



The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>



Advertize Here!

Subscribe to our website
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

Advertize Here For Low Rate

VOL.10 NO. 67

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

PRICE LD\$40.00



Pres. Weah to test for COVID-19

-As Securities investigate NPHIL officials

Gov't to shut down media houses



MTN Business

Give your business what it needs to succeed. Do good business with MTN Business!

Visit any **Lonestar Cell Service Center** to register or call **5656**

Ts & Cs apply

- Internet solutions
- Call center management
- Data storage and management
- Web hosting





Continental News

Cuban doctors ruffle feathers in South Africa

The arrival of more than 200 Cuban medics in South Africa to help battle coronavirus has received mixed reactions, with some of the sharpest criticism coming from the South African Medical Association (Sama).

The organisation, which represents about 16,000 health workers, says it welcomes extra hands but says unemployed local medics should have been given priority.

"There are many unemployed doctors in South Africa and many community service medical officers have still not been placed. In addition, many private practitioners have indicated their willingness to assist," IOL news quotes Sama head Angelique Coetzee as saying.

There have also been raised eyebrows about a Business Live article saying it is going to cost taxpayers 440m rand (\$24m; £19m) to have the Cubans in the country for a year.

The team of Cuban medics



More than 200 Cuban medics are to be deployed around the country

include family physicians, epidemiologists, biotechnology experts and health-care technology engineers who are being deployed across the country.

Health Minister Zweli Mkhize has sought to play down the concerns, saying no jobs would be threatened. "We welcome

them and we want to assure everyone that they will not take anyone's posts and they will be working alongside South Africans. There should not be anyone that feels that they are a threat to [local employment]," Mr Mkhize said.

He added that the Cuban

medics were particularly experienced in community medicine.

Cuba is also believed to be one of the leaders in using biotechnology in disease

prevention and has expertise in handling infectious diseases.

South African officials say they requested Cuba's help to try and prevent an escalation of coronavirus infections as has been seen in Europe and the US.

South Africa currently has nearly 5,000 confirmed cases, the highest in Africa - with 93 deaths - and its health system, particularly state hospitals, is already overstretched.

Cuba and South Africa have close ties and the Caribbean island was instrumental in the fight against white-minority rule in South Africa, which did not end until 1994 when anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela was elected president. Since then Cuban doctors have been working in some of the most rural parts of South Africa, including at the height of the HIV pandemic. BBC

Trump 'promises to send ventilators to Nigeria'

Nigerian officials say US President Donald Trump has promised to send the West African nations ventilators to help it tackle the coronavirus pandemic, the BBC's Chi Chi Izundu reports.

In a phone call with President Muhammadu

Buhari, Mr Trump also reassured Nigeria of the US' solidarity and support during the outbreak, Nigerian government officials announced in their daily press briefing.

A presidential aide tweeted further details: The US has the highest death toll in the world

- more than 56,000 people there have died after contracting coronavirus.

Covid-19 is a respiratory infection and treatment often requires breathing aids but ventilators, as they are know, are in short supply globally. BBC



Uganda bans lorry drivers from sleeping at hotels

All lorry drivers crossing over the border into Uganda will not be allowed to carry passengers in their vehicles or to sleep in hotels or other people's homes as part of new measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni made the announcement after more than 20 drivers entering the

country from Kenya tested positive for Covid-19, the respiratory illness caused by the virus. Mandatory testing for Covid-19 for lorry drivers began earlier this week has been causing huge traffic jams on the border between Kenya and Uganda.

The route from the Kenyan port city of Mombasa is vital for transporting food,



could be transmitting the disease. But he acknowledged that the group posed a real threat and compared the situation to the Aids scourge of the 1980s and 1990s when lorry drivers in the region transmitted HIV in towns and cities they travelled through. BBC

EDITORIAL

Liberian authorities should lead by example

MANY LIBERIANS ARE not only astonished but totally confused about news that high-level officials leading the COVID-19 fight, returned from a Joint Security meeting here recently with mass infection and one death. Yet these are the same authorities enforcing State of Emergency and lockdown, flogging citizens and residents for not washing their hands regularly, observing social distance, and wearing facial masks, among other preventive measures.

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL of Police Patrick Sudue, nearly blew up his head, screaming on radio Monday that the Police would enforce all public regulations with full force, including flogging of violators, which was demonstrated early Tuesday at the Duala, Waterside and Painesville Red-light markets, respectively, leaving desperate residents scavenging for food brutalized, including women.

BUT THE PARADOX is joint security officers enforcing these regulations are themselves not wearing masks or observing social distance. From crowded canopies they approach vehicles for inspection at various checkpoints with their faces exposed, directly endangering drivers and occupants. In fact, some are more concerned about tips from drivers than the purpose for which they are deployed along the routes.

THAT HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS such as the Ministers of Justice, Information and Defense, respectively, along with other senior authorities from a meeting got affected, including one death is very worrisome, to say the least.

ARE THE AUTHORITIES enforcing one thing on the citizens and doing something totally different themselves or what is really going on in Liberia? We think there is a need to return to the drawing board in our strategies to fighting the novel coronavirus or else, situations could become worst before they get better, as the current realities indicate.

WE WERE VERY disappointed the other day when a reporter called Joy FM in Monrovia and disclosed that several lawmakers, including Montserrado County Representative Hassan Kiazulu had converged at an entertainment center in Brewerville late in the afternoon to drink alcoholic beverages amidst the State of Emergency and lockdown. This was hardly exemplary of the lawmakers allegedly involved, as it sent a very wrong signal to the public.

LIBERIA'S MINISTER OF Health Doctor Wilhemina Jallah is quoted as suggesting that the country appears to be wasting badly needed testing kits on dead people than those living, which seems to insinuate that the right things are not being done by our health authorities.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD stop playing lip-service in this COVID-19 fight and wake up for real business. Our authorities should not use the State of Emergency and lockdown to squander our taxes and donor funds under the disguise of tackling the health crisis in the country.

WHEN A SENIOR official such as the Minister of Health could raise such concern about unfolding realities in treatment centers, it means something is fundamentally wronged that should be corrected immediately to make progress in our fight.

IF LIBERIA SHOULD win this battle, and we are confident we will, it is about time our leaders lead by examples from top to bottom to give ordinary Liberians and the public generally a clear focus of where we are heading as a people in defeating this global pandemic.

COMMENTARY

By Robert Skidelsky

Will COVID-19 Put Us Right with Nature?

The COVID-19 virus, as frightening as it now seems, may ultimately fail to jolt humanity out of its profligate habits. But instead of regarding the pandemic as merely another problem requiring a technical fix, the world should see it as an opportunity to rethink humanity's relationship with the planet.

LONDON - One of the few things not in short supply in the COVID-19 era is commentary on the pandemic. Understandably enough, the virus has generated a non-stop flow of news about its spread, instructions on how to avoid and survive it, analysis of its causes and treatment, and conjecture about its impact on work habits, mental health, the economy, geopolitics, and much else.

My own period of home detention has produced the following reflections, which I add with some diffidence to the chorus of expert voices.

To begin with, I read Klaus Mùhlhahn's book *Making China Modern*. In Chinese cosmology, Mùhlhahn notes, the human and natural worlds were inextricably linked. "When the proper order was respected, the physical world ran smoothly and the human world prospered," he writes. But, "when that order was not respected, anomalous or destructive events, such as earthquakes, floods, eclipses, or even epidemics, would take place."

In what sense might COVID-19 be the result of not respecting the "proper order" of things? In Chinese thought, the proper order is about proper rule, and this includes maintaining the right relationship between the human and natural worlds. A pandemic indicates that our way of life has come to violate that relationship.

The health expert Alanna Shaikh thinks there will doubtless be many more epidemics as "a result of the way that we, as human beings, are interacting with our planet." This includes not just human-induced global warming, which is creating a more hospitable environment for pathogens, but also our push into the world's last wild spaces. 1

"When we burn and plow the Amazon rainforest [...], when the last of the African bush gets converted into farms, when wild animals in China are hunted to extinction, human beings come into contact with wildlife populations that they've never come into contact with before," Shaikh says.

This includes closer-than-ever encounters with bats and pangolins, both of which have been identified as potential sources of COVID-19. So long as we fail to respect nature's autonomy, nature will hit back.

One can draw either large or small conclusions from this line of thought. The conclusion that Shaikh draws is a small one, perhaps because the broader inference is too unpalatable for most people. We need, she says, to build a global health system good enough to enable countries to respond quickly to epidemics and prevent them from becoming pandemics. Each country should be able to identify, quarantine, and treat its infected citizens immediately.

One way to help achieve this, I think, would be for G7 governments to issue a global COVID-19 bond, with the proceeds going to a reformed World Health Organization that has a specific mandate to build up all countries' medical capacities to developed-world levels. (Admittedly, even the latter has proved insufficient in the case of COVID-19.) This WHO spending should be in addition to the World Bank's development

expenditure.

Shaikh makes another very sensible point. "Just-in-time ordering systems are great when things are going well," she says. "But in a time of crisis, what it means is we don't have any reserves." So, if a hospital or a country runs out of personal protective equipment, it has to order more from a supplier (often in China), and wait for them to produce and ship the goods.

This critique applies to much more than medical procurement; it challenges the prevailing just-in-time orthodoxy in business. Reserves, the argument goes, cost money. Efficient markets don't require firms to have inventories, but rather just enough "stock" to satisfy consumers at the point of demand.

Holding financial reserves in case of a rainy day is also wasteful in this view, because in efficient markets there are no rainy days. So, firms should be leveraged to the hilt.

This is fine as long as there are no unexpected events. But when the world experiences a "shock" like the 2008 financial crash, the efficient-market model collapses, and with it the economy. Something like this is happening to our medical services now.

It follows that "just in time" needs to be replaced by "just in case." Ideally, some global authority should keep a strategic reserve of medical supplies needed to support life for a limited period (say, three months) in the face of a specified set of public-health threats. This reserve should be financed by taxes levied on national governments in proportion to their countries' national incomes. But such stockpiling can also be done nationally or regionally: the European Union would be an ideal place to start.

None of this, however, addresses the far bigger question of the proper relationship between humans and nature. In a 2014 lecture, the science writer Stephen Petranek listed eight events that could end the world as we know it: pandemics, solar flares, giant earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, biological accidents, greenhouse effects, nuclear war, and a collision with meteors. Four of these would be "natural disasters" - that is, cataclysmic events which do not result from the way we order life. But the other four - pandemics, biological mishaps, nuclear war, and global warming - would result directly from the way humans interact with nature.

The COVID-19 virus, as frightening as it now seems, may eventually turn out to be so mild and controllable that it fails to jolt us out of our habits. Indeed, the psychologist and Nobel laureate economist Daniel Kahneman thinks that "no amount of psychological awareness will overcome people's reluctance to lower their standard of living."¹

But we would be unwise to continue relying on technical fixes to get us out of any hole that our profligate lifestyles land us in, because sooner or later we will run out of medical solutions to the problem of "proper order." We should use our enforced downtime to ponder what solutions would work.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 /
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

O-PED

By Joschka Fischer

The Virus that Changed the World

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the most technologically capable generation in the history of civilization to its knees in the space of just a few weeks. For all of our command over nature, the crisis shows that our political institutions are no longer fit for purpose, and must be made anew.

BERLIN - The COVID-19 pandemic has mercilessly exposed the weaknesses of institutions upon which the overwhelming majority of the world's people rely. That includes both national governments and the international order. Neither is likely to survive in their current form - nor should they.

Long before clever commentators proclaimed the arrival of "the Anthropocene" - a geological epoch defined by humankind's command over nature - it was a truism in advanced industrialized economies that the world was eminently under our control. Then along came a microscopic organism, and with it a global shock. Despite all our scientific knowledge and technological capabilities, COVID-19 has the upper hand, at least for the time being.

Compounding the irony, the world's most advanced and powerful countries were among the least prepared for the pandemic. Having spent hundreds of billions of dollars on research and development, they have the world's most powerful technologies and the strongest militaries, but they did not take seriously the risk that the next big threat might come from nature. We now know that this was a mistake of historic proportions. The seemingly implausible has come to pass; the mother of all black swans has landed.

At first blush, the COVID-19 crisis seems to be strengthening established institutions. The traditional nation-state has assumed the immediate task of containing the virus and its economic repercussions, and the post-war multilateral institutions have played only a supporting role. Even in Europe, nation-states, rather than the European Union, are leading the fight against the pandemic.

And yet, this points to a looming misconception. The international system comprises states of vastly different sizes, with varying degrees of power, but all of which embrace the old myth of national sovereignty. That system, as we know it, emerged from the ashes of Europe's religious wars in the seventeenth century, consolidating itself through colonialism and then decolonialization (itself a reaction born of new nation-states).

In the first half of the twentieth century, the trauma of two world wars and the advent of the nuclear age demonstrated the need for a radical reform of the international system. The main innovation was the establishment of the United Nations as a counterweight to the claims of nation-states. Transnationalism became the new ethos: all nation-states were expected to curb their egoism and maintain peace and cooperation through a framework of global institutions.

In reality, of course, power was never really handed off to the UN. It still resided with the world's superpowers, meaning, roughly, the permanent members of the UN Security Council. As a result, the international system rested for decades on an implicit compromise between nationalism and transnationalism, with America both preserving and operating within the multilateral framework. But, since President Donald Trump entered office, the United States has no longer felt duty-bound to anything.

As it happens, the period following World War II is also when the world really entered the Anthropocene, fully embracing the idea of human-driven material progress at the global level. Over the ensuing decades, the world's population increased dramatically, from around 2.5 billion to nearly eight billion today.

Yet the Anthropocene has also been a period of mass extinctions. And as ever more parts of the world have industrialized, the consumption of natural resources has soared. One result of this is that anthropogenic global warming has reached a dangerous stage before we have even begun to marshal an appropriate response.

At the same time, new information and communication technologies, changes in the distribution of labor, and the rise of global value chains have all led to increased interdependence. But now that a virus has brought the entire world to a standstill, we are learning that a globalized economy is like a high-performance race car: highly efficient and highly fragile.

Looking ahead, the traditional nation-state - even one as powerful as the US or China - will not be able to manage an interconnected world of more than eight billion people. The nation-state's horizon of interests is simply too narrowly defined. The Anthropocene inevitably will place a growing emphasis on humankind's shared interests, not least the question of its continued survival. The COVID-19 pandemic, which ultimately will require international coordination, is demonstrating that national interests eventually will have to recede into the background. The looming crises wrought by climate change will be much larger, and their consequences irreversible.

While nation-states will remain indispensable in providing good governance and contributing to global efforts, the principle of nationalism will only exacerbate future systemic crises. The pandemic must be followed by a new age of international cooperation and a strengthening of multilateral institutions. This applies to Europe, in particular.

Now more than ever, we need to reclaim the spirit of 1945. We need the twenty-first century's two superpowers, America and China, to set the example, by burying their rivalry and uniting all of humankind around a collective response to the current crisis, and to those that await us. As COVID-19 has taught us, the old international system can no longer guarantee humankind's safety and security. We cannot afford to be taught that lesson twice.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. www.project-syndicate.org

OPINION

By Jan-werner Mueller

Where Is the Local News About COVID-19?

As if disinformation and confusion about COVID-19 at the national level were not bad enough, the pandemic also coincides with rising authoritarianism and declining local news coverage in many countries. Now more than ever, we must support independent journalism where it counts most in people's day-to-day lives.

PRINCETON - During a pandemic, accurate information can be a matter of life and death. People need reliable reports about the impact of the disease and the threat it poses to their city, community, or neighborhood. Most citizens' immediate concern is not whether their country is on the right macro-trajectory, but whether their local grocery store is practicing proper hygiene and enforcing social-distancing measures.

One of the many tragedies of the COVID-19 pandemic is that it comes at a time when local media have been decimated in many countries, and when authoritarians such as US President Donald Trump, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been waging all-out war on independent journalism. At a recent daily press conference, Trump accused a reporter of dispensing "fake news," and then suggested that injecting household disinfectants might be effective against the coronavirus.

The heart of the problem is that local news, in particular, has been severely disrupted by a broader restructuring of the economy over the past two decades. Historically, advertising sustained serious journalism. As NYU's Clay Shirky pointed out in a 2009 commentary, Wal-Mart may or may not have had an interest in the news from Iraq, but it was nonetheless subsidizing newspapers' Baghdad bureaus.

When digital platforms like Google and Facebook started hoovering up the advertising revenues that previously went directly to news organizations, local outlets were the first to feel the pinch. Newsroom staff was cut dramatically. According to a recent Brookings Institution report, one in five local US newspapers has disappeared since 2004, leaving five million Americans with no local newspaper at all, and 60 million more with access to only one.

The growth of such "news deserts" has had profound political effects. When there are no journalists to report on town council meetings and public procurement decisions, corruption can run rampant. But partly because no one hears about it, political interest also declines. Hence, the shuttering of local papers has been associated with lower electoral turnout, fewer candidates seeking office, and more incumbents winning. The same trends undercut citizens' representation at the national level, because local and regional papers cannot afford to keep a correspondent in the capital to report on what their members of Congress or Parliament are doing.

Less obviously, the decline of local news has reinforced the pernicious polarization that we are witnessing in a number of democracies. When it comes to local issues, citizens within the same community or neighborhood are generally pretty good about diagnosing problems and arriving at practical solutions to them. But as local reporting has dried up, the vacuum has been filled by national news, which tends to be geared toward zero-sum culture wars and partisan flame-throwing.

In Hungary, Turkey, and other countries where democracy and the rule of law are being systematically dismantled, some relatively independent national newspapers and websites have survived. But, perversely, such institutions can become a fig leaf for regimes facing international criticism for their attacks on press freedom, while pro-regime outlets often enjoy a monopoly at the local level. In rural Hungary, the situation has gotten so bad that the US Department of State has sought to subsidize independent reporting there.

Finally, the fate of local newspapers does not necessarily run in parallel with that of the national press. In the US, the major "papers of record" have benefited from a "Trump bump" since 2016. And while the COVID-19 crisis could, in theory, make citizens recognize the existential importance of receiving accurate information about their immediate surroundings, a local-news bump has yet to materialize.

What can be done? One solution is to tax the Big Tech companies that have destroyed the local-news business model, then redistribute the funds to local outlets. Another option is to legislate an antitrust exception so that newspapers can bargain collectively with digital platforms. The media outlets providing the actual facts and information that show up in a Google search should be compensated accordingly. Australia, the European Union, and several individual European countries have already moved in this direction, and similar legislation is pending in the US.

There has also been a blossoming of successful non-profit news organizations in recent years, many of which have a local focus. But the risk now is that such institutions could become dependent on some billionaire philanthropist, leaving them beholden to one person's arbitrary will. The French social scientist Julia Cagé has proposed an ingenious solution: ordinary supporters of accurate reporting could pool their resources to secure controlling shares of the most effective media nonprofits.

It can be fine for such non-profits to have an agenda. After all, just as with political parties, supporters join organizations because the latter reflect their values in some ways. Having an agenda - such as investigating social injustices - is compatible with a commitment to the highest journalistic standards. What matters is accuracy, (ideally) accessibility, and accountability. As philosopher Onora O'Neill explains, truth-seeking media "needs internal disciplines and standards to make it assessable." Audiences should be in a position to understand who funds an outlet, what guides its editorial decisions, and how particular stories are generated.

The problem with many right-wing outlets today is not necessarily that they have an agenda, but that the agenda is hidden, with mere opinion being presented as professionally generated news. A particularly egregious example is Fox "News," which earlier this spring eagerly spread dangerous disinformation about the coronavirus, probably costing the lives of some of its predominantly elderly audience.

The COVID-19 crisis has reminded us that journalists are essential workers. Many national media outlets will probably survive (indeed, some are already benefiting from governments' spending on emergency relief). But local journalism was already in bad shape before the crisis, and the public good it provides tends to be less appreciated. For the sake of our physical health and that of our democracies, we urgently must support it.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. www.project-syndicate.org

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Top 10 African Countries with High Infections and its Importance to Development

By KesterKennKlomegah

With its 1.3 billion people, Africa accounts for about 16% of the world's human population. Africa, comprising 54 countries, is the world's second-largest and second-most populous continent after Asia. As the coronavirus spreads around the world, many eyes are on Africa.

The number of coronavirus infections in Africa has reached 33,085, while 1,465 people died from the virus-related causes across the continent, the World Health Organization (WHO) Africa said on April 28.

South Africa accounts for the biggest number of infections (4,793) and 90 deaths. Algeria, meanwhile, has the biggest coronavirus death toll (432) and 3,517 infections. Egypt reported 337 fatalities and 4,782 cases, while Morocco identified 4,115 cases and 161 deaths, and Tunisia registered 949 cases and 38 fatalities.

South Africa and Maghreb region are the hardest hit and worse affected with the coronavirus. The Maghreb region is considered as part of the Arab world. Those North African countries belong to the Arab League, although geographically part of Africa.

The size of the sub-Sahara region has historically been extremely variable, with its area rapidly fluctuating and at times disappearing depending on global climatic conditions. Sub-Saharan Africa is the least successful region of the world in reducing poverty.

In sub-Saharan Africa, Cameroon is ranked second after South Africa with 1,621 coronavirus infections and 56 fatalities, followed by Ghana (1,550 and 11), Nigeria (1,337 and 40), Ivory Coast (1,164 and 14) and Djibouti (1,035 and 2). Nigeria became the first African country to announce easing of the lockdown measures in the most vastly populated regions. The restrictions imposed on March 30 will be lifted, possibly, on May 4, while the quarantine is substituted by a nationwide curfew effective between 20:00 and 06:00.

Late December 2019, Chinese officials notified the World Health Organization (WHO) about the outbreak of coronavirus in the city of Wuhan, in central China. Since then, cases of the novel coronavirus - named COVID-19 by the WHO - have been reported in every corner of the world. On March 11, the WHO declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic.

Africa, comparatively has low infections in the world. In the case with Africa, the continent largely depends on external sources for funds to finance their healthcare delivery. Most of the health institutions are still struggling for support, so also with many of its sectors primarily due to multifaceted factors, according to experts.

The fundamentals of neoliberalism have been shaken. The informal economy and peasant production is not exploitative and extractive. It has survived despite state neglect and disparaging by policy and academic elite as survivalist and backward. It is time that economists, policy makers, investors and planners thought creatively on how to dialogue and prioritize, as a potential model and contribute to global sustainable development, according to Mary NjeriKinyanjui, a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Nairobi's Institute for Development Studies in Kenya, East Africa.

She concluded: "It offers the new economy the tenet of inclusivity, self-reliance, solidarity, continuous learning, democratic governance, reciprocity, pooling of resources, redistribution of resources, gifting, role of the divine, social protection, individual and communal wellbeing."

Meanwhile, it would be necessary to concentrate, in the short-term, on specific steps to curb the pandemic and its spread and reduce the damage to a minimum, primarily the health and lives of people on these islands and later analyze the lessons and forge long-term development plans.

"Given the raging coronavirus pandemic," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said in an interview with the International Life magazine, April 17, "one of the lessons to learn from the current events will be a shift in the elites' stances in many countries which will prompt them to cut wasteful expenditure. It is significant to boost local healthcare systems and create reserves. We can hope that following the pandemic a well-known rule saying that lightning does not hit the same place twice will prove quite true. However, the sheer scale of the current disaster will apparently make a drastic effect on governments' political compass."

Although it has abundant natural resources, Africa remains the world's poorest and least developed continent, the result of a variety of causes include corrupt governments, and worse with poor development policies. Africa's total nominal GDP remains behind that of the United States, China, Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, India and France. According to the United Nations' Human Development Report, the bottom 24 ranked countries (151st to 175th) are all in Africa.

Lawyers amend fight

Starts from back page

The Bar's contention was that Cllr. Nwabudike has failed and neglected to prove his citizenship before the House of Senate during his confirmation hearing and up to present, has still failed to do so.

It stated that Nwabudike's Curriculum Vitae is a product of big fraud, thus recommending that he must be penalized by being prosecuted and deported to his native land, Nigeria by the Attorney General of Liberia consistent with Chapter 21, Section 21.10 of the Alien and Nationality Law of Liberia.

Prior to filing its amended motion on Wednesday, the LNBA had filed another communication dated 29 April, 2020,



informing the Civil Law Court of the Bar's withdrawal of its previous intervener's returns, motion to dismiss and motion to dismiss, reserving the right to amend [and] refile.

The LNBA reminds the Civil Law Court that the Supreme Court has held over and over that every court, including the Supreme Court, is duty-bound to first determine its jurisdiction over a given matter because where jurisdiction is wanting, every action taken by the court is null and void.

Further, the intervener LNBA says the Alien and Nationality Law of Liberia provides that exclusive jurisdiction to naturalize persons as citizens of Liberia is conferred upon the circuit courts.

In Montserrado County, the LNBA continues, the first judicial circuit shall exercise such jurisdiction, concluding that the Civil Law Court therefore lacks jurisdiction to pass on the nationality of Nwabudike.

The disgraced presidential nominee Cllr. Nwabudike wants the Civil Law Court in Monrovia to declare his citizenship right to enable him continue practicing law here, as lawyers launched a probe into controversies surrounding his Liberian citizenship which recently denied him the privilege to chair the National Elections Commission (NEC).

Having worked at Good Governance Commission (GC), the Nigerian - born Cllr. Nwabudike who insists he naturalized in 1982 as Liberian, was serving a tenure as Liberia Anti - Corruption Commission (LACC) chair when President George Manneh Weah appointed him this year to head the NEC, his third job in less than two years.

Until his nomination by President Weah to chair the NEC, Cllr. Nwabudike's previous confirmation by the Liberian Senate as LACC chair seemed to have gone smoothly without Liberia's weak system detecting any issues surrounding how he acquired Liberian citizenship which enabled him to practice law here.

At the Senate hearing for the NEC top job, Nwabudike consented that his passport carries October 2, 1963 while his records at the University of Liberia have October 2, 1965, insisting that he did not have control over what is written about him at UL.

Senators and members of the public were concerned that even after naturalization, Nigerians do not forfeit their Nigerian citizenship until they make a declaration renouncing their Nigerian citizenship, and the president registers such declaration in accordance to Article 29 of Nigeria's Constitution.

His failure to present to the Liberian Senate an evidence that he had renounced his Nigerian citizenship and to show proof that his declaration had been registered by the president of Nigeria appeared to have given the confirmation hearing a suggestion that he may still be enjoying Nigerian citizenship while he carries a Liberian passport.

GET ACCESS TO THE

The New Dawn

TRULY INDEPENDENT

www.thenewdawnliberia.com

Read the New Dawn everyday & Advertise with us!

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Speaker's bodyguards flog contractor -for demanding pay

By Bridgett Milton

Security guards of Speaker Bhofal Chambers, including private security at the 54th Legislature Tuesday beat up a contractor who had gone at the Capitol to protest in demand of US\$25,000 that body owes him for a painting contract executed since January.

Mr. Guss A. Winn narrated

making payment despite repeated engagements and promises.

Mr. Winn explained that he took loan from a commercial bank and pre-financed the work, but has forfeited in liquidating the loan and the bank is now after him, forcing him to abscond his home.

Out of apparent frustrations, he went at the Capitol Tuesday, 28 April with two cooking pots,

He told reporters that on many occasions, Speaker Chambers has asked him out of his office, while demanding for his payment, and threatened with imprisonment by Bong County Representative Marvin Cole, who co-chairs the Committee on Rules, Order, and Administration at the House.

Speaking to Prime FM subsequently, the Speaker confirmed the House of representatives owes Mr. Gus A. Winn the amount in question for a painting contract he executed at the Capitol this year, promising that the money would be paid as soon as funds are available.

According to Speaker Chamber, there is every desire to pay the amount but since the contract was executed, the House hand been faced with financial challenge.

He said Mr. Winn had informed him that he took loan from a commercial bank to do the job, which he needs to pay back and he (Speaker Chambers) told him that if he has problem with the bank he should let authorities of the House know so they can send a delegation to the bank.

He promised that if any fund comes to the House of Representatives, Mr. Winn will get first preference for payment.

Meanwhile, speaking to OK FM Wednesday, 29 April Representative Marvin Cole said he would never be a part of any action to inflict wound a fellow Liberian, similarly assuring that everything is being done to pay the money owed Mr. Winn. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



that he entered into an agreement with Speaker Chambers and members of the House of Representatives about four months ago to paint the Capitol in preparation for President George MannehWeah's Annual Message, but since that agreement was sealed and the job executed, authorities of the House have reneged in

banging them together in the premises, protesting for his payment. He also sat in front of the Speaker's car, demanding his money but security forces flogged and dragged him away.

According to him, he prefers to be sent to jail by Speaker Chambers than the bank taking him to prison for a debt payment that has gone beyond his control.

Local group wants government's support

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

A local agriculture group under the banner "Feed Liberia" has launched an appeal to the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and other nongovernmental organizations for support.

Feed Liberia is a Bong County - based agriculture group that is engaged in rice farming in about three districts in the county.

Since its establishment in 2017, the agriculture group has made several farms and is currently paying the tuition of about 52 less fortunate children through proceeds from their farms.

Speaking to journalists over the weekend, Feed Liberia Executive Director

Victor Togbah said they currently lack finance to purchase necessary materials that will enable them to continue their farming.

According to him, due to the lack of needed materials, they

sometimes find it difficult to reach their benchmark during a farming season.

He calls on the government to support his team, saying water- drawler, cutlasses, spraying camps, fertilizer and



Fake doctor on the run

-after duping several residents

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Logan Town Police Depot on Bushrod Island is investigating the driver of a man impersonating as medical doctor, only identified as doctor Paye, who absconded after robbing several residents of Electoral District #15, Montserrado County of valuables, including mobile phones.

Police sources explained the self-styled medical doctor last week visited several communities within the district under the pretext of having job opportunities from the ongoing COVID-19 fight for residents.

Sources explained that to convince his victims, the fake doctor displaced several documents from the Ministry of Health (MOH) along with an identification card from the ministry.

Thereafter, he informed his victims that he was sent to the communities to hire services of young people to carry out COVID-19 awareness and to also identify makeshift bathrooms for demolition.

The professed Doctor Paye also promised to pay each person recruited to work along with him US\$10.00 when the entire process is concluded within four days.

But, a day to the expiration of the process, he convinced some of his victims that he needed to use their expensive cell-phones to download pictures they had taken from the field for onward

transmission to his bosses to fast track their payment.

Unfortunately and surprisingly, Dr. Paye absconded Bushrod Island with cell-phones collected from over 15 victims and his whereabouts since remains a mystery. Ten of the victims are males, while the rest are females.

Police sources further revealed the total value of cell-phones taken away by the fake doctor is over US\$600.

Police however declined to disclose the names of Dr. Paye's driver currently being interrogated and victims of the robbery in order not to jeopardize the ongoing investigation.

The Police have maintained that the driver would be detained until his accomplice, Doctor Paye is apprehended for his alleged criminal act against the residents.

The suspect reportedly carried out similar act in River View and Swagger Island communities respectively, opposite Stephen A. Tolbert Estate, Gardnersville luring many residents into surrounding their mobile phones after sending them to collect data from the field.

According to community residents, he then absconded with those phones, leaving the driver on the ground, who himself pretended to have been hired by the purported Doctor Paye. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

anta - inset chemicals are materials they need at the moment.

He explains that they are not only engaged in rice farming but are also producing beans, cassava and other local products.

"We really want help because when we get those things we [are] talking about, it will be absolutely fine for us as farmers who want to transform the livelihood of our members," he maintains.

Mr. Togbah says they have over 175 members who are directly engaged in working on a daily basis to produce more food. "We want to see a Liberia where its citizens will stop importing rice, pepper, dry-cassava, garden-egg, among others. The country's staple food is rice, but what idea does it make for a country to keep importing its staple, especially where you have fertile soil even more than those

countries you are depending on to import rice? he wonders.

The Feed Liberia's Executive Director says it is a disservice for a country to depend on China that has the world's largest population for food, pledging his organization's commitment to produce more food through its meager resources.

Liberia spends more than US\$250m to import rice annually, but local farmers continue to complain about needed materials to support their farming activities.

Our correspondent says in Bong County, many of those who are engaged in farming activities are sometimes seen in nearby cities buying imported rice.

People who were noted for commercial farming have now adapted to subsistence farming which cannot even sustain them. **--Edited by Winston W. Parley**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

President Weah issues new Executive Order

President George Manneh Weah, on Monday issued an Executive Order repositioning the National Food Assistance Agency (NFAA).

The Executive Order No.101, repositions the NFAA

monitoring aspect to the Food Support Program.

The Order gives the NFAA authority to continue to work on other programs in the national interest, such as making school feeding program

additional markets and incomes for farmers.

The Executive Order directs that the NFAA will also purchase from farmers excess produce to be processed and stored for distribution to schools and other institutions in case of needs or emergency.

The NFAA further is mandated to introduce food stamps and free meals for various categories of people, such as the physically challenged persons, single and vulnerable parents including young children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers, the aged, sick and mal-nourished children. Others include the girl child without parental guidance and support, establish storage and processing facilities for local crops (cassava, plantain, eddoes, and rice) for distribution. This will augment food relief donation to Liberia.

The Order also authorizes the NFAA to protect the Liberian public from the harmful effects of substandard and counterfeit food commodities while ensuring their good health at all times.

In order to ensure the full realization and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



to embark upon a set of functions and operations under Section 1 of the Order that includes working closely with the National Steering Committee of the COVID-19 Household Food Support Program (COHFSP) by providing enumeration of household/beneficiaries and

sustainable through providing what "we grow and donated food commodities" even following the cessation of the global pandemic.

This approach will bring NFAA, local farmers, international partners, and processors into cooperation, and the NFAA will provide

Futures of 370 million children in jeopardy

- UNICEF and WFP

The World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF say the future of about 370 million children are at risk due to the increasing rise of the deadly coronavirus pandemic globally.

The two world bodies are now urging national governments to prevent devastating nutrition and health consequences for the 370 million children missing out on school meals amid school closures.

"In Liberia, as part of its COVID-19 emergency response programme, WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Education is providing take-home dry rations to all the nearly 100,000 girls and boys for use by their entire households as a way of averting child hunger and encouraging the children to continue studying their lessons at home," said Karla Hershey, World Food Programme Representative and Country Director in Liberia.

School meals in Liberia are especially critical for girls as a

conduit for increased retention and learning, paving a pathway for alleviating poverty and reaching Zero Hunger. WFP has therefore prioritized the provision of school meals through an inclusive approach involving the Government of Liberia and key stakeholders. WFP's school meals programme is one of the largest social safety net programmes in Liberia reaching almost 100,000

boys and girls.

"A school in Liberia is much more than a place for learning. For many children it is a safe environment where children thrive, play and enjoy a healthy growth with their peers. Now is the time to act, lifesaving services must be provided for the most vulnerable children to avoid a devastating fallout caused by

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Gov't to shut down media houses

Liberia's Solicitor General Cllr. Seyma Syrenius Cephus threatens to shut down any media institution caught spreading falsehood and seize their equipment.

The Solicitor General also vows to arrest anyone caught spreading misinformation about the coronavirus pandemic.

The threats are in the wake of rumors circulating here about President George Manneh Weah being infected with the new coronavirus after several officials tested positive, including the Ministers of Justice, Frank Musa Dean and Information, Lenn Eugene Nagbe.

Minister Dean, who also is

should only be given out to the public by health authorities in Liberia.

His threats against the media come as series of complaints of alleged security brutalities against media practitioners continue to linger, reportedly prompting former Press Union of Liberia president Peter Quaquay, to withdraw from a group instituted by President George Manneh Weah to probe the media's claims.

Cllr. Cephus says misleading the public could cause chaos in the country, urging those found in such act to desist.

As of 27 April, the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) reported 141



the Attorney General and Chairman of the Joint Security, presided over a regional joint security meeting in Monrovia on 11th April following which he contracted the virus along several of his officials.

Following that meeting he briefed President Weah along with Minister Nagbe, who facilitated a video conference with fellow leaders of ECOWAS thus, heightening concerns here that the President may be at risk due to his contacts with both officials.

But Cllr. Cephus addressing reporters at a regular Covid-19 update Wednesday, 29 April at the Ministry of Information in Monrovia, stresses that coronavirus information

total confirmed coronavirus cases of which 45 had recovered, 16 deaths and 80 active cases.

Cephus angrily warns that any radio station giving misleading information will be shut down immediately, saying, Liberians in the country and abroad should stop misuse of the social media to cause problems in the country.

He says the government is in prayer with those officials and others currently quarantined at the 14 military hospital along the Robertsfield Highway outside Monrovia.

Meanwhile, Presidential Press Secretary Isaac Solo Kelgbeh has assured the public that President Weah is well and in good health. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

WWW **Advertize Here!**
Subscribe to our website
 get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

Français

Me Nwabudike est dans un pétrin. Il risquerait un rapatriement vers son pays d'origine, le Nigeria

M Ndubusi Nwabudike est un fossoyeur, il ne devrait donc pas être autorisé à passer une journée au Libéria et être considéré comme un citoyen, a recommandé l'association du Barreau National du Libéria (LNBA).

« Le simple fait que le pétitionnaire (Nwabudike) ait échoué et négligé de prouver sa citoyenneté devant la Chambre du Sénat

lors de son audition de confirmation - et jusqu'à présent il ne l'a toujours pas fait-, il a suffisamment justifié qu'il n'a jamais été un citoyen du Libéria, mais plutôt un fossoyeur et ne devrait pas être autorisé à passer un jour au Libéria pour être considéré comme citoyen. » La LNBA a écrit dans une requête en tant qu'intervenante pour étayer la requête du gouvernement.

Me Nwabudike avait déposé une requête de 13 chefs

d'accusation pour jugement déclaratoire devant le tribunal de droit civil après que le tribunal pénal « B » a révélé qu'il n'était pas en mesure de présenter ses papiers de naturalisation.

Mais la LNBA, qui est l'organe parent des professionnels du droit ici, a, dans une requête déposée devant le tribunal de droit civil de Monrovia, fait valoir qu'en 1982, il n'y avait pas de tribunal appelé le premier circuit judiciaire d'assises criminelles « B » - où Nwabudike a prétendu avoir pris son serment de citoyenneté à 16 ans.

En outre, le chapitre 21 de la loi sur les étrangers et la nationalité du Libéria ne permet pas à un mineur d'obtenir la nationalité. Il indique que le demandeur doit être âgé d'au moins 21 ans au moment de la requête.

Nommé par le président George Weah le vendredi 21 mars à la tête de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC), l'avocat chevronné aurait menti sur presque tout, y compris au sujet de ses papiers de naturalisation, sa date de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Côte d'Ivoire: Guillaume Soro condamné à 20 ans de prison ferme

L'ancien chef de la rébellion ivoirienne et candidat à la présidentielle d'octobre 2020 a été condamné à 20 ans de prison pour « recel de détournement de deniers publics » et « blanchiment de capitaux » par le tribunal correctionnel d'Abidjan au terme d'une audience boycottée par ses avocats.

20 ans de prison ferme et près de 7 millions d'euros d'amendes. Condamnation très lourde de Guillaume Soro qui était jugé en son absence ce mardi 28 avril à Abidjan. Jugé pour recel de détournement de deniers publics et blanchiment de capitaux dans le cadre de l'achat de sa maison il y a 13 ans, lorsqu'il était Premier ministre. Ses avocats avaient choisi de boycotter l'audience.

En 2007 lorsqu'il est Premier ministre Guillaume Soro achète une luxueuse résidence dans la commune de Marcory. Selon le procureur, cette résidence a été payée 1,5 milliard, avec

des fonds publics, via une société civile immobilière, la SCI Ebur, pour le bénéfice de Guillaume Soro. Et la résidence, que l'ancien président de l'Assemblée nationale occupait toujours l'an dernier, ne serait jamais revenue dans le patrimoine de l'Etat. Pour le tribunal, Guillaume Soro est donc coupable de « recel de détournement de deniers

publics » et de « blanchiment de capitaux ». Le tribunal a donc suivi les réquisitions du procureur Richard Adou : 20 ans de prison, 4 milliards et demi de FCFA d'amende, la confiscation de la résidence, la privation des droits et l'émission d'un nouveau mandat d'arrêt.

Un réquisitoire sans

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Les autorités libériennes devraient donner l'exemple

Les Libériens sont non seulement surpris, mais totalement confus après avoir appris que des responsables de haut niveau qui dirigent la réponse contre le COVID-19 ont été testés positifs au nouveau coronavirus à la suite d'une réunion sur la sécurité. Il y a même eu un décès parmi eux. Pourtant, ce sont les mêmes autorités qui veillent au respect de l'état d'urgence et du confinement, fouettant les pauvres gens pour ne s'être pas lavés les mains régulièrement, pour n'avoir pas respecté la distanciation sociale ou encore refusé de porter des masques faciaux, entre autres mesures préventives.

L'inspecteur général de la police, Patrick Sudue, a failli se faire exploser la tête, criant à la radio lundi que la police se servirait des fouets pour veiller au respect des mesures de sécurité sanitaire. Les forces de l'ordre ont effectivement sévi mardi matin à Red Light, à Duala et à Waterside. Elles ont malmené les pauvres femmes qui étaient allées à la recherche des moyens de survie, les fouettant sévèrement.

Mais le paradoxe c'est que les agents de sécurité communs qui veillent au respect de ces réglementations ne portent pas eux-mêmes de masques et ne respectent pas non plus la distanciation sociale. Depuis des auvents surpeuplés, ils s'approchent des véhicules aux différents points de contrôle, le visage exposé, mettant directement en danger les conducteurs et les occupants. En fait, certains sont plus préoccupés par les conseils des conducteurs que par le but pour lequel ils sont déployés le long des routes.

Le fait que des responsables de haut niveau tels que les ministres de la Justice, de l'Information et de la Défense, ainsi que d'autres hauts responsables ont été touchés après une réunion est pour le moins très inquiétant.

Les autorités ont-elles la manie d'imposer une chose aux citoyens et font quelque chose de totalement différent dans les coulisses ? Ou bien qu'est-ce qui se passe réellement au Libéria ? Nous pensons qu'il est nécessaire que nous réexaminions nos stratégies de lutte contre le nouveau coronavirus, sinon les situations pourraient empirer avant de s'améliorer, comme l'indiquent les réalités actuelles.

Nous avons été très déçus l'autre jour quand un journaliste a appelé Joy FM à Monrovia et a révélé que plusieurs législateurs, dont le représentant du comté de Montserrado Hassan Kiazulu, s'étaient rassemblés dans un bar à Brewerville en fin d'après-midi pour boire des boissons alcoolisées en violation flagrante de l'état d'urgence et des mesures de confinement.

Cela n'était en aucun cas un acte exemplaire de la part des législateurs prétendument impliqués, car cela envoyait un très mauvais signal au public.

Le ministre libérien de la Santé, le docteur Wilhemina Jallah, a dit que le pays semble gaspiller des kits de tests indispensables sur les morts que sur ceux qui vivent, ce qui semble insinuer que nos autorités sanitaires ne font rien de bon.

Il est temps que le gouvernement cesse de faire du bruit ici et là dans cette lutte contre le COVID-19 et se mette au travail. Nos autorités ne devraient pas utiliser l'état d'urgence et le verrouillage pour dilapider nos impôts et les fonds des donateurs sous le déguisement de la lutte contre la crise sanitaire dans le pays.

Quand un haut fonctionnaire, un ministre de la Santé, soulève une telle inquiétude au sujet de ce qui se passe en réalité dans les centres de traitement, alors il faut dire que quelque chose va fondamentalement mal. Il faut prendre des mesures dès maintenant pour corriger le tir pour faire avancer notre combat.

Pour que le Libéria gagne cette bataille, et nous sommes convaincus que nous le ferons, il est temps que nos dirigeants donnent l'exemple de haut en bas pour donner aux Libériens ordinaires et au public en général un aperçu clair de la direction que nous prenons en tant que peuple pour vaincre cette pandémie mondiale.

Français

Me Nwabudikeest dans un pétrin. Il risquerait un

naissance et ses références.

Ses témoignages devant les sénateurs et les documents qu'il a présentés comme éléments de preuve lors de son audience de confirmation sont tous remplis d'incohérences. Le président George Weah a dû retirer sa nomination quelques jours après que les sénateurs ont interrompu l'audience de confirmation.

Cependant, plus loin dans leur motion, la LNBA, dont MeNwabudikeétait membre jusqu'à sa chute, a déclaré que son Curriculum Vitae est un produit de grande fraude et en tant que tel, il faut qu'il soit poursuivi et rapatrié vers son pays natal, le Nigéria, par le procureur général du Libéria conformément au chapitre 21, section 21.10 de la loi libérienne sur les étrangers et la nationalité.

Le barreau dit qu'à aucun moment Nwabudike n'a

jamais adressé de pétition aux services d'immigration libériens de son intention de changer de nationalité. Il a en outre déclaré que "L'allégation de ce pétitionnaire selon laquelle il a été naturalisé par le premier circuit judiciaire d'assises criminelles" B "est en fait fautive parce qu'en 1982, après le coup d'État, les noms de tous les tribunaux, y compris la Cour suprême, ont utilisé le préfixe "People's", People's Probate Court ... D'où le fait que le certificat de naturalisation invoqué par le pétitionnaire ne portait pas un tel préfixe, rend en outre le certificat de naturalisation et de citoyenneté du pétitionnaire et une grosse fraude pour laquelle ce pétitionnaire doit être pénalisé en le faisant poursuivre et expulser vers son pays natal, la République du Nigéria. », a déclaré la LNBA dans sa motion.

Côte d'Ivoire: Guillaume Soro

contradiction, puisque les avocats de Guillaume Soro ont boycotté l'audience. La défense invoquant la décision de la Cour africaine des droits de l'homme rendue la semaine dernière, qui ordonnait notamment la suspension du mandat d'arrêt contre Soro, et qui dans son argumentaire estimait nécessaire « d'observer le statu quo ante jusqu'à sa décision sur le fond ». Pour les avocats de Guillaume Soro, toutes les procédures à son encontre auraient du être gelées. Maître Affoussy Bamba estime que ce procès n'aurait donc pas du avoir lieu et annonce vouloir saisir la justice internationale.

Guillaume Soro est en exil en France et 19 de ses proches sont toujours en prison en Côte d'Ivoire

Guillaume Soro et ses 19 partisans sont toujours dans le collimateur de la justice ivoirienne pour un autre dossier : des accusations de « tentative d'atteinte à l'autorité de l'Etat ».

Si Guillaume Soro est

effectivement à l'étranger, ses 19 proches et patrisans, députés, militants ou membres de sa famille, ont été arrêtés depuis la fin décembre, et sont en effet en détention préventive. La semaine dernière, la Cour africaine avait d'ailleurs ordonné également leur remise en liberté.

Pour leurs avocats, ces poursuites sont purement politiques et elles ont démarrées parce que Guillaume Soro, ancien allié d'Alassane Ouattara, a rompu avec lui et a déclaré sa candidature à la prochaine présidentielle programmée pour la fin de cette année.

« Je reste candidat à la présidentielle et je gagnerai. C'est une sentence qui ne nous émeut absolument pas. La parodie de procès à laquelle nous avons assisté ce jour est la preuve ultime que l'Etat de droit est définitivement enterré par Alassane Ouattara », a commenté tout à l'heure Guillaume Soro sur sa page Facebook.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Robert Skidelsky

Le COVID-19 va-t-il nous remettre en bons termes avec la nature ?

LONDRES - L'une des rares choses dont on ne manque pas à l'ère du COVID-19, ce sont les commentaires sur la pandémie. Bien entendu, le virus a généré un flux continu de nouvelles sur sa propagation, des instructions sur la façon de l'éviter et d'y survivre, l'analyse de ses causes et de son traitement et la conjecture sur son impact sur les habitudes de travail, sur la santé mentale, l'économie, la géopolitique, et bien d'autres choses.

Ma propre période de détention à domicile produit les réflexions suivantes, que j'ajoute avec quelque réserve au chœur des voix d'experts.

Pour commencer, j'ai lu le livre de Klaus Mùhlhahn intitulé Making China Modern. Dans la cosmologie chinoise, remarque Mùhlhahn, le monde humain et le monde naturel étaient inextricablement liés. « Lorsque l'on respectait le bon ordre des choses, le monde physique se développait sans encombre et le monde humain était prospère », écrit-il. Mais « lorsque cet ordre n'était pas respecté, des événements anormaux ou destructeurs se produisaient, comme des tremblements de terre, des inondations, des éclipses ou même des épidémies. »

En quel sens le COVID-19 pourrait-il être le résultat d'un manque de respect vis-à-vis du « bon ordre » des choses ? Selon la pensée chinoise, le bon ordre est celui de la bonne règle, ce qui comprend le maintien de la bonne relation entre le monde humain et le monde naturel. Une pandémie indique que notre mode de vie finit par enfreindre cette relation.

L'expert en matière de santé Alanna Shaikh pense qu'il y aura sans doute beaucoup plus d'épidémies suite à « notre interaction, en tant qu'êtres humains, avec notre planète ». Cela comprend non seulement le réchauffement climatique provoqué par l'homme, qui crée un environnement plus hospitalier pour les agents pathogènes, mais également nos conquêtes sur les derniers espaces sauvages du monde.

« Lorsque nous brûlons et labourons la forêt humide amazonienne [...], lorsque le dernier buisson africain est transformé en fermes, lorsque les animaux sauvages en Chine sont chassés jusqu'à l'extinction, les êtres humains entrent en contact avec des populations sauvages avec lesquelles ils n'avaient jamais été en contact auparavant », dit Shaikh.

On peut tirer des conclusions grandes ou petites de ce raisonnement. La conclusion qu'en tire Shaikh est petite, peut-être parce que la déduction plus large est trop désagréable à entendre pour la plupart des gens. Il nous faut, dit-elle, construire un système de santé mondial suffisamment bon pour permettre aux pays de réagir rapidement aux épidémies et les empêcher de devenir des pandémies. Chaque pays doit être en mesure d'identifier, de mettre en quarantaine et de traiter immédiatement ses citoyens infectés.

Je pense que l'une des manières d'y parvenir consisterait pour les gouvernements du G-7 à émettre une obligation mondiale COVID-19, le produit allant à une Organisation mondiale de la santé réformée ayant pour mandat spécifique de renforcer les capacités médicales de tous les pays au niveau des pays développés. (Il est vrai que même ce dernier effort s'est avéré insuffisant dans le cas du COVID-19.) Cette dépense de l'OMS devrait s'ajouter aux dépenses de développement de la Banque mondiale.

Shaikh fait une autre remarque très pertinente. « Les systèmes de commande en flux tendus sont formidables quand tout va bien, dit-elle. Mais en temps de crise, ce que cela implique, c'est que nous

n'avons pas de réserves. » De ce fait, si un hôpital ou un pays se trouve à court d'équipements de protection individuelle, il doit en commander davantage auprès d'un fournisseur (souvent en Chine) et attendre que ce dernier produise et expédie les marchandises.

Cette critique s'applique dans bien d'autres domaines que l'approvisionnement médical : elle remet en question l'orthodoxie des flux tendus qui prévaut dans le commerce. Le consensus veut que les réserves coûtent de l'argent. Les marchés efficaces n'ont pas besoin que les entreprises disposent de stocks, mais plutôt de suffisamment de « marchandises » pour satisfaire les consommateurs au moment où ils en font la demande.

La détention de réserves financières en période de vache maigre est également un gaspillage à cet égard, parce que dans des marchés efficaces il n'y a pas de période de vache maigre. Ainsi, les entreprises doivent être exploitées jusqu'au bout.

Tout cela fonctionne très bien tant qu'il n'y a pas d'événements inattendus. Mais lorsque le monde connaît un « choc » comme le crash financier de 2008, le modèle du marché efficace s'effondre, et l'économie avec lui. C'est en quelque sorte ce qui arrive en ce moment à nos services sanitaires.

Il s'ensuit que la politique du « flux tendu » doit être remplacée par celle « juste au cas où ». Dans l'idéal, une autorité mondiale devrait conserver une réserve stratégique de fournitures médicales nécessaires pour assurer nos besoins vitaux essentiels durant une période limitée (par exemple, trois mois) face à un ensemble spécifié de menaces de santé publique. Cette réserve devrait être financée par des impôts prélevés sur les gouvernements nationaux en proportion des revenus nationaux de leurs pays. Mais un tel stockage peut également être fait à l'échelle nationale ou régionale : l'Union européenne semble être un bon point de départ dans cette recherche.

Cependant, aucune de ces questions ne résout la question bien plus importante de la relation appropriée entre l'humanité et la nature. Lors d'une conférence de 2014, l'auteur scientifique Stephen Petranek a énuméré huit événements qui pourraient causer la fin du monde sous la forme où nous le connaissons : pandémies, éruptions solaires, tremblements de terre géants, éruptions volcaniques, accidents biologiques, effets de serre, guerre nucléaire et collision avec des météorites. Quatre d'entre eux seraient selon lui des « catastrophes naturelles » - c'est-à-dire des événements cataclysmiques qui ne résultent pas de la façon dont nous organisons la vie. Mais les quatre autres - pandémies, incidents biologiques, guerre nucléaire et réchauffement climatique - résulteraient directement de la manière dont les humains interagissent avec la nature.

Le virus COVID-19, aussi effrayant qu'il nous paraisse à présent, peut en fin de compte se transformer en un virus si bénin et si contrôlable qu'il risque de ne pas radicalement nous faire réformer nos habitudes. En effet, le psychologue et prix Nobel d'économie Daniel Kahneman estime que « aucune conscience psychologique ne surpassera la réticence des gens à diminuer leur niveau de vie. »

Mais nous serions malavisés de continuer à avoir recours à des correctifs techniques pour nous sortir chaque ornière où nos modes de vie dépensiers nous poussent. Car tôt ou tard nous nous trouverons à court de solutions médicales au problème du « bon ordre ». Nous devrions utiliser nos temps d'arrêt imposés pour méditer sur des solutions qui auraient une chance d'être efficaces.

**Read the
NewDawn everyday**



Advertise with us!

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Port Truckers beg for inclusion -in COVID-19 fight

The Port Truckers Association of Liberia, Inc (PTAL) appeals to Liberia's COVID - 19 Response authorities to make use of its trucks in transporting assorted coronavirus materials and food to affected counties across the country.

PTAL president Abraham Kamara, in an interview with reporters at the Association's head office opposite the Freeport of Monrovia on Bushrod Island says they are prepared to collaborate with the government to transport COVID - 19 materials, such as PPEs, face and nose masks, faucet buckets and disinfectants, among others to affected areas in the country.

He says PTAL as a stakeholder in the current fight sees it befitting for the National COVID - 19 Response Team headed by the director-general of the General Services Agency and National Coordinator of COVID - 19 Response, Madam Mary T. Broh to utilize its nearly 500



registered commercial trucks like other vehicles hired by health authorities.

Kamara explains that PTAL has the ability to professionally assist health authorities in taking anti - COVID - 19 materials to the four affected counties (Montserrado, Margibi, Nimba and Grand Kru) just as it did during the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak here in 2014, and was credited for its services in getting supplies to

designated counties across Liberia.

He also appeals to health-related NGOs/ INGOs and other institutions working with the government through the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) to empower PTAL by entering into contract(s) with the Association for its services.

"Without our trucks, he

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

US based group donates to physically-challenged people

U.S.-based GEREENA SKILLS BUILDING INC, in collaboration with ANPPCAN LIBERIA and the LADY JUSTICE CENTER LIBERIA has distributed food items among groups with vulnerability in the country.

Two visually impaired groups along Somalia drive, a suburb of Monrovia and Kakata, Margibi County, respectively during the weekend benefited 10 bags of

rice each, 10 gallons of oil each, several cartoons of bleach, soaps, tissues and hand washing containers, amongst others.

Presenting the items Saturday to the beneficiaries, Madam Miatta Y. Gray, Executive Director of Sister's Hand Liberia, indicated the donation was in response to concerns of partner organizations for people with vulnerability especially, in these times of lockdown. "My organization called Sister's

Hand Liberia, Hawa Metzger is one of our partners, she has done a lot for vulnerable people in Liberia, especially when it comes to women and girls, most times rape victims, she was in Liberia and had discussions with members of the United Blind Association of Liberia located at LPRC, Somalia drive and promised to help. So when this entire crisis started, she called me and decided to show concern. So this is how her organization and other partners decided to help these physically-challenge people in this little way"

According to Madam Gray, based on the commitment, GEREENA SKILLS BUILDING INC, ANPPCAN LIBERIA and LADY JUSTICE CENTER LIBERIA did everything possible through Sister's Hand Liberia to ensure the items reached the rightful beneficiaries.

"Even if it is one cup of rice, let them receive it, always is not the amount but the timing, so do not hold back because it is not a truck filled, sometimes the truck filled may come when the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Water shortage hits Kpoyoquelleh Clan in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Over two thousand occupants in Karyata, the home-town of Bong County Senator Dr. Henrique FlomoTokpa, are said to be in dire need of safe drinking water and health facilities.

According to residents of the town in Kpoyoquelleh Clan, over the years they have been denied meaningful developments, causing them to drink from open-pit and nearby-stream.

Karyata is the headquarters of Kpoyoquelleh Clan, situated in Electoral District#3 under the supervision of Representative Josiah Marvin Cole.

In an interview with this paper recently, the district #3 inhabitants explained that the

and Senator Tokpa, sons of the area, exclude Kpoyoquelleh Clan from their undertakings in the county.

According to them, the absence of these social needs are posing a threat to their wellbeing, thereby causing them an unbearable health disaster.

The citizens lament that their rights to have access to equal opportunity have been violated over several years by leaders they elected to represent them.

Additionally, the citizens say on many occasions they have been seeking assistance from some government officials including their lawmakers, but to no avail.

Our correspondent who



lack of clean drinking water in Karyata and its environs has led dozens of the citizens to suffer from diarrhea and other water-borne diseases in the area.

The Karyata residents further say the situation is posing their lives at serious health risks, adding that there is a need to be given some attention and an urgent intervention if they are to live happily and healthy.

The residents say the inability of their lawmaker Sen. Tokpa and the government to provide the needed facilities is a clear demonstration that they have been marginalized.

They wonder while Representative Marvin Cole

visited Karyata gathers that citizens of the town walk several miles away from the town to fetch unsafe water for drinking and other domestic purposes.

Meanwhile, the Karyata residents are calling on their leaders to help them with hand-pumps, clinic and other major facilities.

Regarding the health condition in the area, the citizens explain that it is one of the challenging issues affecting the town. They note pregnant women and other patients are transported to C. B. Dunbar or Phebe Hospital in the county to seek medication.--Edited by

Winston W. Parley

WWW **Advertize Here!**
Subscribe to our website
 get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

Pres. Weah to test for COVID 19

By Othello B. Garblah

President George Weah is expected to lay speculations about his health to rest as he prepares to undergo testing for the deadly coronavirus, Presidential Spokesperson Isaac Solo Kelgbeh told this paper Wednesday via telephone.

“President Weah will do his test very soon,” Mr. Kelgbeh told the New Dawn as he dismissed increasing rumors here which purport that the President is COVID 19

attended the April 23, (2020) ECOWAS Summit from his residence,” Kelgbeh said.

In an earlier prepared statement issued on April 2 about the President’s health, Kelgbeh stated that President Weah is in good health. He described the reports about the President’s health as false and a blatant lie.

He noted that Weah has never been tested by anyone or any entity, and that he has been in a clean state of health.

The Presidential Press Secretary noted in that

and Attorney General, Cllr. Frank Musa Dean and Information Minister Eugene Nagbe putting several other senior officials of government risk.

The rumor gained momentum when photograph of President Weah attending the just ended April 23 ECOWAS Summit surfaced with Mr. Nagbe seated a distance behind him wearing a protective gear.

But Kelgbeh says at no time did Mr. Weah come in contact with Cllr. Dean or even have physical contact with Nagbe.

“The president has never had one-on-one with the Justice Minister. As you could see from the photograph on the April 23 ECOWAS Summit (Minister) Nagbe was there but did not have any physical contact with the president,” Kelgbeh opines.

Meanwhile, there are reports that members of the National Security apparatus have begun investigating lab technicians at the National Public Health Institute or NPHIL over leaked lab results of officials.

There were reports that the Lab result of Foreign Minister Gbehzongar Findley, leaked even before the Law technicians could reach their offices 15 minutes after they left the minister’s home.

On the deployment of the AFL Soldiers at the President’s residence, Kelgbeh said they were deployed after the president declared the state of emergency and it had nothing to do with lack of confidence in the EPS personnel simply because a mad man attempted to enter the President’s compound when he was spotted at the rear security booth.

Port Truckers beg

Cont'd from page 10

notes, “NPHIL, WHO, MOH, CDC, and Partners would find it somewhat difficult to lift anti-COVID - 19 preventive materials across the 15 counties speedily due to bad road condition upcountry lest to mention the four counties struck by the virus.”

Kamara discloses that already, the Association has launched awareness and sensitization campaign in Monrovia and surrounding communities for its 1,000 registered members on the danger of COVID - 19 and how the virus can be prevented, which is said to be paying off with truck drivers and staffers of the entity being in constant

compliance with health protocols recommended by health authorities, including the World Health Organization.

Meanwhile, Kamara hails President George Weah for his farsightedness alongside international partners in the ongoing fight in the country with total confirmed cases at nearly 140, including 16 deaths plus 676 contacts, as of 26th April.

He urges President Weah together with NPHIL, WHO, CDC, MOH, and COVID-19 Response authorities to exert every effort humanly possible in preventing further spread of the virus in the country.



positive.

Mr. Kelgbeh explains that Mr. Weah has been self-isolating since the COVID 19 confirmed index case here-Nathaniel Blamah and has not reported to his temporary office at the Foreign Ministry since then.

“President Weah has been working from home. He holds large meetings at his Jamaica Resort and small group meetings at his residence. He

statement that since the President declared the state of emergency in the country, he has been in self-isolation, conducting official meetings virtually.

The rumors about the President’s testing positive of COVID-19 spiraled after Liberia’s Drugs Enforcement Agency Director General Col. Marcus Soko was reported to have died from COVID-19 last week and the subsequent infections of Justice Minister

Cont'd from page 7

Futures of 370 million

COVID-19 that could affect generations,” said Laila O. Gad, UNICEF Representative in Liberia.

Alongside school meal programmes, children often benefit from health services - such as vaccinations - delivered through their schools. In Liberia, 1.5 million children are currently out of school as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, out of which a total of 270,000 school children were provided with school feeding in 12 counties through different programmes.

In response to a recent report from the United Nations Secretary-General, which highlighted the number of children missing out on school meals, WFP and UNICEF are working with

governments to support children who are out of school during the crisis. In 68 countries, governments and WFP are providing children with take-home rations, vouchers or cash transfers as an alternative to school meals.

Under the partnership, WFP and UNICEF will assist governments in the coming months to ensure that when schools reopen returning children benefit from school meals and health programmes. This will also provide an incentive for parents to send their children back to school.

The agencies are also working together to track children in need of school meals through an online School Meals map.

To support this work - which will initially focus on 30 low-income or fragile countries to support 10 million children - UNICEF and WFP are appealing for US\$ 600 million. Their work will be closely aligned with the UNESCO-led Global Education Coalition, a global push to ensure children keep learning despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19.

US based group

Cont'd from page 10

need is not really there.”

She added that in these moments, the physically-challenged are in need the most, because according to Madam Gray, if the lockdown is affecting those who are physically well, what’s more about the physically-challenge. The Sister’s Hand Liberia Executive Director urged organizations and humanitarians to help the vulnerable during this crisis because they have no means of helping themselves.

Receiving the items on behalf of the United Blind Association of Liberia, its president, Augustus Toby, commended the partners for their meaningful

contributions. According to Mr. Toby, blind people are the main vulnerable, adding “People are advised not to touch, but when we even decide to cross roads, someone will have to hold and cross us, which is a risk, so this donation is not small; it is big in the eyes of God, so we want to express our appreciation to you and the partners.” Members of the United Blind Association of Liberia at the same time pointed to lack of safe drinking water, poor sanitation and lack of electricity, including leakage of the entire building hosting them, among many other harsh conditions they are faced with. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

President Weah issues

Cont'd from page 7

implementation of these objectives, NFAA will conduct a nationwide rapid assessment to collect baseline data on the prevalence of food insecurity and derive recommendations for the required support needed to reduce its effects in Liberia.

It will also conduct statistics and create a comprehensive database of both local and international food-related NGOs in Liberia, and ensure proper monitoring mechanisms of food donations from foreign sources and their

ultimate distribution and supply to targeted Liberian beneficiaries and institutions.

According to the Executive Order, NFAA will ensure the continued existence of regional food banks across the country for timely interventions in food assistance during natural disasters such as floods, quakes, drought, etc.

Executive Order 101 also establishes the organizational structure of NFAA along with their respective functions and duties.

Police to decongest

Starts from back page

and properties at all times and the Corona Virus is no exception.

He then praised the LMA and the Paynesville City Corporation for working with the Police especially, during this difficult period of the country’s history to ensure that the virus is defeated.

He called on both marketers and customers going to buy to always adhere to government’s health measures to stay safe, noting that no one knows a carrier of the virus, so all preventive steps must be applied continuously. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

WWW **Advertize Here!**
Subscribe to our website
 get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

Lawyers amend fight against Nwabudike



Cllr. Ndubuisi Nwabudike

By **Winston W. Parley**

The Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) has amended its motion filed as an intervener to help the Liberian Government's fight at the Civil Law Court to dismiss a petition filed by Nigerian-born Cllr. Ndubuisi Nwabudike, requesting the court to declare his Liberian

citizenship right.

In the LNBA's amended motion filed at the Civil Law Court Wednesday, 29 April, it insists that the court lacks the legal capacity to determine Nwabudike's citizenship because citizenship in the Republic of Liberia cannot be determined by the Civil Law Court or any court sitting in its civil division here.

"Movant now files this Amended Motion to dismiss Respondent/Petitioner's Petition for Lack of Subject Matter Jurisdiction by this Honorable Court on grounds that this Honorable Court cannot exercise any jurisdiction this ..., " the LNBA writes.

Other than the Civil Law Court lacking subject matter jurisdiction over nationalization and citizenship of aliens, the LNBA further contends that Nwabudike's petition should be dismissed because he has shown no rights that have been withdrawn from him either by the government, the LNBA or any other entity here.

Previously the LNBA filed a motion before the Civil Law Court arguing that Cllr. Nwabudike has justified sufficiently that he has never been a citizen of Liberia but rather a fake individual and should not be allowed a day in Liberia to be considered a citizen.

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 5**

Take control of your money.

Link your Mobile Money account to your GT Bank account today! With MTN MoMo, you can now transfer money easily between your bank account and your MTN Mobile Money account.

Dial * 156 *7# to get started today.

#GoodTogether everywhere you go

GTBank Lonestar Cell MTN

Police to decongest Redlight Market

By **Emmanuel Mondaye**

The Liberia National Police (LNP) says it is working closely with authorities of the Liberia Marketing Association (LMA) and the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC) to decongest the Redlight General Market in Paynesville as part of measures to avoid spread of the Corona Virus.

Police spokesman Moses Carter, says with assistance and cooperation of the leadership of the LMA, the police were able to decongest

the densely populated Water Street and Duala general markets, respectively.

Speaking via mobile phone on a local radio station recently in Monrovia he said similarly the Police are in discussions with the leaderships of the LMA and the PCC on ways to reduce the over crowdedness at the Redlight market.

Carter continued that the decision to decongest the market is necessitated by rapid rise in confirmed cases of the deadly Corona Virus and to as well protect both marketers and their



customers from contracting the virus.

He frowned at over crowdedness in the various markets with marketers and buyers interacting daily without wearing nose masks to avoid contracting the virus from unsuspecting possible carriers exposed to the public.

The Police spokesman noted that decongesting the Redlight General Market remains a prime priority of the LNP, which has the authority to protect lives

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 11**

The NewDawn Press

2 colors Heidelberg printing machines



We Offer The Following Printing Services:

- Newspapers, Magazines
- Flyers, Posters, Calendars
- Brochures, Letterhead
- Receipts, Invoices
- Souvenirs, Gifts
- Designs, etc...