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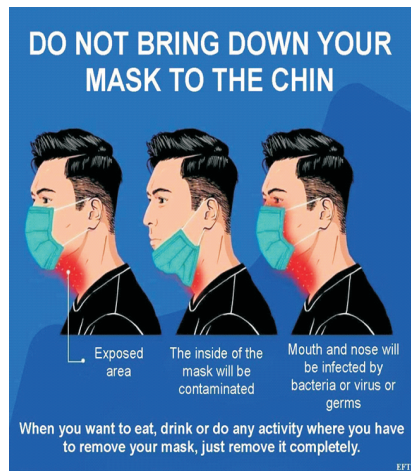
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# The New Dawn

**French Version Inside**

TRULY INDEPENDENT



VOL.10 NO. 151

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# NEC releases calendar for senatorial polls

# CDC receives more salvos



Dr. Jeremiah Whapoe

# -Rainbow Alliance claims Liberia goes down the drain

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# Continental News

## Cameroon Secures Borders Amid Renewed Threats

Cameroon says it is increasing security along its borders with the Central African Republic and Nigeria after suspected rebel incursions and interceptions of vehicles transporting explosives.

Government officials and the military braved a heavy downpour in northern Cameroon Monday to visit the commercial town of Pakete on the border with Nigeria. Jean Abate Edi, governor of Cameroon's North region where Pakete is located said his trip is to make sure that the border with Nigeria is immediately secured.

He said intelligence reports at his disposal indicate that security is threatened on Cameroon's northern border with Nigeria. He said henceforth vehicles known locally as Starlettes are prohibited from transporting goods into Cameroon from Nigeria and that the military has been reinforced along the Nigerian border. Edi did not say how many more troops have been deployed to the border zone.

Jude Mofor, coordinator of a government operation to

secure the border zone, said he invited the governor and his top officials because of the increasing wave of insecurity along the border. He says last week the military intercepted two vehicles bringing into Cameroon explosives from Nigeria. He said Starlettes are increasingly being used in transporting illegal and prohibited goods.

"As our normal duty, we control everything that enters the country. This Starlette was coming and then we stopped it and it refused to stop. Our boys used a special technique that we have to stop vehicles. While controlling, the two occupants of the vehicle ran away. It is then we discovered this stock of explosives," he

said.

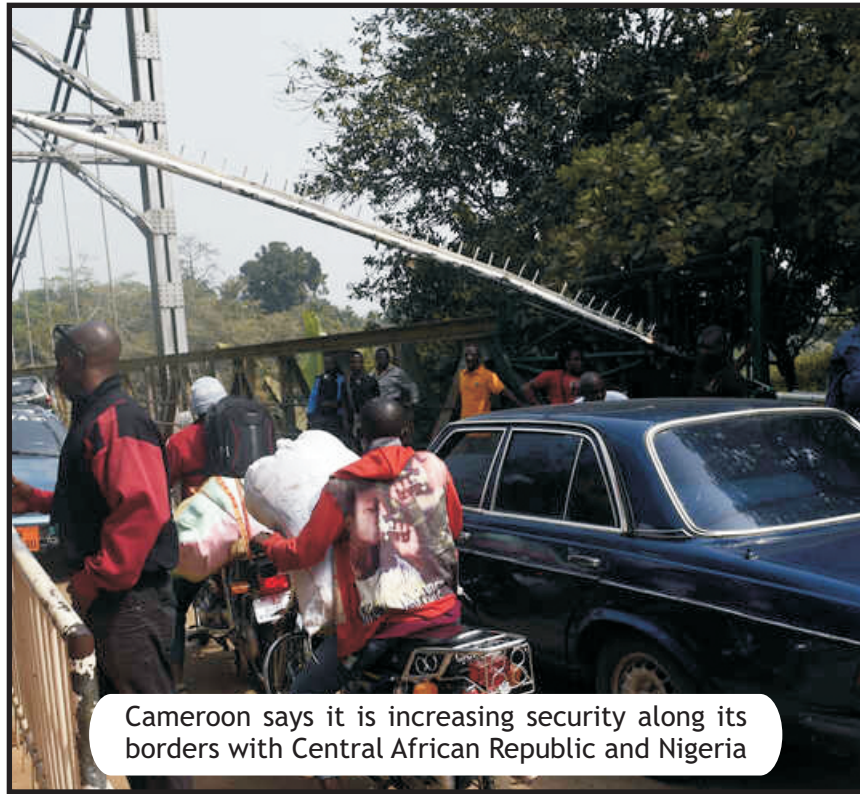
Mofor said they had opened investigations to determine the origin and destination of the explosives. He said they also seized and were keeping what he described as huge quantities of prohibited goods from Nigeria that may undermine the security of Cameroonians.

The governor said he suspected that the explosives were either destined to commit atrocities in Cameroon or were in transit to

the troubled neighboring Central African Republic.

General Agha Robinson, commander of Cameroon troops fighting insecurity on Cameroon's border with C.A.R. and Nigeria also visited the border zones. Robinson said the military also has noticed an increase in the number of people abducted for ransom along Cameroon's border with C.A.R.

Robinson said he has increased troops on that border because Cameroon has within a week reported eight incursions from suspected C.A.R. rebels. VOA



Cameroon says it is increasing security along its borders with Central African Republic and Nigeria

## Hotel Rwanda film hero arrested on terror charges

A man who inspired a Hollywood film about the 1994 Rwandan genocide has been arrested for leading "terrorist movements", officials say.

Paul Rusesabagina, a Hutu, became well known after Hotel Rwanda depicted his efforts to save hundreds of Tutsis at his hotel during the

1994 genocide.

He later launched an opposition party, which had an armed wing based in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

About 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed in the genocide.

They were killed by Hutu extremists who were forced from power by President Paul Kagame and his Tutsi-

dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). Mr Rusesabagina, 66, has received several human rights awards for his life-saving efforts, including the US Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005. He was paraded by the authorities at a press conference in the capital, Kigali, after he was arrested under an international warrant.

He had been living in exile. The authorities did not say where he was arrested or give any further details about the accusations he faces. Mr Rusesabagina's name featured recently in a terrorism case in Rwanda. The court heard allegations that the National Liberation Front (FLN) rebel group had received help from Zambia's President Edgar Lungu because of his close friendship with Mr Rusesabagina.

Mr Lungu's spokesman denied the allegation in a BBC interview.

In 2011, Mr Rusesabagina was accused of funding subversion in Rwanda, but no charges were brought.



Paul Rusesabagina has criticised Rwanda's President Paul Kagame

## Ghana denies Nigerians are being 'harassed'

Ghana's information ministry has denied reports that Nigerian citizens are being "harassed" in the country.

On Friday, Nigeria's Information Minister Lai Mohammed had said Nigerians in Ghana were "being made... objects of ridicule".

He cited the demolition of a

subject to a legal dispute, he said.

Regarding the deportation, the minister said those deported had been involved in criminal activities.

On the closing of shops, the Ghanaian government said the closures affected all



diplomatic property in Ghana's capital Accra in June, deportations of Nigerians and the closing of shops owned by Nigerians.

Ghana's Information Minister Kojo Nkrumah said "the outline of issues by my Nigerian counterpart is not reflective of the developments in Ghana".

The demolition of Nigeria's property was not carried out by the government and was

shop owners without correct documentation and also affected other nationalities including Ghanians.

Diplomatic relations between the two countries have been strained in recent months following trade tensions and the demolition of the Nigerian diplomatic building. BBC

At the time, he denied any wrongdoing and said there was a smear campaign against him.

President Kagame's critics accuse him of not tolerating any opposition. Several opposition leaders have been jailed and others fled into exile. He says he is trying to prevent a return of ethnic hatred. The 2004 film Hotel Rwanda told the story of how Mr Rusesabagina, a middle-class Hutu married to a Tutsi, used his influence - and bribes

- to convince military officials to secure a safe escape for an estimated 1,200 people who sought shelter at the Mille Collines Hotel in Kigali.

Don Cheadle played Mr Rusesabagina in the film.

Rwandan genocide survivors' group Ibuka has in the past said that he exaggerated his own role in helping hotel refugees escape the 100-day slaughter. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Now we know the real chief feminist

LAST WEEK'S STONE throwing and running battle between anti-rape protesters and riot officers of the Liberia National Police that led to the coming into the street of ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to join protesters in solidarity over the increasing wave of rape across the country when in fact, President George Manneh Weah out-rightly refused to meet with the protesters despite their demand clearly indicates who is the real chief feminist for Liberia.

FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE days last week protesters, including little girls as old as five, six and seven years marched from the Monrovia suburb of Vamoma House to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to present a petition to President Weah against endemic rape in the country. They had insisted to give the petition to the President himself, but Mr. Weah did not come out in spite of their demand.

AND SO WHEN it became very obvious that they won't see President Weah at his official office in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the protesters decided on the last day of their campaign to instead, go to Mr. Weah's residence in Rehab community along the Robertsville highway outside Monrovia, but armed riot police brutally prevented them, save the appearance of former President Sirleaf, who met with the crowd predominantly women and young girls and expressed solidarity.

HOW DISAPPOINTING IT has been that President George Weah, who some time ago, declared himself as Liberia's chief feminist, could not come out to meet women with bleeding hearts, lamenting over the wave of brutal abuse of their babies, daughters and sons sexually by evil men whose ages range from 20 to 50 and above.

BEING A WOMAN, mother and grandmother herself, MsSirleaf heard the wailing of protesters in the street and she came out to identify with them in their grievance over an act that is rapidly destroying future wives, mothers and husbands of the land, while the self-declared chief feminist [President Weah] sent emissaries upon emissaries with excuses that the President couldn't be there himself over a situation that has become very alarming in the country.

LIBERIANS NEED NOT to look any farther to know who the true chief feminist is for the country. We know that President Weah is a very busy leader or so he ought to be. But taking out at least 10 or 15 minutes of his busy schedules to have come to receive protesters' petition, especially when they had insisted so, would have worth the effort and demonstrated that the 'Father' and "Chief Feminist" of the Land is in empathy with their struggle to seek justice.

INSTEAD, WHAT THEY got were bruises, scars and allegedly broke limbs as a result of Police heavy-handedness to stifle and quiet their voices. What a paradox in a land that is supposedly presided over by a leader who presides himself as chief feminist! Is it mere title or does President Weah really care about issues that confront women of Liberia?

BETWEEN EX-PRESIDENT SIRLEAF and President George Weah we can clearly see that it is not about self-title but demonstrated actions to match the title, for actions speak louder than words. By Thursday evening last week, Madam Sirleaf was on the BBC, acknowledging the endemic rape in the country and suggesting what could be or needs to be done to addressing the problem. That's the mark of a true leader.

ON THE CONTRARY, the current administration is politicizing everything and suspicious of everybody, even grieving women and girls protesting for their own lives in the streets. Who should provide them security, if not the government they elected at the ballot box? President Weah should know that he has a duty to ensure the peace, security and happiness of the people at all times.

MR. WEAH MISSED a great opportunity to demonstrate political leadership by his refusal to meet with protesting women and girls and receive their petition over a situation that is portraying Liberia negatively under his watch. We wonder whether the President understands the consequences of his reluctance or sheer inaction over a cruel crime such as rape and abuse of women and girls.

# COMMENTARY

By Ian Goldin &  
Robert Muggah

## The COVID City

*The COVID-19 pandemic has fallen hardest not just on cities but on poorer, overcrowded neighborhoods, lending further credence to the observation that, in today's world, one's post code determines one's destiny. But could the pandemic lead to a more advanced and inclusive form of urbanism?*

LONDON - No city has escaped the deadly spread of COVID-19. But the virus has had a profoundly uneven impact on different groups of people, even within the same city. When New York City was the global epicenter of the pandemic, downtown Manhattan had an infection rate of roughly 925 per 100,000, compared to 4,125 per 100,000 in Queens. The reason for this gap is straightforward: New York's wealthiest residents could access a wide range of health services and work remotely in spacious multi-story buildings.

As in every big city, one's post code profoundly shapes one's destiny. Manhattan and Queens are less than 25 minutes apart by subway, but the difference between them in annual median income is a staggering \$78,000, and the variation in life expectancy between the city's boroughs can be as high as ten years. Similar inequalities in income, health, education, and virtually every other metric of wellbeing persist in most metropolises around the world. COVID-19 will widen these disparities further still.

Around the world, it is not so much densely populated cities as overcrowded, marginalized neighborhoods that are struggling to contain the spread of COVID-19. Socioeconomic factors, not physical geography, are a key determinant of contagion risk, particularly in the built-up areas of developing countries. For example, it is estimated that over half of Mumbai's seven million slum-dwellers already have COVID-19. And in South Africa, where five million households do not have a refrigerator, barely 46% have access to a flush toilet in their homes and one-third share toilets with other families - it is not surprising that new infections soared despite drastic lockdown measures.

The COVID-19 pandemic is especially harmful for urbanites in the informal economy, where most jobs are low-paid and cannot be performed remotely. Whereas 47% of college graduates could work remotely in the United States in July, only 4% of those without a high school diploma were able to do so. While this dynamic certainly hurts the urban poor in cities like New York, it is even more debilitating for those in, say, Dhaka, where over 80% of workers depend on the informal sector - the development organization BRAC reports that 62% of all daily wage income essentially disappeared in June.

As we show in our new book *Terra Incognita*, COVID-19 is exacerbating multiple forms of inequality within and between countries and cities, and raising fundamental questions about the future of urban living. Major cities are bearing the brunt of the pandemic's human and economic costs - and the worst is yet to come - fueling concerns about whether they will survive as the central nodes of the global economy.

But while the pandemic has severely affected many superstar cities, some of the industries driving their economies are remarkably resilient, which may help to explain why global stock markets have bounced back. It is already clear that the biggest winner in the current crisis will be Big Tech. On the same day that US economic growth was reported to have fallen by 32.9% (July 31), Amazon reported quarterly profits of \$5.2 billion, with sales up 40% from the previous year.

Similarly, Google, Apple, and Facebook have all performed far better than the economy as a whole during the pandemic.

With Citibank estimating that 80% of jobs in financial services can be performed remotely, one lasting effect of COVID-19 could well be the elimination of commuting for many, if not most, knowledge-economy workers. Moreover, a recent Gallup poll found that three out of five US workers doing jobs from home during the pandemic would like to continue to work remotely as much as possible. And a Bloomberg survey finds that 97% of financial analysts, 94% of fund managers, and 80% of traders plan to work from home in the future at least some of the time.

Even if a vaccine is developed and distributed as early as 2021, COVID-19 will be tremendously disruptive to cities. Nicholas Bloom of Stanford University predicts that if cities lose the office space previously used by knowledge workers, urban expenditures overall could drop by one-third. The dramatic decline in property taxes and other revenue streams will seriously compromise municipal governments' ability to provide basic services. The exodus of high-value workers will have dangerous ripple effects on city residents - from waiters and actors to grocers and retailers. These people and services give cities much of their character, and their loss would accelerate the downward spiral.

Still, while many major cities are down, they are far from out. The death of the superstar city has been predicted before, yet urban areas have always demonstrated an extraordinary capacity to bounce back, including from pandemics and plagues. Even in the most adverse conditions, large, medium, and smaller cities remain the most desirable places to live, work, and play, and urban dwellers are healthier and wealthier than their rural counterparts, on average. This is unlikely to change, despite the acceleration of remote working.

Cities will continue to be sites for innovation, experimentation, and invention. With many countries now facing the second wave of COVID-19 (or still caught in the first), mayors are rethinking their strategies to improve affordability, promote cleanliness, ensure stable supply chains, produce energy, and reduce congestion. Precisely because cities face tremendous financial shortfalls and growing liabilities, they will need to draw on their exceptional creativity to do more with less. Rather than being an existential threat to cities, COVID-19 may lead to a more advanced and inclusive urbanism in some parts of the world.

One way or another, our future lies in cities. This is why the World Economic Forum has focused its Great Reset initiative on urban hubs, and why the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, has put resilient and inclusive cities at the center of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. For city leaders, the task is to start investing in micro-mobility and pedestrianization, while testing new models of urban design, including retrofitting buildings and public spaces with healthier renewable alternatives. The pandemic has shown us that ensuring a healthy population requires reshaping society. Cities are where that process will start.

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

## O-PED

By Ana Palacio

# A Democratic Doomsday?

*For years, liberal democracies have been beset by deepening political polarization, declining confidence in the rule of law, and widespread institutional decay. With the COVID-19 crisis accelerating these trends, the need for a clear strategy to defend liberal democracy has become more urgent than ever.*

**M**ADRID - In 1947, two years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki were decimated by nuclear bombs, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists launched the Doomsday Clock to convey the world proximity to annihilation - and to spur action to "turn back time." Today, it is worth considering the need to create a clock to show how close our democracies are to collapse. On such a Democracy Doomsday Clock, we would be rapidly approaching midnight.

Liberal democracy is founded on the idea that individuals acting rationally in their own interest will produce good outcomes. But almost every aspect of this premise has been eroded in recent years. For starters, widespread income stagnation and soaring inequality, especially since the 2008 financial crisis, are hardly outcomes that most rational people would choose.

Moreover, waning trust in institutions has undermined the conditions individuals need to make informed decisions. Traditional media, long expected to serve as gatekeepers of information, have been coopted and bypassed by online sources, whose business model encourages them to attract readers by playing to their beliefs and interests, often through the dissemination of false or misleading information.

In this context, political leaders attempting to act as moderating forces often lose out to those who use fearmongering and appeals to tribalism. All of this has fostered a narrowly drawn - and, at times, self-defeating - sense of self-interest, which makes the compromises that are necessary to build broad coalitions virtually impossible.

These trends have beset liberal democracies with deepening political polarization, declining confidence in the rule of law, and widespread institutional decay. The COVID-19 crisis has accelerated every one of these developments. The pandemic has dealt devastating new blows to liberal democracies' already-tattered reputation as bastions of relative prosperity, predictability, and security.

The challenges are well known. And yet even discussions of democracy's decline have become deeply polarized. In the United States, Republicans and Democrats both spent much of their recent presidential nominating conventions suggesting that their opponents are intent on destroying American democracy.

In fact, the entire US presidential campaign has been featuring near-apocalyptic rhetoric, with both sides weaponizing the language of liberal democracy - liberty, freedom, the rule of law - to portray their opponents as an existential threat to the American way of life. This reflects a broader trend toward linking the defense of democracy with elections. Far from representing a credible solution, this approach now seems to embody a zero-sum ethos, which merely deepens the divides that are already crippling democracy.

Ominous warnings - even those that are grounded in reality - will never be enough to save liberal democracy. That will require a long-term strategy aimed at restoring the system's foundations: good governance outcomes based on rational, informed decision-making.

Education and mobilization are integral to such a strategy. Recent developments - from a broad willingness to follow public-health guidelines to widespread protests against systemic racism - suggest that populations are ready and willing to act. But such efforts will mean little without better outcomes, and that will require political leaders to address systemic flaws, beginning with those that are fueling inequality.

The key to success - and democratic resilience - is to foster a stronger connection between government and society. That, in turn, requires a more robust understanding of citizenship.

As the nineteenth-century Italian politician and state-builder Giuseppe Mazzini noted, a liberal democracy can take root and flourish only if it is founded on duties, not just on rights. Citizens must be connected to one another by a higher cause. For Mazzini, who helped to bring about Italy's unification and independence, that cause was the nation's right to self-determination. US President Woodrow Wilson built on this at the international level following World War I in laying the foundation for what would ultimately become the liberal world order.

Such an effort does not, however, need to be based on nationalism. Indeed, today we see politicians resorting to ethnic nationalism as a means of dividing populations. What is necessary is a sense that we all have a responsibility beyond ourselves and to each other. That belief allows a functioning - let alone flourishing - liberal democratic society to exist.

In practice, this approach is quotidian and deliberate. It involves community building, a commitment to service, and a general conscientiousness. It will not be easy, and it certainly won't be accomplished with a single election, not even the US presidential election in November. But that is not an excuse not to try, and to succumb to the centrifugal forces driving us apart.

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## OPINION

By Michael Spence

# Winners and Losers of the Pandemic Economy

*While it is true that bullish equity markets are out of step with the historic contraction in the real economy, to say that they are disconnected from it misses the point. In fact, the lofty valuations of companies with high intangible capital per employee make perfect sense in today's economy.*

**M**ILAN - Much economic commentary nowadays focuses on "divergence": while broad equity-market indices are at or near all-time highs, much of the wider economy struggles to recover from one of the most severe downturns ever. Whereas the Russell 2000 is still down 5.4% year to date, the S&P 500 and the Russell 3000 have fully recovered to their pre-pandemic levels, and the Nasdaq, which tilts toward digital and technology companies, is up some 26%.

Many have concluded that the market is unmoored from economic reality. But, viewed another way, today's equity markets may be partly reflecting powerful underlying trends amplified by the "pandemic economy." Equity prices and market indices are measures of value creation for the owners of capital, which is not the same thing as value creation in the economy more broadly, where labor and tangible and intangible capital all play a role.

Moreover, markets reflect the future expected real returns to capital. When it comes to measuring the present value of labor income, there simply is no comparable forward-looking index. In principal, then, if there is a significant anticipated economic rebound, the outlooks for capital and labor income could be similar, but only capital's expected future would be reflected in the present.

But there is more to the story. Market valuations are increasingly based on intangible assets, not least the ownership and control of data, which confers its own means of value creation and monetization. According to one recent study of the S&P 500, stocks in companies with high levels of intangible capital per employee have recorded the biggest gains this year, and the less intangible capital per employee companies have, the worse their stocks have performed.

In other words, incremental value creation in markets and employment are diverging. And while this was true even before the pandemic, the trend has now accelerated. There are at least two reasons for this. One is the rapid adoption of digital technologies as part of the response to lockdown measures. The second is that many labor-intensive sectors (which normally add value mainly with labor and tangible capital) have been partly or totally shut down as a result of lockdowns, social distancing, and consumer risk aversion.

For example, the Dow Jones US Airline Index clearly took a large hit and has yet to recover. In normal times, this sector generates value mainly with tangible capital, labor, and fuel (though there are significant digital elements to its business, too).

To be sure, general market valuations have been supported by the US Federal Reserve and other major central banks' interest-rate policies. In the current context, highly accommodative monetary policies are principally aimed at creating space for governments to use debt to finance large fiscal programs in response to the COVID-19 shock.

But while ultra-low interest rates may provide some general support for today's market valuations, they do not account for the stark differences across sectors. After all, the part of the economy not represented by publicly traded stocks is also suffering (though there are, of course, private companies in digital sectors whose valuations and returns are similar to, or even higher than, the upper end of the intangible-capital spectrum in public markets).

More broadly, lower-income households and many small businesses with thin, fragile balance sheets have been left with no effective shock absorbers, and many of the labor-intensive sectors that generate significant employment in normal times (including hotels, restaurants, and bars) have been partly shut down. To address these trends, sovereign balance sheets are being used as a shock absorber for large swaths of the economy.

But not all swaths. Because the current crisis is actually boosting the value of certain companies, it is worth asking who owns the bulk of their stock. It certainly isn't the private households and businesses whose balance sheets are too weak to serve as shock absorbers. Today's high-valuation companies are owned by individuals and institutions with balance sheets that are already substantial enough to provide a cushion of economic resilience.

When the post-pandemic phase comes into view, labor-intensive sectors with lower intangible capital per employee may enjoy a period of outperformance as they bounce back. Yet even in this scenario, the economy's digital footprint is likely to expand, and the underlying trend favoring intangible capital and its owners will continue.

It is not surprising that intangible-capital-intensive sectors would have an advantage. For the most part, their cost structures are abnormally tilted toward fixed costs and low or negligible marginal costs. This makes some platforms massively scalable, which in turn confers significant power in terms of pricing and market access.

One could draw a few conclusions from these economic realities. For starters, the pandemic economy has accelerated the pre-pandemic trend favoring intangible-asset value creation through firms with relatively fewer employees. We can expect this trend to continue, albeit not at the heightened pandemic-induced pace. Traditional businesses will recover, but the disconnect between value creation across firms depending on intangibles per employee will persist and remain a major economic and social challenge.

The idea that markets and the economy are diverging reflects a narrow focus on particular indices. But no single index can offer a useful summary of overall market, let alone economic, conditions and trends. And in the pandemic economy, equity-market indices obscure even more than they otherwise would, owing to the large divergences in economic outcomes across sectors and for the people who work in them.

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**Section I. Invitation for Bids**

Republic Of Liberia  
 Ministry of Finance and Development Planning  
 P.O.BOX 9013  
 Broad & Mechlin Street, 1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia  
 West Africa

Title of bid: **Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicle – SUV 4x4**  
 Contract Identification No.: **IFB NO. MFDP/NCB/002/20-21**

- The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) anticipates fund from the Government of Liberia National Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and intends to apportion some toward the cost of procuring vehicles for the operation of the Ministry for which this Invitations for Bids is issued.
- The MFDP now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply and delivery of the vehicles for its operation. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding process in accordance with procedures specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPC Act) published and approved: September 18, 2010.
- The supply and delivery of the motor vehicles as per the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning's requirements is summarized in the below table:

No	Description	IFB Number	Quantity	Delivery Schedule
1.	Supply and Delivery of Vehicles (SUV 4x4)	IFB No. MFDP/NCB/002/20-21	Three (3) Vehicles	As per Contract Provision

- All Interested eligible bidders may obtain a complete set of the bidding documents from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US\$50.00** beginning September 1, 2020, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM daily: Mondays to Fridays.
- All bids must be delivered at the address below at **2:00 PM** on or before Wednesday, **September 30, 2020**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of **US\$2,925.00** (Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-five United States Dollars) in the form of a Bank Guarantee or Manager's Check. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened. Electronic bidding is not permissible.
- Bid opening will be done within one (1) hour after bid submission on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 2:00 PM, in the Conference room on the 10th Floor or the Procurement Unit on the 3rd Floor at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, in the presence of bidders, their representatives or those who may choose to attend. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after the deadline of Bid submission.
- Qualification requirements includes the following:
  - Company Profile
  - Valid Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry)
  - Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (Liberia Revenue Authority)
  - Articles of Incorporation (Liberia Business Registry); where applicable
  - Provide a proven track record of Corporate Clients or Institutions
  - Letter of Recommendation from two (2) reputable institutions
  - Manufacturer authorization
  - Availability of spare parts & and after sales services
  - Ability to pre-finance supply of the vehicles
  - PPCC Vendor Registration Certificate
- Submissions must be signed, sealed in an envelope and clearly marked. **"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MOTOR VEHICLES -IFB No.MFDP//NCB/002/2020-2021,** and addressed to:
 

Director of Procurement  
 Room 045- 3rd Floor  
 Ministry of Finance and Development Planning  
 Broad & Mechlin Streets  
 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia  
 Mobile number: +231-886-579-455 / 770-191-202  
 Email address: [ebarkoi@mfdp.gov.lr](mailto:ebarkoi@mfdp.gov.lr) / [mglaydor@mfdp.gov.lr](mailto:mglaydor@mfdp.gov.lr)
- The Ministry of Finance and Development (MFDP) Planning reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted and to annul the process at any time without incurring any liability and without assigning any reason thereto; Invitation for Bid and Award of Contract will be issued to qualified bidders in accordance with the procurement procedures applicable under the Republic of Liberia Amended and restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act published and approved September 18, 2010.

Signed:   
**Procurement Director**

Approved:   
**Deputy Minister for Administration**

**SURVEY NOTICE**

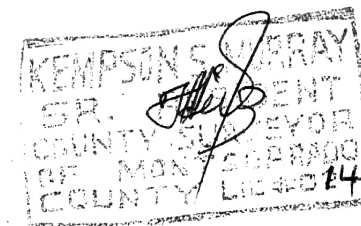
August 21, 2020

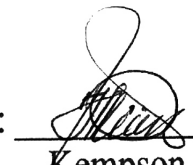
The General Public is hereby informed that having been granted the permission by **Mr. Spencer U. Cooper** the undersigned **Registered License Surveyor** will conduct a **Survey of One (1) lot** of land situated, lying and being in **Cooper's Farm, Paynesville, Montserrado County** on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup>, day of September A.D. 2020 at the hour of 10:00A.M. in favor of **Mr. Desire S. Satia & Tina Satia** of Monrovia

Therefore, all those sharing common boundary(ies) with the said parcel of land are asked to be present with their **deed(s), diagram(s), technical representative or any other title document(s)** to verify their claims.

This notice should claim the attention of the following property owners:

- Mr. Spencer U. Cooper
- Community Chairman
- General Public
- Nearest Police Station
- Initial V. W.
- JJC
- Catholic Compound



Signed:   
**Kempson S. Murray, Sr.**  
**Registered Licensed Surveyor**  
**Lic. #014**  
**Cell #: 0886-514-399/0777-750-002**

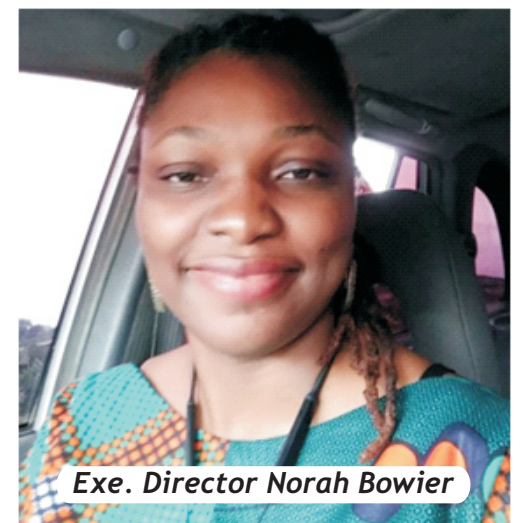
**SDI on successes and challenges in forest sector**

The Executive Director of the Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) Madam Norah Bowier, has said that though the forest sector of Liberia is far ahead of other sectors in terms of reforms, but much needs to be done especially, in the area of forest governance.

Speaking in an exclusive interview via mobile phone over the weekend, she said SDI works to transform decision-making processes of natural resource management so the benefits are shared equally with the aim of creating space for the participation of local communities in decision making processes on natural resources.

She continued that while there are good laws on book in the management of the forest, implementation remains a stumbling block due to perhaps inadequate logistical resources by the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and or the lack of political will from national government.

"On a larger skill, the forest sector has made a lot of progress when compared to other sectors. And I think the other sectors need to emulate the good examples of the forest sector. Notwithstanding, there have also been some serious challenges. There are issues around the implementation of the laws, lack of political will from the end of the government; there are issues around civil society collaboration and cooperation; there are issues of gender



**Exe. Director Norah Bowier**

participation at the community level, where women have not been into key decision making position and so on," said the SDI boss.

She said the laws seem to have been weakened or watered down and this has affected revenue generation in the forest sector, adding that affected communities supposed to receive some financial benefits, but these have been stalled at the governmental level.

"The government has a huge arrear for people within the different forest communities. There are promises by concessionaires that are not being fulfilled because some of these agreements are not clear and as such, serious amendments are needed. This has to some extent led to series of conflicts between concessionaires and the people," Norah disclosed.

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# Weah to invite stakeholders to discuss SGBV

Following mass protests against increasing wave of rape of babies and women here, President George Manneh Weah says he will invite the civil society organizations, the Legislature and the Judiciary to sit and continue the discussion on issues of Sexual and Gender - Based Violence (SGBV).

Speaking Monday, 31 August after receiving a roadmap

continue the discussion because this is important and sensitive," he says.

The Inter-Ministerial Taskforce was constituted by the president on July 29, 2020 with a mandate to put into place a technical team comprising relevant stakeholders who will regularly discuss, consult and provide concrete and enforceable recommendations on enhancing

occasions that as Feminist-in-Chief, he has zero tolerance for Sexual and Gender - Based Violence, adding that he means it.

He says Liberia can overcome the scourge of rape but it would require unity of purpose and deliberate focus among all Liberians on what can be collectively done.

President Weah indicates that the combined efforts of various branches of government—the Executive, Legislature, Judiciary—as well as the civil society, particularly sexual gender-based violence stakeholders, are needed on deck to stop rape in the country.

"Rape is a serious issue that needs to be weeded out of society," he says, adding: "There must be a zero-tolerance on rape and all forms of SGBV. We must protect our girls, boys and women. It is paramount we do so without fear or favor."

The president calls on all actors including the media, to join the fight against rape and SGBV.

"You are the voice for the voiceless," President Weah notes, referring to journalists. "Help us to create awareness and join the conversation to stamp out rape."

The roadmap document, according to the Inter-Ministerial Taskforce Chair, Williametta E. Saydee-Tarr, comprises findings and recommendations in the short, medium and longtime to address and possibly weed out rape beginning September 2020 to September 2022.--  
*Press release*



dossier from the Inter-Ministerial Taskforce on SGBV at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, President Weah acknowledged the need to sit and discuss the way forward "if we are to be successful in protecting our girls, women and other vulnerable people."

"I am going to peruse and invite the civil society organizations, the Legislature and the Judiciary to sit and

the fight against SGBV.

He had also mandated the team to submit to him their findings as promptly as possible for decisive actions.

He continues: "As President of Liberia, it is my responsibility to lead all efforts to address social and societal irregularities and threats that befall our people or any segment of it."

According to President Weah, he has stated on many

# Chicago Fire Department pledges support to Liberia

In an effort to help strengthen the capacity of the Liberia National Fire Service (LNSF) the Chicago Fire Department in the United States has pledged to support its counterparts in Liberia.

According to a dispatch from the U.S. State of Chicago, the commitment followed a meeting held between the director of the Liberia National Fire Service Col. Alex Dickson and Chicago Fire Chief Richard C. Ford, II.

Col. Dickson is visiting the United States upon an invitation from the Liberian

community in Chicago. The two officials discussed challenges facing the LNFS and how the Chicago Fire Department could help in providing local and international, including provision of equipment and logistics as well as rebranding and establishing a medical department within the LNFS.

Upon his arrival in Chicago on 25 August 2020, Col Dickson was received by a high-powered Liberian delegation and immediately taken to the Chicago Fire department where he and his colleague discussed issues about the future of the

Liberia National Fire Service.

The Chicago Fire department is the second largest fire department in America with some of the best firefighters and paramedics.

Chicago Fire Chief Richard C. Ford, II and his 1st Deputy Fire Commissioner Annette Nance Holt attended the meeting with their counterpart from Liberia.

The two American fire chiefs have reportedly promised to visit Liberia in December this year, the dispatch disclosed.

# CPM supports Dr. Wiles leadership in DJP

By Emmanuel Mondaye

A political group, Citizen Peace Mission or CPM, says Dr. Cllr. Isaac G. Wiles remains legitimate political leader and founder of the Democratic Justice Party (DJP) in Liberia, accusing some individuals of illegally using the party for selfish motive.

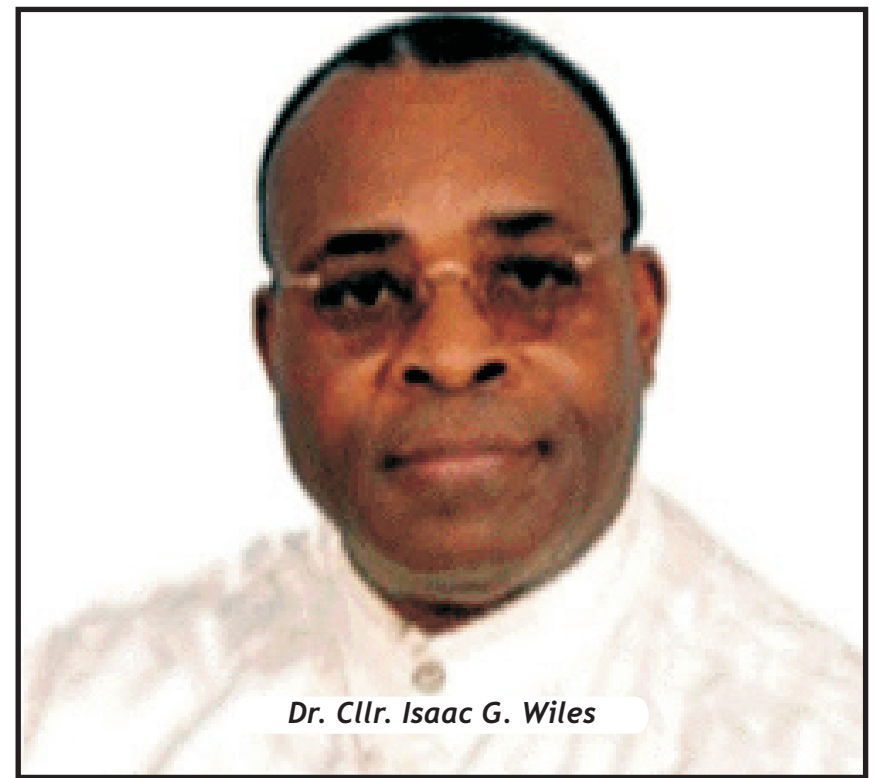
The executive director of the Citizen Peace Mission Fred A. Abraham made the clarification in a press conference held in Monrovia over the weekend.

He said the Democratic Justice Party was established

DJP by Dr. Wiles, he brought onboard several persons to assist with the affairs of the party during the 2017 Presidential Election.

The CPM director who did not name anyone, noted that those individuals who were with the party during the 2017 election have allegedly decided to hijack the DJP from Dr. Wiles.

He disclosed the matter is presently before the Supreme Court of Liberia and that no one should take the party to coalition pending opinion from the High Court.



Dr. Cllr. Isaac G. Wiles

by Dr. Isaac Wiles and formally certificated by the National Elections Commission (NEC) in 2017 as a legal political institution in the country.

Dr. Wiles contested for the presidency as standard bearer of the DJP during the Presidential and Representatives Elections in 2017.

This paper has received reports that some individuals want to take the DJP to the Rainbow Coalition, the latest collaborating parties certificated by the NEC.

But Mr. Abraham narrated that after the formation of the

He calls on the public and political parties operating in the country not to accept the DJP in their midst as there people bent on illegally using the party's name for selfish and sinister motives.

Meanwhile, Mr. Abraham urged partisans of the Democratic Justice Party throughout Liberia to remain committed to the party, recognizing Dr. Isaac Wiles as their legitimate political leader, as Liberia heads for midterm senatorial elections in December. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# Commerce Ministry issues 30-day ultimatum

The Liberian government, through the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI), has issued a 30-day ultimatum to non-Liberian owners of used clothes businesses across the country to regularize such business establishments or face full weight of the law.

The operation of used clothes is one of the businesses exclusively set aside for Liberians under the Liberianization Policy.

A release issued by the Commerce Ministry says as part of ongoing national efforts to ensure that such category of business returns into the hands of Liberian citizens, non-Liberians who are involved in the used clothes industry of the country have up to end of September, 2020 to disengage.

The decision by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry was

and Deputy Commerce Minister for Industry, George Wolo, said as part of measures leading to the regularization of used clothes businesses in the hands of non-Liberians, all complaints arising from transactions among customers and used clothes wholesale dealers will now be accompanied by receipts before the Commerce Ministry will look into them.

The Ministry therefore instructed that as of the date of the meeting, (Wednesday, August 26, 2020), used clothes dealers should begin issuing receipts to customers and indicate the price of the item, weight and grade of the clothes.

The Ministry also called on used clothes dealers to put an end to the use of middlemen, a situation that most often brings about misunderstanding among them and their customers, especially, when looking into

Policy with care, considering the complex nature of the Liberian business environment, adding that the time has come for non-Liberians to face out.

“What we want to see as a government is 100% Liberian ownership and we remain determined to achieve this,” emphasized Commerce Minister Tarpeh.

The Ministry equally warned Liberians against collaborating with aliens and foreigners to undermine the Liberianization Policy, meant to help them play key role in the economy of the country.

The meeting held with both Liberians and non-Liberians involved in the used clothes business was graced by more than 20 participants, with many of them pledging to collaborate with the Commerce Ministry in finding solution to challenges in the business sector.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is

# Cestos Street to be named Gbehkugbeh Boulevard

**-as senatorial aspirant Tequah breaks grounds**

“And so with mind of sincerity, with mind of integrity, we therefore break ground for Cestos main road to be named in honor of President George Manneh Weah, in the name of the father, the son and blessed holy spirit”, prays River Cess County senatorial aspirant Steve Tequah.

Cestos, the place popularly known as the city of natural beauty, was a scene of huge jubilation when the groundbreaking ceremony, which sets the pace for construction of a concrete road was held.

Mr. Steve Tequah, an aspirant for the senate seat for River Cess, is the one leading efforts for the construction of the road.

Citizens are extremely excited for the project, owing to the fact that the county has not experienced asphalt or concrete pavement since its establishment in 1984. River Cess is among few counties established by slain Liberian President Samuel Kanyon Doe.

Mr. Tequah had promised the people of River Cess that he would be the first private citizen to do concrete pavements in the county.

“The Cestos road is among several roads to be paved by us beginning this year.

We will pave the road that leads to the St. Francis Hospital in Cestos. The main entrance to Bodowhea Town in Monweh is part of our plan as well. We will connect other major towns in River Cess”.

Speaking in Cestos City during the groundbreaking ceremony at the weekend, he told enthusiastic citizens that President George Weah is the chief launcher of the road, and that such road when completed, would be named in honor of the Liberian leader.

“The president of Liberia remains the chief launcher of this road project. Therefore, I say to honor you, that upon the completion of this road, it shall be named in honor of the president and shall be called Gbehkugbeh Boulevard”.

Earlier, Mr. Tequah said it was time that the country graduates from its current state of backwardness, and as such only citizens can make the area developed.

He said the three kilometers of road to be constructed runs from the airfield to the former UNMIL compound.

Acting County

Superintendent Daniel Dokodoe, who represented the local authorities of River Cess, expressed the government’s support for the project.

“Please convey to ‘Gbehkugbeh that the people of River Cess County wholeheartedly welcome this project. We’ll support it. We’ll defend it.

Mr. Tequah took to the groundbreaking engineers hired for the implementation of the road project. Cooper Lackey, Materials Engineer/Environmental, is the head of the project.

The audience went into jubilation when engineer Lackey mentioned that skilled and unskilled laborers for the project will be recruited from River Cess as a way of providing economic empowerment for the locals.

“We’ve come to help you. This is why we will be taking almost all of the workers from here. This is another form of empowerment for the people here”.

The ceremony was graced by local government officials and ordinary citizens who now take ownership of the project by making contribution during a mini rally at the groundbreaking program.

An elderly woman Yarvoe, 69, who contributed to the rally, said: “I walked for more than 4 hours to come here. I na see real car road before. My son if you build this road and you make me to see good road in our capital city, God will bless you”. “We will even make you president for this country”.

Mike Garvlehn, a youth leader had this to say: “Every day our friends them from the other counties can laugh at us. They say our county is not developed. No good road in the city. For you Steve to think about building this road, me and my whole generation, my family will support you”. Anything you want you will get it.

The pavement of a 3 kilometer road is an expensive venture. Private individuals rarely take on such endeavor. Responding to concerns about the funding of the road, Mr. Tequah told the citizens that few of his good friends who believe in his leadership ability are providing support for the road.



Minister Wilson Tarpeh with participants during the meeting

announced recently during a meeting with businesses that are involved in the Liberian used clothes industry.

During the meeting, Commerce and Industry Minister, Wilson K. Tarpeh, noted that the Ministry is determined to ensure that Liberians become active participants in the country’s economy by creating the necessary operating environment.

Prof. Tarpeh told the gathering that the Commerce Ministry will leave no stone unturned in making sure that President George Manneh Weah’s pledge to make Liberians active stakeholders in their own economy is realized through appropriate steps.

Minister Tarpeh, who was buttressed by Deputy Commerce Minister for Trade Services, A. E. Nyema Wisner

returns-related complaints from retailers who sometimes feel aggrieved “for not getting the worth of their money” after or during transactions.

In line with decisions reached at the meeting, used clothes business owners are to undertake massive awareness through appropriate means, concerning the need for customers to stop doing business with individuals who are found at the entrance of their business houses, playing the role of middlemen.

The Commerce Ministry officials further noted that the CDC-led Government, upon its inception, has been handling the issue of the Liberianization

continuing with its consultative engagements with various segments of the local business community until all businesses exclusively set aside in the Liberianization Policy are regularized in line with ongoing efforts to make Liberians active participants in the economy through the enabling environment.

As part of these national efforts, a bill known as Piercing the Corporate Veil is underway to criminalize fronting in the Liberian society. -Press Release

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# Français

## Marche anti-viol : l'opposition s'en prend au président Weah

L'opposition s'en prend au président George Manneh Weah pour n'avoir pas reçu la pétition des militants anti-viol ni condamné la brutalité des forces de sécurité contre des manifestants pacifiques.

S'exprimant lors d'une conférence de presse vendredi dernier au siège du Congrès national alternatif (ANC) à Monrovia, le porte-

parole de la coalition des partis politiques de l'opposition, Me Orishall Gould a condamné le prétendu refus délibéré du président Weah d'agir rapidement sur le viol des enfants.

Me Gould prétend que ces circonstances sont la preuve d'un certain plan de l'administration Weah qui consiste à violer impunément les droits constitutionnels des Libériens pacifiques et

promouvoir l'anarchie.

« Ce qui est encore plus déplorable et triste, c'est le refus flagrant du président qui se fait appeler féministe en chef de recevoir la pétition des femmes malgré les efforts frénétiques de ces dernières de le rencontrer pendant les deux premiers jours de la campagne », a-t-il déploré.

Selon lui, c'est la preuve de la complicité et du manque d'engagement du gouvernement pour mettre fin à la maltraitance généralisée des femmes, des filles et des enfants dans le pays.

Le porte-parole du CPP considère l'action du président Weah comme une raison pour laquelle aucune enquête n'a été menée sur la brutalité policière dont sont quotidiennement victimes des Libériens pacifiques.

« Non seulement ces actions violentes et continues de la police nationale libérienne contre des Libériens pacifiques violent les dispositions de la Constitution libérienne, mais

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## George Weah sous pression après la flambée des affaires de viol

Le président de la République du Liberia, George Weah, a été critiqué pour ne pas avoir personnellement reçu de pétition de manifestants, faisant campagne pour le renforcement des lois anti-viol. Cela fait suite à une augmentation des attaques avec près de 1 000 cas de viol signalés depuis janvier.

Pendant trois jours, des centaines de personnes ont défilé dans la capitale libérienne, Monrovia. Certains sont fâchés du fait que le président de la République, George Weah, ne se soit pas prononcé sur la question, en particulier après s'être engagé à garantir les droits des femmes et s'être même décrit comme le « féministe en chef » du Liberia. Les militants demandent que des tribunaux pénaux soient mis en place à travers tout le pays, afin que les affaires de violence sexuelle puissent être jugées convenablement et conformément à la loi.

La manifestation, sous la bannière « Marche pour la justice », a été organisée après la diffusion d'une

information faisant état qu'un garçon de 19 ans, dans la campagne du Liberia, aurait utilisé une lame de rasoir pour mutiler les parties génitales d'une fillette de 3 ans. Ce qui, selon lui, lui permettrait de la violer plus facilement. Les organisateurs ont déclaré qu'environ 5 000 personnes se sont déplacées pour les manifestations. Les gens portaient du noir en signe de solidarité pour les victimes et survivants de viol, portant des

pancartes avec les inscriptions suivantes : « Justice pour toutes les filles et femmes libériennes », « Stop Rape (Non au viol) » et « Elle pourrait être votre fille ».

Ils ont marché, ce jeudi 27 août 2020, du quartier de Sinkor à Capital Hill, le siège du gouvernement libérien. Ils se sont rassemblés devant le ministère des Affaires étrangères, où se trouve le bureau du Président George

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Présidentielle en Côte d'Ivoire : La Candidature de Gbagbo Déposée, celle de Soro Attendue

Les partisans de l'ex-président Laurent Gbagbo, toujours en Belgique, ont déposé lundi sa candidature à la présidentielle du 31 octobre à la Commission électorale indépendante (CEI) de Côte d'Ivoire qui devrait recevoir celle de l'ex chef rebelle et Premier ministre Guillaume Soro dans les prochaines heures.

Les anciens présidents Alassane Ouattara et Henri Konan Bédié avaient déjà déposé leurs candidatures la semaine dernière.

La CEI devrait donc recevoir les candidatures des trois principaux protagonistes de la crise post-électorale de 2010-2011. Les trois hommes étaient candidats au 1er tour de 2010. La crise avait fait 3.000 morts après le refus de Gbagbo de reconnaître sa défaite électorale face à Ouattara au 2e tour.

« Nous venons de déposer le dossier de notre référent politique, le président Laurent Gbagbo, le père de la démocratie en Côte d'Ivoire que nous avons sollicité pour être notre candidat à la présidentielle », a affirmé Georges-Armand Ouegnin, président de la plateforme EDS (Ensemble pour la Démocratie et la Souveraineté) à sa sortie de la CEI. Symbole : il était notamment accompagné de Michel Gbagbo, le fils de l'ancien président.

1. « CEI appendice du pouvoir » -

M. Gbagbo, qui ne s'est encore jamais prononcé publiquement sur sa candidature, est toujours en liberté conditionnelle en Belgique dans l'attente d'un éventuel procès en appel devant la Cour pénale internationale, qui l'a acquitté en première instance de l'accusation de crimes contre l'humanité.

Il a le droit de voyager à condition que le pays d'accueil accepte sa présence, mais il n'a pour le moment pas de passeport.

M. Gbagbo a été radié des listes électorales en raison de sa condamnation en janvier 2018 à 20 ans de prison par la justice ivoirienne pour l'attaque de la Banque Centrale des Etats d'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO) lors de la crise de 2010-2011.

M. Ouegnin a attribué cette radiation à des « manœuvres juridico politiques » alors que des sources judiciaires estiment que la candidature a peu de chances d'être validée.

« Le Conseil constitutionnel aura la lourde responsabilité

devant le peuple ivoirien et l'Histoire de se prononcer sur la validité de la radiation » et de statuer sur l'éligibilité de M. Gbagbo, a conclu M. Ouegnin qui a aussi réclamé « la libération de tous les prisonniers politiques » et le « retour des exilés politiques avec à leur tête Laurent Gbagbo ».

Un autre poids-lourd de la politique est dans une situation similaire à celle de Gbagbo : Guillaume Soro, candidat déclaré mais en exil en France, est sous le coup d'une condamnation à 20 ans de prison pour « recel de détournement de deniers publics ».

Ses partisans de Générations et peuples solidaires (GPS) devaient déposer sa candidature dans l'après-midi. « Je suis candidat à l'élection présidentielle. 1er acte politique : dépôt de ma candidature. Null n'ignore que la CEI et le Conseil constitutionnel sont des appendices du pouvoir », a-t-il écrit lundi sur twitter, indiquant ainsi qu'il ne se faisait guère d'illusions sur la validation de son dossier.

Les candidats ont jusqu'à lundi minuit pour déposer leurs dossiers et ne doivent pas être nécessairement présents physiquement.

La CEI accueillait lundi un ballet incessant de candidats déposant leurs dossiers. Une demi-douzaine ont attendu le dernier jour pour la démarche administrative. La CEI s'attend à recevoir 36 dossiers au total dont certains farfelus, selon son secrétariat. Le Conseil constitutionnel a ensuite jusqu'au 16 septembre pour donner la liste des candidatures validées. De source proche de la CEI, moins d'une dizaine devraient être validées.

Dix ans après la crise post-électorale, la crainte de violences à l'approche du scrutin du 31 octobre, est forte.

L'annonce que M. Ouattara briguerait un troisième mandat a provoqué des manifestations qui ont dégénéré en violences ayant fait une douzaine de morts en août.

La Constitution de 2016, limite à deux les mandats présidentiels. Les partisans de M. Ouattara affirment que le changement de constitution a remis le compteur des mandats à zéro, ses adversaires jugent anticonstitutionnelle une troisième candidature.



# Français

## Marche anti-viol : l'opposition

elles violent également les dispositions de plusieurs instruments internationaux des droits de l'homme dont le Libéria est signataire», a-t-il dit.

Il estime que la police libérienne s'est rendue coupable à plusieurs reprises de violation du Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques adopté par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies le 16 décembre 1966 qui engage les États parties à respecter les droits civils et politiques des individus, y compris le droit à la liberté d'expression et la liberté de réunion.

Il cite également la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples (également connue sous le nom de Charte de Banjul); le Protocole de la CEDEAO sur la démocratie et la bonne gouvernance, entre autres, qui, selon lui, ont été également violés.

Il demande au président Weah de mettre de côté son ego afin de rencontrer les organisateurs de la manifestation contre le viol et d'entendre leurs propositions sur les moyens de remédier à la situation.

« Nous exhortons également le président à créer un groupe de travail national spécial non partisan sur le viol; assurer la décentralisation du Tribunal spécialisé pour le viol dans toutes les régions du pays; créer des opportunités de réhabilitation et de réintégration pour les

victimes de viol, et faciliter un dialogue national multi-acteurs sur la lutte contre le viol », a-t-il dit.

Il a également appelé les Libériens à commencer de leur part à enseigner à leurs enfants les valeurs sacrées qui décourageront le viol et l'impunité, à promouvoir une citoyenneté responsable et soutenir tous les efforts raisonnables et légaux pour mettre fin à ce fléau, qui est le viol, dans le pays.

« Nous reconnaissons les efforts de ces militants anti-viol. Nous saluons leurs efforts pour lutter contre le viol face aux menaces et aux harcèlements et les assurons du soutien sans faille du CPP à cet égard », a-t-il ajouté.

M. Gould a qualifié d'erroné le raisonnement du président Weah selon lequel la vague de mouvements de protestation que connaît son régime est la preuve que son gouvernement respecte les principes de la démocratie.

Selon lui, dans la plupart des cas, les manifestations sont organisées pour exprimer le ressentiment et le malaise dans de la société. Toutes les manifestations qui ont eu lieu depuis que Weah est devenu président sont contre les excès de son régime.

Gould a déclaré que le comportement des forces de l'ordre pendant ces manifestations va à l'encontre de l'argument du président concernant le maintien des bons principes de la démocratie.

## George Weah sous

Weah, jusqu'à ce qu'ils soient gazés de lacrymogènes. Certains manifestants ont été empêchés de se rendre au ministère des Affaires étrangères, par la police, et se sont rassemblés dans un champ en face du domicile de l'ancienne Présidente libérienne, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. Elle a vu les femmes dehors et est allée à leur rencontre. « Compte tenu des cas qui sont récemment sortis où de jeunes bébés, âgés de trois mois, dix ans, sont violés ... les femmes ont senti qu'elles devaient agir », a-t-elle dit, les félicitant pour leur protestation pacifique.

Plusieurs comtés, dont le comté de Bong dans le centre du Liberia, le comté de Nimba,

le comté de Grand Bassa et le comté du Maryland ont organisé leurs propres marches pour protester contre l'augmentation des cas de viol. « Trop c'est trop. Nous sommes dans une pandémie de violence sexuelle et sexiste au milieu de la pandémie de Covid-19 », déclare Naomi Tulay-Solanke, fondatrice et directrice exécutive de Community Healthcare à Monrovia. « Les chiffres sont plus élevés que ce que nous avons l'année dernière », déclare Williametta E. Saydee-Tarr, ministre libérienne du Genre, des Enfants et de la Protection sociale. Un message clair à l'endroit du Président George Weah.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Ian Goldin & Robert Muggah

# La ville et le Covid

**L**ONDRES - Aucune ville n'échappe à la propagation mortelle du Covid-19. Mais les effets du virus ne sont pas les mêmes sur les différents groupes d'habitants, y compris dans une même ville. Lorsque New York était l'épicentre mondial de la pandémie, le sud de Manhattan (Downtown Manhattan) affichait un taux d'infection d'environ 925 pour 100 000 personnes, tandis qu'il était dans le Queens de 4 125 pour 100 000. La raison de cet écart est simple : les résidents de New York les plus riches avaient accès à une large gamme de services de soins de santé et travaillaient depuis leur domicile, généralement dans de spacieux immeubles.

Dans toutes les grandes villes, le quartier où l'on vit est un marqueur très net. Il ne faut que vingt-cinq minutes en métro pour rejoindre Manhattan et le Queens, mais les deux territoires accusent une stupéfiante différence de revenu médian annuel puisqu'elle est de 78 000 dollars, quant à l'espérance de vie, elle peut varier de dix ans de part et d'autre de l'East River. Les mêmes inégalités concernant les revenus, la santé, l'éducation et à peu près tous les autres indicateurs de bien-être se retrouvent dans la plupart des métropoles du monde. Le Covid-19 ne fera que renforcer encore ces disparités.

Et dans ce monde, ce ne sont pas tant les villes densément peuplées que les quartiers surpeuplés et marginalisés qui peinent à contenir la diffusion de l'épidémie. Les facteurs socio-économiques et non la géographie physique sont des déterminants clés du risque de contagion, plus encore dans les zones urbanisées des pays en développement. Ainsi estime-t-on que plus de la moitié des habitants des bidonvilles de Bombay ont déjà contracté le nouveau coronavirus. Et en Afrique du Sud, où cinq millions de ménages sont dépourvus de réfrigérateur, seulement 46 % des foyers disposent de toilettes munies d'une chasse d'eau à domicile tandis qu'un tiers partagent leurs lieux d'aisance avec d'autres familles - il n'est donc pas surprenant que le nombre de cas augmente rapidement malgré les mesures drastiques de confinement.

La pandémie de Covid-19 touche particulièrement les populations urbaines tirant leur subsistance de l'économie informelle, où la plupart des emplois sont mal payés et ne peuvent être délocalisés. Si les diplômés de l'université étaient au mois de juillet 47 %, aux États-Unis, à pouvoir travailler depuis leur domicile, seulement 4 % de celles et ceux qui n'ont pas de diplôme de l'enseignement secondaire pouvaient en faire autant. Ce déséquilibre est évidemment défavorable aux urbains pauvres dans des villes comme New York, mais il est encore plus handicapant pour les habitants de Dacca, par exemple, où 80 % de la main-d'œuvre est dépendante du secteur informel - l'ONG Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) rapporte que 62 % des salaires journaliers du mois de juin se sont complètement évaporés.

Comme nous le montrons dans notre dernier livre, Terra Incognita, le Covid-19 exacerbe des formes multiples d'inégalités, entre villes et pays, mais aussi en leur sein, soulevant des questions essentielles concernant l'avenir de la vie urbaine et les façons de la gagner. Les grandes villes assument la plus grosse part du fardeau humain et économique de la pandémie - et le pire est encore devant nous -, nourrissant les craintes quant à leur capacité de survie en tant que points nodaux de l'économie mondiale.

Alors même que la pandémie a sévèrement touché nombre des villes les plus attractives - les « villes superstars » -, certaines des activités qui font tourner leur économie s'avèrent pourtant remarquablement résilientes, ce qui peut contribuer à expliquer les raisons de la reprise mondiale des marchés boursiers. Il est d'ores et déjà certain que les principaux gagnants de la crise actuelle seront les grandes entreprises technologiques. Le jour même où était annoncée la chute de 31 % de la croissance économique des États-Unis, le 31 juillet, Amazon affichait 5,2 milliards de bénéfices trimestriels, avec des ventes en hausse de 40

% par rapport à l'année précédente. Apple, Google et Facebook enregistrent également de bien meilleurs résultats que l'ensemble de l'économie durant la pandémie.

Si l'on tient compte des estimations de Citibank, selon lesquelles 80 % des emplois dans les services financiers peuvent être exercés à distance, l'une des conséquences durables du Covid-19 pourrait bien être l'élimination des déplacements entre le domicile et le lieu de travail, pour une grande part, sinon pour l'essentiel, de la main-d'œuvre employée par l'économie de la connaissance. Sans compter que, selon un récent sondage Gallup, trois salariés sur cinq exerçant leur emploi depuis leur domicile durant la pandémie aimeraient autant que possible continuer à travailler ainsi. Une autre enquête, menée par Bloomberg, conclut que 97 % des analystes financiers, 94 % des gestionnaires de fonds et 80 % des opérateurs de marché prévoient de travailler chez eux à l'avenir au moins une partie du temps.

Même si un vaccin est mis au point et administré dès 2021, le Covid-19 aura terriblement perturbé le fonctionnement des villes. Nicholas Bloom, de l'université Stanford, estime que si les villes perdent les espaces de bureaux auparavant utilisés par les travailleurs de la connaissance, leurs dépenses globales pourraient baisser d'un tiers. La chute brutale des taxes de propriété et d'autres lignes de recettes compromettra sérieusement la capacité des municipalités à fournir les services de base. L'exode d'une main-d'œuvre à haute valeur ajoutée aura sur les autres résidents des répercussions dommageables - des serveurs des cafés et des acteurs du spectacle vivant aux épiciers et aux détaillants. Ces personnes et les services qu'elles fournissent donnent aux villes une grande part de leur caractère, et leur départ accélérerait la spirale descendante.

Néanmoins, si les grandes métropoles prennent des coups, elles sont loin d'être hors jeu. La mort des villes superstar a déjà été prédite ; cela n'a pas empêché les zones urbaines de montrer leur extraordinaire capacité à se relever, y compris des pandémies et des catastrophes. Même dans les conditions les plus défavorables, les grandes, moyennes et petites villes demeurent les lieux les plus désirables pour habiter, travailler et s'amuser, et les citadins sont en meilleure santé et plus riches que leurs homologues ruraux, en moyenne. Il est peu probable que cela change, malgré l'accélération du télétravail.

Les villes continueront d'être des lieux d'innovation, d'expérimentation et d'invention. Alors que de nombreux pays font aujourd'hui face à une seconde vague de la pandémie (ou sont toujours en proie à la première), les maires repensent leurs stratégies pour améliorer l'accès aux services, encourager la propreté, garantir la stabilité des approvisionnements, produire de l'énergie et réduire les encombrements. C'est précisément parce qu'elles sont confrontées à d'énormes difficultés financières et à des handicaps croissants, que les villes devront s'appuyer sur leur exceptionnelle créativité pour faire plus avec moins. Ainsi le Covid-19 pourrait-il s'avérer, plutôt qu'une menace existentielle, un aiguillon vers un urbanisme plus avancé et plus inclusif dans certaines parties du monde.

D'une façon ou d'une autre, notre avenir appartient aux villes. C'est pourquoi le Forum économique mondial a consacré sa « grande réinitialisation » aux centres urbains, et c'est également la raison pour laquelle le secrétaire général des Nations Unies, António Guterres a placé au cœur des objectifs de développement durable des villes résilientes et inclusives. Il s'agit, pour celles et ceux qui les dirigent, de commencer à investir dans les micromobilités et dans la piétonnisation, tout en expérimentant de nouveaux modèles d'urbanisme, parmi lesquels l'équipement des bâtiments et des espaces publics en solutions renouvelables et saines. La pandémie nous apprend qu'il faut, pour garantir une bonne santé à la population, reconfigurer la société. Et c'est dans les villes que le processus prendra son élan.

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Religiosity and Failed African States

*From the desk of Dr. Bamidele Adeoye, April 2020  
Welcome to Africa, the new Africans, our world, our opportunities.*

The greatest tragedy of all African states is the introduction of foreign gods and languages, cemented by tribes, decimated by education without interrogation or intelligence.

Before the advent of foreign intrusion into Africa, African societies have their concept of Supreme Being or High God, which is generally held to be the creator of the world (Lord of the universe) and the source of all powers operating it. African Gods are usually associated with particular cultures and tribes with an elaborate system of worship, ethics, morals, and levels of discipline which imposed dos and don'ts on the activities of humanity concerning nature.

Africans worshiped our Gods in harmony with our neighbors. There were no levels of superiority or rivalry between our Gods. We respected each other's Gods despite our tribes, cultural spaces, and intellectual differences. Africa was a borderless state, yet we were abig family of people with no defined boundaries and many Gods. In the past, Africans were capable of learning to attribute meanings to our surroundings and situations, drawn from our religious resources (our original Gods). Our spirituality forms the fundamental pillars of all aspects of African societies.

The spirit of Godliness is within us, and we are the temple of God. Hence, no one can give Africa their Gods, because the essence of God is in all of us? humans. And, according to a Ghana proverb, no one teaches the child to know God, and the consciousness of God is deemed inherent in the child from birth. Thus, Africa did not need foreign religions or gods to be spiritual or Godly. Africa was the quintessence of Godliness and the glory of all Gods manifested in Africa.

However, the arrival of foreign incursion changed everything, and it disrupted our Gods, cultures, languages, and cultural spaces. Although there is no right or wrong culture, every culture has its logic of philosophy guiding it. Africans operated in other dimensions of realities that have parallelism to our cosmologies and mythologies that continued to dictate behaviors in our societies.

Our culture is not an accident or trivial, it is not decorative or the songs we sing as the west contended but culture is about the body of moral and ethical values we place on each human being lies in each of us.

Thus, cultural diversity is not an academic pursuit, it is the fundamental indications of the ways things are meant to be. Hence, our culture guided us in harmony with our neighbors concerning our religions and languages with man-for-nature or eco-centric acclimatization mentality.

Africans were later cursed, brainwashed and indoctrinated with foreign religions to believe that they were people of inferior Gods and languages. And the only gods and languages Africans should value and respect were theirs. Thus, we guiltily resented our Gods and languages along with our meaningful names; it became shameful and tormented to us. Africa's identities were compressed, polluted, and converted, and it became fashionable to acquire the colonial master's attitudes and ways of life, particularly their gods.

And anytime someone says your God is ugly and you release your God and join their god, there is no hope

for your freedom until you once more believe in your own concept of the God – Dr. John Henrik Clarke.

On behold to the Africans that they signed their death warrant to foreign inferior gods at the detriment of our superior Gods. Our Gods were devalued, relegated to the bottom while they introduced their gods in their image, and elevated their gods above ours, what a tragedy of faith.

You may westernize me, but my God, do not Christianize me—Jerry Rawlings, former president of Ghana. Foreign religions were used to dominate, manipulate, and oppress Africans. They were the subtle key elements in masking class and race superiority. This foreign religion manipulation was vividly evident in the use of the Slave Bible to push a message of servitude to enslaved Africans.

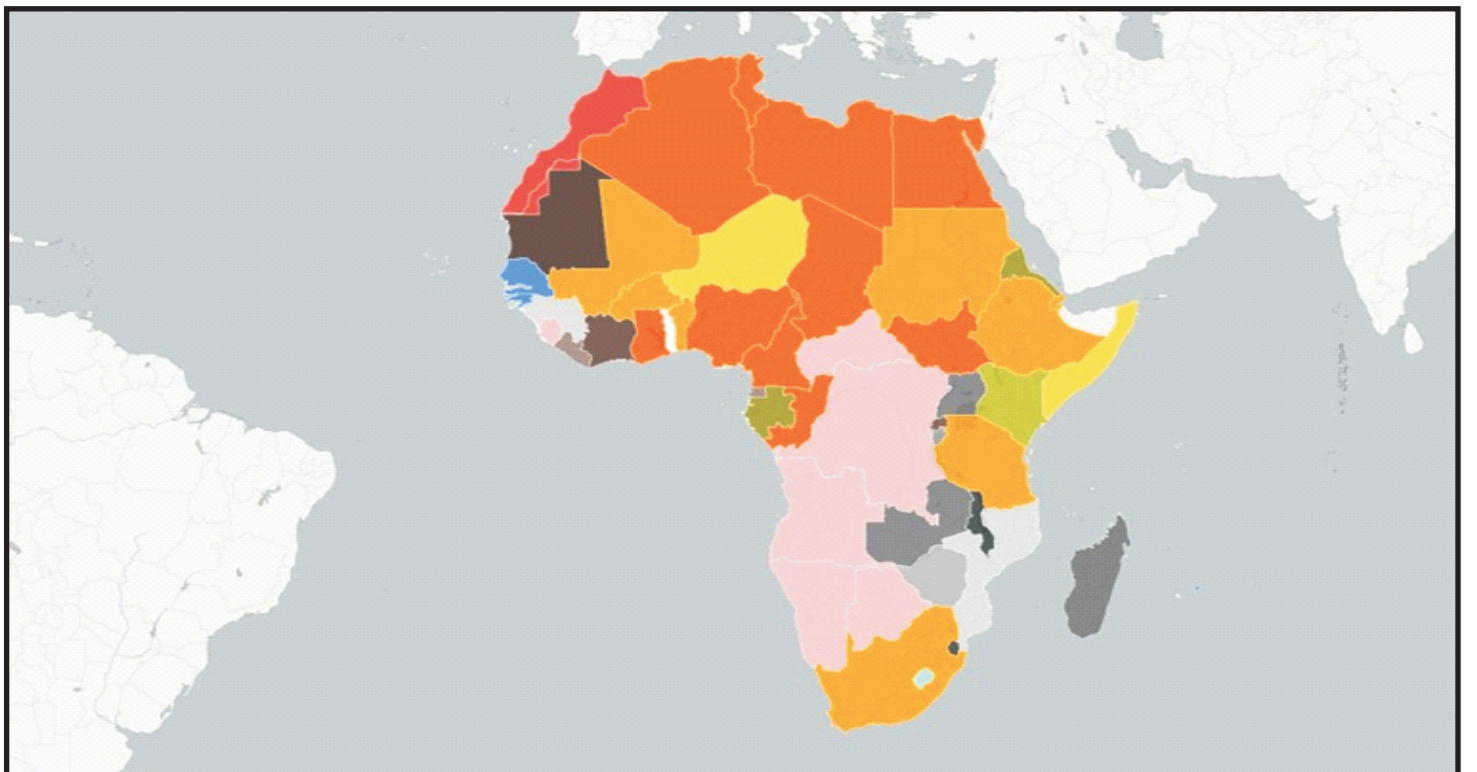
British colonists created the Slave Bible, a truncated version of the bible, by removing portions, and in some cases, entire books out from it for the fear that it would encourage insurgence among enslaved Africans. On average, a typical standard Bible edition (Roman Catholic-66 books, Protestant-77 books & Eastern

Orthodox-78 books), contains roughly 72.3 books while the Slave Bible contains only 14 books, an approximately 81% reduction. The Slave Bible was published in London in 1807 and used by British missionaries to convert and manipulate enslaved Africans about Christianity while inculcating obedience and safeguarding the slavery institutions throughout their colonies.

Hence, religion and science are mutually exclusive. Likewise, wishes and hopes are not business strategies, while denial is not a life strategy. Religions can hardly fit into the generalized theoretical categories employed by social scientists, a contestable character of religions.

Africans are slaves to their colonial masters who govern them, and the religions they gave them, manages their conscience. Hence, Africans will continue to be under the control of their colonial master's bondage.

The danger to the development of Africa is in the hands of the so-called educated Africans, education without interrogation. They are the architects of Africa's failures due to their religious zealotry. Even though we are defined by courage and redeemed by character rather than religion, Africans tend to be more religious than the foreigners that introduced these doctrines to them. They have no common sense approach to religion and development.



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TO BE CONTINUED

# NEC releases calendar

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Barely three months before the December 08, 2020 special senatorial elections, the National Elections Commission (NEC) has finally released calendar of events leading to the polls that are to set the stage for presidential election in 2023, with candidates' nomination process kicking off here today, Tuesday, September 1st.

All 15 political sub-divisions of the country are expected to go to the poll to elect 15 of the

Monrovia late Sunday, the NEC says aspirants wanting to participate in the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections (SSE) that candidates' nomination process starts today, Tuesday, September 1, 2020 and will end on Monday, September 21, 2020 at the headquarters of the commission in Sinkor.

All applicants wishing to be nominated will have to appear in person during the nomination period, at the nomination center and comply with the NEC nomination procedures.

NEC says a nominating

Candidate Nomination Center, be a citizen of Liberia, and present proof of his/her Liberian citizenship; must have attained the age of thirty (30) years; be domiciled in the county in which he/she wishes to contest for not less than one (1) year prior to the election; and be a taxpayer.

Meanwhile, the NEC says the date for both the Special Senatorial Election (SSE) and the constitutional Referendum remain the same, Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

At the same time the commission reminds the public that the Voter Roll Update process will be mobile; meaning, the Commission's team of registrars will move in sequence from one center to another within 15 days of the process.

The restructured NEC, which is headed by a new board of commissioners recently appointed by President George Manneh Weah emphasizes that each Team will spend only three days at each of the 2080 Registration Centers across the Country.

"Each Team will cover a maximum of four Centers. A Team will be led by a Supervisor. The rest are a Registrar, Clerk, Shadier, and Photographer. The NEC is urging all Liberians of voting age, including those who have turned 18yrs and above, those who have relocated from their previous voting places to another, those who have lost their voting cards, and those who did not register during the last voter registration in 2017, to turn out to update their voting records from Friday September 11-Friday September 25, 2020," a statement issued by the commission details.



30 senators at the Capitol. The elections will be second of its kind since the coming to force of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, which gives rise to holding of special senatorial elections.

The board of commissioners of the National Elections Commission headed by its Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah announces some events leading to the much discussed 2020 Special Senatorial Elections.

In a statement issued in

political party, coalition, or alliance must have headquarters in Monrovia and in the capital of the county in which it wishes to nominate an aspirant to contest.

The commission also requires that an aspirant, whether nominated by a political party, coalition, or alliance or applying independently must meet the candidate eligibility criteria, including fulfilling application requirements; appear in person for the nomination at the NEC

# CDC receives more salvos

By Winston W. Parley

The opposition Rainbow Alliance has criticized President George Manneh Weah and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) for keeping Liberians hungry and showing that they are unable to create jobs for the young people while women here have been degraded due to poverty.

While celebrating the certification of the Rainbow Alliance by the National Elections Commission (NEC) Monday, 31 August, officials of the opposition Rainbow Alliance in various statements at the E.J. Roye Building on Ashmun Street rallied women and young people's support to retire the CDC in 2023 to rescue the nation.

Dr. Jeremiah Whapoe, Political Leader of the Vision of Liberian Transformation Party (VOLT), a constituent party of the Rainbow Alliance says the Rainbow Alliance comes as a solution to Liberian's problems, urging members and supporters to talk to others and win them over in preparation to win the next election.

"We have reached a point that we need to work harder. You women that [are] sitting down, some of us the reason we got into this political race is because of you. The reason we got into this race it is because of you, it's because of your children" Dr. Whapoe says.

He tells the women wing and the youth wing of the Rainbow Alliance that if they have not seen anything in this country to make them frustrated to stand up to fight for this country, he does not know when they will be frustrated.

"With me I'm so frustrated this is why you see me here. Today I believe some of you here y'all say you have not started your day," he says in a Liberian way to indicate that others have not eaten since day.

Dr. Whapoe laments Liberia's failure since becoming an independent state in 1847 to be able to put food on the table for its people, saying the country has been sold to foreigners because of poverty here.

"Because of poverty in this country, our country has been sold to foreigners," he says, adding that women have been

degraded in the country because of poverty.

However Dr. Whapoe notes that in the Rainbow Alliance, there will be no mountain too high that they cannot climb, and there is no sea too deep that they cannot swim.

Speaking earlier, Mr. Dan Saryee, National Chairman of the Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE), a constituent party of the Rainbow Alliance today is the initiation to prepare for the retirement of the CDC.

"Today is the initiation to prepare for the retirement of the CDC. You are here to decide the retirement and how the CDC would be retired by 2023," Mr. Saryee says.

"There's something as I stand here that I feel and I know you all would feel. For some reasons I can't breathe. Are you also not feeling the same way? Somebody is sitting on our neck," Mr. Saryee says.

He accuses President Weah of creating policies that are keeping the people hungry and showing that he is unable to create jobs for the young people.

"They are showing that our country is slowly going down the drain; we are here as a rescue team and we cannot rescue without you. We must do it now before posterity holds us accountable," says Mr. Saryee.

Mr. Saryee says he believes that even those who are responsible are looking for ways for people to help them to rescue the country.

Comparing the politics here to sports, Mr. Saryee says if you are a coach of a team and there is a player wearing the finest boots who boasts that he is the one who has the goal for the team, you give him a try for the first, second and third time, but he fails.

"We tried him for 2014 and he scored the goal some kind of way but he got stuck somewhere. In 2017 you say take it and score the goal, now a new game is coming. We took the goal under the agreement for hope for change, not so? Where is your hope?" Mr. Saryee asks.

He claims that the hope has been dashed so early, urging Liberians to take the Rainbow Alliance as their choice to rescue the country.

Starts from back page

# Several GSA employees

Monrovia Central Prison Monday, 31 August following their appearance at the City Court of Monrovia briefly.

But police say defendants Victor J. Mapply, Omega Togba, Felisco B. Siryon and Edwin O. Gbakoyah denied knowledge of the crimes alleged. According to police, witness Rufus Kansuah confirmed seeing all the accused in the alleged act.

The accused allegedly used warehouse keys on August 22, 23 and 24, 2020 to open the warehouse to commit the crimes charged during the morning hours while other staffers were away.

The defendants allegedly sold the stolen food items to



defendants Lamine Sidibe one Lawrence who is at - large.

Police investigators say they gathered that defendant Jerome . Dolo hired two tricycles to transport the rice, beans and oil to defendant Lawrence's business center at Redlight, Paynesville where the items were sold.

The proceeds of the stolen food items were allegedly

shared among Jerome J. Dolo, Victor J. Mapply, Omega N. Togba, Edwin O. Gbakoyah, Tolbert Kaydea and Felisco B. Siryon on Sunday, 23 August during the afternoon hours.

Rice was allegedly retrieved from defendant Lamine Sidibe, and he allegedly admitted buying it from defendant Tolbert Kaydea.

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## Several GSA employees jailed for stealing food



By Winston W. Parley

Several employees at the General Services Agency (GSA) have been jailed following multiple police charges of burglary, criminal conspiracy, aiding consummation of crime and theft of property in relation to allegedly stealing food items including rice, beans and oil donated by donor partners for the joint security sector.

According to a police charge sheet which accompanied the accused to the Monrovia City

Court Monday, 31 August, defendants Jerome J. Dolo, Tolbert Kaydea and Lamine Sidibe admitted to the crimes and allegedly named their accomplices as Victor J. Mapply, Omega Togba, Felisco B. Siryon and Edwin O. Gbakoyah and others to be identified.

GSA security personnel in persons of defendants Jerome J. Dolo, Tolbert Kaydea, Felisco B. Siryon, Omega N. Togba and Edwin O. Gbakoyah are accused of criminally conspiring with defendant Victor J. Mapply who

is assigned within the office of GSA Director General Madam Mary T. Broh to carry on the burbulary.

Police say the accused stole 109 bags of rice (25kg each), 45 pulses/beans (50kg) bags; and 1211 gallons of oil from donations made by the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) which were stored at the GSA facilities on U.N. Drive.

Some of the accused were taken into detention at the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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## Messi absent as Koeman takes first Barca training session

Lionel Messi did not take part in Barcelona's first day of pre-season training under Ronald Koeman as the six-time Ballon d'Or winner continues to angle for a move away from Camp Nou.

Messi stunned the footballing world by informing Barca of his intention to leave last week via an already infamous burofax.

As with Sunday's coronavirus testing for members of

Koeman's first-team squad, Messi did not attend because he believes a clause in his contract allowing him to leave on a free transfer is now active, meaning he is no longer a Barcelona player.

This is a version of events disputed by both the club and LaLiga, which issued a statement on Sunday to underline its stance that Messi's huge €700million release clause remains valid within a contract that expires next June.



Manchester City and Messi's former coach Pep Guardiola have been widely touted as the frontrunners for the wantaway star, with further developments expected over the course of the coming week.

Koeman is reported to have indicated to Luis Suarez and Arturo Vidal that their futures lie elsewhere, but they both trained among a 19-man group, with a host of senior players away on international duty.

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