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- ✓ REDUCTION IN THE TENURE OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT [6 YRS TO 5 YRS]
- ✓ DUAL CITIZENSHIP
- ✓ SENATORS [9 YRS TO 7 YRS] ✓ REPRESENTATIVES (6 YRS TO 5 YRS)

The New Dawn

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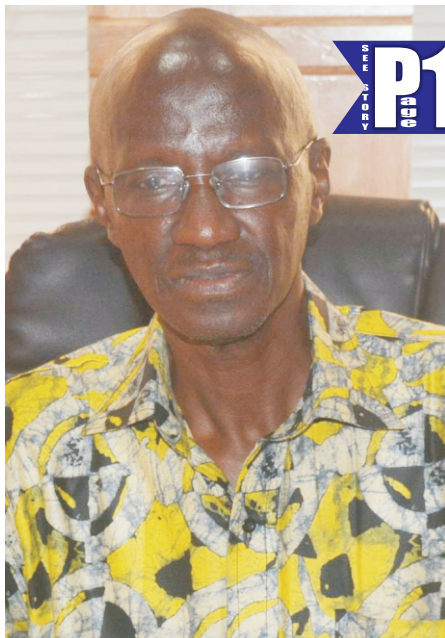


Resign

-CPP tells NEC Commissioners



Comm. Barsee Leo Kpangbai



Comm. Boakai A. Dukuly



Comm. Ernestine Morgan-Awar (ESQ.)



Comm. Floyd Oxley Sayor



Comm. Josephine Kou Gaye

P15

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LMD Fellow: Braimah Promises: "I Will Defeat the Men"

By Patrick Wiah
(LMD Fellow)

Sinoe County: Women gear up to support the first female candidate for the Senate in the history of the county. Grace Scotland Braimah will run on behalf of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) and will face three male candidates running for the same seat. It is a tough competition, but the Women Against Marginalization group is determined to make

opportunity to serve as the next senator for the county. As it stands, there is a single female senator from Bassa county who is struggling to regain her seat due to the male dominance [in the Senate]," Doe explained to the group of women voters gathered to voice support for Braimah.

"Women, too, must be given the [equal] opportunity at this time to represent the people of Sinoe county; we deserve better, we cannot be voting for

Liberia by empowering women and youths, specifically through the Village Saving Loan program and agriculture support, as well as scholarships for school going girls and boys.

According to Braimah, she empowered 2,000 women through the village savings loan program, and 3,500 women in agriculture. She also supported 350 young adults to start a business in agriculture. Braimah currently supports 35 female students and 15 male students on her scholarship in both grade schools and universities.

Braimah said that her goal was to improve the lives of all people. "I have impacted the life of almost everyone, and not only women, but both women and men, and the youth in agriculture, and village saving loan. I am currently helping young people through scholarships in both grade schools and at university levels; I will forever remain who I am, and I will not let the people of Sinoe down when elected to public office. I will defeat all men because I am the best suited in this election."

The tribal arguments are also on her agenda, and Braimah said she will ensure that Sinoe will put a stop to rivalries between the Kru and the Sarpoe once and for all. She promised peace to be able to speed up development and the economy and create jobs for the people.

Annie Nemily said that she

men all the time. This time is our time, and we are calling on the men to support us."

Braimah is credited to have contributed to the growth and development of Sinoe and



Grace Scotland Braimah could become the first female Senator from Sinoe county

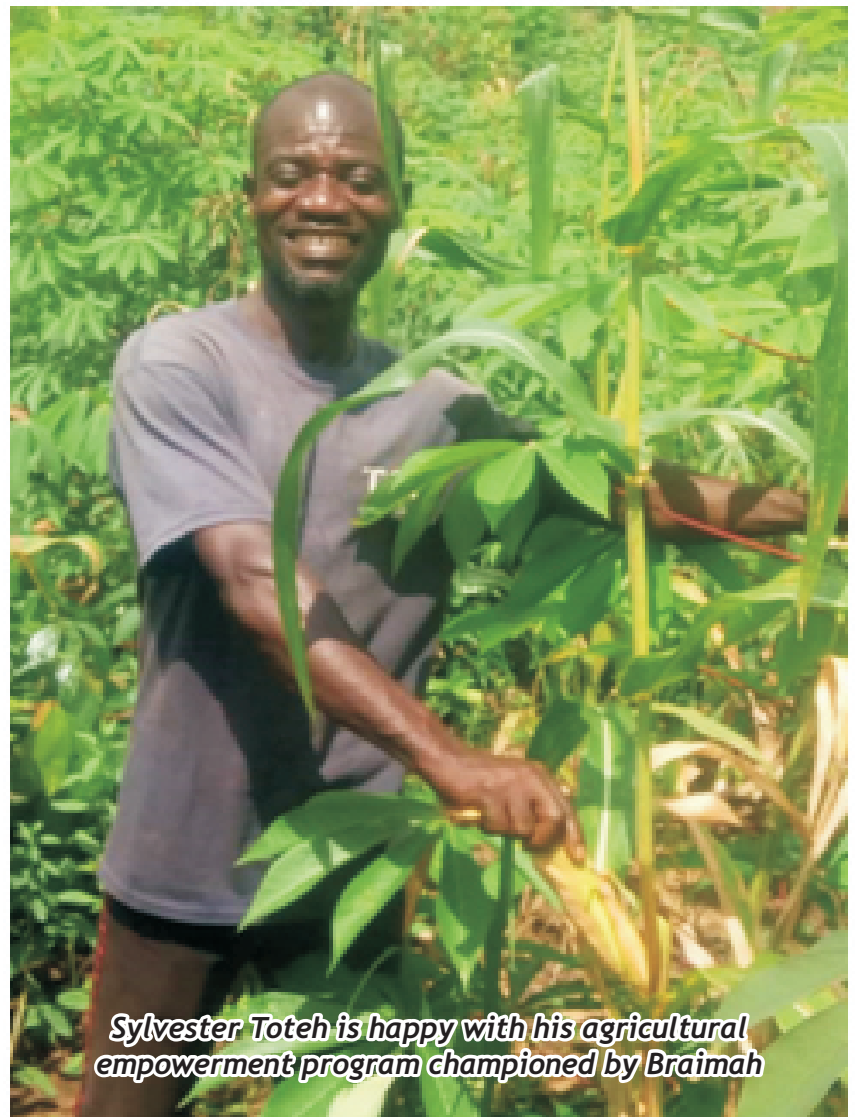
Braimah the first woman senator from Sinoe county.

Braimah, who is the Chief Executive Officer for Women Empowerment for Self-Employment (WE4SELF), a local NGO focused on Sinoe, Bong, and Rivercess counties, resigned in early October to be able to compete for the senatorial seat.

According to the spokesperson of the Women Against Marginalization group, Cecelia Doe, the decision to support Braimah is due to the lack of appropriate women representation in the Senate, and argued that when more women are elected as lawmakers, especially in the Senate, more progress can be achieved for bettering the lives of people in the entire country.

Doe explained that compared to men, women are more patient, better committed, and straightforward in decision making.

"Madam Grace Scotland Braimah must be given the



Sylvester Toteh is happy with his agricultural empowerment program championed by Braimah

benefitted from Braimah's loan program. She explained how grateful she was. She said: "[It] has impacted my life and that of my family graciously. I was given 300 US dollars in 2018 and now [I] am operating close to 2,500 US dollars. [I] am also involved into cross border trade; therefore, if Madam Grace desires the position, we will elect her."

Sylvester Toteh is a beneficiary of Braimah's agricultural empowerment program. He said: "I was empowered by Madam Grace Scotland Braimah to grow my own crops; a process which I started in 2019 June specially in cassava production; she has given me support both in farming materials and finance help which has empowered me in my operation."

Toteh said that Braimah helps them throughout the process by ensuring that the agricultural products are bought by both local and foreign residents and organizations.

Augustine Saywon was among the group of men who also decided to support a woman for the Senate seat in hopes that Braimah will make democracy inclusive so that every Liberian enjoys their representation at the helm of government. He explained that, when compared to her male opponents, Braimah is the best qualified and can show results of her work already through her work for women empowerment.

"We will stand with the women in this struggle to ensure that Grace becomes the next senator for Sinoe County; we will not rest until this dream is achieved," Saywon said.

The Liberian Special Senatorial Elections (NEC) will take place on Tuesday, December 8. The National Elections Commission stated that a total of 2,483,350 Liberians are registered to vote. According to the NEC, 44.9% of all registered voters in 2017 in Sinoe County were women.



Annie Nemily benefitted from women empowerment program and promised to vote for Braimah

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EDITORIAL

We must hold the referendum howbeit

LIBERIANS GENERALLY HAVE expressed enough dissatisfaction about the holding of constitutional referendum next Tuesday, December 8, 2020 along with special senatorial election and two by-elections for the House of Representatives simultaneously. They argue that adequate time was never provided by the government, particularly for public education on the referendum.

BESIDES, THEY ARGUE that clustering some of propositions such as tenures for the presidency and the House of Representatives on one hand, while ignoring tenures for the Speaker and Senate President Pro-Tempore respectively, send a signal of bias hence, calls for it to be postponed.

AS VOTERS, THEY are right, because they are the ones going to decide on Tuesday, and issues contained in the referendum critically border on governance of our country and how we should interact as citizens both at home abroad after the poll.

BUT THE SUPREME Court of Liberia, after hearing these concerns, instructed the National Elections Commission to clearly distinguish each proposition by printing ballots for each, including tenures for Speaker and Senate President Pro-Tempore which the Commission has done, accordingly in order to conduct the referendum as planned.

IT IS BUT PRUDENT that the High Court's opinion be respected by all relevant stakeholders, including the NEC.

WE BELIEVE WITH the proper separation of the various propositions and subsequent inclusion of tenures for the Speaker and the Senate President Pro-Tempore positions, the referendum should be held as scheduled.

IT GOES WITHOUT saying that truly, there were missteps earlier, along the way. However, in its real intent, the referendum does make sense and should be voted upon.

THIS DOES NOT in any impose on any voter to cast his or her ballot against his or her will. The exercise remains as democratic as is necessary, as long as it involves one man, one vote.

AT THE SAME time every Liberian should hold himself or herself for his or her actions and inactions at the poll come Tuesday. The choice is before us.

WE THINK THAT honestly, it is too late to sit on the fence and watch. It is time for voters across the country to go out on December 8 and vote their conscience without regretting later.

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

COMMENTARY

By Ian Buruma

Who Still Loves Trump?

Most Europeans and a majority of Americans are overjoyed that they will soon see the back of US President Donald Trump. But Trump retains an allure to many in Asia not only for standing up to China, but also for his boorish political incorrectness, which is viewed as both refreshing and principled.

NEW YORK - Apart from 74 million voters in the United States, who still approves of President Donald Trump? Most Europeans are overjoyed to see the back of him. But he has been popular with a number of right-wing strongmen and demagogues, and many of their followers. His admiration for autocrats, his disdain for immigrants, racial minorities, and Muslims (except for a few Saudi princes), and his contempt for liberal democratic norms boosted authoritarian governments in Hungary, Poland, Brazil, India, and the Philippines. His esteem for Russian President Vladimir Putin was never in doubt.

Trump's election defeat is a setback for the global populist right. While many of its leaders will survive him, an already-rampant anti-liberal movement probably would have grown even stronger with a triumphant champion of its cause in the White House.

Trump also found support among a majority of the population in two democratic countries, Israel and Taiwan, where he was seen as the most powerful enemy of their enemies, Iran and the People's Republic of China, respectively.

Israel's right-wing prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, got everything he wanted from the Trump administration. The Palestinians got nothing. Israel's most fanatical supporters in the US are also, by and large, Trump's supporters; not American Jews, who mostly voted for Joe Biden, but evangelical Christians, who believe that God gave the Holy Land to the Chosen People, at least until the second coming of Christ, after which Jews will have to become Christians.

But it is in East Asia where Trump's popularity is most interesting, especially because many of his supporters are neither right wing nor anti-liberal - often quite the opposite. True, some people in China share Trump's fear of Muslims, but that is not the main reason for pro-Trump sentiment.

Earlier this year, I spoke to pro-democracy activists and politicians in Hong Kong and Taiwan, who saw Trump as a coarse but powerful leader of the free world against communist tyranny. The US flag was rarely absent from public demonstrations in Hong Kong and election rallies for the Democratic Progressive Party in Taiwan.

Here, too, the influence of Christianity plays a part. One of the bravest democracy activists in Hong Kong is the entrepreneur and newspaper tycoon Jimmy Lai. Ever since the handover of the former British colony to China in 1997, Lai has been at the forefront of the struggle for greater civic freedom. He is also a fervent Catholic convert who believes that the battle between democracy and Chinese communist dictatorship is a clash of civilizations between the Christian free world and an atavistic, despotic China.

Quite a few Christian Chinese dissidents share Lai's view. They believe that liberal democracy

is a product of Western civilization, which is true. Their view that democracy would not have been possible without the Christian faith (ancient Greece is conveniently forgotten) is more debatable. The notion that Asians can't be true democrats if they aren't Christians is demonstrably false.

But there is more to the Chinese infatuation with Trump. As Ian Johnson recently wrote in the New York Times, some liberal dissidents in China are disturbed by the culture wars in the US. They view zealotry on the American left through the lens of their own far more violent history. When they see people hounded for ideological impurity, they see the ghosts of Mao's Red Guards. To them, Trump's boorish political incorrectness is a refreshing counterblast.

Still, the main reason why people admire Trump in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, and also China, is fear of the Chinese regime. Despite his sporadic fawning over Chinese President Xi Jinping, Trump is seen as the man who stood up to China. This is his most important legacy in the eyes of those who believe the world is divided between two great powers, one still democratic, and the other nominally communist.

Of course, in certain countries, China's power has been feared for many centuries, irrespective of who happens to be in power, emperors or communists. Many Vietnamese praise Trump, but not because they are ruled by autocratic communists themselves. Although the US devastated much of Vietnam in the last century, China is the traditional enemy.

South Korean and Japanese attitudes to the US are more ambivalent. Trump has his supporters in those countries, but, unlike in Taiwan, not among the majority of people. While Chinese power is often felt as a threat in both countries, dependence on the US for security has both been a necessity and an irritant. A swaggering bully in the White House raises the level of irritation. President-elect Joe Biden will almost certainly be a more popular bearer of the American burden in East Asia.

Biden's relations with China will also likely be less erratic and more diplomatic. But the basic tensions between a democratic superpower and an autocratic one will remain - and worsen if China sustains its economic success. In an age of rising disillusion with democratic government, China is a seductive model to many people. Just compare Chinese trains, airports, and other modern conveniences to America's run-down infrastructure.

Whether the trains run on time is of course not the only, or perhaps even the best, yardstick for good government. Mussolini's trains famously (if apocryphally) ran on time as well. At least the US has shown the world that the rascal in power can still be voted out. But if America is to be held up as a model to counter the Chinese system, then its last president has done everything in his power to make it look like the less attractive one.

Français

Crimes de guerre : Un ex chef rebelle libérien devant un tribunal militaire en Suisse



Le procès d'un ancien commandant libérien accusé de viol, de pillage, d'assassinats et d'un acte de cannibalisme s'ouvre en Suisse cette semaine.

Le procès d'Alieu Kossiah, qui nie les accusations, est l'une des rares affaires portées devant les tribunaux internationaux en relation avec le conflit de 1989-2003 dans ce pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest, qui a tué près d'un quart de million de personnes, souvent aux mains d'enfants soldats.

Il est accusé de crimes de guerre répertoriés comme « recrutement et utilisation d'un enfant soldat, transport forcé, pillage, traitement cruel de civils, tentative de meurtre, meurtre (directement ou sur ordre), profanation d'un cadavre et viol ».

Il s'agit du premier procès pour crimes de guerre en Suisse à être entendu devant un tribunal militaire.

« C'est historique pour la Suisse et le Libéria », a déclaré Alain Werner, avocat suisse à l'ONG genevoise Civitas Maxima, qui a déposé plainte au nom des victimes.

L'ONG effectuait des recherches sur les crimes de guerre avec un partenaire libérien lorsqu'elle a découvert qu'un commandant rebelle vivait près du lac Léman. Kossiah a été arrêté en 2014 et la Suisse a déposé un acte d'accusation contre lui en 2019.

L'affaire concerne des dizaines de témoins, des milliers de pages de témoignages et a été compliquée, selon le bureau du procureur général suisse, par un manque de coopération officielle du Libéria. Le procès devrait s'ouvrir jeudi au Tribunal pénal fédéral de Bellinzzone.

Kossiah, 45 ans, dit qu'il veut laver son honneur. Certaines des accusations sont attribuées aux troupes sous son commandement.

« L'un des gros problèmes de cette affaire est qu'il (Alieu Kossiah), n'était pas encore arrivé à Lofa (comté) au moment des crimes qui y auraient été commis », a affirmé son avocat Dimitri Gianoli à Reuters.

« Ce qui compte pour (lui), c'est de pouvoir rétablir officiellement son honneur en se faisant entendre ouvertement et clairement », a-t-il déclaré.

Contrairement à la Sierra Leone voisine qui a connu sa propre guerre civile dans les années 1990, les auteurs de crimes libériens n'ont jamais fait l'objet de poursuites chez eux malgré une recommandation de la Commission vérité et réconciliation de créer un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre.

L'ancien président du Libéria, Charles Taylor, a été condamné en 2012 à 50 ans pour crimes de guerre en Sierra Leone, mais n'a jamais été condamné pour des actes libériens.

Les anciens seigneurs guerre libériens conservent des positions de pouvoir au Libéria et les témoins hésitent à se manifester face aux menaces.

« Ce procès donne de l'espoir aux victimes, aux survivants et donne la parole aux morts », a déclaré Hassan Bility qui a recueilli des preuves pour l'affaire et a lui-même été torturé durant le conflit.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Ian Buruma

Qui aime encore Donald Trump ?

NEW YORK - Au-delà des 74 millions d'électeurs qui ont voté pour lui, qui approuve encore aujourd'hui l'action du président Donald Trump ? La plupart des Européens sont enchantés de le voir partir. Il reste néanmoins populaire chez un certain nombre de dirigeants autoritaires et démagogues de droite, comme chez leurs partisans. Son admiration pour les autocrates, son mépris pour les immigrants, les minorités ethniques et les musulmans (à l'exception de quelques princes saoudiens), ainsi que son inconsidération pour les normes démocratiques, ont dynamisé les gouvernements autoritaires de Hongrie, de Pologne, du Brésil, d'Inde et des Philippines. Son estime pour le président russe Vladimir Poutine n'a par ailleurs jamais fait aucun doute.

La défaite électorale de Trump constitue un revers pour la droite populiste mondiale. Même si nombre des leaders de cette droite survivront au futur président, un mouvement antilibéral d'ores et déjà très présent serait sorti encore plus fort d'un triomphe de son champion à la Maison-Blanche.

Trump a également recueilli le soutien d'une majorité de population dans deux pays démocratiques, Israël et Taïwan, où il était considéré comme le plus puissant ennemi de leurs ennemis à eux, respectivement l'Iran et la République populaire de Chine.

Le Premier ministre israélien de droite, Benjamin Netanyahu, a obtenu tout ce qu'il souhaitait de l'administration Trump. Les Palestiniens, rien. Les plus fervents défenseurs d'Israël aux États-Unis sont également pour la plupart des sympathisants de Trump. Ce n'est en revanche pas le cas des juifs américains, qui ont essentiellement voté Joe Biden, mais c'est bien le cas des chrétiens évangéliques, qui pensent que Dieu a offert la terre promise au peuple élu, du moins jusqu'à la deuxième apparition du Christ, après laquelle les juifs deviendraient chrétiens.

Mais c'est en Asie de l'Est que la popularité de Trump se révèle la plus intéressante, notamment parce que beaucoup de ses partisans ne sont ni de droite, ni antilibéraux - souvent plutôt le contraire. Certes, une partie de la population chinoise partage cette crainte des musulmans que l'on observe chez Trump, mais ce n'est pas la principale raison du sentiment pro-Trump.

J'ai pu discuter cette année avec les militants et politiciens pro-démocratie de Hong-Kong et de Taïwan, qui voient en Trump un leader certes grossier mais puissant du monde libre contre la tyrannie communiste. Le drapeau américain a rarement été absent des manifestations publiques à Hong Kong, comme des rassemblements électoraux du Parti démocrate progressiste à Taïwan.

Ici encore, l'influence chrétienne joue un certain rôle. L'un des militants pro-démocratie les plus courageux à Hong Kong n'est autre que l'entrepreneur et géant de la presse Jimmy Lai. Depuis la restitution de l'ancienne colonie britannique à la Chine en 1997, Lai œuvre en première ligne dans la lutte pour les libertés civiques. Il est également un fervent converti catholique, qui pense que le combat entre la démocratie et la dictature communiste chinoise correspond à un choc des civilisations entre d'un côté le monde libre chrétien et de l'autre une Chine despotique et régressive.

De nombreux dissidents chinois chrétiens partagent le point de vue de Lai. Ils pensent que la démocratie libérale est un produit de la civilisation

occidentale, ce qui est vrai. Leur vision selon laquelle la démocratie n'aurait pas été possible sans la religion chrétienne prête davantage à discussion (la Grèce antique étant ici oubliée). L'idée selon laquelle les Asiatiques ne pourraient pas être de vrais démocrates s'ils ne sont pas chrétiens apparaît erronée.

Mais cet engouement chinois pour Trump ne se résume pas à cela. Comme l'a récemment écrit Ian Johnson dans le New York Times, certains dissidents libéraux chinois sont troublés par les guerres culturelles américaines. Ils observent l'extrême de la gauche américaine sous le prisme de leur propre histoire violente. Lorsqu'ils constatent que certains Américains sont montrés du doigt pour leur différence idéologique, ils revoient les fantômes des gardes rouges de Mao. C'est ainsi que l'impertinence grossière de Trump leur apparaît comme une riposte saine.

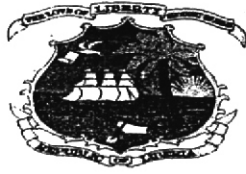
Pour autant, l'admiration qu'éprouvent Hong Kong, Taïwan, le Japon, la Corée du Sud et une partie de la Chine à l'égard de Trump s'explique principalement par la peur face au régime chinois. Malgré quelques inclinations ici et là de la part de Trump face au président chinois, beaucoup voient en Trump l'homme qui a tenu tête à la Chine. C'est là son héritage le plus important aux yeux de ceux qui pensent que le monde est divisé en deux grandes puissances, l'une encore démocratique, l'autre ouvertement communiste.

Bien entendu, dans certains pays, la puissance chinoise est redoutée depuis plusieurs siècles, quels que soient les détenteurs du pouvoir, empereurs ou communistes. De nombreux Vietnamiens saluent Trump, non pas parce qu'ils seraient eux-mêmes gouvernés par des autocrates communistes, mais parce qu'en dépit de la dévastation causée par les États-Unis au Vietnam au siècle dernier, leur ennemi traditionnel reste la Chine.

Les attitudes sud-coréenne et japonaise vis-à-vis de l'Amérique sont plus ambivalentes. Si Trump a ses partisans dans ces deux pays, ces sympathisants ne constituent pas une majorité de population, contrairement à ce que l'on observe à Taïwan. Car bien que la puissance chinoise soit souvent ressentie comme une menace pour les deux pays, leur dépendance à l'égard de la protection américaine est considérée à la fois comme une nécessité et comme une vexation, une contrariété qui a été accentuée par la présence d'une brute arrogante à la Maison-Blanche. Le président élu Joe Biden sera certainement un défenseur plus populaire de l'Amérique en Asie de l'Est.

Les relations de Biden avec la Chine seront également sans doute moins agitées et plus diplomatiques. Les tensions de fond entre une superpuissance démocratique et une autre autocratique demeureront néanmoins - et s'intensifieront si la Chine poursuit sa réussite économique. À l'ère d'une désillusion croissante quant au régime démocratique, la Chine constitue pour beaucoup un modèle séduisant. Il suffit de comparer les trains, aéroports et autres installations modernes de Chine avec les infrastructures déclinantes de l'Amérique.

La circulation ponctuelle des trains ne constitue évidemment pas le seul critère d'un régime de qualité, ni même un bon critère. Comme le veut la célèbre formule, sous Mussolini également les trains circulaient à l'heure (quoique cela soit remis en doute). À tout le moins, les États-Unis ont montré au monde qu'un imposteur au pouvoir pouvait encore être chassé par les urnes. Mais si l'Amérique doit rester le contre-modèle du régime chinois, son dernier président en date a décidément fait tout ce qui était en son pouvoir pour le rendre moins séduisant.



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



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

-2020-

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

SCHEDULE OF JOINT RESOLUTION #003/2020 ENTITLED:

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

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

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

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

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

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

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

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

MINDFUL, that the Legislature invited stakeholders including

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

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

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

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


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

SIGNED:

Senator Saah H. Joseph
Montserrado County

Senator Abe Darius Dillon
Montserrado County

THE

LIBERIA  **OFFICIAL**

GAZETTE

ON THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM - 2020

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

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EXTRAORDINARY

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA ANNOUNCES:

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

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

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

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

BALLOT MEASURES – 1

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

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

Summary

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

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

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

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

Text of the Proposed Amendment

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

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

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

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

. Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers;

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

. Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiaries; and

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

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

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

What Your Vote Means

YES

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

NO

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

BALLOT MEASURES – 2

PROPOSITION 2: Reduction of Tenure of the President, the Vice President & Members of the Legislature*(proposed to be placed on the ballot paper by the Legislature)***To amend Article 45 of the Constitution to provide for three to reduce the term of Senators from nine (9) years to seven (7) years**

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

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

Text of the Proposed Amendment

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

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

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

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

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

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

Text of the Proposed Amendment

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

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

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

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

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

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

Text of the Proposed Amendment

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

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

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

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

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

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

Text of the Proposed Amendment

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

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

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

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

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

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

Text of the Proposed Amendment

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

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

What Your Vote Means

YES

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

NO

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

BALLOT MEASURES – 3

PROPOSITION 3: Change in the Date of General Election

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

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

Summary

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

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

Text of the Proposed Amendment

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

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

To amend Article 83(c) of the Constitution

Summary

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

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

Text of the Proposed Amendment

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

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

What Your Vote Means

YES

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

NO

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

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

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

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT

**GBEHZOHN GAR M. FINDLEY
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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

Lawmaker to boycott referendum

By Bridgett Milton

Unity Party lawmaker and Chair of the Rivergeee Legislative Caucus Francis S. Dopoh, II, said he is abstaining from the constitutional referendum slated for Tuesday, December 8, 2020, because the process is unfair to the people of Liberia.

important so as not to be a part of anything that would create problems for the country.

“The manner and form in which the referendum is being handled by the Elections commission and the government is going to be unfair to the people and does not speak to the intent of the Constitution of Liberia”, the opposition

constitution spelt out the way the constitution should be amended and how the votes are taken.”

He explained that prior to holding a referendum, there should be civil education across the country a year ahead, so that people would know what they are voting for.

“People go to vote on a process that they do not understand is democratic fallacy, and that is not the intent of democracy; [they] cannot go to vote for a process that they cannot understand, that is not democracy.”

Rep. Dopoh added that in Liberia, people who are not educated find it very hard to distinguish between who and what, saying, most people focus on who and not what.

Despite public outcry against the pending referendum due to lack of adequate education, the government is resolved to go ahead with the process next Tuesday.

Liberia’s Minister of State and ruling party executive, Nathaniel McGill is asking Liberians to vote yes to all eight propositions in the referendum, cautioning this could be the last chance.

But Dopoh, who is due to his native Rivergeee County soon, vowed to tell his people not to vote for the referendum because it lacks enough education. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Speaking to this paper Monday at his residence in Brewerville, Montserrado County, Rep. Dopoh said he will not only abstain, but call on every citizen, who believes in his position to also abstain.

According to him, abstaining from the process is

lawmaker argued.

He said there is not enough publicity and civil education on the referendum, noting that if you go ask most people today, they don’t know the eight propositions they are voting for in the referendum and why they should [vote] for or against, and Articles 91, 92 of the Liberian

LRA awards ‘Outstanding Taxpayers’ today

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) will today, Thursday, (December 3) appreciate and honor outstanding taxpayers for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

The LRA says in a release the annual event, launched in 2017, is intended to appreciate all taxpayers in the country and specifically

Tax, Petty Trader, Real Property, highest taxpayers per counties, among others.

The recognition is also part of vital efforts to reinforce a culture of voluntary tax compliance to increase revenue collection with the aim of supporting Liberia’s development programs.

This year’s program is under



recognize compliant and highest tax contributors for meeting all their tax obligations on time and in full.

About forty-four (44) individuals, businesses and organizations are expected to receive awards and recognition in categories of Most Compliant Taxpayers, Highest Tax Contributors, Large Tax, Medium Tax, Small

the theme “Enhancing Tax Compliance Through The use of Electronic Services” and will take place at the Paynesville City Hall, outside Monrovia.

The celebration will mark the fourth Taxpayer Appreciation Day program initiated by the Liberia Revenue Authority, says the release. LRA

Business survival depends on corruption free society

-LACC Boss, Nwabudike

By Lewis S. Teh

The Executive Chairperson of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission or LACC, Cllr. Ndubuisi Nwabudike says the growth and survival of any business in Liberia depend on a society freed of corruption and other harmful practices.

“For us to witness massive progress in the growth, and survival of our businesses here, there is a need for us to have a clean society free from corruption”, he notes.

Cllr. Nwabudike made the observation Wednesday, December, 2, 2020, at the Corina Hotel in Sinkor, Monrovia during program marking the observance of International Anti-Corruption Day.

The event, conducted under the auspices of the LACC, in partnership with the Center for Transparency and



Accountability or CENTAL with support from the Swedish government was held under the theme: Reducing Corruption in the private sector as a Drive to enhancing Economic Development and Good Governance.”

In opening remarks, the LACC

Boss said International Anti-Corruption Day is usually an occasion to highlight the danger that corruption poses to humanity and to encourage every citizen especially, officials of government to intensify efforts to minimize the act.

This year our focus is the private sector, and the reason we selected the private sector is because corruption is fight [that] requires collaboration, he says.

According to him, it takes more people to get involved in the fight, saying, “this act is not only seeing in government, as recent study shows that anytime you identify corruption in the government establishment you move closely to becoming a private actor either by initiating it, benefiting or facilitating.”

“We’re organizing this day for the business community to join the LACC and her partners to identify the types of challenges they are facing and provide indication on how we can sensitize the private and the public sectors to reducing corruption.”

Delivering a special statement on behalf of Finance Minister, Deputy Finance and Development Planning Minister for Budget Ms. Tanneh G. Brunson applauded the LACC, and its partners for observing the

International Anti-Corruption Day.

“The private sector is often a victim of some types of corruption and is often vocal against it, and at other times it is primarily a beneficiary, and drives corruption through links with bureaucrats and politicians”, the deputy minister added.

According to her, corruption is a global problem that requires global solutions, noting that the act disproportionately impacts the poor and most vulnerable, increasing cost and reduces access to critical services such as Healthcare, Education and Justice.

As we embark on a road to a more resilient and inclusive economy, policymakers face challenge of reactivating the economy in the context of huge fiscal stress compounded by the accumulation of large amounts of debt, Minister Brunson says, while stressing that the prudent use of scarce resources in a transparent manner is critical.

“Because of the systemic nature of corruption in our

▶ CONT’D ON PAGE 15

Resign

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) along with the Rainbow Coalition and the Liberia National Union (LINU) have called on the board of commissioners of National Elections Commission to resign unconditionally, accusing it of playing a partisan roll by allegedly working in the interest of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change.

ANC standard bearer and CPP national chairman, Alexander Benedict Cummings said in view of all of the illegality pertaining to the upcoming referendum, the CPP, the Rainbow Coalition; UP and other opposition political parties and civil society organizations request a postponement of the referendum and demand a resignation of the current

inconsistent with the Constitution and cannot be used to print ballots and hold the referendum, the NEC again and in collusion with the CDC administration, is forcing and rushing the national referendum.

The NEC has accordingly, printed new ballots for the referendum, separating the various propositions into eight categories, ranging from tenures for the presidency, the senate, the House, the Senate President Pro-tempore, the Speaker, dual citizenship, and date of election, to timeframe for the Commission to hear complaints. This means that voters are expected to carry ten ballots into polling booths in Montserrado District#9 and Sinoe County District#2, respectively.

He said beyond the marginalization of political parties here, the NEC has also in some instances proceeded in

the by-elections. We do not rule out possible legal actions if NEC insists on holding the planned illegal referendum. We cannot and will not participate in an unconstitutional process. We reserve the right to peacefully assemble and will be doing so over the coming days to call attention to our legitimate demands." He said.

He warned the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change and the National Elections Commission that the CPP and other opposition political parties are aware of alleged plans to rig the senatorial election, and that they [opposition] have put in place all measures to protect their votes and would resist vehemently any attempt to thwart the will of the people.

He added that in less than six (6) days, on December 8, 2020, Liberians will go to the ballot box to elect fifteen (15) new senators, but these Special Senatorial Elections, though required by the Constitution of Liberia, have not been handled in a fair and transparent manner.

The CPP chair pointed out that the processes leading to the conduct of these elections have been manipulated by the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the ruling CDC to produce a rigged process.

He reflected the NEC, in May 2020, requested the Liberian government, led by the CDC, to postpone the election outside the constitutional timeframe of October 13, 2020, without any input whatsoever from, nor reference to other political parties that key stakeholders/players in the process, except the ruling CDC.

He continued the unilateral act of collusion between the NEC and the CDC-led administration was followed by a Joint Resolution of the Liberian Legislature to postpone the elections to December 8, 2020.

He further narrated that the NEC unilaterally, again in collusion with the CDC-led administration, launched the Voters Roll Update exercise and decided that the VRU would be carried out through a previously failed mobile process, instead of the time-tested standard stationary process, without any reference to the other parties who are equal competitors in the democratic process. Editing by Jonathan Browne



NEC Board of Commissioners, given their partisan nature, inexperience and ineptitude.

Speaking at a joint press conference Wednesday, December 02, in Monrovia, Mr. Cummings said, "Fellow Liberians, we would like to inform you that even at the point where ECOWAS stepped in to help us clean the Voter Roll, the National Elections Commission still did not find it prudent to involve political parties in the clean-up process or at least observe the exercise; in utter disrespect of our role as prime elections stakeholders and the fact that it is our complaint that gave rise to the ordering of the clean-up exercise by the court."

Mr. Cummings said, despite a recent Supreme Court's ruling that the official Gazette, with three condensed propositions, is

violating the electoral laws, citing for instance, Chapter 3.6 of the elections law that requires the Final Voter Roll to be made public through election magistrates across the country.

He noted that unfortunately, all efforts by the technical team of the CPP and other political parties to have copies of the FVR have yielded no results, and that with less than a week to elections, the NEC is yet to do so or post it on its (NEC's) website, leaving members of the opposition with no time and opportunity to have their technical team do a scrutiny of the Voter Roll.

"Should the government insist on proceeding with the referendum, we urge all of our supporters and well-meaning Liberians to boycott the referendum on December 8, 2020 and only go to the polls to vote Senatorial Candidates and Representative Candidates for

Fallah chides

Starts from back page

administrative headquarters, knowing full well not all of the people in the county are CDCians.

"Once I'm elected senator of this county, I will have a neutral ground with people from the CPP; I will have my capitol building office, my political office, where my CDC people will be and my administrative office where people from Alternative National Congress, Unity Party, Liberty Party and other opposition political parties to discuss the common good of the county."

Fallah said would also

engage the county superintendent to help set an agenda for Montserrado, while noting that representatives for all 17 districts are very vital irrespective of party affiliation.

"We are going to be focused in reconciling the people in the county. This election has tension, so after the election, I will reconcile the people in the opposition and also reconcile my people in the ruling party to bring peace and development. If you give me the opportunity to be your Senator, I will bring more to the table", Fallah concluded. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

CPP disappointed

Starts from back page

court, Mr. Cummings lamented.

Adding his voice to the argument, the standard bearer of the All Liberian Party, Mr. Benoni Urey called on Justices on the Supreme Court bench to resign in order to save the Court's image and integrity which have dragged in the mud only for the single purpose of dollarizing justice.

Mr. Urey described rulings from the Supreme Court especially, under Chief Justice Francis Korpkor as nothing but giving negatively impact to the country and its people.

Commenting on the National Referendum, he said partisans of his party and the CPP are urged to boycott the referendum but should protect votes for their respective candidates.

Commenting also in the joint news conference, the Rainbow Coalition said Liberians should not depend on the international community

for anything, instead, they should by no know how to govern and handle their internal affairs professionally and technically.

The Rainbow noted that politics is a process and not an event, as in the case of the National Elections Commission and the Supreme Court relating to the National Referendum and the Special Senatorial elections.

Meanwhile, members of the opposition block including the Rainbow Coalition have endorsed the candidature of Montserrado County Senate Abraham Darius Dillon for re-election.

Liberians go to the poll next Tuesday, 8 December to elect 15 senators and two members of the House in by-elections and participate in a national referendum that has specifically become an issue of contention due to poor public education. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Business survival

Cont'd from page 14

society, our strategy must be intentional because it has spread and is deeply embedded in public, private network, and it could be supported or organized by public sector."

She however says there is a need for private sector to take on a greater role in self-regulating their own activities that would complement existing public regulation models, which she says would base on public institutions investigating and prosecuting public, and private sector officials.

This roundtable discussion provides an opportunity for the private sector to engage in

a frank and open exchange on the measures available to prevent and respond to corruption, saying it's our hope that discussion will look at various national and international ant-corruption instrument regulating the business environment and their impact on measures and tools to improve integrity and transparency in the private sector, she adds.

The International Anti-Corruption Day celebration was a daylong event characterized by panel discussion involving key institutions of government, including LACC, GC, LBR MFDP, MOC, PPCC, LRA, NIC, GAC and private integrity institutions here.

CPP disappointed in Supreme Court



Chief Justice Francis Korkpor

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) here has strongly expressed disappointment in the Supreme Court of Liberia for its recent ruling in the case between it and the National Elections Commission.

Addressing a news conference in Monrovia Wednesday, 2 December CPP chairperson Mr. Alexander Cummings said, "Again, we seize this moment to re-emphasize our disappointment with the Supreme Court of Liberia, which refused to hear our concerns through a Petition for a Writ of Mandamus to clean

the voters roll; and which issued a ruling on the national referendum that was so vague as to be lacking in enforcement."

He stated that the CPP rejects and rebukes the Supreme Court abuse of discretionary power to hear the Collaboration's mandamus and its [Supreme Court] spineless and ambivalent ruling giving no direction to the political survival of the State.

CPP would like to inform Liberians that even at the point where ECOWAS stepped in to help us clean the Voter Roll, the National Elections Commission still did not find it prudent to involve political parties in the clean-up process or at least observe the exercise; in utter disrespect of the role as prime elections stakeholders and the fact that it is their complaint that gave rise to the ordering of the clean-up exercise by the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 15

Fallah chides Dillon

By Ethel A Tweh

Coalition for Democratic Change senatorial candidate Thomas Fallah said as Senator for Montserrado County, his rival Abraham Darius Dillon should be abreast of names of all commissioners, townships and cities in the county.

According at a recent debate held in Montserrado, he asked Sen. Dillon to name local leaders and towns and cities in the county he [Dillon]

leads, but he failed to answer.

Speaking in Monrovia Tuesday, December 1, Fallah emphasized that each senator is an administrator of the county he represents, so he ought to know the entire local government of that area, disclosing the Montserrado County has 21 commissioners and five cities.

He continued that before a senator gets to the majority of the people in the county, he needs to know its traditional



Sen. Darius Dillon



Rep. Thomas Fallah

leaders and work with them, noting that Senator Dillon doesn't have a county office space to his constituents, and that he doesn't have one office in both the urban and rural areas.

"I am not a Senator yet but by vying to be a senator and irrespective of the election law, we are here today to secure an office space."

He said if elected as senator, his first 100 days he will have

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 15

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