

Vote YES To All Propositions In The

Referendum

- ✓ CHANGE IN THE DATE OF GENERAL ELECTIONS [From October To November]
- ✓ 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)

New Dawn

The **D** French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

Advertize
Here For
Low Rate

VOL.10 NO. 217

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2020

PRICE LD\$40.00

TIP ME

...Your wallet is safe

Withdrawals
made easy
and smooth

TipOut whenever you want.

Download Now

Available on  



P15

Weeah fires back



-Referendum is not to be like Cote D'Voire & Guinea

MTN MoMo



everywhere you go



Receive money from anywhere in the world
straight to your MTN MoMo account!

International Money Transfer is now available on MTN MoMo!
Have money sent directly to your MoMo account from anywhere
in the world!

In partnership with Terrapay, MFS Africa, IT Consortium and BnB



Gbarpolu: NEC must recruit staff that speak local language

By D. Solomon Tayblah (LMD Fellow)

It's the final countdown to the Referendum and the Special Senatorial Elections (SSE) in Liberia, and the National Elections Commission (NEC) has recruited large numbers of people to train and to serve as NEC staff.

Victor Malu, advisor for the Liberia Motorcycle Transport Union in Gbarpolu, wishes that NEC recruited staff in the district in which they reside because they speak the local dialect and are familiar with the environment which would ensure a smooth voting process.

they are busy seeking admission to schools, as parents struggle to find money to pay tuition amid serious financial challenge.

"The NEC needs to recruit more locals to explain the voting processes both for the senatorial election and the referendum before polling day on Tuesday", Madam Toe said.

The only female candidate in the race, BotoeKanneh, said that the National Elections Commission should conduct adequate education for staff recruited and ensure they do the right thing to have a transparent and peaceful election.

"From the last election, I observed that some of the poll workers didn't know how to put ink on our fingers after voting so they almost mark our entire finger rather than the fingertip", candidate Kanneh noted.

According to the NEC data, on October 10, 2017 Presidential and Representative Elections, more than 36,000 people from Gbarpolu, representing 75.5% of the total registered voters, cast a ballot. By comparison, only 12,645 voters, representing 30.1% of the total registered voters, cast a ballot during the senatorial elections in 2014.

NEC is organizing a referendum that includes 8 propositions to amend the Constitutions, and Special Senatorial Elections for 15 out of the total 30 Senate seats on December 8. Two by-elections for the House of Representatives are also organized in the Montserrado district 9 and Sinoe district 2.

The political campaigning is scheduled to end on December 6. The NEC has scheduled to announce the provisional results for the Referendum & Senatorial Election on December 10, two days after the election.



Madam Regina M. Toe, used clothes seller

Gbarpolu county, in northwestern Liberia, has also begun mass recruiting of suitable Liberians to serve as NEC staff on election day. Gbarpolu is one of 15 counties of Liberia that is faced with serious challenges, including poor roads and impassable paths to remote villages. During the recent civic and voter education exercise, and the voter roll update, the NEC staff were unable to reach their assigned areas before the deadline. Fortunately, the NEC extended the deadline so that the NEC staff covered areas like Normondietono and other towns and villages in both Gbarma and Belle districts to educate citizens and register eligible voters to exercise their rights at the ballot box.

Gbarpolu County electoral magistrate, Ernest McCay Sr. assured that NEC will conduct massive recruitment of citizens from across the county for the December 8 elections and referendum.

He said that the process that is already ongoing, is transparent because the recruitment is being conducted in all districts to avoid previous mistakes.

Regina M. Toe, a local clothes seller, believes that the majority of the youth who could benefit from NEC training to serve as staff will not be engaged, because



Madam BotoeKanneh, only female candidate from the county

Liberia Rising Project sensitizes citizens on referendum

By Lewis S. Teh

To enlighten minds of citizens across the country, a group of scholars under the banner, Liberia Rising Project has conducted a one-day community dialogue on the December 8th national referendum in the Borough of New Kru Town, Montserrado County electoral district#16.

Giving an overview of the Liberia Rising Project, an executive of the project Jacob Jallah, a former assistant minister during the regime of former president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said, the initiative came into existence as a result of group of scholars coming together to find amicable solutions to some of the

themselves as patriots and introduced the project to give every citizen ideas on how to make political decisions.

"We as young people can't always allow ourselves to be used by politicians", he said, adding that politicians are only interested in using the ordinary people to take state power by allowing them to damage the image of any sitting government.

Also speaking, Harry ArtoeGkornean, one of the executives of Liberia Rising Project said they embarked on creating awareness for citizens to begin to think on how they can contribute to national development instead of allowing themselves to be used to cause chaos.



Mr. Jacob Jallah

problems confronting the country.

"Every time we came together as friends to share fun and discuss, we always thought to remind ourselves that Liberia's future squarely rests on the shoulders of those we considered as next generation".

He said the agenda and vision of the Liberia Rising Project is to give every citizen ideas to rethink and contribute to the forward march of the country.

According to him, following 14 years of civil unrest in Liberia, that saw former President Sirleaf taken power for two consecutive terms, and subsequently turning over to current President Weah, they gathered

"We as young people, it's now time that we ask ourselves what can we do to contribute to the growth and development of this country."

He said normally, people would sit and think it is the responsibility of national government to provide for its citizens, saying while it's true but we as citizens have a responsibility, and that responsibility must begin with how we think, so it is against this backdrop that Liberia Rising Project came into being.

Meanwhile, citizens in the Borough of New Kru Town have applauded organizers of the project and the decision to have gone to the district.

**The NewDawn Newspaper
is on the Newsstand Daily.**

**Grab a copy of today's edition
or visit: <https://thenewdawnliberia.com/>**

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.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 /
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

By Xavier Vives

European Banking's Moment of Merger Truth

Like the 2008-09 financial crisis, which left European Banks saddled with excess capacity, diminished profitability, and tarnished reputations, the COVID-19 pandemic is forcing another sweeping change in the industry. This time, however, the industry's biggest problem is not "too big to fail," but rather "too slow to adapt."

BARCELONA - The days when bankers could pay 3% interest on their customers' deposits, lend at 6%, and make it to the golf course by 3 p.m. (the "3-6-3 rule") are long gone. While some bankers remain oblivious to the looming threats to their business, the fact is that banks are now in dire straits, judging by their dismal valuations (in terms of price-to-book ratios) and low current and expected future profitability.

In the pre-pandemic world, low interest rates, fintech competitors, and rising regulatory compliance costs were among the greatest threats to the industry. Since the 2008-09 financial crisis, Europe's banking industry, in particular, has been saddled with excess capacity and low profitability. And now, COVID-19 has made matters worse, eliminating any hope that interest rates will rise anytime soon.

According to Andrea Enria, the chair of the European Central Bank's Supervisory Board, non-performing loans could reach €1.4 trillion (\$1.7 trillion) in the eurozone as a result of the current crisis. Moreover, COVID-19 has accelerated the process of digitalization, which has put even more pressure on traditional banking. Customers and banks have discovered that they can operate remotely with ease, and this has made European bank branch networks appear even more overextended than they already did. They will need to be cut to size much sooner than anticipated.

Banks should be investing heavily in technology to shift their operations from the mainframe to the cloud, or else they will struggle to compete with fintech start-ups, let alone the Big Tech platforms that are making inroads into financial services. Cost reduction is now the name of the game.

In Europe, the most expedient way to cut costs is through domestic mergers that reduce overlaps in branch networks and consolidate the back office. Ideally, the resulting merged entity will be able to improve profitability and its capital position. This is the rationale behind the merger between Spain's CaixaBank and the state-rescued Bankia.

But as CaixaBank's past experience with absorbing failed savings banks shows, it takes a lot of managerial resources to achieve the hoped-for synergies after a merger. And, as the case of TSB and Banco Sabadell in the United Kingdom illustrates, information-technology integration can pose difficulties. Indeed, Sabadell entered into merger talks - unsuccessful so far - with BBVA.

Meanwhile, the talks between UBS and Credit Suisse have an important global dimension, because the two firms are trying to build an entity capable of competing with the US giants in wealth management and investment banking. Across the board, European corporations have come to depend increasingly on US banking behemoths like JPMorgan Chase,

Bank of America, and Citibank, leaving European institutions farther behind. In fact, the eurozone's five largest banks - BNP Paribas, Crédit Agricole, Santander, Société Générale, and Deutsche Bank - now have a combined valuation below that of JPMorgan alone.

As a result, European regulators, worried that banks' low profitability may deplete their capital and lead them to take on too much risk, are looking favorably at bank consolidations. The ECB, for example, is willing to make allowances in terms of capital and the accounting treatment of goodwill (the difference between the book value and the market value of an entity when the former is larger). It is also increasingly willing to permit mergers to result in banks that may be "too big to fail." After all, the sector's current configuration is not sustainable, and the alternative of letting troubled medium-sized banks fail is costlier.

Of course, European regulators would prefer cross-border mergers to domestic ones in the interest of fostering market integration and diversification and boosting European banks' international competitiveness without raising antitrust concerns. Unlike in the United States, retail banking in the European Union remains unintegrated. If one looks at the dominant players within EU countries, one typically finds different domestic banks, whereas in the US the same large banks are present across many different states.

That said, there are larger obstacles to cross-border mergers in the EU, where one must navigate different languages and cultures. Although single bank supervision in the eurozone favors cross-border mergers, bankruptcy and consumer-protection rules are not homogenous across member countries, and a common European deposit-insurance scheme has yet to be established.

The political economy of the post-COVID-19 world will likely feature domestic consolidations in the short run, because governments will become more protective of national banking systems out of strategic political considerations. Indeed, banking nationalism has long been prevalent in Europe outside of the UK; and now Brexit will probably make cross-border mergers between British and EU-based banks more difficult.

Will the forthcoming era of consolidation hurt competition, by creating an anticompetitive market structure? Not necessarily. For competition not to fuel excessive risk taking, entities need to be able to generate and keep capital. Moreover, as long as new digital entrants face low barriers to entry, they can sustain the intensity of competition and have a disciplining effect on incumbents. For their part, regulators will need to ensure a level playing field as the sector restructures, and competition authorities will have to stay alert to potential risks in any region or market segment.

Français

Référendum national du 8 décembre : l'opposition appelle au boycott !



Former foreign minister Olubanke King-Akerele

L'opposition appelle ses militants à ne pas prendre part au prochain référendum, accusant les commissaires de la Commission Electorale Nationale (NEC) d'impartialité. La Collaboration des partis politiques de l'opposition (CPP), la Rainbow Coalition et la Liberia National Union (LINU) ont appelé le conseil des commissaires de la NEC à démissionner sans condition, l'accusant d'être aux ordres de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (Coalition au pouvoir).

Le chef de file de l'opposition, Alexander Benedict Cummings, a relayé le message du bloc de l'opposition dont la CPP au cours d'une conférence de presse mercredi 2 décembre à Monrovia. « Compte tenu de toute l'illégalité relative au prochain référendum, la CPP, la Rainbow Coalition ; L'UP et d'autres partis politiques d'opposition et organisations de la société civile demandent le report du référendum et exigent la démission de l'actuel Conseil des commissaires de la NEC, vu leur nature partisane, leur inexpérience et leur ineptie », a-t-il dit.

« Chers Libériens, nous tenons à vous informer que même au moment où la CEDEAO est intervenue pour nous aider à nettoyer la liste électorale, la Commission électorale nationale n'a toujours pas jugé nécessaire d'impliquer les partis politiques dans le processus pour ne serait-ce observer l'opération, au mépris total de notre rôle en tant que principaux acteurs et du fait que c'est leur plainte qui a donné lieu à l'ordonnance de nettoyage de la liste électorale ».

M. Cummings a rappelé la récente décision de la Cour suprême qui a mis en cause la condensation en trois des huit propositions qui font l'objet de référendum. Il a en outre accusé la NEC de forcer la tenue du référendum à la date prévue afin de faire plaisir à l'administration Weah.

La Commission a effectivement imprimé de nouveaux bulletins de vote pour le référendum, en séparant les différentes propositions en huit catégories.

Selon le chef de file de l'opposition, outre la marginalisation des partis politiques, la NEC a également dans certains cas violé les lois électorales, dont notamment l'article 3.6 qui exige que la liste électorale finale soit rendue publique à travers le pays.

« Tous les efforts déployés par l'équipe technique de la CPP et d'autres partis politiques pour avoir des copies de la liste électorale finale n'ont rien donné, et jusqu'à présent, la NEC ne l'a pas encore affichée ne serait-ce sur son site Web. Il est donc pratiquement impossible pour les membres de l'opposition d'en faire un examen minutieux », regrette Cummings.

« Et comme le gouvernement insiste sur la tenue du référendum, nous exhortons tous nos militants et tous les Libériens bien intentionnés à boycotter le référendum du 8 décembre 2020 et à ne se rendre aux urnes que pour les sénatoriales et les législatives partielles. Nous n'excluons pas d'éventuelles poursuites judiciaires si la NEC insiste sur l'organisation illégale du référendum », a-t-il mis en garde.

« Nous ne participerons pas à un processus inconstitutionnel. Nous nous réservons le droit de nous rassembler pacifiquement et nous le ferons au cours des prochains jours pour attirer l'attention sur nos demandes légitimes », a-t-il ajouté.

Il a aussi mis en garde la Coalition au pouvoir et la Commission électorale nationale contre toute tentative de fraudes électorales lors des sénatoriales prochaines, indiquant que « la CPP et les autres partis politiques de l'opposition sont au courant des plans visant à truquer les élections sénatoriales ». « En tout cas l'opposition amis en place toutes les mesures pour protéger vos votes. Elle résistera avec véhémence à toute tentative de non-respect de la volonté du peuple », a-t-il averti.

Le président de la CPP dénonce aussi une manipulation du processus électoral de la part de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) et du pouvoir.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Xavier Vives

Consolidation du secteur bancaire européen : le moment de vérité

BARCELONE - L'époque où les banquiers pouvaient rémunérer à 3 pour cent les comptes de dépôt de leurs clients, prêter à un taux de 6 pour cent et être sur le terrain de golf à 15h (la règle des 3-6-3) est bien révolue. Si certains banquiers continuent à faire abstraction des menaces pesant sur leurs activités, le fait est que les banques sont aujourd'hui en grande difficulté, à en juger par le net repli de leur valeur boursière globale (en termes du ratio prix sur valeur comptable) et de leur faible rentabilité actuelle et attendue.

Dans la période précédant la pandémie, les principaux défis pour le secteur bancaire comprenaient les faibles taux d'intérêt, les entreprises concurrentes de la Fintech et les coûts croissants de mise en conformité à la réglementation. Depuis la crise financière de 2008-2009, l'industrie bancaire européenne, en particulier, souffre de capacités excédentaires et d'une faible rentabilité. Et à présent, la crise du Covid-19 a aggravé la situation, en éliminant tout espoir de voir les taux d'intérêt augmenter dans un avenir prévisible.

Selon Andrea Enria, le président du conseil de surveillance prudentielle de la Banque centrale européenne (BCE), les banques de la zone euro pourraient faire face à 1400 milliards d'euros de pertes sur leurs crédits à cause de la crise actuelle. Celle-ci a par ailleurs accéléré la numérisation du métier, accroissant d'autant les pressions sur l'activité bancaire traditionnelle. Les banques, comme leurs clients, ont découvert qu'ils peuvent aisément fonctionner de manière dématérialisée. Cette évolution a révélé à quel point les réseaux d'agences bancaires en Europe étaient surdimensionnés et la nécessité de les réduire plus rapidement que prévu.

Les banques doivent investir massivement dans la technologie permettant un transfert de leurs activités, d'un système informatique centralisé, vers le cloud, faute de quoi elles auront de la peine à faire face à la concurrence des start-ups fintechs, sans parler des plateformes des géants du Web qui ont tous pris pied sur le marché des services financiers. La réduction des coûts est maintenant l'objectif prioritaire.

En Europe, la manière la plus efficace de réduire les coûts est d'opérer des fusions-acquisitions au plan national qui réduisent le chevauchement des activités des réseaux d'agences et consolident les opérations de traitement des ordres et de gestion des titres. Idéalement, l'entité issue de ce processus devrait pouvoir améliorer sa rentabilité et renforcer ses fonds propres. C'est la logique qui a prévalu lors de la fusion entre les banques espagnoles CaixaBank et Bankia, contrôlée par l'Etat depuis son sauvetage en 2012.

Mais comme l'a montré l'expérience passée de CaixaBank dans l'absorption de caisses d'épargne en faillite, d'importantes ressources managériales sont nécessaires pour parvenir aux synergies espérées à la suite d'une fusion. Et comme le projet d'acquisition de la banque britannique TSB par Banco Sabadell l'a également démontré, l'intégration des technologies de l'information ne va pas forcément de soi. Banco Sabadell avait par ailleurs entamé des pourparlers avec BBVA, mais ces deux banques espagnoles n'ont pas réussi à se mettre d'accord sur les modalités de la transaction et ont abandonné leur projet de fusion.

Dans le même temps, les rumeurs concernant le projet de fusion entre les banques suisses UBS et Crédit Suisse revêtent une importance mondiale étant donné que ces établissements cherchent à créer une entité capable de rivaliser avec les géants bancaires américains au plan de la gestion de fortune et des activités de banque d'investissement. De manière générale, les grandes entreprises européennes en sont venues à dépendre de plus en plus des mastodontes américains du secteur bancaire,

dont JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, et Citibank, laissant loin derrière les groupes européens. En fait, la capitalisation boursière des cinq plus grandes banques de la zone euro - BNP Paribas, Crédit Agricole, Santander, Société Générale et Deutsche Bank - est inférieure à celle de la seule JPMorgan.

En conséquence, les régulateurs européens, craignant que la faible rentabilité des banques puisse entraîner une forte dégradation de leurs fonds propres et une prise de risque excessive, voient d'un œil favorable une consolidation du secteur bancaire. La BCE a par exemple annoncé un allègement temporaire des exigences de fonds propres et du traitement comptable du badwill (soit l'écart entre la valeur de marché d'une banque et la valeur comptable de ses actifs). Elle s'est également dite prête à autoriser des fusions créant des banques qui pourraient être « trop grandes pour faire faillite ». Après tout, la configuration actuelle du secteur n'est pas viable, et l'autre option - laisser des banques de taille moyenne en difficulté faire faillite - est nettement plus coûteuse.

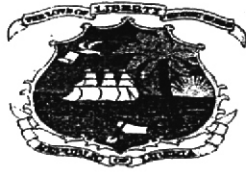
Bien entendu, les régulateurs européens préféreraient des fusions transfrontalières à des opérations nationales, à la fois pour encourager l'intégration et la diversification du marché et pour renforcer la compétitivité internationale des banques européennes sans soulever des questions de concurrence déloyale. Contrairement aux États-Unis, le secteur de la banque de détail de l'Union européenne reste insuffisamment intégré. Si l'on considère les principaux acteurs de ce secteur dans les pays de l'UE, on trouve en général différentes banques nationales, tandis qu'aux États-Unis, les mêmes grandes banques sont présentes dans plusieurs États du pays.

Cela étant, plusieurs obstacles de taille s'opposent aux fusions transfrontalières dans l'UE, dont de nombreuses langues et cultures différentes. Bien que le mécanisme de surveillance unique de la zone euro favorise ce type de fusions-acquisitions, les réglementations en matière de faillites et de protection des consommateurs varient d'un pays membre à l'autre et un système européen commun de garantie des dépôts doit encore être adopté.

L'économie politique du monde post-Covid comprendra sans doute à court terme des consolidations nationales, parce que les gouvernements chercheront à protéger les systèmes bancaires nationaux en raison de considérations politiques stratégiques. À vrai dire, le nationalisme bancaire n'a rien de nouveau en Europe, à l'exception du Royaume-Uni ; et maintenant, le Brexit devrait rendre plus difficiles les fusions transfrontalières entre les banques britanniques et celles basées dans l'UE.

La prochaine vague de fusions-acquisitions portera-t-elle préjudice à la concurrence, en créant une structure de marché anticoncurrentielle ? Pas nécessairement. Pour que la concurrence ne conduise pas à une prise de risque excessive, les entités doivent être en mesure de générer et de conserver des fonds propres. De plus, tant que les nouveaux acteurs numériques ne rencontrent que de faibles barrières à l'entrée sur le segment bancaire, ils peuvent maintenir l'intensité de la concurrence et avoir un effet disciplinant sur les opérateurs historiques. De leur côté, les régulateurs devront s'assurer que les règles du jeu sont égales pour tous lors de la restructuration du secteur, et les autorités de la concurrence devront rester attentives aux risques potentiels dans toute région ou segment du marché.

La crise financière mondiale de 2008 a sérieusement terni l'image du secteur bancaire européen. Il est fort probable que les intermédiaires financiers qui sortiront gagnants de la crise actuelle seront ceux qui non seulement fonctionnent de manière éthique et transparente, mais également ceux en mesure de conclure des accords qui servent au mieux les intérêts de la clientèle.



"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

VOL. XIX**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019,****NO. 52**

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

**GBEHZOHNGAR M. FINDLEY
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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

APM Terminal reconditions Tubman High school

By Emmanuel Mondaye

As part of its social and corporate responsibilities, APM Terminal Liberia has begun replacing windows chairs at the William V. S. Tubman High School in Sinkor, Monrovia.

Breaking news to reporters

Eight windows and 100 chairs have been provided, initially.

Mr. Golelore explained that six windows upstairs, and two windows downstairs, are being replaced with new ones to prevent criminals and intruders from having access to the school's campus.

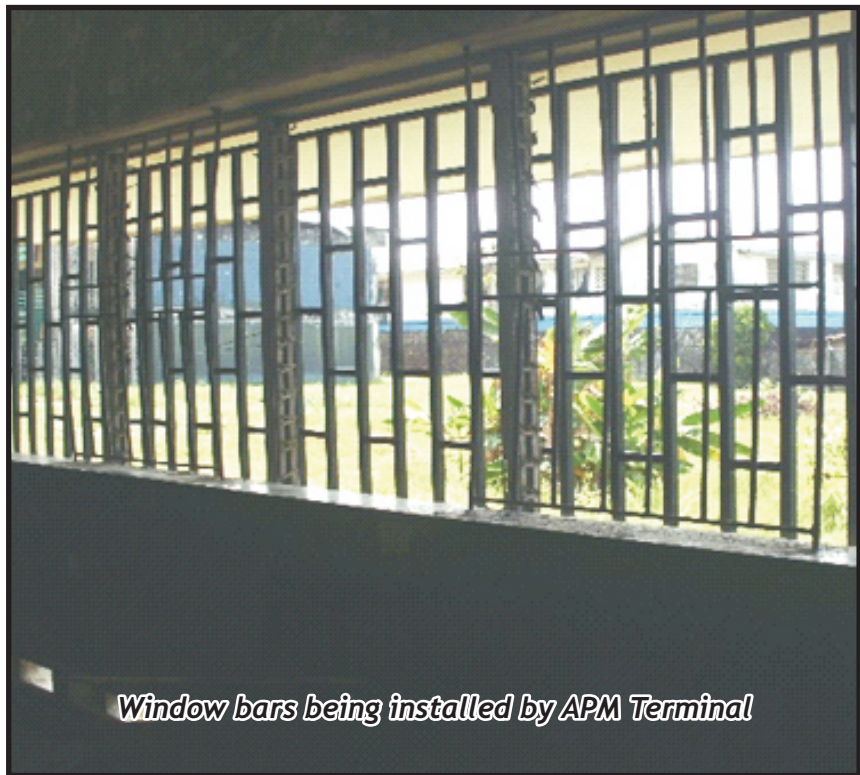
He disclosed that criminals

Principal Golelore also revealed the initiative was made possible through the Senate Committee on Education that negotiated with the Management of APM Terminal, indicating the APM Terminal has also agreed to paint the administrative building on campus.

The United Nations Industrial Organization is similar expected to help roof several parts of the school including the Wood Work and Electrical departments, respectively to be used by students. Principal Golelore expressed gratitude to the Senate Committee on Education and the Management of APM Terminal for coming to the aid of the school. He said the school, which previously had water and electricity problems is briefing an air of relief because these important services have been restored.

Meanwhile, Montserrado County district #5 Representative Thomas P. Fallah, also senatorial candidate of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change, who was expected to serve as guest speaker for the 52nd Anniversary of the school, disappointed students and guest when he failed to turnout for the ceremony.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Window bars being installed by APM Terminal

during program making the 52nd birth anniversary of the late President William V. S. Tubman on Monday, 1st December the Principal of the institution, Mr. Alaisis N. Golelore, said APM Terminal is installing new steel bars and window frames with glasses.

had earlier broken into the premises and stolen chairs and other important materials.

According to him, APM Terminal has agreed to provide 250 brand new chairs for students of the school, as it prepares to commence the 2020/2021 academic calendar.

Isaac Tukpah attacks Minister McGill

By Emmanuel Mondaye

One of the candidates for the senate in Montserrado County, Mr. Isaac Vah Tukpah has told electorate at a one-day senatorial debate held in Bensonville City Hall in Bentol that if elected, he would never employ family members and incompetent people like the Minister of States for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel McGill.

He accused Minister McGill for employing his sister at the Ministry of Finance Development Planning. According to him, the sister of Minister McGill does not understand fiscal disciplines but is made Deputy Minister at the MFDP.

Tukpah also alleged that most lawmakers in the National Legislature have employed incompetent people as well as friends who have no experience to do the job.

The senatorial candidate, who had earlier contested in River Cess County, boosted that he and the Minister of Finance and Development



Independent Candidate Isaac Vah Tukpah speaking at the Ducor 2020 Debates

Planning Samuel Tweah wrote the entire CDC Agenda for Prosperity and Development document.

He noted the problem with the government is that it has unqualified people in key positions, who are unable to effectively and adequately perform their responsibilities as required thus, posing serious setback to the government operations.

Tukpah disclosed for the past

12 years, he has been engaged in food security in rural Liberia, vowing to shortly supply the Liberian market with the nation's staple rice, for public consumption.

For his part, Candidate Phil Dixon Tarpeh, who also came face-to-face with the electorate, said he enters the race because the ruling Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) has diverted from its political agenda for the

NEC launches CVE community engagement component

National Elections Commission, (NEC) Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah Wednesday officially launch the 2020 Civic and Voter Education, CVE, Gender and Communications Sections Community Engagement campaign at a one-day forum organized by the Center for the Exchange of Intellectual Opinions, CEIOS in Monrovia.

The 2020 one-day CVE Community engagement

Monrovia the Chairperson of NEC Davidetta Browne Lansanah challenged Liberians to turn out and freely vote in the Constitutional Referendum with a yes or no vote for the eight measures.

Earlier, the Executive Chairperson of the Center for the Exchange of Intellectual Ideas Adolphus Weah said the CEIO is the leading outreach forum in Monrovia where intellectuals from different professional backgrounds are



NEC Boss addresses members of CEIO on their civic obligation to vote in the SSE, Referendum, Rep. By-Elections on 8 December 2020.

campaign which was launched today Wednesday, 2 December focused on the prevention of violence during the conduct of the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Election, Constitutional Referendum and two Representative By-elections in Montserrado and Sinoe counties.

Addressing CIOS members and other well-wishers in

welcome to discuss national issues as it relates to the growth and development of Liberia.

The CEIO Executive Chairperson reminded the NEC Chairperson and entourage that Liberians expect nothing less but the conduct of a free, fair, credible and transparent elections come Tuesday 8 December 2020.

The launch of the community

Advertise with us!

country.

He emphasized that no matter how many good laws are put into place to fight gender based violence, as long as the people are not willing to reject crimes, it would not be eradicated.

Similarly vying as an Independent Candidate though coming from the ruling CDC, the former deputy labor minister said he and Tukpah shares similar political platforms, therefore, if he's not elected, Tukpah should be elected on 8 December.

According to him, one of the duties and responsibilities of every government is to ensure equal distribution of the national wealth something, he noted, is not being done.

"While I was in government at the Ministry of Labor (MOL), I advocated for fair hearing of cases involving aggrieved

Liberian workers and the Decent Work Bill, among other issues", he recounted.

The LMDI 2020 senatorial debates were held in two different sessions with first conducted in the morning, which featured opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP's) Abraham Darius Dillon, Congress for Democratic Change (CDC's) Thomas P. Fallah, and Sheik Al-Moustapha Kouyateh, an Independent Candidate, followed by the 2nd phase between Independent Candidates Isaac Vah Tukpah and Phil Tarpeh Dixon.

Candidates Siah Jarmie Tandanpolie of the Movement for Progressive Change (MPC) and Jamima K. H. Wolokollie of the Movement for One Liberia (MOL) failed to show up. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Weah fires back

By Othello B. Garblah

President George M. Weah on Wednesday fired several salvos at the opposition community, dismissing speculations that his administration is pushing a hasty referendum to enable him extend his stay in office for a third term.

“Some people say (we are pushing) the referendum because the President wants to act like Cote D’Voire and Guinea to go for third term. But I can assure you, if I were the president who wants to go for third-term and fourth term, then I was going to insist in 2005 that the election result was for us,” Weah told a cheering crowd of supporters in the northern Liberian city of Ganta, Nimba County.

Mr. Weah’s Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) has always claim that it won the

allow dual citizenship, Article 45 and 48 reduction in Senatorial tenure from the current 9 years to 7 years and reduction in the tenure of Representatives from 6years to 5years respectively. Both Senate Pro-tempt and House Speakers will also see a reduction in their respective tenures from 6years to 5years.

The changes in the Constitution also seek an amendment to Article 50, to have a reduction in the Presidential and Vice Presidential tenures from 6years to 5years. It further seeks to amend Article 83 (a) to change the date of the General Elections from the 2nd Tuesday in October to November.

As good as the prepositions appear, they have not been void of controversies, especially from the opposition bloc, which filed a prohibition before the nation’s highest court last

laws because he is proposing a referendum. Now what is the referendum?” he queries.

This was in direct reference to the chairman of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Alexander B. Cummings who has accused the National Elections Commissions (NEC) of being in violation of the Liberian Constitution.

President Weah told the crowd that his administration was in no way breaking the laws or in violation of the country’s constitution. Rather, his administration is proposing instruments it believes can help move the country forward and that these were just proposals and it is left with the citizens to decide if it is in their best interest and if that is so to make sure they vote as such by voting “yes”.

He argues that what is



2005 election that ushered President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf first term in office.

More so, this was President Weah’s first public statement on the heated debate that have greeted the proposed referendum. His Minister of State Nathaniel McGill had been the one debunking such speculations.

His comments come just in days as Liberians are expected to head to the polls on Tuesday December 8, the same day they will be electing 15 new members of the Senate to decide on the future direction of the country through a referendum. Each of the preposition being proposed for a decision is intended to amend different articles within the country’s 1986 Constitution.

The prepositions seek amendments to Article 28 to

month and are now calling upon their supporters to boycott the referendum.

The opposition have accused the president of breaking the laws and imposing a referendum on a population majority of whom are yet to understand the various propositions or their symbols. These criticisms have not passed the president’s ears without him taking a barbs at them.

“I was on my way this afternoon, I listened to an opposition person. I don’t know his name and even if I knew his name, I will not call his name but I will quote him,” Weah went on. “He (opposition person) said we are breaking the laws of the Republic by proposing a referendum to our people.”

“Now this is the person that wants to be president of a country, goes on radio and says the president is breaking the

lacking in the oppositions criticisms of the referendum is their failures to explain to the citizens what voting “Yes” or No” would mean to them.

For him, the referendum gives citizens the opportunity such as the issue of dual citizenship which would allow Liberians to maintain their citizenship and still hold onto another foreign country’s citizenship.

According to President Weah, the referendum would give citizens the opportunity to reduce the presidential, senatorial and representative tenures.

He argues that a shorter term limit, would challenge the president, senators and representatives to work faster rather than a longer term limit that would make them to be lackadaisical.

Opposition hails

Starts from back page

actual campaign time.

Despite the peaceful nature of the campaign acknowledged by Dillon, what seems to keep many Liberians worried could apparently be the post election atmosphere that seems unpredictable, especially judging from how the opposition and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) supporters are eagerly fighting to win Montserrado County at all cost.

As an incumbent and opposition candidate, prior to the campaign period faced some attacks, one of which led him to issue a marching order to his supporters in mid September to return stones at President George Manneh Weah’s convoy or his residence anytime stones were thrown at him (Dillon) at his rallies.

“One rock thrown at me going forward, rocks will be thrown at George Weah’s convoy. If he is scared to leave

his house, we will throw stones at his house, I Darius Dillon say so,” Dillon said in September following an attack against him at St. Paul Bridge Community.

In his live talk show at OK FM Thursday, 3 December, Mr. Dillon indicated that his people were resolved in supporting him, noting that he has to be the courageous general to lead his army into the campaign.

Speaking of inclusiveness in governance, Dillon suggests that if the impression is given that those in the ruling party and those in the opposition are not supposed to take each other’s advice, it becomes a problem that would stall the development of the country.

He argues that inclusive government is not necessarily to employ opposition in government, but creating the space and expanding the economy so as to give those who may not want government jobs the free hand to do their business in the private sector.

3 days to

Starts from back page

the Liberia National Bar Association have called for a suspension of Tuesday’s referendum to allow ample time for public education, but the government won’t listen.

“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 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”, CPP leader, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings said in a news conference in Monrovia on Wednesday, 2 December.



LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY
Old Commence Ministry Bldg, Asylum & Gurley
Monrovia, Liberia



Board of Arbitration Survey Notice

December 3, 2020

By Directive of The Sixth Judicial Circuit, Civil Law Court, Montserrado County, the general public is hereby informed that the undersigned Registered Land Surveyors have being duly authorized to conduct a detail and perimeter investigative survey on Monday, December 7th 2020 commencing at 9:30 am.

IN CASE REF: THE INTESTATE ESTATE OF THE LATE GLADYS MACFOR, REPRESENTED BY ITS ADMINISTRATOR, MR. CHARLES R.G. BRIGHT, PLAINTIFF VERSUS MICHAEL YANCY, ATTORNEY-IN-FACT, FOR JOHN B. COLLINS, DEFENDANT.

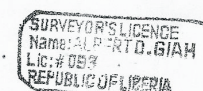
The land to be survey is lying and situated along the **Randall Street**, in the area opposite the GN Bank, Montserrado County, Liberia.

Therefore, all those having property within the described area above are requested to be present on the site of the survey with their deed(s), map(s), diagram(s), technical representative(s)/ surveyor(s) and other relevant documents to support their claims.

Please let this survey notice claim the immediate attention of the following individuals, Community Leaders and cornerstones marked with initials below:

1. Madam Victoria Mensah Cooper
2. Mr. David Settro
3. Episcopal Mission
4. Madam Melvana Mensah Karpah
5. Madam Marie Johnson
6. Fawaz Building Material & General Goods
7. All other interested Parties

Signed:
Albert D. Giah Jr.
Chairman/Assigned Government Surveyor
Cell#s: 0886740519/0770266608



Handwritten note: Filed Dec. 3, 2020, at 1:40 pm. Clerk of Court

Cc. **Captain Humphrey T. Seequh**
Sheriff, Civil Law Court
Temple of Justice

Opposition hails non-violent campaign



Sen. Abraham Darius Dillon

By Winston W. Parley

Opposition Montserrat County senatorial candidate Abraham Darius Dillon has expressed thanks to the both sides of the political divide, the ruling establishment and the opposition in recognition of non-violent campaign

activities so far, unlike the pre-campaign time violent incidents that were reported here.

“And I want to thank all sides; we want to thank all sides,” Dillon said in reference to the peaceful campaign activities here during a live radio appearance Thursday, 3 December.

“Oh the campaign is very

good,” Dillon says, recalling that initially the political strategy was to disrupt places that he visited so as to scare away his supporters so that his support base cannot be seen.

His comment came Thursday ahead of the opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP’s) campaign launch which is expected this weekend for the combined senatorial election and national referendum due on Tuesday, 8 December.

Ahead of the National Elections Commission (NEC) declaring campaign open for the senatorial election, much of the year has been politically tough as political violence was continuously reported.

Many had thought the campaign would have been worse, but at least not much has been reported of violence now like it was between the supporters of the CPP and the ruling party ahead of the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 15

3 days to referendum

-as govt., opposition haul and pull

Barely three days to the national referendum and legislative by-elections next Tuesday, December 8th, the ruling Coalition government and the opposition here are still divided on whether the referendum should be conducted as planned, leaving voters as confused as never before.

The opposition bloc, led by

the Collaborating Political Parties or CPP has threatened to tell its supporters to abstain from decisions aimed at amending key provisions in the Constitution amid lack of adequate public education, but ruling establishment is more than resolved to conduct the process Tuesday, along with senatorial election and two by-elections in the House.

Most Liberians at home are



Flashback: Voters in queue

nervous due to little awareness to cast ballots for the referendum that seeks, among others, to change tenures for the Presidency, Senate, House, Speaker, Senate President Pro-Tempore, and legislate Dual Citizenship. But their compatriots in the Diasporas, like the government want all eight propositions in the referendum voted “Yes.”

Key institutions such as the Liberia Council of Churches and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 15

The NewDawn Press

2 colors Heidelberg printing machines



We Offer The Following Printing Services:

- Newspapers, Magazines
- Flyers, Posters, Calendars
- Brochures, Letterhead
- Receipts, Invoices
- Souvenirs, Gifts
- Designs, etc...