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# S/Court warned over election crisis



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# Continental News

## Nigeria leader pledges 'extensive' police reforms

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari has promised "extensive" reforms amid protests against police brutality. He also promised justice for victims of police abuse and an investigation into the death of a protester in Oyo state. Demonstrators have long called for the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (Sars) to be broken up. But they remain unhappy following Sunday's announcement that officers are being redeployed to other units rather than being disciplined. The protests have continued for a sixth day, with eyewitnesses saying police shot dead a protester in Lagos' Surulere neighbourhood on Monday. Earlier, there were reports of protesters barricading a major road in the commercial hub of Lagos, and others gathering close to the city's main airport.

Over the weekend, protests against Sars spread to Europe and Canada after reports of unlawful arrests, torture and shootings. In Monday's video address, President Buhari said disbanding Sars was "only the

first step" in a range of reforms, but added that police officers were hard-working, and the reputation of the force should not be tarnished by a "few bad eggs". In a statement, Nigeria's police chief Mohammed Adamu said allegations of abuse would be investigated by a committee including civil society members.

Yet many are concerned at suspected wrongdoers continuing to serve in the force, and it is unclear whether any

officers will be prosecuted for past abuses. Sceptics also point to the fact this is the fourth time in as many years that promises have been made to disband or reform Sars. After Sunday's announcement that the police unit would be disbanded, there were reports of officers continuing to use tear gas, water cannon and live rounds against protesters in the capital, Abuja, and the south-

western state of Oyo, fuelling concerns that people in Sars had not been removed from duty. It was not until musician Davido joined protests in Abuja that the police stopped arresting demonstrators. The BBC's Ishaq Khalid in the capital says there are also fears that if thousands of Sars officers were dismissed at once they could pose a security threat.

Activists say 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.

They say a total overhaul of policing in Nigeria is needed. #EndSARS campaigners have circulated a list of five key demands to bring about reform. These are:

The immediate release of all arrested protesters

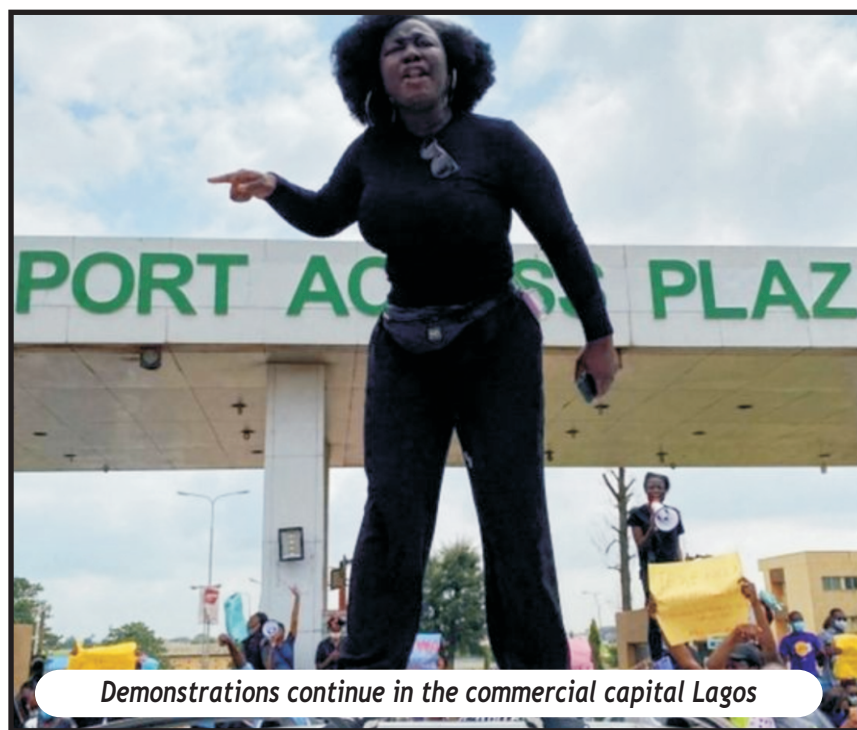
Justice for those killed by

police brutality and compensation for their families

An independent body to investigate and prosecute misconduct

Independent psychological assessments and new training for dismissed Sars officers who want redeployment

A pay rise for police so they are "adequately compensated for protecting lives and property of citizens". The footage, leaked to the media, provoked outrage and led many to share stories of brutality attributed to the unit, which has developed notoriety for unduly profiling young people, the BBC's Nduka Orjinmo in Abuja says. Those considered "flashy" often attract the Sars officers' attention and very few walk away without having to hand over money, while others are arrested or jailed on trumped-up charges and some have been killed, our correspondent adds. BBC



Demonstrations continue in the commercial capital Lagos

## Fire breaks out on Africa's tallest mountain

Efforts are continuing in Tanzania to extinguish a fire that has broken out on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa.

Members of the Tanzania National Parks Authority (Tanapa) and local people have been struggling to put out the blaze which began on Sunday.

Their efforts have been hampered by the altitude as well as strong winds and dry weather which have caused the fire to spread fast.

The cause of the fire is not clear.

But according to a Pascal Shelutete, an official from Tanapa, the blaze started at the Whona area, a rest centre for climbers using two of the

several routes up the mountain.

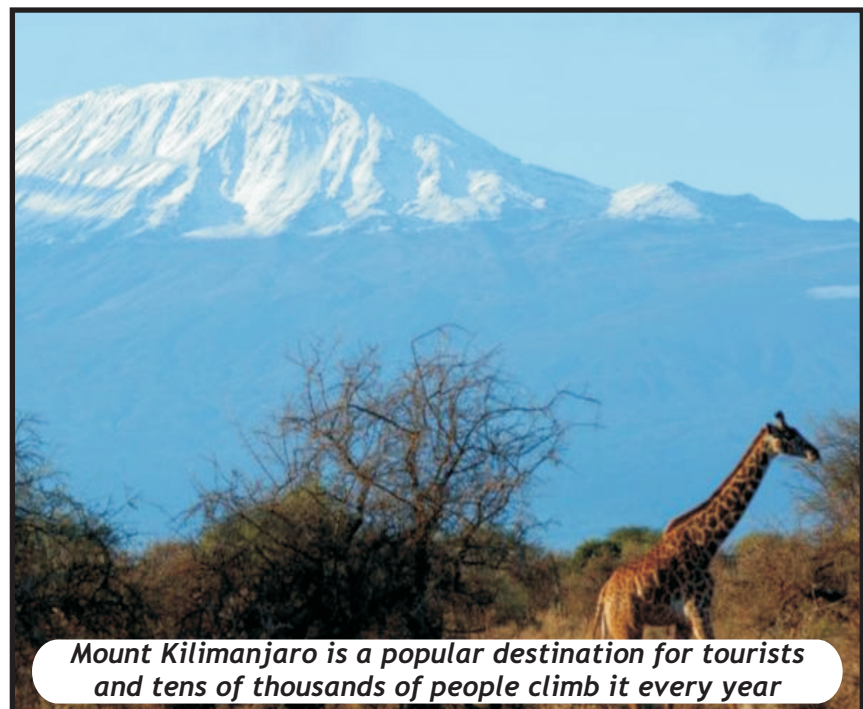
"The fire is still going on and firefighters from Tanapa, other government institutions and locals are continuing with the efforts to contain it," Mr Shelutete said.

"The fire is big and they are continuing to fight it," Alex Kisingo, deputy head at the College of African Wildlife Management, located near the mountain, told Reuters news agency.

The college has sent its 264 students to help fight the fire and distribute supplies to firefighters.

Tanapa shared a blurred image on Twitter of the fire: The parks authority said in a statement that it had taken "every step to make sure that, the fire will not affect the lives of tourists, their equipment, porters and tour guides".

Mount Kilimanjaro, which is 5,895m (19,341 feet) high is a popular tourist destination and tens of thousands of people climb it every year. BBC



Mount Kilimanjaro is a popular destination for tourists and tens of thousands of people climb it every year

## Israel unblocks big immigration of Ethiopian Jews

Israel has approved a plan to bring 2,000 Ethiopian Jews to the country, marking a major step towards ending a decades-long saga over their fate.

They are part of about 8,000 members of a community who have been waiting to come to Israel for years.

Known as Falash Mura, their right to settle in Israel is a contentious issue as their background rules out automatic citizenship available to most Jews.

Secret operations brought thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel in the 1980s.

Many members of the Falash Mura have familial connections to that community, which is known as the Beta Israel. However, they have only been allowed to emigrate to Israel on a case-by-case basis, and thousands remain in camps in Gondar and Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. The Falash Mura community descends from members of the Beta Israel who were converted to Christianity by European missionaries in the late 1800s. They have since returned to practising Judaism but are not officially recognised by Israel's interior ministry as fully Jewish.



The issue of whether they should be allowed to come to Israel at all is a divisive one, even among Ethiopian Jews in Israel. While some Ethiopian Jews in Israel support their right to settle there, others object, seeing them as non-Jewish Ethiopians. Israel's recently appointed Ethiopian-born Immigration Minister, Pnina Tamano-Shata, welcomed the cabinet's decision, tweeting that she felt "very happy and excited" at the news.

She has previously vowed to bring the rest of the Falash Mura community to Israel as soon as the end of next year.

Ethiopian Jews were first brought to Israel from refugee camps in Sudan in a series of secret operations in the early 1980s by Israel's Mossad intelligence agency on the orders of the then Prime Minister Menachem Begin. BBC

# 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 Klaus Schwab

## Post-COVID Capitalism

*The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a spotlight on social, economic, and environmental risks that have been building for the past half-century of neoliberalism. Even amid the deep uncertainties of today's global situation, one thing is clear: it is time to start questioning old assumptions and developing a new paradigm.*

**G**ENEVA - No event since World War II's end has had as profound a global impact as COVID-19. The pandemic has triggered a public health and economic crisis on a scale unseen in generations and has exacerbated systemic problems such as inequality and great-power posturing.

The only acceptable response to such a crisis is to pursue a "Great Reset" of our economies, politics, and societies. Indeed, this is a moment to re-evaluate the sacred cows of the pre-pandemic system, but also to defend certain long-held values. The task we face is to preserve the accomplishments of the past 75 years in a more sustainable form.

In the decades after WWII, the world made unprecedented strides toward eradicating poverty, reducing childhood mortality, increasing life expectancy, and expanding literacy. Today, international cooperation and trade, which drove the post-war improvement in these and many other measures of human progress, must be maintained and defended against renewed skepticism of their merits.

At the same time, the world also must remain focused on the defining issue of the pre-pandemic era: the "Fourth Industrial Revolution" and the digitization of countless economic activities. Recent technological advances have given us the tools that we need to confront the current crisis - including through the rapid development of vaccines, new treatments, and personal protective equipment. We will need to continue to invest in research and development, education, and innovation, while at the same time building protections against those who would misuse technology.

But other shibboleths of our global economic system will need to be re-evaluated with an open mind. Chief among these is the neoliberal ideology. Free-market fundamentalism has eroded worker rights and economic security, triggered a deregulatory race to the bottom and ruinous tax competition, and enabled the emergence of massive new global monopolies.

Trade, taxation, and competition rules that reflect decades of neoliberal influence will now have to be revised. Otherwise, the ideological pendulum - already in motion - could swing back toward full-scale protectionism and other lose-lose economic strategies.

Specifically, we will need to reconsider our collective commitment to "capitalism" as we have known it. Obviously, we should not do away with the basic engines of growth. We owe most of the social progress of the past to entrepreneurship and to the capacity to create wealth by taking risks and pursuing innovative new business models. We need markets to allocate resources and the production of goods and services efficiently, particularly when it comes to confronting problems like climate change.

But we must rethink what we mean by "capital" in its many iterations, whether financial, environmental, social, or human. Today's consumers do not want more and better goods and services for a reasonable price. Rather, they increasingly expect companies to contribute to social welfare and the common good. There is both a fundamental need and an increasingly widespread demand for a new kind of "capitalism."

To reconsider capitalism, we must reconsider the role of corporations. An early exponent of neoliberalism, the Nobel laureate economist Milton Friedman believed (quoting former US President Calvin Coolidge) that "the business of business is business." But when Friedman pioneered the doctrine of shareholder primacy, he did not consider that a publicly traded company might be not just a commercial entity but also a social organism.

Moreover, the COVID crisis has demonstrated that companies that invested in strengthening their long-term vitality have been better equipped to weather the storm. In fact, the pandemic has hastened the shift toward a stakeholder model of corporate capitalism, following the US Business Roundtable's embrace of this concept last year.

But for more socially and environmentally conscious business practices to stick, companies need clearer guidelines. To meet that need, the World Economic Forum's International Business Council has developed a set of "Stakeholder Capitalism Metrics," so that businesses can get on the same page when it comes to assessing value and risks.

If the COVID crisis has shown us anything, it is that governments, businesses, or civil-society groups acting alone cannot meet systemic global challenges. We need to break down the siloes that keep these domains separate, and start to build institutional platforms for public-private cooperation. Equally important, younger generations must be involved in this process, because it is inherently about the long-term future.

Finally, we must expand our effort to recognize the diversity of backgrounds, opinions, and values among citizens at all levels. We each have our individual identities, but we all belong to local, professional, national, and even global communities with shared interests and intertwined destinies.

The Great Reset should seek to lend a voice to those who have been left behind, so that everyone who is willing to "co-shape" the future can do so. The reset that we need is not a revolution or a shift to some new ideology. Rather, it should be seen as a pragmatic step toward a more resilient, cohesive, and sustainable world. Some of the pillars of the global system will need to be replaced, and others repaired or strengthened. To achieve shared progress, prosperity, and health requires nothing more - or less.

**New Dawn**  
FULLY INDEPENDENT

## O-PED

By Dani Rodrik

# The Public's Business

*By promoting behavioral norms that balance market and society, "stakeholder capitalism" is supposed to enable private firms to fill the vacuum created by the decline of traditional forms of regulation by national governments. Ultimately, though, the only viable solution is to make business itself more democratic.*

**C**AMBRIDGE - Fifty years ago, Milton Friedman published an article in the New York Times that articulated what has come to be known as the Friedman doctrine: "the social responsibility of business is to increase its profits." It was a theme he had developed in his 1962 book *Capitalism and Freedom*, where he argued that the "one and only" responsibility business owes to society is the pursuit of profits within the legal rules of the game.

The Friedman doctrine put its stamp on our era. It legitimized the freewheeling capitalism that produced economic insecurity, fueled rising inequality, deepened regional divides, and intensified climate change and other environmental problems. Ultimately, it also led to a social and political backlash. Many large businesses have responded by engaging in - or paying lip service to - the notion of corporate social responsibility.

That notion is reflected in another anniversary this year. The United Nations' Global Compact, launched 20 years ago, takes direct aim at the Friedman doctrine by trying to persuade businesses to become agents for the broader social good. More than 11,000 companies operating in 156 countries have signed on, making commitments in the areas of human rights, labor and environmental standards, and anti-corruption.

John Ruggie, the scholar who played a key role developing and managing the Global Compact, describes it and similar initiatives as transnational efforts that help firms develop social identities. By promoting behavioral norms, such initiatives enable firms to self-regulate. As such, Ruggie argues, they fill the vacuum created by the decline of traditional forms of regulation by national governments and international public organizations, making them an important tool for the rebalancing of market and society that we need.

Leading business professors, such as Rebecca Henderson of Harvard and Zeynep Ton of MIT, have been making the case that it is in corporate leaders' long-term interest to take care of the environment or their workers. A year ago, the US Business Roundtable joined the bandwagon with a revised statement of corporate purpose, committing to deliver value not just to shareholders, but to "all stakeholders," including employees, customers, suppliers, and communities. The statement was signed by CEOs of nearly 200 major companies with a combined market capitalization exceeding \$13 trillion.

And yet, despite the groundswell of private-sector support for corporate social responsibility, the effectiveness of relying on companies' enlightened self-interest remains unclear. A recent analysis by Harvard Law School's Lucian Bebchuk and Roberto Tallarita provides a sobering counterpoint.

Bebchuk and Tallarita conclude that initiatives such as that by the Business Roundtable are "largely a rhetorical public relations move": they are not reflected in actual corporate governance practices and do not engage with the difficult trade-offs that would be required if stakeholder interests were taken on board. Moreover, such initiatives could backfire by "raising illusory hopes around the positive effects for stakeholders." So, government policies that regulate how businesses deal with their workers, local communities, and the environment remain of fundamental importance.

Proponents of stakeholder capitalism do not necessarily downplay governments' role. Some, such as Henderson, would argue that socially responsible business makes it easier for governments to do their proper job. In other words, government regulation and corporate stakeholderism are complements, not substitutes, as Bebchuk and Tallarita believe.

But what if corporations are so powerful that they design the regulations themselves? The Financial Times columnist Martin Wolf recently wrote: "I used to think Milton Friedman was right. But I have changed my mind." The flaw in the Friedman doctrine, Wolf explained, is that the rules of the game according to which corporations would pursue their profits are shaped not democratically, but by the "dominant influence" of money. The rules are corrupted by corporations' subversion of the political process through financial contributions.

But taking money out of politics, as Wolf recommends, would not solve the problem entirely. The reason is that so-called epistemic capture is as important as financial capture. Regulation and policymaking require detailed knowledge of the circumstances facing firms, the available possibilities, and how these possibilities are likely to evolve. In environmental regulation, finance, consumer safety, antitrust, or trade policy, government officials have ceded control to corporations because it is corporations that determine how knowledge is produced and disseminated. This gives them the power to determine how problems are defined, which solutions are considered, what the technology envelope looks like.

In such circumstances, it is difficult for governments to set socially desirable ground rules without significant input, and hence influence from firms. This calls for a different mode of regulatory governance, according to which broad economic, social, and environmental objectives are set by public authorities, but refined (and occasionally revised) in a continuous process of iterative collaboration with firms. While getting the private-public balance right is difficult, there are successful examples of such collaboration in technology promotion, food safety, and water-quality regulation.

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## OPINION

By Djoomart Otorbaev

# Kyrgyzstan's Latest Revolution

*A popular uprising has overthrown a Kyrgyz government for the third time in less than two decades, confirming the country as a political outlier in Central Asia. But this month's events put Kyrgyzstan in real danger of sinking into an abyss of confusion and chaos.*

**B**ISHKEK - Much of Kyrgyzstan's capital has been unnaturally calm for several days now. Municipal workers clean and wash the streets, but there are few passersby. There are also few signs of the recent clashes in which police used tear gas and stun grenades to disperse young protesters. But the covered windows of the city's shopping centers attest to the simmering tension in this Central Asian country, which now faces its third major political crisis in 15 years.

The most recent protests erupted following the country's October 4 parliamentary election, in which three pro-government parties - with, by Kyrgyz standards, huge official and unofficial financial resources at their disposal - won an implausible 107 of 120 seats. Only one opposition party got into parliament, barely exceeding the 7% threshold. That party, and 12 others that failed to win seats, refused to recognize the results.

The subsequent revolution was swift and thorough, dismantling most of the country's political system in little more than 24 hours. On the night of October 5-6, several thousand opposition supporters protested in Bishkek's central square, and some stormed parliament and other government buildings. The cabinet resigned, and the country's central election commission annulled the election results, promising to schedule a new vote. Even NEXTA Live, the Telegram messaging app channel widely used by protesters in Belarus, focused almost exclusively on news from Kyrgyzstan, posting information, photos, and videos from the capital.

On October 9, President Sooronbai Jeenbekov said that he would step down once a new cabinet was appointed. But he also declared a state of emergency in the capital and ordered military units to end the unrest - including fighting between rival opposition groups.

The fact that Kyrgyzstan has been here before, with previous revolutions overthrowing governments in 2005 and 2010, makes it an outlier in Central Asia. Kyrgyzstan is so far the only country in the region where popular protests have ousted unpopular leaders, and where elections have been recognized as free and fair by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

But this third revolution in less than two decades puts Kyrgyzstan in real danger of sinking into an abyss of confusion and chaos. Kyrgyz citizens and neighboring states are concerned about the country's instability. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who doesn't want Kyrgyzstan to slip into China's orbit, hopes that "a normal democratic political process will be restored." The presidents of the other Central Asian states - Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan - issued a joint statement on October 9 expressing concern about the crisis. And the Chinese foreign ministry said that, "China sincerely hopes that all parties in Kyrgyzstan can resolve the issue [...] as soon as possible."

Kyrgyzstan's use of modern electronic ballot boxes meant that the opposition had no complaints about the vote-counting process. The main reason for the mass discontent was instead electoral bribery, with voters reportedly being paid 2,000 Kyrgyz soms (\$25) - a significant sum for a poor citizen here - to vote for one of the pro-government parties. OSCE observers reported that the October 4 election was tainted by "credible allegations of vote buying."

The protesters also objected to the presence of representatives of criminal groups and a "corrupted elite" on the pro-government parties' electoral lists, and to widespread administrative pressure placed on voters by local authorities. For example, the Matraimov family, who were behind the Mekenim Kyrgyzstan party - which won a quarter of the vote - became the main target of investigations by RFE/RL's Kyrgyz Service, the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, Kloop, and Bellingcat. This revealed the scope of members' corruption and illegal business practices. Few of them still hold public posts.

As an ancient nomadic people, the Kyrgyz have always had a special craving for freedom and justice, and today they feel thwarted in their desire to live in a socially just and democratic country. Power here was never inherited, and rulers had to have popular support. Unlike in a sedentary culture, in which political power is derived from control of the land on which subjects lived, if a ruler could not ensure his tribe's security and economic prosperity, families simply migrated to another place with a different ruler.

Today, exit is not an option for most people, and Kyrgyzstan's increasingly precarious economic situation is also fueling discontent. Lacking the vast hydrocarbon reserves of most of its Central Asian neighbors, the country instead relies mainly on the development of several gold deposits, the biggest of which is the Canadian-run Kumtor project, as well as a growing tourism sector.

Until recently, Kyrgyzstan's chronically high unemployment rate was partly mitigated by the fact that almost one million Kyrgyz migrants could leave and work abroad, mainly in Russia. As a result, Kyrgyzstan received remittances in 2019 totaling about 30% of GDP, one of the highest levels in the world.

But the COVID-19 pandemic has stranded many of these migrant workers, exacerbating the economy's plight. The International Monetary Fund forecasts that Kyrgyzstan's GDP will fall by 4% this year, making it the worst-performing Central Asian economy.

Many are asking how about 10,000 Kyrgyz citizens managed to accomplish in one night - toppling an unpopular regime - what hundreds of thousands of Belarusians have so far been unable to do in two months. Differences of mentality, customs, and experience seem to be key: unlike Belarusians, the Kyrgyz are far less constrained by the sense that legality outweighs justice.

That inclination is of course a double-edged sword. The rebellious Kyrgyz have overthrown another government. But what comes next is far from clear.

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**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](mailto:lalvarado@usaid.gov) with copy to Edward S. Lamin at [elamin@usaid.gov](mailto: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

**World Bank confirms economic downturn in Sub-Saharan Africa**

*- Outlines key policies needed for recovery*

Sub-Saharan Africa is predicted to fall to -3.3 percent in 2020, pushing the region into its first recession in 25 years, according to the latest regional economic analysis Africa's Pulse: Charting the Road to Recovery.

The World Bank says, the COVID-19 global pandemic, could also drive up to 40 million people into extreme poverty in Africa in 2020, erasing at least five years of progress in fighting poverty.

The findings note that with over a million reported COVID cases across the continent, the pandemic is still not under control in Sub-Saharan Africa. Some governments, notably Senegal and Mauritius, have acted rapidly to reduce the spread of infections; however successful containment measures come with a high economic cost, as has been

stronger among metals exporters where real GDP is expected to contract by six percent, partly reflecting the large drop in output in South Africa. Among oil exporters, after expanding by 1.5 percent in 2019, real GDP is projected to fall by more than four percent in 2020, owing to contractions in Angola and Nigeria.

In contrast, for non-resource-intensive countries, the findings point out that the decline in growth in 2020 is expected to be moderate, on average. It says in several non-resource-intensive countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, and Kenya, growth is expected to slow substantially, but remain positive, owing to their more diversified economies. Meanwhile, the tourism-dependent economies, especially those of Cabo Verde, Mauritius and the Seychelles,



seen across the globe.

"The road to recovery may be long, and it may be steep, but prioritizing policy actions and investments that address the challenge of creating more, better and inclusive jobs will pave the way for a faster, stronger and inclusive recovery for African countries," said Albert Zeufack, World Bank Chief Economist for the Africa regions.

The report furthered that Nigeria's real GDP contracted by 6.1 percent year-on-year in the second quarter of 2020—the worst result in more than a decade. South Africa, operating under severe containment measures, saw its real GDP contract by 17.1 percent year-on-year in the second quarter of 2020. Angola, Sub-Saharan Africa's second largest oil producer after Nigeria, saw its economy contract by 1.8 percent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2020.

The decline in growth, it says has been

experienced a sharp contraction as exceptionally weak international tourism severely impacted the service sector.

The substantial downturn in economic activity will cost the region at least \$115 million in output losses this year. Gross domestic product per capita growth is expected to contract by nearly 6.0 percent, in part caused by lower domestic consumption and investment brought on by containment measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

"Although the pandemic is not over and the persistence and spread of the virus is uncertain, African governments have started putting in place policies and programs to support an inclusive and sustainable post-pandemic recovery," said Hafez Ghanem, World Bank Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa.

**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**  
**LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY**  
Ashmun & Gurley Streets Intersections  
Opposite First United Methodist Church  
Monrovia, Liberia

1<sup>st</sup> October, 2020

**INVESTIGATIVE SURVEY NOTICE**

The Public is hereby informed that the Liberia Land Authority (LLA) has duly authorized surveyor Andrew T. Salay License #:096 to conduct an Investigative Survey between Gabriel L. Potter & Theresa S. Potter who are claiming Zero point seven five (0.75) lot of land, represented by Kempson S. Murray license #:014 and Nyema J. & Peale Baker who are also claiming two (2) lots of land.

This survey will commence on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 at 10:30am.

The property is lying and situated behind ERA Supermarket, Rehab Community, Paynesville, Montserrado County.

All those who are concerned are to be present on the date and time of the survey with their technical representatives, deeds, diagrams and other relevant documents to substantiate their claims.

Let this notice claims the attention of the below listed persons and entity:

1. Sarah Z. Menduaker
2. J. R. Grimes
3. Community Chairman
4. Liberia National Police (LNP) and;
5. Those who are concerned

Signed   
Mr. John Wilson Akoto  
Assistant Coordinator  
Land Dispute Resolution Section  
Cell#: 0886543456/0775250597

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# APM Terminals falls in trouble

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberian Senate has held the management of APM Terminals in contempt for being belligerent and abrasive to the plenary.

The sanction which will be given to the APM Terminals on Wednesday, 14 October was results from the management and its lawyer's attitude and contradiction while under

undermined the workings of plenary.

The presiding officer also says the plenary is not opportune to watch the behavior of those that attended the hearing with the Senate Labor Committee, but the posture of the APM Terminals' lawyer before the plenary was both belligerent and abrasive.

Pro - tempore Chie further states that the letter that was

Pro tempore Chie adds.

In the letter written to the Liberian Senate by APM Terminals, the company says in no way did it disrespect the Senate Committee on Labor.

However, the company alleges that it was a senator from the committee that disrespected Cllr. Elliot as a female lawyer.

The letter also says the committee misunderstood APM Terminals when it said "intimation," but however the committee reported it to the plenary as intimidation.

APM Terminals however apologizes to the Liberian Senate if it felt offended, though it insists that it didn't insult the committee or the plenary as a whole.

According to APM Terminals, its lawyer was on the floor speaking during the hearing with the Labor Committee when River Cess County Senator Francis S. Paye walked in and rudely interrupted her, saying that "what is it that this woman is saying, your think your will remove the people from their positions and you come here to say blah blahblah, we will not take it from your."

The lawyer explains that as a female lawyer, she felt disrespected, noting that the senator overstepped his boundary by saying things to her and cutting her off when she was speaking. --*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



oath before the full plenary of the Liberian Senate on Monday, 12 October.

In reading the contempt charge by the Liberian Senate, Senate Pro - tempore Albert T. Chie says the Managing Director of APM Terminals Mr. George Adjei was in contradiction to what his letter he wrote to the Senate says, noting that the

sent to plenary by APM Terminals was both justification and an apology, noting that the apology was so much cosmetic and the contempt of the Liberian Senate is justified.

"APM Terminals will remain under oath and will appear here before the plenary on Wednesday October 14, 2020 at 11 AM to get the appropriate sanctions from the plenary,"

# UBA refutes possession of CCTV footage of LRA late employees

The United Bank for Africa (UBA) Liberia has refuted claims by the public that it is in possession of CCTV footage capturing the death of two Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) employees.

According to a release issued in Monrovia Monday, 12 October under the signature the bank's Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications Melody Mezay- Ketter, the bank explains that while it has CCTV camera on its premises, the location where deceased were found didn't fall within the bank's camera range of coverage.

Ketter says as an institution that operates in the confines of the laws, UBA would have supported the

government of Liberia investigative effort by providing such footage, had there been any in its possession. The release furthers that the

bank wants to make it categorically clear that at no point in time has any of its

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



# WFP deeply honoured by 2020 Nobel Peace Prize Award

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) says it is deeply humbled by the awarding of the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to combat hunger among the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations. WFP says the honour is in recognition of the work of its staff who put their lives on the line every day to bring food and assistance to more than 100 million hungry children, women and men across the world.

WFP's Executive Director, David Beasley, says: "The Nobel Peace Prize is not WFP's alone. We work closely with governments, organizations and private sector partners whose passion for helping the hungry and vulnerable equals ours. We could not possibly help anyone without them. We are an operational agency and

achieve Zero Hunger by 2030 - this could not be more relevant than in Liberia. The Nobel Peace Prize is a humbling recognition of food security as an instrument of peace and WFP's enabling role in bridging humanitarian-development-peace efforts by addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of vulnerable communities, whilst supporting national governments to strengthen their systems to become more shock-responsive to crises, natural hazards and health pandemics, like COVID-19."

In Liberia, WFP provides vulnerable people, especially women and youth, with rural employment opportunities through social cohesion processes. For example, in Lofa and Bong Counties, WFP applies its community-based participatory planning

THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2020



World Food Programme (WFP)

"for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict"

THE NORWEGIAN NOBEL COMMITTEE

the daily work of our staff each day is driven by our core values of integrity, humanity and inclusion."

At the same time, UN Secretary - General, AntónioGuterres, has congratulated WFP Executive Director, David Beasley, and its entire staff for advancing the values of the United Nations every day and serving the cause of "we the peoples" as the UN marks its 75th anniversary this year. He then hailed WFP as the "world's first responder" on the frontlines of food insecurity.

WFP Liberia's Country Director, Ms Karla Hershey, says: "WFP is extremely honoured and moved by this award, which we happily share with the government and people of Liberia. Only by sustaining peace can we really

processes to bring together people from different arrays of society, including community leaders, local government and the private sector, to jointly identify key activities for the survival of their society. In Nimba, Maryland, Grand Cape Mount and Sinoe counties, WFP works with partners to address conflict drivers related to the depletion of livelihood opportunities and environmental hazards.

WFP notes that is pleased to be the lead implementing partner of the Government on the COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme (COHFSP) that is the Government's widest social safety-net programme, aiming to reach up to 2.5 million vulnerable poor and the most food-insecure people in all 15

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**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**GC wants tough policy against substance Abuse**

The Officer-In-Charge and Commissioner of the Governance Commission with oversight on Public Sector Reform Mandate Area Madam Elizabeth Dorkin, has expressed serious concern about increase wave of substance abuse in the country.

She alarmed the situation

emphasized that illicit substance abuse poses health and security risk to the country and its people, noting that Liberia has become an attractive hub for illicit trans-regional drugs traffickers, who have found a loophole in the system, attacking the social fabric of the country.

She stressed the need to strengthen enforcement

Governance Commission organized one day dialogue to get stakeholders' views on how the trade could be halted, as it poses major public health and economic crisis in coming decades, while threatening Liberia's peace and stability.

The GC's initiative is strongly routed in its mandate to formulate policies and proffer recommendations that would lead to formulation of a National Road Map for stronger policy on curbing illicit drug trade, Commissioner Dorkin said, disclosing that trafficking in illicit drugs has deprived the Government of Liberia millions of dollars in revenue.

GC Commissioner for Political, Legal Reforms and Decentralization Mandate Area, George W. Howe, Jr. called on policymakers to label illicit substance trafficking non-bailable, warning that substance abuse is rapidly becoming controversial and problematic.

He described the situation as a global problem largely brought about by peer pressure among the youth, adding that mandate of the Commission compels it to raise such awareness and invite relevant institutions, opinion leaders and researchers to the table to dialogue on a way forward.

*Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Officer-In-Charge Madam Elizabeth Dorkin

has reached crisis level as a result of decades abuse, particularly amongst the youth.

Speaking at the opening of a day-long dialogue on "Emerging Substance Abuse Crisis and its Effect on the Economy" organized by the Governance Commission in Monrovia recently, Commissioner Dorkin

regime to stop illicit traders in order to protect young people and their future.

According to the O-I-C, Liberia's public health law criminalizes trade of illicit drugs, but she called for more coherent policies on how abusers of the laws should be handled.

Due to the rapid increase in illicit drugs trade, the

**Women League wants MOVEE out of Rainbow Alliance**

By Lewis S. Teh

The National Women League of the opposition Movement for Economic Empowerment or MOVEE is calling on the National Elections Commission not to recognize the party as a member of the newly organized Rainbow Alliance.

MOVEE was established by the former executive governor of the Central Bank of Liberia, Dr. Mills Jones, who contested in the 2017 presidential election and lost.

"We the National Women League of MOVEE [are] calling on the National Elections Commission not to recognize MOVEE as member of Rainbow Alliance", the League said.

The women made the call late Sunday evening, October

12, 2020, in a news release issued in Monrovia, noting their call is predicated upon alleged unilateral decision taken by officials of the party, including its acting Chairman, Dan Sayeh

in merging with the Rainbow Alliance without their consent.

"We the women of MOVEE denounce and withdraw from

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10**



**CHICO up with Karloken-Fish Town road**

The management of China Henan International Cooperation Group (CHICO) says it has accelerated efforts to complete the Karloken-Fish Town corridor of Southeast Liberia well in time.

The Karloken - Fish Town road project is an Asphalt Pavement which lies in a generally rolling mountainous terrain with a total length of 80.5km, and an average carriageway plus shoulder width of 11.3m. The road carriage way will remain as a 2-lane facility (each lane will be 3.65 m wide). The current status of the project is around 85% completion.

CHICO is a Chinese state-owned construction and

completed, will also improve living standards of people living in the Southeast and the country at large.

"Up to date, the project, which covers Karloken to Fish Town, is around 85% completion rating and we are committed to reaching full completion by May 2021," said David.

"Currently, culvert construction is at 100 percent, cox culvert construction is at 100 percent; the construction of bridges is at 90 percent and the asphalt pavement is 53.1 KM out of 80.5 KM," David disclosed, and added, "We continue to reaffirm our commitment to the development of roads in Liberia."



Human Resource Manager, Mr. Jacob O. David

engineering company held by the provincial government of Henan. The construction company is known for being part of the "vanguard of the country's Africa drive". It has been working in Liberia since 2008 and has constructed major roads and projects across the country.

Speaking at a news conference in Congo Town on Sunday, October 11, 2020, the Human Resource Manager of the company, Mr. Jacob O. David, said completion of the road will ease transportation of goods and supplies to that part of the country.

Apart from economic revitalization, David noted that the road, when

He said the company is committed to adhering to its social corporate responsibilities to the communities in which it operates.

"Consistent with our social, corporate responsibilities to the communities, the management has been involved with several initiatives, ranging from the employment and training of local community dwellers to become skilled in various areas of construction activities, the construction of schools in the county, support to local government subsidiaries, among others," he explained.

*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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# Français

## Sénatoriales 2020 : Toutes les activités électorales sont suspendues

La Commission électorale nationale a, avec effet immédiat, suspendu toutes les activités relatives aux élections sénatoriales spéciales, sur ordre de la Cour suprême du Libéria.

Animant un point de presse vendredi dernier au siège de la Commission électorale nationale à Monrovia, la présidente de la NEC, Davidetta Browne

Lansanah, a indiqué que la décision faite suite à une injonction de la Cour suprême.

« Respectant l'état de droit, le conseil des commissaires de la Commission électorale nationale a suspendu toutes les activités relatives aux élections sénatoriales spéciales du 08 décembre. La NEC aurait dû publier la liste des candidats qualifiés pour l'élection et déclarer officiellement la campagne politique ouverte,

mais tous doivent être suspendus jusqu'à ce que la Cour suprême entende la plainte contre la Commission », a dit la présidente de la NEC.

Les partis politiques, les candidats, les sympathisants et les Libériens en général s'étaient mobilisés pour le lancement des activités de campagne officielles le week-end dernier, mais les choses se sont passées autrement, la Cour suprême ayant ordonné

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Guinée / Campagne électorale coups de poings : Dalein non grata en Haute Guinée

Le chef de l'opposition guinéenne a été bloqué dans la localité de Tokounou, alors qu'il était en chemin pour Kankan, où son meeting de campagne était prévu ce dimanche. Son parti pointe du doigt des manœuvres orchestrées par le régime, dont des nervis auraient reçu pour mission de contrer la poussée de l'Union des forces démocratiques de Guinée (Ufdg) dans la région.

Le challenger d'Alpha Condé n'a pas pu accéder à la

ville de Kankan ce dimanche, où son meeting initialement prévu dans la principale agglomération de la Haute Guinée, devait marquer le clou de sa tournée de campagne dans les provinces. Le cortège de Cellou Dalein Diallo a été bloqué à 3 km de Tokounou, dans le village de Nialénko par une bande de jeunes vêtus aux couleurs du Rpg. L'opposant et sa suite ont été contraints de rebrousser chemin, pour rallier Kissidougou, leur point de départ.

Dans une déclaration publiée à cet effet, le principal parti d'opposition pointe la responsabilité du président Alpha Condé en personne dans cet incident.

L'accusant de "s'appuyer sur des extrémistes du Rpg notamment Talibi Dabo, de la coordination régionale du Rpg, Oumar Diakité, Maire Rpg de Kankan et Moussa Dian Condé du syndicat des transports", pour accomplir de telles besognes. Pour l'Ufdg, "cette action est à inscrire dans le cadre de la dynamique déclenchée par Alpha Condé visant à interdire à l'Ufdg toute activité en Haute Guinée". Le parti met cela au compte d'une vague de panique qui se serait emparée du pouvoir, face à la poussée de l'Ufdg dans ce fief traditionnel de la majorité présidentielle.

Ces attaques contre le cortège de Dalein, suivies des violences perpétrées contre certains militants de son parti à Kankan seraient donc des actions coordonnées, à en croire le parti, pour casser

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## Éditorial

### Il n'y a pas de place pour la violence électorale en démocratie

Le gouvernement américain, par l'intermédiaire du secrétaire d'État Michael R. Pompeo, a lancé la semaine dernière un appel aux pays africains qui se préparent aux élections, y compris le Libéria, à respecter l'état de droit et de respecter la volonté du peuple.

M. Pompeo a déclaré dans un communiqué publié ce week-end par l'ambassade des États-Unis à Monrovia que les élections sont importantes non seulement pour les Africains, mais aussi pour les défenseurs de la démocratie dans le monde.

Plus précisément, les États-Unis se sont engagés à surveiller de près les actions des individus qui s'ingèrent dans le processus démocratique sur le continent, tout en avertissant qu'ils n'hésiteront pas à envisager les sanctions, y compris des restrictions de visa pour les personnes qui seraient responsables de violences liées aux élections partout en Afrique.

Cette mise en garde de la part du partenaire traditionnel du Libéria, l'Amérique, intervient juste au moment où les Libériens se préparent pour des élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat prévues le 8 décembre 2020. Le scrutin de décembre consiste à élire 15 sénateurs pour rejoindre 15 autres sénateurs au Capitole pour compléter le Sénat libérien de 30 membres avant la prochaine élection présidentielle de 2023.

Mais avant le scrutin, les meetings, principalement de l'opposition, sont perturbés à plusieurs reprises par la violence. Le plus souvent, les partis politiques de l'opposition font l'objet d'intimidation et de menaces.

Bien que l'avertissement du Secrétaire d'État Pompeo n'ait pas été spécifiquement adressé au Libéria, ce pays, qui est un ami historique de l'Amérique, devrait écouter et agir en conséquence. Le Libéria n'a pas intérêt à se rabaisser par des élections violentes ou frauduleuses parce qu'il est de notre devoir d'être le porte-flambeau des jeunes démocraties du continent.

Comme l'a souligné M. Pompeo, il est important que toutes les parties aient des chances égales de participer pacifiquement au processus démocratique sans répression ni intimidation. Cela n'a pas été le cas jusque-là pour les récents rassemblements organisés à travers le pays, en particulier à Monrovia et dans les régions adjacentes par des candidats de l'opposition.

Nous nous souvenons de l'incident qui s'est produit à Zwedru, dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, lors d'une tournée du leader de la PPC Alexander Cummings avec le député opposant Yekeh Kolubah, il y a des mois, où ils ont été violemment chassés du comté par des voyous brandissant des machettes exprimant leur loyauté au président George Manneh Weah.

Quant aux résultats de l'enquête sur ces violences, ils tardent toujours à venir malgré la déclaration conjointe publiée par les missions étrangères à Monrovia, appelant à une enquête rapide.

Chaque Libérien devrait s'efforcer de faire de nos élections des élections pacifiques et de notre démocratie une démocratie participative et apaisée.

Tant les candidats de l'opposition que de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir et les candidats indépendants ont le droit de faire campagne et de solliciter des votes dans les comtés, les communautés, les villes et les villages sans craindre d'être chassés avec des machettes et des pierres.



# Français

## Sénatoriales 2020 : Toutes

suspension de toutes les activités relatives aux élections sénatoriales spéciales de décembre, en attendant l'audience relative à une plainte déposée par l'opposition.

A noter que le gouvernement américain, par l'intermédiaire du secrétaire d'État Michael R. Pompeo, a lancé la semaine dernière un appel aux pays africains qui se préparent aux élections, y compris le Libéria, à respecter l'état de droit et de respecter la volonté du peuple.

M. Pompeo a déclaré dans un communiqué publié ce week-end par l'ambassade des États-Unis à Monrovia que les élections sont importantes non seulement pour les Africains, mais aussi pour les défenseurs de la démocratie dans le monde.

Plus précisément, les États-Unis se sont engagés à surveiller de près les actions des individus qui s'ingèrent dans le processus démocratique sur le continent, tout en avertissant qu'ils n'hésiteront pas à envisager les sanctions, y compris des restrictions de visa pour les personnes qui seraient responsables de violences liées aux élections partout en Afrique.

« Nous pensons que toutes

les parties devraient participer pacifiquement au processus démocratique. La répression et l'intimidation n'ont pas leur place dans la démocratie », a déclaré M. Pompeo.

Au secrétaire Pompeo d'ajouter : « le droit de réunion pacifique et la liberté d'expression et d'association sont au cœur d'une démocratie qui fonctionne », et d'avertir que les individus qui feront obstruction au processus démocratique sur le continent feront face à de graves conséquences.

« Nous surveillerons de près les actions des individus qui s'immiscent dans le processus démocratique et n'hésiterons pas à envisager des sanctions - y compris les restrictions de visa - pour les responsables de violences liées aux élections », ont menacé les États-Unis.

Le secrétaire Pompeo a poursuivi que les États-Unis sont déterminés à soutenir des élections libres, justes et inclusives, ajoutant qu'en tant que partenaires de longue date des nations africaines « l'Amérique se soucie de la trajectoire démocratique de la région et s'engage à travailler de manière constructive avec les partenaires internationaux et régionaux afin d'atteindre cet objectif de démocratisation totale du continent »

## Guinée / Campagne électorale coups de

cette dynamique.

D'où l'appel de l'Ufdg à la communauté internationale, afin qu'elle puisse constater ce que le parti qualifié "d'entraves à la liberté de mouvement de son candidat, qui affectent par conséquent l'équité des élections, la sécurité des citoyens et la paix sociale".

Le directoire national de campagne du RPG-arc-en-ciel à l'élection présidentielle du 18 octobre 2020 a aussi condamné cet incident, à travers une déclaration, rendue publique, avant même la réaction de l'Ufdg.

Le parti au pouvoir n'a pas manqué de rappeler que "cet incident malheureux (et d'autres avant), intervient après les graves violences enregistrées à Labé et à Dalaba lors de la récente tournée de campagne en Moyenne Guinée du premier ministre, chef du gouvernement et directeur national de campagne du RPG-Arc-en-ciel, Dr. Ibrahima Kassory Fofana".

Cet empressement à vouloir se dédouaner est perçu toutefois comme une fuite en avant par les contempteurs du régime. Pour qui ces violences seraient le fruit des poncifs servis aux populations par certains caciques du système, en lieu et place d'une véritable offre politique. Ainsi ces incidents survenus ce dimanche en Haute Guinée sont perçus comme des repréailles à l'attaque subie par le cortège de Kassory en Moyenne Guinée. Sauf que là les partisans du régime qui sont pointés du doigt dans cette affaire sont allés forts, en pillant des commerces. Sans que les forces de sécurité ne lèvent le petit doigt.

Et pour maints observateurs, cette manière de gérer la cité, avec du « parti pris » en faveur du parti au pouvoir, ne plaide pas en faveur d'un président qui voudrait s'éterniser au pouvoir.

Des tels incidents ne devraient surtout pas être imputés au Rpg, un parti qui a souffert le martyr sous la deuxième république. Et qui sait donc ce qu'en vaut l'aune.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Klaus Schwab

## Le capitalisme post-COVID

**G**ENÈVE - Aucun événement depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale n'a exercé un impact planétaire aussi profond que le COVID-19. La pandémie a engendré une crise sanitaire et économique d'une ampleur jamais observée depuis des générations, tout en exacerbant un certain nombre de problèmes systémiques tels que les inégalités et les postures des grandes puissances.

La seule réponse acceptable face à une telle crise consiste à opérer un « Grand Redémarrage » de nos économies, politiques et sociétés. L'heure est à une réévaluation des principes a priori inamovibles du système pré-pandémique, mais également à la défense de certaines valeurs de longue date. La tâche qui nous incombe consiste à préserver les accomplissements des 75 dernières années sous une forme plus durable.

Lors des décennies qui ont suivi la Seconde Guerre mondiale, le monde a accompli des avancées sans précédent dans la lutte contre la pauvreté, la réduction de la mortalité infantile, l'accroissement de l'espérance de vie, ou encore l'alphabétisation. Aujourd'hui, la coopération et le commerce au niveau international, qui ont fondé les améliorations d'après-guerre dans ces domaines et bien d'autres du progrès humain, doivent être préservés et défendus contre le renouveau d'un scepticisme qui s'attaque à leur bien-fondé.

Dans le même temps, le monde doit rester concentré sur la question déterminante de l'ère pré-pandémique : la « quatrième révolution industrielle » et la digitalisation d'un nombre incalculable d'activités économiques. Les récentes avancées technologiques nous confèrent les outils dont nous avons besoin pour affronter la crise actuelle - à travers notamment le développement rapide de vaccins, de nouveaux traitements, et d'équipements de protection individuelle. Il va nous falloir continuer d'investir dans la recherche et développement, l'éducation, ainsi que l'innovation, tout en bâtissant des protections contre ceux qui pourraient faire un mauvais usage de la technologie.

Mais d'autres signes distinctifs de notre système économique mondial devront également être repensés dans un état d'esprit ouvert, en premier lieu desquels l'idéologie néolibérale. Le fondamentalisme du libre marché a érodé les droits des travailleurs et la sécurité économique, entraîné une course vers le bas à travers une dérégulation et une compétition ruineuse sur le plan des taxes, et conduit à l'émergence de nouveaux monopoles mondiaux colossaux.

Les règles du commerce, des taxes et de la concurrence, qui sont le reflet de dizaines d'années d'influence néolibérale, vont devoir être réexaminées, sans quoi le pendule idéologique - d'ores et déjà en mouvement - pourrait bien repencher du côté d'un protectionnisme total, et d'autres stratégies économiques perdant-perdant.

Il va plus précisément nous falloir reconsidérer notre attachement commun au « capitalisme » tel que nous le connaissons. Il ne s'agit évidemment pas de renoncer aux moteurs fondamentaux de croissance. Nous devons l'essentiel des progrès sociaux passés à l'entrepreneuriat ainsi qu'à la capacité à créer de la richesse en prenant des risques et en poursuivant des modèles d'affaires innovants. Nous avons besoin que les marchés répartissent efficacement les ressources ainsi que la production des biens et services, notamment lorsqu'il est question d'affronter des problématiques telles que le changement

climatique.

Pour autant, il nous faut repenser ce que nous entendons par « capital », sous ses nombreuses formes, qu'il soit financier, environnemental, social ou humain. Les consommateurs d'aujourd'hui n'aspirent plus seulement à de meilleurs produits et services, en plus grand nombre, et à bas prix. Ils préfèrent désormais que les entreprises contribuent au bien-être social et au bien commun. Il existe à la fois un besoin fondamental et une exigence de plus en plus généralisée autour d'un nouveau genre de « capitalisme ».

Pour repenser le capitalisme, nous devons reconsidérer le rôle des grandes entreprises. « Les affaires sont les affaires », estimait l'économiste et prix Nobel Milton Friedman, pionnier du néolibéralisme (citant l'ancien président américain Calvin Coolidge). Pour autant, dans son élaboration de la doctrine de la primauté des actionnaires, il considérait qu'une société cotée ne devait pas seulement être une entité commerciale, mais également un organisme social.

La crise du COVID a par ailleurs révélé que celles des entreprises qui avaient investi dans le renforcement de leur vitalité à long terme s'en sortaient mieux face à la tempête. En réalité, la pandémie a accéléré le passage à un modèle de capitalisme d'entreprise fondé sur les parties prenantes, après l'adoption de ce concept par la Business Roundtable américaine l'an dernier.

Pour que davantage de pratiques d'affaires socialement et environnementalement responsables s'installent solidement, les entreprises ont toutefois besoin d'orientations plus claires. C'est dans cette perspective que l'International Business Council du Forum économique mondial a élaboré un ensemble de « Mesures du capitalisme des parties prenantes », afin que les entreprises puissent évoluer sur la même longueur d'ondes lorsqu'il s'agit d'évaluer la valeur et les risques.

Si la crise du COVID nous enseigne une chose, c'est que les gouvernements, entreprises ou groupes de la société civile ne peuvent répondre seuls aux défis systémiques mondiaux. Nous devons briser cette compartimentation qui sépare les différents domaines, et commencer à bâtir des plateformes institutionnelles en appui d'une coopération public-privé. Nécessité tout aussi importante, les jeunes générations doivent s'impliquer dans ce processus, tant il concerne par essence leur futur à long terme.

Enfin, nous devons redoubler d'efforts pour reconnaître la diversité des profils, des opinions et des valeurs parmi les citoyens, à tous les niveaux. Chacun d'entre nous possède sa propre identité individuelle, mais nous appartenons tous à une communauté locale, professionnelle, nationale et mondiale, faite d'intérêts partagés et de destins entremêlés.

Le Grand Redémarrage doit faire entendre la voix de ceux qui ont été laissés sur le bord du chemin, afin que chaque individu désireux de « co-façonner » l'avenir puisse le faire. Ce redémarrage dont nous avons besoin n'est ni une révolution, ni un passage à quelque idéologie nouvelle. Il doit consister en une avancée pragmatique en direction d'un monde plus résilient, plus inclusif et plus durable. Certains des piliers du système mondial devront être remplacés, d'autres réparés ou consolidés. Si nous entendons atteindre le progrès, la prospérité et la santé pour tous, tels seront les efforts que nous devons fournir.

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**WB Group debars Techno Brain (Kenya) Limited and Techno Brain Global FZ-LLC**

The World Bank Group on Thursday 8 October announced the twenty-eight month debarment of Kenya-based Techno Brain (Kenya) Limited (“Techno Brain Kenya”), an IT-services company, and the ten-month debarment of its parent company, United Arab Emirates-based Techno Brain Global FZ-LLC (“Techno Brain UAE”), in connection with collusive and fraudulent

underlying sanctionable practices and agree to meet specified corporate compliance conditions as a condition for release from debarment.

Following the initial ten-month debarment, the sanction of Techno Brain UAE will convert to a conditional non-debarment for a period of eighteen months, which means that it will again be eligible to participate in projects and operations financed by

as the Public Financial Management Reforms for Institutional Strengthening project, was designed to improve domestic revenue mobilization systems and strengthen financial control and accountability in public finances. According to the facts of the case, Techno Brain Kenya and Techno Brain UAE engaged in an arrangement to obtain and edit confidential bidding documentation so as to influence the awarding of a contract in their favor. Techno Brain Kenya was subsequently awarded the contract, even though its bid did not meet tender requirements, thus necessitating a substantial reduction in the extent of work provided under the contract. Furthermore, Techno Brain Kenya, guided by Techno Brain UAE, claimed technical qualifications of sister companies as its own to meet contract specifications. These actions are considered collusive and fraudulent practices, respectively, as defined by the World Bank’s Procurement Regulations.

The settlement agreement provides for a reduced period of sanction in light of the company’s cooperation and voluntary remedial actions. As a condition for release from sanction under the terms of the settlement agreement, the company commits to developing an integrity compliance program consistent with the principles set out in the World Bank Group Integrity Compliance Guidelines.



practices as part of the Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project II in Liberia.

The debarments make Techno Brain Kenya and Techno Brain UAE ineligible to participate in projects and operations financed by institutions of the World Bank Group. It is part of a settlement agreement under which the companies acknowledge culpability and responsibility for the

institutions of the World Bank Group as long as it complies with its obligations under the settlement agreement. Otherwise, the conditional non-debarment will revert to a sanction of debarment with conditional release, and the company then will become ineligible to participate in World Bank Group projects and operations until the conditions for release set out in the settlement agreement are met.

The project, since renamed

**Police drag**

*Starts from back page*

yield good results, the aggrieved staffers saw the need to continue assembling at the grounds of the Temple of Justice.

He says they did so to seek the attention of the public and the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) led government to pay their Liberian dollars salaries.

“This is the Temple of Justice where people residing here in Liberia come to seek justice, but it will surprise you the media and the world at large to know that at this same Temple of Justice, staffers are being treated like modern day slaves,” Ponpon laments.

According to him, there is no justice for them and it is time they put aside the diplomacy and tell the Chief Justice that they have families at home, school is about to open and their children need to be in school.

“So in this light, we’re kindly requesting our unpaid

Justice Cllr. Musa Dean told the aggrieved staffers that the Government of Liberia is concerned about their plight, saying he had called the Minister of Finance Samuel Tweah to come to the Temple of Justice.

Following a brief meeting with the Chief Justice and the Justice Minister, Finance Minister Samuel Tweah told the huge gathering that Chief Justice Korkpor in no way has money for any judiciary staffer.

Instead, Minister Tweah says the Government of Liberia owes the Chief Justice some unpaid salaries.

He explains that after the salaries harmonization exercise was introduced, the component of the Liberian dollars salary was removed, suggesting that there is no employee from any government ministries or agencies who has been receiving the Liberian dollars salaries since the



salaries this court has owed us for the past 12 months,” Mr. Ponpon alleges.

During the protest marred by anti- Chief Justice Korkpor slogans and drumming with gallons and pot tops, renowned Liberian lawyer Cllr. Pearl Brown-Bull appeared on the scene to hear from the protesters, and later took along with her one of their placards to the office of Chief Justice Korkpor.

“I am going to the office of the Chief Justice. I’m taking one of your placards with me so the chief justice can see it because it’s really bad when you work for twelve months and you don’t take pay. My husband used to all of you here, I started working here as a cadet when I was attending the University of Liberia and we used to get paid,” Brown-Bull tells the aggrieved staffers.

Minutes after she left with the placard, the Minister of

harmonization process started.

The Finance Minister continues that on Tuesday, 13 October, the Ministry’s technical team will arrive at the Temple of Justice to explain the harmonization process and all other things they need to know about how the harmonization process has affected their Liberian dollars.

During the opening of the Supreme Court Monday, the Chief Justice urged the judicial staffers to refrain from further protest, saying their action is disrupting court processes and deprives party litigants of unhindered right of access to justice.

He notes that the protesters are under the illusion that the deductions made in their salaries are being deposited in the account of the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

*Cont’d from page 7*

**Women League**

the arrangement of the Rainbow Alliance with immediate effect”, they said.

According to the women, MOVEE is a party grounded on the foundation of participatory and genuine representative democracy, which encourages total involvement of grassroots Liberians to promote national unity, social justice and respect for the rule of law.

Reading the press statement to reporters, the secretary general of the National Women League, Ms. Nancy Duobour said, the party is run based on its constitution and it upholds all laws and regulations formulated by the National Elections

Commission. She said with this background, the National Women League of MOVEE has observed and learned with dismay the unethical and illegal manner in which Acting Chairman Sayeh has proceeded with the process leading to committing the Party to the Rainbow Alliance, terming the decision as very unfortunate.

“We the mothers of the party take serious exception to this attitude”, she said, adding, few weeks ago, they observed disappearance of the party’s logo, emblem and name from the National Election Commission’s preliminary listing of candidates for the December midterm senatorial

election. “All we see and hear is Rainbow Alliance. This is political wickedness, inappropriate, and unacceptable politicking”, said Ms. Duobour.

According to her, they will not sit and allow the party to disappear politically, noting that we have not seen or received any communication or resolution pertaining to the arrangement with the Rainbow Alliance.

“Our party remains a strong institution of commitment and discipline; no one person can mortgage our party for personal interest”, the women maintained. - *Press Statement*

# S/Court warned over election crisis

By Winston W. Parley

The Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) has reminded Liberia's Supreme Court of the grave consequences Liberia has suffered due to the crisis created out of fraudulent elections, challenging the high court to therefore demonstrate fairness in deciding election cases in the next two months leading to the senatorial election.

At the opening of the Supreme Court Monday, 12 October, the president of the Liberian National Bar Association Cllr. Tiawon Gongloe cautioned the court to take judicial notice of the historical fact that all threats in constitutional and other governance of Liberia over the years have been negatively impacted by electoral dispute.

Gongloe's warning comes after a Supreme Court Justice in Chambers recently denied the opposition Collaborating

From 1927, Cllr. Gongloe notes that the election that brought President Charles D.B. King to office for another term was rated as the most rigged election in the world and still remains unsurpassed, according to the World Guinness Book of Records.

"History shows that although there were less than 15,000 registered voters, Mr. King of the True Whig Party was declared to have won the presidential election by 243,000 votes, compared to 9,000 votes for his opponent T.J.R. Faulkner of the People's Party," Gongloe narrates.

As a consequence of the election crisis that was created out of the fraudulent election from 1927, he says Mr. King and his vice president were forced to resign from their offices.

In the early 1950s, Gongloe notes that the crisis developed over the failure of the Monthly and Probate Court of Montserrado County to probate the Article of Association of the United People's Party, led by D.

ensuing senatorial election and all other elections that shall take place in Liberia, it will continue to be fair in its actions and decisions.

He says the Bar also takes note of the court's assurances that in deciding elections or other cases, it has no friend or foe, noting that it will proceed without fear or favor regardless of what or who is involved.

"While members of the Liberian National Bar Association are hopeful that these assurances will be concretized by the orders and judgments of this court in the next two months, it goes without saying that this court has no other option but to be fair and impartial in all cases and to handle cases involving the sanctity of the electoral process in Liberia with the utmost care," Cllr. Gongloe says.

According to him, of the elected and appointed officials of the three branches of government here, it is only the members of the Judiciary that the Constitution of Liberia made good moral character as one of the qualifications requirements for appointment.

"In order to be a Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Article 68 provides as a qualification that the appointee be a citizen of Liberia and of good moral character," Cllr. Gongloe explains, adding that Article 69 (a) mandates the same for judges of subordinate courts of records.

Earlier in his address, Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. assured all Liberians, political parties and associations or organizations that during the ensuing senatorial and all other elections here, the Supreme Court will continue to be fair in its actions and decisions.

"In deciding elections or other cases, this Court has no friend or foe and proceeds without fear or favor regardless of what or who is involved," Chief Justice Korkpor says.

He continues that the Court seeks no approval from source for its actions, neither does it wait until there is an echo from the crowd, backed by numbers before acting.

"Our actions and decisions are ours and ours alone, based purely on our inner convictions driven by settled principles of law," he notes.

He states that over the years, they have remained on course in performing their duties, and they shall continue to do so.

Touching on the continued protest by aggrieved staffers of the Judiciary over the Liberian dollars component of their salaries, Chief Justice

# UBA refutes

Cont'd from page 6

members been harassed or intimidated by state security operatives to produce footage from the bank's CCTV coverage as it is also being speculated.

It can be recalled that the October 10 edition of Public Trust Media Group carried a story under the head line "Amid LRA Auditors Deaths, Certain Elements Trying to wrestle CCTV camera from UBA".

In the story, the local outlet stated that it had a credible source at the UBA who had said that the UBA branch on Broad Street management was said to be under intense pressure by some elements in the CDC government to illegally turn over their bank's CC camera to them.

Meanwhile, President George Manneh Weah has asked the United States

Embassy near Monrovia to help with the ongoing investigation into the deaths of two staffers of the Liberia Revenue Authority and the head of the Internal Audit Agency Emmanuel B. Nyeswa.

According to a press statement signed by Ledgerhood Rennie, Minister of Information, President Weah says it is sad that the latest deaths are happening at a time when the country is nurturing a vibrant democracy where there's respect for fundamental human rights.

At the same time Mr. Weah announces that he has further instructed Justice Minister Frank Musa Dean to coordinate his efforts with partners of the government including the Americans in order to establish the cause of the deaths of the three government staffers.

# WFP deeply honoured

Cont'd from page 6

counties. It is one of the best examples of an UN-government partnership in which the food programme is from the people of Liberia to the country's citizens through their own government.

WFP has been in Liberia since 1968 working on school feeding and other social

protection programmes, emergency response, livelihoods and agriculture assets development for rural dwellers, scaling up of nutrition, and capacity strengthening of both beneficiaries and counterparts. -Press release



Political Parties (CPP's) petition to halt the election process until the Final Voters' Roll is cleaned technically and professionally.

The court's decision received a reaction from former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf through a tweet on Saturday, 10 October when she wrote that "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."

Giving a historical perspective Liberia's electoral dispute, Gongloe notes that over the differences of opinions of the result of a referendum for the extension of the term of office the president and time for holding the next presidential election, late President Charles D.B. King was violently overthrown and the first interim government of Liberia established.

Tweh.

He says the crisis eventually led to the arrest and the imprisonment of many opposition political leaders on the charge of sedition and the escape of D. Tweh, the presumptive presidential candidate of the UPP.

In 1985, he notes that the counting of the ballots by a 50 - person committee established not based on any provision of the Liberian Constitution, the existing election law or any statue, undermined the confidence in the special election commission and a public rejection of the election result by most Liberians.

According to Gongloe, the mass disenchantment created by the rejection of that election result led to multiple rebellious actions and government reactions that culminated into full scale arm conflict.

However, Cllr. Gongloe says that the LNBA takes particular note of the assurances given by the court that during the

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Korkpor says the protesters are under illusion that the deductions made in their salaries are being deposited in the account of the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

He recalls that during an earlier meeting with officials from the Finance Ministry the Civil Service Agency, the judicial workers were informed that the cuts in salaries were not brought about by the Judiciary and that the cuts affected all employees in all government sectors.

Chief Justice Korkpor warns that what is taking place now does not amount to peaceful assembly as contemplated by law.

"The violation of the rights of others in an attempt to assert what you believe to be yours is illegal," he warns, saying as the Judiciary remains

engaged with the Finance Ministry in finding a lasting solution which will inure to their benefit, he calls on the employees to refrain from further protest actions.

"The Judiciary is a neutral ground where party litigants go to seek remedy within the ambit of the law. Protests, demonstrations, and strike actions, etc., disrupt court processes and deprive party litigants of unhindered right of access to justice; these are in violation of law and cannot be allowed to continue," he says.

A sustained protest was held outside during a formal program marking the opening of the Supreme Court, with judicial staffers demanding Liberian dollars component of their salaries.

The protesters were dragged by police later in the day, and some were left unconscious.

# Police drag judicial staffers

## --3 left unconscious



By Ben P. Wesee

Riot police in Monrovia have dragged protesting judicial staffers, leaving protest leader Archie Ponpon and two others unconscious at the Temple of Justice on Capitol Hill Monday, 12 October.

While a program marking the opening of the Supreme

Court was ongoing, the aggrieved judicial staffers in extension of their weeks of protests for Liberian dollars allegedly cut, assembled outside the court, beating drums and chanting Chief Justice Francis S. Korpor's name.

In the process police forcefully dragged the

aggrieved staffers out of the premises of the court yard, leaving three people unconscious.

The state securities that were assigned at the Temple of Justice for the opening of the Supreme Court managed to push the protesting judiciary staffers from their first point of gathering.

Later the security forces used force and dragged the protesters outside the fence of the Temple of Justice. Some of the protesters were seen lying flat on the ground.

Prior to falling unconscious, the aggrieved staffers' spokesperson Archie Ponpon argued that it is unfair to them as family heads to be mistreated by an institution that is supposed to provide justice to people within the country.

According to Mr. Ponpon after all their negotiations indoor with the authorities at the Judiciary have failed to

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# Lakers pay tribute to Bryant after NBA title win

The Los Angeles Lakers paid tribute to Kobe Bryant after winning their first NBA title in a decade.

Five-time NBA champion Bryant was killed in a helicopter crash in January alongside his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others.

He spent his entire career with the Lakers and led them to their last NBA title in 2010.

"Kobe, I know he's looking down on us super proud," said

Lakers forward Anthony Davis.

"We miss him, and this is definitely for him."

The Lakers beat the Miami Heat 106-93 to seal a 4-2 series victory and tie with the Boston Celtics for the most NBA championships on 17.

Davis added: "He had a lot of confidence in our team. He had a lot of confidence in our organisation to go out there and win it this year."

On several occasions during the play-offs, the Lakers competed in 'Black Mamba'



jerseys - a strip themed on 18-time NBA All-Star Bryant's self-styled nickname.

Before their defeat in game five of the finals, the Lakers had won all four play-off matches they had contested when wearing the strip, which was co-designed by Bryant and released in 2017.

"I think Kobe and Gianna have guided this team the entire year," said Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka.

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