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P11

# SG pressured for recusal

Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus

Mrs. Wilhemina Mulbah-Siaway

# What's next for Nwabudike?



P10

Cllr. A. Ndubuisi Nwabudike

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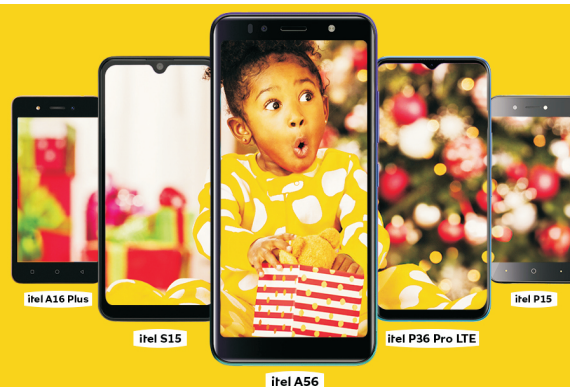
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# Continental News

## Tanzania has no plans to import Covid-19 vaccines

Tanzania's government, which has been criticised for its handling of the pandemic, has no plans to rollout Covid vaccines, the health minister says.

The comments come days after President John Magufuli warned officials against acquiring vaccines saying they could harm people, without giving evidence.

Critics have accused him of playing down the threat posed by the virus.

Millions of people have already been inoculated in many countries after the vaccines were given emergency approval. Vaccines are rigorously tested in trials involving thousands of people before being assessed by health regulators. They look at all the data on the safety and effectiveness of vaccines before approving them for use on a wider population.

Last month, the World Health Organization (WHO) urged Tanzania to consider inoculating its population.

Tanzania is one of the few countries in the world to not publish any data on Covid-19 cases. It last did so in May, when about 500 cases and 20

deaths were recorded. The following month, Mr Magufuli declared Tanzania "coronavirus-free". Last month, the president said some Tanzanians had travelled abroad to take the vaccine but "ended up bringing us a strange coronavirus". The comments were seen as an apparent admission that the virus may be circulating in the country. At a news conference on Monday, Health Minister Dorothy Gwajima said: "For now the

government has no plans to receive the Covid vaccine being distributed in other countries."

The minister urged Tanzanians to take precautions and to use traditional medicine as a way of dealing with coronavirus, although their efficacy to combat the virus has not been scientifically confirmed.

A blogger shared photos of Dr Gwajima and other officials

inhaling steam and taking a herbal concoction.

Dr Gwajima also warned media outlets not to report unofficial information on coronavirus or any disease. The warning comes after the Catholic Church said it had observed an increase in requiem masses, blaming funerals on a spike in coronavirus infections.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised against all travel to Tanzania and updated its alert to level four, meaning transmission of coronavirus in the country is "high or rising rapidly".

Many African states are buying vaccines through an international scheme called Covax, but some are also planning to negotiate directly from pharmaceutical companies.

The Covax scheme aims to make it easier for poorer countries to buy vaccines amid growing concerns that wealthier nations are snapping them up and practising "vaccine nationalism".

South Africa, which has the highest number of Covid-19 cases and deaths on the continent, received its first shipment of vaccines on Monday - the AstraZeneca vaccine from a manufacturer in India.

About 1.2 million front-line health workers would be the first to be inoculated, President Cyril Ramaphosa said. More than 1.4 million people in South Africa have contracted the virus and 44,164 are known to have died, according to Johns Hopkins University research. African states that have started rolling out vaccines include Egypt, Guinea, Morocco and Seychelles. BBC



The WHO has urged the country to consider inoculating its population

## Zimbabwean activists arrested for foul language

Zimbabwean opposition activists and a member of parliament have been arrested for using abusive and obscene language against police officers.

Police said the trio had been arrested after holding a

demonstration outside a government building in the capital, Harare.

It is unclear what the demonstration on Monday was about.

"The Zimbabwe Republic Police confirms the arrest of Joanna Mamombe [MP], Netsai

Marova and Cecilia Chimbi in Harare after a flash demonstration outside the New Government Complex.

"The trio, who were in a Toyota Fortuner without number plates, followed a police vehicle with officers who had attended the scene and used abusive language on the officers thus leading to their arrest," a statement from the police said.

The three, all members of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party, were arrested last June for lying about being tortured in custody.

They alleged state agents had abducted them from the police, beaten and sexually assaulted them and forced them to drink each other's urine. Police denied the accusations, but UN experts called for the prosecution of "the perpetrators of this outrageous crime".

The MDC has tweeted that the latest arrests were an escalation of the government's "war of attrition against opposition activists": BBC



## South Africa lifts alcohol ban as Covid rules ease

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has eased some restrictions imposed due to coronavirus, including lifting an unpopular ban on alcohol sales. Beaches will reopen and limited religious gatherings will be allowed.

The announcement came as Mr Ramaphosa hailed the arrival of the first shipment of vaccines - one million AstraZeneca doses - as a chance to "turn the tide" on Covid-19.

South Africa has had the most Covid infections and deaths on the continent.

More than 1.4 million people have contracted the virus since the pandemic began, and 44,164 are known to have lost their lives, according to Johns Hopkins University research.

Why has South Africa not started vaccinating?

Many countries have banned travel from South Africa in an effort to stop the spread of the highly infectious 501Y.V2 variant, which is believed to have originated there and which is suspected to be more resistant to vaccines. The country will remain in what is termed a level 3 lockdown, but a number of restrictions that had been in place will end. Retail outlets can now sell



alcohol between 10:00 and 18:00 from Monday to Thursday, and licensed outlets can serve drinks on-site from 10:00 to 22:00, when they must close.

Curfew hours will now be 23:00 to 04:00.

South Africans have faced three alcohol bans since the pandemic hit last March, the last was imposed on 28 December. The government argues it was necessary to alleviate the pressure on the healthcare system.

The bans have not been popular among many in the public and the liquor industry said millions of jobs were at risk. Announcing the latest changes, Mr Ramaphosa said: "I want to call on all of us to drink responsibly so that we do not experience a spike in trauma cases or an increase in infections due to reckless behaviour."

In additional relaxations of rules, 50 people can now worship indoors and 100 outdoors.

Beaches, rivers, parks and swimming pools will reopen. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Nwabudike must go

**IF THE NIGERIAN-BORN** fraudster Cllr. A. Ndubuisi who sits at the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission as chairperson after faking his Liberian citizenship thinks members of the Liberian Senate are on a floor show over his removal, he should rethink. Nwabudike should be told in no uncertain terms that he has no time in his favor and the only option is to quite immediately.

**IT IS HIGHLY** incomprehensible and disgraceful that the Weah administration would continue to keep a foreigner like Cllr. Nwabudike as head of the LACC, a position that is statutorily reserved exclusively for Liberian citizens. And President George Weah is fully aware but has adamantly kept a blind eye on the matter.

**LAST WEEK, SENATORS** on Capitol Hill debated why the Executive still keeps Cllr. Nwabudike at the LACC after he lied under oath about his Liberian citizenship despite his rejection by the senate during confirmation hearing from heading the National Elections Commission following nomination by the President.

**RUMORS HAVE BEEN** circulating in Monrovia that the Nigerian fraudster who used fake Liberian naturalization document and enrolled at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia as a Liberia citizen where he graduated from with a Law degree is expected to resign this week.

**THE SENATE IS** resolved in making sure that Nwabudike, who carries Liberian Passports with inconsistencies in his date of birth, does not continue to occupy such an important integrity institution like the LACC when his entire life is shrouded in cheat and dishonesty.

**SENATOR CONMANY WESSEH** of River Gee County during session last week noted that Cllr. Nwabudike managed his way criminally through all sectors of the Liberian government including the judiciary, executive and legislative branches and later duped the Liberia National Bar Association into being inducted as a member.

**BUT THE LNBA** has since expelled Nwabudike from its membership after his ugly deeds were uncovered and brought to the public. And so with both the Bar and the Senate having no confidence in this foreign con-artist, it makes no sense in keeping him in the Liberian government because he does not serve the interest of the Liberian people.

**WITH THE POWER** invested in the Liberian Senate as direct representatives of the Liberian people, we urge that august body to ensure Nwabudike is prevented from presiding over Liberian taxpayers' money at the LACC or from conducting any transaction on behalf of the Republic of Liberia, as a Nigerian.

**THE SENATE SHOULD** not rest until this is achieved. It is in the interest of the Liberian people and the state to ensure this foreign fraudster, who has criminally invaded our system, is booted out and prosecuted in accordance with the laws of Liberia.

**The New Dawn**  
FULLY INDEPENDENT

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

# COMMENTARY

By Gail Whiteman

## The Arctic on the Frontlines

*It is comforting to imagine the Arctic as a snowy faraway place, populated by reindeer and polar bears. In fact, it is a cornerstone of the climate system that keeps our weather stable, our communities habitable, and our economies prosperous - and it is under immense pressure.*

**L**ANCASTER, UK - Climate scientists have known for years that the Arctic is warming far faster than anywhere else on the planet. But even those of us who follow the Arctic closely were shocked by the changes that occurred in 2020, a year of broken records, retreating glaciers, and shattering ice sheets. The alarm bells are ringing louder than ever: we must urgently and drastically reduce our greenhouse-gas emissions.

Last year, temperatures in the Arctic Circle reached their highest-ever recorded levels. A heat wave in Arctic Siberia brought temperatures of 38°C (100°F) - 18°C higher than the average maximum daily temperature in past years. Meanwhile, fierce Arctic wildfires released a record-breaking level of carbon dioxide and set a new pollution record for the region.

With the heat turned up, the Arctic landscape has been changing fast. For the first time since records began, sea ice in the Arctic's Eurasian sector had not yet begun freezing in October. The previous month, an ice sheet the size of Paris broke off from Greenland's largest glacier shelf, and in July, Canada's intact ice shelf - 4,000 years old - fragmented. As Arctic ice melts, sea levels rise, threatening countries worldwide.

Over the last year, scientists have also spotted worrying signs of future climate breakdown. As higher temperatures cause Arctic plants to grow taller, permafrost is thawing faster - a process that releases enormous amounts of carbon dioxide and methane (a far more potent greenhouse gas than CO<sub>2</sub>), accelerating the temperature rise. Last year, a 164-foot-deep crater or "funnel," one of many reported in recent years, was found in northern Siberia after an underground pocket of methane, formed by melting permafrost, burst through the tundra.

The consequences of climate collapse in the Arctic are wide-ranging. A fuel tank cracked open in the Russian Arctic after settling into softened permafrost, releasing about 150,000 barrels of diesel into a river. A Human Rights Watch report found that climate-related changes in animal migration patterns are making it harder for indigenous communities in Canada to find food or traverse previously frozen bodies of water. And coastal villages can be devastated when fish species migrate to escape warming waters.

These stories might seem distant, even

abstract, to most readers. But this will not remain true for long. If the events of 2020 have shown us anything, it is that what happens in the Arctic does not stay there. On the contrary, rising Arctic temperatures threaten to trigger a devastating domino effect that ends in global catastrophe.

The jet stream is propelled by the contrast between the planet's frozen poles and its hot equator. As that contrast is diminished, the jet stream slows and even stagnates. Scientists believe this change in the jet stream is behind a number of deadly weather events, including wildfires in California and Siberia, extreme winter storms in the Eastern United States, and record-high temperatures in the Mojave Desert.

The second way Arctic warming affects the rest of the world is by disrupting the polar vortex, a low-pressure weather system that sits above each pole and keeps cold air there. As the Arctic warms, the cold air contained in the polar vortex is thought to be displaced and moved to the south, leading to extreme and unusual cold weather in faraway places. This winter, Italy, Japan, and Spain experienced extreme snowfall.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, "build back better" has become something of a mantra. Measures to preserve the Arctic must be at the center of this effort. To aid in this process, Arctic Basecamp, which I founded, will be developing an open-access Arctic Risk platform this year, to highlight early warning signs of emerging risks caused by changes in the Arctic ecosystem.

Fortunately, a growing number of decision-makers seem to recognize the Arctic's critical importance. The World Economic Forum's recently released "Global Risks Report 2021" ranked extreme weather, weak climate action, and human-induced environmental damage among the most likely - and highest-impact - risks we face over the next decade. During the WEF's Davos Agenda week, I led a high-level panel aimed at accelerating progress toward protecting this critical region.

It is comforting to imagine the Arctic as a snowy faraway place, populated by reindeer and polar bears. In fact, it is a cornerstone of the climate system that keeps our weather stable, our communities habitable, and our economies prosperous. And it is under immense pressure. Relieving that pressure - especially by ending all mining for oil and gas - is a prerequisite for a more sustainable and equitable world.

# OPINION

By Simon Johnson, Anette (peko) Hosoi & Melea Atkins

## Vaccination Is Not Enough

*New variants of the coronavirus are spreading quickly from their places of origin, and there are indications that existing vaccines may be less effective against some of them. Fortunately, we can take advantage of another encouraging development that has received relatively less attention.*

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - In the next stage of the fight against COVID-19, can we rely on vaccines alone? Although vaccination in the United States and some other countries is beginning to pick up pace, in most countries it hasn't even begun. Meanwhile, new variants of the coronavirus that are impacting other parts of the world have also appeared in the US - and there are indications that existing vaccines may be less effective against some of them.

Fortunately, we can take advantage of another encouraging development that has received relatively less attention. In places that have established regular COVID-19 screening tests - at universities, schools, and other places where everyone is tested at least once per week - data from the past six months indicate that infection rates can be kept down to less than 0.5% (one positive person per every 200 people tested each week).

This is significant, because many of these programs operate in places where, according to the official statistics, the reported positivity rate in the surrounding community is much higher - up to 10% in some cases (ten positive people per every 100 tested each week). This is true, for example, of public schools in Watertown, Massachusetts and New York City. Even in places where the infection is surging, transmission can be limited in environments such as schools. If this low infection rate is truly possible in general, and if the operational procedures that make regular testing possible are scalable, we can operate schools, childcare, and many workplaces in a much safer manner - during and even after rollout of the vaccine.

The reason for these relatively low infection rates in places where people live and work in close quarters is straightforward. Mitigation measures - including wearing good masks, maintaining safe distancing practices, and ensuring adequate ventilation - are effective. And regular testing breaks the chain of infection by identifying people who need to be isolated. Testing also helps everyone - teachers, parents, students, staff, and administrators - see that the mitigation measures are working, encouraging compliance and helping to identify weaknesses or breaks in defenses.

Being able to contain infection rates even in school settings is a remarkable achievement, but can it be scaled?

Fortunately, Congress has provided a great deal more funding to support school reopening. Massachusetts recently announced a scheme that will apply lessons learned by leading labs, test providers, and schools, and, to help with reopening, financial support will be offered to any school system that would like to implement weekly pooled testing as part of a broader mitigation program. Every state can now invent its own version or, we would suggest, combine lessons from what works in other parts of the country. Our public service website, [www.covidresponseadvisors.org](http://www.covidresponseadvisors.org), attempts to support such innovation.

The Massachusetts plan relies on pooled testing, whereby samples of up to 25 people (depending on the lab) are first tested together. If there are any positives, follow-up tests are run to "deconvolute" those pools (figure out exactly who is infected). The demonstrated low rates of COVID-19 in schools make this method efficient. While it might not make sense to pool samples from a community testing site where the test positivity is upwards of 10%, in a school with a rate of under 0.5%, pooled testing is incredibly efficient. This is a viable and robust approach, although there is also hope that more sensitive rapid tests will become more widely available in this context.

The main issue now is to ensure that everyone who wants to participate in such programs can do so. Testing is a proven solution: it has been able to keep professional sports teams playing and schools open even in high-prevalence areas. Established testing protocols should be made available to more schools and to childcare workers - who have continued working in person throughout the pandemic, despite a lack of access to resources - as we wait for vaccines to effect change in all communities. As the new and more contagious variants take hold in the US, being able to track and contain cases in schools will be even more essential to reopening strategies.

Eventually, we will prevail against COVID-19. One hopes we can do so sooner and at lower human cost. But we also need to ensure that we don't leave anyone behind in our efforts to bring everyone to a healthier and safer future.

That means wiping out the virus everywhere and among all populations. Eradication will be a long haul. Combining vaccination, testing, and other mitigation measures is essential to getting there.



Republic of Liberia

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## Invitation for the Position of Auditor General of the Republic of Liberia

### Background

Established by an Act of the National Legislature in 2014 ("the Act"), the General Auditing Commission (GAC) supports Legislative oversight of the management of public resources. As the independent constitutional external auditor of Liberia, the GAC serves the people of Liberia by conducting quality and timely financial, compliance and performance audits. Headed by the Auditor General of the Republic of Liberia, the GAC is mandated to periodically conduct professional audit of all government ministries and agencies, and reports audit results and recommendations to the Legislature with copies to the President.

According to Section 2.1.5, the Auditor General shall hold office for a term of seven (7) years and shall not be eligible for reappointment. Consequently, given the tenure of the current Auditor General is nearing expiration, the Government of Liberia, in compliance with Part 2, Section 2.1 of the ACT, is recruiting to fill the position of Auditor-General of the Republic of Liberia.

### The Duties and Responsibilities of the Auditor General:

- a) The Auditor General shall be the auditor of the public accounts and public funds of the Republic of Liberia. Subject to sub-section (b) below, the Auditor General shall carry out such audits and inquiries as he/she considers necessary of public entities and funds owned or controlled by the Government to enable reporting as required by the General Auditing Commission Act of 2014.
- b) Notwithstanding the generality of sub-section (a) of this Section:
  - (i) the Auditor General shall carry out the annual audit of the Government's annual consolidated financial statements; and
  - (ii) the scope of audits by the Auditor General for the Judicial Branch of Government shall exclude matters relating to court decisions and for the Legislative Branch of Government shall exclude matters relating to the merits of legislation.
- c) The Auditor General shall have the right to determine which audits are to be carried out, to select the type of audit to be carried out, when to carry them out and report the findings.
- d) In the performance of his/her operational duties as set out in sub-section (c) above, the Auditor General shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority.
- e) The Auditor General and the staff of the General Auditing Commission shall carry out audits, but shall not be involved, or seen to be involved, in any manner, in management's responsibilities of the organizations being audited

### Qualification for Selection and Appointment

A person shall be appointed as Auditor General only if:

- (i) the person is a Liberian citizen;
- (ii) the person possesses at least one professional certification such as a CPA, CA, or ACCA from a recognized professional accountancy body;
- (iii) the person possesses at least a Bachelor degree in accounting, audit, business, finance or a related field;
- (iv) the person possesses a minimum of fifteen (15) years of relevant work experience, including an understanding of the role of a Supreme Audit Institution; and
- (v) the person is of a high moral character, with integrity and impartiality, and who has neither been convicted of any criminal offence nor judgement or been declared bankrupt, in any jurisdiction.

### SUBMISSION OF INTENT

To be considered for inclusion in the recruitment process, please submit your CV, Cover Letter, and all relevant Credentials to:

**In Person Delivery:** Civil Service Agency (CSA)  
Ministerial Complex, Congo Town  
Monrovia, Liberia

**Via Email:** [agapplication@csa.gov.lr](mailto:agapplication@csa.gov.lr)

### Deadline for Application:

Friday, February 12, 2021 @ 4 O'Clock P.M. (GMT)



REPUBLIC LIBERIA  
THE FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
P. O. BOX 3010  
Whein Town, Mount Barclay  
Monrovia, Liberia

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) as an Implementing Agency received financial support from African Development Bank (AfDB) **under the Fund for Africa Private Sector Assistance (FAPA)** to promote the private sector by scaling up the participation of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) in the secondary wood processing industry to promote inclusive green growth, employment and economic diversification in the Republic of Liberia.

The FDA-AfDB-FAPA Project through its contractor institution Booker Washington Institute (B.W.I) is conducting capacity building training in line with the Six (6) Modules for selected carpenters and furniture makers in the three zones of Montserrado county for Seven (7) weeks at BWI and also, the other contractor institution ,Forestry Training Institute (F.T.I) is carrying out training on log and timber scaling and chainsaw milling operations in tree identification and timber scaling techniques. The ongoing training are in line with the Two (2) modules training conducted by Forestry Training Institute (F.T.I) and Six (6) Modules training conducted by Booker Washington Institute (B.W.I) at the Corina hotel in Monrovia in December 2020.

Carpenters and Furniture Makers in and around Monrovia are participating in the ongoing training after which the next stage of training and proposed foreign training would commence.

**The Cooperation of all members of the Liberia Carpenters, and woodworks association as well as Carpenter and Furniture Union Members selected for training are highly appreciated.**

**Fund for Africa Private Sector Assistance (FAPA) Project**  
*Project Coordinator*  
*Forestry Development Authority*  
*Whein Town, Bernard Farm*



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**Fund for Africa Private Sector Assistance (FAPA) Project**  
*Project Coordinator*  
*Forestry Development Authority*  
*Whein Town, Bernard Farm*

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Ailing woman expresses gratitude to First Lady

An ailing woman and mother of six children has expressed heartfelt gratitude to First Lady Clar Marie Weah for assisting her purchase medications prescribed by medics to treat her current health condition.

hundred, fifty US Dollars to assist Joanna pay the cost of her medical prescriptions.

Presenting the cash, Deputy Chief of Office Staff, James K. Kortu, Jr. said the First Lady's intervention demonstrated her commitment to addressing issues affecting the overall

could not stop thanking the First Lady, stressing that she had suffered with her health condition for too long without being able to access treatment because of her inability to afford the cost.

Now that she has received some support to access medical treatment, the ailing woman said her hope of staying alive has been restored.

Meanwhile, Joanna has praised as compassionate the manner in which Mrs. Weah stopped to attend to her cry for help.

Joanna disclosed that the First Lady was conducting her regular weekend workout in Paynesville, when she suddenly met her and asked for an audience.

Without hesitating or turning down the request, Joanna explained, Mrs. Weah immediately stopped to listen with great interest; and after hearing her health concern, promised to assist.

According to the ailing woman, since the brief interaction, the First Lady's Office has been in touch with her to ensure she was doing well. Joanna however assured the First Lady and her Office that the money will be used to purchase the prescribed drugs to save her life.

growth and development of woman and girls.

Mr. Kortu said, though Mrs. Weah cannot reach all the women of Liberia, she is determined to help empower and uplift the lives of as many women and girls as she can.

Receiving the money, Joanna



Madam Joana Wongbu, whose legs are swollen and stomach slightly enlarged, claims to be suffering from some medical complications including 'kidney problem'.

Mrs. Weah, through her office on Monday, February 1, 2021, presented two-

# Student leader condemns trending nude pictures

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Following protest by women thru the streets of Harper City, Maryland County, demanding justice for the recent posting of nude pictures of a female student of the Tubman University in the county, the chairperson of the campus-based Student Unification Alliance has condemned the act.

Protesting women carried placards early Thursday morning, January 28, 2021 along the streets and later moved to the Harper Police Station, where they demanded the living body of the alleged suspect, noting the alleged act has publicly disgraced womanhood.

The women's protest followed Police arrest of suspect Raymond PK Bardio, Jr, a son of a prayer woman in

PleeboSodoken District.

Suspect Bardio has been charged and sent to court in Maryland County for allegedly posting the nude pictures on

social media.

The 23 years old suspect is a resident of Pleebo, Maryland Electoral district#2 and a well-knownfacebooker



SUA Chairman Jashus Musu

# Sen. Joseph seeks statutory status for St. Paul District

By Ethel A Tweh

Montserrado County Senator Saah H. Joseph has written the plenary of the Liberian Senate, requesting for the creation of St. Paul Statutory District in the county.

In his communication, Sen. Joseph said when legislated, the proposed district will improve well being of citizens through development,

and has no official status so it is important to enact the Bill, urging his colleagues to act accordingly.

Meanwhile, it is a standing rule of the senate that when a Bill is brought to the floor for the first time, it can't be sent to any committee until it is reintroduce on the floor for its second reading.



Senator Saah H. Joseph

decentralization and make services easily available and achievable.

He said St. Paul District is the second most popular district with more than 70,000 inhabitants in the northwestern region of Montserrado.

According to him, the area is extremely underdeveloped

In this light, Rivercess County Senator Francis S. Paye made a motion that the Bill be considered for the first reading, while they await its second coming on the Senate's floor for discussion and subsequent submission to the Committee on Internal Affairs and Good Governance. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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under the pseudonym, Pretty-boy Raymond (HOPE Bardio).

Chairman JashusMusu said it is saddened to have watched the disheartening videos of the female student on social media.

He noted that the devilish act performed by the suspect is evil and must be brought to justice to avoid a recurrence.

According to him, for days now the social media has been saturated with the exposure of womanhood, something that's forbidden, and also an act that warrants life imprisonment and traditional punishment.

"I know the psychological disorder it might taken on the victim, trauma reposed in her cerebellum right now, she can't stand the fist of the way it went; the victim is seriously undergoing an uncontrollable trauma, a situation she'll for

ever remember in her life", he said.

Chairperson Musu noted that any man who knows and understands the primary objective for which God created woman will never in his rational mind go that far even if a woman gives him an opportunity to have a view of her private [parts] pride.

He said it's yet to believe if this act was actually demonstrated in the right minds either by the victim or the suspect.

Musu lamented that it's worrisome to see womanhood disgraced in such manner and worse of all, even females have had the bravery to share the nude pictures with males as a means of joviality without shame.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Get Empowerment Foundation launches free skills training

By Lewis S. Teh

It was a joyous day in the lives of residents of the ELWA Junction including the Baptist Seminary along the Roberts Field Highway, when a local nongovernmental organization under the banner Get Empowerment Foundation Inc., launched a free vocational and skills

Giving the overview of the foundation over the weekend, the Executive Director of the foundation Mr. Sylvester Browne said the institution was established as a Christian organization using the word of God to reach out to the less fortunate, and underprivileged youths.

“Getting group of young people who have been branded

intention wasn't to play football only, but to teach some moral values and life skills.

“We organized retreats, seminars, workshops, and other recreation activities to attract their attention. The foundation is also involved in vocation training and offers the following: soap making, tailoring, pastry, event decoration, agricultural programs as well as academic programs,” he continues.

Mr. Browne points out that the theme of the launch was Empowering Young People to Be Self - reliant Through Vocational Skills.

He explains that his organization's vision is to see young Liberians reach a place that they will make sound decisions, exercise their God-given talents, gifts and abilities. He indicates that the goal of the organization is to empower less fortunate and underprivileged young people academically, morally and vocationally.

Serving as the chief launcher, Montserrado County Electoral District 6 Representative Samuel Enders encourages beneficiaries of the skills training to take their destiny in their own hands.

“Continue the good decisions you have taken,” he says, adding that life can be easier if people stop waiting for government to do everything for them and start believing in themselves.--  
*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



training program.

Get Empowerment Foundation is a local GNO that was established in 2016, in the Cotton Tree community in Paynesville, outside Monrovia, with the aim of working along with youth from all walks of life and making them to be productive citizens for the future.

as zogos together wasn't an easy thing, and we became successful by using sports, something that brought them together,” Mr. Browne says.

In order to attract the attention of those young people, he says the foundation established a sporting academy called Wonderland for both boys and girls. He adds that the

# Build Islamic university and hospitals

-Pres. Weah's Islamic Advisor urges Muslim community

The Islamic Advisor to President George Manneh Weah, Sheikh Usmane T. Jalloh has urged Muslims in Liberia to rally resources to construct an Islamic university and hospitals to buttress government's effort in the educational system of the country.

According to Sheikh Jalloh, Muslims here control ninety percent (90%) of the economy yet they cannot boast of an Islamic university, hospitals and their own educational system as it is being done by Christians and other religions.

He made the call at the dedication of the Shik Mohammed Salim Bin Bakhit Central Mosque's Hand Pump over the weekend in Caldwell Township, Montserrado

County.

Sheik Jalloh noted that though they are in the position

to undertake such projects, Muslims in Liberia are not willing do so but often they depend on support from donors while using their



Islamic Advisor Sheikh Usmane T. Jalloh (center) cuts ribbon to a newly erected hand pump for the Shik Mohammed Salim Bin Bakhit Central Mosque in Caldwell Township

# UMU rallies alumnus' support

The former president of the United Methodist University Alumni Association Abraham Nyenswah has challenged alumni of the university to support their alma mater in the wake of economic constraint confronting the nation.

He said alumnus of UMU should realize that they obtain the first undergraduate degree from UMU before moving on in the academic sojourn.

Mr. Nyenswah stressed the need for all who passed through walls of UMU to give back, noting that UMU is their home.

He said the university played significant role in building their potential and skills to have access to the larger society.

He said graduates should not sit on the fence and allow UMU to go through financial struggle alone when they are up there.

Mr. Nyenswah said as alumnus, UMU has contributed significantly to their educational sojourn, so they



Abraham Nyenswah, president of the United Methodist University Alumni Association

Mr. Nyenswah made the call at the Sixth General Assembly of UMUAA held in Monrovia over the weekend.

He noted that graduates from UMU are contributing to the growth and development of Liberia and should understand that the foundation of their expertise was provided by the university.

He said it's about time they look back and support the university with whatever little contribution they have in fostering its progress.

cannot afford to stand back from helping the university at this critical time in its quest to provide quality education to Liberian children.

The United Methodist University is established and owned by the Liberian Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The university also has a nursing school at the Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Ganta, Nimba County. -  
*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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resources to construct private homes and improve their businesses.

He also called on Muslims to remain united, stressing that with unity they can embark on any initiative for the growth and development of Liberia.

Speaking also, the chief Imam of the Shik Mohammed Salim Bin Bakhit Central Mosque, Abubakar Feaka, lauded Sheikh Usmane T. Jalloh for his initiative and called on all Muslims in the country to

rally around the Islamic Advisor to move the religion forward, being the first Muslim appointed to that position.

Imam Feaka noted that since Liberia declared her independence in 1847, no past Liberian president or government had an Islamic Advisor except President Weah so, Muslims in Liberia should join him for unity and transformation in the country. -  
*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# Français

## Pas de défilé à l'occasion de la Journée nationale des forces armées du Libéria

**A** en croire les responsables du ministère de la Défense du Libéria, la célébration cette année de la Journée nationale des forces armées du 11 février 2021 se déroulera sans une grande partie de ces activités habituelles comme le défilé militaire.

Animant un point presse le lundi 1er février au ministère de la Défense, le ministre adjoint de la Défense chargé des affaires publiques, M. Sam Collins, a déclaré que le ministère de la Défense n'organiserait pas d'événement qui soit susceptible de rassembler jusqu'à 3000 personnes. Cette mesure, selon lui, s'inscrit dans le cadre de la lutte contre la Covid-19 et pour le bien-être des soldats des Forces armées du Libéria (AFL).

« Au cours d'un programme prévu le 11 février, il n'y aura pas de discours liminaire pour marquer la célébration officielle de la 64e Journée des Forces armées, mais des discours sont attendus du Président et Commandant - Chef des Forces armées du



Libéria, le Président George Manneh Weah et du ministre de la Défense Daniel D. Ziankahn, selon les responsables de la défense.

M. Collins a expliqué que la célébration de la 64e Journée des forces armées commencerait par un symposium le mercredi 3 février à 10 heures au Complexe ministériel à Congo Town sous le

thème: « Les militaires dans le maintien de la démocratie ».

Contrairement à ce qu'a annoncé M. Collins selon lequel le président de l'Association nationale du barreau du Libéria (LNBA), Tiawon Gongloe, serait l'orateur principal lors du symposium de la Journée des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Le fils de George Weah, président du Libéria interpellé à Paris dans une fête clandestine

**G**eorge Weah junior, le fils du président du Libéria aussi ancienne star du PSG, a sorti un passeport diplomatique. Son immunité va être vérifiée.

Illustration. Au cours de l'intervention, le ton est

monté. George Weah junior, « très alcoolisé » note une source policière, a invectivé les forces de l'ordre et sorti un passeport diplomatique.

Au cours de l'intervention, le ton est monté. George Weah junior, « très alcoolisé » note une source policière, a invectivé

les forces de l'ordre et sorti un passeport diplomatique. LP/Olivier

Le fils du président du Libéria a rendez-vous jeudi prochain avec la justice française. Dans la nuit de lundi à mardi, à 3h20 du matin, les policiers sont intervenus pour tapage nocturne lors d'une soirée clandestine dans un immeuble cossu de Paris, situé avenue du Président-Wilson (VIIIe), dans le quartier Alma-Marceau.

Là, dans un appartement loué via Airbnb, les fonctionnaires sont tombés nez à nez avec une bande de huit fêtards. Tous ont été verbalisés pour « non-respect des mesures en vigueur liées au contexte sanitaire ».

Interpellé pour outrage et rébellion

Parmi eux, George Weah junior, 33 ans, le fils du président du Libéria, George Weah, ancien footballeur international ayant

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Al-Qaïda veut viser la Côte d'Ivoire et le Bénin, selon le patron du renseignement français

Des soldats français de Barkhane, lors d'une opération dans la région du Gourma, dans le centre du Mali.

Le patron de la Direction générale de la sécurité extérieure (DGSE) française a affirmé, lundi 1er février, que les chefs d'Al-Qaïda au Sahel avaient un « projet d'expansion vers les pays du golfe de Guinée ».

Le patron du renseignement extérieur français, Bernard Émié, a la parole publique rare. Lundi 1er février, alors qu'il intervenait aux côtés de la ministre française des Armées, Florence Parly, le chef de la Direction générale de la sécurité extérieure (DGSE) s'est cependant montré prolix. Et précis dans ses affirmations.

Bernard Émié participait lundi dans la matinée à un comité exécutif consacré à la lutte antiterroriste sur la base aérienne d'Orléans-Bricey, lors duquel il s'est entretenu avec Florence Parly ainsi qu'avec le chef d'état-major des Armées, le général François Lecointre.

Présentant des images qui montraient un rassemblement qui s'était tenu dans le centre du Mali en février 2020, entre les plus hauts responsables jihadistes de la région, Bernard Émié a affirmé qu'il s'agissait là d'une « réunion » dont l'objet était « la préparation d'opérations de grande ampleur sur des bases militaires ».

« C'est là que les chefs d'Al-Qaïda au Sahel ont conçu leur projet d'expansion vers les pays du golfe de Guinée, a ajouté Bernard Émié. Ces pays sont désormais des cibles eux aussi. Pour desserrer l'étau dans lequel ils sont pris et pour s'étendre vers le sud, les terroristes financent déjà des hommes qui se disséminent en Côte d'Ivoire ou au Bénin. »

Il a aussi assuré que, selon ses services, « des combattants [avaient] également été envoyés aux confins du Nigeria, du Niger et du Tchad ».

Abdelmalek Droukdel, chef historique d'Al-Qaïda au Maghreb islamique (Aqmi) - tué plus tard en 2020, en juin, par les forces françaises dans le nord du Mali -, lyad Ag Ghaly, chef du Groupe de

soutien à l'islam et aux musulmans (GSIM), et Amadou Koufa, chef de la katiba Macina, étaient présents à cette « réunion » dans le centre du Mali, selon le patron du renseignement extérieur français.

lyad Ag Ghaly, le chef du Groupe de soutien à l'islam et aux musulmans.

YAD AG GHALY N'EST PAS UN HOMME QUI PENSE LE TERRORISME, C'EST UN HOMME QUI LE PRATIQUE AU QUOTIDIEN

« lyad Ag Ghaly incarne la stratégie d'Al-Qaïda au Sahel. Ce n'est pas un homme qui pense le terrorisme, c'est un homme qui le pratique au quotidien, a par ailleurs affirmé Bernard Émié. Il n'hésite pas à prendre lui-même les armes. »

Le chef de la DGSE a par ailleurs estimé que ces leaders jihadistes étaient les héritiers directs d'Oussama Ben Laden », dont « ils poursuivent son projet politique, avec l'objectif assumé de commettre des attentats en Occident et en Europe en particulier ».

La France a déployé 5 100 hommes dans cette région depuis le lancement de l'opération Barkhane en 2014. Le président français, Emmanuel Macron, a confirmé en janvier que Paris s'apprêtait à « ajuster son effort ».

Un ajustement qui passe par une montée en puissance des alliés de l'Hexagone, a confirmé lundi Florence Parly. « Depuis un an et demi, les Européens ont pleinement pris conscience des enjeux liés à l'expansion des terroristes en Afrique et de la menace de voir une base arrière s'installer au Sahel, comme nous avons pu le connaître au Levant », a-t-elle déclaré.

« Acculé, l'ennemi change ses méthodes, ses moyens d'action et les lieux où il agit », a-t-elle ajouté, pointant notamment les « champs de bataille immatérielle » et les « guerres d'influence et d'information ».

Le détail du réajustement de Barkhane sera discuté par la France et ses alliés du G5 Sahel (Mauritanie, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso et Tchad) lors d'un sommet prévu à N'Djamena les 15 et 16 février.





# Français

## Pas de défilé à l'occasion

forces armées (AFD) prévu mercredi, les autorités de la défense, lors de la conférence de presse, ont déclaré qu'il n'y aurait pas d'orateur principal.

Pendant ce temps, le ministre Collins a expliqué que pour chacune des différentes activités relatives à la Journée des forces armées, il n'y aurait pas plus de 500 personnes, et que les résidents de la ville de Kpakpacon à Marshall, dans le comté de Margibi, bénéficieraient cette fois-ci du traitement gratuit des maladies courantes.

C'est une façon, selon lui, pour le ministère de la Défense et des forces armées d'échanger avec la population dans le cadre de la relation civilo-militaire.

«On y investit tellement d'argent, des médicaments ont été achetés, des médicaments de haute qualité... et le traitement [est] tout simplement gratuit», a-t-il ajouté.

Il a appelé les habitants de la ville de Kpakpacon à se rassembler le 6 février, car l'AFL sera là pour traiter des maladies courantes comme le rhume et le paludisme, entre autres.

Pendant le processus de traitement, le ministre Collins a indiqué que la société GSM LonestarCell MTN serait là pour offrir des cadeaux aux enfants.

Le ministre Collins a révélé qu'il y aurait également une campagne de nettoyage à Gbarnga, dans le comté de Bong, et au centre de formation de Barclay à Monrovia.

Donnant un aperçu du symposium de l'AFD, M. Collins a nommé la représentante du comté de Bong Moima Briggs Mensah, la présidente de la Commission

électorale nationale Davidetta Brown Lansanah, la directrice exécutive par intérim de la Commission de gouvernance Mme Cecelia N. Flomo et le directeur du Booker Washington Institute Harris Fumbah Tarnue comme des intervenants.

Il a également nommé représentant de Montserrado, Suacoco Dennis, le Dr J. Clarence Yaskey, Mme Sarah Walker, Mr Cyril Jones, lieutenant-colonel Matthew Alden des États-Unis. Jimmy W. Smith, représentant de l'ambassade et de Montserrado, en tant que présentateurs.

Selon lui, le symposium sera suivi d'un service Jummat à la mosquée du quartier mandingue de la ville de Kakata, dans le comté de Margibi, le vendredi 5 février à 12 heures.

Toujours selon le ministre, le samedi 6 février, des campagnes de nettoyage et de sensibilisation médicale auront lieu simultanément, qui seront suivies du lancement d'un mini tournoi de basket et d'un tournoi de football.

Le samedi 7 février, il y aura un service d'action de grâce à New Water in the Desert dans la communauté VOA de Brewerville à 10h. Le jeudi 11 février, la célébration de la Journée des forces armées débutera à 7 heures du matin.

Le major El-Dorado Jebboe, directeur des affaires publiques, Forces armées du Libéria, a déclaré qu'habituellement, c'est lors du programme officiel que l'orateur prononce un discours, ce qui n'est pas le cas pour cette fois.

«Mais ce jour-là, nous avons en quelque sorte réduit le programme à un point tel que la seule personne qui prendra la parole en plus de l'honorable ministre de la Défense nationale est le commandant en chef [le président George Manneh Weah]», a-t-il dit.

## Le fils de George Weah,

appartenu au Paris SG, et à la tête du pays africain depuis 2018.

Au cours de l'intervention, le ton est monté. George Weah junior, «très alcoolisé» note une source policière, a insulté les forces de l'ordre et sorti un passeport diplomatique. Il a été interpellé pour outrage et rébellion, ramené au commissariat du XVII<sup>e</sup> arrondissement, présenté à l'officier de police judiciaire de nuit. L'enquête a été menée par le service de traitement judiciaire de nuit.

«Un jeune de 33 ans qui a fait la fête»

«Le quai d'Orsay a été prévenu», précise un haut fonctionnaire de police. Un autre précise : «On va vérifier son éventuelle immunité diplomatique».

Côté ambassade du Libéria, on confirme l'immunité diplomatique de George Weah junior mais... ses services qui ont découvert ce mardi matin les frasques du fils du président «regrettent de ne pas avoir été prévenus par le quai d'Orsay cette nuit».

«Tout va bien, insiste-t-on à l'ambassade. Il a été libéré. C'était juste une sorte de petit tapage nocturne. C'est un jeune de 33 ans qui a fait la fête.»

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Gail Whiteman

## L'Arctique en première ligne

**L**ANCASTER, Royaume-Uni - Les climatologues savent depuis des années que l'Arctique connaît un réchauffement bien plus rapide par rapport à toutes les autres zones de la planète. Mais même ceux d'entre nous qui suivent de près l'actualité de l'Arctique ont été choqués par les changements qui se sont produits en 2020, une année de records battus, de fonte des glaciers et de destruction des calottes glaciaires. La situation n'a jamais été aussi alarmante : nous devons réduire de toute urgence et de manière drastique nos émissions de gaz à effet de serre.

L'année dernière, les températures dans le cercle Arctique ont atteint leurs niveaux les plus élevés jamais enregistrés. Une vague de chaleur en Sibérie Arctique a produit des températures de 38°C - soit de 18°C supérieures à la température quotidienne maximale moyenne de ces dernières années. Au cours de cette même période, des incendies de forêt en Arctique ont produit un niveau record de dioxyde de carbone et ont établi un nouveau record de pollution dans la région.

Suite à un dégagement de chaleur aussi important, le paysage de l'Arctique évolue rapidement. Pour la première fois depuis le début des records, la banquise dans le secteur eurasiatique de l'Arctique n'avait pas encore commencé à geler en octobre. Le mois précédent, une calotte glaciaire de la taille de Paris s'est détachée du plus grand plateau glaciaire du Groenland, et en juillet, la plateforme glaciaire intacte du Canada - 4 000 ans - s'est fragmentée. Alors que la glace de l'Arctique fond, le niveau des mers augmente et menace les pays du monde entier.

Au cours de l'année écoulée, les scientifiques ont également constaté des signes inquiétants de la dégradation du climat qui nous attend. Comme les températures plus élevées font augmenter la taille des plantes arctiques, le permafrost dégèle plus rapidement : un processus qui libère d'énormes quantités de dioxyde de carbone et de méthane (un gaz à effet de serre bien plus puissant que le CO<sub>2</sub>), accélérant ainsi la hausse des températures. L'année dernière, un cratère ou «entonnoir» de 50 mètres de profondeur, l'un des nombreux cas signalés ces dernières années, a été trouvé dans le Nord de la Sibérie après qu'une poche souterraine de méthane, formée par la fonte du permafrost, a explosé dans la toundra.

Les conséquences de l'effondrement climatique dans l'Arctique sont considérables. Un réservoir de carburant s'est échoué dans l'Arctique russe après s'être enfoncé dans du permafrost ramolli, libérant environ 150 000 barils de diesel dans une rivière. Un rapport de Human Rights Watch a révélé que les changements climatiques dans les modes de migration des animaux rendent plus difficile pour les communautés autochtones du Canada de trouver de la nourriture ou de traverser des plans d'eau qui étaient gelés jusqu'à présent. En outre, les villages côtiers peuvent être dévastés lorsque des espèces de poissons migrent pour échapper au réchauffement des eaux.

Ces récits peuvent paraître lointains, voire abstraits, aux oreilles de la plupart des lecteurs. Mais cela ne va pas durer bien longtemps. Si les événements de 2020 nous ont appris une chose, c'est que ce qui se passe dans l'Arctique a des conséquences pour nous tous. Par exemple, la hausse des températures dans l'Arctique menace de déclencher un effet domino dévastateur qui va se terminer par une catastrophe mondiale.

Ce jet-stream, ou courant d'altitude, est propulsé par le contraste entre les pôles gelés de la planète et son équateur chaud. À mesure que ce contraste diminue, le jet-stream ralentit, voire même stagne. Les scientifiques croient que ce changement dans le jet-stream est à l'origine d'un certain nombre d'événements météorologiques mortels, notamment les incendies de forêt en Californie et en Sibérie, les tempêtes hivernales extrêmes dans l'Est des États-Unis et les températures records dans le désert de Mojave.

Deuxièmement, le réchauffement de l'Arctique affecte le reste du monde en perturbant le tourbillon circumpolaire, un système météorologique à basse pression situé au-dessus de chaque pôle et qui y maintient de l'air froid. À mesure que l'Arctique se réchauffe, l'air froid contenu dans le tourbillon circumpolaire est censé se déplacer et s'avancer vers le Sud, ce qui conduit à un temps froid extrême et inhabituel dans des endroits lointains. Cet hiver, l'Italie, le Japon et l'Espagne ont connu des chutes de neige extrêmes.

Pendant la pandémie de COVID-19, «mieux reconstruire» est devenu une sorte de cri de ralliement. Les mesures visant à préserver l'Arctique doivent être au centre de cet effort. Pour faciliter ce processus, Arctic Basecamp, le groupe que j'ai fondé, va développer cette année une plateforme de risque Arctique en libre accès, afin de mettre en évidence les signes précurseurs des risques émergents causés par les changements dans l'écosystème Arctique.

Heureusement, un nombre croissant de décideurs semblent reconnaître l'importance cruciale de l'Arctique. Le «Rapport sur les risques mondiaux 2021», publié récemment par le Forum économique mondial, a classé les conditions météorologiques extrêmes, la faible action climatique et les dommages environnementaux causés par l'homme parmi les risques les plus probables - et les plus importants - auxquels nous serons confrontés au cours de la prochaine décennie. Au cours de la semaine de l'Agenda de Davos au Forum économique mondial, j'ai dirigé un groupe de haut niveau visant à accélérer les progrès en matière de protection de cette zone critique.

Il est réconfortant de s'imaginer l'Arctique sous la forme d'un lieu lointain et enneigé, peuplé de rennes et d'ours polaires. En fait, c'est la pierre angulaire du système climatique qui maintient nos conditions météorologiques dans un état stationnaire, qui rend nos collectivités habitables et nos économies prospères. Et cette zone subit en ce moment une pression colossale. Relâcher cette pression - en particulier en mettant fin à toutes les extractions de pétrole et de gaz - est une condition préalable à un monde plus durable et plus équitable.

# What's next for Nwabudike?

By Winston W. Parley

**W**hat next for disgraced Nigerian-born Cllr. A. Ndubuisi Nwabudike is the big question being asked here after President George Manneh Weah finally has seen the unceasing public pressure and accepted the resignation of the expelled lawyer, ending his controversial leadership at the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC).

Despite resigning Monday, 1 February, some Liberians

appear before courts for the practice of law.

But the LNBA expelled Cllr. Nwabudike's membership on 19 June last year, saying he became member of the LNBA through fraudulent means.

The LNBA revealed to the public that a perusal of his various passports showed his birth dates as October 19, 1960, October 2, 1963, October 2, 1965 and October 2, 1969.

But in his petition before the Civil Law Court, Cllr. Nwabudike complained that since his admission as member of the

the resignation Tuesday, enabling the Nwabudike to leave the job.

A statement issued by the Executive Mansion Tuesday says President Weah has accepted the resignation of Nwabudike, having received the letter of resignation earlier on Monday, 1 February.

The Executive Mansion says President Weah thanked Nwabudike for his services to his Country, Liberia while receiving the letter of resignation. Cllr. Nwabudike's resignation takes effect as of 26 February.

He was appointed LACC's Chairperson in October 2019. Cllr. Nwabudike was in 2018 appointed Chairperson of the Governance Commission (GC). And then months ahead of the 2020 senatorial elections, Cllr. Nwabudike was again appointed to chair the NEC, a position that sparked the controversies surrounding his citizenship status as Liberian.

He failed flat to prove that he is a naturalized Liberian, subsequently denying him of the NEC job and also causing him to lose his membership with the LNBA.

In the letter of resignation as LACC chair, dated 27 January, 2021, Cllr. Nwabudike thanked President Weah for affording him the opportunity to serve in his government.

"The monumental progress made by the Government in the fight against corruption, both in the public and private sectors, is being marred by public debate of my person rather than what contribution I can make towards the economic development of our country", Cllr. Nwabudike said in his letter of resignation.



Cllr. A. Ndubuisi Nwabudike

suggest that the disgraced official should face prosecution to account for statements and actions while he was under oath at a Senate confirmation hearing last year in his bid to chair the National Elections Commission (NEC).

While only the Supreme Court of Liberia can disbar lawyers, Liberian lawyers here are also required to be in good standing with the Liberian National Bar Association to enable them to

Supreme Bar as Counsellor - At-Law on 21 June 2002, he has been and continues to be in good standing, serving the LNBA as its Secretary General.

Ahead of his resignation, student advocates from the University of Liberia held protests to compel the disgraced official to leave the integrity institution, but he held onto power.

He finally resigned Monday, but the information appeared to have only been rumored until President Weah finally accepted

# US\$46m spends

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eat and eat what you grow", the fair will set the tone and tenor on our national quest to give the masses of Liberians the opportunity to improve their lives and start them on the road of prosperity and development, as outlined in the Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

Following the President's announcement of a new push by the government to foster positive growth for the Agriculture sector, President Weah, will attend the NAF and engage sector actors at all levels.

Presenting a never-before-seen opportunity for the lowliest farmers to the highest farmer to engage directly at the highest level of Agricultural Sector governance.

The National Agricultural Fair (NAF), is expected to see the largest gathering of Agricultural Sector actors in the country; farmers, Agribusiness Entrepreneurs and Enterprises, innovators, agricultural students, development partners, financial institutions, agriculture sector associations, etc...Bringing together these sector actors with policy makers and other stakeholders in the food and agricultural value chain.

Minister Cooper pointed out that the three-day event being

held by the MoA will provide a space for dialogue about the sector, highlight agricultural education and training, showcasing of sector investments & interventions, give a platform for farmers to showcase their produce, sector networking, agribusiness products exhibitions and enterprise launches, celebrations of farmers' achievements, to showcase their produce, highlight non-mainstream agricultural activities and attract investor interest.

The NAF will also be a platform for the Government and partners to announce new initiatives, new projects and investments in the sector and celebrate the successes of past initiatives and provide insight on major policy narratives & decisions.

The NAF is being organized by a secretariat composed of Agricultural technocrats and officers, under the stewardship of the Deputy Minister for Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Precious Tetteh.

Meanwhile, MoA is planning this event in collaboration with other line Ministries and Agencies, notably, the Ministry of State, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection, the CDA, along with input from various actors and partners in the Agricultural Sector.

# I'm not enemy

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concerns quietly.

He recalls that during President Weah's Annual Message before the 54th Legislature recently, EPS officers assigned at the entrance of the Capitol Building, having fully recognized him as senator of Montserrado County, delayed him at the entrance for twenty minutes, demanding him to present and display a vehicle pass before entering the Capitol to perform his Legislative functions.

"The latest of the unprovoked and targeted gross disrespect to my office and my person by officers of the EPS was at the Samuel K. Doe sports Complex on Sunday, January 31, during the County Meet final. With a VIP ticket clearly displayed for entry in the stadium, I was embarrassed and blocked from entering the VIP Section in the presence of the EPS Director and other state security officers." Dillon narrates.

He continues that his personal guard was harassed, assaulted and injured, saying

that he had to leave the field and didn't watch the game, adding that it would have been worse and chaotic if he had not held restraint as a national leader.

According to him, at the time of him entering the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville, President Weah was not seated in the VIP Section, but rather on the soccer pitch, playing the Weah 11 Vs the Lone Star game. However, he said others were being allowed into the VIP during the time of his ordeal.

"This was my fifth time officers of the EPS have behaved so unruly towards me, including the two years Annual Messages in 2020 and 2021. I feel personally threatened and I am concerned about my safety and the safety of my family." Sen. Dillon explains.

Meanwhile, the Senate committees on Judiciary, Executive and National Defense has taken seize of the matter to probe and report to plenary of the Liberian Senate in one week. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Cont'd from page 6

# Student leader

"Our sisters who found it pleasurable in sharing those abominable things (nude) should recollect and think, and it's never the way to go as humans of the same gender", he added.

The SUA boss wants such awful behavior abolished, calling on Marylanders to rise up against social injustice by exposing perpetrators.

Justice is the tool that will contain such bad act, justice is the only guiding principles against the perpetrator, justice is the only waymaker now we beseech. Our sisters, aunties and mothers' pride must be respected by all. Whatever way we may think of doing bad things, our womanhood should reign as a prestigious thing to be respected and hailed, he said.

"God's creation of woman was a great ideal to foster partnership between a man and a woman, noting the Bible spoke uniquely how man's rib bone was taken from him while asleep, and that proves the importance of a woman, as such we should all uphold that as a moral principle."

At the same time, Musu warned women to be careful and uphold their integrity. He said women should now prioritize material things and sell their pride, saying if you do such, no loving and caring man will ever respect your dignity.

According to sources, suspect Bardio's arrest was executed after a tipoff by close colleagues, who have been following many of his posts on the social media in the district.

Speaking to this paper over

the weekend, some of the aggrieved women disclosed that suspect Bardio, Jr had allegedly created a page with the name Deng De Bos.

They explained that suspect Bardio used the alleged page to communicate with the victim whose nude pictures were posted on the social media.

Although the victim herself hasn't spoken publicly concerning this worrisome and shameless act, but close family sources confirmed she and the suspect had communicated on social media.

The family sources continued that the victim has in her possession other confidential communications that she had with Deng De Bos on Messenger, including her

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# SG faces pressure for recusal

By Winston W. Parley

Pressuring is mounting against Liberia's Solicitor General Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus to recuse himself from a case filed by Liberian business official Mrs. Wilhemina Mulbah-Siaway against her corporate partner Elizabeth Shelley due to the complainant's fear that the top prosecutor's actions make him seem to be compromised.

"I am asking the Government through the Ministry of Justice to have the Solicitor General Cllr. [Saymah] Syrenius Cephus recuse himself from this case and let other government lawyers such as the County attorney, Cllr. Edwin Martin who initially approved of this matter to be prosecuted handles this case," Mrs. Mulbah - Siaway told this paper Tuesday, 2 February.

"The Solicitor General is already compromised as he has sided with the defendants. Fellow Liberians, I need Justice. I remain and look forward to your Excellency for Prompt Actions into this matter," she notes.

Last week Cllr. Cephus snatched away from court's custody defendant Elizabeth Shelley, a foreign national who stands accused by Mulbah Rubber Estates (MRE) General Manager Mrs. Mulbah-Siaway for allegedly doctoring an audit report, inserting unauthorized information in it to justify her claim of corruption against the complainant.

Madam Mulbah -Siaway says she entered into a partnership agreement with Grow Liberia International in June 2017 to enable her to build her capacity in terms of aiding her to erect an RSS Plant.

On account of Madam Shelley's alleged action, Mrs. Mulbah - Siaway says obtained a writ of arrest dated 21 January issued by the Monrovia City Court and brought defendant Shelley under the court's jurisdiction Tuesday, 26 January with multiple charges including forgery, criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation levied against the accused.

But that these criminal charges could not be heard at the City Court because Cllr. Cephus had snatched away the accused from court, bragging in an interview with reporters via mobile phone that he is the

one who has the right to issue writ in criminal matters.

Besides, Grow Liberia International which Madam Shelley heads, later issued a statement stating that the frivolous, trumped criminal charges brought by Mrs. Mulbah - Siaway against one of its staff are baseless and illegal and were properly dismissed by the competent authority of Liberian state.

In apparent counter to

that MRE excepted to the findings or action of Grow and subsequently filed a suit at the Civil Law Court which is pending final determination.

Grow contends that under the laws of Liberia and nearly every other country, an officer or employee of a corporate entity cannot be held for the action of the corporation, not mentioning one relating to alleged

than US\$378,425.85.

She adds that the excess was spent by MRE, saying Grow Liberia needs to explain how the US\$2.6 million was used on the Liberian farmers.

She also questions why Grow is using the Solicitor General to prevent the criminal case filed against defendant Elizabeth Shelley, Program Manager of Grow Liberia for forgery, criminal

said about me is not from them and never their findings. What then is the international standard of governance, transparency that Grow Liberia is bragging about?" Mrs. Mulbah - Siaway ponders.

Madam Mulbah - Siaway, General Manager for Mulbah Rubber Estate (MRE) and president of the Rubber Planters Association of Liberia, complains of being suppressed by her business partner defendant Shelley, head of Grow Liberia International, to the extent that her business has been unable to operate.

Meanwhile Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus says all criminal writs are issued by the Republic of Liberia, noting that nobody in this Republic can issue writ that does not meet the approval of the Solicitor General or the County Attorney in the county in which the action is taken.

According to Cllr. Cephus, Madam Mulbah - Siaway's action is a civil action owing to the fact that she says that the audit report had exonerated her of the claim of corruption levied against her by defendant Shelley.

Besides, Cllr. Cephus argues that the person that Madam Mulbah - Siaway arrested, defendant Shelley is an expatriate and has some level of diplomatic immunity, therefore she cannot be subjected to Liberian court action. "So as Solicitor General if I were consulted, I would have taken a decision on a way forward," he adds.



Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus

Mrs. Wilhemina Mulbah-Siaway

Madam Mulbah - Siaway's claims, Grow Liberia explains in a statement dated 28 January that it has invested \$2.6 million to help establish in Liberia an industry that will process and add value to rubber farming.

The statement notes that the program focuses on improving access to financial services that can help move Liberia from low - value rubber production to high value rubber products.

It continues that one of Grow's most valued partners, Mulbah Rubber Estates (MRE) received a cash grant and a loan guarantee as well as technical expertise to help the company move into production of ribbed smoke sheets, a higher - quality rubber product.

It says MRE has been the largest recipient of Grow's support in the rubber sector, benefitting extensive introductions to potential buyers as well as the financial and technical help.

Grow narrates that all its partners are closely scrutinized, consistent with international standards of governance, which it says includes immediate prompt but fair and transparent investigation of any credible report alleging contractual, governance and ethical breaches by partners or staff.

According to Grow, this approach was used in the matter involving MRE, stating

criminal conduct of the corporate entity.

But Mrs. - Mulbah argues that the Grow Liberia release fails to say how much of the US\$2.6 million was received by MRE to make it the highest recipient.

For the purpose of setting the record straight, she says MRE received US\$ 50,000, from Grow Liberia toward the RSS project, while MRE secured a loan of US\$ 150,000 from Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI).

During the project implementation, she recalls that the amount of US\$120,000.00 was received by MRE from LBDI, adding that she gave her property value of US\$ 251,671.05 as collateral to the Bank (LBDI), for the purpose of this loan.

Mrs. Mulbah - Siaway contends that the Audit report of Baker Tilly can prove that it was only US\$50,000 that was received from Grow Liberia and accounted for.

She notes that the initial budget for the factory was US\$150,000.00, but based on the instructions from Grow rubber specialists, Derrick Nyumah and international consultant Sarath, MRE was led to demolish and reconstruct the facilities which caused the present value of the factory to swell little more

conspiracy and criminal facilitation from being heard by the Court when the group claims that its relationship with partners is "consistent with international standards of governance."

"The heads of Grow Liberia are accused of doctoring an audit report, the auditors have written to say what was sent to me and

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# US\$46m spent on poetry annually

## -Agriculture Minister discloses



By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Liberia's Agriculture Minister Jeanie Cooper says Liberia spent US\$46 million on poetry and US\$110 million on rice importation annually.

Speaking at a news conference Monday, February 01, Minister Cooper explains that the country spending

such huge amount on the importation of poetry and rice is worrisome and the status quo should change in the soonest possible.

She was quick to point out that in recent years, Liberian farmers have begun improving and making progress in locally produced food. She narrates that with the rice issues, many

Liberians have adjusted to eating locally produced rice instead of the imported rice.

She adds that Liberians are accepting poetry food including chickens, eggs, and other food items but rice has become a challenge to be accepted by them.

Speaking on the pending national agriculture fair, Minister Cooper opines that the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) announced the holding of a National Agricultural Fair on February 12-14, 2021 in Gbarnga City, Bong County, Liberia.

The MoA is mandated and required by law to host an annual National Agricultural Fair showcasing and promoting the agricultural sector in Liberia.

In accordance with the President of Liberia, George M. Weah's declaration, "Liberians will no longer be spectators in our own economy" and "grow what you

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# I'm not enemy of the Executive

- **Dillon**  
 By Ethel A Tweh

Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon seems to constantly be in bad book with state security here that has left his personal aide publicly assaulted.

"I'm not an enemy of the Executive", Dillon says and warns that the bus has just stopped.

According to him, the Deputy Director of Police,

Col. Marvin Sackor recently appeared on radio and said that he (Dillon) is a target of the Executive.

Speaking Tuesday, February 2, in the Liberian Senate Dillon notes that he didn't want President Weah to become President of Liberia and that's why he didn't vote for him and that's the same way President Weah never wanted him to become Senator but yet he is Senator for nine years, underscoring that they need to work together as leaders.



In his official complainant to the Liberian Senate, Dillon recounts that on several occasions, he has been disrespected, harassed and embarrassed at state functions by officers of the elite Executive Protection Service, EPS.

According to him, he has reported these incidents to the Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie for redress, noting that the Pro-Temp in his wisdom, chose to resolve these

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