

TIP ME

...Your wallet is safe

Withdrawals made easy and smooth

TipOut whenever you want.

Download Now

Available on  



New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

Advertize Here For Low Rate

VOL.10 NO. 221

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020

PRICE LD\$40.00

CPP sends 2023 message (pt1 of 5)

-As opposition seizes Senate



CPP Chair, Alexander B. Cummings



Senator Darius Dillon



Sen. Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence



Deputy House Speaker Prince Moyo



J. Brownie Samukai



Simeon Boima Taylor

P11

For as low as 60 USD, you can own one of these!

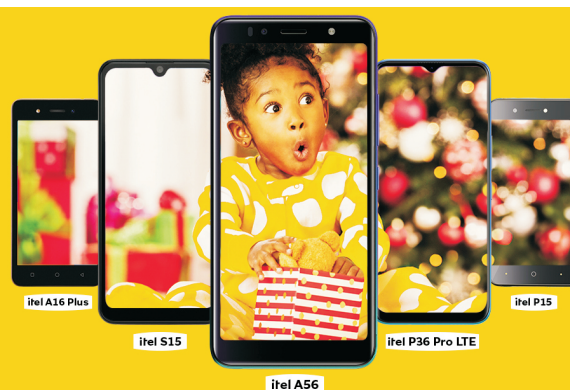
You also enjoy **1GB** free data every month for **6 months!**
Phone prices range between **60USD and above.**

Available at: **itel shop at Broad and Center Streets Intersection.**

everywhere you go

Dial *187# to get 1GB free data after purchase.

Ts & Cs apply.





Continental News

Migrants accuse Greece of pushing them back out to sea

In the early hours of a Sunday in late November, 16-year-old Jeancy Kimbenga tried to reach Europe for a third time. He was on one of three dinghies that landed on the Greek island of Lesbos that day from Turkey.

On that occasion, as with his two previous attempts, Jeancy claims he was forcibly returned to Turkish waters. So-called pushbacks, without consideration of a migrant's individual circumstances and without any possibility of applying for asylum, are illegal under international human rights law.

Greece has denied it uses such methods, insisting it is complying with European and international law and protecting the borders of the European Union. During this third attempt to get to the EU, Jeancy, who is originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, documented part of his journey in the hope that the evidence of him



Three boats landed on Lesbos in the early hours of 29 November: those on two of the boats ended up back in Turkey

being on Greek soil would prevent him being sent back to Turkey. It was still dark when the three boats landed on the southeast tip of Lesbos, known as Kratigos, on 29 November.

The new arrivals gathered in a forest nearby and waited for dawn, sending photos and their

GPS location to Aegean Boat Report, a Norwegian NGO that monitors migrant flows in the area. Hours later, local academic Kostas Theodorou was cycling with his wife in the area when they ran into two women who claimed they were migrants who had just

arrived on the island a few hours earlier.

The women said they were both Christians, pregnant and had not eaten for three days. "They said they wanted to go to hospital or the migrant camp. My wife left to get some cash so that we can put them in a taxi," said Mr Theodorou, an assistant professor at the University of the Aegean. But when he suggested calling the police, the women feared their passage to Europe would come to an abrupt end.

The migrant groups then left the forest and headed north, taking further photos of the places they passed. Aegean Boat Report published their whereabouts on Facebook and contacted

Greek authorities.

The BBC has independently verified the migrants' material and several locations where they were walking in south Lesbos. Jeancy Kimbenga and the others were met by a team of Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG) officers and put on a bus. They were told they would be taken to a special camp for quarantine because of the Covid-19 pandemic. At least two coast guard number plates and one officer are visible in the footage the BBC has acquired from the scene.

Jeancy says what followed deeply traumatised him. The bus drove for a couple of hours to the north of the island and stopped at a small port where men in balaclavas were waiting. The teenager recorded a video on his mobile inside the bus.

"They dressed up like ninja[s], they want to make us get on a boat and send us back to Turkey," he is heard saying. The boy alleges that the Greek officers then took everyone's phone, beat them heavily and forced them on "a big coast guard boat with something like a cannon in the front side" that took them out to sea.

There they were forced into life rafts and were left to drift towards Turkish territorial waters, he said. It is not clear why, but only two of the three groups that arrived in Lesbos that Sunday morning were sent back.

Nigeria gunmen who seized children 'surrounded'

Government troops have surrounded the area where gunmen are believed to be holding school children hostage in north-western Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari's spokesman has said.

Ten children are reportedly being held captive, Garba Shehu said, far fewer than the number staff reported missing. About 800 pupils were enrolled at the all-boys school in Katsina

state and about half remain unaccounted for. The unidentified attackers are thought to be seeking ransom, Mr Shehu said.

The attack took place far from Boko Haram's usual area of operation in the north-east. Parents have gathered at the school in the Kankara area, pleading with the authorities to help find their children, Reuters news agency reported.

Parent Abubakar Lawal was quoted as saying that two of his three sons at the school, known

as the Government Science Secondary School, were missing.

On Saturday, the military said it had located the gunmen's hideout in a forest and had exchanged gunfire with them. In a BBC interview, Mr Shehu said there was a "massive deployment" of troops to rescue the abducted children. "Military commanders on the ground have the coordinates of where they believe the bandits are, and whoever they are holding. They have surrounded all of that area," he added. President Buhari comes from the state, and is currently there on a private visit. He was being briefed hourly on efforts to rescue the children, Mr Shehu said.

"The criminal elements, bandits, will be crushed. They will be eliminated," he added.

The children believe that 10 of their schoolmates were taken by the bandits, but this still needed to be verified, Mr Shehu added.

School authorities are speaking to parents to establish how many students have returned home and how many others could still be scattered across a large area after fleeing the

WWW **Advertise Here!**
Subscribe to our website
 get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily



Bint'a Ismail: "I have a child and younger brother who've been taken"

attack. Residents living near the school told the BBC they heard gunfire at about 23:00 (22:00 GMT) on Friday, and that the attack lasted for more than an hour. Security personnel at the school managed to repel some of the attackers before police reinforcements arrived, officials said.

Police said that during an exchange of fire, some of the gunmen were forced to retreat. Students were able to scale the fence of the school and run to safety, they said. Several local residents

joined the police in searching for the students, while many parents said they had withdrawn their children from the school.

"The school is deserted, all the students have vacated," one witness, Nura Abdullahi, told AFP news agency.

"Some of the students who escaped returned to the town this morning, but others took a bus home," he added. The governor of Katsina, Aminu Bello Massari, ordered the immediate closure of all boarding schools in the state. BBC

EDITORIAL

Electoral violence undermines peace

WHETHER THEY ARE in position, opposition or no position Liberians generally have duty to reject and denounce violence during and after Tuesday's senatorial election and national referendum to keep the Motherland stable and united.

IT IS FOOLHARDY for any Liberian, be it a voter or loyalist to a particular candidate or political party in these elections to think that narrow interest of a political party or candidate is above the survival of the State. Nurturing such believe is not being myopic in thought, but blinded by selfish motives that do not contribute to the national cause.

INSTEAD, THE OVER-RIDING responsibility of every citizen irrespective of party, tribal or religious affiliation should focus on contributing towards building a better Liberia in which all would co-exist harmoniously and endeavor to achieving his or her full potential.

NEWS FROM GRAND Cape Mount county over the weekend about campaign violence that led to burning of cars and a home is both scaring and disappointing. That we would want to revert our dear country to anarchy and vandalism after 14 years of violent killings and destruction just to satisfy a political party or candidate is sad.

WHY PEOPLE WOULD want to go so low in desperation for power that is purely inherent in the people. If the people of Grand Cape Mount county decide to elect candidate X or Y, it is their full right under the Constitution, which should be respected.

A CANDIDATE LOSING an election should always know there are more opportunities ahead, and such experience from a poll just signals a need to return to the drawing board and re-strategize for future election. Current President George Manneh Weah is a glaring example of the benefit of exercising patience and self-control, for when God's-appointed time comes, you will have it all without much sweat.

WE ARE SURE no politician or candidate in the race wants to preside over a burning country that drives away partners and investors and leaves the citizenry in misery and starvation. Any Liberian carrying such ambition does not mean well for the country and his fellow compatriots.

THIS IS WHY we join call by Foreign Missions accredited to Liberia for the Grand Cape Mount violence to be investigated promptly so that perpetrators would be brought to justice to reassure both citizens and foreign residents.

CONDEMNATION AND OF the violence by President Weah and call for political partisans and their leaders to conduct themselves peacefully is not enough. The government should apply the strong arm of the law to make sure it is not repeated anywhere else in the country.

ELECTIONS WOULD COME and go but Liberia, our common denomination should always supersede all self interest that is just for a while, for without a stable country, every other thing is meaningless.

COMMENTARY

By Pascal Lamy, Enrico Letta & Laurence Tubiana

EU Leaders Must Hold the Green Line

The European Union has taken monumental steps this year to deepen the bloc's integration and solidarity in the face of not just the pandemic but also the climate crisis. By threatening to derail this progress, Hungary and Poland have placed a risky bet, and other EU leaders must call their bluff.

PARIS - Historians will no doubt look back on 2020 as a turning point for the European Union. But which of two competing headlines will capture this critical moment?

On one hand, the year could be defined by struggle and disintegration: the United Kingdom's exit from the EU; conflicts over migration policies; Hungary and Poland blocking the EU budget and COVID-19 recovery fund over the new rule-of-law conditionality on disbursement of Union funds. On the other hand, 2020 could go down as the year when Europe decided definitively to pursue a green, decarbonized economy, a renewed sense of solidarity, and deeper integration in order to shape its economic recovery.

With a critical European Council summit this week, it will be up to the EU's heads of state and government to decide whether they will remain committed to the Union's core values. This past spring, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel agreed to establish the recovery fund, thus laying a foundation for Europe's future. This proposal marked a significant departure from traditional EU policy - especially from the German perspective - because it envisioned common borrowing and a transfer union beyond the existing EU budget.

This Franco-German breakthrough was seen as a resounding reaffirmation of the European Green Deal and the objective of reaching net-zero emissions by mid-century. It enabled the European Commission to propose Next Generation EU, a €750 billion (\$908 billion) program of grants and loans to address the extra burden that COVID-19 has inflicted on Europe - especially its southern member states.

After one of the longest European Council summits in history, EU leaders this summer adopted the priorities and modalities for what amounts to a massive €1.8 trillion recovery package. But the July deal contained two core provisions, on climate policy and the rule of law, setting conditions for release of this funding. The rule-of-law provision was then strengthened further at the insistence of the European Parliament.

Owing to its symbolic value for the EU and its indispensability for southern member states, Next Generation EU soon became a target for Poland and Hungary. Afraid that the rule-of-law mechanism would expose their government-sanctioned abuses of EU funds and thus limit the amount they would receive from the Union's coffers, the two countries vetoed one of the provisions (the "own-resources decision") that is necessary for approving the EU's seven-year budget and the recovery fund.

This is a risky bet for Poland and Hungary, considering that EU cohesion funds financed the majority of their public investment in 2015-17 (more than three-fifths in Poland and

over 55% in Hungary). Nonetheless, the two countries' extortion has created an impasse that is fueling political tensions ahead of this week's summit, which must also approve a new target to reduce emissions by 55% by 2030.

The summit is coming at the precise moment when the recovery fund's benefits are being made crystal clear. The EU sold its new ten-year bond at a yield of -0.24%. Italy has sold ten-year sovereign bonds with a yield of 0.76%. And these bond issues have been dramatically oversubscribed.

Moreover, with the reconstruction bonds, debt mutuality is moving forward through the creation of a European safe asset through the issuance of common debt. This is also establishing the rudiments of a decision-making framework for a European-level fiscal policy. Market confidence in the EU has duly risen.

More subtly, the concerted fiscal action embedded in Next Generation EU has legitimized decisive measures (in the form of asset purchases) by the European Central Bank, producing de facto monetary-policy coordination in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Those who want to give in to Hungary and Poland are focusing on the progress that has been made in reducing the spread between interest rates paid by southern and northern member states. They argue that this new economic alignment - brought about by Next Generation EU - should not be jeopardized for the sake of the rule-of-law mechanism. Particularly from a southern member-state perspective, and with a horrific second wave of COVID-19 bearing down on Europe, conceding the conditionality provision seems like the least-bad option.

But giving in to extortion would seriously undermine the EU's credibility and weaken the increased confidence of global financial markets in its future and the future of the euro. It would open the door for more regressive vetoes of measures needed to strengthen the EU's democratic model and to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. Financial markets' strong appetite for EU-issued green bonds would diminish - thus raising borrowing costs - and the ECB's asset purchases might also suffer collateral damage.

At this week's European Council summit, leaders must fight for the EU's financial future, the Green Deal, solidarity among our peoples, and democratic choice. As we write, there are reports that a compromise with Hungary and Poland has been agreed. If true, that compromise must in no way renege on the promises made in July when the recovery fund was born. After all, the surest way to undermine financial markets' burgeoning confidence in the EU and its finances is to compromise with the values and conditions that have buttressed these market sentiments.



O-PED

By Barry Eichengreen

The Debt Dogs that Didn't Bark

If global growth resumes in 2021, aided by the rollout of vaccines and the Fed's continued commitment to ultra-low interest rates, some developing countries may be able to avoid default, because yield-hungry investors will continue to buy their bonds. But other countries will not be so lucky.

BERKELEY- Last March, when COVID-19 infected the world economy, many observers feared that emerging markets and developing countries would suffer the most, financially and otherwise. Economically, they relied on commodity exports, remittances, and tourism, all of which fell through the floor with the pandemic. There was every reason to expect a tsunami of financial crises and debt defaults.

The tsunami never arrived. Just six countries - Argentina, Ecuador, Belize, Lebanon, Suriname, and Zambia - have defaulted on their sovereign debt, and only the first two have restructured their debts.

But much like Sherlock Holmes's dog that didn't bark, it's hard to know whether to be reassured or alarmed by the silence. Reassuringly, the impact of COVID-19 on developing countries, in Africa specifically, has been less than feared. Their young populations are relatively resistant to the coronavirus. Their health systems, in responding to past epidemics, have gained the public's trust. And China's quick recovery boosted demand for their commodity exports.

Financially as well, current conditions are surprisingly stable. In March, when the crisis erupted, emerging markets hemorrhaged capital. In April, however, the outflows tailed off, and net flows to emerging economies have been positive and growing since.

It is not hard to see why. Yields on US ten-year Treasury bonds are below 1%, and the dollar is widely expected to depreciate. European government bond yields are negative. In this environment, a Thai government bond yielding 1.35% is irresistible, even though Thailand displays classic signs of financial trouble ahead: a tourism-dependent economy expected to contract by 7% this year and a government that lacks popular support.

If global growth resumes in 2021, aided by the rollout of vaccines and the Fed's continued commitment to ultra-low interest rates, some developing countries may skate through. Yield-hungry investors will continue to display an appetite for their bonds.

But other countries, having been hit harder by declining export earnings and collapsing remittances, will have obligations to meet. The Institute of International Finance estimates that nearly \$7 trillion of emerging-market debt will fall due in 2021, triple this year's level. This is not a crisis that will materialize at some indeterminate future date. The dog will start yowling next year.

Where governments have issued debt domestically, their central banks can buy it up, but only at the cost of crashing the currency and scaring off private investors. In addition, twice as much foreign debt is coming due in 2021 compared to this year. Much of this has been rendered effectively unpayable by the economic shock of the pandemic.

The G20 has responded with a Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) that allows 73 low-income countries to defer payments on their government-to-government debts for a year and a half. The single largest bilateral creditor, China, is now on board, after some initial hesitation.

The DSSI is imperfect. Limiting the duration of the suspension and deferring rather than forgiving the interest is a bit miserly. Countries are reluctant to apply for fear of rating-agency downgrades, as happened to Cameroon. Distressed middle-income countries are excluded. Still, something is better than nothing.

The problem is getting private creditors to scale back their claims. Last April, the G20 "called on" private creditors to agree to comparable concessions. Unsurprisingly, their calls went unheeded. Investors were more concerned, predictably, with their own portfolios than the plight of low-income countries.

Subsequently, G20 governments made clear that they had no intention of deferring their claims if the money this freed up simply went to pay off private creditors. But the private sector has made equally clear that it has little interest in concessions. History tells us that private debts are restructured only when creditors become convinced that half a loaf is better than none. And investors are still hoping for the full loaf, with the official sector helping to feed it to them.

What more can be done? The United Nations Security Council could pass a resolution instructing its members to shield the assets of low-income countries from litigious creditors, much as it shielded Iraqi assets following the removal of Saddam Hussein. The US Congress could give this measure force of law. Or, after January 20, 2021, President Joe Biden could issue an executive order instructing the courts to proceed accordingly, as President George W. Bush did in the case of Iraq in 2003.

Is there a chance of this happening? Consensus within the UN Security Council is hard to achieve and even harder to maintain. The incoming Biden administration will have limited political capital, limited bandwidth, and an abundance of other problems. Whether it will be prepared to confront the big institutional investors - can you say BlackRock? - remains to be seen.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. www.project-syndicate.org

OPINION

By Slawomir Sierakowski

Poland's Populist Catch-22

The Polish government's efforts to prevent the European Union from enforcing "rule of law" conditionality on future funding is not just a reflection of its illiberal nature. Rather, the ruling coalition is in the throes of a subtle but all-consuming fight over who will emerge as the future face of Polish populism.

WARSAW - A half-billion people across the European Union have effectively been held hostage by United Poland, a tiny Polish political party that is largely unknown even among the country's voters. At issue was a principle that 66% of Poles support: EU funding should be made conditional on a recipient country's respect for the rule of law - a key provision in the EU's 2021-27 budget and COVID-19 recovery fund.

Reports this week ahead of an EU summit to discuss the issue suggest that Poland and Hungary have accepted the EU presidency's budget proposal. It still needs to be approved by the Netherlands and other member states, as well as critics within the Polish government.

With Poland's ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party waging war on the independence of the country's judiciary for years, its opposition to the rule-of-law provision comes as no surprise. But it is important to understand the complicated politics behind Poland's current position vis-à-vis the rest of the EU. Only then can the current impasse be broken, potentially creating a domino effect that topples Poland's de facto leader, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, and ends the current era of populist rule in the country.

Poland's threat to veto the EU budget as long as it includes a conditionality mechanism is a function of the rivalry between two politicians: Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki of PiS and Minister of Justice Zbigniew Ziobro of United Poland. Both are angling to succeed Kaczynski, and both are prepared to sacrifice Poland's welfare - and Europe's - for their own ambitions.

Neither Morawiecki nor Ziobro is an independent politician who would have gotten to where he is on his own. Morawiecki once led a large Polish bank and advised former Prime Minister Donald Tusk (Kaczynski's arch-rival), neither of which ingratiates him with PiS. After three years in office, the party still treats him as an outsider. Nonetheless, Kaczynski appears to view Morawiecki as his successor, perhaps betting that he would be a pliant but sound economic manager.

Ziobro, for his part, leads the most radical right-wing faction in the ruling United Right coalition. In practice, United Poland MPs run on PiS lists in parliamentary elections, but they are ultimately loyal to Ziobro, whose views and political style make him much more suited to be Kaczynski's successor. But he has yet to win the current leader's endorsement.

Poland's standoff with the EU coincides with a number of domestic developments that have led to the collapse of PiS's public support, which has fallen to 27%. Since mid-2017, that figure had not dipped below 40%; but now, Kaczynski's party barely edges out the second-place Civic Coalition, which has 25% support.

Moreover, combined public support for the Polish opposition is now double that of PiS. And though the next general election will not take place until 2023, the ruling camp could lose its parliamentary majority if Jaroslaw Gowin's Covenant, a slightly more liberal faction, or United Poland withdraws from the coalition. PiS needs each party's 20-odd votes in the 460-seat Sejm to maintain its hold on power.

Kaczynski's party owes its loss of support to several factors, starting with the PiS-friendly Constitutional Tribunal's shocking October ruling almost completely banning abortion. The decision triggered the largest protests seen in Poland since 1989.

The second factor behind PiS's loss of support is COVID-19, which is currently hitting Poland especially hard. The government has been accused of failing to prepare for the predictable fall surge, and the crisis has been compounded by PiS's previous decision to abandon long-needed health-care reforms in favor of politically expedient social transfers.

The EU conflict, too, has contributed significantly to PiS's problems. Support for European integration remains high in Poland, and though this doesn't usually translate into support for pro-European parties, it is safe to assume that a cutback in EU funds for Poland will mobilize voters against PiS.

There is a reason why PiS avoids unequivocally anti-EU rhetoric. Most often, it calls for "dialogue" or blames disagreements on a single official, such as European Commission Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans, rather than on the EU as a whole. In fact, Morawiecki's rise to the premiership in 2017 was supposed to help normalize relations with the EU, following his predecessor Beata Szydlo's tension-packed tenure.

In any case, Ziobro has calculated that the rule-of-law crisis presents an opportunity for him to gain an advantage over Morawiecki. He recently sent an open letter to the prime minister arguing that: "A proposal to link payments from the European Union budget to the so-called rule of law, in the event of its entry into force, would radically worsen the status and position of Poland in the EU for decades," he wrote. "We both know that this is not about the rule of law at all. The 'rule of law' is only a pretext to introduce the institutional and political enslavement of the Polish state."

The conditionality mechanism has already been voted into law, and any declaration making it "clear" that the mechanism applies only to budgetary issues would have no legal validity.

In this respect, Ziobro is right. He has already publicly announced that every compromise is a capitulation. Ziobro wants to paint Morawiecki into a corner. If he compromises with the EU, he will lose Kaczynski and PiS's support; if he vetoes the EU budget, he will lose out on funds that are necessary to govern Poland. His last, best chance is thus to get the conditionality mechanism watered down, thereby preserving both EU funding and something close to the status quo ante.

The softening of the government's position means either that Kaczynski was bluffing in his support for Ziobro, or simply that he had to face reality. Either way, a political defeat for Ziobro could lead to the break-up of the United Right.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. www.project-syndicate.org

Gbarpolu: NEC must recruit staff that speak local language

By D. Solomon Tayblah (LMD Fellow)
(Reprint ahead of runoff in Gbarpolu County)

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.

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

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 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.



Madam Regina M. Toe, used clothes seller

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 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

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.

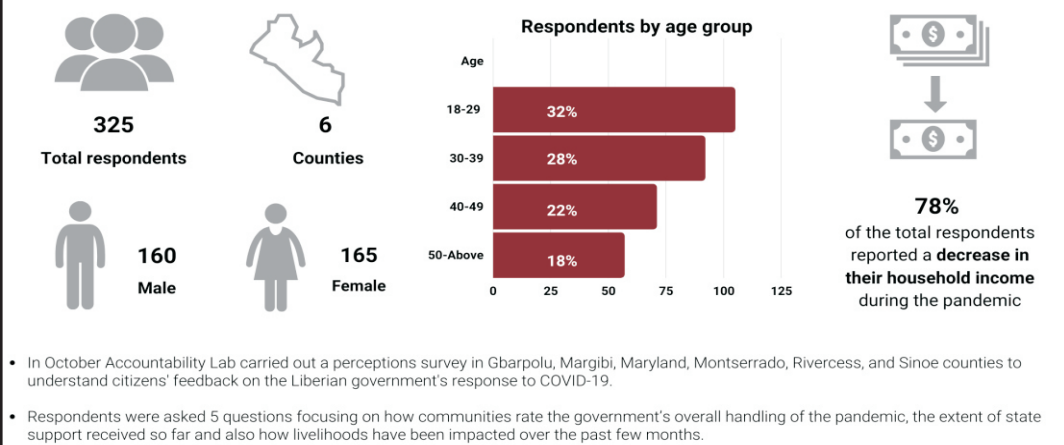
The political campaigning is scheduled to end on December 6. The NEC has scheduled to announce the provisional results for the Referendum & Senatorial Election on December 10, two days after the election.



Madam Botoe Kanneh, only female candidate from the county

COVID-19 FOLLOW THE MONEY

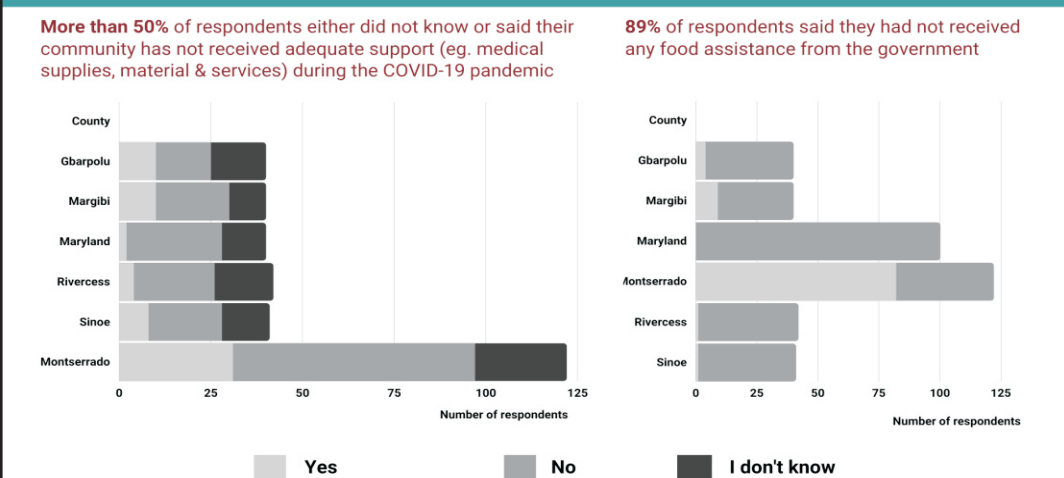
Government of Liberia COVID-19 Response Perception Survey



Get in touch with us on Facebook: @accountabilityliberia

CIVIC ACTION TEAMS, accountabilitylab, skoll FOUNDATION, UN DDP

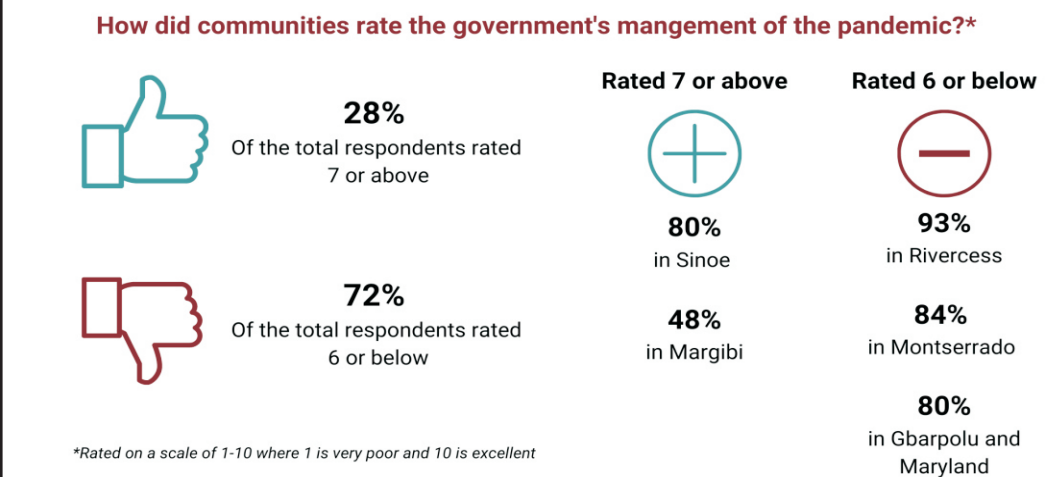
COVID-19 FOLLOW THE MONEY



Are you a resident of any of the counties? Have you received or been denied of food assistance? What has been your experience when receiving food assistance? Share your experiences and challenges with us: info@accountabilitylab.org

CIVIC ACTION TEAMS, accountabilitylab, skoll FOUNDATION, UN DDP

COVID-19 FOLLOW THE MONEY



Are you a resident of any of the counties? Have you received or been denied of food assistance? What has been your experience when receiving food assistance? Share your experiences and challenges with us: info@accountabilitylab.org

CIVIC ACTION TEAMS, accountabilitylab, skoll FOUNDATION, UN DDP

COVID-19 FOLLOW THE MONEY

Citizens' Feedback

"Donations have been awesome, but in most cases, they haven't reached the intended population. When these donations reach the county, they get to the authorities and most times they are used for their personal gains, or within the communities where they live." - (Margibi County Resident)

"Most people did not benefit from donations to the county because those who received the donations did not give the said donations to the people in need. The government did not do any follow-up checks within the counties, especially Sinoe to ensure that the right thing was done." - (Sinoe County Resident)

"From the onset of the preparation for support to fight against the coronavirus, the central government contribution was very low, the social messages were too few and unclear. Therefore, citizens had a hard time believing that the outbreak of the virus was real." - (Gbarpolu County Resident)

"The COVID-19 lockdown and suspension of working activities have made livelihood hard on the citizens. The government has failed to help. They marked houses to distribute food but until now, the needy people have not received any food supply in the counties. Even though private institutions and individuals did well, the politicians/county authorities took advantage of the donations and used the items to run their reelection campaigns." - (Nimba County Resident)

Get in touch with us on Facebook: @accountabilityliberia

CIVIC ACTION TEAMS, accountabilitylab, skoll FOUNDATION, UN DDP

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

AFL reviews draft Court Martial regulation

By Winston W. Parley

Authorities at the Ministry of National Defense and the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) have reviewed the draft Court Martial regulation for the military here at a one - day

said the intent of the workshop is all about how the Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) can be practicalized to start the summary court, the special court and the general court martial, following the passage of the Act since 2017.

Johnson said recently at the Barclay Training Center during the workshop.

He indicates that it's a milestone to see the resumption of Court Martial proceedings here technically since 2003 when the Armed Forces of Liberia was restructured based on the Accra Peace Accord.

"To come back and see the resumption of Court Martial proceedings I think it's a milestone. From 2010 we started this process to see how best we can have a document; 2017 that document was approved, passed, printed into handbill, 2020 we have started to see how best we can start court martial proceedings from the UCMJ," he says.

Chief of Staff Johnson assures that the AFL will be open for discussion, particularly calling on the Independent Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Justice, the Liberia National Bar Association, Governance Reform Commission for their support.

"The fabric of every democracy, even security sector, is the hallmark of discipline, and the only way

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



workshop graced by key stakeholders from the justice and human rights sectors, among others.

The Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia Maj. Gen. Prince C. Johnson, III,

"Based on that we decided to call stakeholders who are or will be involved in these proceedings after this ... is signed by the Commander - in - Chief of the Armed Forces to begin that process," Gen.

Foreign missions hail just ended elections

Diplomatic missions here have congratulated Liberians for the peaceful conduct of the December 8, Senatorial midterm elections and constitutional referendum.

The missions include the United Nations in Liberia, ECOWAS, Embassies of Member States of the African Union, the EU Delegation and the Embassies of the EU Member States (France, Germany, Ireland, and Sweden), the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Embassy of the United States of America.

In a joint statement issued Friday December 11, the diplomatic community commended the Liberian people and government, as well as political leaders, civil society organizations and the media for the peaceful conduct of the December 8 mid-term Senatorial election and constitutional referendum.

"We have been inspired by the strong commitment to

democracy expressed by Liberians in these elections," the statement read.

The diplomats also expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the National Elections Commission (NEC), and in particular, pollworkers present at polling places across the country, as well as all those mobilized on Election Day including domestic

observers and members of security forces, for the overall smooth and orderly running of the elections.

"We welcome and support the announcement by the NEC that those electoral irregularities and incidents identified during Election Day will be properly

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Liberia gets Youthlead ambassador post

By Ben P. Wesee

Out of 3,100 persons from across the globe that applied to serve as Youthlead ambassadors, Liberia has been selected along with 21 others for this role following many vetting processes.

The Executive Director of Hope for Young People Mr. Thomas Tamba Bundoo was selected by Youthlead to serve as Ambassador to Liberia.

Youthlead is a USAID - funded project YouthPower learning launched in 2018, for young change makers making a positive impact in their community through service, activism, advocacy, education and entrepreneurship.

Their network members are focused on finding solutions by connecting people, ideas, and

Ambassadors globally," Thomas Tamba Bundoo says.

According to the Hope for Young people Executive Director, September 25 of this year, he was among the over 3,100 young people who applied globally to serve as Youthlead Ambassadors in their respective countries.

He notes that on November 9, he was informed by the team that he was qualified for the next stage which was Zoom interview, adding that he was selected on November 30 as an Ambassador of Youthlead.

"December 7, we finalized the agreement and I officially signed up to serve as Youthlead Ambassador to Liberia," Thomas Bundoo explains.

Bundoo points out that as a



resources to tackle critical issues affecting young people at home and around the world.

Addressing the press over the weekend at the head office of Hope for Young People Inc. at Barnesville Junction, Thomas Tamba Bundoo extended his appreciation to the Youthlead family for affording a young Liberian the opportunity to serve as ambassador global.

"We called you here today to inform [the] public more especially the young people of Liberia about the step that we have taken in [Raising] the Red, White and Blue across the globe, by being selected along with 21 others out of 3,100 young people who applied to serve as Youthlead

Youthlead Ambassador, his function is to lead activities and engagement with young change makers in the communities and country to promote Youthlead and increase engagement on the platform over the next six months.

"The Youthlead Ambassadors have a proven track record in mobilizing other young change makers and youth through their activities," he says.

"The Ambassadors are taking part in a six [month] program and will play a key role in bringing the benefits of Youthlead to national, regional, and local groups of change makers. They will also help to grow Youthlead's global reach," he adds.—Edited by Winston W. Parley

WWW Advertise Here! Subscribe to our website get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Five years after the adoption of the Paris Agreement: ECOWAS is more mobilized than ever for climate action

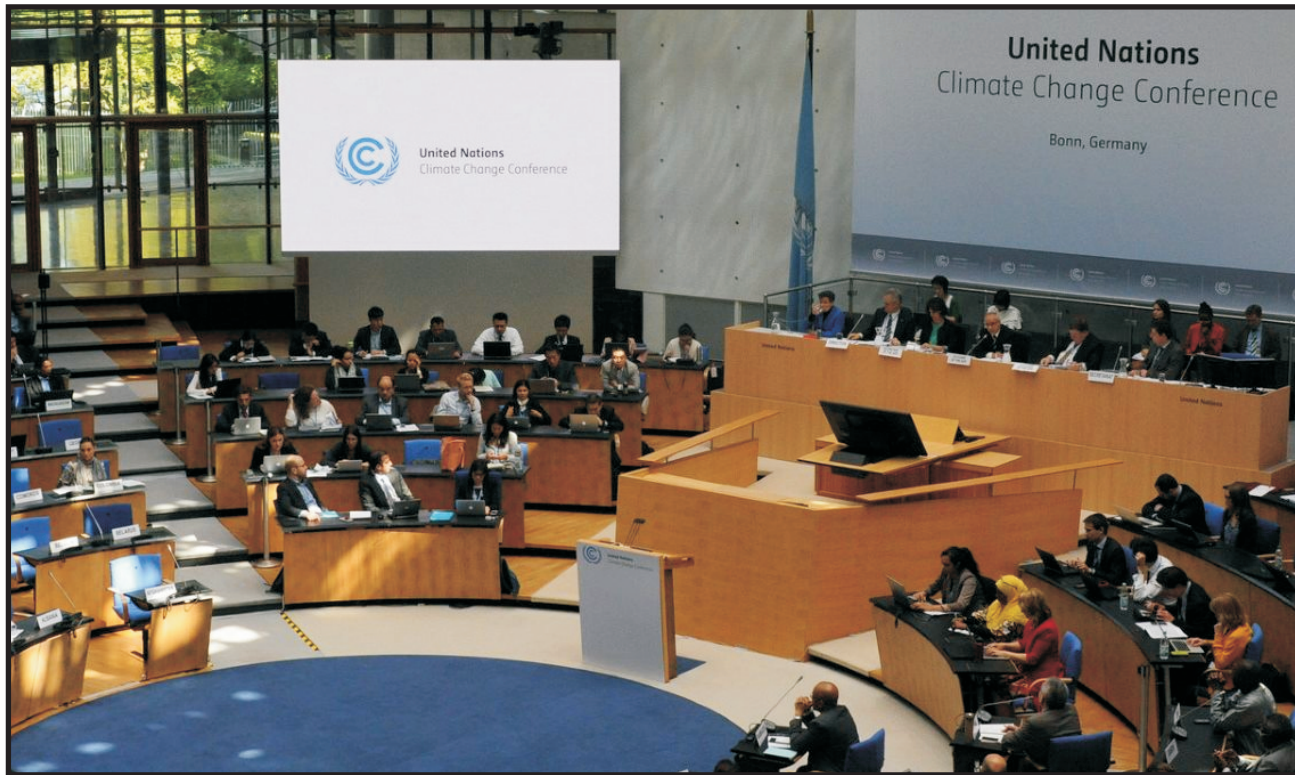
Five years after its adoption in Paris at COP21 organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement became effective in 2020 and the ECOWAS Commission intends to reaffirm its commitment to support the global response

Commission affirms its strong support for the joint initiative of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres, the British Prime Minister, Mr. Boris Johnson, who will assume the Presidency of the COP26 in Glasgow, and the French President, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, to organize a World

industrial levels.

The ECOWAS Commission welcomes the confirmed participation of several Heads of State from the West African region at this World Summit.

According to Commission's President, Jean Claude Kassi Brou: "ECOWAS reiterates the importance of collective



to the threat of climate change.

According to Mr. Sékou SANGARE, Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources of ECOWAS "There is no time to waste in responding to the climate emergency, and this requires the action of all, in a spirit of solidarity and responsibility. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the UNFCCC COP26 has been postponed to November 2021, but this health crisis with multiple economic and social consequences must not hinder mobilization or delay action."

To this end, the ECOWAS

Climate Summit on December 12, 2020, with the aim of strengthening the ambition of climate action and reaffirming their commitment to the Paris Agreement as multilateral cooperation framework to achieve this.

This World Climate Ambition Summit will provide an opportunity for Heads of State and Government to announce an upward revision of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and will highlight exemplary initiatives and innovative solutions at all local levels, thus showing that it is possible to meet the challenge of limiting the temperature increase, if possible, to 1.5°C above pre-

action to support the effective implementation of the NDCs and of the Paris Agreement, as part of a united and concerted approach, starting at the regional level. The ECOWAS Commission joins in this collective mobilization by supporting the efforts of its member states within the framework of its mission and its mandate."

A regional climate strategy in West Africa is being developed, to provide coordinated actions at the regional level, aiming to strengthen the level of ambition of Member States while protecting the populations of the region who are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

This strategy will also make it possible to support transnational initiatives and mobilize additional financial resources for sustainable, low-carbon and resilient development, which contributes to the fight against poverty and food insecurity, for the well-being of the populations of West Africa.

The ECOWAS Commission will present the objectives and priority axis of its regional climate strategy at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021.- Press release

UK unveils third travel bans and asset freezes listing

The UK has announced a third tranche of sanctions under its Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime against 10 individuals and one entity from Russia, Venezuela, The Gambia and Pakistan for egregious human rights violations, including torture and murder.

A release issued said these sanctions, announced on International Human Rights Day, are part of the UK's global human rights regime which gives the UK powers to stop those involved in serious human rights abuses and violations from entering the country, channelling money through UK banks, or profiting from our economy.

This is the third time the UK has sanctioned people or entities for human rights violations and abuses under a UK-only regime, with the first in July and the second in September 2020.

This is also the second time the UK has worked alongside allies to announce sanctions, with the US also announcing their own measures today. In

of the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation in Argun; and Apti Alaudinov: Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Chechen Republic and Major General of the Police.

In Venezuela, sanctions will be imposed on senior security figures responsible for human rights violations in Maduro's illegitimate regime. These designations are a timely reminder of the crisis in Venezuela, coming as they do so soon after the illegitimate Maduro regime organised deeply flawed National Assembly elections on 6 December.

The affected individuals are Rafael Bastardo Commander of FAES (Special Action Forces) until 2019; Remigio Ceballos Ichaso: Head of the Strategic Command Operations of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (CEOFANB); and Fabio Zavarse Pabon: Commander of the National Guard (GNB).

In The Gambia, former President Yahya Jammeh, his former director of National Intelligence Agency, Yankuba Badjie, and his wife former first



total, the US and the UK designated 31 actors today for their involvement in serious human rights abuses.

In Russia, the UK is imposing sanctions, including travel bans and asset freezes, against three individuals and the Terek Special Rapid Response Unit responsible for torture and other human rights violations against LGBT people in Chechnya.

The individuals are Magomed Daudov: The Spokesperson/Chairperson of the Parliament of the Chechen Republic; Aiub Kataev: Head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

lady ZinebJammeh.

While in Pakistan Ahmad Anwar Khan, the former Senior Superintendent of Police in Malir District is also facing sanctions for historic human rights violations including extrajudicial killings of protestors and minority groups.

The UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said: "Today's sanctions send a clear message to human rights violators that the UK will hold them to account."

"The UK and our allies are shining a light on the severe and

Season Bonanza

Beginning Monday, December 14, 2020 the New Dawn will open its classified Advert section to all businesses.

You may advertise for as low as US\$15 daily.

Français

Sénatoriales au Liberia : l'opposition en tête des résultats partiels

L'opposition au Liberia a consolidé son avance sur le pouvoir aux élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat, selon des résultats partiels annoncés jeudi et vendredi par la commission électorale. C'est un sérieux revers pour le président George Weah.

Les Libériens se sont rendus mardi aux urnes pour choisir 15 de leurs 30 sénateurs et pour un référendum constitutionnel proposant notamment de

réduire la durée du mandat du chef de l'Etat et d'autoriser la double nationalité.

Le parti de Weah est en passe de ne rapporter que 3 sièges sur toute l'étendue du territoire national selon les résultats partiels dévoilés jeudi et vendredi par la Commission électorale nationale (NEC). Le reste des sièges risquent de choir aux mains des membres de l'opposition et des candidats indépendants.

L'opposition est même sur le point d'enregistrer une victoire

hautement symbolique en remportant le comté de Montserrado, le plus peuplé du pays et qui comprend la capitale Monrovia.

C'était aussi le fief électoral historique de George Weah, qu'il a représenté au Sénat de 2015 à son accession à la présidence de l'Etat en janvier 2018.

Or, l'un des adversaires les plus farouches de l'ex-star du foot mondial, le sénateur Darius Dillon, élu à

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



President George M. Weah

Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapcor

La société civile appelle le gouvernement à ouvrir une enquête dans le cas Me Sherman

Le Centre pour la transparence et la responsabilité au Libéria (CENTAL) exhorte le gouvernement du Libéria à enquêter sur le cas du sénateur du comté de Grand Cape Mount, Me Varney G. Sherman, mis en cause par le Département du Trésor des

États-Unis pour corruption présumée.

« Nous appelons le Gouvernement du Liberia, en particulier la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria (LACC) et le pouvoir judiciaire, à enquêter sur les rapports qui accablent Me Sherman en l'accusant de corruption et de paiements des

pots-de-vin à des juges pour juger en sa faveur », a déclaré CENTAL.

Animant un point de presse au bureau de CENTAL à Sinkorle jeudi 10 décembre, le directeur exécutif du groupe, M. Anderson Miamen, a déclaré que le rapport publié par le Département du Trésor des États-Unis ne devrait pas être pris à la légère vu les actions initiales des partenaires internationaux.

« Une telle corruption judiciaire signalée, en particulier dans l'affaire Sable Mining, sape la position d'indépendance, d'équité et de respect de l'état de droit », a-t-il dit.

Selon Miamen, « ces actions enfreignent en outre les canons judiciaires et le code de conduite, l'éthique morale et professionnelle des avocats ».

Le patron du CENTAL réitère l'appel de son institution à un soutien moral et financier accru aux institutions de moralisation

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

La violence électorale menace la paix sociale

Peu importe leur appartenance politique, qu'ils soient de l'opposition ou de la majorité au pouvoir, les Libériens n'ont d'autre choix que de rejeter et de dénoncer la violence avant, pendant et après les élections sénatoriales et le référendum national de mardi pour promouvoir la paix et la stabilité politique, gage du développement socio-économique. C'est au fait un devoir patriotique.

Il est regrettable qu'un libérien, qui qu'il soit, place l'intérêt d'un parti politique ou d'un candidat au-dessus de la survie de la nation. On ne peut en réalité se rendre coupable d'un tel comportement que quand on souffre d'une myopie mentale ou d'un aveuglement égoïste et cupide, qui sont bien évidemment incapables de contribuer à la cause nationale.

La responsabilité primordiale de chaque citoyen, peu importe son parti, sa tribu ou de son appartenance religieuse, est de contribuer à la construction d'un meilleur Libéria dans lequel tous peuvent coexister dans une harmonie et réaliser leur plein potentiel.

Les nouvelles de la violence électorale dont le comté de Grand Cape Mount a été le théâtre au cours du week-end en marge de la campagne, qui s'est soldée par l'incendie des voitures et d'une maison sont à la fois effrayantes et décevantes. Ces actes barbares laissent penser que nous voulons ramener notre cher pays à l'anarchie et au vandalisme après 14 ans de meurtres violents et de destruction juste pour satisfaire un parti politique ou un candidat.

Pourquoi des gens voudraient-ils se rabaisser aussi bas par cupidité pour le pouvoir qui n'appartient qu'au peuple. Si les habitants du comté de Grand Cape Mount décident d'élire un candidat X ou Y, c'est leur plein droit en vertu de la Constitution et cela doit être respecté.

Un candidat qui perd une élection doit toujours savoir qu'il y a plus d'opportunités à venir, et qu'une telle défaite signifie simplement qu'il faut revoir sa stratégie pour les élections futures. Le président actuel George Manneh Weah est un exemple flagrant d'un homme qui a eu à faire preuve de patience et de maîtrise de soi. C'est le lieu de dire que quand le moment fixé par Dieu arrive, on aura ce pour quoi on s'est battu tout ce temps.

Nous sommes plus que convaincu qu'aucun politicien ou candidat en lice ne voudra présider un pays à feu et à sang, qui fait fuir les partenaires et les investisseurs et dont les citoyens s'engouffrent dans la misère et la famine. A moins qu'on soit clairement un ennemi du pays.

C'est pourquoi nous voudrions relayer l'appel lancé par les missions étrangères accréditées au Libéria qui exigent que les violences de Grand Cape Mount fassent l'objet d'une enquête rapide afin que les auteurs soient traduits en justice pour rassurer les citoyens et les résidents étrangers.

Le fait que le président Weah condamne la violence et appelle les acteurs politiques et leurs dirigeants au calme est loin d'être suffisant. Il faut que le gouvernement fasse pour cette fois preuve de fermeté afin que de tels actes de violence ne se répètent dans le pays.

Les élections viennent et passent, mais le Libéria, qui est notre dénominateur commun, demeure toujours, c'est pourquoi nous sommes tenus à privilégier l'intérêt de la nation, car sans la stabilité, tout est insensé.

Français

Sénatoriales au Liberia :

Montserrado en 2019, serait reconduit avec plus de 60% des voix, selon les chiffres de la NEC portant sur environ 89% des suffrages.

La commission électorale continuera à publier au fur et à mesure du dépouillement les résultats des sénatoriales. Ceux du référendum sont attendus le 23 décembre.

L'échéance a valeur de double test pour le président Weah, qui avait soulevé un immense espoir en accédant au pouvoir dans un des pays les plus pauvres du monde et toujours marqué par la guerre civile de 1989-2003 et l'épidémie d'Ebola de 2014-2016. Il n'a pas réussi à redresser l'économie et l'enthousiasme a fait place au

désenchantement.

Les principaux partis d'opposition avaient appelé à boycotter le référendum, disant craindre qu'une révision constitutionnelle ne serve à M. Weah à briguer le moment venu un troisième mandat, chose impossible en l'état actuel, en faisant valoir que les compteurs auraient été remis à zéro.

L'entourage de M. Weah dément un tel dessein. Mais les réélections récentes des présidents Alpha Condé et Alassane Ouattara pour un troisième mandat chez les voisins guinéen et ivoirien, rendues possibles par l'adoption de nouvelles Constitutions, ont ravivé le spectre des présidences à vie.

La société civile appelle

de la vie publique afin qu'elles fonctionnent de manière indépendante et efficace.

« Nous appelons également à un engagement accru des citoyens et de la société civile indépendante dans la lutte contre la corruption dans le pays car ils sont tous des acteurs essentiels », a déclaré Miamen.

La déclaration de CENTAL fait suite à la publication d'un rapport accablant du Département américain du Trésor contre les auteurs présumés de corruption et de graves violations des droits de l'homme, en particulier au

Libéria.

Dans ce rapport, le sénateur Sherman a été cité comme s'étant rendu coupable d'acte de corruption directement ou indirectement.

Selon le rapport, Me Sherman a offert des pots-de-vin à plusieurs juges associés à son procès concernant l'affaire de corruption de Sable Mining.

Selon le rapport, le sénateur de Grand Cape Mount payait régulièrement des juges pour juger en sa faveur et aurait facilité le versement des pots de vin à des politiciens libériens pour soutenir la destitution d'un juge qui aurait tranché contre lui.

Sahara occidental : la colère de l'Algérie après l'annonce de Donald Trump

« Des manœuvres étrangères qui visent à déstabiliser l'Algérie » : le Premier ministre algérien, Abdelaziz Djerad, a commenté en ces termes ce samedi 12 décembre la normalisation des relations entre le Maroc et Israël, et la reconnaissance par les États-Unis de la souveraineté marocaine sur le territoire du Sahara occidental. Le président américain sortant, Donald Trump, en a fait l'annonce jeudi soir.

Depuis quarante ans, l'Algérie soutient le Front Polisario, mouvement politique armé, qui demande l'indépendance du Sahara occidental, territoire considéré « non-autonome » par les Nations unies et occupé par le Maroc. La récente décision de Donald Trump de reconnaître la souveraineté marocaine sur le

Sahara occidental fait monter la tension d'un cran dans toute la région. En l'absence du président Abdelmadjid Tebboune, pour des raisons de santé, le Premier ministre algérien Abdelaziz Djerad ne mâche pas ses mots. « Il y a maintenant une volonté de l'entité sioniste de se rapprocher de nos frontières », a-t-il déclaré. Pour lui, la normalisation des relations entre le Maroc et Israël, ainsi que la reconnaissance par les États-Unis de la souveraineté marocaine sur le Sahara occidental, sont deux coups d'une même partie d'échecs dont l'objectif est d'affaiblir la position algérienne dans la région. L'Algérie prête à assumer ses responsabilités

Depuis le 13 novembre, les tensions ont repris entre le Front Polisario, (ANP) se dit « contrainte d'assumer ses obligations régionales », compte tenu de son soutien immuable à « toutes les causes justes ».

COMMENTAIRE

Par Pascal Lamy Enrico Letta & Laurence Tubiana

Les dirigeants de l'UE doivent maintenir le cap écologique

PARIS - Les historiens observeront sans aucun doute l'année 2020 comme un tournant pour l'Union européenne. Mais laquelle des deux actualités concurrentes sera retenue dans cette période critique ?

D'un côté, cette année pourrait être définie par le conflit et la désintégration : sortie du Royaume-Uni hors de l'UE ; conflits autour des politiques migratoires ; veto de la Hongrie et de la Pologne face au budget de l'UE et au fonds de reprise contre le COVID-19, pour cause de conditionnalité du respect de l'État de droit pour l'obtention des fonds de l'UE. D'un autre côté, 2020 pourrait se démarquer comme l'année qui aura vu l'Europe décider une bonne fois pour toutes de viser une économie verte décarbonée, un sentiment renouvelé de solidarité, ainsi qu'une intégration plus profonde pour façonner sa reprise économique.

Un sommet majeur du Conseil européen ayant lieu cette semaine, il appartiendra aux chefs d'État et de gouvernement de l'UE de décider s'ils entendent rester engagés pour les valeurs fondamentales de l'Union. Au printemps, le président français Emmanuel Macron et la chancelière allemande Angela Merkel ont convenu de mettre en place le fonds de relance, posant ainsi l'une des bases de l'avenir de l'Europe. Cette proposition a marqué une importante rupture par rapport à la politique traditionnelle de l'UE - notamment du point de vue allemand - dans la mesure où elle a envisagé une démarche commune d'emprunt, ainsi qu'une union de transfert au-delà du budget existant de l'UE.

Cette avancée franco-allemande a résonné comme une réaffirmation du Pacte vert pour l'Europe, ainsi que de l'objectif consistant à atteindre la neutralité des émissions d'ici le milieu du siècle. Elle a permis à la Commission européenne de proposer le plan de relance Next Generation EU, un programme de subventions et de prêts destiné à répondre aux difficultés supplémentaires que le COVID-19 a infligé à l'Europe - en particulier à ses États membres du sud.

À l'issue de l'un des plus longs sommets du Conseil européen de l'histoire, les dirigeants de l'UE ont adopté les priorités et modalités de ce qui correspond à un plan de relance massif de 1 800 milliards €. L'accord de juillet prévoyait toutefois deux dispositions clés, l'une sur la politique climatique, l'autre sur le respect de l'État de droit, fixant les conditions du versement de ces fonds. La disposition relative à l'État de droit a par la suite été renforcée, sur insistance du Parlement européen.

En raison de sa valeur symbolique pour l'UE, et de son caractère indispensable pour les États membres du sud, le plan Next Generation EU a rapidement été pris pour cible par la Pologne et la Hongrie. Craignant que la conditionnalité du respect de l'État de droit expose leurs abus (cautionnés par leur gouvernement respectif) dans l'emploi des fonds de l'UE, et redoutant que cela vienne limiter le montant à percevoir en provenance des caisses de l'Union, les deux pays ont opposé leur veto à l'une des dispositions (dite « own-resources decision »), qui est nécessaire pour l'approbation du budget sur 7 ans et du fonds de relance de l'UE.

C'est un pari risqué pour la Pologne et la Hongrie, dans la mesure où le fonds de cohésion de l'UE a

financé la majeure partie de leurs investissements publics sur la période 2015-2017 (à hauteur de plus de trois cinquièmes pour la Pologne, et de plus de 55 % pour la Hongrie). Quoi qu'il en soit, le chantage exercé par les deux pays a créé une impasse, qui alimente certaines tensions politiques à l'approche du sommet de cette semaine, au cours duquel devra par ailleurs être approuvé un nouvel objectif de réduction des émissions de 55 % d'ici 2030.

Le sommet intervient au moment même où les bienfaits du fonds de relance deviennent évidents. L'UE a vendu sa nouvelle obligation à dix ans à un rendement de -0,24 %. L'Italie vend ses obligations souveraines à un rendement de 0,76 %. Et ces émissions d'obligations ont été nettement sursouscrites.

Par ailleurs, compte tenu des obligations de reconstruction, la mutualisation de la dette s'oriente vers la création d'un actif européen sûr, via l'émission d'une dette commune. Ceci établit également les rudiments d'un cadre décisionnel pour une politique budgétaire au niveau européen. La confiance des marchés en l'UE a naturellement augmenté.

Aspect plus subtile, l'action budgétaire concertée dans le cadre du plan Next Generation EU vient légitimer les mesures décisives prises par la Banque centrale européenne (sous la forme d'achats d'actifs), produisant de fait une coordination de la politique monétaire en réponse à la crise du COVID-19.

Ceux qui envisagent de céder face à la Hongrie et à la Pologne se focalisent sur les progrès accomplis dans la réduction de l'écart entre les taux d'intérêt payés par les États membres du sud et ceux du nord. Ils considèrent que ce nouvel alignement politique - engendré par le plan Next Generation EU - ne devrait pas être mis à mal pour le bien de la conditionnalité de l'État de droit. En particulier du point de vue des États membres du sud, et à l'heure où une terrible deuxième vague de COVID-19 pèse sur l'Europe, renoncer à cette disposition de conditionnalité apparaît comme la moins mauvaise des options.

Or, le fait de céder au chantage viendrait sérieusement mettre à mal la crédibilité de l'UE, et affaiblirait la confiance accrue des marchés financiers mondiaux quant à son futur et à celui de l'euro. Cela ouvrirait la porte à d'autres vetos régressifs contre des mesures nécessaires au renforcement du modèle démocratique de l'UE, ainsi qu'à l'accomplissement de la neutralité carbone d'ici 2050. Le fort appétit des marchés financiers pour les obligations vertes émises par l'UE diminuerait - élevant ainsi les coûts d'emprunt - et les achats d'actifs par la BCE pourraient également subir des dommages collatéraux.

Lors du sommet du Conseil européen de cette semaine, il est essentiel que les dirigeants luttent pour l'avenir financier de l'UE, la solidarité entre nos peuples, et le choix démocratique. À l'heure où nous écrivons ces lignes, il se murmure qu'un compromis aurait été trouvé avec la Hongrie et la Pologne. Si tel est le cas, ce compromis ne doit en aucun cas trahir la promesse formulée en juillet lors de la création du fonds de relance. En effet, le moyen le plus sûr de saboter la confiance effervescente des marchés financiers dans l'UE et ses finances consisterait à compromettre ces valeurs et conditions qui sous-tendent ce sentiment des marchés.

Opposition in commanding lead

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Five of the 15 counties of Liberia have fallen to the main opposition Collaborating Political Parties in the just-ended December 08, 2020 Special Senatorial election.

The counties include; Montserrado County with Senator Darius Dillon retaining his seat; in Grand Bassa County, Liberty Party Standard Bearer, Senator Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence is edging out former Foreign Affairs Minister Gbehzohngar Findley; CPP candidate in Grand Cape County Simeon Taylor skillfully beat incumbent Victor Watson of the ruling CDC, while in Bong County, Deputy Speaker Prince Moye politically ousts incumbent Senator Henry Yallah and Lofa County where Liberia's longest served Defense Minister Brownie Samukai democratically unseat incumbent Senator George Tengbeh who also contested on the CDC's ticket.

The ruling party managed to retain Maryland County through James Biney of the National Patriotic Party and Sinoe County with incumbent Cllr. Augustine Chea retaining his seat.



Already, of the 14 senators that sought reelection, three thus far have retained their respective seat; they are Senators Dillon, Karnga Lawrence and Cllr. Chea.

The results are seen as a big blow to President George Weah's ruling Congress for Democratic Change. The Elections Commission on Thursday announced preliminary results from eight counties.

Speaking at a press conference, chairperson of the National Elections Commission (NEC), Davidetta Browne

Lansanah, said "The Liberian people can be rest assured that the Commission will accurately announce the results of the election as expressed by the people through the ballot box."

The special senatorial elections are seen as a test of support for Weah, a former football icon who has faced criticism as president over persisting economic problems.

The opposition is also leading in the country's largest county, Montserrado,

which is home to the capital Monrovia, as well as most of the voters in the nation.

Tuesday's election is regarded to have been peaceful in most parts of the country as 2.2 million registered voters went to the polls to elect 15 senators.

The elections occurred alongside a referendum on

reducing presidential terms and allowing dual nationality.

Below are preliminary results from the counties:

?
Abraham D. Dillon -CPP- 69.38%

?
J. Emmanuel Nuquay -PUP- 57.59%

?
Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence - CPP- 42.01%

?
Jeremiah Koung -MDR/CDC- 35.99%

?
Geevon Wellington Smith- Independent- 23.45%

?
Augustine S. Cheah -CDC- 44.42

?
Z. Emmanuel Pennue -CDC- 39.41%

?
Boycharles J. Sogbie -CPP- 33.59%

?
James P. Biney -CDC- 39.44%

?
Nathaniel N. Bahway -LINU- 22.22%

Starts from back page

However, he said the Election Magistrate in the county didn't accorded them any redress and went ahead to break seals on the ballot boxes, carrying on final counting and tailing of ballot papers without a single representative from each of them as aggrieved party that has filed a formal complaint except a representative of CDC candidate James Biney, who was present.

He noted that such action from the Election Magistrate is a abuse of power and trust reposed on NEC by the people, stressing that the Commission is the body that should bring on the table the highest degree credibility, neutrality, integrity and honorability to portray the true aspirations of voters.

Ballout added that it's what democracy calls for, and they as aggrieved candidates, want that to be done.

"So today we all have been informed about what is going on in the entire county and country about elections and what we have said yesterday, and we want to reiterate that we have complained, taken the advantage of the legal

6 candidates cry

process that is contained in our Constitution's and Electoral System; we have complained to NEC and of course, the same complaint continue to happen.

We asked NEC for redress and on the same breath that we have asked NEC for redress, the Magistrate who has just being assigned in the County a day prior to the conduct of the Election, upon receipt of our complaint, said he disagreed with all claims of election fraud without any investigation of the matter", he said.

Ballot continued, "Today we have moved one step further in engaging other partners in seeking attention of the public about attitude of the Magistrate during and after the just ended December 8 Election. As we speak, two of our members of this group, Senator H. Dan Morias who has earlier written NEC, has been invited to NEC for investigation", he added.

"We are going there to make one thing clear, we are going to take advantage of what is before us and at the sametime mention the lack of trust and confidence in the system and Leadership of NEC Magistrate in the County", he concluded.

Dr. Wollor E. Topor of the aggrieved candidates

mentioned that though they are being seem as enemies of the State, their objective of coming together is to engage the National Elections Commission in order for justice to be served.

Dr. Topor continued that since the preliminary results were announced, citizens of the county have been feeling bad and downhearted because they know that the results weren't the way they expected due to their votes cast.

"Look, can you imagine some boxes are still out and Election Magistrate began counting ballots at his office?" He asked.

William Philip Anderson, an independent candidate and member of aggrieved candidates said, the National Elections Commission has allegedly conducted a fraudulent election based on the results and evidence gathered, arguing

that in as much as the National Elections Commission Magistrate will carry out counting and tallying without informing the senatorial candidates despite their complaint filled, it has justified his incredibility and

The NewDawn Newspaper
is on the Newsstand Daily.

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

unfairness.

"We want justice and fairness in this Country and that can be done if we as citizens stand strong in making sure that things are done properly."

CPP candidate Eric Wlea Giko, said in as much as they have agreed to come together in order to coexist for one purpose, it tells the seriousness of the matter in question.

"Let me say, we will accept the results if provided the legal process is done but as long we are seeking the legal and logical conclusion and we are not accorded proper redress, it is difficult to understand the fairness that was done."

For his part, incumbent Senator H. Dan Morias lauded the group members and stressed that those who may see their actions as losers and lazy need to be aware that they are not fighting a lazy and losing battle.

"We have all evidence of

some duplicated cards in our possession that were distributed by some individuals of the CDC candidate to kids that haven't reached voting ages; we also noticed during the voting date, NEC Polling Staff were caught and detained by the Liberia National Police for issuing three ballot papers to an individual to vote in East Harper; we also noticed NEC Polling Staff telling citizens to vote Number three that which is CDC candidate; we also noticed that results were missed calculated, others were calculated in CDC candidate's favor, among others", he explained.

The six aggrieved candidates however called on their supporters to remain calm as they engage government to prevail on NEC to halt the preliminary results in Maryland, pending full investigation.

The NEC magistrate in Maryland was not accessible for comment on these allegations.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

CPP sends 2023 message (pt1 of 5)

By Othello B. Garblah

Progressive reports from the just ended December 8, 2020 Senatorial by-elections appear to be showing a political tsunami by the opposition with 12 of the 15 seats being contested so far falling to the opposition.

If the results stay as they are, this could be a clear 2023 message to the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), which only have a cleared lead in three of the counties so far.

The results at this stage also show a total disapproval of the Weah led regime

National Congress (ANC) headed by Cummings is said to be ahead 7 counties.

The CPP so far is the projected winner in 6 of the 7 counties while one is still close to call. The six counties are Montserrado, where incumbent Senator Darius Dillon is set to retain his seat; Lofa, where former Defense Minister J. Brownie Samukai is set to be ushered in as the new senator; Grand Bassa, incumbent Senator Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence is also set to retain her seat; Grand Capemount, Simeon Boima Taylor is set to be the new Senator; Bong County, Deputy House Speaker Prince

opposition candidates, three are in the hands of independent candidates-in Rivercess, independent candidate Abraham Geevon Smith is ahead, followed by Bomi County where a UP candidate Edwin Snowe, who is running as an independent candidate is set to cross over to the Senate from the House of Representative and Gbarpolu, where an independent female candidate BotoeKanneh is set to win, although a runoff is expected in two towns where youth took away the ballot boxes on election day.

In Margibi County, the



policies with voters demonstrating same at the ballot boxes. It could also mean that the opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) are said to be gaining grounds ahead of 2023 as per the results.

The CPP currently being chaired by former Coca Cola Executive Alexander B. Cummings, which comprises the Liberty Party (LP) of late Cllr. Charles W. Brumskine, the All Liberian Party (ALP) of businessman Benoni Urey, the Unity Party (UP) of former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and the Alternative

Moye is set to cross over to the Senate in January and Rivergee where former soccer star Jonathan Sengbe, popularly known as Boy Charles is set to be the new Senator in January.

Nimba County is still close to call as CPP's Edith Gongloe-Weh and MDR (Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction-founded by Senator Prince Johnson) Jeremiah K. Koung are said to be running neck to neck. The county still has a pending runoff in two centers where voting did not take place on Election Day.

Of the remaining 5 of the 12 seats being headed by

People's Unification Party (PUP) candidate former House Speaker Emmanuel Nuquay is set to win the seat, while in Grand Kru County, the Liberian National Union (LINU), Nathaniel N. Bahway is set to dethrone the CDC's Senator Peter Coleman who currently sits third in the race.

The George Weah'sruling CDC, according to the progressive provisional results leads in only three of the 15 counties-Grand Gedeh, Sinoe and Maryland Counties. *(To be continued).*

AFL reviews draft

Cont'd from page 6

discipline can be effective is having the rule of law that we have somewhere that people can go and be able to argue, look at it and be able to move forward," he says.

At the close of the workshop, Gen. Johnson presented plaques and golden coins to representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Liberia National Bar Association, the Independent Human Rights Commission and Governance Reform Commission, expressing the military's gratitude for their support.

Earlier, Deputy Defense Minister for Administration Olandrus Dickson indicated the ministry's commitment in ensuring that all necessary legal structures, legal framework under which the AFL will operate are in place and that officers are regulated appropriately to conform to

local and international human rights requirements.

For his part, Atty. Emmanuel B. Yates, Director of Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Defense and the AFL, presenting the draft Court Martial Regulation, notes that the AFL Judge Advocate General Department is the legal arm of the new AFL which was established in 2010 as Legal Section.

He recalls that the section commenced with few paralegal trained in military justice in the US and Europe, adding that the strength increased to 17 paralegal comprising four officers and 13 enlisted performing the task of legal officers at various command.

He adds that before now, the AFL didn't have adequate manpower to fully operationalize the Uniform Code of Military Justice since it was passed into law in 2017.

UK unveils third

Cont'd from page 7

systematic human rights violations perpetrated by those sanctioned today. Global Britain will stand up for democracy, human rights and the rule of law as a force for good in the world."

Underlining the UK's position as a global force for good, this regime showcases commitment to the rules-based international system and to standing up for victims of human rights violations and abuses around

Electoral violence

Starts from back page

the Supreme Court of Liberia, stressing that there is no need to undercut results of the elections.

Our source said the situation has intensified with protesters threatening to burn the NEC local office if the results were wreck in favor of Senator Peter Coleman of the CDC.

NEC official results from Grand Kru County as of Saturday, December 12, 2020,

put Mr. Nathaniel N. Bahway as receiving a total vote of 22.22%. Mr. Blama said that his party will not take lightly any attempt by anyone to hijack the result of that county.

Meanwhile, when this paper contacted the commission via mobile phone, NEC authorities promised to verify the information in the soonest possible time. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Cont'd from page 6

Foreign missions hail

addressed, they added.

They also caution Liberians saying "as the tallying process by the NEC continues, we underscore the importance that all political parties, leaders and supporters, as well as candidates, respect this process and wait patiently until the tallying is completed and the results are officially announced."

The diplomats reminded Liberians of the commitments made by stakeholders in the Code of Conduct to ensure a peaceful and transparent electoral process and call on all political parties, leaders, candidates and media actors to renounce the use of inciting language and premature declarations of victory.

"We also call on political

leaders and candidates to pursue any disputes through peaceful means and dialogue in accordance with the law.

International partners continue to follow closely the electoral process.

We are confident in the strong commitment of the people of Liberia to democracy, peace and stability, and remain fully resolute to continuing our support to Liberians in their development and peacebuilding efforts," the statement concluded.

Advertise with us!

GET ACCESS TO THE

The
New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

www.thenewdawnliberia.com



Electoral violence rocks Grand Kru



By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Angry protesters have reportedly besieged the magistrate office of the National Elections Commission in Barclayville, Grand Kru County, calling for unconditional release of actual results from votes counted from the December

8, 2020, Special Senatorial election.

According to report, protest broke up after rumor circulated early Sunday, 13 December in the county that the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change is allegedly contemplating to reverse votes in favor of its candidate, incumbent Senator Dr. Peter

Coleman.

A credible source in Barclayville claimed members of the opposition, including Independent candidates have joined forces in calling for the unconditional release of the poll results.

Video footage from the scene is alarming, with just four officers of the Liberia National Police present, while the building hosting the NEC magistrate was surrounded by protesters.

In a telephone conversation with this paper, the political leader of the Liberia National Union (LINU) former Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, Nathaniel T. Blama, said there were consultative plans by the CDC to reverse votes in favor of its presumptive winner Nathaniel N. Bahway.

Blama stated that LINU will resist any attempt by the CDC to reverse votes in favor of its candidate even at the level of

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

For as low as 60 USD, you can own one of these!

You also enjoy **1GB** free data every month for **6 months!**
Phone prices range between **60USD and above.**

Available at: *itel shop at Broad and Center Streets Intersection.*

Features:

- 3G or 4G
- Fullscreen
- Powerful Battery
- Quality front and back cameras
- Fingerprint/Face Unlock

price range
\$60 and above
PLUS
1GB data
Free every month for 6 months

Dial *187# to get 1GB free data after purchase.

everywhere you go
Ts & Cs apply.

6 candidates cry foul in Maryland County

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Six candidates from the senatorial race in Maryland County have filed a complaint to the National Elections Commission, alleging the poll was marred by fraud.

The complainants are incumbent Senator H. Dan Morias, an Independent Candidate; Eric Wlea Giko of the Collaborating Political Party (CPP), John A. Ballout, a

Independent Candidate; Dr. E. Wollor Topor, Rainbow Alliance; Richard Emmanuel Wilbert Yancy, Independent Candidate, and William Philip Anderson, Independent Candidate, respectively.

Speaking to this paper Friday, December 11, 2020, spokesperson for the group of candidates, John A. Ballout commended citizens for being peaceful during the poll.

He noted that as aggrieved candidates, they have met and



Aggrieved senatorial candidates

discussed the alleged electoral malpractice and addressed local media in Harper District, Maryland County.

Mr. Ballout, a former senator and chairperson for the aggrieved candidates noted that during their first meeting, they wrote a formal complaint to the National Elections Commission office in Maryland County, outlining alleged fraud and other irregularities observed during the poll.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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...

Season Bonanza

Beginning Monday, December 14, 2020 the New Dawn will open its classified Advert section to all businesses.

You may advertise for as low as US\$15 daily.