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U.S. to issue visa restrictions, other consequences



NEC Boss, Mrs. Davidetta Browne

NEC halts electoral activities



Sen. Dillon



Rep. Fallah



Sen. Kargua-Lawrence



Mr. Findley



Former Speaker Tyler



Rep. Snowe



Former Rep. Binney



Sen. Morais

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Continental News

Nigeria abolishes hated police unit after protests

Nigeria has dissolved the special police force at the centre of protests against police brutality.

The government said a special presidential directive had ordered the immediate dissolution of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (Sars).

Protests against the squad were sparked by a video of a man allegedly being killed by police.

The demonstrations have intensified despite a crackdown and have spread outside the country. All the officers in the Sars squad - widely accused of unlawful arrests, torture and murder - are to be redeployed, the presidency said, and a new arrangement to replace the squad is being worked on.

Meanwhile, Nigeria's chief of police said a team of investigators - including civil society organisations and human rights bodies - would be set up to investigate alleged abuses by Sars. President Muhammadu

Buhari had earlier said he was determined to end police brutality, introduce reforms and bring "erring personnel... to justice".

Protesters had demanded the unit be disbanded rather than reformed because previous commitments to change police behaviour had had no effect. At first glance

this seems like exactly what the protestors were calling for: the closure of the dreaded Special Anti Robbery Squad which has been accused of widespread rights abuses for years.

But there are worrying signs. The dissolution of Sars came with one important specification: the

officers from the controversial police unit will be redeployed. It's unclear where to. That's crucial because although the protest started off as a call to disband Sars, it has expanded to include the wider Nigerian police force. Activists were quick to point out that the abuses carried out during the protests, including beatings, intimidation and the disproportionate use of force against demonstrators, were all carried out by policemen who did not belong to Sars.

For them, what's needed is a total overhaul of policing in Nigeria. It's also unclear whether any officers will be

prosecuted for past abuses, something rights group Amnesty has said is crucial to ensure justice for the alleged victims. BBC correspondents in Nigeria say clashes between anti-Sars protestors and policemen have been growing.

Multiple eyewitnesses told the BBC they were beaten by police officers, as well as seeing others being attacked during protests on Sunday morning, Nigeria correspondent Mayeni Jones said. A young woman who had strayed from the crowd at one protest told the BBC she had been beaten by 10 policemen who broke her glasses. BBC



Sunday saw more protests, such as this one in Lagos

Canary Islands see new influx of African migrants

More than 1,000 migrants from Africa have arrived in the Spanish Canary Islands over the last 48 hours, the Red Cross says. These are figures that have not been seen for more than a decade.

On a visit to the islands, Spain's Migration Minister José Luis Escrivá promised a "comprehensive response".

This route from West Africa has grown in popularity since 2018. A previous peak, in 2006, saw 35,000 migrants

arrive in the archipelago, the UN says. Many of the migrants would have set sail from Senegal, more than 1,600km (1,000 miles) away, where this week two boats carrying 186 people were intercepted by Senegalese marines, the AFP news agency reported quoting a military statement. 1px transparent line

The passengers were reported to have been from Senegal and The Gambia.

The migrants who arrived in the Canary Islands since

Thursday were rescued from 37 boats, Spanish news agency EFE reports.

Many are being looked after by the Spanish Red Cross in camps near where they disembarked.

A Red Cross spokesman told AFP that barring a few mild cases of hypothermia, all were in good health and had been tested for coronavirus. Mr Escrivá has been on a trip to three of the archipelago's main islands - Tenerife, Fuerteventura and Gran Canaria - to see the situation for himself.

But he was criticised by local council leader Blas Acosta for not offering any solutions to how the migrants should be housed, El Mundo newspaper reports.

Between January and the end of July this year, 3,269 migrants made the crossing from West Africa to the Canary Islands, which is nearly a 600% increase on the same period in 2019, the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) says.

This year so far, more than 250 people have died trying to reach the islands, the IOM adds. BBC



Some of those who arrived last week needed to get treatment in hospital

Namibia police break up protest on violence against women



There were also protests in the capital, Windhoek, on Friday

Police in the Namibian capital, Windhoek, have fired teargas and rubber bullets at protesters seeking an end to violence against women.

The country has one of the highest levels of reported rapes in the world while more than 200 cases of domestic violence are registered each month in Windhoek.

A wave of demonstrations began on Thursday after a campaign on social media for President Hage Geingob to declare a state of emergency

over gender-based violence.

On Saturday, hundreds of young women marched towards one of the main shopping malls in Windhoek, but the demonstration was broken up by police.

Dozens were detained and some protesters said they had been assaulted by officers.

The first lady of Namibia, Monica Kalondo, had earlier offered her support to the movement.

Similar protests have been taking place in other cities. BBC

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EDITORIAL

No place for electoral violence

THE GOVERNMENT OF the United States thru Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, last week sounded a caveat to African countries preparing for elections, including Liberia to respect the rule of law by allowing citizens to engage in political dialogue and support their choice of candidates, parties, and platforms.

MR. POMPEO SAID in a statement issued over the weekend thru the United States Embassy in Monrovia that the conduct of elections is important not only for Africans, but also for defenders of democracy around the world.

SPECIFICALLY, THE UNITED STATES has vowed to closely watch actions of individuals who interfere in democratic process on the Continent and will not hesitate to consider consequences, including visa restrictions for people that would be responsible for election-related violence anywhere in Africa.

THIS CAVEAT FROM Liberia's traditional partner America, comes just at a time Liberians are gearing up for midterm senatorial elections on December 8, 2020. The December poll is to elect 15 senators to join 15 incumbent at the Capitol to complete the 30-member Liberian Senate before the next presidential election in 2023.

BUT AHEAD OF the poll, political rallies, mainly by the opposition have been disrupted repeatedly by violence, with fingers-pointing and threats of violent reaction.

ALTHOUGH SECRETARY POMPEO'S warning was not specifically directed at Liberia, but this country being a historical friend of America should listen and act accordingly. Liberia cannot afford to dwindle in violent or fraudulent elections because we should be torchbearer for young democracies on the Continent.

AS SECRETARY POMPEO emphasized, it is important that all sides have equal opportunity to participate peacefully in the democratic process void of repression and intimidation. This has not been the case at recent rallies held across the country, particularly in Monrovia and parts adjacent by opposition candidates, including Senator Abraham Darius Dillon of the Collaborating Political Parties.

WE RECALL THE incident of CPP leader Alexander Cummings' visit to Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County along with opposition Lawmaker Yekeh Kolubah months ago, where they were violently chased out of the county by machete-brandishing thugs expressing loyalty to President George Manneh Weah.

OUTCOME OF A government investigating into the violence is still pending despite a joint statement issued by Foreign Missions in Monrovia, calling for speedy probe.

EVERY LIBERIAN SHOULD endeavor to keep our elections and democracy peaceful and participatory. Whether a candidate comes from the opposition CPP, the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or is an Independent, he or she has right to campaign and seek votes in counties, communities, towns and villages without fear of being chased away with machetes and stones.

COMMENTARY

By Landry Signé & Ameenah Gurib-fakim

Global Partnerships for an African Recovery

Aside from humanitarian principles and solidarity, a strong and rapid African recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is in the world's interest. External partners can help to improve Africa's crisis response, accelerate its economic recovery, and build momentum for its post-pandemic development.

WASHINGTON, DC/PORT LOUIS - The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly affected developed and developing countries alike, despite vast disparities in initial response capacities. Global leaders were especially concerned about the disease's potential implications for Africa, given the continent's lack of financial and medical resources, weak health-care systems, fragile economies, and vulnerable populations.

But preparation and cooperation among African leaders and African Union agencies, particularly the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, have resulted in many successes - including increased testing capacity, resource mobilization, and coordinated policies to prevent and contain the coronavirus's spread and promote economic recovery.

Despite these successes, Africa is still facing significant challenges. These include a continued rise in COVID-19 cases, a need for greater testing capacity and improved health infrastructure, difficulties acquiring medical and food supplies, weak social-welfare systems that are struggling to support vulnerable populations during the economic crisis, and high government debt coupled with a need for increased spending.

Although African countries are capable of continuing their progress on the long road to recovery, external support would greatly bolster their efforts. Aside from humanitarian principles and solidarity, a strong and rapid African recovery is in the world's interest. As long as the virus is unchecked in some regions, no part of the world can be safe from it. Moreover, if COVID-19 further weakens fragile African states or causes health or economic disasters on the continent, a migration crisis or increased threats to international security could ensue.

We therefore propose six ways the world can cooperate with Africa to improve the continent's crisis response, accelerate its economic recovery, and build momentum for its post-pandemic development.

First, external partners can provide sufficient resources and investment to enable effective COVID-19 responses and inclusive post-pandemic economic recoveries. Although multilateral and bilateral partners have already provided some financial support in the form of debt relief, loans, and grants, African governments need much more. Some estimate the continent's pandemic-response funding gap at about \$100 billion annually over the next three years. Given Africa's health-care and economic vulnerabilities, additional financial support and debt relief are critical.

Second, partners should support and invest in the African Continental Free Trade Area, which is one of Africa's best economic-recovery plans. The AfCFTA aims to increase intra-African trade significantly, and thus develop regional value chains, local manufacturing, and sourcing of intermediate and final goods. By reducing the continent's vulnerability to external shocks through decreased dependence on non-African trade, the agreement will foster economic diversification and resilience, thereby promoting Africa's integration and assisting its recovery. In addition to backing and investing in the AfCFTA,

partners can provide expertise regarding trade regulations and manufacturing capacity.

Supporting private-sector growth is a third way to unlock Africa's economic potential, representing a significant opportunity - in terms of both trade and investment - that will benefit Africa and global businesses. Although both the formal sector and the large informal sector are currently struggling, owing to lockdowns and economic restrictions, private firms will be crucial to Africa's recovery and future development. External partners can support African businesses through increased investment, including in small and medium-size enterprises that are today trying to stay afloat and pay their employees. International partners can also help to improve the business environment, for example by overseeing a mandatory regulation process.

Next, external partners can support Africa's efforts to embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and achieve a successful digital transformation. During the pandemic, technology has enabled real-time medical forecasting and modeling, better communication between leaders, and the virtual operation of businesses. But Africa's technology infrastructure, specifically Internet access, lags severely, and the continent has benefited less from digital technology than the rest of the world. Partners can help accelerate the 4IR in Africa by sharing technological innovations, collaborating in adapting them to African contexts, and providing investments that will unleash young African innovators' technological potential and enable existing innovations to be scaled up.

Fifth, the world can help to ensure that no African is left behind, including through job creation, skill-building, social protection, and gender equality. Vulnerable groups such as those living in urban slums or rural areas, youth, women, and the poorest families need extra government support, but social-welfare systems are weak, especially in fragile states. External partners should therefore give special consideration to assisting the most-affected countries and communities by channeling resources toward these populations, instead of giving unconditional aid to governments, and by collaborating with African leaders to create innovative policies that benefit these groups.

The final priority is to help Africa address its fragilities and bridge the gaps between policy goals and outcomes, including through evidence-based policy research. Ineffective institutions, corruption, and a lack of accountability can undermine even perfect policies. Partners can monitor projects or provide experts to assist in implementation, and can promote good governance through measures and indicators such as Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, the Fund for Peace's Fragile States Index, or the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators. Research institutes and think tanks such as the Brookings Institution are playing an important role in this effort.

Each of these six proposals can help Africa to combat and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, but they are also critical for realizing the continent's potential and accelerating its future development. By collaborating with external partners to secure additional resources, develop new initiatives, and invest in key sectors, African countries can mitigate the virus's immediate impact and hasten economic recovery while building resilient systems for long-term growth and success.



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COMMENTARY

NON-VIOLENCE: THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE BETTER

by

Togba-Nah Tipoteh

Founding Leader, Movement for Justice in Africa (MOJA)
Chairperson, Servants of Africa Fighting Epidemics (SAFE)

With the wave of violent activities in Liberia, it is of highest importance to take urgent actions stop the violence now and prevent further violence. The 1989 to 2003 Civil War in Liberia that resulted in nearly 300,000 deaths and infrastructural damage, that remains un-rehabilitated, provides sufficient evidence to tell all of us that violence is not the way forward for the better.

The activities that led to the Civil War are taking place today and they could lead to another Civil War if they are not stopped now. It is my patriotic duty to tell the truth publicly. I have not been wrong in this regard because I have spoken what I have learned from the people and this is why there is the useful expression: The Voice of God is the Voice of the People.

The only way to stop these violent activities is to use the Rule of Law, as based on the Constitution of Liberia. Certainly, there is one issue that Liberians generally are agreed upon, as heard in the expression: We want Peace; No more War. With the reality of this expression, the Liberian people can show commitment to peace by working together to bring Justice for All. Peace is not the absence of war! Only Justice brings Peace!

The people look up to the Government, especially their representatives, as found in the National Legislature, to hold the Executive and Judicial Branches of the Government accountable for the ushering in of a Justice for All System to get rid of the prevailing system of injustice. To the extent that the Legislators do not work for Justice, the people can take corrective actions by not re-electing them and electing persons with good records of working to bring Justice for All.

It is only possible to have good persons elected when the electoral process, supervised by the National Elections Commission (NEC) of Liberia, is fair, meaning that it is based on the Rule of Law, through the Constitution of Liberia. Prior to the 2017 election, the Tipoteh versus Korkoya (Chairman of NEC) case on the unconstitutionality in NEC, with specific reference to the non-Liberian citizenship of Chairman Korkoya, was brought to the Supreme Court of Liberia. The Supreme Court said that it was not prepared to give a ruling on the case at that time. Up to now, the Court has not given a ruling on the case!

Later, the Supreme Court ruled, in the Liberty Party versus NEC case, that the evidence about irregularities in the Voters Registration Roll was insignificant and NEC could not be compelled to hold fresh elections; but NEC must proceed to cleaning up the Voters Registration Roll.

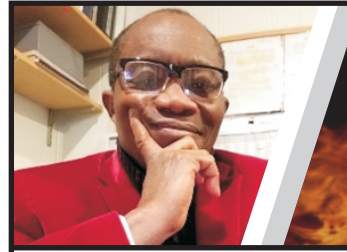
In any event, the Voters Registration Roll has not been cleaned up and elections have been held, as elections and a referendum are about to be held. Protests continue with attendant violence, not forgetting the political campaign violence, accompanied by the trucking of foreigners and Liberians from their places of residence to other places to register to vote.

Now, the prevalence of violence has attracted the attention of partners in ECOWAS and other countries represented in the Diplomatic Corps. The violence continues to have a negative impact on the volume of funds available for public expenditure. inward remittances and the flow of local and foreign investment. Instead of recognizing injustice as the source of the negative societal impact, the blame game continues with the casting of blame on previous governments and opposition parties, labeled as enemies of progress.

However the violence crisis in the midst of the public health pandemic, like any crisis, provides an opportunity for good people to work together, through the Rule of Law, as based on the Constitution of Liberia. This crisis provides an opportunity for the people to identify good people, on the basis of their records, in order to be able to vote them into public offices to represent the people well by making decisions in the people's interest. Whenever good persons are national decision-makers. good results take place and the people enjoy better living conditions.

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With Jones Mallay

LIBERIA POLITICAL

HOT-FIRE

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

Can CPP Win the Voters' Roll-Cleanup War Since 1847?

CPP's ardent political icons in the persons of Hon. Cummings (ANC); VP. Boakai (UP); Hon. Urey (ALP) and Sen. Karnga-Lawrence (LP) are staunch political leaders. These iconic minds can symbolically be called Liberia's "Mount Kilimanjaro" who is a force to appraise with ill-respective of their affirmational proclamation to be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, for a political showdown and a call to electioneering justice for all and sundry. Ghost names and names of dead Liberians had been the sole pathway to winning scores of elections' victories by incumbents' in Liberia since 1847. But the question that remains on the chops of thousands and thousands of CPP's die-hards, sympathizers, and well-wishers is: "Can CPP be triumphant over the Voters' Roll-Cleaning War?"

When taken a thorough panorama view around some of the systemic voters' frauds in Liberia at a scale of an unproportionable consequence that astounds the democratic lawyers of Liberia's fragile foundation after its independence proclamation on July 26, 1847, one can only conclude that perpetual election frauds are the first cousin to Liberia's systemic corruption with no remedy insight due to the incumbent huge advantage.

The culmination of a voters' roll will be annihilated to the pivotal incumbent in many ways. First, there will be no extra ghost names to put the incumbent over the finished lines. Secondly, it will amount to outright defeat for the incumbent's party, Third, it is frustrating to lose state power through a ballot box that can easily be controlled by a ruling incumbent by any iota of imagination. The beauty of most African elections is when the voters' rolls are truly pregnant with ghost names, that includes the names of dead people, foreigners, and/or visitors alike.

The first election hoodwinking in Liberia took place in 1927 between Charles D. B. King of the True Whig Party and Thomas J. Faulkner, of the People's Party. The total registered voters were 15, 000 Liberians. After all the votes were counted, King had a total of 243, 000 extra votes while Faulkner had 9,000 votes. Faulkner cried foul immediately, and asked, "where did the extra votes come from?" is still a mystery today as the then incumbent King held onto power.

In 1985 the late Doe won 50.9% of the total votes. According to sources, Doe election commissioners packed the voters' roll with ghost names overnight. Ballots were exported from Sinoe County according to several dependable antecedents familiar with the 1985 election that 44-ballot boxes were refilled in a helicopter more than twenty-five-times before reaching Monrovia at dawn. 80% of Grand Gedian names were drafted in Tuazon, and their votes were cast on their behalf at the executive mansion simply for Doe to remain in power which did not do him any good in the end.

Charles Taylor won 75.3% of the total votes under the noses of 16-political parties, there were popular outcries of foul play, yet Taylor was declared president. In 2005 Ellen Johnson Sirleaf won a run-off election against George Weah who had won the first round earlier by 28.3%. and Ellen won 59% of the total votes in the second round amidst ghost names on voters' roll which compelled George Weah to cry foul and quickly ran to Nigeria but was told to shut up and wait for Ellen's full term to end which he did with political homage. When Ellen's 12-years ended after winning the 2011 election with 90.7% of the votes, this time the baton was passed onto George Weah as president. Can the same thing be in the case of the 2023 presidential election involving the CPP and the beginning of President 2nd term?

Notably, the incumbent's political advantages are vast. He has full political power over the election commissioners. He can hire and fire any commissioner at will. He holds the purse to their daily survival. It is difficult for an incumbent to lose an election easily in Liberia. Demonstration against voters' cleanup exercise is good, but it does not yield its desired goals of a true cleaning up exercise from time immemorial.

Secondly, most Liberians are regular hustlers who are not familiar with a weeklong demonstration. Many of them had to go on the hustle for food to keep their families on the move daily. Liberians are not too exposed to the dynamics of a sustained demonstration that would bring the government to its knees. The answer to voters' cleanup roll is simply for the Liberian National Election Commission to be removed from the executive and placed under the Legislatures that will create laws by which commissioners are voted into office thus neutralizing the power of the executive branch over the commission.



SPECIAL NOTICES
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)
VERTICAL CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT SERVICES

This Request for Information (RFI) is published to enable USAID to assess the market for Liberian companies which are capable and interested in providing Architect & Engineering (A&E) services to provide construction oversight, professional engineering and other technical services to USAID/Liberia. These services will encompass feasibility studies, engineering designs and construction supervision and related support, ranging from quick response to short and long-term services in Vertical Construction Oversight (VCO) across the Mission's portfolios.

DISCLAIMER

This is a Request for Information only. It is not a Request for Proposal, Request for Quotation, an Invitation for Bids, a Solicitation or an indication that USAID/Liberia will contract for the services. The RFI is an attempt to reach out to the market to determine the scope of industry capabilities and interest and will be treated as information only. In accordance with FAR 15.201 (e), responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government of the United States to form a binding contract. Responses are strictly voluntary, and USAID will not pay respondents for information provided. Responses will not be returned, and respondents will not be notified of the result of the review. If a solicitation is issued, it will be sent to a selective set of companies at a later date, and all interested parties contacted must respond to that solicitation separately from any response to this notice. The RFI does not restrict the Government's acquisition approach on a future solicitation.

INSTRUCTIONS

The complete RFI can be downloaded from BetaSam using the following link <https://beta.sam.gov/> searching by the RFI No. 72066920R00011 or "USAID/Liberia Vertical Construction Oversight".

To respond to this RFI, interested sources must provide no more than ten (10) pages in Microsoft Word or PDF format, a capability statement expressing interest and documenting ability to meet the requirements as specified in the Description of Services. Interested sources must provide their full business name, address, name and title of contact person by Thursday October 15, 17h00 (5:00 PM), Liberian time, to Luisa Alvarado at lalvarado@usaid.gov with copy to Edward S. Lamin at elamin@usaid.gov.

Sincerely
JUDY J WEBB
 (affiliate)
 Judy J. Webb
 Supervisory Contracting Officer

Digitally signed by JUDY J WEBB (affiliate)
 Date: 2020.10.05 16:32:03 Z

SECTION I. INVITATION FOR BIDS
FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS
 (101st Graduation Academicals)
IFB NO.: UL/SP/NCB/002/20/21

September 15, 2020

- The University of Liberia has allotted portion of its Convocation's budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and intends to apply it towards the procurement of Academicals for the 101st Graduating Class, 2020.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA), 2010 and approved by the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC) of the Republic of Liberia.

3. Specification and quantity:

ItemNo.	Description	Quantity
LOT # 1	Academicals LOT 1- Graduate Programs/Visitor/Professors	Assorted
LOT # 2	Academicals LOT 2- Undergraduate Programs	Assorted

- Qualification requirements include:
 - Valid Government of Liberia (GOL) Business Registration with Code M7410
 - Valid GOL Tax Clearance
 - Past Performance records including the names and contact numbers of at least 4 clients who had purchased same/similar goods in the last 4 years. They will be used as references to check the performance and quality of the offered model, if necessary.
 - Bank statement for the past three (3) years to present
 - Bids will be examined for proper signature and completeness before consideration for further evaluation.
- A set of bidding documents in English can be obtained by interested bidders for a non-refundable fee **US\$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars)** from the Procurement Department, Fendall Campus beginning September 15 – October 14, 2020 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.
- All bids must be accompanied by a Notarized Bid Securing declaration valid for 60 days after the opening of bids.

7. Interested Bidders are advised to visit the Procurement Department (see address below) to view samples of the fabrics before submitting bids.

8. Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 p.m., October 14, 2020 and will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the Administrative Conference Room (AC1-01), Right wing of the Administrative Complex, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow:

In the upper left corner of the envelop, print:
"SEALED BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF ACADEMICALS"
 LOT#: _____
 REF.: IFB NO.:UL/SP/NCB/002/20/21

Below the bid reference number, print the bidder's address.

In the middle of the envelop, print the address below:

Procurement Department
 Administrative Complex, Right wing, 1st Floor, Room #: AC1-09
 University of Liberia
 Fendall Campus, Liberia

9. Note that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Signed: _____
 DIRECTOR/Procurement Dept.

Approved: _____
 ADMINISTRATION

JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



SITTING IN ITS SEPTEMBER TERM A.D. 2020
 BEFORE HIS HONOUR, **J. KENNEDY PEABODY** ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE PETITION OF ALVIN T. JONES OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA, MONTSEERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA PETITIONER PRAYING THIS HONOURABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE KNOWN, RECORDED AND CALLED, AS "ALVIN TOE TWEH"

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME:

ALVIN T. JONES filed a Petition through his legal counsel requesting this Honourable Court to order the change of his name to "ALVIN TOE TWEH"

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the change of his name, requesting this Honourable Court is intended to reflect his true family name and render his identity more explicit and absolute. After conducting the necessary interrogations requested by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the Change of his name proposed by him is therefore, it is adjusted as follows:

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on AUGUST 7, 1973 in PLEEBO DISTRICT, MARYLAND COUNTY, Republic of Liberia unto the union of MR. PETER TAR TOE and MISS. MARY G. TEH respectively, all of the City of Monrovia, Montseerrado County, Republic of Liberia and that the Change of name will substantially promote his interest in all of the undertakings and help to establish just identity more firmly, and being Satisfied that he has met all legal requirements for the Change of his Name in this Jurisdiction, it is therefore DECREEED as follows:

That the PETITION having been heard he and same is hereby ordered granted and we now Render that the name ALVIN T. JONES be changed to "ALVIN TOE TWEH" Beginning this 28th day of SEPTEMBER A.D. 2020.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN OPEN COURT, THIS _____ DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D. 2020

J. KENNEDY PEABODY
 ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING
 SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME _____ PAGE(S) _____

REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT.CO, R. L.

Starts from back page **Local group parades**

is imposed for the crime of rape, people would continue to rape.

"So we thought it wise to go out in the streets today at least to tell them some of these things," he says.

For the empowerment aspect, Mr. Williams says his organization cares for its membership in different kinds of ways, noting that some of them might want to go into micro - finance or other economic programs, saying the organization helps to give sponsorship.

For those who want to acquire vocational training, he says the organization also stands to help them achieve their goal.

Mr. Williams explains further that the

organization looks up to donors in the process, noting that he has two persons in the United States that sometimes give small helps and have been serving as the brain behind the organization.

According to him, the organization plans to cover the 17 districts of Montseerrado County, and then extend the program to the rest of the counties in the country, expressing hope to get donors' help in the process.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

WAEC administers exams to 33,963 Sixth Graders

By Bridgett Milton

The West African Examinations Council (WAEC) Liberia Office starts the administration of the National Examinations today, Monday, October 12th for about 33,963 Sixth Graders

administered in four core subjects, Mathematics, English, General Science, and Social Studies, respectively.

The Head of WAEC-Liberia Mr. Dale G. Gbotoe said, the Liberia Primary School Certificate Examination (LPSC) is expected to be

year's exams, 16,933 are males, which constitute 49.86 percent, while 17,030 are females, constituting 50.14 percent.

Mr. Gbotoe also disclosed a total of 40,261 ninth graders from 1,525 schools across Liberia will write the Liberia Junior High School Certificate Exam (LJHSCE) from Wednesday, October 14 to Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 302 centers.

The WAEC Head of National Office placed the total number of males sitting this year's LJHSCE at 20,266 or 50.34 percent and the total number of females at 19,995 or 49.66 percent.

Mr. Gbotoe at the same disclosed the institution's decision to introduce the Customized Mathematical Set (CMS) on the Liberia Junior High School Certificate Examinations and as such, no candidate will be allowed to write the exam without the CMS.

The Customized Mathematical Set contains a time piece, a scientific calculator, and a geometric set.

He added that the introduction of the CMS was

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



across the country to be followed by exams for 9th graders during the week.

Both examinations, Liberia Primary School Certificate Exam and the Liberia Junior High School Certificate Exam will be

administered to 33,963 sixth graders from 1,943 schools across the country from Monday, October 12 to Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 294 centers.

He said of the total primary school candidates sitting this

MTN Group announces new CEO of Lonestar Cell MTN Liberia

MTN Group is pleased to announce the appointment of the new chief executive officer of Lonestar Cell MTN in Liberia. Rahul De, the current Chief Marketing Officer of MTN Nigeria, will take the helm at the company on November 1, 2020. Rahul replaces Uche Ofodile who departed Lonestar Cell MTN in July to become the CEO of MTN Benin.

With 23 years of experience in the telco space, ranging across multiple geographies, Rahul has spent the last two decades in senior leadership roles driving growth and leading business transformation.

"I would like to congratulate Rahul on his appointment," said MTN Group president and CEO Ralph Mupita. "Rahul is a seasoned leader renowned for driving innovative digital

and FinTech advancement in our business and in the telecommunications industry."

Expressing appreciation for Rahul's commitment and valued service, MTN Nigeria CEO, Ferdi Moolman said, "we thank Rahul for his unwavering

dedication and commitment to ensuring that MTN Nigeria remains the market leader in our industry; and congratulate him on his new role. I know that he will continue to shine bright as he moves on from our immediate



CDC will not campaign for me

-District#9 candidate Frank Foko

By Lewis S. Teh

Frank Saah Foko, winner of the just-ended CDC primary to vie for the seat left by fallen Lawmaker Munah P. Youngblood in Montserrado County Electoral District# 9 says he needs no campaign in the district because his relationship with the people is sufficient to give him victory.

"CDC will not have to campaign for me in the district# 9 election, because my relationship with my constituents can give me the victory I need", the rather overly confident aspirant boasts.

was just a matter of one of us representing our party but we are all winners", he adds.

He hails his opponents from the race and calls on residents of district 9 to unite forces to maintain the district for the ruling CDC.

Frank won the primary by 882 of the total 2445 votes cast in the poll with 136 invalid votes.

In remarks, CDC Chairman Mulbah K. Morlusaid the party was being transformed to an institution where decision is made from bottom to top.

"For us to conduct an exercise where there is no



Addressing scores of partisans at the CDC headquarters in Oldest Congo Town outside Monrovia after going thru the primary during the weekend, Frank thanked the primary committee headed by City Mayor Jefferson T. Koijee, for conducting a free, fair and transparent primary that promoted unity amongst candidates that participated and accepted the results with expressed willingness to work collectively to ensure the late Munah's legacy and mandate is achieved.

"This victory is to us all; it

acrimony, it speaks to the maturity of the party, and the respect for the rule of law."

He said there was no business for any of the contestants from the primary express displeasure about this exercise, warning that anyone that will do something contrary to the primary leaders of that group will bear consequences of their supporters' actions.

"Don't limit your life to just an event, you might have bigger opportunity than just this primary", Chairman Morlu concluded. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Y'ello family."

During this tenure at MTN Nigeria, Rahul spearheaded the team that is driving digital transformation in the country, from a voice and data centric organisation to one which drives a digital and fintech future.

Rahul joined MTN in 2011 as Chief Marketing Officer of MTN Ghana, a position he held for over four years before he joined MTN Nigeria in 2015 as Chief Marketing Officer. He has an MBA in International Business and a bachelor's degree in Science.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UL seeks to build University City

The University of Liberia (UL) says it seeks the development of a University City as one of its top five of priorities, vowing to ensure that there is always seed money in its budget for the project in addition to looking out to partners for resources in support of the plan.

there are interested partners that are willing to link the university to some groups to finance the development of the University City.

He details that locally, discussions are ongoing with the Liberia Football Association (LFA) to explore the possibility for a wonderful stadium that meets the FIFA bench

move the next stage, the university will have all the different pieces together to prepare for year two of his management team.

Earlier presenting the Fendall Land Master Plan to Dr. Nelson, Committee Chair and UL Vice President for Institutional Development Prof. WeadeKobbah - Boley recalled that the Fenall Land story started as far back as the 1960s when then Liberian President William V.S. Tubman, in his wisdom, saw the need to relocate UL from Capitol Hill campus.

According to Prof. Boley, the war interrupted the plan, and Fendall became a displaced center, housing a lot of people. She adds that peacekeepers also moved to Fendall after the war.

Lately in 2014, she notes that the university embarked on moving to Fendall, and subsequently won a case in May 2016 against those claiming ownership of properties on the Fendall land.

She concludes that the university's 5,800 acres of land have mapped out, noting that huge spaces have been reserved for any college that will move to Fendall, while spaces for commercial and industrial activities, academic and residential areas are also reserved.



The President of the University of Liberia, Rev. Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson made the disclosure Friday, 8 October in Fendall after receiving the Fendall Land Master Plan which according to the Fendall Land Development Committee, has a vast land of 5,800 acres.

Rev. Dr. Nelson notes that

agreement to be constructed in Liberia.

He concludes that preparations have commenced to ensure that immediately after environmental study is concluded on the property to meet all the basic requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ministry of Public Works to

No time for blame game

-Citizens react to Sime Darby's departure

The gradual departure of Sime Darby Plantation Liberia (SDPL) last year from Liberia and later sold out to Mano Factoring Company(MANO), still remains a dream to many, but seen as a setback in the country's investment portfolio by others.

Sime Darby Plantation Liberia signed a sixty three years (63yrs) concession agreement in 2009 with the Government of Liberia to develop over two hundred twenty thousands (220,000) hectares of land within four counties in Liberia, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu and Bong counties.

The company employed over four thousand workforce

bottom was removed from the country. A statement was issued by the company in Malaysia informing the world that its investment in Liberia has come to an end and sold it out to a company in Liberia-Mano Palm Oil Industries Limited (MPOI), a subsidiary of Mano Factoring Company(MANO).

SDPL was not happy with what many people called a premature departure from Liberia.

This was somehow expressed by the company through its Group managing Director. According to Mr.MohamadHelmy Othman Basha, since the operation in Liberia in 2009, SDPL has only managed to plant on just over



and provided schools, healthcare and other social benefits to the communities. Buses transported students to school and an employee had seven dependents on healthcare and provided rice as well.

The planting of the first palm was performed by former vice president Joseph Boakai. Its presence led to the employment of several thousands of Liberians and boosted the country's economy. It also attracted other companies to move into Liberia.

Upon resumption, the operations were affected in so many ways, ranging from theft, encroachment on their land, inability to expand, conservation issues among others. For years, it informed the previous government to act, but little was done.

So, without any remedy, the trigger was pulled. On January 16, 2020, the final concession

10,300 hectares of land due to various operating challenges.

But its departure has made many people blaming either the current government or previous government and other stakeholders.

"The leaving of SDPL should be put at the doorstep of the previous government, headed by Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. It was her influence and the good business climate that led the company to come here. So, the onus was on her to do all in her power to protect the company," BoimaKoroma, a university student from Bomi County noted at an intellectual center recently.

He was buttressed by another speaker, Anthony Peters; "we missed a golden opportunity. Do you know what it means for Sime Darby to leave your country when other people are begging for that company to go and invest in

Senate staffers honor Sen. Gaye

By Ethel A Tweh

The Staffers Association at the Liberian Senate has through its spokesperson Charles Brown, honored Grand Gedeh County Senator G. Alphonso Gaye over the weekend as the most cooperative Senator.

The ceremony which took place in the office of the Grand Gedeh County Senator brought together staffers from different departments at the Liberian Senate.

Presenting the certificate on behalf of the group, the spokesperson who recently led the group to a protest for salaries and benefits, Mr. Charles Brown said it was through Senator Gaye's instrumentality that they were able to be part of the funding from the extra sitting.

According to Brown, Senator Gaye he headed the committee to probe the Senate staffers' concerns



recently.

He notes that Senator Gaye has been working with them for years. Mr. Brown recalls that the Grand Gedeh Senator while serving as a Transport Minister, had a good working relationship with the staffers at the Ministry, as well other places he worked

including USAID and Oxfam which he left honorably.

"Let us give his flower whilst he's alive. He's a people centered person and cares for everyone. Since he's not contesting the Senatorial seat

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Français

La CPP appelle à des manifestations le 28 octobre 2020

La Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP) a fixé au mercredi 28 octobre 2020 le début d'un mouvement de protestation éclatée en vue d'exiger du changement concernant un éventail de questions d'intérêt national.

« Cette manifestation se poursuivra jusqu'à ce que nos doléances, qui incluent, le nettoyage de la liste électorale, l'annulation de la

mise à jour frauduleuse des listes électorales qui vient de se terminer et d'autres problèmes d'intérêt national affectant la vie de notre peuple, soient satisfaites », a déclaré la CPP dans un communiqué publié le jeudi 8 octobre.

« La décision de se lancer dans une manifestation soutenue intervient à un moment où notre pays est sur la voie d'une décomposition imminente alors que nos

systèmes nous font faillite. Nous ne saurions trop insister sur l'importance d'organiser des élections libres, justes et crédibles. Nous ne saurions trop insister sur l'importance de protéger vos votes et de faire en sorte que vos voix soient entendues dans les urnes. Une élection frauduleuse et truquée pourrait être préjudiciable à notre paix et à notre stabilité », a dit la Coalition de l'opposition.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Présidentielle en Guinée : Fatou Bensouda et la CPI prêtes à sévir si...

À dix jours de la présidentielle prévue pour le 18 octobre 2020 en Guinée Conakry, la Procureure de la CPI, Fatou Bensouda, s'est prononcée sur les violences préélectorales et les tensions ethniques croissantes. « La Guinée peut et doit prouver sa volonté de combattre l'impunité et de prévenir de nouveaux cycles de violence et sa capacité à le faire », mentionne le communiqué.

« Je condamne tout particulièrement les propos incendiaires »

« Toute personne qui commet, ordonne, incite, encourage ou contribue de toute autre manière à la commission de crimes visés par le Statut de Rome est passible de poursuites devant les tribunaux de la Guinée ou devant la CPI », prévient Fatou Bensouda.

« Je condamne tout

particulièrement les propos incendiaires tenus par certains acteurs politiques dans le cadre de leur campagne électorale, qui ont pour effet d'exacerber les tensions ethniques au sein du peuple de Guinée », déclare Fatou Bensouda qui se dit être très préoccupée par les récentes informations faisant état de brutalités entre les partisans des divers candidats et d'affrontements violents entre les manifestants et les forces de l'ordre.

Par ailleurs, elle a rassuré les victimes des événements tragiques du 28 septembre 2009 et leurs familles, que son bureau ne reste pas les bras croisés. « Mon Bureau continue d'insister pour que les autorités organisent rapidement le procès des accusés. Je réaffirme mon soutien aux autorités guinéennes afin que les auteurs de ces événements tragiques rendent des comptes devant la justice et je me tiens prête à soutenir les initiatives nationales en vue de la tenue d'un procès équitable et impartial », a-t-elle fait savoir



Éditorial

Arrêtez la violence !

Le Libéria est en passe de renouer progressivement avec la violence d'une envergure si inimaginable au point de risquer de renverser le sens des aiguilles de l'horloge et provoquer la chute libre de ce pays, en plein pandémie mondiale.

En prélude aux élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat qui doivent avoir lieu en décembre, le pays assiste à une vague d'affrontements entre militants des partis rivaux (la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir et la collaboration des partis politiques), menaçant tout ce qui reste de l'économie et de la paix sociale.

Cette situation est dangereuse. Ainsi interpellons-nous l'administration Weah à prendre immédiatement des mesures. Des députés issus de l'opposition (Abraham Darius Dillon et YekehKolubah) sont quotidiennement victimes d'attaques ces derniers mois pour avoir critiqué le régime en place.

Le dimanche 27 décembre, le domicile du représentant de la circonscription électorale n° 10 du comté de Montserrado, YekehKolubah, a été complètement saccagé par des jeunes militants du CDC, à l'image de ce qui s'était produit à Zwedru, dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, il y a quelques mois.

Le gouvernement semble être à l'aise face à la violence faite aux militants de l'opposition, tout en espérant pouvoir ainsi museler l'opposition. Le régime en place est totalement paranoïaque et allergique aux critiques, ainsi s'en prend-il à tout citoyen qui ose lever la voix sur les questions critiques, comme c'est le cas de Dillon et Yekeh.

Ce n'est certainement pas le type de démocratie que les Libériens ont vu dans le CDC en élisant son leader politique George Manneh Weah en 2017 à la présidence. Le silence assourdissant du président Weah sur la vague de violence à travers le pays est non seulement inquiétant, mais décevant.

C'est d'autant plus dangereux que le pays se rendra aux urnes le 8 décembre pour élire 15 sénateurs, alors que la Coalition au pouvoir cherche le contrôle absolu de l'Assemblée législative.

L'administration Weah devrait comprendre que la suppression violente de la liberté d'expression et des opinions dissidentes sont des traits de dictature qui sapent la tolérance et l'unité nationale. L'État de l'Europe de l'Est, la Biélorussie, est un exemple classique de l'endroit où le tyran règne d'une main de fer, écrasant à tout prix les voix dissidentes.

Le Libéria n'a pas intérêt à retourner dans une telle cacophonie parce que nos partenaires internationaux, y compris les États-Unis, les Nations Unies, la CEDEAO et l'Union africaine, entre autres, ont beaucoup investi dans ce pays pour nous amener là où nous en sommes aujourd'hui en tant que peuple.

Nous demandons au gouvernement d'agir rapidement en faisant en sorte que la violence cesse afin que règne la norme démocratique qui est indispensable au développement. Nous exigeons une enquête immédiate sur les violences de dimanche.

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Français

La CPP appelle à des

La CPP, qui est composée des quatre principaux partis politiques de l'opposition, dont le Congrès national alternatif (ANC), le All Liberian Party (ALP), le Liberty Party (LP) et le Parti de l'unité (UP, ancien parti au pouvoir), a dit avoir commencé de contacter d'autres partis politiques, des groupes de pression et des organisations de la société civile pour rejoindre la manifestation, qui, selon elle, vise à protéger «les votes des électeurs et à lutter pour des élections libres, justes et transparentes».

« Nous appelons tous les Libériens vivant dans le pays et de la diaspora, à se joindre à cet effort pour forcer le gouvernement et la NEC (Commission électorale nationale) à mettre en œuvre nos demandes afin de protéger vos votes et d'éviter à notre pays un nouveau déclin », a ajouté le communiqué.

Il convient de rappeler que la CPP a récemment saisi la Cour suprême pour empêcher la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) de procéder à la mise à jour des listes

Présidentielle ivoirienne : l'opposition se rassemble à Abidjan pour un grand meeting

La coalition de l'opposition demande notamment le retrait de la candidature d'Alassane Ouattara pour un troisième mandat.

À Abidjan va se tenir un grand meeting du front uni de l'opposition. Cet événement de grande envergure inquiète alors que des troubles sporadiques secouent le pays depuis le mois d'août, entre partisans du président sortants et militants de l'opposition. Autorités et partis assurent néanmoins que toutes les conditions de sécurité sont remplies.

Selon l'opposition ivoirienne, plusieurs dizaines de milliers de personnes pourraient être présentes ce samedi dans le stade Félix Houphouët Boigny. Il y a quelques jours s'est donc tenu une réunion au siège du PDCI pour donner les grandes directives de ce « giga-meeting ».

L'objectif principal de cette réunion de préparation est de rassurer les militants : « Nous invitons tous nos militants et tous les Ivoiriens épris de paix et de justice à sortir massivement pour dire non au viol de la loi fondamentale de ce pays. Nous voulons ajouter que

électorales qui vient de s'achever jusqu'à ce qu'elle ait mis en œuvre une décision de la Cour rendu en 2017 et une résolution signée en juin 2020 par le pouvoir législatif.

En 2017, à l'issue du premier tour de l'élection présidentielle, feu Me Charles Walker Brumskine, alors leader politique du Parti de la Liberté, a contesté les résultats de l'élection pour fraudes et irrégularités et déposé un recours à la Cour suprême.

Ainsi, le 7 décembre 2017, la Cour suprême, après délibération, en dépit de son refus d'accéder à la demande en ce qui concerne la reprise du premier tour, a reconnu qu'il y avait eu des fraudes et des irrégularités et recommandé un nettoyage complet de la liste électorale.

La CPP reproche à la commission électorale non seulement son refus de procéder au nettoyage de la liste électorale, mais aussi l'enregistrement des nouveaux électeurs. Ce processus, selon les partis de l'opposition, est émaillé de fraudes et d'autres actes d'irrégularités qui ne feront qu'accumuler le désordre.

toutes les dispositions sécuritaires sont prises. Et que donc la peur doit quitter l'esprit des Ivoiriens. »

Mise en garde des autorités

Du côté des autorités, on se dit peu inquiet par ce rassemblement. Mamadou Touré, porte-parole du gouvernement. Il met toutefois en garde les personnes tentées par les démonstrations violentes.

« Concernant cette manifestation de l'opposition, ils sont libres de faire des manifestations en respectant les règles et en respectant l'ordre. Ce que nous ne pouvons pas accepter, c'est les messages de haine, c'est les débordements qui peuvent être de nature à perturber la quiétude des autres citoyens vaquant à leurs occupations. Tant que cela est respecté, il n'y a aucun problème. »

Il est bien entendu prévu le déploiement d'un effectif important de police et de gendarmerie pour sécuriser ce meeting. Les partis d'opposition appellent au pacifisme et promettent aussi que de la sécurité privée viendra renforcer les dispositifs étatiques pour éviter les troubles.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Landry Signé & Ameenah Gurib-fakim

Des partenariats mondiaux pour une reprise africaine

WASHINGTON, DC / PORT LOUIS - La propagation de la pandémie de la COVID-19 a profondément affecté les pays développés et en développement, malgré de grandes disparités dans les capacités de réponse initiales. Les dirigeants mondiaux étaient particulièrement préoccupés par les implications potentielles de la maladie pour l'Afrique, compte tenu du manque de ressources financières et médicales du continent, de la faiblesse des systèmes de soins de santé, des économies fragiles et des populations vulnérables.

Mais la préparation et la coopération entre les dirigeants africains et les agences de l'Union africaine, en particulier les Centres africains de contrôle et de prévention des maladies, ont abouti à de nombreux succès - notamment une capacité de test accrue, une mobilisation des ressources et des politiques coordonnées pour prévenir et contenir la propagation du coronavirus et promouvoir la reprise économique.

Malgré ces succès, l'Afrique est toujours confrontée à des défis importants. Ceux-ci incluent une augmentation continue des cas de COVID-19, un besoin d'une capacité de test renforcée et d'une infrastructure de santé améliorée, des difficultés à acquérir des fournitures médicales et alimentaires, des systèmes de protection sociale faibles qui peinent à soutenir les populations vulnérables face à la crise économique et une dette publique élevée couplée à un besoin d'augmentation des dépenses.

Bien que les pays africains soient capables de poursuivre leurs progrès sur le long chemin de la reprise, un soutien extérieur renforcerait considérablement leurs efforts. Outre les principes humanitaires et la solidarité, une reprise rapide et robuste de l'Afrique est dans l'intérêt du monde entier. Tant que le virus n'est pas contrôlé dans certaines régions, aucune partie du monde ne peut en être à l'abri. De plus, si la COVID-19 affaiblit davantage les États africains fragiles ou provoque des catastrophes sanitaires ou économiques sur le continent, une crise migratoire ou des menaces accrues pour la sécurité internationale pourraient s'ensuivre.

Nous proposons donc six façons dont le monde peut coopérer avec l'Afrique pour améliorer la réponse du continent à la crise, accélérer sa reprise économique et donner un élan à son développement post-pandémique.

Premièrement, des partenaires externes peuvent fournir les ressources et les investissements suffisants pour permettre des réponses efficaces à la COVID-19 et une reprise économique inclusive après la pandémie. Bien que les partenaires multilatéraux et bilatéraux aient déjà fourni un soutien financier sous forme d'allègements de la dette, de prêts et de subventions, les gouvernements africains ont besoin de beaucoup plus. Certains estiment le déficit de financement de la riposte à la pandémie du continent à environ 100 milliards de dollars par an au cours des trois prochaines années. Compte tenu de la vulnérabilité économique et sanitaire de l'Afrique, un soutien financier et un allègement de la dette supplémentaires sont essentiels.

Deuxièmement, les partenaires devraient soutenir et investir dans la zone de libre-échange continentale africaine, qui est l'un des meilleurs plans de relance économique de l'Afrique. La ZLECAF vise à accroître considérablement le commerce intra-africain et ainsi développer les chaînes de valeur régionales, la fabrication locale et l'approvisionnement en produits intermédiaires et finaux. En réduisant la vulnérabilité du continent aux chocs extérieurs grâce à une diminution de sa dépendance au commerce non africain, l'accord encouragera la diversification et la résilience économiques, favorisant ainsi l'intégration de l'Afrique et aidant à sa reprise. Outre soutenir et investir dans la ZLECAF, les partenaires peuvent fournir une expertise concernant les réglementations commerciales et les procédés industriels.

Soutenir la croissance du secteur privé est un troisième moyen de libérer le potentiel économique de l'Afrique, représentant une opportunité importante - en termes de commerce et d'investissement - qui profitera à l'Afrique

et aux entreprises mondiales. Bien que le secteur formel et le large secteur informel soient actuellement en difficulté, en raison des confinements et des restrictions économiques, les entreprises privées seront essentielles à la reprise et au développement futur de l'Afrique. Les partenaires externes peuvent soutenir les entreprises africaines grâce à des investissements accrus, y compris dans les petites et moyennes entreprises qui tentent aujourd'hui de rester à flot et de payer leurs employés. Les partenaires internationaux peuvent également contribuer à améliorer l'environnement des affaires, par exemple en supervisant un processus de réglementation obligatoire.

Ensuite, les partenaires externes peuvent soutenir les efforts de l'Afrique pour embrasser la quatrième révolution industrielle (4IR, pour Fourth Industrial Revolution en anglais) et réussir sa transformation numérique. Pendant la pandémie, la technologie a permis la prévision et la modélisation médicales en temps réel, une meilleure communication entre les dirigeants et le fonctionnement virtuel des entreprises. Mais l'infrastructure technologique de l'Afrique, en particulier l'accès à Internet, est à la traîne, et le continent a moins bénéficié de la technologie numérique que le reste du monde. Les partenaires peuvent aider à accélérer la 4IR en Afrique en partageant les innovations technologiques, en collaborant pour les adapter aux contextes africains et en fournissant des investissements qui permettront de libérer le potentiel technologique des jeunes inventeurs africains et de déployer plus largement les innovations existantes.

Cinquièmement, le monde peut contribuer à faire en sorte qu'aucun Africain ne soit laissé pour compte, notamment par la création d'emplois, le renforcement des compétences, la protection sociale et l'égalité des sexes. Les groupes vulnérables tels que ceux qui vivent dans les bidonvilles urbains ou les zones rurales, les jeunes, les femmes et les familles les plus pauvres ont besoin d'un soutien gouvernemental supplémentaire ; or les systèmes de protection sociale sont faibles, en particulier dans les États fragiles. Les partenaires extérieurs devraient donc accorder une attention particulière à l'assistance aux pays et aux communautés les plus touchés en canalisant les ressources vers ces populations, au lieu de fournir une aide inconditionnelle aux gouvernements, et en collaborant avec les dirigeants africains pour créer des politiques innovantes qui profitent à ces groupes.

La dernière priorité est d'aider l'Afrique à faire face à ses fragilités et à combler les écarts entre les objectifs et les résultats des politiques, notamment grâce à des recherches sur les politiques fondées sur des données factuelles. Des institutions inefficaces, la corruption et un manque de responsabilité peuvent saper des politiques même parfaites. Les partenaires peuvent suivre les projets ou fournir des experts pour aider à la mise en œuvre, et peuvent promouvoir la bonne gouvernance grâce à des mesures et des indicateurs tels que l'indice de perception de la corruption de Transparency International, l'indice des États fragiles du Fonds pour la paix ou les indicateurs mondiaux de gouvernance de la Banque mondiale. Les instituts de recherche et les groupes de réflexion tels que la Brookings Institution jouent un rôle important dans cet effort.

Ces six propositions peuvent aider l'Afrique à combattre et à se remettre de la pandémie de la COVID-19, mais elles sont également essentielles pour réaliser le potentiel du continent et accélérer son développement futur. En collaborant avec des partenaires externes pour obtenir des ressources supplémentaires, développer de nouvelles initiatives et investir dans des secteurs clés, les pays africains peuvent atténuer l'impact immédiat du virus et accélérer la reprise économique tout en construisant des systèmes résilients pour une croissance et un succès à long terme.

Ce commentaire est cosigné par Joyce Banda, ancienne présidente du Malawi ; Rosalía Arteaga Serrano, ancienne présidente de la République de l'Équateur ; Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Sous-Secrétaire générale des Nations Unies, Directrice exécutive d'ONU Femmes et ancienne vice-présidente de l'Afrique du Sud ; Laimdota Straujuma, ancien Premier ministre de Lettonie ; Yves Leterme, ancien Premier ministre de Belgique ; et Rovshan Muradov, Secrétaire général du Nizami Ganjavi International Center.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

U.S. to issue visa restrictions, other consequences

The United States has sounded a caveat to African countries preparing for elections, including Liberia to respect the rule of law by allowing citizens to engage in political dialogue and support their

defenders of democracy around the world.

Liberians are gearing up for midterm senatorial elections on December 8, 2020 that would see 15 senators elected to join 15 incumbent at the Capitol to complete the 30-member

democratic process. Repression and intimidation have no place in democracies", Mr. Pompeo said.

Secretary Pompeo noted the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression and association are at the heart of a functioning democracy, and warned that serious consequences awaits individuals who will interfere in democratic process on the Continent.

"We will watch closely the actions of individuals who interfere in the democratic process and will not hesitate to consider consequences - including visa restrictions - for those responsible for election-related violence", the United States threatened.

Secretary Pompeo continued that the United States is committed to supporting free, fair, inclusive elections, adding that as long-time partners to the nations of Africa, America cares about the region's democratic trajectory and is committed to working constructively with international and regional partners in achieving this. *-Story by Jonathan Browne*



choice of candidates, parties, and platforms.

U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, in a statement issued over the weekend, said the conduct of elections is important not only for Africans, but also for

Liberian Senate.

Ahead of the poll, political rallies, mainly by the opposition have been disrupted repeatedly by violence, with fingers-pointing.

"We believe all sides should participate peacefully in the

Judicial staffers

Starts from back page

our money back."

The protesters in what seems an intentional effort to disrupt a graduation program, sounded loud battle cry and beat drums outside the court over the weekend when the Judiciary was graduating its new batch of professional magistrates who have just completed their training. Riot police were deployed at the protest scene Friday to help to put things under control.

Some lied on the floor in the open as part of their protest, and the judicial workers have vowed to stage another protest this Monday, 12 October to disrupt the opening of the Supreme Court.

It remains unclear why the judicial staffers keep targeting Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor in their protests against cuts in their salaries, despite the Judiciary issuing a clarity in September informing the aggrieved employees that the cuts in salaries were not done by the Judiciary and that the cuts affected all employees in the government sector.

"The Judiciary takes note of the appearance of the Minister of Finance & Development Planning, Hon. Samuel D. Tweah on Radio Okay FM on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at which time he expressed Government's concern of the impact of the harmonization program on civil servants and committed that the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning was doing everything possible to address the issue," the Judiciary said last month.

According to the Judiciary, when the matter was first raised with the Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, he set up a

committee to listen to the concerns of the employees with the view of providing appropriate explanations.

It indicated that despite these efforts being made by both the Judiciary and authorities at the Ministry of Finance and the Civil Service Agency, some employees of the Judiciary continue to stage sporadic protests, particularly targeting the Chief Justice and disrupting court proceedings.

Meanwhile the aggrieved staffers have repeatedly threatened to disrupt the opening of the Supreme Court which is due today, Monday, 12 October.

This event usually attracts officials of Liberia's highest offices from the President to the Speaker, the Pro-tempore of the Liberian Senate, the members of the diplomatic community and other invitees.

Security is usually intact at this event, especially when the president shows up. But with weeks of court staffers' persistent protests and threats to disrupt the court's opening, it remains to be seen how things turn out at the Temple of Justice on Monday.

Their protest over the weekend, disgracefully calling the chief justice all sorts of names could only suggest that their demand which they set as precondition that must be met before aborting their protest is yet to be addressed by the authorities.

Earlier on 10 September, the protesters sat in chairs in a circle at the chief justice's car parking area at the

Cont'd from page 7

their countries?"

Liberia's Finance Minister, Samuel Tweah, who was at the center of seeking ways to help the company remain in Liberia told an international media recently: "Surely, their presence helped the country's investment climate. Largely, its presence reduced the level of unemployment in the country. We have helped them and have done everything for them to remain, but they have to leave. It is regrettable that they have to leave," he told an international media recently.

He said government did all it could. "We tried as a government to help them, but you know most of the things they told us could have been done years back."

He continued; "We just have to live without them, but we do hope that one day, the best will happen for all of us."

Ex-president's comments: Former president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf whose administration signed the 63 years concession agreement with SDPL was not amused about news of the sale. A

No time for blame

source close to her told this writer that she was sad.

"I think it was such a good investment that we have lost. It is just unfortunate that they have to leave. We hope whichever company that will take over, they will be able to build on the legacy that has been built. We hope one day they can think about this country," the source quoted her as saying in a private conversation with some business people at her residence in Monrovia.

Madam Sirleaf, former speaker Edwin Snowe, Senator Sando Johnson, former Finance and Development Minister, Amara Konneh and others have oil plantations in the region SDPL concession covers.

Lawmaker's thoughts:

But the presence of SDPL made a great mark on the minds of many people. Currently Representative of Bomi County, where SDPL operated, Snowe told a local talk show radio recently that it was sad that SDPL left Liberia. "Sime Darby happens to be one of the world's largest oil palm company's plantations. It is

quite regrettable though for our investment portfolio-direct investment", Representative Snowe said.

He admitted that MANO is not a big company as compared to SDPL, but they have their own way of doing things.

The downside of MANO, he said, the salaries are not as attractive as SDPL.

"The wages and salaries are not as attractive as SDPL. But what they are doing so far that has impressed me is their community engagement.

Some of the employees, who are master degree holders, are taking less than US\$300 salary per month. I hope as time goes by and MANO improves their production, they will be able to increase their salaries," he said.

According to him, one area which he thinks the new company is working on is the out growers program. "We can create middle class people. That is what MANO is trying to do."

Some residents said this: "we think that SDPL did a lot for the people of this country.

What we expect from the new company is not taking place. We want to give them little chance. But as we wait, some people are leaving the company and even the Malaysians that used to help are no longer here. This is a concern for some of us," Mr. Anthony Kromah, leader of the Project Affected Community.

Time to act:

But as it stands, it is clear that SDPL may not [come] back now. "For us from the civil society background, we love action and honesty. This is not time for blame games. The company is gone and the new company and the government should do all they can to help the communities, Alex KhaliedBalo, coordinator, CSO, Grand Cape Mount

County said.

"This one did this; that one could have done this, or that, will not help. I think all the new company needs to do is to do the best thing that will benefit everyone. Sime Darby did its own. Let them talk about their own and what they will do. Stop the blame game now," he said.

An official from the Ministry of Agriculture, who declined to be named said: "we missed a golden opportunity. The bird was in our hands. We allowed it to go and then you start to shift blame here and there? For me, I think the new company should do the best. From their performances, people will know if they are up to the task or not."

NEC halts electoral activities

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The National Elections Commission has with immediate effect, placed a halt on all activities toward conduct of the December 08 Special Senatorial election, pending outcome of a writ before the Supreme Court of Liberia.

Addressing a news conference Friday at the Commission headquarters in Monrovia, NEC Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah said, the decision is based on a writ served the commission by the Supreme Court bench.

Chairperson Lassanah said, being respecter of the rule of law, the board of commissioners of the National Elections Commission has placed a halt to every activity toward the

Stay Order on the December 08 Special Senatorial election, pending hearing of the lawsuit against the NEC.

Recently, leaders of the opposition Collaborating Political Parties filed a writ of Stay Order, first before the Justice in Chambers but the request was denied. Not being satisfied, the leaders, including former vice president Joseph Nyumah Boakai, of the former ruling Unity Party; Grand Bassa County Senator and political leader of the Liberty Party, Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence; businessman turned politician Alexander Cummings of the Alternative National Congress and Benoni Urey of the All Liberian Party took the stairs of the Supreme Court building in ensuring that the process be halted until the Final Voters' Roll is cleaned technically and

The 2017 Voters Roll has since been in circulation for five by-elections, including the by-election that brought Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon to the senate.

Liberians through their respective representatives and senators agree that citizens reaching age 18 and plus should register to be added to the current voters roll, something, that politicians took advantage of by trucking voters from one point to another.

However, the opposition community raised eyebrows on the process, and it is also believed the trucking of voters is one of the accounts in the stay order before the high court.

Constitutional lawyers here are cautioning that any



holding of the December 08 Special Senatorial elections.

She narrated that NEC should have released list of qualified candidates for the election and officially declared political campaign open but all have to be put at standstill until the Supreme Court hears the suit against the commission.

Political parties, candidates, sympathizers and Liberians in general had mobilized for commencement of official campaign activities last weekend that could see their respective candidates of choice mounting a senatorial seat at the Capitol for the next nine years, but things fell apart and to their dismay, the Supreme Court placed a

professionally.

Their appeal before the Supreme Court was denied. In a tweet on Saturday, former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf wrote "The recent decision of the Supreme Court of Liberia to deny the opposition appeal for a cleanup of the Voters Roll is a strike at our hard earned democracy.

During the 2017 Presidential and Representatives elections, the Liberty Party then headed by fallen Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine sued the commission for unfair play before the Supreme Court. The High Court, in its ruling, called for the cleaning of the Voters' Roll Update, but it appears that the board of commissioners of the National Elections Commission failed to adhere accordingly.

delay in the conduct of the December 08 Special Senatorial election could lead the country to a constitutional crisis.

Liberians are expected to elect 15 senators before the end of this year or else, their tenure will expire on the second working Monday in January 2021, which could render the Senate an incomplete body (30 Senators) to perform its statutory duties. Such situation could also see President George Manneh Weah deliver his Annual Message before an incomplete body on the fourth working Monday of January. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

CDC lawyers congratulate new Labour Minister



Group of lawyers under the banner, "CDC League of Lawyers" congratulates Labour Minister-designate, Cllr. Charles Gibson, for his confirmation by the Liberian Senate.

The CDC League of Lawyers also commends President George Manneh Weah for recently appointing Cllr. Gibson to the Ministry of Labour.

"We in the CDC League of Lawyers assure you Dr. Weah that our senior lawyer Cllr.

Gibson will uphold the confidence you have imposed in him', a release issued by the group reads.

At the same time, members of the League of Lawyers are converging today, Monday, 12 October at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town to witness the official taking of office by Cllr. Gibson after he was confirmed by the senate.

Cllr. Charles Gibson replaces former Minister Moses Kollie, who was transferred to the Liberia Aviation Authority by the President.

Senate staffers

Cont'd from page 7

again, we the staffers have decided to thank and appreciate you for your service to the people of Grand Gedeh and for cooperatively working with us the staffers over the years," Mr. Brown indicates.

In response, the honoree Senator G. Alphonso Gaye thanks the staffers for recognizing him as the most cooperative Senator among the 30 senators at the Liberian Senate.

Senator Gaye however notes that through his human relations with people he worked with, he has always been honored when exiting a position.

He adds that he worked with the USAID and Oxfam and he was honored as an outstanding manager by the staffers.

He further states that when he was General Services Agency (GSA) Director, the

staffers prayed for him to lose the Senatorial elections so that he could retain his position.

"When I was at Transport Ministry, one could get his driver license within 45 minutes and get their car registration documents within a week. It's the grace of God that [is] carrying me to lead the people rightly. I'm against tribalism, I see everyone equal despite your religious background, tribal background or level in the society," Senator Gaye adds.

He however says he believes that the certificate is with good date, noting that he wasn't asked to pay to be certificated.

The outgoing Grand Gedeh County Senator notes that it's human relations that makes him works with people freely and cooperatively. **-Edited by Winston W. Parley**

WAEC administers

Cont'd from page 6

endorsed by the Council at its 57th Annual Council Meeting held in Freetown, Sierra Leone in 2019 and took effect in Liberia this year, beginning with the 2020 WASSCE for 12th graders.

Mr. Gbotoe emphasized WAEC's stance on strict adherence to COVID-19

protocols and regulations laid down by health authorities at examination centers across the country by ensuring that the candidates wear nose masks and observe social distancing throughout the entire exercise. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



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Judicial staffers humiliate chief justice



By Winston W. Parley

Following several weeks of failed negotiations with authorities at the Judicial branch of government in demand of the Liberian dollars component of their salaries allegedly cut,

aggrieved judicial workers protested at the Temple of Justice Friday, 8 October, disgracefully chanting Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor's name and urging him to return their money.

In a rather humiliating way, some of the protesters held

placards as others used empty gallons as drums to cause stirs outside the courts, chanting repeatedly: "Bring our money back, Chief Justice bring our money back; Bring our money back, Francis Korkpor bring

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 10**

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Local group parades against rape on Bushrod Island

By Winston W. Parley

A local group called Mother's Dreams Educational and Empowerment Foundation (MDEEF) has held a parade in various communities on Bushrod Island, providing awareness against rape and other sexual gender - based violence acts against babies and women.

According to the group, it held the parade Saturday, 9 October 11, to provide education to parents and

other community inhabitants on the fact that rape is a serious crime and it brings with it high penalty against perpetrators.

The group also says it seeks to educate parents not to allow their kids to stay outside during night hours so as to prevent perpetrators of rape, mainly men that lack self-control, of taking advantage of vulnerable children.

The group including women and men participants, paraded through Vai Town to Clara Town, Doe Community, Freeport and



Cemenco.

Following the parade, MDEEF Chief Executive Officer Mr. Nathaniel Williams says his organization carried out the awareness program due to numerous cases of sexual harassment against women and kids.

According to him, his organization seeks to also provide education to the people because if they do not know the law and what penalty

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 5**

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