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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 06, 2022	L\$152.0458/US\$1.00	L\$153.8166 /US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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UP resorts to legal battle

-rejects Lofa election result



Weah and CDC didn't win Lofa

-Cummings

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Continental News

Ethiopia's PM condemns mass killing of villagers

Ethiopia has seen a rise in ethnic violence in recent years and it seems things are worsening.

In a statement on Twitter, Prime Minister Abiy vowed to "eliminate" the armed group, the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), which he blamed for the violence.

The group has not yet

for at least three hours, witnesses have said.

Men, women, children and the elderly were killed indiscriminately as their houses were set on fire, forcing survivors to shelter in mosques, the witnesses added.

"We are still collecting dead bodies," one man who fled the violence told the BBC in a phone call on Monday evening. "Some of them were left in the [fields]. The houses that were burned could number between 50 and 70.

"More than 40 people who were wounded were taken to a clinic. Some of them could die there. Among those dead was a three-month-old baby," he said.

"It was horrifying. It's very difficult to describe it," another witness said.

"We heard about 25 youths were taken to the woods and killed. We still haven't found their bodies."

There is no official death toll yet but there are fears it could be high.

Similar attacks just over a fortnight ago in Gimbi district, around 110km (70 miles) north-east of Hawa Gelan, resulted in 338 deaths,

according official figures.

Activists said the real death toll was even higher.

Officials also blamed the OLA for that violence. It denied responsibility and instead pointed the finger at government soldiers.

The prime minister has faced strong criticism - including protests that led to clashes with security forces - following the killings in Gimbi. And similar reactions are expected this time.

Monday's violence is going to further exacerbate an already fragile security situation in the country's west.

While much of the attention in the past 20

months has been on the civil war in the north, which has resulted in one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, tensions have been brewing in other parts of the country.

The OLA is opposed to the federal government led by Mr Abiy.

Its fighters have been clashing with Ethiopian forces in the west of Oromia in recent months.

Ethiopia has a federal system with ethnically based regional states, but communities of different ethnicities live across the country.

Most of the Amharas, who were living in the areas that have been attacked, were resettled there by the government during the famine of the 1980s. BBC

A fresh round of attacks against an ethnic group in western Ethiopia has resulted in what Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has called a "massacre". This is the second such attack in a little over two weeks - the last left more



Abiy Ahmed has face criticism over the way he has handled recent killings

than 300 dead. Villages inhabited by members of the Amhara community were targeted, witnesses have told the BBC.

responded to the accusation.

The violence began around dawn on Monday in Hawa Gelan, a district in the west of the Oromia region, and continued

Sudan army to make way for civilian rule - coup leader



Pro-democracy protesters have been holding regular protests across Sudan

Sudan's military leader, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, has said the army will make way for a civilian government.

In a televised speech, he said the armed forces would not stand in the way of a democratic transition and was committed to working towards elections.

He said the military would no longer be involved in talks to end the country's political crisis, with its place in the negotiations taken up by civil society groups.

But Gen Burhan fell short of giving a timeline of when the handover will happen.

It is a huge concession for the army, which has been under increased pressure from pro-democracy protesters who have been holding regular protests across Sudan.

The army seized power in a coup last October after ousting the civilian-led government of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

Gen Burhan has previously reneged on a commitment to a democratic transition.

Earlier the authorities freed 145 activists who had been detained during protests on 30 June.

More than 100 people have been killed since the military coup in October. BBC

The frugal businessman capturing young Nigerian hearts

A wealthy businessman with a reputation for being frugal, Peter Obi has emerged as a powerful force ahead of Nigeria's presidential election next February, energising voters with messages of prudence and accountability that are amplified by an army of social media users.

In a country that seems to always be on the lookout for a messiah to solve its myriad problems, young social media-savvy supporters have elevated Mr Obi to sainthood and are backing his largely unknown Labour Party against two septuagenarian political heavyweights.

His name is often trending on social media on the back of numerous conversations sparked by his supporters, instantly recognisable from their display picture of his image or the white, red and green logo of his party.

These are mostly urban under-30s who refer to themselves as the "Coconut-head generation", because

they are strong-willed, independent-minded and contemptuous of older politicians who, they say, have done little for them.

Many of them, like Dayo Ekundayo from the eastern city of Owerri, were involved in the EndSars protests that forced the disbandment of a notorious police department two years ago and also morphed into calls for better government.

Now, they are deploying the same strategies that mobilized hundreds of thousands of young Nigerians and raised millions of naira within weeks for the 60-year-old who they consider an alternative to the two parties that have dominated politics since the end of military rule in 1999.

"Which Nigerian politician has ever held office and has



his integrity intact? I do not see any other logical option for young people in Nigeria," said Mr Ekundayo. He has already been involved in a march for Mr Obi, and is providing logistics and mobilising students for the campaign as he did during the EndSars protests.

But opponents say Mr Obi is a political impostor, one of many who spring up at

election time with delusions of being a third force that will wrestle power from the traditional parties.

Many supporters of the main opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) and neutral observers agree he is head and shoulders above the other candidates, but say he lacks the nationwide popularity to win the election and have warned his supporters that they risk wasting their votes. BBC

EDITORIAL

Security officers turning into killing machines

IN TWO SUCCESSIVE days, members of two state security institutions have separately shot and killed two civilians in separate communities, leaving many citizens to wonder whether national security under the Weah administration is for protection or arbitrary killing.

JUST AS MONROVIA WAS enduring shock from the killing of a resident of Police Academy in Paynesville, Valentine Teck Johnson by an agent of the Executive Protection Service (EPS) Patrick Kollie, late Sunday, July 3, 2022, residents of the Borough of New Kru Town sobbed on Monday evening July 4th after an officer of the Police Emergency Response Unit (ERU) James Togba, killed a resident Olando Bloh, 37, during a fatal shooting incident at a ghetto.

WHILE BOTH INCIDENTS are totally different in separate communities, the sequence of their occurrence involving security men being paid by taxpayers to protect and defend lives is not only scaring, but highly troubling, to say the least.

IN THE FIRST instance, the EPS is solely for the protection of the Presidency and other VIPs. But how come that of one its agents, as acknowledged by the Service, went on the rampage on late Sunday night at the Police Academy Community junction, discharging live bullet that instantly killed an innocent and peaceful resident in cold blood? What motivated that, if there were any such motivation?

FOR THE RECORD, the EPS has a record of excesses, including beating up journalists and ordinary citizens at will, leaving their victims to the mercy of God. One particular incident is the flogging of proficient broadcast Journalist and Commentator Zenu Miller the 2020 County Sports Meet at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville which subsequently led to his death.

THE EPS WAS also involved in manhandling a woman at the Roberts International Airport in Margibi County besides unorthodox activities involving one of its agents reportedly shooting himself to death on an official county tour with President George Weah. Quite unexplainable!

AS FOR THE ERU, brutality and its operations are inseparable. The Unit has portrayed itself as a force of fear than good, eroding public confidence.

IN THE FATAL shooting incident reported from a ghetto in New Kru Town, Bushrod Island on Monday, specifically in Fuel Oil Community, ERU Officer James Togba allegedly wounded a second victim Kengar Kennedy, who is said to be a colleague of the late Bloh.

OFFICER TOGBA HAD allegedly discharged a live bullet when he went out to demand money from illicit drug dealers running a ghetto in the Fuel Oil Community.

IT IS ABOUT TIME that government re-orientates the national security force on the use of fire arms that are meant to protect and save lives rather than preying on peaceful citizens and murdering them in cold blood.

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COMMENTARY

By George Soros

Democracy Under Attack in the US

NEW YORK - The United States has been a constantly evolving democracy ever since it was founded in 1776, but its survival as a democracy is now gravely endangered. A set of loosely interconnected developments at home and abroad is responsible for this crisis.

From abroad, the US is threatened by repressive regimes led by Xi Jinping in China and Vladimir Putin's Russia who want to impose an autocratic form of government on the world.

But the threat to the US from the domestic enemies of democracy is even greater. They include the current Supreme Court, which is dominated by far-right extremists, and Donald Trump's Republican Party, which placed those extremists on the Court.

What qualifies the majority of the Court as extremists? It is not merely their decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 case that recognized a woman's right to choose whether to give birth. What qualifies them as extremists is the arguments they used to justify their decision and the indications they gave of how far they might be willing to go in carrying out those arguments.

Justice Samuel Alito, the author of the majority opinion, based his ruling on the assertion that the Fourteenth Amendment protects only those rights that were generally recognized in 1868, when the amendment was ratified. But this argument endangers many other rights that have been recognized since then, among them the right to contraception, same-sex marriage, and LGBTQ rights.

Carried to its logical conclusion, this line of reasoning could even allow states to ban inter-racial marriage, as some did until 1967. It is also clear that this Court intends to mount a frontal attack on the executive branch. One of the most consequential rulings of the Court's just-completed term denied the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to issue regulations needed to combat climate change.

It doesn't take long to find the common denominator in the Court's recent decisions: support causes promoted by Trump's Republican Party and weaken or outlaw causes favored by the Democratic Party. Consider gun laws. The Court's radical wing listens closely to the pro-gun lobby. So, though a recent epidemic of mass shootings created such a national outcry that even some Republicans supported a new federal gun law, the Court compensated the National Rifle Association for the loss by striking down a longstanding New York law that placed strict restrictions on carrying concealed handguns (New York State immediately passed new gun laws, that are likely to end up before the Supreme Court).

The Supreme Court used to be among the most highly respected institutions in the US. Through its recent decisions, the extremist majority has driven its approval rating to a

historic low, and disapproval of the Court to new highs. The dissenting opinion in the case that overturned Roe flatly stated that the majority decision "undermines the court's legitimacy." Unfortunately, the minority is likely to remain in the minority for a long time, because the extremists are younger and hold a 6-3 majority.

There is only one way to rein in the Supreme Court: throw the Republican Party out of office in a landslide. That would allow Congress to protect through legislation the rights that had been entrusted to the protection of the Supreme Court. It is now clear that doing so was a big mistake. Congress must act, starting with protecting a woman's right to choose. If the filibuster must be amended to achieve that, so be it.

But when it comes to organizing a landslide victory against the radicalized Republicans, opponents face almost insuperable obstacles. Republicans have not only stacked the Supreme Court and many lower courts with extremist judges. In states such as Florida, Georgia, and Texas, they have enacted a raft of laws that make voting very difficult.

While these laws focus on disenfranchising African Americans, other minorities, and young voters generally, their ultimate goal is to help Republicans win elections. As a Florida federal judge recently wrote in striking down one of these laws, they were enacted "with the intent to restructure Florida's election system in ways that favor the Republican Party over the Democratic Party."

These laws would be bad enough if they only targeted who can vote. But Republicans are now going even further, by attacking the vote-counting and election-certification process. From changing the law to make subversion of the electoral system easier, to recruiting believers in Trump's big lie that the 2020 election was stolen from him to oversee the process, we are watching Republicans attack our system of democracy from every angle. And here, too, the radical Supreme Court has done its part, gutting the federal Voting Rights Act and allowing naked partisan redistricting to weaken minority voting power.

Fortunately, I am not alone in claiming that the survival of democracy in the US is gravely endangered. The American public has been aroused by the decision overturning Roe. But people need to recognize that decision for what it is: part of a carefully laid plan to turn the US into a repressive regime.

We must do everything we can to prevent that. This fight ought to include many people who voted for Trump in the past. I am a supporter of the Democratic Party, but this is not a partisan issue. It is about reestablishing a functioning two-party political system which is at the core of American democracy.

George Soros, Founder and Chair of the Open Society Foundations, is the author, most recently, of *In Defense of Open Society* (Public Affairs, 2019).

O-PED

By Stephen Ogweno

Funding the Fight Against Noncommunicable Diseases

NAIROBI - Noncommunicable diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, lung disease, diabetes, obesity, and mental disorders, are often chronic and develop over a long period. Collectively, NCDs account for about 70% of all deaths globally (and 60% of deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa, where they account for over 55% of hospital admissions in countries such as Kenya). Developing countries thus face a double burden of illness, with communicable diseases like malaria, HIV, and tuberculosis still presenting a huge challenge alongside the rising incidence of NCDs.

One might expect that the large and increasing burden of NCDs would lead to more funding and resources being channeled toward addressing them. But the fight is chronically underfunded and remains a low priority compared to efforts to tackle infectious diseases.

There is no global fund for any NCD: In 2019, over 40% of NCD development assistance came from private institutions. But efforts to combat communicable diseases, the burden of which has declined significantly over the years, have several dedicated international funding institutions, including the Global Fund, Gavi, the United Nations Population Fund, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. And although NCDs are the leading cause of death worldwide, they account for less than 10% of the global health budget.

One reason for this disparity is the relative lack of evidence-based research into NCDs. Funding agencies with a duty to invest in data-driven strategies have therefore tended to focus elsewhere. Moreover, NCDs are still hugely misunderstood. Many people think that these diseases are caused only by the individual, and ignore all their other social, economic, and structural determinants. Weak grassroots action and poor public framing of the NCD problem has not helped, either.

Perhaps most significantly, NCDs were not part of the Millennium Development Goals and thus missed out on the momentum toward greater health funding in the period from 2000 to 2015. Even now, reducing premature deaths from NCDs is just one of 169 targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3.4), making this objective difficult to fund.

With the NCD burden likely to increase further, several urgent steps are needed to bring about a shift in global funding priorities.

The first step is to emphasize the close connections between NCDs and communicable diseases, so that some funds already being channeled to fight communicable diseases can be directed toward addressing these links. For example, many HIV patients have successfully managed their viral loads, and up to 40% now die of NCDs like ischemic heart disease and diabetes. Likewise, epidemiological evidence shows that NCDs contribute significantly to tuberculosis deaths. Focusing on only communicable diseases or NCDs without considering the other will result in lower long-term impact.

Second, we must strengthen universal health coverage in order to focus first on the poorest, who are most affected by NCDs. Poor people with NCDs often cannot access medication or afford out-of-pocket costs and palliative care. Only when the poor benefit from universal health coverage can we begin to address the burden of NCDs effectively. Such schemes should also have a comprehensive NCD package that focuses on health promotion and creation as well as covering treatment.

Third, countries should use relevant research and data to develop a financial case for investment at the national level. Funding priorities will vary by country and region. Some will take a disease-specific approach, while others will adopt a more preventive and promotional strategy.

But regardless of the focus, making a solid investment case requires a strong grassroots advocacy movement that holds the government accountable for its commitments. For example, most governments signed the Abuja Declaration according to which public-health expenditure should account for at least 15% of the total national budget. Yet, in many countries, especially in Africa, it makes up less than 5%.

Fourth, aligning an NCD strategy with a broader national development strategy can enable countries to reap greater benefits from both. By linking infrastructure and built-environment projects to efforts to combat NCDs, we can create public spaces that encourage walking and other physical activities and reduce air pollution. Similarly, by working together with the food industry, we can improve package labeling, eliminate trans fats, and increase taxation of sugars, salts, and unhealthy foods to encourage people to adjust their diets.

Clearly, tackling NCDs calls for a partnership approach. Contrary to the widespread popular belief that NCDs are caused by individual behavior, research continues to demonstrate that the environment and government policies have a huge effect on these diseases as well.

All these suggestions underscore the importance of building robust health-care systems that can deliver the ultimate goal of a strong, healthy society in which NCDs are prevented, managed, and controlled. Once we look at the bigger picture, it becomes clear that reducing the global NCD burden in a sustainable manner is a goal that the world cannot afford to miss.

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OPINION

by Mauricio Cárdenas

Today's Crises Are Different

BOGOTÁ - Just as one generation gives way to the next, global challenges are superseded by a new cohort. The once-in-a-century COVID-19 pandemic - and the risk that other dangerous new viruses may emerge at any time - is far from the only example. Extreme weather events resulting from climate change are having catastrophic consequences. Information technology and data are sometimes used maliciously or for cyberwarfare. Even today's surging food prices and rising global hunger can be traced to a failure to disseminate open-source technologies.

We seemingly live in a permanent state of danger. Crises are no longer isolated tail-risk events that affect a few. They are much more frequent, multidimensional, and interdependent, and - because they transcend national borders - have the potential to affect everyone simultaneously. Moreover, they involve so many externalities that both markets and national governments have insufficient incentive to solve them.

Solutions to these problems depend on the availability of global public goods, but the current international system is unable to provide a sufficient supply. We need major coordinated investments in pandemic preparedness and response, for example, or to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions (a global public bad), because no individual country's actions will resolve today's crises, much less prevent new ones.

A rethink of the way multilateralism works is imperative. The postwar international financial architecture was designed to support national governments so that they could provide national public goods. The priority now is to think about the new institutions required to provide public goods that transcend national borders.

The overlapping nature of current crises makes an even stronger case for a new framework. Greater frequency of extreme weather events, such as flooding and droughts, heighten the risk of infectious and water-borne diseases. Rising average temperatures and altered rainfall patterns are reducing the potential yield of staple crops (by 6% in the case of maize, for example) that are crucial for food security - an essential component of good health. In 2010-19, the proportion of the global land surface suffering extreme drought in any month reached 22%, up from 13% in 1950-99.

Previous emergencies, like the global financial crisis of 2008-09 (which was really a developed-world phenomenon) or the Asian and Latin American financial crisis of the late 1990s, were essentially economic in nature, resulting from the excessive accumulation of financial risks. The solutions were in the hands of central bankers and finance ministers. They included new financial regulations and fiscal and monetary policies to restore lost employment and output.

Today's crises, in contrast, are interdependent and truly global in scope, with a potentially much greater impact. What is distinctive is that solutions no longer depend exclusively on the competence of national economic authorities. Addressing them effectively requires leadership and action between governments around the world. One example of this approach is the proposed Global Health Threats Council. The early detection of pandemic threats and the development of herd immunity against known pathogens is a classic case of a non-rival and non-excludable global public good.

But taxpayers in individual countries lack the incentives to provide goods whose benefits are enjoyed globally. Moreover, we cannot expect official development assistance (ODA) or philanthropy to do the job. The numbers simply don't add up. ODA totaled \$180 billion last year, with private donors adding a few billion more. But global public goods require trillions of dollars. Moreover, aid budgets are too cyclical, and priorities shift. But what seems urgent and politically appealing does not always coincide with what is important, which should be the focus of global public goods.

That is why we need to introduce a new multilateral system. Ideally, its main elements should mirror the tools used to provide national public goods: taxation, incentives, and accountability.

Since global public goods require significant and stable financing, we should focus on building global fiscal capacity, universally funded on an ability-to-pay basis. Leadership at the national level is of course also required to ensure an adequate cross-government and cross-sectoral response.

Providing taxpayers and governments with the right incentives to act will not be easy. But most governments take the International Monetary Fund's periodic Article IV consultations very seriously; including an assessment of how they are addressing climate and pandemic risks would be a good start. Likewise, credit-rating agencies should expand the methodologies they use to assess risks for governments and corporations.

The world is unprepared to cope with the new generation of crises. Rather than focusing only on deficiencies in one particular area when a crisis hits, we need to understand why we are systematically bad at producing the global public goods that all these new crises require. Unless we address this issue, specific gaps will continue to appear. If another pandemic threat were to emerge tomorrow, for example, we would be no better prepared than we were for COVID-19.

The current climate, health, and food crises should trigger the global collaboration needed to tackle such threats. If they don't, it is fair to ask what would.

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ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Lofa by-election: A shadow of 2023

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has declared government-backed candidate Cllr. Joseph K. Jallah winner of the much-trumpeted rerun of the Lofa Senatorial by-election, and that's final.

He won the votes by 1.31% securing 36.46% of the total votes cast, while his closest rival, former ruling Unity Party candidate Kortima Galakkpai got 35.15%, at least according to the electoral body which says it is open to any legal challenge against the result.

The election followed months of legal battles on all fronts: first delegitimizing the result of the December 2020 election of former Defense Minister J. Brownie Samukai based on his criminal conviction; the legal battle between constituents' members of the now fragmented Collaborating Political Parties (CPP); the forgery trial of ANC Political Leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings and the bitter infighting within the Liberty Party of the late Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, another constituent member of the CPP.

This summed up a divided opposition heading into the rerun. Interestingly, while the opposition remained locked up in various battles, whether in fighting or at the court, the ruling party had remained engaged with the people, selling its backed candidate.

Regardless of how much it had in terms of resources, the opposition had no chance - election is about time and timely application of resources, not just popularity. As if that was not enough, the defeat took place right in the stronghold of the former ruling Unity Party of Mr. Joseph N. Boakai. In fact, the coronation of the senator-elect was held in Boakai's hometown-Foya.

A wake-up call

The just-ended Lofa by-election is the shadow of what will come in 2023. With opposition political parties locked up in crisis and fighting in the public glare, the chances of wresting power out of the hands of the ruling party will be farfetched.

Let's not also forget that the euphoria which greeted the opposition victories in December 2020 has disappeared.

Although many out there would want the public to believe that the collapse of the opposition bloc CPP was engineered by elements within the ruling party linking up with like minds within the CPP, they might want to take a different look. But let's say this argument was to be held with a pinch of salt it deserves, it also simply means that members of the opposition bloc, mainly the CPP were not honest with each other in the first place- it's like the Bible says a man's enemy is of his own household or like Liberians would say "if your house doesn't sell you the street will not buy you."

Therefore, one could say that the CPP collapse was primarily the result of dishonesty among members. It was doomed to fail from the get-go - it had no solid foundation. Its ideas and

ideals must have been good, but it takes honest men of like-minded hearts to succeed together.

Thus, the opposition should have no one to blame but itself. It killed the momentum that greeted its victory in December 2020 immediately after that mid-term election that left the ruling party so confused.

Now, this by-election should be a wake-up call. The campaign for 2023 has just begun and the only way forward for the opposition if it really means business to give the CDC the run for its money, it should start putting its acts together, burying its hatchets, and coming up stronger.

Raising CDC's hope

The victory of government-backed candidate Jallah has revived the hope of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC ahead of the 2023 general and presidential elections. And why won't they be so hopeful when the victory was secured in the opposition's territory.

UP political leader Boakai and All Liberian Party (ALP) Political Leader, businessman turned politician, Benoni Urey, and other staunch opposition members amongst them Sen. Dillon and Rep. Yekeh Kolubah, without the presence of incumbent President George Weah, speak volumes.

This also means that the CDC doesn't need the presence of its political leader on the grounds to get the job done; simply put, its messages cut across better than that of Boakai and his supporters. It could focus that energy on other areas.

Finally, if the opposition wants to make President Weah a one-term president as it claims, it cannot do so in dishonesty, disunity and disarray. It must put up a united front or else it should stop wasting the people's time and prepare to wait for another 6 years.

Starts from back page

ERU officer kills

interview with this paper Tuesday, 5 June 2022 at the deceased's residence in New Kru Town, Tracy lamented that her husband has been allegedly murdered by Officer Kennedy.

She described the death of her spouse as a serious heartbreak and disappointment because she is now left alone to take care of her children as a single mother. "I am calling for justice for my husband and help from the government and other people that can help," said Tracy. "My husband and I have three children, two boys and one girl. Our older son is 19 years-old and he will be graduating this year from high school," Tracy lamented.

"Our other son, the last [born], is going to [be] three years [old] now while our daughter is 12 years old. My problem now is, how [am] I going to take care of these children and send them to school without the help of their father? Tracy pondered. "I am really broken and in serious tears." Also speaking with this paper, Ms. Susan Sando, a disadvantaged youth in the area narrated that the incident occurred while they were in the ghetto smoking. "Yesterday we were sitting down in the ghetto smoking, this ERU guy called 'Opoku' [referring to suspect Togba], came to us and demanded that [we give him] five thousand Liberian dollars," said Ms. Sando. "My husband is the five stars of the ghetto (ghetto ringleader) and so he and I came outside, called the man outside. We told him to wait, and we went out to the guy to organize small things for him," Susan explained.

She said while mobilizing funds to give to the ERU Officer, the deceased

had contended that it was Monday and they could not afford to raise LRD\$5,000 for the officer. She said it was then suggested to give the officer LRD\$600.00. "When I went to call my husband in the ghetto the officer started complaining that we want to make fun out of him. So that's how he fired and killed our friend," Ms. Susan claimed.

She said after the officer discharged the bullet, they (ghetto guys) arrested him and turned him over to officers from the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) who were around. She said they took victim Bloh to Redemption Hospital, but they were told to transfer him to JFK because of lack of bed. The victim reportedly died on arrival at JFK. Meanwhile, the Liberia National Police says it has with immediate effect disrobed and turned over Officer James Togba for investigation in connection to the shooting incident that occurred in the Fuel Oil Community.

The LNP has expressed dismay over the shooting incident in New Kru Town and vowed to ensure that the officer involved will be duly investigated and made to face the full weight of the law.

In a statement released Tuesday, 5 July, LNP Spokesman Moses Carter said the officer is presently detained at the police headquarters undergoing investigation. The tragic shooting involving Kennedy came just after an earlier incident on Monday, 4 June, when EPS Agent Patrick Kollie reportedly shot and killed Valentine T. Johnson on the Police Academy Road in Paynesville. Kollie is being investigated by the LNP. --

Edited by Winston W. Parley

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE NOTICE OF

Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Environmental & Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)
for the Liberia COVID-19 Emergency Response Project
Additional Financing - Two (P-178479)

In line with the Environmental Management Laws and Regulations of the Republic of Liberia, and in compliance with the World Bank policy on disclosure of information, the Ministry of Health and the National Public Health Institute of Liberia are pleased to announce to the general public and all stakeholders that an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Environmental Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) for the Additional Financing (AF-2) of the Liberia COVID-19 Emergency Response Project are now available.

Brief Project Description

The Project Development Objective (PDO) of the parent project, the AF1, and the proposed AF2 is "to prepare and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in Liberia." There is no proposed change in the PDO. The parent project included five components. A detailed description of the parent project can be found in the Liberia COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (P173812) project appraisal document (PAD)¹. As part of the AF1, a restructuring in components was implemented, reducing the parent project's origin to two, in an effort to respond more efficiently to the COVID-19 pandemic and align more effectively to the implementation of COVID-19 vaccination program. These are: *Component 1: Emergency Preparedness and Response with five sub-components*; and *Component 2: Program Management, Coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation* with two sub-components. The AF2 will be fully aligned to the revised components of the AF1. There will be no new activities or changes to any of the components or sub-components in AF2, but a scale-up of both Components 1 and 2. The Liberia COVID-19 Emergency Response Project, including the AF1 remains complementary to areas financed by the ongoing Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Phase II (REDISSE II - P159040) which supports Liberia's efforts to enhance its disease surveillance and response systems.

The COVID-19 Project is being implemented by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) along with other line Ministries and Agencies. The implementation arrangement with the AF-2 will remain the same as the AF-1.

The SEP is designed to establish an effective platform for productive interactions with potentially affected parties and persons with interest in the implementation and outcomes of the Liberia COVID-19 Emergency Response Project in the health sector. Effective stakeholder engagement is a necessary aspect of any good project, and the SEP will help solicit feedback to inform project design and implementation while simultaneously managing expectations of beneficiaries and project affected persons (PAPs).

The ESCP sets out material measures and actions to be carried out by the Government of Liberia, including timeframes, institutional system strengthening, workforce capacity development, monitoring & evaluation and reporting arrangements, grievance management, environmental and social safeguard instruments to be prepared or updated and disclosed and implemented in a manner acceptable to the World Bank.

Display Points

The SEP and ESCP will be published on the MOH, NPHIL and World Bank websites respectively. Hard copies shall be made available to key stakeholders and other parties.

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¹ Liberia - COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (English). Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/587391587408723367/Liberia-COVID-19-Emergency-Response-Project>

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Senate amends Judiciary law

By Ethel A Tweh

The plenary of the Liberian senate has amended the Judiciary Law of the Liberian Code of Laws Revised to change the Terms of the

from the senate's Judiciary, Human Rights, Claims and Petitions report. The report recommended to enact into law the revised proposed act, with the assurances that the revised Proposed Act,

dockets at the Circuit Courts.

The Committee however pointed out that the Circuit Courts will have a longer continuous period of actual work than the quarterly session now provided by law.

The chair of the Committee Senator Cllr. H. Varney Sherman added that the longer continuous period of actual work will facilitate the disposition of more cases and thereby expediting speedy trial of cases and decongestion of the trial dockets.

Meanwhile, the Judiciary Committee observed that the period of duration is six months for each of the Bi-annual Session.

It said this gives no time of resting period for the Circuit Judges within a period of twelve months.

The time is reduced in the revised version to five months, which leaves at least one month within every twelve months for rest for the Circuit Judges. --Edited by Winston W. Parley

2 Bong lawmakers near fistfight



Representatives Melvin Cole and James Kolleh in words of war

By Bridgett Milton

The Plenary of the House of Representatives Tuesday came to a stand-still when Bong County Representatives J. Marvin Cole (D-3) and James Kolleh (D-2) engaged in words of war and rant insults at each other in session over the current Head of the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) in Bong, Dr. Victor Sumo.

It all started when Maryland County district # 2 Representative Isaac Roland asked the CARI boss about his status at the institution.

According to Dr. Sumo, he was appointed by President George M. Weah as Director General of CARI and confirmed by the Board, arguing the under the Act the created the institution does not require that he should be confirmed by the Liberian Senate.

Representative Kolleh contends that Dr. Sumo has been serving as Acting Director General of CARI, but Representative Cole counters that the CARI boss is not acting; instead, he is the Director General proper.

At this juncture, the two lawmakers unleashed invectives at each other, threatening to beat each other up.

Representative Kolleh, while insulting his colleague, left his seat hit Cole, but was restrained by the Sergeant Sargent-At-Arm of the House, and subsequently asked out of Plenary by

Presiding Officer, Deputy Speaker Fonati Koffa.

Dr. Sumo had gone to the House of Representatives to address allegations of salary disparities and harmonization, and bad labor practices at CARI.

The Plenary of the House of Representatives summoned the Director General of the Central Agriculture Research Institute on Thursday 16 June to answer inquiries about constant allegations of bad labor practices and dissatisfaction amongst employees, including alleged refusal of Dr. Sumo to adhere to suggestions put forward to him by the House committee.

The House's decision was based on a communication from a specialized Committee comprising Labor and Agriculture that was setup by Speaker Chambers.

The Specialize Committee was instructed to visit CARI in Bong County to ascertain the situation and mitigate issues surrounding picketing, go-slow, and riot actions of employees.

According to the committee, the CARI Boss has since remained stiff-necked, not willing to listen to the joint committee; something, the joint committee implores the indulgence of Plenary to invite Dr. Sumo to address the concerns mentioned.

Meanwhile, a motion was taken for the CARI Boss to return to the Committee to address these issues and for the Committee to report to Plenary within two weeks. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Circuit Courts from Quarterly Sessions to Bi-Annual Sessions.

The decision by plenary on Tuesday, 5 July 2022 was

when enacted, will expedite the disposition of cases at Circuit Courts.

It said this will reduce the congestion of the trial

Man sentenced to life for killing Tubman's son

By Lincoln G. Peters

Criminal Court "A" Judge Roosevelt Willie, on Tuesday, 5 July 2022 sentenced to life imprisonment defendant Christian Barron Anderson.

The defendant was tried for the murder of John Tubman, son the late former Liberian President William V.S. Tubman.

The defendant will be imprisoned at the Monrovia Central Prison, the maximum facility also known as South Beach. Defendant Anderson was sentenced after being found guilty by trial jurors.

His sentencing came after a probationer report from the Ministry of Justice that revealed that Anderson had no criminal record. It said he was only involved with the intake of marijuana.

During his trial, defendant Anderson informed the court that he killed John Tubman because the deceased had constant sexual intercourse with him (Anderson).

Anderson accused the deceased of allegedly drugging him and having sex with him as a gay. In the process of the alleged sexual intercourse, Anderson alleged that Tubman would promise to take care of him

through medical and other means.

"After he on several occasion had sex with me, I decided to ask him for money to enable me to seek medical treatment at any hospital in Liberia, but [he] refused to give me the money, and said 'are you the only woman,'" Anderson alleged.

Anderson was accompanied by Emmanuel Forkley. It can be recalled that Mr. John H. Tubman 76, son of former Liberian president William V.S. Tubman was discovered dead early Wednesday, 22

September 2021.

He had a deep wound on his forehead with a pillow placed over his head.

In a flashback conversation with Mr. William Tulker, a nephew to the late John Tubman, it was revealed that he and his uncle Mr. Tubman and his niece had an appointment with Mr. Tony Hage, a Lebanese businessman that morning.

He said he had gone to pick up his uncle, but to his dismay, his uncle was found dead in his room. --Edited by Winston W. Parley



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EPS Agent Kollie disrobed after alleged murder

By Kruah Thompson

Executive Protection Service Agent Patrick Kollie, who shot and killed a motorcyclist late Sunday, July 3, 2022 in Police Academy Community in

interview on Monday at the National Police Headquarters in Monrovia, a brother of the deceased, Han D. Beyam, narrated that the Liberia National Police has informed the family that EPS Agent Kollie has been

Betam said.

However, he claims the Police have asked the family to come the next day to see how the body could be removed from the JFK hospital for burial, adding that all the family needs is Justice for the loss of one of its members, who was the youngest.

He said they are going to do everything possible, because this is not the first time such a thing has happened, and perpetrators go with impunity, vowing "We will push it to the letter until we get justice."

An eyewitness, Martin Gbaintor, who claims to have been on the scene, narrated that EPS Agent Kollie drove his car at the intersection of Police Academy and Boulevard route, and politely called two men who sat across the street.

Gbaintor continued that while the men were trying to come over, one of them spotted Kollie reaching for gun in the car, and immediately alarmed, adding that was how they decided to run for their life.

"Unfortunately for the motorcyclist, he was riding in the same direction and that is how he shot him." *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Agent Patrick Kollie

Paynesville, has been disrobed and investigated by Police in Monrovia.

The lifeless body of Victim Valentine Teck Johnson is currently deposited at the John F. Kennedy Hospital, awaiting burial. Speaking to The New Dawn in an exclusive

disrobed and the Police are getting every fact and document to establish how the shooting occurred and who all were on the scene.

"The Police say they are getting all the facts including the death certificate so that the guy can be dragged to court". Mr.

World Bank approves US\$9m to vaccinate 70% of Liberia's population

By Lewis S. Teh

Smiles were on the faces of government officials here particularly the Minister of Finance Samuel D. Tweah and Health Minister Dr. Whilhemina Jallah when the World Bank led by its Country Manager to Liberia, Dr. Khwima Nthara approved the signing of US\$9 million Financing Agreement to help strengthen the health sector of the country.

Speaking at the official signing ceremony on Monday, July 4, 2022 at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, Dr. Nthara said the Financing Agreement with the Government of Liberia will focus on two projects: Liberia Women Empowerment in the amount of US\$ 44.6 million of which US\$17.8 million is an IDA Grant and US\$26.8 million is an IDA credit.

He said the second is additional financing to the Covid-19 emergency response project in the amount of US\$9 million of which US\$6.2 million is in IDA Grant and US\$2.8 million is an IDA credit.

Manager explained that the second phase of the Covid-19 emergency response seeks to consolidate the gains Liberia has made in fighting the pandemic.

"You will recall that Liberia reported its first Covid-19 case on March 16, 2020 and within three months the World Bank board approved the first Liberia emergency response project in the amount of US\$7.50 million", Dr. Nthara said. He noted that the first additional financing in the

amount of US\$8.00 million was approved on June 30, 2021, saying "This second financing agreement we are signing today in the amount of US\$9 million was approved on June 30, 2022."

He continued that under the Covid-19 emergency response project, a total of US\$24.5 million has been extended to Liberia, and that besides, the Bank had repurposed US\$9.5 million under the Regional Disease Surveillance Project, bringing the total financing package to



WFP food under probe

-following Police arrest in Nimba



By Thomas Domah / Nimba County

Police in Ganta, Nimba County have arrested a truck transporting over 600 bags (24 tones) of rice said to belong to the World Food Programme.

The truck with license plate number 751 was transporting the rice from Grand Gedeh to Monrovia for alleged re-bagging and subsequent sale.

The New Dawn gathered that the WFP is currently carrying on school feeling program in public schools alongside with few private schools in several parts of the country.

A Police source told The New Dawn that they had been informed by the Ministry of Commerce about a truck transporting over one thousand bags of rice from Grand Gedeh to Monrovia without a wage bill and other documents.

This is the second time Police in Ganta have arrested huge quantity of rice for the WFP being transported to

Monrovia.

Last year, two truckloads of WFP food were arrested in Ganta but subsequently released after call from the Ministry of Commerce requesting the trucks to leave for Monrovia, but since then the outcome of said rice is yet to be made public.

This paper also gathered that public schools are benefiting WFP school feeding program but said supply is now being sole in the local market with some crossing the Ganta-Guinea border for marketing.

Liberian Joint Security assigned at the border were seen receiving money from Guinean truck drivers to allow those trucks leave Liberia for Guinea.

Over five truckloads of rice, including cement and gas leave Ganta for Guinea on a daily basis.

When contacted, WFP communication officer Venlineshare Tolbert, declined to speak despite sending text message to her. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

the health response under Covid-19 to US\$34 million.

This second financing according to him, seeks to support development of additional vaccines to help vaccinate about 70 percent of Liberian population in a bid to strengthen the country's vaccination system and preparedness.

He said this includes acquisition of additional cold chain equipment for proper vaccine storage and handling, such as refrigerators, and trucks, to ensure an effective rollout of Covid-19 vaccines now that the target population has been expanded to include 12-17 years old.

Dr. Nthara said the Bank had also contributed about US\$23 million to non-health response such as the Nationwide Food Distribution Program and

recovery of economic activities in minimizing the heath and economic impacts of the pandemic. In response, Liberia's Health Minister Dr. Whilhemina Jallah thanked the World Bank for living up to its commitment. Dr. Jallah disclosed that Covid-19 cases in Liberia has dropped significantly, and the country is at 54 percent of the WHO's 70 percent benchmark.

"But our target that we set at the ministry is at 70% and we're hoping over the next two weeks Liberia will pass the WHO benchmark", she added.

She said the ministry will spend portion of the money on Covid-19 vaccines and logistics rollout in order to meet the WHO benchmark, "we have to reach out to the citizens to vaccinate them and this requires resources." *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Français

L'UP prévoit de bloquer la certification de Jallah

Les dirigeants du Parti de l'unité (UP, ancien au pouvoir) se sont réunis pour rassembler les preuves qui prouvent que l'élection sénatoriale partielle de Lofa qui vient de se terminer a été truquée, ont confié des sources au journal New Dawn lundi.

Les dirigeants de l'UP, dont le chef politique Joseph N. Boakai, ainsi que les sympathisants du Parti de la liberté Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence et du chef politique du Parti libérien Benoni Urey se sont rencontrés lundi. Une autre réunion était prévue hier mardi 5 juillet, pour annoncer leur prochain plan d'action.

L'UP et ses sympathisants, selon des sources, estiment que l'élection partielle a été truquée en faveur de Joseph K. Jallah, le candidat soutenu par le pouvoir, qui a immédiatement déclaré son adhésion au parti au pouvoir après l'annonce du résultat officiel par la Commission électorale nationale le week-end.

Ce vendredi 1er juillet, la NEC a déclaré le candidat du

pouvoir vainqueur de l'élection sénatoriale du comté de Lofa, à la fin de la compilation et du comptage de tous les bulletins de vote de tous les bureaux de vote.

« La totalité des bulletins de vote de tous les bureaux de vote ayant été comptés, la commission déclare par la présente le candidat indépendant Joseph Kpator Jallah vainqueur de l'élection sénatoriale partielle du 28 juin 2022 dans le comté de Lofa », a déclaré Madame Davidetta

Browne-Lansanah, présidente de la NEC.

L'élection partielle a eu lieu pour pourvoir un siège vacant auquel l'ancien ministre de la Défense Brownie Samukai n'a pas pu être autorisé de siéger à la suite de son élection en 2020 en raison de sa condamnation dans un procès pénal.

"Comme vous vous en souviendrez, sur les 454

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



UP Political Leader Boakai

Clr. Joseph K. Jallah

NEC : les résultats reflètent la volonté du peuple

La Commission électorale nationale qualifie de légitimes les résultats qu'elle a publiés dans le cadre de l'élection sénatoriale partielle du comté de Lofa le 28 juin 2022. Les résultats, tel que annoncés, dont le candidat indépendant Joseph Kpator Jallah officiellement vainqueur. Ils reflètent la volonté de la majorité des électeurs, selon la Commission électorale.

La présidente de la NEC,

Davidetta Browne Lansanah, a expliqué que les résultats sont venus du Upper et du Lower Lofa. Il s'agit des 454 bureaux de vote de tout le comté.

Elle dit que les premiers résultats préliminaires publiés le 30 juin 2022 concernaient 381 bureaux de vote, soit 83,92 % de l'ensemble des bureaux de vote. Ces résultats provenaient de Lower et de Upper Lofa, contrairement à ce que croit le public.

Selon elle, tous les 30 709

votes de Upper Lofa ont été compilés et comptés. Il y a 29 472 bulletins valides et 1237 bulletins invalides. Tandis que dans le comté de Lower Lofa, 31 810 bulletins de vote ont été comptabilisés, avec 30 922 bulletins valides et 888 invalides.

« Tous les décomptes et les résultats compilés sont du domaine public. Nous les mettrons donc à la disposition des journalistes qui souhaitent les consulter », a rassuré Madame Browne-Lansanah.

Par ailleurs, elle a demandé à quiconque estime que les résultats officiels de l'élection sénatoriale partielle sont différents de ce qu'il a d'user des moyens légaux pour contester le processus conformément à l'article 83 (c) de la Constitution du Libéria.

Le vendredi 1er juillet 2022, la NEC a publié les résultats définitifs des 73 bureaux de vote restants dans le comté. Elle a déclaré le candidat indépendant Joseph Kpator Jallah, qui a reçu 22 019 voix, soit 36,46 %, comme

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Éditorial

La désinformation lors des élections est dangereuse

Les partis politiques du Libéria sont en train de tolérer un précédent mauvais et très laid lors des élections. Ils ont la manie de diffuser la désinformation, annonçant la victoire de leur candidat avant la Commission électorale qui est investie du pouvoir de proclamer des résultats officiels.

L'élection partielle sénatoriale qui vient de se terminer dans le comté de Lofa en un exemple. Le Parti de l'Unité et la Coalition au pouvoir ont mobilisé leurs partisans respectifs dans la rue du comté pour célébrer la soi-disant victoire de leur candidat alors que la NEC n'avait pas encore entamé l'annonce des résultats officiels.

Quoique les bulletins de vote comptés soient affichés dans les bureaux de vote à la fin des scrutins, cela ne signifie pas qu'ils ont une valeur officielle. La désinformation est une recette pour le chaos et la violence.

À en croire des informations en provenance du district de Foya à Lofa après l'élection partielle, il y a eu des affrontements sanglants entre des partisans rivaux de la CDC et de l'UP, avant que les forces de sécurité conjointes n'interviennent et dispersent les groupes rivaux.

Un acte similaire s'était produit après les élections sénatoriales spéciales du 8 décembre 2020, en particulier dans le comté de Montserrado entre le sénateur Abraham Darius Dillon et le représentant Thomas Fallah du CDC, lorsqu'une station de radio pro-CDC a diffusé ses propres résultats, présentant le représentant Fallah comme vainqueur de l'élection, en donnant des résultats totalement différents de ce que la NEC a affiché dans les bureaux de vote du comté.

Lorsque cette malhonnêteté délibérée se produit, les dirigeants du parti concerné ferment les yeux. Ce qui est encore plus préoccupant, c'est que la NEC qui préside le scrutin ne réprimande pas les personnes impliquées ou ne leur dit pas d'arrêter immédiatement.

Remarquez, ce ne sont que des exemples d'élections sénatoriales, et ils envoient un signal de ce à quoi s'attendre aux élections présidentielles et générales en 2023. De telles pratiques négatives et antidémocratiques ne devraient pas non plus avoir leur place dans nos processus électoraux, ni maintenant, ni dans le futur.

Nous appelons le gouvernement et la Commission électorale nationale non seulement à condamner ceux qui tentent de renverser nos processus démocratiques par une campagne de désinformation, mais à veiller à ce qu'ils soient traduits en justice pour faire face à la loi. Il est important que la NEC émette une mise en garde sérieuse avant, pendant et après une élection.

Il est important que nous, en tant que nation, fassions tout pour que nos élections soient exemptes de violence et d'actes qui jetteraient une ombre noire sur l'ensemble du processus uniquement pour des intérêts politiques égoïstes au détriment du bien commun. L'élection est un exercice démocratique et la démocratie devrait permettre de suivre son cours plutôt que de tricher ou de tromper les autres pour obtenir un avantage indu qui laisse place à des conséquences inimaginables.



Français

L'UP prévoit de bloquer

bureaux de vote du comté de Lofa, nous avons, le 30 juin 2022, annoncé les résultats de 381, soit 83,92%, a déclaré Mme Browne - Lansanah lors d'une conférence de presse ce week-end.

Elle a détaillé que l'équipe de pointage a compté les résultats des 73 bureaux de vote restants, faisant de Me Jallah vainqueur avec 36,46 % des suffrages universels exprimés et Kortimai 35,15%. Mais l'UP, qui semble contester le résultat, a prévu d'annoncer son prochain plan d'action.

Pendant ce temps, un rapport émanant de Lofa indique que le pauvre taux de participation à l'élection partielle met en exergue le

rejet complet de l'ensemble du processus par la majorité du peuple. En effet, sur un total de 187 775 électeurs inscrits dans le comté, seuls 62 519, soit 33,29 % des électeurs, se sont rendus le 28 juin pour voter. Sur ce nombre, le candidat soutenu par la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir (CDC) a obtenu 22 019 voix, soit 36,46 %.

A en croire certains experts, les 22 019 voix obtenues par le candidat soutenu par la CDC ne représentent que 11,72 % du nombre total d'électeurs inscrits dans le comté. Ils estiment qu'avec un tel taux de participation si faible, Jallah n'a pas été élu par la majorité requise et qu'il est donc illégitime.

NEC : les résultats reflètent

vainqueur face au candidat du Parti de l'unité, Galakpai W. Kortimai, qui, lui a reçu 21 229 voix, soit 35,15 % du total des voix.

« Les bulletins de vote des 100 % des bureaux de vote ayant été comptés, la Commission déclare, par la présente, le candidat indépendant Jallah, Joseph Kpator, vainqueur de l'élection sénatoriale partielle du 28 juin 2022 dans le comté de Lofa », a annoncé vendredi la NEC.

Le candidat Jallah a été fortement soutenu par le Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir, qui a célébré la victoire avant même l'annonce des résultats officiels.

Six candidats, dont une femme, se sont présentés à l'élection partielle sénatoriale de Lofa, mais la course était serrée entre le candidat soutenu par le CDC, Jallah, et Kortimai de l'UP.

Avant les résultats préliminaires, l'UP a publié une déclaration à Monrovia, disant qu'elle accepterait les résultats pourvu que l'élection soit considérée comme libre et équitable.

Le Comité de coordination des élections (ECC) qui a déployé 168 observateurs dans les cinq circonscriptions électorales du comté de Lofa pour observer l'élection

partielle a noté que les électeurs se sont rendus pacifiquement le mardi 28 juin 2022 pour voter sans incident critique grave.

Il a félicité tous les électeurs de Lofa pour avoir protégé la paix et la stabilité démocratique du Libéria lors de l'élection sénatoriale partielle, ajoutant que le vote a généralement commencé à l'heure dans la plupart des bureaux de vote observés et que tous les documents de vote sensibles étaient présents.

Cependant, il a signalé que 48 % des circonscriptions et des bureaux de vote observés n'étaient pas accessibles aux personnes handicapées ou aux personnes âgées en raison de l'utilisation d'escaliers. Il a également souligné des incohérences dans la façon dont le personnel de la NEC permettait aux électeurs dont les noms ne se trouvaient pas sur la fiche des électeurs de voter.

« Par exemple, dans 11 % des bureaux de vote observés par l'ECC, les électeurs munis d'une carte d'électeur valide mais dont le nom ne se retrouvait sur le FRR ont été autorisés à voter. Conformément au chapitre 4 du manuel de vote et de dépouillement de la NEC sur la sous-section « Déterminer qui ne peut pas voter », énonce qu'« une personne ne peut pas voter si elle ne figure pas sur la liste électorale », a expliqué l'ECC.

COMMENTAIRE

Par George Soros

La démocratie américaine gravement menacée

NEW YORK - La démocratie aux États-Unis n'a jamais cessé d'évoluer depuis la création du pays en 1776. La survie même de cette démocratie se trouve aujourd'hui gravement menacée, cette crise résultant d'un ensemble d'évolutions étroitement interconnectées, sur le plan intérieur comme à l'étranger.

De l'extérieur, les États-Unis sont menacés par les régimes répressifs de Xi Jinping en Chine, et de Vladimir Poutine en Russie, qui entendent imposer au monde une forme de gouvernement autocratique.

La menace que représentent les ennemis intérieurs de la démocratie aux États-Unis se révèle toutefois encore plus considérable, ces ennemis incluant l'actuelle Cour suprême, dominée par des jusqu'aboutistes d'extrême droite, ainsi que le Parti républicain de Donald Trump, qui a installé ces extrémistes au sein de l'instance suprême.

Pourquoi employer le terme d'extrémistes pour décrire la majorité des juges de la Cour suprême ? La réponse ne réside pas simplement dans leur décision de renversement de l'arrêt Roe v. Wade, décision phare de 1973, qui reconnut le droit des femmes de pouvoir choisir ou non d'enfanter. Ce qui justifie davantage ce terme, ce sont les arguments que ces juges utilisent pour motiver leur décision, et les indications qu'ils formulent autour précisément des extrémités qu'ils sont prêts à atteindre pour appliquer ces arguments.

Le juge Samuel Alito, qui a rédigé la décision majoritaire, fonde sa décision sur l'affirmation selon laquelle le Quatrième amendement ne viserait originellement qu'à protéger les droits généralement reconnus en 1868, année de ratification de cet amendement. Or, cet argument met en péril de nombreux autres droits reconnus depuis, parmi lesquels le droit à la contraception, celui de se marier entre personnes du même sexe, ou encore les droits des LGBTQ.

Poussé jusqu'à sa conclusion logique, ce type de raisonnement pourrait même permettre aux États d'interdire le mariage entre personnes d'origine raciales différentes, comme en ont décidé certains jusqu'en 1967. Il est également clair que cette Cour entend conduire une attaque frontale contre le pouvoir exécutif. Parmi les décisions les plus conséquentes rendues au cours de son mandat tout juste achevé, la Cour ne reconnaît pas l'autorité de l'Agence de protection de l'environnement d'émettre les réglementations nécessaires pour lutter contre le changement climatique.

Il n'est pas difficile de trouver le dénominateur commun aux récentes décisions de la Cour : soutenir les causes promues par le Parti républicain de Trump, et affaiblir voire illégaliser celles défendues par le Parti démocrate. Prenons l'exemple de la législation sur les armes à feu. L'aile radicale de la Cour prête une oreille attentive au lobby pro-armes. Ainsi, alors qu'une récente épidémie de fusillades de masse a suscité tant d'indignation que même certains Républicains se sont dits favorables à une nouvelle législation fédérale sur les armes à feu, la Cour a contrebalaçé cette évolution défavorable à la National Rifle Association en s'attaquant à une loi de l'État de New York de longue date consistant à assortir de conditions strictes le port d'une arme de poing dissimulée (l'État de New York a immédiatement adopté de nouvelles lois sur les armes, qui finiront probablement par faire l'objet d'une nouvelle décision de la Cour suprême).

Il fut un temps où la Cour suprême comptait parmi les institutions les plus respectées des États-Unis. À

travers ses récentes décisions, la majorité extrémiste conduit l'instance suprême à susciter un niveau record d'opinion publique défavorable, la désapprobation autour de son action atteignant de nouveaux sommets. L'avis minoritaire des juges dans l'affaire ayant conduit au renversement de l'arrêt Roe énonce que la décision majoritaire « met à mal la légitimité de la Cour ». Il faut malheureusement s'attendre à ce que cette minorité demeure en nombre insuffisant pour de nombreuses années encore, les juges extrémistes étant plus jeunes, et détenant une majorité de 6 contre 3.

Il n'y a qu'un moyen de freiner la Cour suprême : chasser le Parti républicain du pouvoir en obtenant une victoire électorale écrasante, ce qui permettrait au Congrès de préserver via la loi les droits confiés autrefois à la protection de la Cour - une erreur originelle qui apparaît désormais évidente. Le Congrès doit agir, en commençant par préserver le droit des femmes à l'avortement, même si cela doit passer par une obstruction parlementaire.

Sur la voie d'une victoire écrasante contre les Républicains radicalisés, les obstacles s'annoncent malheureusement considérables. Les Républicains ont non seulement rempli de juges extrémistes la Cour suprême et de nombreux autres tribunaux de niveau inférieur, mais, au sein d'États tels que la Floride, la Géorgie et le Texas, ils ont également adopté en ensemble de lois qui rendent le vote très difficile.

Axées sur la privation de droits pour les Afro-Américains, les autres minorités, et plus généralement les jeunes électeurs, ces lois visent en fin de compte à contribuer aux victoires électorales républicaines. Comme l'a récemment rédigé un juge fédéral de Floride dans une décision opposée à ces lois, celles-ci ont été adoptées « dans le but de restructurer le système électoral de Floride, de manière à favoriser le Parti républicain par rapport au Parti démocrate ».

Ces lois seraient déjà suffisamment catastrophiques si elles se contentaient de cibler les électeurs. Or, les Républicains vont désormais encore plus loin, en s'attaquant à la procédure de décompte des votes et de certification des élections. Modifications de la loi afin de faciliter la subversion du système électoral, recrutement d'individus convaincus du grand mensonge de Trump selon lequel l'élection de 2020 lui aurait été volée, et installation de ces individus à des postes de supervision des procédures, nous assistons partout à un assaut des Républicains contre notre système démocratique. Et ici encore, la Cour suprême radicale joue son rôle, en éviscérant le Voting Rights Act, et en permettant une manœuvre pure et simple de redécoupage électoral afin d'affaiblir le pouvoir de vote des minorités.

Fort heureusement, je ne suis pas le seul à parler de grand danger pour la survie de la démocratie américaine. L'opinion publique américaine s'inquiète de la décision de renversement de l'arrêt Roe. Elle doit maintenant prendre conscience de ce que représente précisément cette décision : l'une des composantes d'un plan soigneusement élaboré visant à transformer les États-Unis en un régime répressif.

Nous devons tout faire pour l'empêcher. Cette lutte doit inclure dans ses rangs nombre des citoyens qui ont voté Trump par le passé. Je soutiens le Parti démocrate, mais il ne s'agit pas ici d'une problématique partisane. Il s'agit de rétablir un système politique bipartite qui fonctionne, et qui constitue le cœur de la démocratie américaine.

Traduit de l'anglais par Martin Morel

George Soros, fondateur et président des Open Society Foundations, est l'auteur d'un récent ouvrage intitulé In Defense of Open Society (Public Affairs, 2019).

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ARTICLE

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Elections 2023 Will Be About Weah/CDC Six Years In Power –Love For Country and Hope for Change Failed The People

Mulbah Morlu, CDC Chairman

By: Racassius Jedekan Weah

I do not know if comprehension or purposeful collective amnesia is an issue here but let me make this abundantly clear, ELECTIONS 2023 WILL BE ABOUT PRESIDENT WEAH AND CDC RECORD IN POWER AND NOTHING ELSE. Though my compatriots from the CDC, celebrate and enjoy privatizing the benefits of winning an election but struggle daily to pass the buck to the excluded opposition and past governments for current public policy failures, bad personnel choices, and botched governance. Folks, take off your blinders, the opposition was not voted in 2017, it was the CDC, and it is President Weah and his CDC that govern our country. THE PEOPLE KNOW THIS VERY WELL. Sometimes the rubbishes, lies, and deceits many of our ruling party brethren spew daily in different fora in the name of politics and or strategy, are mostly condescending, obnoxious, nonsensical, irritating, nauseating, and insensitive. I do not know who pays these folks to write and speak such infantile gutter stuff in the name of propaganda and strategy. No matter how you dress the goat, a goat is a goat - it bleats!

So let me endeavor to enlighten my willfully blind friends on the CDC/government side since they assume that all of us who disagree with government policy choices hate the President. WE LOVE THE PRESIDENT BUT SIMPLY DISAGREE WITH MANY OF HIS POLICIES! You all can imagine that if Weah was not the president, many of us would have little or no reason to disagree with him so strongly on policy grounds because he would not have life-changing decisions to make concerning millions of his compatriots. I am sure that the waste they feed our presidents daily to mask their dismal performances in their respective roles can sometimes be overwhelming and or overbearing. But what they are not reminding the president of is that when they were in opposition and disagreed with the UP and made careers out of insulting President Sirleaf daily (that's how the Kojjees, Morlus, Grays, and others cut their teeth in CDC), they didn't HATE the president (or at least nobody considered their very disrespectful and provocative dissent, hate), they were doing the opposition business. Now it should be different. Twisted logic from feeble minds!!! CDC will account for its stewardship for the 6 years and no amount of attempt at shifting blame will help. These are some of the issues the people are already settled on:

When people die mysteriously and there are no conclusive investigative reports or the perpetrators are not brought to book, while the police make repeated rash statements incident after incident, it is fair to imagine that our government is clueless, careless, and even complicit because our collective security is the responsibility of the government and not any imaginary opposition that wields no coercive state power and has no access to the national coffers. It is beyond imprudent to think that the opposition can be blamed for the government's inaction or incompetence on the matter of unsolved crimes.

Further, no one beyond the cool-aid drinkers and their patrons will hold any opposition responsible for alleged unsolved murders, rapes, armed robbers, carjacking, and broad day thievery in the public sector or against private peaceful citizens. Government must provide a sense of security and redress for victims. The people cannot all be expected to sit supinely when nothing is done about their sorrows. Frustration may boil over, and when it does, the government's solution, as it is now, should not be to flog the people or arrest them. Government should provide answers. So, this rubbish you all spew

daily when you blame everyone else but you for your failures in the name of politics is unhelpful to your cause and counterproductive to your benefactors. You all stop fooling each other and try to solve the problems or at least make an honest attempt. No one expects you to wave a magic wand at the problem, but at the very least, we expect that you will be sincere and give your best efforts. Be honest and accept failures the same way you maximize marginal progress. You are not writing politics or doing politics here when you take responsibility for nothing as governors of the country. And if people are paying you for the incessant junk you write daily, then we should book an appointment for those people with the Psychiatrist ... necessary!

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When the dim Chinese street lights you celebrated like you had established an endowment fund to secure the future of coming generations can hardly come on because you refuse to appreciate that power supply was a binding constraint and therefore solar-powered lights were the viable option, the people will not blame the opposition for spending stupid millions simply because, as you claimed, UP only setup the HFO plant on Bushrod Island, and rehabilitated the Mt. Coffee instead of rebuilding a new hydro. The people know the reason your Chinese Christmas lights can barely come or come on so intermittently, is you and the quality of your decision over the five years, or lack thereof. In five years, you have failed to show a better way on many fronts so the question will be WHAT HAVE YOU DONE DIFFERENTLY CDC, besides whining and passing the blame for your lack of innovation and investing the meager resources in critical sectors. Instead of accepting that you have been incompetent in ways, accepting the error of your policies, and recalibrating, you have remained stubborn and naïvely arrogant in your failure to your detriment. You delude yourselves into thinking the opposition that you have sidelined can be held responsible for your glaring governance failures simply because you say so. Yes, the "sycamorian" who feed off your every delusion, and cling to your every fakery, will believe you - I mean, continue to believe you - but the size of your ardent believers and or "worshippers" is dwindling because they are enduring the most pain from your glaring failures ... can't you see?

Don't you think that the people know when they have been disproportionately harmonized to the extent that their irregular salaries can hardly take "papa home," to quote Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Do you think they will hold the opposition responsible for this when they know that recurring expenditure, including the public sector wage bill, increased under your watch while their disposable income decreased? The people are feeling the effect of your ill-advised policy in their pockets.

Don't you know that the people understand that the dim Chinese lights you installed in county capitals and the latter-day scholarships you are offering after 4 years in power to students of some counties are all but a charade and electioneering ploy that addresses no bread-and-butter issues? Can't you tell that unless you dig your head out of the sand and change course on both the policy and personnel front, and it might already be too late to do this, the going will get tougher and your words will no longer be soothing, but will become an irritant as they may have already?

Don't you know that when the people voted on the fabled abstract notion of LOVE FOR COUNTRY, they gambled and expected that their lot would change and not just the lot of the small inner circle? Beyond overcrowding the public sector with mostly incompetent and ill-prepared party hacks, how many private-sector jobs have you created. How have you helped the informal employment sector when the business climate has not been enhanced to attract FDI so that the benefits of the employment derivative activities generated by such FDI will trickle down to the small businessman?. In five years, which major international investor that was not already here or on the verge of beginning operations here in Liberia, have you attracted to this country you LOVE?

Don't you know that the people will not hold the opposition responsible for news about scandal after scandal and public swindles but your government, which has struggled to explain these allegations or address them to satisfactory ends, whether true or not. Do you not know that the people have not gotten the proper explanation for the \$25M mob up or suck-up, if you will, and the Covid-19 US\$25 Million relief which hardly 10% of the population received? Do you not know that if nothing is done about Bali Island, the coastal highway, and the many promises, the people will see them as broken promises and hold the CDC government responsible and not the opposition? Don't you know that your PAPD will be used as a baseline to query your performance in terms of percentage delivered? Watch!!!

Don't you know that the people will be annoyed when the hospitals are without necessary drugs and supplies, but your government, through the Minister of State, can afford to donate \$100,000 to ULAA and promise an additional \$300,000 in annual budgetary support to a people who sustained this economy via their remittances in the difficult years? Don't you think it will be perfectly rational and appropriate that the people consider your government priorities to be upside down and not the opposition? What informs the kind of thinking that led to this donation and the commitment of future resources by a sitting minister of a government that is struggling to meet revenue targets? I should like to read some budget performance reports if there are any.

Don't you know when the community roads are constructed irregularly to signal favoritism, the people understand that the government is not altruistic, authentic, organized, and methodical in its approach. Check the number of roads that were skipped from SKD Stadium going to wherever the community road work stopped on the RIA highway, and you will understand that neighborhoods are frustrated that the so-called bad road medicine has not cured their bad roads.

TO BE CONTINUE NEXT EDITION

UP resorts to legal battle

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former ruling Unity Party (UP) has rejected the result of the Lofa County senatorial by-election days after the National Elections Commission (NEC) declared government-backed candidate Cllr. Joseph K. Jallah as winner.

At a press conference Tuesday, 5 July 2022 in

places having been tallied, the commission hereby declares independent candidate Joseph Kpator Jallah as the winner of the June 28, 2022 senatorial by-election in Lofa County," said Madam Davidetta Browne-Lansanah, Chairperson of the NEC.

The by-election was held to fill a vacant seat which former Defense Minister

its finding, investigation and evidence, the conduct of the Lofa senatorial by-election was marred by many irregularities.

He claimed that some of these were outright illegal actions that impacted the results.

He urged that competent people take over the NEC to prepare it for the 2023 presidential and legislative elections. Boakai said the country has come through so much and it cannot continue to trade peace with a disorderly election.

He urged all partisans of UP, the United Nations, the United States of America, the European Union, the African Union, ECOWAS, and all friends of Liberia [is protected] in this endeavor.

"Meanwhile, our legal team will be communicating with the National Elections Commission to establish our final position on Lofa," said Mr. Boakai.

"These two deliberate violations stated above clearly cast doubts on the validity of the results announced by the National Elections Commission and undermine the sanctity, credibility and integrity of the votes cast in Lofa County on June 28, 2022," he added.

Boakai said Unity Party and its allies take these many violations seriously as they have the effect of NEC allegedly selecting a Senator of Lofa County.

"How insulting to Lofa County!!! The people of Lofa County deserve better than an irregular and mistake-prone process presided over by [the] National Elections

Commission," Amb. Boakai noted.

The former Vice President disclosed that over and over, they have questioned the credibility and capacity of the NEC to conduct free and fair elections in Liberia.

He said NEC's alleged open display of partisanship is also a troubling matter, adding that the Unity Party does not believe that the Commission as currently constituted, can hold credible elections in Liberia in 2023.

Additionally, Boakai said the Unity Party is greatly troubled by the NEC's statement that there

were attempts to hack its website beginning on 30 June when the election results were announced after this date.

"Was the hacking successful? Or was there any hacking at all? These are legitimate questions that we asked in light of all the things that have been done in these elections," said Boakai.

"We submit to you, fellow Liberians, that what was posted by the Commission on its website was the product of NEC itself and these efforts are geared towards changing the results of the election," he stated.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Monrovia, UP said its legal team will be communicating with the NEC to establish the party's final position on the Lofa election.

The former ruling party called for the immediate replacement of the entire NEC Board of Commissioners because it does not represent the people's interest.

Last week, the NEC declared Cllr. Jallah as the winner of the Lofa County Senatorial by-election.

"With 100% of the polling

Brownie Samukai could not be allowed to occupy following his election in 2020 due to his conviction in a criminal trial.

Unity Party's next choice for the Lofa senatorial by-election, Mr. Galakkpai Kortimai also lost the polls to government-supported candidate, Cllr. Jallah.

However, Liberia's former Vice President and current Unity Party leader Amb. Joseph Nuymah Boakai said UP believes that based upon

Weah and CDC didn't win Lofa

By Lewis S. The

The Standard Bearer of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) Mr. Alexander B. Cummings has attributed the successful results of the June 28, 2022, Senatorial By-election in Lofa County to the people of Lofa themselves, and not President Weah nor his governing CDC, as it is being claimed.

"President Weah and the CDC did not win in Lofa; the people of Lofa won themselves and not the CDC",

Mr. Cummings noted here Tuesday, July 5, 2022, when he spoke from Europe via telephone.

He says President Weah knows very well that he has failed the Liberian people. And ruling CDC knows that the President and his friends have failed Liberians.

"President Weah and the CDC are right to be ashamed of their five (5) years of leadership of our country - 5

years of lies and stealing, and 5 years of a few government officials making themselves rich while Liberians have continued to suffer", the ANC leader laments.

Mr. Cummings, who is a harsh critic of the Weah administration, continues that after five of leadership

under President Weah, the ruling CDC could not run or field a candidate in Lofa in its own name and on its own record.

"When one cannot stand on what one has done, one has to know that he or she has done nothing good enough on which to stand to run."



Mr. Cummings, who survived the disintegration of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) says the result of the by-election in Lofa is an important reminder to the opposition community.

He remains lone head of the CPP after two constituent parties of the Collaboration - Unity Party and All Liberian Party jumped the boat and took him to court for alleged tampering but failed to prove their allegation and the State threw out the case.

He says the polls results send a clear message to all Liberians who desire change that together, they are stronger, adding "The Liberian people have shown us that they are more willing to trust us if we are together."

He recalls that in 2020, together and under the leadership of the CPP, the opposition won.

Mr. Cummings also notes that the CPP itself won six (6) senatorial seats during the midterm elections including Montserrado County, so-called stronghold of the ruling CDC besides supporting five other successful candidates.

He says at the time the ruling CDC fought and spent as much as they could but the opposition victories could not be denied. Cummings observes that both the Lofa by-election and previous senatorial polls held in 2020 clearly show that the people of Liberia are no longer interested in political strongholds.

"I think Liberians want their country released from the economic stranglehold caused mostly by corruption and mismanagement. Our people want jobs, foreign investments,

better roads, better schools, and better hospitals" he underscores.

He says Liberians want wages and salaries of teachers, doctors, nurses, police and other security officers, civil servants and other workers in the country to increase just like the prices of food, transportation, gas and fuel are going up. He promises to continue to keep the doors of the CPP wide open, saying "because we know that our country needs all of its citizens to work together to rescue it. to do this, as an opposition community, we need to put aside our personal grievances."

At the same time Mr. Cummings extends an olive branch of peace and friendship to all opposition parties, other CPP stakeholders, and the broader Liberian opposition community, while praying for reconciliation in the opposition Liberty Party.

He says President Weah can spend his time playing around and dancing, but it will not change the fact that lifting Liberia out of the Weah hole will require hard work and collective effort.

The National Elections Commission (NEC) last week declared government-backed candidate Cllr. Joseph K. Jallah as the winner of the Lofa County Senatorial by-election.

"With 100% of the polling places having been tallied, the commission hereby declares independent candidate Joseph Kpator Jallah as the winner of the June 28, 2022, senatorial by-election in Lofa County," said Madam Davidetta Browne-Lansanah, Chairperson of the NEC.

The by-election was held to fill a vacant seat that former Defense Minister Brownie Samukai could not be allowed to occupy following his election in 2020 due to his conviction in a criminal trial.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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ERU officer kills another civilian

-As spouse of three children demands justice



ERU Officer

By Lincoln G. Peters

Another civilian is reportedly killed by an officer of the Liberia National Police's (LNP's) elite Emergency Response Unit (ERU), about a day after an officer of the Executive Protection Service (EPS) killed victim Valentine T. Johnson.

In the fatal shooting

incident reported from a ghetto in New Kru Town, Bushrod Island Monday evening, 4 July 2022, Orlando Bloh, aged 37, was allegedly gunned down by ERU Officer James Togba.

In the same incident in the Fuel Oil Community of New Kru Town, Officer Togba allegedly wounded victim Kengar Kennedy who is said

to be a colleague of the late Bloh.

Officer Togba had allegedly discharged a live bullet when he went out to demand money from illicit drug dealers who are said to be running a ghetto in the Fuel Oil Community in New Kru Town.

The bullet allegedly hit and killed victim Bloh and allegedly wounded victim Kennedy.

The late Bloh is believed to be a disadvantaged youth, but he was said to have a spouse and three children.

The deceased and his spouse Tracy Weah were said to have over 20 years of relationship and had three children.

After allegedly being shot, victim Bloh was taken to the John F. Kennedy Medical Center where he was later pronounced dead on arrival by doctors on duty.

His spouse Tracy Weah is calling on the Government of Liberia through the Liberia National Police and the Ministry of Justice to speedily investigate and dispense justice without favor.

Speaking in an exclusive

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 5

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