

## Tainted governor to fill Obama's seat

Written by Anton Barnard

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The corruption-tainted governor of Illinois was expected to appoint a replacement Tuesday to the senate

A defiant Rod Blagojevich, who is accused of trying to sell the seat to the highest bidder, was expected to

anonymity.

Senate leaders warned they would not seat anyone appointed by Blagojevich after he was arrested Dec

profit from the appointment.

Blagojevich's lawyer had said the Democratic governor would not try to fill the seat and supported a spe

But a battle was underway among state lawmakers over the special election, with Republicans accusing

Burris is not thought to be among the six candidates discussed by Blagojevich in the FBI wiretaps and c

Burris was the first African-American elected to statewide office in Illinois when he won the office of state

He held that job until he became the second African American in the United States elected to the office o

He ran, unsuccessfully, in 1984 for the Democratic nomination for the same senate seat to which he will

Burris, who served as vice chair of Blagojevich's transition team, currently runs a political consulting firm

Burris has also made Ebony magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential African-Americans 16 time

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Blagojevich, who has vehemently maintained his innocence, scheduled a press conference for 2000 GM

Source : Sapa-AFP /rm