of Justice as those part of the operation, noting that the president through declaration of the State of Emergency, activated the Armed Forces of Liberia to be in readiness.

In a related development, Sackor discloses that on Sunday, 12 April two criminals were arrested with a pistol, dressed in security uniforms and impersonating as officers.

He says the suspects were going around, putting people under gunpoint and taking their belongings.

## 1 in 3 high-risk persons test positive

By Othello B. Garblah

Health Minister Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah has amplified the warning against the coronavirus disease here saying one in every three high risk person tested at the SKD drive thru testing center has come out positive.

Liberia as at Monday April 13, had recorded 59 cases down from 50 cases over the weekend-a figure which is

very alarming according to Dr. Jallah.

Addressing a regular COVID-19 press briefing at the Ministry of Health conference room Monday, Dr. Jallah encouraged citizens to present themselves for early testing. "We can go to your compound for testing to protect you at your comfort," she said.

She said there was no need for people to wait to see a sick person die before calling for

help. "If they are sick, let's attempt to save them. Do not treat people at home. Take the sick to hospital. Specimen collection center is where people must be taken for checkup," she added.

The Health Minister also frowned on the over crowdedness of banks and other places, emphasizing the need to take social distancing very serious here if the country is to bring the virus under control.

Touching on the ongoing lockdown of Montserrado and Margibi Counties, Dr. Jallah opined that the move is intended to take the infected from the street and to chase and trace it in the home.

She explain that the goal of the lockdown is to enable people to stay home, adding that in the next few days "we will do house to house search."

Liberia has so far recorded 59 COVID-19 cases. Out of this number, the country has recorded five deaths, all of which did not seek early treatment. About four people have since recovered.



## Residents decry

Cont'd from page 6

Caldwell Township, where he is also a resident.

Notwithstanding, many residents who called on the talk show confirmed that the City Police trainer usually engages in illegal shooting in the area, creating panic.

One female resident, who identified herself as a registered nurse, said this behavior by Director Garwo is affecting people suffering from hypertension, as their blood pressure rise each time such act is carried out in the township.

As this paper went to bed Monday, news coming from the township reveals that angry residents besiege the residents of Director Garwo, demanding his whereabouts.

Meanwhile, several dead bodies have reportedly been

discovered in some parts of the capital, including GSA Road community, Paynesville; 12th Street, Sinkor and Crab Hole community on Bushrod Island, respectively.

Correspondents detail that a male body rapped in bed sheet was left lying in the street Monday in the 12th Street community, while an unnamed woman was discovered dead in her bedroom in Crab Hole community.

Residents could not establish immediately whether or not, these individuals died as a result of the COVID-19, but health authorities reportedly took saliva specimen of the dead women for testing, as confirmed cases here hit 51 with five (5) deaths and three (3) survivors. -Story by Jonathan Browne

# Gov't is the stumbling block

**-Dr. Chris Dugbeh Nyan on experts' involvement in Covid-19 fight**



By Winston W. Parley

Liberian scientist and inventor Dr. Dougbeh Chris Nyan is warning here that the Liberian Government is the stumbling block to health experts' involvement in the fight against coronavirus here, disclosing that his team requires no payment from government to make interventions once the space

and requisite material supports are provided.

Speaking via mobile interview with a local FM broadcaster Monday, 13 April, the U.S. - based Liberian scientist Dr. Nyan recalled that when Ebola hit Liberia between 2014 and 2016, they coordinated very effectively with health authorities to combat the disease, and it led to the emergence of the

National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL).

According to him, 2,000 health practitioners and contact tracers were trained to deal with the Ebola crisis, "and we have these people today."

With NPHIL and the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) having deployed 6,000 active data collectors beginning Wednesday, 8 April to collect data of persons suspected of having coronavirus, Dr. Nyan suggests that the government should now be questioned why it has not called "DougbehNyan's Team" to help in the fight against Covid-19.

Giving example of factors prompting the increase of Covid19 in the U.S., Dr. Nyan explains that delay in preparation and political decisions are some key factors that have crippled the U.S. health system during this crisis, despite having one of

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7**

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# Lawmakers fail to convene

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Members of the Liberian Legislature failed to convene again on Monday as requested by President George Manneh Weah last week during declaration of a State of Emergency to fight the Corona Virus.

Both the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate sitting in separate session were expected last Thursday to

sign a 'Joint Resolution' in endorsement of the State of Emergency.

Information gathered from both offices of Speaker Bhofal Chambers and Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie indicate that despite the declaration, President Weah is yet to make available the document for proper understanding before it can be endorsed.

On April 8, President Weah declared lock-down measures, including State of Emergency,



which took effect on Friday, 10 April at 11:59PM. The emergency is to last for three (3) weeks, and is renewable, based on progress achieved in the current fight.

However, Senate Press and Public Affairs Director, JalawaTonpoe, said the members of the Liberian Senate will meet today, April 14 to decide a way forward on the current affairs of the state.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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