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# The New Dawn

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Oil Companies?

VOL.10 NO. 163

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

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# First time voters overwhelm registration centers



Photo Credit: The Guardian

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# Continental News

## Cameroon Deploys Military to Thwart Opposition Protesters

Cameroon has deployed military troops to stop opposition supporters from protesting against long-serving President Paul Biya. Political opposition and rights groups blame Biya, who has been in power for 38 years, for rights violations and a four-year separatist conflict. Cameroon authorities have vowed to arrest anyone who tries to demonstrate against the government.

Opposition supporters say at least 12 of their members have been detained since Friday by what appear to be Cameroonian military troops.

27-year-old Christophe Nkemche says eight motorcycle taxi drivers in the city of Douala were detained and have not been seen since.

He says armed men dressed in Cameroon military uniforms whisked off eight of his colleagues to an unknown location. Nkemche says the eight men were arrested while reading newspapers and publications from opposition political parties. Cameroon's

opposition leaders say the detentions appear aimed at thwarting protests against the country's first regional elections and President Paul Biya.

Biya in late August announced the elections would take place December 6.

Cameroon Renaissance

Movement (MRC) leader Maruice Kamto vowed to disrupt the polls and called for protests.

Kamto, who says Biya stole from him the 2018 presidential election, says Cameroon should first resolve its four-year separatist conflict.

"Our fight against the dictatorship is heading towards its critical phase. Despite the essentially peaceful nature of our struggle for the freedom and development of our country, the regime once again resorts to terror and judicial barbarism," said Kamto. "As I have said repeatedly, we want to get out of the dictatorship."

Authorities have not confirmed or denied any military detentions of opposition supporters.

But territorial administration minister Paul Atanga Nji confirmed that troops were deployed and instructed to arrest any protesters.

"I want to sound a stern warning to unscrupulous

politicians looking for cheap popularity with a hidden agenda that they will face the law in case of any public disorder," said Nji. "Administrative authorities have been instructed to take necessary measures to maintain law and order."

Nji would not say how many troops were deployed, but opposition supporters and locals say the security presence is noticeable in major cities.

Cameroon's government has banned public gatherings of opposition political party members in most cities and towns. Nonetheless, Kamto this month has been meeting with supporters as part of what he calls plans to force Biya from power. VOA



Cameroon President Paul Biya attends the Paris Peace Forum

## UN condemns jailing of Nigeria boy for 'blasphemy'

The UN children's agency Unicef has called on the Nigerian authorities to urgently review an Islamic court's decision to sentence a 13-year-old boy to 10 years in prison for blasphemy.

The boy was convicted in August of making uncomplimentary remarks about God during an argument with a friend in

northern Kano state.

Kano is one of 12 Nigerian states practising the Sharia legal system alongside the country's secular laws.

Muslims form the majority in the north. The 13-year-old's sentencing "negates all core underlying principles of child rights and child justice that Nigeria - and by implication, Kano state - has signed on to", said Peter Hawkins, Unicef's

representative in the West African state.

On 9 September, the boy's lawyer, Kola Alapinni, said he had filed an appeal against the judgement.

"This is a violation of the African Charter of the Rights And Welfare of a Child. A violation of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria," he added.

He told the BBC that no date had been set for the appeal to be heard in court. Twelve states in Nigeria's Muslim-dominated north operate the Sharia system of justice, but only Muslims can be tried in its courts.

The Sharia system, which also has its own Court of Appeal, handles both civil and criminal matters involving Muslims and its judgements can also be challenged in Nigeria's secular Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

The Sharia judges, known as "alkalis", are learned in both Islamic and secular laws.

If a case involves a Muslim and a non-Muslim, the non-Muslim has the option of

## US imposes sanctions on Gambia's former first lady

The US has imposed sanctions on The Gambia's former First Lady Zineb Jammeh after accusing her of corruption during her husband Yahya Jammeh's rule.

She was suspected to have helped him in the illegal transfer of money, and controlled his assets abroad, the US Treasury said.

Mr Jammeh stole about \$50m (£38.4m) before he was ousted in 2017, according to The Gambia's justice ministry.

The couple have previously denied any wrongdoing. Mr Jammeh's 22-year-rule in The Gambia - a popular tourist destination because of its beaches - was marred by allegations of human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture and arbitrary detentions.

He refused to accept defeat in elections in December 2016 and The Gambia's neighbours sent troops to force him out.

In a statement, the US treasury said it believed Mr Jammeh "used a number of corrupt schemes to plunder The Gambia's state coffers or otherwise siphon off state funds for his personal gain".

"Zineb is also believed to be in charge of most of Jammeh's



assets around the world, and utilised a charitable foundation as cover to facilitate the illicit transfer of funds to her husband," it added.

Her assets in the US will be blocked and people in the US are banned from doing property deals with her.

The US Department of Justice had already sought in July the forfeiture of a \$3.5m house that Mrs Jammeh had bought in the US state of Maryland, the treasury said.

Mr Jammeh divorced his first wife Tuti Faal and subsequently married two other women, though his official website referred only to Zineb Yahya Jammeh, who held the title of First Lady.

He was known to be an eccentric ruler, who claimed in 2007 that he could cure Aids and infertility with herbal concoctions. His view was dismissed by health experts. BBC



Islamic courts have their own police force in Kano

choosing where they want the case to be tried. The Sharia court can only hear the case if the non-Muslim gives written consent.

Sentences handed down by the courts include floggings, amputations and the death penalty. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## The irony of Ndubuisi Nwabudike leading corruption fight

THE DECISION TO have an individual like Ndubuisi Nwabudike with a questionable nationality credential leading Liberia's corruption fight is not just a mockery of the entire process, but also a paradox. It is similarly shameful and disgraceful that a vital integrity institution such as the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) which the law requires must be headed by a Liberian citizen is being entrusted to the hands of a purportedly naturalized Liberian.

AMID THIS FLAGRANT violation of the law of Liberia, President George Manneh Weah is financing the questionable Ndubuisi Nwabudike to organize and preside over a so-called Anti-Corruption Conference when the character himself is an agent of dishonesty and inconsistency.

THE TWO-DAY ANTI-CORRUPTION Conference held at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town is nothing but complete rubbish and waste of taxpayers' money because the Weah administration, from every indication, lacks political will to restore transparency and accountability in the public sector.

THAT THE SELF-STYLED Nigerian-born Liberian evidently failed to prove his purported naturalization as a Liberian citizen during senate confirmation is sufficient reason not to keep him in the government as an official, spearheading activities of the LACC.

HOW IN THIS world can a person like Nwabudike shamelessly carries passports that inconsistently present his dates of birth as October 19, 1960 at one time, October 2, 1963 at another time, October 2, 1965 the next, and October 2, 1969 thereafter respectively, and yet wants Liberians to believe that he has the guts to fight corruption.

IT IS NO surprised that the Liberia National Bar Association was constrained to expel this man as a member of the LNBA because "he became a member of the Liberian National Bar Association through fraudulent means."

YET, HE CURRENTLY presides over the LACC without any remorse for his deeds, taking the people of Liberia for granted and lording over the country with support from President Weah. Now, everyone should understand why the so-called anti-corruption conference and its outcome are a complete gimmick.

IN THE FIRST place, the Weah administration has no intention to fighting corruption when the President himself acquired questionable wealth like many of his officials immediately after coming to power that are hardly distinguishable from private assets and public funds.

IF THE GOVERNMENT, thru the court, failed to have prosecuted the suspended director of passport Andrew Wonplo even after indicting him, one can clearly see the lack of political will here. It took the United States Government to ban Andrew and his immediate family from travel to America for "significant corruption" before the Liberian government shamelessly came back and said it reserves the right to prosecute the suspended passport boss.

HENCE, WITH PRESIDENT George Weah in power, Nwabudike finds a sanctuary to ply his trade of lies and deceits with a purported Liberian citizenship that he cannot prove but yet is chief architect of our anti-corruption drive. What a contradiction!

# COMMENTARY

By Carl Manlan &amp; Efosa Ojomo

## Africa Needs Market-Creating Innovation

*Africa's economic growth over the last 25 years has been accompanied by soaring inequality, which the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to worsen. Developing innovative products for the continent's poorer "nonconsumers" will provide a more predictable, inclusive, and sustainable path to prosperity for hundreds of millions of people.*

LOMÉ/BOSTON - Eradicating poverty and boosting prosperity in Africa starts in the boardroom. And it requires African business leaders to use their positions to foster more inclusive economic growth that benefits all stakeholders - customers, employees, suppliers, and communities - rather than focusing on short-term profits that fail to lift up vulnerable communities.

But expanding the economic pie will require the continent's business leaders to take a fundamentally different approach to innovation and growth. To generate shared prosperity, African corporate boards must focus on building new markets in Africa, for Africans. That means prioritizing market-creating innovations.

As many observers have pointed out, the Nobel laureate economist Milton Friedman's famous dictum that a firm's only social purpose is to maximize shareholder value is no longer tenable, given soaring levels of inequality. In Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, more than 230 million people suffer from chronic undernutrition.

But market-creating innovations can begin to improve the precarious situation of these and other vulnerable groups. Such innovations transform complicated and expensive products into simple and affordable ones, making them accessible to many more so-called "nonconsumers" who previously could not afford existing products on the market. If more African businesses develop strategies to serve the continent's hundreds of millions of nonconsumers, the vision of shared prosperity can be realized.

Creating new markets may seem daunting, if not impossible, because it often requires significant investments to attract customers deemed too poor to consume. But this is precisely how Africa can start to become more prosperous.

A little over 20 years ago, for example, Mo Ibrahim founded the African mobile telecommunications operator Celtel with the aim of making inexpensive mobile phones and communications technology available to the average African. Although many experts predicted that the venture would fail because Africa was too poor and corrupt, Celtel thrived. Today, thanks to the power of Ibrahim's market-creating innovation, Africa has nearly one billion mobile-phone subscriptions. The continent's telecommunications sector currently supports about four million jobs, and each year generates billions of dollars in much-needed tax revenues.

African company boards must now address the many challenges faced by the continent's nonconsumers. For example, how might most Africans gain access to better health care? Most governments have underfunded health budgets, while non-governmental organizations typically lack the sustainable business models needed to scale up accessibility initiatives. But new markets can solve this problem.

For example, the Ghanaian health-care company mPharma is expanding rapidly across the continent by offering affordable quality

medications. The firm has served over one million Africans, created hundreds of jobs, and raised more than \$50 million of venture-capital funding to expand its operations. mPharma is following the market-creation playbook, and winning.

At their core, market-creating innovations focus on the needs of the majority. When Singapore's Tolaram Group sought to create a new market for instant noodles in Nigeria in the late 1980s, its board wisely leveraged existing informal distribution and retail networks in the country and built up local expertise in order to make a product the average consumer could afford. By subsequently manufacturing the noodles in Nigeria, the firm ensured that local skills and context would enable it to meet customers' demands. Such decisions highlight the role boards can play in creating new growth engines for their organizations and society.

Such engines are urgently needed. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to worsen the widening inequality that has accompanied Africa's economic growth over the last 25 years. The coronavirus has disrupted the livelihoods of the 85% of Africa's informal workers who lack access to social services and are being plunged deeper into poverty. These people are most likely to be nonconsumers of many products and services that would vastly improve their lives. Inclusive growth in Africa will come from targeting innovations at them.

African business leaders thus have a unique opportunity to chart a new growth course for the continent. But embarking on it first requires Africans to appreciate the extraordinary potential for growth within Africa.

To play a critical role in enabling broader-based prosperity, senior African executives must understand that market-creating innovations are the missing piece in the puzzle. One way to encourage such initiatives is for firms to devote a percentage of their profits to developing innovations that target nonconsumption. With the pandemic sure to exacerbate the nonconsumption problem, now is the ideal time to act.

Furthermore, African firms can support governments by establishing public-private partnerships with the aim of democratizing innovation. For example, Wecyclers, a company that collects and processes recyclable waste, and the Nigerian government have formed a partnership to improve waste collection efforts. With median annual per capita expenditure of around \$300 per person, African governments need partnerships such as these in order to fulfill their development potential.

To be sustainable, economic growth in Africa can no longer benefit the few without benefiting the many. And development strategies must not be limited to weathering economic storms of the sort brought on by COVID-19. Developing innovative products for African nonconsumers will provide a more predictable, inclusive, and sustainable path to prosperity for hundreds of millions of people. As the coronavirus has reminded us, targeting anything less than prosperity for all will put the entire continent at risk.

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## O-PED

By Howard Davies

## Central Banking's Next Act

*Central banking seemed to have reached an "end of history" moment in the mid-1990s, when inflation targeting spread round the world after its success in New Zealand. A generation later, history has started again, with unpredictable consequences.*

**L**ONDON - When US Federal Reserve Chair Jay Powell delivered his major speech at the Jackson Hole conference of central bankers last month, setting out the results of a yearlong review of the Fed's monetary policy framework, he had stars in his eyes. Not the twinkly kind, but rather the notation that encapsulates the Fed's views of interest rates, and unemployment.

R-star is the equilibrium real interest rate, while u-star is the natural rate of unemployment. Both stars seem to have been falling in recent years, and, unlike in the old song, the Fed has had trouble catching them. Since 2012, when the Fed last restated its policy objectives, the Federal Open Market Committee's members believe, on average, that r-star has fallen from 4.25% to 2.5%, while the median estimate of u-star has dropped from 5.5% to 4.1%.

These declines have been associated with what Powell himself calls a "persistent undershoot of inflation from our 2% longer-term objective." They have found that lower inflation expectations and lower interest rates have meant that the Fed has found itself at the effective lower bound for interest rates for long periods, implying less flexibility to stimulate demand when necessary. One consequence is that annual inflation in the United States has averaged only 1.75% over the last decade, and has undershot the target 63% of the time.

The consequence is what Powell's predecessor, Janet Yellen, calls "a pretty subtle shift" in policy, but one that could be critical over time. Powell has invented a new acronym - FAIT: a French word usually followed by "accompli," signifying a completed task. But the acronym stands for a Flexible Average (2%) Inflation Target, which will take some time to come to fruition.

The idea is that if achieved inflation falls below 2%, the Fed should be prepared to allow it to run above that rate, to catch up lost ground. And in assessing unemployment, policymakers should consider employment "shortfalls," rather than "deviations," relative to its maximum level. That is a subtle distinction, but it means that the Fed may allow employment to climb above its maximum level for a while, as long as inflation does not accelerate. In the past, the Fed would have raised rates pre-emptively.

As a sign of an accommodative monetary policy for some time to come, Powell's speech has received a generally positive reception. Bankers may be excused for being less rhapsodic, because interest rates lower for even longer are not good for profits. But one consequence may be a steeper yield curve when inflation expectations rise. And banks could take some comfort from the fact that there was no mention of negative rates, which are not on the agenda in the US at least.

But uncertainties remain. How will the Fed measure u-star in the future? Over what period will it determine an inflation shortfall? If the price level is now well over 3% below where it would have been had the target been met, would 5% inflation for a year or two be acceptable? We will only learn the answers over time.

And what influence will this policy shift have on central banks elsewhere?

The European Central Bank is still in the midst of its own policy review, launched in January by its new president, Christine Lagarde. The ECB has even more reason than the Fed to examine its navel: annual inflation has fallen even shorter of the 2% target. The last time inflation was above 2% was 2012 and it has been chronically low ever since. So, should the ECB follow the Fed?

One problem is that the ECB does not have a dual mandate like the Fed's. It is enjoined to support other economic policies of the European Union, but that is clearly subordinate to maintaining price stability. And the ECB also has the German Federal Constitutional Court to worry about. Germany's judges do not like quantitative easing, and they remain prepared to continue the fight.

A fundamental review would involve governments, and potentially a treaty change, which is hazardous territory for the ECB. What other objectives might populist governments advocate? It is also arguable that the eurozone's economic sluggishness has been more attributable to weak fiscal stimulus than to policy errors by the ECB, which will come under pressure to consider the Fed's catch-up approach. But that would imply a big jump in prices, if policymakers really wanted to recover all the ground lost since 2010. I expect modest change at best.

And the Bank of England? There, the case for change is less powerful, as average inflation has been more or less on target, helped by a falling pound. And a review of the mandate is really a task for the government, not the BOE, as it is the government that sets the inflation target.

But there are rumblings of discontent, nonetheless. Gordon Brown, who drafted the initial target in 1997, argued recently that the Bank should also try to achieve maximum employment. And others close to Prime Minister Boris Johnson's cabinet want to rein in the BOE, bringing its decision-making closer to government, perhaps by giving it a nominal GDP target, which mixes up inflation and real growth, and forcing "coordination" with the Treasury.

So, Powell's "subtle shift" may not be the end of the story. Central banking seemed to have reached an "end of history" moment in the mid-1990s, when inflation targeting spread round the world after its success in New Zealand. A generation later, history has started again, with unpredictable consequences.

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## OPINION

By Akira Kawamoto

## Abenomics After Abe

*Reviving Japan's sluggish economy will require incoming Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga to make a clear break from his predecessor and patron, Shinzo Abe, and pursue wide-ranging structural reforms. Suga's best strategy might therefore be to call a snap general election to gain the popular mandate he will need.*

**T**OKYO - Japan's parliament is scheduled to confirm Yoshihide Suga this week as the country's new prime minister. He will replace Shinzo Abe, who announced his resignation last month for health reasons, after almost eight years in office. Japanese and international observers are now asking whether the Abe government's economic-policy course (dubbed "Abenomics") will change significantly under Suga, and if so, how.

The answer will have important geopolitical implications. Japan, after all, is still struggling to overcome the negative shock from COVID-19, and its economic health is becoming ever more pivotal in view of the deepening confrontation between the United States and China.

Many outside Japan might assume that Suga will change little, and he presented himself to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) as the "continuity" candidate to replace Abe. That was, perhaps, the best card that he could have played, having served as cabinet secretary, the second most powerful position in Japan, for the entirety of Abe's eight-year tenure.

On this view, Suga will remain safe by sticking closely to Abenomics. The massive quantitative easing undertaken since 2013 by Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Haruhiko Kuroda - an Abe appointee - will continue. Similarly, Suga will avoid vigorous and hasty fiscal tightening, even though the Abe government's pandemic-response measures have further increased Japan's net public debt, which, at around 150% of GDP, was already the highest among developed countries.

But if Japan is to sustain its global position, Suga must make a clear break from his predecessor and patron, and pursue a broad range of structural reforms. Indeed, productivity-enhancing labor-market and regulatory reforms are almost certainly the only way to increase Japan's economic growth.

Although Abe's policies helped to end Japan's deflationary stagnation, the overall record of Abenomics is not very impressive. Between 2013 and 2019, annual GDP growth averaged just 1%, and exceeded 2% in only two of the eight years of Abe's premiership.

Moreover, BOJ data show that growth under Abenomics resulted mostly from increases in capital and labor inputs, rather than from productivity gains. Contrary to the conventional view that the Japanese economy faces strong headwinds owing to its aging population and shrinking workforce, the number of people in employment continued to grow throughout the Abe years, because more women joined the labor force. But with Japan's female labor-force participation rate now higher than that of the US, this trend may not continue for much longer.

Stalled productivity growth strongly indicates that the Abe administration's structural reforms (often called the "third arrow" of Abenomics) fell far short of what Japan required. True, Japan's rescue of the 12-country Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact following the withdrawal of the United States by President Donald Trump, and its recent free-trade agreement with the European Union, are substantial and praiseworthy achievements, particularly given the increase in protectionist sentiment that Trump has fostered. The Abe administration also made strong progress on corporate governance. But the aggregate impact of Abenomics was simply too small.

Given his consistently high approval ratings and savvy economic advisers, why did Abe fail to pursue bolder structural reforms? One answer is that he did not have to, because of the lack of effective opposition parties offering alternatives to Abenomics.

Another answer is that Abe had a big, non-economic policy priority - revising Japan's pacifist 1947 constitution - and always intended to spend his political capital on that issue. But he ultimately failed to achieve that goal, too, because there was never a moment when constitutional reform could command anywhere near majority support among the electorate.

Promoting wide-ranging structural reforms of the type that his predecessor largely avoided will require Suga to face down powerful lobbies and vested interests - many of them in his own ruling Liberal Democratic Party - and mobilize public opinion skillfully. But some of Suga's remarks during his recent LDP leadership campaign offer hope that he may be a more daring and courageous prime minister than many expect.

For example, Suga explicitly welcomed the idea of allowing new competitors to enter heavily regulated sectors such as mobile telecommunications and agriculture. He also announced his intention to establish a new agency tasked with overhauling the government's digital infrastructure.

Other clues come from Suga's tenure as cabinet secretary, when he prodded Japan's bureaucrats to change policies hitherto regarded as untouchable. Easing restrictions on visa issuance paved the way for a vast increase in the number of foreign tourists visiting Japan in recent years. And revamping dam-use regulations that had been hobbled by complicated issues concerning ministerial jurisdictions enabled policymakers to prepare better for natural disasters.

Nonetheless, much uncertainty lies ahead, and Suga will face two immediate hurdles. First, he must visibly establish his own leadership style. Whereas many of Suga's predecessors as prime minister - including Abe and Taro Aso - hailed from well-known political (even aristocratic) families, Suga comes from a solid middle-class background.

Although Suga proved himself an extremely capable manager as Abe's cabinet secretary, his new role will require him not only to administer, but also to lead. Rather than pulling strings behind the scenes with elite bureaucrats, Suga must inspire the country. His first test will be to lead the government's response to the pandemic, because the Abe administration's confusing signals as to whether more restrictions are preferable to more economic activity - or, indeed, the reverse - have often bewildered the Japanese public.

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SOLICITATION NUMBER: VA-669-20-00010

ISSUANCE DATE: 09/07/2020  
 CLOSING DATE/TIME: 10/06/2020 (17:30 local time)

SUBJECT: Solicitation for the Senior County Health Services Advisor, Cooperating Country National Personal Service Contractor (CCNPSC)

Dear Prospective Offerors:

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

Offers must be in accordance with Attachment 1, Sections I through III of this solicitation. Incomplete or unsigned offers will not be considered. Offerors should retain copies of all offer materials for their records.

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

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

Sincerely,  
 /s/  
 Robert W. Appiah  
 Supervisory Executive Officer

**ATTACHMENT 1****I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

SOLICITATION NO: VA-669-20-00010

- ISSUANCE DATE:** 09/07/2020
- CLOSING DATE/TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** 10/06/2020 at 17:30 Monrovia time
- POSITION TITLE:** Senior County Health Services Advisor
- MARKET VALUE:** USD \$51,630.00 to USD \$82,612.00 equivalent to CCN-12 in accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of the US Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia. Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value.
- PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** Initial contract will be for one year (with optional years included for extension, not to exceed five years), based on the programmatic needs, funding availability, and performance. This is considered a permanent position.

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

- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia with possible travel within the country and overseas.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility and computer access
- STATEMENT OF DUTIES:**

**A. BASIC FUNCTION OF THE POSITION**

The incumbent is a recognized expert in the field of public health in Liberia, particularly in primary health care service delivery and reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH). S/he serves as an advisor on the Service Delivery Team within USAID/Liberia's Health Team, providing substantive advice and support in the formulation and administration of USAID/Liberia's service delivery programs. S/he is instrumental in the conceptualization, design, development, negotiation, and implementation of highly visible and critical projects, which directly impact on the success of achieving USAID's goals and objectives in Liberia's health sector. The Specialist will lead government-to-government activities for the USAID Health Office. The Specialist provides expert advice in engaging program managers, stakeholders, and policy makers, as well as health workers in developing programs and strategies needed at national, county, and district levels to strengthen service delivery, regulatory frameworks, and technical programs. S/he has a strong understanding and experience working in program management. The incumbent uses his/her professional judgment and initiative to complete complex tasks with minimal supervision.

The incumbent has extensive knowledge of the public health sector and in working with high level government officials and other donors to achieve health program objectives. S/he coordinates with the Government of Liberia (GOL), other donors, and stakeholders to ensure maximum impact of USAID's investments in the health sector. S/he serves as the primary liaison with county health teams to ensure strategic engagement on key health issues and USAID coordination. S/he facilitates shared communication and vision between USAID health team staff and county health team counterparts.

The Senior County Health Services Advisor is supervised by the Service Delivery Team Leader.

**B. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:****A. Strategic and Technical Leadership 40%**

The Senior County Health Services Advisor provides strategic leadership in support of the USAID/USG health programs with emphasis at the county level for improved health outcomes and efficiency of resources. S/he provides senior policy, strategic, and technical advice and guidance to the Ministry of Health in the planning, drafting of county level plans specific to the USAID's Government to Government Agreement. S/he oversees effective monitoring and evaluation plans, including compiling lessons learned and the dissemination activity results to appropriate USG staff and partners. S/he:

- Serves as the primary liaison with county health teams to ensure well-coordinated communication of USAID resources and activities, most critically the USAID's Government to Government activity.
- Coordinate/facilitates open and productive engagement between USAID technical staff and county health teams to ensure optimal oversight and maximization of resources.
- Identifies challenges and solutions at the county level in collaboration with county health teams and USAID technical advisors and coordinate lessons learned and recommendations that improve alignment with county health teams' goals and planning.
- Advise Health Office Senior Management on technical, strategic, and donor coordination issues with the GOL and within the USG.
- In collaboration with the Health Team's Family Planning/Reproductive Health Specialist, forges relationships with key partners necessary for the achievement of USAID's program objectives, especially related to RMNCH.
- Represents the USG on various MOH technical working groups and in technical discussions on issues related to health service delivery.
- Provides technical leadership and policy and program guidance to the USAID/Liberia Health Team, particularly related to health service delivery.
- Develops program and policy options and recommend appropriate courses of action based on a comprehensive analysis of development problems, alternative actions, objectives, and consistency with overall USG domestic and international policy and law.

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

The Senior County Health Services Advisor serves as Manager of USAID's activity providing direct, government-to-government support to the Ministry of Health (MOH), with an annual budget of over \$10 million. This activity incorporates investments in strengthening i) public financial management, ii) management and supervision systems, and iii) service delivery. The incumbent will assist the Service Delivery Team Lead and the Team in managing resources and supporting both program and financial monitoring and evaluation. Management of this activity involves knowledge of program/project management principles, provision of technical advice and guidance, both in-house and with government counterparts, and analysis and follow-through on program reports. It also requires coordination with other health team activity managers on technical components that link with the MOH: financing, service delivery, management, and supervision.

- S/he conducts regular site visits to review program implementation at the county level and meets with beneficiaries and county health teams; based on information collected during visits, s/he adjusts or recommends adjustments to programs/projects/activities as appropriate.
- Provides technical contributions to USG program designs, budget allocations, strategic planning documents and reporting mechanisms.
- Conducts site visits on a quarterly basis, at a minimum, and provides hands-on oversight in Monrovia as well as at the site of implementation.
- Ensures monitoring and evaluation systems are in place to capture results and contributions to targets, approves annual work plans, and maintains detailed and updated project management records.
- Ensures all financial management procedures and payment approval documents are prepared and executed according to guidelines and standards for government-to-government agreements.

**C. External Donor and Partner Coordination 20%**

The Senior County Health Specialist, alongside the county health teams, serves to ensure that USAID's investments at county level are well coordinated and positioned with other external donors and partner efforts. S/he:

- Participates in Ministry of Health partner coordination meetings, technical working groups, and other forums representing USAID's county level efforts.
- Actively collaborates with external donors and partners to ensure USAID county level activities and planning are shared and understood.
- Provides guidance to USAID senior leadership on county level planning and decision making for activities that includes external donor landscape and planning.

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

AIDAR, Appendix J. 1 (b) Definitions:

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

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

**10. PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

**11. POINT OF CONTACT:**

All application packages are to be submitted:

**Senior County Health Services Advisor**by email to: [LiberiaHR@usaid.gov](mailto:LiberiaHR@usaid.gov)**12. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION****Education:** Master's degree in a related field such as public health or public administration required.

**Prior Work Experience:** At least 7 Years of progressively responsible, professional experience in public health is required, including program design, implementation, and management and data analysis, interpretation, and presentation. At least 5 years of experience in development assistance, other donor agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGO), or the private sector and should also have experience working in the public health sector.

**Post Entry Training:** Mandatory USAID Contract/Agreement Officer Representative (COR/AOR) training courses. Health state-of-the-art workshop attendance, as well as other trainings to update technical competence, as required.

**Language Proficiency:** Strong written and oral communication skills in English (Level IV – Fluent) required.

**Job Knowledge:** Must have thorough knowledge of the concepts, principles, and approaches to primary health care/ RMNCH service delivery in developing countries. Must have thorough knowledge of health programs. Should have thorough knowledge of Liberia's economic, social, political, and cultural characteristics. Should have or be able to acquire a thorough knowledge of USG legislation related to development assistance, USAID programming policies, regulations, procedures, and documentation.

**Skills and Abilities:** The ability to plan, organize, manage, and evaluate important and complex projects is required. Ability to obtain, analyze and evaluate a variety of financial and technical data and to organize and present it in meaningful terms to others is also required. Ability to draft factual and interpretive reports covering complex subject matter is required. Demonstrated ability to exercise good social and professional judgment and excellent interpersonal skills in a cross-cultural setting is required. Demonstrated ability to establish and maintain an extensive range of contacts with high level host government officials and with influential persons in the private sector is required. Demonstrated ability to maintain collaborative working relationships within a team structure is required. Proficiency in word processing is required. The ability to use related computer packages (i.e. Internet, PowerPoint, Excel, etc.) is required.

**I. POSITION ELEMENTS**

- Supervision Received:** The Senior County Health Services Advisor works under the supervision of the Service Delivery Team Lead, who provides overall objectives, suggests approaches to consider, and reviews completed reports and assignments. Most assignments occur in the normal course of the work, but the Senior County Health Services Advisor is required to determine those that must be coordinated with superiors. The supervisor provides a review of the assignment, the goals, and objectives to be achieved, and the expected results. The Senior County Health Services Advisor will seek advice and assistance as required.
- Supervision Exercised:** The Senior County Health Services Advisor does not have any supervisory duties.
- Available Guidelines:** Available administrative guidelines establish a broad pattern of operations that require a frequent need to exercise judgment and interpretation and provides an opportunity for initiative and innovation. Relevant guidelines include the USAID Automated Directives System (ADS), PEPFAR and PMI guidelines, Country Operational Plans, Health Implementation Plan, Country Development Cooperation Strategy, National Health Strategic Plan, Mission Orders, and other directives. Guidelines are often general in nature and not specific to the situation at hand, requiring considerable interpretation.
- Exercise of Judgment:** Independent judgment is required for developing, implementing, and managing programs/projects/activities, many of which are emergent institutions in areas of political and social sensitivity, and for reporting, and for other assignments. Judgment is required to make decisions, based on careful analysis of facts and variables, possible alternatives, and potential political and development implications and impact. The County Health Services Advisor must exercise good judgment and completes work independently. S/he monitors implementation of activities and maintains accountability for results achieved.
- Authority to Make Commitments:** The County Health Services Advisor exercises the authority given to program/project/activity managers and GATRs/CORs/AORs, and may make administrative arrangements consistent with ADS guidance and Mission policy. The County Health Services Advisor takes action and establishes priorities based on available guidelines and professional judgment. Within the scope of the authority delegated, the County Health Services Advisor may indicate to ranking counterpart and implementing partner officials that s/he will make a recommendation to USAID on a specific activity issue or problem. The County Health Services Advisor has no independent authority to expend USG funds.
- Nature, Level, and Purpose of Contacts:** The County Health Services Advisor has a full range of contacts within the U.S. Mission, at all levels, and maintains contact with contractors and grantees implementing USAID-funded programs/projects/activities in the sector. Within the Embassy, contacts are with counterpart staff and with senior staff as needed. Host-government, local, and other contacts vary widely with the type of activity being implemented, and may be at any level – including Ministerial, Deputy Minister, Permanent Secretary, Director etc. Frequent and substantive personal contacts with senior-level counterparts from external donors and partners engaged in the health sector in Liberia are for the purpose of explaining and defending USAID/USG policies, objectives, and procedures, and to transmit and interpret GOL attitudes and concerns, and the attitudes and concerns of individual Liberians to senior USAID officials.
- Time Expected to Reach Full Performance Level:** One year

**III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS**

Applicants selected for interview will also be evaluated on their interview, as well as reference checks.

Following is the evaluation criteria for this position:

- Education background (10 points)
- Experience and Qualifications Related to Program Design & Administration (30 points)
- Experience and Qualifications Related to Strategic and Technical Leadership (35 points)
- Oral and Written Communication (25 points)

**SELECTION PROCESS**

Applicants meeting the required qualifications for the position will be evaluated based on information presented in the application. After initial screening of applications, only short-listed applicants will be contacted and invited for an interview, as well as a written exercise.

**HOW TO APPLY**

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

- A clearly typed application cover letter that briefly summarizes why you believe you are qualified for this position.
- Resume or CV.
- The names and contact details of three references that can attest to your work experience.
- Documentation (e.g. copies of certificates, coursework, on the job training or degrees) that address the minimum requirements of the position.

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

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Senate cites CSA over health workers' retirement

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Plenary of the Liberian Senate has taken a decision to cite the Civil Service Agency (CSA) to appear before it on 23 September and justify a planned retirement of health workers during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Senate's decision reached Wednesday, 16 September is based on a

In Senator Brown's communication requesting the Liberian Senate to invite CSA authorities, he cautions that it is not timely for the agency to retire health workers when the global health pandemic declared by the World Health Organization is not yet over.

According to Senator Brown, health workers are not ordinary civil servants that can just be retired, noting that there

people in the county.

"Some Doctors have received their letters already and there is no one yet to replace those Doctors. I am calling on the CSA to put [a] halt to the process and take some time to do the transitional process before those Doctors can be retired," Senator Brown suggests.

He notes that retiring health workers now isn't timely, adding that the country needs them now more than before.

According to him, the administration at the Ministry of Health informed the budget hearing committee that they have written the CSA requesting exemption for certain categories of health workers from the retirement plan, but the commission refused the request.

Additionally, Senator Brown explains that the Doctors to patients' ratio in Liberia is the highest in the world, emphasizing that Liberia doesn't have as many Doctors as the patients in the country.

He says he does not question the statutory mandate of the Civil Service Agency, however he holds the view that the implementation of the retirement policy at the Ministry of Health should not be at this time because it will have an adverse impact on the hospitals and clinics in the counties.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



request by Maryland County Senator J. Gbleh-bo Brown who had called on his colleagues to cite the CSA in his quest for the agency to defer the ongoing retirement process of Doctors and Nurses across the country.

should be replacement of those health workers before they are retired.

In some counties, he says there is only one Doctor, warning that retiring such doctor without a replacement will cause problems for the

# NEC urged to halt VRU

By Lewis S. Teh

In the wake massive trucking of voters from one county to another, the National Elections Commission (NEC) has been urged to halt the ongoing voters update exercise across the country until proper security is put in place to avoid chaos in the pending December 8th senatorial election.

News of voters trucking comes at a time the NEC is conducting Voter Rolls Update exercise ahead of the official poll.

Calling on a live talk show via mobile Wednesday, September 15, a member of the opposition block Daniel Sando accused the Weah administration of masterminding the practice of trucking voters.

"This is no secret; this government is doing everything possible to rig this senatorial election but we in the opposition will not accept any fraudulent activity".

According to Sando, it's unfortunate for politicians to truck people from one county to another while the electoral body sits supinely and does nothing about the situation, warning it has a propensity of threatening the peace and causing chaos.

The voters update exercise currently ongoing in the country is expected to last up to September 25, to be

followed by political campaign in October.

The trucking also comes as the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) officially complained to the NEC, expressing unsettling concerns over the electoral body's decision to launch a mobile Voters Roll Update Exercise without any reference to other political parties that are equal competitors in the race.

Meanwhile, a youth leader Jeremy Doe said, citizens leaving their respective districts in Montserrado to register and vote in western Liberia is attributable to lack of love and high rate of poverty, amongst others.

The NEC thru a press conference Tuesday warned those aspirants allegedly involved in trucking voters to desist immediately, as the practice contravenes the electoral law of Liberia.

NEC Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah said the Commission is concerned about reports of "trucking" of citizens by some aspirants.

"We note that trucking is prohibited under Chapter 10.1(a) of the New Elections Law and is punishable by a fine or imprisonment of up to six months", Madam Lansanah said in a press conference at the NEC headquarters between 9th and 10th Streets in Sinkor, Monrovia. -*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# China pledges more capacity -building opportunities

The newly accredited Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Liberia has paid a courtesy call on Commerce and Industry Minister, Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh, with capacity-building opportunities dominating discussion between both officials.

A Commerce Ministry release says during the discussions, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, RenYisheng expressed his country's plans to promote ongoing cordial bilateral ties subsisting between Liberia and the People's Republic of China at several constructive fronts.

Topping the Tuesday, September 15, 2020, brief discussions between Minister Tarpeh and the Chinese envoy



(L-R) Min. Tarpeh and Amb. Ren

at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, are short and long term capacity-building opportunities for Liberians,

including employees of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The release said inferring

from how the discussions proceeded; the Chinese envoy is of the strong conviction that capacity-building opportunities for Liberians will undoubtedly boost the human resource environment of Liberia.

Stepping up collaboration between Liberia and the People's Republic of China, through trade, specifically the Liberia-China Chamber of Commerce also formed part of the collaborative exchange of notes between the two officials.

According to the release, Ambassador Ren also spoke about capacity-building programs for Small and Medium Business Enterprises in Liberia, as part of ongoing efforts to promote trade between the two countries.

Touching on other issues, the Chinese envoy encouraged his citizens residing in Liberia to abide by the laws of the country, making specific reference to local and

international intellectual property regulations.

At the same time Ambassador Ren, has extended official invitation to Minister Tarpeh to attend this year's Trade meeting in China. The gathering, to be held in the context of the Liberia-China Chamber of Commerce is expected to take place in November.

For his part, Commerce and Industry Minister Wilson Tarpeh, thanked the Chinese envoy for the courtesy visit, including China's willingness to always identify with the Liberian Government and people.

Prof. Tarpeh, reiterated Liberia's commitment to the One China Policy, emphasizing that the Coalition for Democratic Change-led Government, under the dynamic leadership of President George Manneh Weah, remains supportive of the One China Policy. -*Press Release*

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# Senate probes hike in WAEC fees

By Ethel A. Tweh

The leadership of the Liberian Senate has taken hold of Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Kangar - Lawrence's communication to probe the West Africa Examination Council (WAEC) in Liberia over the sharp increase in cost of registration for the West

LD\$2,700 in 2018 to LD\$ 16,500 in 2020.

Senator Lawrence notes that such numerical increments came at a time Liberians are undergoing difficult and challenging times.

According to her, in a statement issued on 12 September 2020, WAEC Liberia informed the public that

have reached out to her office to express concerns over the high increment.

"I too feel that the cost is extremely high in this economic situation, in fact it is higher than the registration fees at the regular test," she says.

Senator Lawrence wonders how WAEC Liberia came up with such fees, raising questions if this is a unilateral decision by WAEC or whether the Ministry of Education and the Commission on Higher Education are aware.

She also questions if this is a joint conclusion to exploit already unprivileged struggling parents.

Madam Lawrence demands an answer on the decision of WAEC, and therefore asks plenary to review the situation and make an immediate intervention by inviting authorities at WAEC Liberia to appear before the full plenary and provide substantial explanation on this matter.

Montserrado County Senator and Chair of the Senate's Executive Saah Joseph made a motion accepting the communication and said the leadership will look into the matter, investigate WAEC and report to the plenary within one week.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



African School Examination (WASCE) for candidates from private schools.

In the communication to plenary Wednesday, 16 September the Grand Bassa Senator said the cost of registration for private school students is raised from

registration for the private school students will run from 14 September to 8 November, specifying that the fee is LD\$16,500 and it should be paid through Lonestar Cell MTN mobile money.

Further, Senator Lawrence indicates that many Liberians

# Cuttington University workers protest for salaries

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong County

Some workers at Cuttington University have entered their second day of protest on the Suakoko campus demanding the administration of the university president Dr. Hermon Browne to pay eight months salaries allegedly owed them.

The protesters say Cuttington University administration has for the past eight months allegedly refused to pay their salaries and other benefits which are their entitlements, placing them in serious financial constraints and undermining their abilities to take care of their families.

The aggrieved employees were seen holding placards with inscriptions: "We need our salaries now; No salaries no school," among others.

According to them, the school has not paid them since February of this year and that the situation has undermined their daily activities in their various homes, especially as it

relates to finding food and catering to other domestic affairs.

"Since I started working at Cuttington here, this is my first time to experience this. Imagine eight months no pay

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# NEC warns politicians

The National Elections Commission says it is concerned about reports of "trucking" of citizens by some aspirants, which it notes is prohibited under Chapter 10.1(a) of the New Elections Law and punishable by a fine or imprisonment of up to six months.

Addressing a press conference Tuesday at the Commission headquarters in Sinkor, Monrovia, Chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah said while the NEC is not clothed with authority to impose criminal penalty, the Commission frowns on the trucking of citizens for political purpose, and calls on all involved in this practice to desist.

"A person who is trucked to another area is in violation of Chapter 3 of the Elections Law which states that a person

mobilizers in all 73 electoral districts to carry out community outreach, including door-to-door and face-to-face voter education and gender-sensitive awareness campaign for the VRU process.

Chairperson Davidetta Lansanah says to facilitate an effective and robust CVE campaign, several educational and awareness materials have been produced for distribution nation-wide, including posters, flyers, t-shirts, caps, and banners.

The NEC boss adds that the Commission has produced jingles and dramas in simple Liberian English that are being aired on community radio stations across the country as well as accredited and certificated 300 civil society, community based and faith based organizations to assist with the CVE and gender



must register to vote in the area where he or she ordinarily resides. Upon finding, consistent with due process of law, that a person was trucked in this regard, his or her name will be removed from the registration roll; similar actions will also be taken against persons who registered more than once", Madam Lansanah warns.

At the same time she discloses that consistent with its commitment to ensuring the participation of all eligible Liberians in the December 8th midterm senatorial election, the Commission has drawn up appropriate strategies to provide civic and voter education as well as gender mobilization for the Voter's Roll Update, currently ongoing.

The Commission has recruited and deployed 146 civic educators and 146 gender

awareness exercise.

She details that nomination of candidates for the December 8, 2020 Special Senatorial Elections began since September 1, 2020 as scheduled and the exercise will end on September 21, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

NEC reveals that as of September 14, 2020, 44 independent aspirants and 12 political parties, alliances or coalitions had picked up application packages, including 10 independent female aspirants and 34 male aspirants, while three political party aspirants and 10 independent aspirants have returned their completed forms for processing.

Chairperson Lansanah says the NEC on Thursday, September 10, 2020 received a communication from the House

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# Français

## Violences post-électorales : des supporters de Snowe et de Tyler s'affrontent à Bomi

Les affrontements entre militants rivaux sont devenus légion au Libéria, surtout à l'approche des élections sénatoriales du 8 décembre couplées avec le referendum constitutionnel national qui vise à amender la constitution.

En effet, la ville de Tubmanburg était mercredi le théâtre de graves bagarres rangées entre des militants des candidats Edwin Snowe et

d'Alex Tyler, tous deux anciens présidents de la chambre des représentants du Libéria.

Des militants du représentant sortant du comté de Bomi, Edwin Melvin Snowe, et de l'ancien député Alex Tyler se sont affrontés à coups de machettes et d'autres objets dangereux. C'était la panique dans la capitale provinciale du comté de Bomi.

Des jeunes qui seraient des partisans de l'ex-président de

la chambre des représentants Tyler sont arrivés à Tubmanburg à bord d'un bus de la National Transit Authority, en provenance de Monrovia, pour se faire enregistrer dans cette ville en vue des élections sénatoriales prochaines.

Mais les habitants de la région ont tenté de les empêcher car ils ne vivent pas

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## Le ministre libérien désigné des Affaires étrangères soupçonné d'harcèlement sexuel

Monrovia a confirmé avoir accusé réception d'une plainte écrite pour harcèlement sexuel contre le Ministre libérien des affaires étrangères désigné, l'Ambassadeur Dee Maxwell SaahKemayah.

La plainte contre M. Kemayah, qui jusqu'à récemment, était Représentant permanent auprès des Nations Unies proviendrait d'une employée de la Mission permanente aux Nations Unies, Mme Whynee

Cummings Wilson.

L'ancien ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire et représentant permanent du Liberia auprès des Nations Unies a été nommé par le président George M. Weah au poste de ministre des Affaires étrangères le 3 septembre 2020, en attendant la confirmation du Sénat libérien.

L'attaché de presse présidentiel adjoint Smith Toby, s'adressant à OK FM le lundi 14 septembre, a révélé que le

gouvernement du Libéria, par l'intermédiaire des ministères des Affaires étrangères, du Genre, de l'Enfance et de la Protection sociale et de la Justice, avait reçu une plainte officielle pour harcèlement sexuel contre le Ministre désigné des Affaires étrangères, déclarant que la plainte fera l'objet d'une enquête très prochainement. Toby souligne que le président Weah, en tant que « féministe en chef », ne ménagera aucun effort pour que la lumière soit faite sur cette question d'harcèlement sexuel et sur d'autres allégations qui ont tendance à embarrasser le gouvernement.

Mme Wilson, dans sa communication qu'elle a adressée aux autorités de l'ONU et à la ministre du Genre, Williametta Piso Saydee-Tarr, et qui a également été publiée sur les réseaux sociaux, excuse l'Ambassadeur Kemayah (son ancien patron) de l'avoir agressée et harcelée sexuellement le 8 janvier 2020. Affaire à suivre.



## L'opposant Dillon menace d'attaquer le convoi présidentiel

Le sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Darius Dillon, a donné l'ordre à ses militants de riposter à chaque provocation en lapidant le convoi du président George Weah ou sa résidence. L'opposant farouche a averti le régime Weah comme quoi ses militants feront recours aux armes à feu chaque fois qu'ils seront la cible d'attaques des supporters de son adversaire Thomas Fallah à l'élection sénatoriale du Comté de Montserrado.

« Chaque fois que je recevrai une pierre, le convoi de George Weah en recevra des centaines. S'il a peur de quitter son domicile, nous irons le lapider chez lui à la maison. C'est moi Darius Dillon qui le dis », a dit le sénateur du Comté de Montserrado, rouge de colère, à la suite des violents affrontements qui ont opposé ses militants à ceux de son adversaire Thomas Fallah, candidat du parti au pouvoir à

jets de pierres, Thomas Fallah n'organisera aucun meeting politique dans cette ville. Le convoi de George Weah sera lapidé. Nous allons le lapider », a répété le sénateur en colère.

Il a ensuite ajouté en disant : « Si quelque chose m'arrivait aujourd'hui, j'imagine que George Weah dormirait en paix chez lui. S'il m'était arrivé quelque chose aujourd'hui, j'imagine que George Weah boirait de la bière et célébrerait parce que quelque chose m'était arrivé ».

« Pourquoi faut-il que mes meetings soient toujours perturbés par des attaques ? Mon adversaire, le représentant Fallah, organise ses meetings partout dans les communautés du comté sans que mes militants ne lui lancent des pierres, mais quand c'est moi, les militants de la Coalition pour le changement



l'élection sénatoriale du comté de Montserrado. Dimanche dernier, les deux candidats ont organisé des rassemblements de part et d'autre du pont Saint-Paul et pour des raisons non encore élucidées, des affrontements violents entre leurs militants ont éclaté.

« Ehn ils disent qu'ils ont des armes à feu, mais quand ils sortent leurs armes, ils ne sauront pas d'où viendront des armes pour riposter », a déclaré le sénateur, avant d'ajouter : « Je vais donner cet ordre à tous les membres de la CPP (Collaboration des Partis Politiques) qui croient en nos idéaux, nous auront avec nous des pierres partout où nous irons. Nous aurons des armes sur nous pour nous protéger partout où nous irons ». Le sénateur du comté le plus peuplé du Libéria s'exprimait en live sur les réseaux sociaux à la suite des affrontements.

« La prochaine fois que mon meeting sera perturbé par des

démocratique au pouvoir se rouillent sur moi » a-t-il déploré.

Il s'en est aussi pris aux médias qu'il qualifie de biaisés. Il a pris la communauté au témoin. « J'attends que la communauté internationale et le Conseil interreligieux m'invite à une réunion. J'aurais pu être tué aujourd'hui et ma mort aurait été politisée ».

Pendant ce temps, dans un communiqué de presse publié le lundi 14 septembre, la CDC, réagissant aux propos du sénateur Dillon, a accusé l'opposition de prôner la violence.

« La CDC appelle tous les Libériens bien intentionnés, les groupements de la société civile, la communauté internationale et nos partenaires au développement à condamner

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# Français

## Violences post-électorales :

dans le comté de Bomi. C'est ce qui a déclenché la violence. Les deux parties se sont affrontées à coups de pierres et d'autres objets mortels, semant la panique parmi les populations.

La bataille rangée, qui a commencé sur la route menant au bâtiment administratif du comté de Bomi, a pris une tournure dramatique au quartier général du représentant Snowe. Forte heureusement, il n'y a pas eu de perte en vie humaine.

Mais, il a fallu l'intervention musclée des forces de l'ordre pour ramener le calme. Trois personnes auraient été arrêtées, selon les informations.

Le comté de Bomiest la plaque tournante de la transhumance des électeurs en provenance de Monrovia et de la Sierra Leone voisine financée par des candidats rivaux dans le but de remporter l'élection sénatoriale du comté en décembre.

Selon certains habitants, Snowe et Tyler sont directement derrière le camionnage des électeurs vers le comté. Mais Snowe a catégoriquement nié cette allégation, déclarant qu'il

n'est lié ni de près ni de loin à cette affaire. Quant à son adversaire Tyler, dont le parti est membre de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (coalition au pouvoir), il ne s'est pas encore prononcé sur ces accusations.

Les Libériens sont appelés à se rendre aux urnes le 8 décembre pour élire 15 sénateurs et se prononcer sur la proposition de l'amendement de la constitution pour la réduction de la durée des mandats présidentiel, législatif et sénatorial. La Commission électorale nationale s'est inquiétée lundi du constat de la « location ou l'emprunt des électeurs », un phénomène devenu récurrent et observé à chaque période électorale.

Animant un point de presse, la présidente de la NEC, Davidetta Browne Lansanah, a fait part des préoccupations de son agence face aux informations faisant état de « camionnage » des électeurs dont sont responsables certains candidats. « Nous vous informons que le camionnage est interdit en vertu du chapitre 10.1 (a) de la nouvelle loi électorale et est passible d'une amende ou d'un emprisonnement pouvant aller jusqu'à six mois », a-t-elle mis en garde.

## L'opposant Dillon menace

catégoriquement les propos du sénateur Dillon car ils risquent de porter atteinte à la paix dont nous jouissons tous », a dit le communiqué.

« Le sénateur Dillon fait campagne librement ; personne ne l'a jamais attaqué parce que la CDC croit dans la coexistence pacifique et dans la protection des droits fondamentaux des mouvements, d'association et de la liberté d'expression pour chaque Libérien indépendamment de ses convictions politiques, religieuses ou ethniques. La CDC considère la déclaration de M. Dillon non seulement comme une incitation, mais comme une atteinte à la paix et la stabilité de notre pays; et équivaut à une menace contre une autorité constituée, une recette pour le chaos et une tentative de déstabilisation de notre démocratie déjà fragile que nous essayons tous de nourrir jusqu'à ce qu'elle atteigne la maturité. Nous appelons les forces de l'ordre à rester vigilantes et à interpeler quiconque est impliqué dans des actes de violence », a dit

la coalition au pouvoir, qui dit avoir des preuves que les événements malheureux qui se sont produits dimanche dans le district 16 ont été mis en scène et orchestrés par des militants connus du sénateur Dillon sur ses instructions.

La coalition au pouvoir a appelé ses militants à ne pas céder aux provocations ni à faire recours à la violence, mais à toujours chercher la voie légale quel que soit le prix à payer.

« Notre parti ne tolérera aucun acte de violence de la part de quelque structure, militant ou dirigeant que ce soit et n'hésitera pas à prendre des mesures disciplinaires nécessaires contre tout militants qui se rendra coupable de violence », a mis en garde le parti au pouvoir.

« Nous appelons donc les Nations Unies, le gouvernement et le peuple des États-Unis d'Amérique, l'UA, l'UE et la CEDEAO à surveiller la CPP (plateforme de l'opposition) car il s'agit d'une institution violente qui est capable de tout car elle est affamée du pouvoir, ses élections primaires sanglantes en sont la preuve.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Carl Manlan & Efosa Ojomo

## Une voie pour l'Afrique : l'innovation créatrice de marché

**L**OMÉ/BOSTON - Eradiquer la pauvreté et mettre l'Afrique sur la voie de la prospérité commence dans les conseils d'administration des entreprises. Les chefs d'entreprises africains doivent encourager une croissance économique plus inclusive, au profit de tous - les clients, les employés, les fournisseurs et la population - plutôt que de privilégier les bénéficiaires à court terme qui excluent les groupes les plus vulnérables.

Accroître la taille du gâteau à partager suppose que les dirigeants d'entreprise adoptent une toute autre approche de l'innovation et de la croissance. Pour parvenir à une prospérité partagée, ils doivent privilégier la construction de nouveaux marchés en Afrique, pour les Africains - autrement dit, donner la priorité aux innovations qui engendrent la création de nouveaux marchés.

Comme l'ont souligné de nombreux observateurs, du fait des inégalités croissantes, la fameuse formule du prix Nobel d'économie Milton Friedman selon laquelle le seul objectif social d'une entreprise est de maximiser la part qui revient aux actionnaires a perdu sa pertinence. Ainsi, en Afrique subsaharienne, plus de 230 millions de personnes souffrent de sous-alimentation.

Or les innovations créatrices de marché peuvent améliorer la situation des groupes vulnérables. Elles transforment des produits complexes et coûteux en produits simples et bon marché. Ils deviennent ainsi accessibles à un nombre beaucoup plus important de gens, les "non-consommateurs", qui n'avaient pas les moyens d'acheter les produits existants sur le marché. Si davantage d'entreprises africaines élaborent des stratégies au service des centaines de millions de non-consommateurs du continent, une prospérité partagée pourrait se concrétiser.

Créer de nouveaux marchés peut sembler une tâche insurmontable, voire impossible, car il faut généralement consacrer des investissements importants pour attirer les clients potentiels que l'on estime trop pauvres pour consommer. Or c'est précisément comme cela que l'Afrique peut s'engager sur la voie de la prospérité.

Il y a un peu plus de 20 ans, Mo Ibrahim a créé Celtel, l'opérateur africain de télécommunication mobile. Son objectif était de permettre aux Africains moyens d'acheter un téléphone mobile pour pas cher et d'accéder à Internet. Il a réussi, alors que beaucoup d'experts avaient prédit son échec parce que l'Afrique est trop pauvre et trop corrompue. Aujourd'hui, grâce à l'innovation créatrice de marché d'Ibrahim, plus de 500 millions d'Africains sont abonnés à un réseau de téléphonie mobile. En Afrique, le secteur des télécommunications emploie quelques 4 millions de personnes et génère des milliards de dollars de recette fiscale des plus utiles.

Les conseils d'administration des entreprises africaines doivent relever les nombreux défis auxquels sont confrontés les non-consommateurs du continent. A titre d'exemple, comment la plupart des Africains pourraient-ils avoir accès à de meilleurs soins de santé ? En Afrique, La plupart des budgets de santé publique sont insuffisants, tandis que, les ONG n'ont souvent pas le savoir-faire commercial nécessaire pour améliorer l'accès aux soins. Or de nouveaux marchés permettraient de résoudre ce problème.

Ainsi la compagnie pharmaceutique ghanéenne mPharma s'étend rapidement à travers le continent en offrant des médicaments de qualité à un prix

abordable. Elle a levé plus de 50 millions de dollars pour cela et créé des centaines d'emplois. mPharma a adopté la stratégie de création de marché et se retrouve en position gagnante.

Les innovations créatrices de marché se concentrent sur les besoins du plus grand nombre. Ainsi la société Tolaram de Singapour a cherché à créer un nouveau marché pour ses nouilles instantanées au Nigeria à la fin des années 1980. Pour ce faire, elle s'est appuyée sur les réseaux informels de distribution et de vente au détail existants dans le pays et a développé une expertise locale pour fabriquer un produit abordable pour le consommateur moyen. En fabriquant ensuite les nouilles au Nigeria, Tolaram s'est assurée que le contexte et les compétences locaux lui permettraient de répondre à l'attente des consommateurs. Cette stratégie souligne l'importance des conseils d'administration dans la création de nouveaux moteurs de croissance pour leur propre organisation et pour toute la société.

Ces moteurs sont nécessaires de toute urgence. La pandémie de COVID-19 menace d'aggraver les inégalités croissantes qui accompagnent la croissance économique de l'Afrique depuis plus de 25 ans. Le coronavirus a perturbé les moyens de subsistance de 85 % des travailleurs du secteur économique informel du continent. Ils ne bénéficient d'aucune protection sociale, sont plongés dans une pauvreté encore plus grande et de ce fait ne peuvent se procurer nombre de produits et services qui amélioreraient considérablement leur vie. La croissance inclusive en Afrique viendra en créant des innovations abordables pour eux.

Les chefs d'entreprise africains disposent ainsi d'une occasion rêvée pour ouvrir une nouvelle voie de croissance. Condition préalable pour s'y lancer, les Africains doivent prendre conscience de l'extraordinaire potentiel de croissance au sein même de leur continent.

Pour jouer un rôle essentiel sur la voie de la prospérité partagée, les entreprises africaines doivent comprendre que les innovations créatrices de marché sont la pièce manquante du puzzle. Une façon d'encourager de telles initiatives consiste pour elles à consacrer une part de leurs bénéfices au développement d'innovations destinées aux plus démunis. La pandémie exacerbe le problème de la non-consommation, c'est donc le moment idéal pour agir.

Par ailleurs, les entreprises africaines peuvent aider en se sens les Etats en établissant des partenariats public-privé destinés à démocratiser l'innovation. Ainsi Wecyclers, une entreprise de ramassage et de traitement des déchets recyclables, a formé un partenariat avec le gouvernement nigérian pour améliorer la collecte des déchets. Avec des dépenses annuelles médianes d'environ 300 dollars par habitant, les Etats africains ont besoin de partenariats de ce type pour réaliser leur potentiel de développement.

Pour être durable, la croissance économique africaine ne doit plus profiter à quelques-uns tout en laissant la majorité sur le bord du chemin. Les stratégies de développement ne doivent pas se limiter à résister aux crises comme celle que nous connaissons avec le COVID-19. Le développement de produits innovants destinés aux Africains les plus démunis constitue une voie plus prévisible, plus inclusive et plus durable vers la prospérité pour des centaines de millions de personnes. La crise actuelle le montre, la réussite du continent passe par la recherche de la prospérité pour tous.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MOVEE Women League Comes to Amb. Kemayah's defense

The National Women League of the Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE) has described as unnecessary attacks against their political leader, Ambassador Dee Maxwell SaahKemayah by people who they claimed are opposed to his nomination as foreign Minister of Liberia.

Since his nomination by President George Weah, there have been series of allegation ranging from misappropriation to sexual

maligning people's character only because the person is preferred for a public position that another person thought they could get.

"We believe that such a practice is not only dangerous to our democracy but also seriously undermines the presidency. When the President makes a decision through nomination and a few handful of people for selfish reason clique to impugn on the person's character and reputation is unfortunate and it needs to stop immediately," the

on her purported sexual harassment.

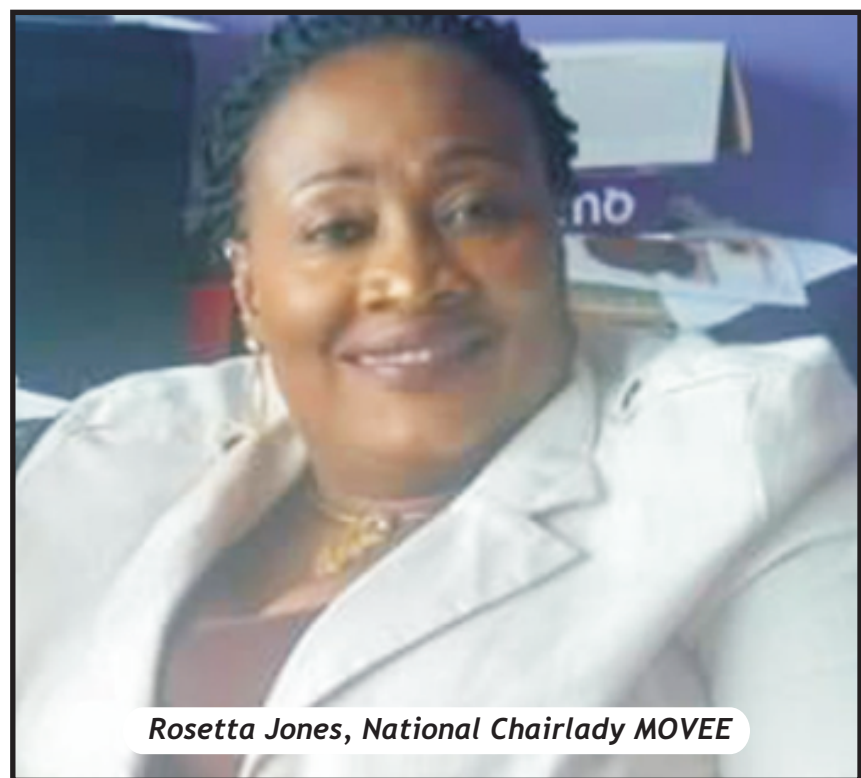
Ms. Wilson alleges that Ambassador Kemayah asked her several times for kiss that she refused but suffered shock and emotional trauma that caused her to have a grand mal seizure which left her unconscious for three (3) days. She said the incident kept her away from work for almost a month due to physical, emotional and psychological trauma.

The MOVEE women group said such allegation appears mischievous and a strategy of a syndicate formatted purposely to besmear Amb. Kemayah's character because this is not in the nature of their political leader.

"We know him as a family man and statesman who has worked in the private, public & International arena with distinction and credibility. For more than 28 years wealthy of professional experience; Ambassador Kemayah has never done this; as it is absolutely not his nature & character. We therefore advise those behind this smear campaign to desist, or else we will soon begin naming and shaming so that President Weah and the Liberian people will know those in the habit of questioning his judgment," the group concluded.

Meanwhile, the MOVEE women group, however calls on all Liberians to support Amb. Kemayah describing him as a patriotic and dedicated national leader who has worked and continues to work for the good of this country.

"We are convened when confirm, Ambassador Kemayah will unconditionally discharge and effectively champion the shared foreign policy vision of His Excellency President Weah for the benefit of mama Liberia," the group notes.



Rosetta Jones, National Chairlady MOVEE

harassment.

"Regrettably, some of the people who are behind this smear campaign are group of selfish people, who in their thinking expected...President Weah to appoint them, on the contrary, the President appointed Amb. Kemayah," the women group said.

The group said the allegations trending in the media are backlash from President Weah's decision to nominate Amb. Kemayah.

The group opines that it takes serious exception to a new trend of politics of

women argued.

The political women group said the latest trending allegation from Ms. Wilson who claimed to have been sexually assaulted by Amb. Kemayah allegedly took place approximately nine months ago on the evening of January 8, 2020.

They noted that such allegation of sexual harassment coming at this time leaves rational people wondering why she kept quiet until the very day when Ambassador Kemayah was nominated as Foreign Minister designate before emailing him

# Rep. Enders wants CBL to account for LRD4 billion

By Bridgett Milton

Montserrado County Electoral district #6 Representative Rev. Dr. Samuel R. Enders has written the House of Representatives to invite the Deputy Governor for Economic Policy at the Central Bank of Liberia to provide reasons why the Bank continues to give mutilated bank notes to commercial banks for disbursement to customers when government has printed and brought into country LRD4 billion for the purpose of

distribution to customers.

He said this action on the part of the economic policy committee of the CBL is counterproductive to the government's Pro-Poor Agenda.

He added that the decision is also creating unnecessary burden and financial difficulty for citizens especially, the good people of electoral district #6, Montserrado County.

According to the lawmaker, many businesses are unable to



Repr. Rev. Dr. Samuel R. Enders

withdrawing mutilated banknotes circulating in the economy.

According to Rep. Enders, the 54th National Legislature, having authorized the Central Bank of Liberia to print four billion Liberian dollars through a resolution, he has observed, witnessed and received several complaints from the public that the Central Bank continues to give commercial banks mutilated Liberian banknotes for onward

pay their staff because money withdrawn from commercial banks are in bad shape, as workers receive salaries they are not able to spend, bringing upon them unnecessary hardship.

Rep. Enders also wants the CBL to come alone with full listing of commercial banks it has supplied the newly printed banknotes, include dates and amount released. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Sen. Brown wants vocational school for Maryland County

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Chair of the Senate Committee on Internal Affairs, Good Governance and Reconciliation, Senator J. Gbleh-bo Brown of Maryland County has submitted a Bill to the Liberian Senate titled "An act to create the Maryland Vocational Training Institute of 2020".

He stressed that the vocational school will provide empowerment through technical and vocational training to the youth of Maryland, particularly and citizens in Southeast Liberia generally.

In a communication accompanying the Bill, Sen. Brown said the proposed vocational school will also

provide crucial avenues for social equality, inclusion and sustainable development through self-employment entrepreneurship.

He said the Maryland Vocational Institute Act of 2020 is in line with government policy of giving power to the people with wherewithal to take control of their destinies thru quality

education and well-targeted investments in human capital development.

According to him, government recognizes that the transition towards inclusive growth will not be realized unless human capabilities are enhanced and that quality education and vocational training are improved to match the demands of the labor market.

He added that Maryland County has two concessions - Cavalla River Corporation and the Maryland Oil Palm Corporation, saying the youth of Liberia cannot actively participate because they lack requisite skills, which leads to companies bringing in

foreigners to work.

Sen. Brown continue that the proposed institution will be based in Pleebo (District#2) because it is the central of the county with economic activities, concessions and population.

He pointed out that the youth constitutes nearly half of Liberia's workforce but they are exposed to high unemployment.

Senator J. Milton Teahjay of Sinoe County made a motion, accepting the communication and the Bill, which were subsequently sent to the Senate Committee on Education to report to plenary in a week. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

# First time voters overwhelm registration centers

By Emmanuel Mondaye

**Z**ealous potential first-time voters and others who may have lost their previous voting cards seem to be overwhelming the National Elections Commission (NEC's) Voters Roll Update (VRU) centers across Montserrado County, one of the most politically charged counties in the pending 8 December

replacement process would last for three days at every voting precinct.

Among those trooping at voter roll update centers are voters who participated in the 2017 general and presidential elections that saw a peaceful transition of power from former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to former football legend President George Manneh Weah, but later misplaced their

past election, but are going to different centers that do not have records for them.

Dennis C. P. Waka, a social advocate who is closely monitoring the Voter Roll Update exercises, tells this paper that at one center in Central Monrovia that the NEC needs to release further information to educate voters to go to where they registered during the past elections in



2020 senatorial polls.

The turnout in drove of young voters turning 18 only highlight the tension that is associated with this year's senatorial mid-term election.

Only those presenting valid voter cards will be permitted by the NEC to cast their ballots this December across the 15 counties, and so many in their hundreds seem to be trooping at various centers to obtain their voter cards early.

According to official information released by the National Elections Commission, the voter cards

cards.

Several voter roll update centers visited by the NewDawn newspaper in Montserrado County were observed to be overcrowded with people, especially women and the elderly to obtain their lost voter cards.

The crowd seems to put pressure on workers at some VRU centers to double up their efforts in replacing lost voter cards.

This paper further observes that some of those seeking replacement of their lost cards did not go to the same centers that registered them during the

order to replace their cards.

Waka notes that NEC workers conducting the VRU

process had to temporarily stop the process to ensure that only those who previously registered at a particular center were allowed in the line.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Cont'd from page 7

## Cuttington University

and we have not seen any signs of payment so we want to let the government and Cuttington know that if we can't get our money, there will be no operation of the school," Emmanuel Harris, one of the aggrieved workers says.

According to him, the university's president Dr. Brown is living the best life and his children are eating on time, but he has abandoned the welfare of Workers of the institution which has left them in complete financial difficulties.

"If Dr. Brown doesn't give our money, we will not leave from this gate. We will continue to sit here until our money is paid," Mr. Harris concludes.

Also speaking, Papa Gaye, a driver at the school says if the school gives them five

months salaries, they will accept it. However, he notes that if nothing is done, they will continue to disrupt the activities of the school.

"Since he came here we hardly get what we work for, and it is very much disappointing that an educated man like him will want to abuse the Labor Law of our country in such manner," he Gaye says.

Mr. Gaye maintains that the aggrieved protesters will remain resolute in their decision until Cuttington University administration adheres to their concerns.

He warns that failure on the part of the school authorities to meet up with this demand, they will engage into something else that will force the administrators to pay their money.

Meanwhile, Dr. Brown has welcomed the protest and asked the aggrieved staff to remain peaceful in the process.

"No sound minded person will keep working without pay, if I were not in this position that I am serving, myself would join you to protest because it's a complete bad labor practice," he says.

The CU president promises to reach Monrovia with the concern of the workers, hoping to return with their money.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

# NEC warns politicians

Cont'd from page 7

of Representatives, notifying the Commission of the existence of two vacancies occasioned by the death of the late Representatives Jay NagbeSloh of District #2, Sinoe County, and Munah Pelham Youngblood of District #9, Montserrado County, respectively.

She explains that pursuant to Article 37 of the Constitution of Liberia, which requires the NEC to conduct by-election within 90 days of notification, the two pending by-elections will be held on December 8, 2020, along with the midterm senatorial election and Referendum, adding the Commission will shortly release information to the Candidate nomination period for the by-elections.

Liberians are gearing up for these elections at the time the COVID-19 pandemic is still in the country. The NEC says it is

collaborating with health authorities to ensure protection for its staff and the public.

"Accordingly, citizens are advised to observe all COVID-19 prevention protocols, including the washing of hands, wearing of masks and social distancing in the queues as they go to the VRU Centers."

The Commission announces that it has accredited 1,747 observers for the VRU exercise, which includes seven international organizations and 15 national organizations besides 58 media observers.

The NEC also warns that acts of violence are unacceptable, calling on Liberians involved in such outrageous conducts to desist forthwith. The NEC notes that Chapter 10 of the NEW Elections Law provides for criminal penalties for acts of electoral violence.

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### REVENUE NOTICE

**Topic: Enforcement of Customs Brokers License**  
**Attention: Customs Brokerage Firms and Individual Customs Brokers**

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) hereby announces that effective October 1, 2020, only Customs Brokerage firms and/or individual Customs Brokers that are in possession of a valid and current license issued by the LRA is authorized to do clearing and forwarding business within the Republic of Liberia.

Access to the LRA Customs Department System (ASYCUDA World) will be automatically unavailable to any Broker or Brokerage Firm who license has expired. In addition to the above action, any person found in violation of their license issued under the authority of the Liberia Revenue Authority will be subject to further sanctions as enshrined in the Regulation.

This directive is in accordance with sections 3.1, 3.2 5.0 & 16.0 of the Regulation Concerning Customs Brokers Licensing and Administration, Regulation Requirements and Procedures promulgated by the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) and Published by Authority of the Government of Liberia in the Liberia Official Gazette on June 7, 2017.

All ports users including security, customs officers, port personnel and the public are kindly requested to report violators to the LRA through the Office of Professional Responsibility Section using the following numbers: 0888572572/0770572572 or by email to [oprs@lra.gov.lr](mailto:oprs@lra.gov.lr).

Signed:  
**Thomas Doe Nah**  
 Commissioner General  
 Liberia Revenue Authority

# Brazilian govt backs Neymar in racism row



**B**razil's government sent its support to Neymar Tuesday after he was red-carded for a fight in a Ligue 1 match in France, condemning the "racism" that triggered the brawl.

The Paris Saint-Germain

star is facing punishment by the French league's disciplinary commission after slapping defender Alvaro Gonzalez near the end of PSG's 1-0 loss to Marseille Sunday, accusing the Spaniard of calling him a "monkey."

Gonzalez denies the

accusation. But in Neymar's native Brazil, the ministry responsible for human rights issues said it stood behind the world's most expensive footballer.

"In the face of yet another case of racism that has come to the surface in sport, the ministry of women, the family and human rights publicly voices its solidarity with the player Neymar Jr," the ministry said in a statement. "Racism is a crime."

The statement came after Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Monday retweeted Neymar's own version of events.

The Brazilian striker slapped Gonzalez on the back of the head near the end of Sunday's match, sparking a mass brawl that ended with five players sent off, including Neymar.

He now faces a potential multi-match suspension, as does Gonzalez, if league officials find Neymar's accusation is true.

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# Messi scores right-footed rocket as first goal under Koeman

**L**ionel Messi scored twice on Wednesday as Barcelona beat second-division Girona 3-1 in a preseason friendly.

Messi helped set up Philippe Coutinho, back from his loan at Bayern Munich, for the first goal after 21 minutes.

The Argentine scored his first after 45 minutes, spinning on the edge of the penalty area and drilling a shot in off the base of the far

post. He scored his second, with a deflected shot, after 50 minutes.

He went off after an hour.

Messi only returned to training at the start of last week after saying he wanted to leave the club.

Messi started Barcelona's first friendly on Saturday, playing 45 minutes without scoring in a 3-1 victory over third-tier Gimnastica Tarragona.

Earlier on Wednesday, La



Liga president Javier Tebas said he was pleased Messi had stayed at Barcelona.

"Messi is important for our competition," said Tebas, at an event to promote the Liga sticker collection. "He is a player who was born in our competition... and hopefully he will finish his career in our league."

Barcelona used 20 players in Wednesday's game at the club's training centre but neither Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez

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