

Vote YES To All Propositions In The

Referendum

- ✓ CHANGE IN THE DATE OF GENERAL ELECTIONS [From October To November]
- ✓ REDUCTION IN THE TENURE OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT [6 YRS TO 5 YRS]
- ✓ DUAL CITIZENSHIP
- ✓ SENATORS [9 YRS TO 7 YRS] ✓ REPRESENTATIVES (6 YRS TO 5 YRS)

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-former foreign minister urges Liberians



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Gbarpolu: Voter education not reaching all the voters

By D. Solomon Tayblah (LMD Fellow)

Uncertainty over the referendum continues to grow as voters find it increasingly difficult to understand what they are expected to vote on, and officials try to bring some clarity on whether or not the referendum will even take place on December 8.

The national referendum to be held on December 8
On November 18, the Supreme Court of Liberia instructed the National Elections Commission (NEC) to print separate ballots for each of the proposition in the national referendum, as a result of a petition filed by the opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP). The

Addressing a news conference in Monrovia, Minister McGill said: "As you know, as soon as the Supreme Court came up with its ruling, people were celebrating; they said the referendum was canceled; the referendum is not canceled." He said that the National Elections Commission is already printing ballots for the referendum in line with the Supreme Court's ruling.

Solicitor-General Cllr. Saymah Syrenious Cephus, said that there will be a separate ballot paper for each of the Constitution's articles proposed for the amendment, and stated that "the referendum is on course."

Voters ask more education

Senior Electoral Magistrate of Gbarpolu county, Ernest Mccay, said that even though citizens are persistently complaining of poor education on the voting process, there is currently a "massive awareness" campaign on both the elections and the referendum.

But acting chief of Gaynimah town in Bopolu district, Gbarpolu county, Willie Johnson, noted that many voters are illiterate, including those voting for first time, and they may not clearly understand the various propositions in the referendum in order to make informed decisions.

During a week-long tour of towns and villages in the county, Chief Johnson explained that since the beginning of the electoral process, he has only heard that polls will held on December 8, but that there has never been civic and voter education in his town.



Esther Kollie of Gaynimah will vote for the first time, but has no information about the process

Esther Kollie of Gaynimah town, who is voting for the first time, said that the entire process is a mystery to her, as no one told her anything about what she is expected to do on December 8. Speaking of the referendum, she is even more confused. "Even my parents don't know what you are talking about," she told our reporter when she was asked about the referendum. "I thought you have come to explain to us", she told the reporter.

ruling made many to believe that the entire referendum was canceled, however, the Executive Mansion, seat of the Liberian Presidency has maintained the referendum will be held on December 8, 2020 as planned.

Liberians are expected at the voting booths on December 8 to cast ballots in the race for the 15 Senate seats and two vacated seats in the House of Representatives. In addition, the NEC began organizing for the holding of the national referendum on the same day with the legislative elections, but a recent ruling by the Supreme Court complicated the matters even further.

SunnieWennie, the coordinator for people living with disabilities in Gbarpolu county, emphasized that there is a pronounced lack of awareness among voters who do not fully understand much about the referendum. He placed the blame on the central government due to failure to allocate sufficient and timely funds for the voter awareness campaign.

Mr. Wennie fears that the confusion may lead to potential violence if authorities, such as the National Elections Commission, do not take immediate steps to properly educate the voters. He called on the government to find remedy to the situation to avoid the country reverting to crisis.



Acting chief of Gaynimah town Willie Johnson, says that voters have not been educated on the referendum

On November 23, Liberia's Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel F. McGill, stated that the referendum will be held as scheduled.

The Chairperson for the Liberia Motorcycle Transport Union branch in Gbarpolu County, Sekou Kromah, said that considering that youths are the majority population of the country, and most of them are registered voters, adequate education on the referendum should be carried out to limit the number of invalid votes when the ballots are tallied.

Senator Jallah, who is seeking re-election, agreed that not much has been done in educating the electorate about the pending referendum. Senate candidate Allen Gbowee stressed that the elections are very critical to sustaining a peaceful democracy in Liberia and that if the referendum is held, massive awareness should have been conducted a year prior to the vote.

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EDITORIAL

COVID-19 and the senatorial election

IF THE CURRENT post-election atmosphere in the United States of America that has seen serious surge in the coronavirus pandemic across several states with daily death toll hitting nearly a million is something to gauge, then Liberians should exercise every caution during this campaign period leading to the actual poll on December 8, 2020 to avoid a resurgence of the virus in the country.

PARTICULARLY LAST WEEKEND saw mass gathering of partisans and supporters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change here at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville City outside Monrovia to officially launch its campaign for the senatorial and representatives' by-elections. Party loyalists draped in predominantly blue and white T-shirts matched by red and blue berets converged from various parts of Monrovia and outside the capital for the launch clustering the stadium to capacity.

JUST DAYS BEFORE, ON Wednesday, 18 November Bomi County Disatrick#1 Representative also Independent Senatorial Candidate Edwin Melvin Snowe, who had been campaigning in his county, reportedly tested positive of the virus and immediately went into self-quarantine at his residence though according to him, he had never felt any signs and symptoms.

REP. SNOWE, A senior member of the ECOWAS Parliament, was expected to have attended a meeting in Lome, Togo when he went for routine test at the government facility here and was subsequently pronounced positive, effectively banning him from traveling abroad.

WITH BARELY TWO weeks before actual voting day on December 8th, the need for all Liberians, particularly partisans and supporters of rival parties and candidates to exercise caution and ensure full compliance of all health measures cannot be over emphasized. We don't want a scenario in which after the poll this country could slip back to compulsory lockdown, as we experienced before.

AND THIS MAY likely happen, if care is not taken now, especially as we prepare to celebrate Christmas after the elections that would be characterized by victory euphoria from the poll.

LIBERIA'S MINISTER OF Health Doctor Wilhelmina Jallah, addressing a press briefing in Monrovia last week disclosed re-emergence of the virus, particularly in Montserrado County and elsewhere in the country, stressing strict adherence to all health protocols including wearing nose mask, social distancing and regular hands washing, among others.

ENFORCING THESE REGULATIONS should not only be left with health authorities along; political party leaders and candidates equally have a responsibility to educate their followers by wearing masks in public and observing social distancing themselves.

THESE ELECTIONS WILL come and pass, but how we conduct ourselves as a nation importantly, amid the global pandemic would go a long way in determining our continuous stability health-wise, politically and economically.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT everyone takes cue from Rep. Snowe, who should have been out there campaigning, but is now constrained to self-quarantine for two weeks before being cleared by the Health Ministry to resume normal public activity, pray God that he wouldn't miss the election.

COMMENTARY

By Hans-werner Sinn

Successful Immigration and the New German Vaccine

BioNTech's new-model RNA-based vaccine has emerged as the leading contender to bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic, possibly within the coming year. Pioneered by a Turkish-German couple whose parents immigrated to Germany in the 1960s, the breakthrough's symbolic importance matches its practical value.

MUNICH - The world took note when the German start-up BioNTech announced its breakthrough in the development of a new type of vaccine to combat COVID-19. After testing tens of thousands of people, BioNTech's vaccine has been shown to be 95% effective in providing protection for those who would otherwise have been infected. The company was the first to apply for emergency use authorization for a coronavirus vaccine in the United States, and it has announced that it will soon take similar steps in Europe.

Anti-viral vaccines are usually made with devitalized viral materials fabricated outside the body, but BioNTech has pursued a new method of injecting genetically modified RNA into the patient. This prompts the patient's cells to produce a characteristic protein of the relevant SARS-CoV-2 virus themselves, enabling the body's immune system to build up an effective response before it encounters the real virus.

The great advantage of this approach is that it allows for the production of more than one billion vaccine doses within the space of just a few months. It is also highly safe, because the modified RNA can survive only at a very low temperature, and quickly degrades in the body once it has performed its job. Any subsequent damage to the body is therefore extremely unlikely.

In close cooperation with the US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, BioNTech's success augurs a rapid uptake of widespread vaccination in Europe and the United States. Indeed, delivery contracts for millions of doses of the vaccine are already in place. And it is encouraging that the US drug-maker Moderna has also announced quantitatively similar results in its trials, using a closely related process involving a slightly more stable RNA variant.

More broadly, many other companies are advancing the frontier of next-generation RNA-based vaccines. Among these is CureVac, a company based in the German town of Tübingen, which has invented a new rapid-programming process for RNA that promises to be widely applicable.

Thanks to these new technologies, the world will likely be freed from the scourge of COVID-19 sometime in 2021 or 2022. Once again, we will be able to eat out and go to the theater without worries; private weddings and parties will no longer be cause for concern. The airline and travel industries will quickly return to normal, and the global economy will be revitalized after a long period of lockdown-induced paralysis.

A major difference is that we will emerge with a completely new pharmaceutical

industry, one that promises to deliver extremely effective vaccines against numerous other infectious diseases. Moreover, RNA can, in principle, be programmed in such a way as to produce antibodies against specific types of cancer, promising forms of treatment that are far gentler than chemotherapy.

At BioNTech, the pioneers of the new RNA-based approach to drug development are Ugur Sahin and Özlem Türeci, a couple specializing in oncology and genetic research. Sahin, who holds a chair in experimental oncology at the University of Mainz, is one of the world's top researchers in the study of personalized vaccines for cancer immunotherapy. Both are German citizens born to Turkish immigrants who came to the country decades ago.

Sahin and Türeci are prime examples of the successful integration of immigrants - including those from Turkey - into German society. They managed not only to gain a foothold in Germany but to thrive, thanks to hard work, an entrepreneurial spirit, and strong cultural traditions.

BioNTech's story shows that successful immigration is about more than welfare magnetism. Managed properly, immigration is a key source of new blood and fresh ideas for an aging society.

It is worth recalling that Germany's pharmaceutical industry was one of the earliest manufacturers of the contraceptive pill, starting in the 1960s. No other country embraced this method of contraception more comprehensively. As a consequence, however, the German fertility rate had fallen sharply by the early 1970s - six years before Italy experienced a similar decline, ten years before Spain did, and 20 years before Poland did.

Germany has been paying the price for this early pharmaceutical success. Its largest population cohort comprises people in their mid-50s, who were born just before the pill-induced drop in birthrates. All of the subsequent generational cohorts have steadily shrunk. Under these demographic conditions, stagnation and decline would be inevitable without immigration. In fact, Germany now needs a continuous inflow of migrants just to fill the population gap that its earlier pharmaceutical successes has caused. Fittingly, Germany's pharmaceutical industry is achieving international acclaim thanks to the innovative work of two children of immigrants who were lured to the country by the demographic vacuum to which the industry itself contributed. Sahin and Türeci are pioneers in an area of genetic research that now promises to give a new breath of life to the pharmaceutical industry, the European economy, and the entire world.

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Lord, da whatin I know sef?

Dear Father:

Hmmm, I say da whatin I know sef about de people voting bisnay? Ehn they say we coming vote to change our village Oracle too. Let dem bring it anythin they bring me I will jus say yes!

Da whatin you saying yes to my son?

Father, me da everythin they will geh on de paper oo. Yes, Father everything theygeh on depaper. Ehn they say wemoh vote to change, da de change we wanna. So yes for change.

Hmm, dis one dey confused me. Da whatinyor changing na?

Father, our big, big people say we moh vote to change plenty tin: de time our Preseden will stay in power, de time our chiefs from de Traditional Council will also stay in power and plenty other tins like de people who born here and leave our village to go to another village to be citizen there? You don't mean it?

Yes, oh Father. Da de truth me I talking so oo. In fact, da whatin I know sef, I talking plenty here so.

Bor de other people na agreefigh? I thought they say yor Elders from de Palaver Hut say de people from de Voting House moh take da one from inside?

Aah Father, da de tin we hear figh, figh. Bor de tin we hearing na, da different tin oo.

So, whatin different de people na bring inside again?

Father, de people who are in de Castle right na say, de Elders na say so oo. They say, de Elder dem say all de tin de people put inside doing de time de people dem go around de village to ask our people whatin they wan see change in our village Oracle moh all be inside.

Kayee! Den da na small tin oo

Yes, oo Father. Bor you na hear de one de people talking sef? They say, de time too short for de people in de village to go do voting on da one, so they wna de tin to be like da for de people to vote.

Um, dis one da na small noise oo.

Bor Father, da whatin I know sef. If we say, we mohna do it now wha time we will do it na? b'cause anybody who com to power wen they wan do it, we all will still hear noise inside. So, if it lee with my one, I will say we mohjus do it one and for all.

Hmmm, my son you na know whatin behind dis yor tin here oo.

Father, ehn da de tin bisnay, I say whatin I knowsef. B'causede tin is if we likey, or we nalikey de people will stay do de tin they wan to do eh. We inside.

Hmm, anyway let talk different tin ya. They say no money in de village, da true?

Father, da de one you talking slow like da. You go to de bank for yor own money sef, is like you begging for it.

Bor, I hear some con-man dem using it na to lie to de girl demoo-especially de cheap, cheap one dem.

Yes, oo, Father da true. Dis broke, broke one dem can jus be lying to de people children wen they ask dem for money. "Baby ehn you know, no money in de bank. I say I wen to da place de whole day." Da so, so grade. Sommohdemnageh 5 dalla. They jus hiding behind dis no money in de bank tin to cover their cheapness.

I know rite!

Yes oo Father, na fun. It lee with sommohdem, dis tin moh be like dis till Christmas come and pass-those cheap, cheap one dem you see so. Bor da de gehdemna wan mean dem da all. If da me I will sa go wen money come in de bank den we will continue from de place we stop.

See, yor owner wahala.

Hahaha, I tire ya! Da whatin I know sef.

NEC trains party agents, physically-challenged persons

The Political Affairs and Gender Sections of the National Elections Commission (NEC) has commenced the last in a series of six separate Training of Trainers for Political Party Poll-Watchers and Tactile Ballot Guide workshops for members of the Disabled Community from five counties held in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

The Political Party agents and Gender Training workshops in Buchanan City are in collaboration with the Peace Building Office in Liberia, the United Nations Development Program, and the National Democratic Institute, with funds from the United States Agency for International Development, USAID.

Nearly 100 Party Agents and

and Peace Building Office decided to organize series of training of trainers' workshops to properly educate parties and independent candidates' agents to properly serve on Election Day.

He challenged both party agents and Disabled Community Representatives on Tactile Ballot Guide training to always serve as ambassadors for peace, rather than instigate conflicts, adding, in conflict there are no winners, only destruction of hospitals, schools and lives, leading to breakdown of law and order.

The Program Coordinator of UNDP Roosevelt Zazay said, the long-standing partnership with the NEC since 2011 is largely to strengthen the capacity of the Commission first, and to sustain



Independent Candidates from Grand Kru, Maryland, Sinoe, Rivercess and Bomi counties are attending the Polling and Counting Procedures workshop, while 34 persons representing Disabled Communities from Rivercess, Sinoe, Grand Kru, Bong and host Grand Bassa, are attending the tactile ballot guide workshop, respectively.

NEC Commissioner Boakai A. Dukuly, with oversight on Political Affairs, said unless party agents are fully trained to understand the laws of elections and rules guiding polling and counting procedures, the current peace in Liberia would always face threat.

Commissioner Dukuly said to avoid violence during the 8 December 2020 elections, the NEC and partners, UNDP

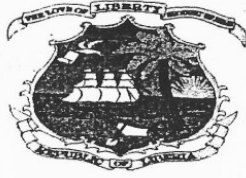
peace through regular conducts of free, fair, credible, and transparent elections throughout the country.

Mr. Zazay said the gender and party agents training is intended to adequately educate them to make informed decisions, as they vote in the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Election, National Referendum and two representative by-elections in Montserrado and Sinoe counties.

The Political Affairs and Gender Sections of the NEC over the last two weeks conducted two separate workshops simultaneously for 200 party agents and 68 disabled members in Ganta and Tubmanburg, respectively, funded by UNDP, National Democratic Institution, and USAID.

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"JOINT RESOLUTION #003/2020 ADOPTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 54TH LEGISLATURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AUTHORIZING THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2020 SENATORIAL ELECTION AND REFERENDUM TO DECEMBER 8, 2020"



The Liberian Senate
CAPITOL BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL, MONROVIA, LIBERIA
WEST AFRICA

-2020-

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

SCHEDULE OF JOINT RESOLUTION #003/2020 ENTITLED:

"JOINT RESOLUTION #003/2020 ADOPTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 54TH LEGISLATURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AUTHORIZING THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2020 SENATORIAL ELECTION AND REFERENDUM TO DECEMBER 8, 2020"

PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA FOR EXECUTIVE APPROVAL.

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ A.D. 2020 AT THE HOUR OF _____

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 54TH LEGISLATURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AUTHORIZING THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2020 SENATORIAL ELECTION AND REFERENDUM TO DECEMBER 8, 2020

WHEREAS, Article 83(a) of the Constitution provides that voting for the President Vice President, members of the Senate and members of the House of Representatives shall be conducted throughout the Republic on the second Tuesday in October of each year; which is 13 October of this year (2020);

RECALLING, that pursuant to Article 91 of the Constitution regarding amendments to the Constitution, the Legislature made a certain proposals for amendments to the Constitution, one of which amendments is the provision for dual citizenship (amendment to "Chapter IV-Citizenship" of the Constitution), which amendments are scheduled by the National Elections Commission (the "NEC") to be submitted for Referendum on the same date as the 2020 Senatorial Election;

CONSCIOUS, that on May 7, 2020 the NEC wrote the President of Liberia, His Excellency George Manneh Weah, informing the President that given the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the procurement of election materials and the preparations for the election and referendum, it was not possible to conduct the Senatorial Election and the Referendum on October 13, 2020-the constitutionally mandated date for the Senatorial Election and thereupon requested for the postponement of the Senatorial Election and Referendum to a new date of which similar letters were sent to the Senate and the House of Representatives respectively;

MINDFUL, that the Legislature invited stakeholders including

political parties to public hearings, and that the NEC and political parties have agreed to a proposed new date for the implementation of programs and Activities by the NEC for the election and referendum to be held on December 8, 2020; and

COGNIZANT, that the President, in recognition of the implication of this request on the constitution, sent communications to the Senate and the House of Representatives respectively for their necessary action in the premises as it was done in 2014, when the Senatorial Election was postponed from October 2014 to December 2014 because of the effects of the Ebola Virus Disease ("EVD") epidemic. That postponement was done through a joint Resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and approved by the President of Liberia.

NOW THEREFORE, it is resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled;


1. That due to the outbreak and effect of COVID-19 including financial difficulties arising there from in early 2020 which constrained funding for the 2020 Senatorial Election and the Referendum, the Senatorial Election and Referendum scheduled for October 13, 2020 is hereby postponed to Tuesday, December 8, 2020 in order to conduct free, fair transparent and credible Election; thereby having the elected Senators to be seated on the second working Monday of January 2021 as mandated by the Constitution.
2. That the appropriation made by the Legislature for the conduct of the Senatorial Election and Referendum for December 8, 2020 shall be adhered to, as quickly as reasonably practical, and that the Executive shall make the funds immediately available so as to ensure that no delay or interruption of the election and referendum will be precipitated by the unavailability of funding.
3. That given the competitive bidding requirements of the Public Procurement Law and the urgency attached thereto, the Public Procurement and concession Commission (PPCC) shall conduct bidding process expeditiously in order to curtail the delay in procuring election material for 2020 Senatorial Election and Referendum for December 8, 2020.
4. That Considering that the authenticity and credibility of the 2017 FRR continues to be a source of speculation by the political parties and Civil Society Organizations involved with the electoral process, a clean-up process of the 2017 FRR shall be conducted by NEC with the involvement of political parties and other stakeholders in order to enhance the legitimacy and authenticity of the 2017 FRR for use for the 2020 Senatorial Election and Referendum.
5. That the voter Registration Update (VRU) shall be conducted for the 2020 Senatorial Election and Referendum. That without diminishing the Constitutional and Statutory powers, authority and functions of the NEC, the NEC shall employ and use the inter-party Consultative Committee ("IPPC") as a functional mechanism for consultations with Political Parties while also employing the services of technicians from Political Parties for the cleaning up of the 2017 FRR and VRU for the 2020 Senatorial Election and Referendum. NEC shall recognize and certify this mechanism to ensure the credibility of the VRU.
6. That due to the special circumstances appertaining to the 2020 Senatorial election and Referendum, the NEC shall give a written progress report every thirty (30) days to the Legislature, and physically appear to react to concerns of the Legislature, so as to ensure that all problems faced by the NEC will be promptly resolved and that the Senatorial election and Referendum will be held on December 8, 2020.
7. That the NEC shall continue its engagement with the Ministry of Health and the National Public Health Institute, utilize their expertise and advice to ensure that whatever the impact of Covid-19 may be, it will not disturb or interrupt the process leading to the Senatorial election and Referendum on December 8, 2020.
8. That this postponement of the 2020 Senatorial election from the constitutionally-mandated date of the second Tuesday of October of 2020 (October 13) to December 8, 2020 shall not be used as a precedence for the postponement of any future election.

DONE THIS 5th DAY OF JUNE A.D. 2020 AND OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY THIRD YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC, CAPITOL BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL, MONROVIA, LIBERIA

SIGNED:

Senator Saah H. Joseph
Montserrado County

Senator Abe Darius Dillon
Montserrado County

THE

LIBERIA **OFFICIAL**
GAZETTE

ON THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM - 2020

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NO. 52

EXTRAORDINARY

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA ANNOUNCES:

That PURSUANT to Joint Resolution Leg-002/2019 adopted September 30, 2019 by the Senate and House of Representatives of the 54th Legislature of the Republic of Liberia, proposing a Constitutional Referendum to Amend Articles 28, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, & 83 (a) and (c) of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, which was approved by the President of Liberia on October 4, 2019, and further published and printed into handbills on October 4, 2019; and,

In CONSONANCE, with Chapter XII, Article 91 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, which provides for the holding of a Referendum to be conducted by the Elections Commission not sooner than one year after the action of the Legislature; and,

CONSISTENT with Article 92 of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia which states: "Proposed Constitutional amendment shall be accompanied by statements setting forth the reasons therefor and shall be published in the Official Gazette and made known to the People through the information services of the Republic. If more than one proposed amendment is to be voted upon in a referendum they shall be submitted in such manner that the people may vote for or against them separately"

NOW THEREFORE, THIS OFFICIAL GAZETTE IS HEREBY ORDERED TO BE RELEASED, AND IS RELEASED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW, FOR THE PURPOSES OF PROVIDING CLEAR, CORRECT AND ADEQUATE INFORMATION TO THE VOTING PUBLIC, ABOUT THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE SAID PUBLIC FOR A REFERENDUM VOTE, SCHEDULE TO BE HELD THROUGHOUT THE REPUBLIC ON TUESDAY, FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, AHEAD OF THE GENERAL LEGISLATIVE AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS; AND, THE FOLLOWING SPECIMEN SET OUT THE THREE (3) BALLOT MEASURES TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORS ON THE DAY OF THE REFERENDUM, AND WHICH PROVIDE FULL EXPLANATION ON THE PURPOSE OF EACH BALLOT MEASURE, AS WELL AS, THE IMPLICATION AND EFFECT FOR A "YES" OR "NO" VOTE, FOR EACH MEASURE

BALLOT MEASURES – 1

PROPOSITION 1: To amend Article 28 of the Constitution to provide for the inalienability of the citizenship of natural born citizens of Liberia (Dual Citizenship)

(proposed to be placed on the ballot paper by the Legislature)

Summary

To amend Article 28 so that any person, one of whose parent is a citizen of Liberia at the time of the person birth, shall be a citizen of Liberia without having to decide at age 18; and also to provide for dual citizenship.

Analysis - To afford the Liberian voters the opportunity to decide whether any person can be a natural born citizen of Liberia when either one of his or her parent is a Liberian citizen; and whether a Liberian can hold different citizenship.

As a consequence of the civil war, hundreds of Liberian fled Liberia as refugees, assumed residency in other countries and obtained citizenship of other countries. Many obtained citizenship because that was the only way for them to get certain jobs or to enjoy certain opportunities, such as education. Most of these Liberians also had children and continue to have children, who are automatically citizens of the countries of their birth.

Whatever the circumstance of these Liberians may be, one thing that is certain is that their loyalty to their motherland remains unquestionable; they continue to provide support to relatives and friends and to remain connected to their motherland through financial remittances. They continue to cling to the belief that they will be able to enjoy all the rights and privileges of Liberian citizenship, such as inheriting real property from their parents and being able to return to their motherland and be accepted and regarded as natural born citizens, not as foreigners. This amendment of the Constitution will enthruse all natural born Liberians to invest in Liberia and will give them hope of a permanent home in their motherland. To ensure that the loyalty of these Liberians will not be questioned, they are prohibited from holding certain positions in the Government of Liberia.

Text of the Proposed Amendment

Article 28 which currently reads , *“Any person, at least one of whose parents was a citizen of Liberia at the time of the person’s birth, shall be a citizen of Liberia; provided that any such person shall upon reaching maturity renounce any other citizenship acquired by virtue of one parent being a citizen of another country. No citizen of the Republic shall be deprived of citizenship or nationality except as provided by law; and no*

Will be amended to read: *“Any person, at least one of whose parents was a citizen of Liberia at the time of the person’s birth, shall be a natural born citizen of Liberia; a natural born citizen’s right to citizenship of Liberia is inherent and inalienable; no law shall be enacted or regulation promulgated which deprived a natural born citizen of the Republic of his/her citizenship right; and any law or regulation which alienates or deprived a natural born citizen of his/her Liberian citizenship right is null and void ab initio.*

a natural born citizen of Liberia may hold another/additional citizenship but shall not qualify for elected national or public service positions and the following appointive positions:

. Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Liberia;

. Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers;

. All Heads of Autonomous Commissions, Agencies and Non-academic/Research/Scientific Institutions;

. Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiaries; and

. Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia

A Liberian with dual citizenship shall have certain rights, including the right to hold elected national or public service positions and all appointive positions if he relinquishes the other citizenship.

The Legislature shall enact laws on the process by which natural born citizens of Liberia who have obtained additional citizenship, will maintain all of the rights pertaining to their Liberian citizenship.

What Your Vote Means

YES

A YES Vote on this Measure means: You have agreed that a person, at least one of whose parents was a citizen at the time of the person’s birth, shall be a natural born citizen of Liberia. Such person does not have to reach the age of maturity to decide his/her citizenship. Also, you have agreed that a natural born citizen of Liberia may hold another citizenship, but shall not qualify for elected national or public service positions and the above listed appointive positions.

NO

A NO Vote on this Measure means: The Constitutional provision shall not change but will remain in its current form.

BALLOT MEASURES – 2

PROPOSITION 2: Reduction of Tenure of the President, the Vice President & Members of the Legislature

(proposed to be placed on the ballot paper by the Legislature)

To amend Article 45 of the Constitution to provide for three to reduce the term of Senators from nine (9) years to seven (7) years

Summary - To amend Article 45 of the Constitution so that the term of Senators is reduce from nine (9) years to seven (7) years.

Analysis - To afford the Liberian voters the opportunity to decide whether Senators should serve for seven years instead of nine years. The current nine-year term for a Senator is too long. It is so long that a child born in the year in which a Senator is first inducted into office will be eligible to vote (18 years) when that Senator's second term expires. A long term does not incentivize a Senator to perform well, especially during his second term. Reducing the term to seven (7) years therefore seems appropriate to address those concerns.

Text of the Proposed Amendment

Article 45 which currently reads, "The Senate shall be composed of Senators elected for a term of nine years by the registered voters in each of the counties, but a Senator elected in a by-election to fill a vacancy created by death, resignation, expulsion or otherwise, shall be so elected to serve only the remainder of the unexpired term of office. Each county shall elect two Senators and each Senator shall have one vote in the Senate. Senators shall be eligible for re-election".

Will be amended to read: "The Senate shall be composed of Senators elected for a term of seven (7) years by the registered voters in each of the counties, but a Senator elected in a by-election to fill a vacancy created by death, resignation, expulsion or otherwise, shall be so elected to serve only the remainder of the unexpired term of office. Each county shall elect two Senators and each Senator shall have one vote in the Senate. Senators shall be eligible for re-election. Immediately upon the passage of this amendment and its printing into handbills, all Senators shall be elected for the term of seven (7) years".

To amend Article 47 of the Constitution to provide for election of a President Pro Tempore for a term of five years

Summary - To amend Article 47 of the Constitution so that the term of the President Pro Tempore is reduce from six (6) years to five (5) years.

Analysis - To afford the Liberian voters the opportunity to decide whether the President Pro Tempore should serve for five years instead of six years.

The term of office for the President Pro Tempore and other officers of the Senate should be the same as the term of office of the President and Members of the House of Representatives to be in harmony with the beginning of each Legislative Session.

Text of the Proposed Amendment

Article 47 which currently reads, "The Senate shall elect once every six years a President Pro Tempore who shall preside in the absence of the President of the Senate, and such other officers as shall ensure the proper functioning of the Senate. The President Pro Tempore and other officers so elected may be removed from office for cause by resolution of a two-thirds majority of the members of the Senate".

Will be amended to read: "The Senate shall elect once every five (5) years a President Pro Tempore who shall preside in the absence of the President of the Senate, and such other officers as shall ensure the proper functioning of the Senate. The President Pro Tempore and other officers so elected may be removed from office for cause by resolution of a two-thirds majority of the members of the Senate".

To amend Article 48 of the Constitution to provide for the reduction in the tenure of Members of the House of Representatives

Summary - To amend Article 48 of the Constitution so that the term of the Members of the House of Representatives is reduce from six (6) years to five (5) years.

Analysis - To afford the Liberian voters the opportunity to decide whether Members of the House of Representatives should serve for five years instead of six years.

Reduction of the term of office for the House of Representatives from six (6) years to five (5) years is necessary so that the term is the same as the term of office for the President of Liberia, which will be five (5) years instead of six (6) as provided for by Article 50 of the Constitution. In addition to this, the amendment takes into consideration that as the civil war caueds migration of citizens from counties other than Montserrado to Montserrado, the resident population densities of other counties have decreased. Consequently, the number of legislative constituencies based on population densities of counties, as envisaged by the 1986 constitution, has decreased. To address this anomaly, legislative constituencies are now based on Joint Resolution of the Legislature, not the Constitution; and this Joint Resolution mandates a minimum three (3) legislative constituencies for each county. It is the wisdom of this Joint Resolution which is being proposed to a constitutional amendment to provide that notwithstanding the resident population density of a county, it shall not have less than three legislative constituencies.

Text of the Proposed Amendment

Article 48 which currently reads, "The House of Representatives shall be composed of members elected for a term of six years by the registered voters in each of the legislative constituencies of the counties, but a member of the House of Representatives elected in a by-election to fill a vacancy created by death, resignation, expulsion or otherwise, shall be elected to serve only the remainder of the unexpired term of the office. Members of the House of Representatives shall be eligible for re-élection.

Will be amended to read: "The House of Representatives shall be composed of members elected for a term of five (5) years by the registered voters in each of the legislative constituencies of the counties, but a member of the House of Representatives elected in a by-election to fill a vacancy created by death, resignation, or otherwise, shall be elected to serve only the remainder of the unexpired term of the office. Members of the House of Representatives shall be eligible for re-election".

To amend Article 49 of the Constitution to provide for the election of a Speaker, Deputy Speaker and other officers of the House or Representatives

Summary - To amend Article 49 of the Constitution so that the term of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and other officers of the House of Representatives is reduce from six (6) years to five (5) years.

Analysis - To afford the Liberian voters the opportunity to decide whether the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and other officers of the House of Representatives should serve for five years instead of six years.

This proposed amendment merely makes the term of office of the Speaker and other officers of the House of Representatives to be the same as the term for the Members of the House or Representatives – five (5) years.

Text of the Proposed Amendment

Article 49 which currently reads, "The House of Representatives shall elect once every six years a Speaker who shall be the presiding officer of that body, a Deputy Speaker, and such other officers as shall ensure the proper functioning of the House. The Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and other officers so elected may be removed from office for cause by resolution of a two-thirds majority of the members of the House.

Will be amended to read: "The House of Representatives shall elect once every five (5) years a Speaker who shall be the presiding officer of that body, a Deputy Speaker, and such other officers as shall ensure the proper functioning of the House. The Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and other officers so elected may be removed from office for cause by resolution of a two-thirds majority of the members of the House".

To amend Article 50 of the Constitution to provide for the reduction in the tenure of the President

Summary - To amend Article 50 of the Constitution so that the term of the President is reduce from six (6) years to five (5) years.

Analysis - To afford the Liberian voters the opportunity to decide whether the President should serve for five years instead of six years.

This proposed amendment reduces the term of office of the President from six (6) years to Five (5) years. It should be recalled that for many decades the term of office was as many four (4) years as the people elected the person to be President. President Tolbert had the 1847 Constitution amended to provide for one eight-year term. The 1986 Constitution provides for two six-year terms but in most parts of the world, especially Africa, it is two five-year terms. This amendment proposes to comply with this generally accepted term limit of five (5) years for a President for a maximum of two (2) terms.

Text of the Proposed Amendment

Article 50 which currently reads, “The Executive Power of the Republic shall be vested in the President who shall be Head of State, Head of Government and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia. The President shall be elected by universal adult suffrage of registered voters in the Republic and shall hold office for a term of six years commencing at noon on the third working Monday in January of the year immediately following the elections. No person shall serve as President for more than two terms.

Will be amended to read: “The Executive Power of the Republic shall be vested in the President who shall be Head of State, Head of Government and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia. The President shall be elected by universal adult suffrage of registered voters in the Republic and shall hold office for a term of five (5) years commencing at noon on the third working Monday in January of the year immediately following the elections. No person shall serve as President for more than two terms”.

What Your Vote Means

YES

A YES Vote on this Measure means: You are in agreement of amending Articles 45, 47, 48, 49 and 50 of the Constitution to reduce the tenures of the Senators from nine (9) years to seven (7) years; the President Pro Tempore from six (6) years to five (5) years; Members of the House of Representatives from six (6) years to five (5) years; the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and other officers of the House of Representatives from six (6) years to five (5) years; and the President from six (6) years to five (5) years.

NO

A NO Vote on this Measure means: The Constitutional provision shall not change but remain in its current form

BALLOT MEASURES – 3

PROPOSITION 3: Change in the Date of General Election

(proposed to be placed on the ballot paper by the Legislature)

To amend Article 83(a) of the Constitution to change the date for General Elections from October (the rainy season) to November (the dry season)

Summary

To amend Article 83(a) of the Constitution to change the date for General Election so that voting

Analysis – Election Day in October means that propositions for elections, campaigns and voting shall take place during the raining season; which is very, very challenging for the National Elections Commission, voters and candidates because of their road-connectivity problems and the weather. By placing election day in November, a substantial amount of these activities can take place during the dry season.

Text of the Proposed Amendment

Article 83(a) which currently reads, “Voting for the President, Vice President, Members of the Senate and Members of the House of Representatives shall be conducted throughout the Republic on the second Tuesday of October of each election year”.

Will be amended to read: “*Voting for the President, Vice President, Members of the Senate, and Members of the House of Representatives shall be conducted throughout the Republic on the second Tuesday in November of each election year”.*

To amend Article 83(c) of the Constitution

Summary

To amend Article 83(c) of the Constitution to reduce the time frame for resolution of complaints emanating from General Election from thirty days to fifteen days.

Analysis – Holding of general elections in November instead of October will reduce the time frame for resolution of complaints emanating from general elections. Proportionately reducing the time allotted for the hearing of complaints will ensure that Inauguration activities will be held on the date enshrined in the 1986 Constitution.

Text of the Proposed Amendment

Article 83(c) which reads, “...The Elections Commission shall, within thirty days of receipt of the complaint, conduct an impartial investigation and render a decision which may involve a dismissal of the complaint or a nullification of the election of a candidate. Any political party or independent candidate affected by such decision shall not later than seven days appeal against it to the Supreme Court...”

Will be amended to read: ““...*The Elections Commission shall, within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the complaint, conduct an impartial investigation and render a decision which may involve a dismissal of the complaint or a nullification of the election of a candidate. Any political party or independent candidate affected by such decision shall not later than seven days appeal against it to the Supreme Court...*”

What Your Vote Means

YES

A YES Vote on this Measure means: You have agreed for General Elections to be conducted on the Second Tuesday in November instead of Second Tuesday in October. You have also agreed to reduce the time allotted for the hearing of complaints coming from General Elections from thirty (30) days to fifteen (15) days.

NO

A NO Vote on this Measure means: The Constitutional provision shall not change but will remain in its current form

Upon the announcement of the result of the Proposed Referendum Amendments, the result thereof shall be immediately implemented by the National Elections Commission.

The conduct of the Proposed Amendment shall be applicable to all elections conducted under the 1986 Elections Law; the Electoral Reform Law of 2004 and all other electoral laws, regulations and guidelines.

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT

**GBEHZOINGAR M. FINDLEY
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
CAPITOL HIL, MONROVIA, LIBERIA
OCTOBER 8, 2019**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Pres. Weah declares Sunday, November 29 as National Holiday

- To be observed on Monday, 30 November

President George Manneh Weah has by proclamation declared Sunday, 29 November, the 125th Birth Anniversary of William V. S. Tubman, to be celebrated on

ordered and directed that all government ministries, agencies, business houses, and market places be closed on Monday, 30 November from six o'clock ante meridiem to six o'clock post meridiem.

Vacanarat Shadrach Tubman, 18th President of the Republic of Liberia, each year, in keeping with the will of the Liberian people.

The proclamation says this act of Legislature is in recognition of his productive, meaningful services and policies, including the Integration Policy, the granting of suffrage to women, as well as national policies and many other socio-economic developments, and his contributions to the emancipation of African Colonial Territories into statehood.

"In recognition of the numerous contributions, profound changes and lasting accomplishments made during his administration," the proclamation said, "the citizens of the Republic, desirous of showing their deep appreciation, esteem and approval of his outstanding, noble and remarkable leadership, did petition and requested the Legislature of this Nation to issue permanent record of their sentiments in honor of his birth for posterity."—*Press release*



Monday, 30 November throughout the Republic as a National Holiday and consistent with the prescribed COVID-19 Health Protocols.

President Weah has

According to a Foreign Ministry release, at the 3rd session of the 42nd Legislature of the Republic of Liberia, a legislation was enacted commemorating 29 November, the birth anniversary of William

Police to train 350 custom officers

By Ben P. Wesee

The Liberia National Police (LNP) and the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) through the Customs Department have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the training of 350 customs officers in order to boost their ability and techniques at various customs agencies across the country.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in the Police Inspector General's conference room on Capitol Hill, LRA Customs Commissioner Mr. Saa Saamoi says the collaboration in the security sector is very key to the growth of any developing country.

Mr. Saamoi further explains that the customs department at LRA has been receiving collaborating support from the Liberia National Police when called upon for backup support.

"Let just give it a bit of background of why we are here today. I joined customs not too long ago but the

history I met on the book on customs, is that customs are one of those agencies that are members of the joint security that formed part of the few agencies which was members that was part of the Liberia Frontier Force," he explains.

"They actively emerged in security prior to our civil crisis until 1990 when everything got disintegrated," Mr. Saamoi

continues in giving the history of Liberia Customs Service.

He notes that after the crisis, there was big focus on the security sector reform, recalling that customs is the only agency in the joint security that has multiple functions.

Mr. Saamoi indicates that

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 15



Liberia to benefit 60 hand pumps

-Weah's Islamic Advisor reveals

The Islamic Advisor to President George Weah, Sheik Usmane T. Jalloh, has disclosed that two non-governmental organizations: Turkey Center for Humanitarian Activity in Africa and DiyanetVakifi foundation have begun construction for 60 hand pumps across Liberia, valued over US\$225,000.

Speaking in an interview with reporters Wednesday in Monrovia, Sheik Jallo said the Turkish NGO will construct five hand pumps in each of Liberia's 15 counties to provide safe-drinking water for citizens.

He said the project has already begun with five hand pumps each completed in

He claimed the President has done more in promoting diversity and tolerance in his three years in office than previous presidents before him.

The Islamic Advisor disclosed his office has worked out modalities with the Office of President Weah for the promotion of religious harmony, explaining that government has agreed for both Muslim and Christian advisors to the President to pray at all official functions.

He called on Muslims to come out in their numbers to welcome a visiting Islamic cleric, Shiek Muhammad Awal, who is expected to arrive in Liberia on November 28, 2020.

Sheik Jalloh said while



Sheik Usmane T. Jalloh, Islamic Advisor to Pres. Weah

Margibi and Montserrado counties, while construction is ongoing in Grand Bassa County, respectively.

Sheik Jalloh urged Muslims and Christians in Liberia to rally behind President Weah to develop the country noting, that since Liberia declared her independence in 1847, no past Liberian president or government ever had Islamic Advisor except President Weah so, Muslims in Liberia should join him for unity and transformation.

According to him, the Weah administration has exhibited religious tolerance therefore; he urged both Christians and Muslims to support the President in reconciling the entire country.

ShiekAwal is in the country, Muslims in Liberia will honor President Weah for his support to the Muslim community

The visiting Muslim cleric is founder and director of ZaitunDawah Institute (ZDI) a think-tank research center with headquarters in Seattle, Washington, United States of America.

The center also has branches in New York, Atlanta, Nigeria, and Ghana, respectively. Sheikh Awal is a scholar in Islamic Sciences, Comparative Religion and Logic. He is also a debater, motivational speaker and prolific writer. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Protect the Constitution

By Bridgett Milton

Former foreign minister Olubanke King-Akerele calls on Liberians to stand firm in protecting the Constitution of Liberia stressing, Liberia is nothing without the Constitution.

Madam King-Akerele said the pending national referendum is not timely because citizens lack adequate educations to enable them make informed decisions at the poll.

Her comment comes at a time Liberians are embroiled

arguing that the time is too short.

But serving as commencement speaker during the 20th Commencement Convocation of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) University in Paynesville on Wednesday, 25 November she said the entire process is beset by lack of clarity and so much confusion.

The former Foreign Minister pointed that calls from civil society to the National Elections Commission to halt all processes for the referendum until adequate public awareness is

former Chief Justice Gloria Musu Scott.

"What happened to the interest of women? Why they are not captured in the referendum?" She asked.

A prolific writer and author of several books on Liberia, she also wondered why the government is not listening to its people and why advisors are not talking truth to government.

"The Constitution provides for the people to make decisions but why the government is not listening to its people?"



Former foreign minister Olubanke King-Akerele

in a debate over the holding of a referendum on key Propositions that would change aspects of the constitution such as seeing reduction in the presidential and legislative tenures and granting dual citizenships.

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) is campaigning on a yes vote, while members of the opposition community and other civil society groups are not kicking against the propositions but rather

conducted have gone unnoticed.

She wondered what is the relevance of the Supreme Court when the government does not adhere to its ruling, and instead, goes ahead to conduct the referendum.

Madam King-Akerele noted that there were so many suggestions by Liberians to the Constitution Review Committee but why only four propositions when Liberians aired out their voices during a constitutional review under the supervision of

At the same time she questioned the National Elections Commission's role in the referendum, whether it has the power to do what the Legislature is supposed to do, noting that as an autonomous agency that should exercise great deal of independence to convince all parties of its impartiality, the NEC must review its activities in the way it is proceeding. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Cont'd from page 14

40% percent of government revenues are collected by custom, and it also serves as environmental agent at the borders and at many agencies, among others.

"While the government was focused on security sector reform and the priority was given to other security agencies, the reform focused on customs basically putting us in the space to be able to support the government fiscally and that reform [has] gone a far way," the custom boss narrates.

He further details that customs have succeeded in optimizing their procedure which enables the custom department to [raise] the

country's revenue from US\$20 million to almost US\$200 million over the last few years.

"The second aspect which is [border] security, this [argument has] come from our partners at the global institution which is the World Customs organization at global level and that collaboration [has] already [taken] space between the World customs organization and Interpol," Mr. Saamoi further explains.

He narrates that customs is key to the supply chain security, disclosing that it is against the backdrop that the customs department has started its security program.

He notes that the World Customs organization has been

very supportive over the year, receiving over US\$1000 for provision of equipment, spectrum meters and testers to test chemicals that are used to produce explosive devices.

"But the reality is that we have to develop on the ground, it was on that note that I contacted, I approached the Police Inspector General on the MoU about a year ago," he says.

He says Coronavirus has distracted them, yet they didn't lose sight.

"We have been working behind the scenes and this MoU has been renewed and endorsed by the IG. I'm very happy today for allowing us to

Doctor Lah takes

Cont'd from Back page

services will be categorized as a health center", he noted.

Within a 30 day plan, Dr. Lah revealed that his team will resume regular emergency and elective surgeries, and out and inpatients' services. He also revealed plan to acquire a functional ambulance and repair the facility's utility pickup and bikes that are currently dysfunctional, including provision of essential surgical materials, Anesthetics drugs and non-medical supplies and logistics for cleaning, and records keeping.

However, he said these action plans would only be achieved when enormous challenges facing the Saclepea Comprehensive Health Center are solved by national government and partners.

"We will only achieve these good plans when government and other people solve those challenges here". Dr. Lah added.

He named some challenges facing the facility such as lack of logistics for hospital staff, lack of functional vehicle or ambulance for emergency referral and essential materials, including high cost for electricity.

He lamented the nomenclature of the facility "Health Center" is badly affecting its effective operation because of very low budgetary allotment, disclosing budgetary allotments to the facility have over the years declined from US\$250,000 to US\$150,000, and presently down to US\$50,000.

He said because of these challenges sometimes medical practitioners watched their

patients died of treatable diseases after running out of options that are available, but not accessible.

Dr. Lah appeals to those responsible for electricity in the county to please connect the hospital on a monthly flat rate basis because he said, huge portion of funds go into keeping power in the facility. He also pleads with partners, especially NGOs, well-meaning and prominent citizens for an extra theater bed to help equip the other theater, including additional mattresses for the OB ward.

He calls on the Nimba Legislative Caucus, the Ministry of Health, the Nimba County Health Team and NGOs, and citizens of Saclepea to come to the aid of the facility in any means possible in helping to achieve their goals.

At the same time, Nimba County Health Officer Dr. Nettie Joe has urged citizens of Saclepea to cooperate with the newly assigned medical officers, if they are to receive quality health care service at the facility, noting that if citizens open up to the doctors, they stand a better chance of benefiting quality health care delivery.

Doctor Joe also called on workers of the facility to avoid gossip among one another that could portray the Center negatively to the public, and applauds outgoing Doctor Sei M. Parwon for his dedicated services to the people of Nimba County and Liberia at large, as she wishes him well in his retirement. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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come and submit this instrument," Mr. SaahSaamoi states.

For his part, Police Inspector General Patrick Sudu says it was an honor to have signed the Memorandum of Understanding, noting that the more the police trained customs officers, the more the police budget will increase.

Director Sudu discloses that he was glad when he received the request from the Customs Commissioner to train customs

officers.

Sudue says there is a need for qualified officers to work with the LRA in order to close those loop holes in the entity that have caused the country to lost revenues over the years.

The Police IG further concludes that the Liberia National Police will do everything in its power to train those customs officers.—Editing by Winston W. Parley



Doctor Lah takes over Saclepea Health Center

-appeals for electricity, ambulance, increased allotment



By Roger Akin Than, Nimba County

The newly appointed Medical Director for Saclepea Comprehensive Health Center in Nimba County has vowed to transform the facility from a health center to a hospital.

Dr. Emmanuel Lah succeeds Dr. Sei M. Parwon, who was

retired by the government unnoticed. Doctor Parwon took up assignment at the facility as Medical Director in 2014 during the Ebola epidemic in the country.

Meanwhile, Doctor Emmanuel Lah, a 2018 graduate of the A.M Dogliotti College of Medicines of the University of Liberia is now Medical Director along with

Doctor Matthew Kolleh, as Medical Officer, respectively for the Center.

Speaking at his official takeover ceremony in Saclepea on Wednesday, November 25, 2020, Doctor Lah said the facility has all requirements to operate as a hospital, including a modernized X-ray machine and qualified technicians.

He further said the Comprehensive Health Center has two surgical theaters, one of which is well equipped and fully functional.

"We are centrally located, serving a vast population. Currently, with the influx of refuge seekers from neighboring Ivory Coast, it is obvious that the burden of care will be upon this facility to serve them equally. I see no reason why a facility serving over 50,000 citizens and providing all necessary health

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'To be Maradona was incredibly beautiful'

Three days of national mourning have begun in Argentina after Maradona died on Wednesday at the age of 60. His body will lie in state at the Casa Rosada, the presidential palace in Buenos Aires, during that time.

"To be Diego Maradona was incredibly beautiful," Ardiles told the BBC. "But on the other hand, it was not easy at all. Right from a really early age, he was subject to the press all the time. He didn't have a

normal childhood, he never had normal teenage years. "Everybody wanted to be with him, everybody wanted a piece of him, so it was incredibly difficult."

Maradona, who played for clubs including Barcelona and Napoli, was captain when Argentina won the 1986 World Cup, scoring the famous 'Hand of God' goal against England in the quarter-finals.

Former Tottenham midfielder Ardiles, who played alongside



Maradona at the 1982 World Cup, said he was "a god" in Argentina, in Naples and all around the world.

"He will be remembered as a genius in football," he added. "You can see the extraordinary amount of interest that he generates.

"People like [Juventus and Portugal striker] Ronaldo, or people like [Barcelona and Argentina forward] Messi, they couldn't even dream of having this kind of admiration.

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