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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2022	L\$152.1789 /US\$1.00	L\$153.9340 /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.

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**Weah tells cabinet:
Time to deliver**



**LP submits
corrected
constitution**

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Continental News

Autopsy for ex-Angola leader amid foul play claims

Angolan elections, she said.

Dos Santos, 79, was in Spain for medical treatment and died after a cardiac arrest.

After 38 years in power, he stepped down in 2017 and was succeeded by João Lourenço, who is from the same MPLA party. He has pursued a vigorous anti-corruption campaign, which has included some of Dos Santos'

funeral, against the ex-president's expressed wish to be buried privately in Spain.

President Lourenço's desire to hold a state funeral for Dos Santos in Angola has faced fierce opposition, notably from Tchizé dos Santos, the third daughter of Dos Santos and a former MP for the MPLA.

In an Instagram live over the weekend, Tchizé dos Santos was categorical in saying that her father "should only be buried in Angola when João Lourenço is no longer president of the country".

José Eduardo dos Santos is said to have been afraid his death would be politicised because his children would not be able to travel to Angola for his funeral or to visit his grave.

Another of his daughters, Isabel dos Santos, has been charged with mismanagement and embezzling public funds when she headed the state oil firm, Sonangol. She has denied the charges and says she is the target of political persecution. Isabel and Tchizé dos Santos have been exiled in Europe since their father stepped down.

His son Zenu was jailed for five years for fraud after \$500m (£378m) was transferred from the national bank of Angola to an account in the UK. Relations between the Dos Santos family and the Angolan government have further worsened since he died.

President Lourenço, who was hand-picked by Dos Santos to succeed him, has denied accusations that the government had any link to the former president's death.

He stated that the Angolan government had a duty to organise a state funeral for the country's long-time leader. He also said any Angolan citizen who wanted to travel to Angola for Dos Santos' funeral would be able to do so. The death of the former president during an

election year represents a big challenge for the MPLA and President Lourenço. Dos Santos and President Lourenço met for the last time over Christmas last year at the late president's official residence in Luanda. But it seems that not even this move by President Lourenço was enough to repair the already damaged relations.

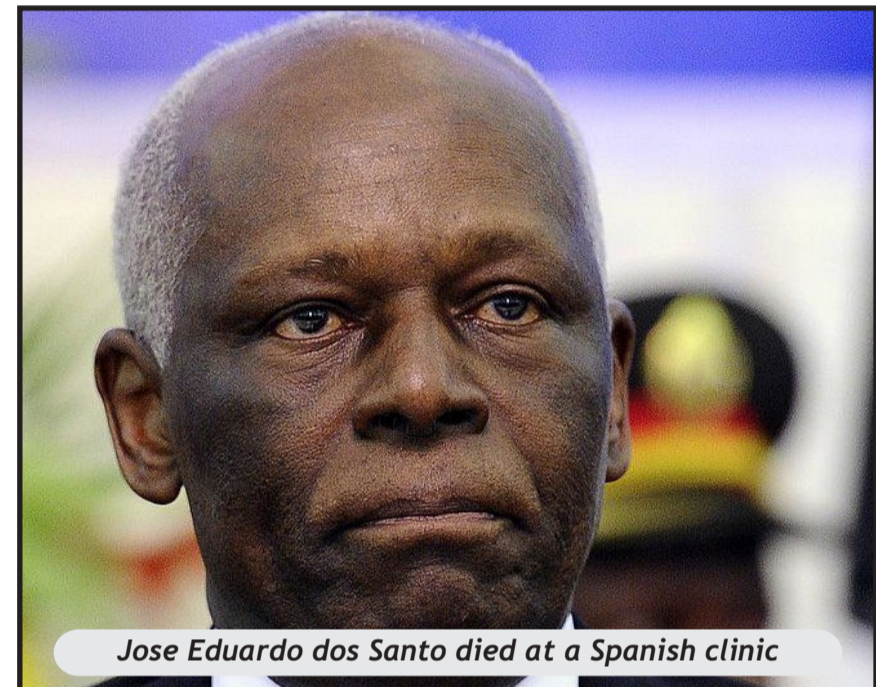
President Lourenço's government is still trying to negotiate with the Dos Santos family about sending their father's body to Luanda.

For President Lourenço, bringing Dos Santos' body back home as soon as possible is needed to reunite the MPLA.

He needs to show a united front to the general public even though there is now a clear division within the party ahead of what could be a difficult election next month. BBC

A Barcelona court has authorised an autopsy on former Angolan President, José Eduardo dos Santo, who died in the city on Friday after his family alleged a conspiracy to kill him.

His daughter, Tchize dos



Jose Eduardo dos Santo died at a Spanish clinic

Santos, had requested the autopsy.

Political enemies did not want him to back the opposition in next month's

children.

Lawyers for the Dos Santos family have denounced moves by the Angolan government to return the body there for a state

Soweto residents say shooting shows they are under siege

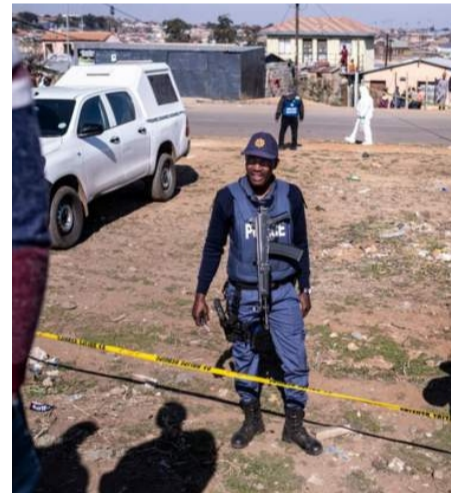
In the moments after the Soweto mass shooting at Mdlalose Place, residents rushed to the dead searching for their relatives. Petrus Mkhize's brother was one of those killed.

"I'd last seen him just hours before the shooting, he told me he was going to the tavern to play snooker next thing I got a call telling me there had been a shooting there and I rushed to see what was going on. When I got there he was already dead," said Mr Mkhize

People here have blamed law enforcement for not doing enough to keep them safe. Police minister Bheki Cele's visited on Monday to address them and speak to investigators.

Mr Cele told me the police are doing their job, but admitted more was needed.

"Yes we could [do] much better and we should do much better but to say we're not doing anything, otherwise [is not correct] - we would not be sitting with 27% overpopulated in prison if police were not doing anything."



South Africa has a high crime rate

Yet he also admitted that the police force is under-resourced and even outnumbered.

South Africa has one of the highest crimes rates in the world - most of it is notoriously violent.

The people of this community say they are under siege, they say crime is a serious problem, one that even the police are afraid to tackle.

Making matters worse, for three years now this community has been without power and under this cover of darkness criminals do their worst. Residents say when night falls everyone needs to be behind closed doors - locked away until morning light. It is no way to live, they tell me. BBC

Kenya's candidates battling misinformation online

Kenya's presidential candidates have been campaigning ahead of elections next month, and there have been misleading allegations made about their qualification to stand.

We've been fact-checking these claims and others ahead of the vote. Kenya's electoral laws require candidates for the presidency to have been awarded a degree from a university recognised in Kenya.

The two leading candidates, Raila Odinga and William Ruto, have both had their studies called into question. First to Mr Odinga, who has had his degree from a German university challenged by opponents.

They have been sharing a social media post claiming to be from University Magdeburg suggesting that Mr Odinga's degree certificate wasn't awarded by the institution.

But the post itself is a fake, and the certificate was indeed genuine. The fake post

above does not appear on the university's Facebook or other social media accounts. None of the genuine accounts has a blue tick associated with them, whereas the fake one does.

There's a further twist to this story. Other posts have been shared claiming that the signature on the certificate is of a university professor who would have been too young at the time Mr Odinga attended the institution. They point to a Prof Montag who would have been about five years old at the time

Mr Odinga was awarded his certificate in 1969. However, the university has confirmed to the BBC the existence of another Prof Montag who had been head of the engineering department at the time Mr Odinga was there.

In addition, a search through a database of German academics reveals that a Prof Gerhard Montag was indeed appointed as a professor in technology and mechanical engineering at the Technical University in Magdeburg in 1966.

It also appears that the Wikipedia entry for University



Magdeburg was tampered with to give the false impression that Mr Odinga never studied there. It has since been rectified to clarify that he was a student at the institution. Mr Odinga's main rival in the presidential race, the current Deputy

President Mr Ruto, has also had his university qualification questioned.

This time, the claim is not that he did not get a degree, but that his performance while attending University of Nairobi was of a lower standard than publicly stated. BBC

EDITORIAL

The management of LPRC must speak now

THE MANAGEMENT OF the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company is saying very little, if anything at all, about the reported disappearance of 1.5 million gallons of petroleum products valued at US\$6 million from storage tanks under its watch. One of the major importers of petroleum into country, Petrol Trade, raised the alarm recently after it shockingly observed that its stock at the LPRC had depleted without having any knowledge how it occurred.

THE ONLY EXPLANATION said to be coming from the LPRC management, according to Petrol Trade is that Aminata, a sister importer, has 400,000 gallons of the said mission petroleum products, while another sister importer, NEXIUM has 300,000 gallons.

BUT HOW THEY gained possession of products that do not belong to them in the first place, remains the 60-million-dollar question. Did the LPRC credit the Petrol Trade products to them? Is there an established policy at the LPRC of allowing an importer to take another importer's product without its consent and approval?

WE BELIEVE IF this were the case, the Management of Petrol Trade wouldn't have alarmed to the public the public in the manner it did. In fact, the public learnt of the incident after Petrol Trade resulted to legal action.

PETROL TRADE, THRU the Heritage Law Firm, recently wrote the Management of LPRC, inquiring the whereabouts of 1.5 million gallons of fuel that were kept under its watch in storage tanks at the state-owned company.

BESIDES THE EARLIER explanations provided by the LPRC Management as quoted by Petrol Trade, the Government of Liberia is yet to provide succinct clarity or explanation on the situation that has the propensity to erode public trust and portray a very negative image about both the government and the country.

THE LPRC MANAGEMENT has adapted a posture of saying very little is felling disinformation and misinformation on a matter that is first time in history.

ARE THERE GAMES being played here? Good business practices required transparency and accountability, two important values that are necessary in remaining in business.

BUT IT SEEMS that the Weah administration cares less about any such thing about image and credibility. All we see daily is that beat goes on, ranging from widespread corruption, mismanagement, arbitrary killings by state security forces with daylight impunity.

WE CALL ON the Management of LPRC to provide full clarity on the reported missing 1.5 million gallons of petroleum under its watch in order to redeem its image, as a credible public entity in Liberia. Working behind the scene without coming public could leave an irreparable damage that may not be good both for this government and could pose future embarrassment for the country.

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COMMENTARY

By Raghuram G. Rajan

Just Say No to "Friend-Shoring"

CHICAGO - In an important speech to the Atlantic Council in April, US Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen issued a welcome call for revitalizing the world economic order. But she also generated headlines with a single sentence advocating what she called "friend-shoring": that is, limiting the trade of key inputs to trusted countries in order to reduce risks to the supply chains on which the United States and its partners rely.

This should worry us. Today's global supply chains - made possible by reductions in tariffs and lower transportation and communication costs - have transformed production by allowing firms to manufacture goods wherever it is cheapest to do so. This has generally meant that while high-value-added inputs (such as research and development, design, advertising, and finance) are sourced in advanced economies, manufacturing moves to emerging markets and developing countries.

The benefits are obvious. Final products are significantly less expensive, so even the poorest people in rich countries can buy them.

At the same time, developing countries participate in the production process, using their most valuable resource: low-cost labor. As their workers gain skills, their own manufacturers move to more sophisticated production processes, climbing the value chain. As workers' incomes rise, they buy more rich-country products.

By 2017, for example, China had more iPhone users than any other country. Knowledge workers in rich countries then earn higher incomes as the market for high-value products grows.

Of course, even though trade yields net benefits, the distribution of gains and losses matters. Trade is not simply "win-win." Hollowed-out small towns in the American Midwest attest to the downside of offshoring production.

It has ever been thus: Across the advanced economies, today's rust-belt towns and cities initially grew by putting traditional craft workers elsewhere out of work. With the right policy support, however, trade need not leave people or communities behind. In Scandinavia, firms constantly focus on upgrading their workers' skills so that they are ready for change.

These are the basic, Economics 101 arguments in support of free and fair trade. But in recent years, global supply chains have displayed new vulnerabilities. In their desire to maximize efficiency, companies have sometimes overlooked resilience. Climate disasters (including floods, droughts, and wildfires) and shocks like the pandemic-induced lockdowns have highlighted "just-in-time" supply chains' many chokepoints.

As a result, firms are now considering whether they should increase their inventories as an additional buffer. They are also looking for ways to reduce chokepoints by diversifying production locations across countries, and to increase flexibility by making inputs more substitutable. Such private-sector responses can preserve the viability of global supply chains.

But resurgent protectionism - cloaked and augmented by new geopolitical rivalries - constitutes a more dangerous threat. The tit-for-tat tariffs between the US and China during Donald Trump's presidency were the opening salvos. The West's subsequent restrictions on the Chinese telecom giant Huawei's sales, and China's restrictions on Australian imports, added more policy uncertainty to the mix. Now, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has introduced the possibility of an angry public broadening official

sanctions beyond what policymakers intend.

If all that is not sufficient to make corporate CEOs rethink the value of their global supply chains, government advocacy of friend-shoring certainly will. True, national security can never be taken lightly. It is legitimate for a country to ensure that goods and services essential to its national defense are produced domestically or by friendly neighbors. The problem is that "essential" is often broadened by protectionist interests to include even widely produced commodities like steel or aluminum.

If any forthcoming friend-shoring mandates were to apply such a broad categorization, they would have devastating effects on international trade. After all, friend-shoring will typically mean trading with countries that have similar values and institutions; and that, in practice, will mean transacting only with countries at similar levels of development.

The benefits of a global supply chain stem precisely from the fact that it involves countries with very different income levels, allowing each to bring its comparative advantage to the production process - PhD researchers from one, for example, and unskilled assembly-line workers from another. Friend-shoring would tend to eliminate this dynamic, thereby increasing production costs and consumer prices. While some labor unions would welcome the reduced competition, the rest of us would regret it.

Moreover, it is not even clear that on-shoring or near-shoring production helps to increase resilience or the reliability of supply. In the US, baby formula is supplied by a government-supported oligopoly of four domestic firms that are protected from foreign competition by high tariffs. But, at this moment, there is no baby formula to be had in some US states, owing to problems in just one facility. So much for building resilience through domestic production!

By the same token, concentrating production within a gated community of advanced economies would not necessarily increase the security of the community. As Brexit showed, friends do not always stay friends. Even countries as close in temperament as the US and Canada had serious disagreements during Trump's presidency.

Even more to the point, existing economic interdependencies can make geostrategic rivals more reluctant to launch missiles at one another. Many observers have noted that China will think twice before invading Taiwan now that it has seen the damage that sanctions are doing to Russia.

But if China were to prepare for an invasion, it would start by reducing its reliance on Western economies, a process that Western friend-shoring would inadvertently advance. Economic entanglements may be messy, but they help keep the peace.

Finally, friend-shoring would tend to exclude the poor countries that most need global trade in order to become richer and more democratic. It will increase the risks that these countries become failed states, fertile grounds to nurture and export terrorism. The tragedy of mass emigration will become more likely as chaotic violence increases.

Friend-shoring is an understandable policy if it is strictly limited to specific items directly affecting national security. Unfortunately, the term's public reception already suggests that it will be used to cover much else.

Raghuram G. Rajan, former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, is Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the author, most recently, of *The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind* (Penguin, 2020).

O-PED

By Diane Coyle

Rethinking Supply Chains

CAMBRIDGE - Starting in the 1980s, transnational production enabled the expansion of global trade and low prices for goods, contributing significantly to economic growth. But the shocks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war have shown firms that the efficiency gains implied by the global division of labor - and just-in-time production - come at the cost of resilience. With global supply-chain bottlenecks unlikely to resolve themselves soon, firms have turned their attention to reshoring or at least "friend-shoring," which seeks to combine closer geographic proximity with greater geopolitical peace of mind.

But turning re-establishing the shorter and more national (or regional) supply chains of a generation ago will be costly in terms of growth. For a hint of just how costly, look no further than post-Brexit Britain's lack of any post-pandemic trade recovery. The United Kingdom's independent Office for Budget Responsibility estimates that productivity will be 4% lower in the long run than it would have been had the UK retained its deep trading links with the European Union. The specialization enabled by globalization has brought significant benefits, as many economists (including me) have long argued.

Businesses will adjust to supply-chain shocks in different ways. Some will reshore. Some will find subcontractors in diverse locations. And some may opt for increased automation. The latter two strategies will carry a lower productivity penalty than reshoring, but will involve adjustment costs and new investment. All three options will roll back some of the globalization of the past four decades.

Other firms, however, will not be able to take any of these steps, given the scale and nature of the upstream activities they have outsourced over the years. In some sectors, such as pharmaceuticals and chemicals, outsourced production accounts for as much as 15-20% of total output.

After 1980, there was a substantial shift among companies toward buying components, rather than making them in-house. This reflected the spread of information and communication technologies that made it possible to send instructions and receive feedback instantaneously, along with a management philosophy that emphasized cost efficiency and lean production. Many multinational firms kept high-value activities such as research and development or design in the headquarters' countries, and sent formulae or blueprints to factories in lower-cost locations such as Malaysia and China. After an initial learning period, these facilities could produce goods at a far lower cost than at home, and often with more consistent quality.

Over time, however, this pattern has generated another hidden cost: the loss of what is often termed tacit knowledge, or know-how, in manufacturing. This refers to the kind of tweaking and learning from experience that never gets written down but happens on every production line. Such insights can provide vital feedback to researchers and engineers, but the feedback is lost when production takes place thousands of miles away.

Rich-country firms have allowed these capabilities to erode for decades and cannot reshore them quickly. East Asian manufacturing centers such as China, Malaysia, and Singapore have developed sustainable, hard-to-replicate advantages in specific sectors and also in areas such as logistics.

This presents problems for policymakers, too. Secure supplies for key commodities such as food and microchips are now at the top of most governments' agendas. Some advanced economies have launched initiatives aimed at rebuilding their manufacturing capability, such as the EU's ambitious €43 billion (\$45.5 billion) semiconductor plan or California's \$100 million proposal to manufacture insulin and other generic drugs.

Such plans may be a good idea, but they will need considerable time and money to succeed. Meanwhile, strategic stockpiles are another possibility. Some countries already hold oil or gas stocks, and many have food reserves such as the cheese and butter stocks in the United States - albeit aimed at supporting farm incomes rather than ensuring security of supply. (The UK, however, ran down its strategic food stockpiles in the mid-1990s.)

Current supply-chain bottlenecks have also highlighted a generally unnoticed reduction in competition. Although economists have been pointing to increasing concentration in many markets, the focus has generally been on the large "superstar" companies at the end of production chains. But today's shortages are a reminder that the more specialized each link in the chain becomes, the less competition there can be at each stage.

At least until recently, competition policy had shown little concern about vertically integrated companies so long as the retail market remained competitive. The presumption was that pressure at the downstream end would flow upstream. Some had already started to question this consensus amid growing evidence of large firms' market power. But the shortage of carbon dioxide (a fertilizer byproduct) in UK food production and the huge impact of one factory closure on supplies of baby formula in the US make the same point forcefully.

These supply-chain challenges are a consequence of forgetting that other considerations besides economic efficiency matter, and that hands-on craft knowledge cannot be transmitted online. Unfortunately, problems that have been four decades in the making cannot be solved overnight, and the best course of action for policymakers is not obvious. That is all the more reason to start rethinking the model now.

Diane Coyle, Professor of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge, is the author, most recently, of *Cogs and Monsters: What Economics Is, and What It Should Be* (Princeton University Press, 2021).

OPINION

By Daron Acemoglu

The Upside of Polarization?

CAMBRIDGE - While there are no ironclad laws of politics, two tendencies in the United States - midterm swings against the incumbent party (the "midterm blues") and the negative electoral effects of inflation and unemployment ("political business cycles") - come pretty close. US President Joe Biden (whose approval rating has sunk for the past year) and the Democrats should not be surprised if they suffer a massive rout in the 2022 midterm elections.

But other long-accepted political truths have been discarded. For decades after World War II, two-party competition within a majoritarian system was thought to have a moderating effect. According to the celebrated "median voter theorem," originally proposed by the economist Duncan Black and then later by the political scientist Anthony Downs, if one party veered too far from the center, it would pay for it at the polls.

Imagine that the US electorate has a range of views about the appropriate level of the federal minimum wage. Some on the right think there should be no federal minimum wage at all, whereas some on the left think it should be at least \$18 per hour. Now suppose that the "median" of this distribution of voters points to a preferred minimum wage of \$12 per hour (the rate above and below which half the electorate falls).

In an election where the minimum wage is the main issue, if the Republican Party listens to its most vocal members and promises to abolish the minimum wage, the Democrats should be able to secure an easy victory by campaigning for a minimum wage of, say, \$13 per hour. It then follows that the Republicans will moderate their approach in the next election, disregarding their vocal base if necessary. And since a small amount of moderation (\$8 per hour, say) will not get them very far, they will have to move to where the median voter is: \$12 per hour.

Downs's observation was powerful, not just because of its theoretical elegance but also because it seemed to explain US electoral politics for quite a while. The parties became so close on most issues as to entrench a moderate "liberal consensus." While some critics saw this as a "failure of democracy," many others regarded it as a feature of the system, not a bug.

Still, cracks were apparent even in the median voter theorem's heyday. Moderate policies require moderate candidates, but primaries require candidates first to win over the most animated and committed of the party's base. Hence, Republicans nominated Barry Goldwater for the 1964 presidential election, even though his views were far to the right of the mainstream; and the Democrats then nominated the left-leaning George McGovern in 1972. Both lost, but their candidacies were signs of things to come.

More recent evidence indicates that the median voter theorem no longer has much purchase on American politics. If it still applied, we would see politicians who are elected in close contests going on to maintain moderate positions in office. But research by economists David Lee, Enrico Moretti, and Matthew Butler shows that something quite different has been happening. Congressional Republicans and Democrats who were elected by only narrow margins still vote just like all other Republicans and Democrats, showing no signs of moderation.

The median voter theorem assumes that voters switch "fluidly" between candidates, depending on their policy platforms. But in the real world, voters tend to base their decisions on a mix of other factors. Which candidate seems more credible, competent, and authentic? Who would I want to be in charge during a national emergency? Who would I want to have a beer with? And party loyalty is deeply ingrained for many voters.

These variables complicate matters greatly. Suppose Republicans listen to their most extreme members and shift their platforms further to the right. In this scenario, Democrats could indeed gain by moving toward the middle, provided that they don't compromise their own credibility. But the problem is that the dynamic playing out among Republicans is likely also to play out among Democrats, with their primary voters pushing them to the left. When the Republicans embrace extremism, many Democrats will conclude that they can pursue their favorite left-wing agenda items and still have a chance of winning.

Add to this the pernicious effects of corporate money and social-media filter bubbles (where extremist ideas get amplified), and you get something very different from self-moderating two-party competition. US politics today is characterized by deep polarization, with Republicans moving further to the right, and Democrats further to the left.

The fall of the "median voter" is not all bad news, of course. Sometimes, the middle of the political spectrum can become convinced of something that simply isn't true (for example, "trickle-down economics"), or it can stop caring about marginal groups. When the median voter theorem reigns supreme, not much can be done about such failings. But in a world where it no longer applies, activists can shift the debate, elevating issues that both parties have long ignored - such as the plight of blue-collar workers who lost their jobs to cheap imports or automation; the decline of the middle class; or the far-reaching consequences of systemic racism.

Where does that leave us with the near-iron laws of politics mentioned above? When both parties are near the middle, macroeconomic performance or small policy differences can drive big midterm electoral swings. But the situation is quite different when one party goes off the deep end, as Republicans have done, and even more so when a right-wing Supreme Court is dismantling rights that generations of Americans have long taken for granted.

This level of extremism could create an opening for Democrats to form a broader coalition (the Court, after all, is increasingly at odds with the American public). But to do that, Democrats need to strike the right balance between the bread-and-butter issues that matter to most Americans and an agenda countering Republican extremism. That means avoiding obviously divisive positions (for example, "defund the police"). Even - or especially - when the median does not hold, broadening the base is good politics.

Daron Acemoglu, Professor of Economics at MIT, is co-author (with James A. Robinson) of *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty* (Profile, 2019) and *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty* (Penguin, 2020).

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia scores 75% in EITI reports

The Extractive Industry and Transparency Initiative (EITI) says Liberia has achieved a moderate overall score of 75 points in implementing the 2019 EMT Standard.

“On 17 June 2022, the EITI Board agreed that Liberia had achieved a moderate overall

Validation provides an opportunity to assess performance and good practice in the extractive sector and to identify opportunities to strengthen the impact of the EITI across all its 56 implementing countries.

She noted that this result reflects the high-level

commends your government for achieving a high score of 81.5 points on outcomes and impact,” said Madam Clark.

“A moderate score of 75 points was achieved on stakeholder engagement but a fairly low score of 69.5 points on transparency,” she added.

It was clear from the Validation that steps have been taken to rebuild the EITI process following resolution of governance issues within the National Secretariat in 2018/19, she continued.

And efforts to use the EITI as a platform to bring about reform and debate in the extractive sector have subsequently been resumed, according to the EITI Board.

It suggested that there are opportunities to build further on these efforts by improving transparency around the award of extractive rights, the beneficial ownership of companies, contracts, and the operations of the national or company, while ensuring that EITI objectives are aligned with national priorities for the extractive industries.

“The Board has determined that Liberia will have until the next Validation commencing on 1 April 2024 to carry out fourteen corrective actions and to consider the strategic recommendations from this Validation,” the communication said. It noted also that the International EITI Secretariat stands ready to support the government and the Muti - stakeholder Group in President Weah’s efforts to

take forward implementation of the EITI Standard.

“We hope that the

recommendations stemming from the Validation are helpful in directing these efforts.”

PFL decries conditions in prisons



Prison Fellowship Liberia (PFL) describes conditions inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison and other prison facilities across the country as horrific and a timebomb, waiting to explode due to over crowdedness and inhumane environment. PFL Country Director, Reverend Francis Kollie expresses disappointment that the Government of Liberia would treat its citizens like animals.

Reverend Kollie made the observation here over the weekend after donating a generator and food items to the Monrovia Central Prison under the auspices of Keraya’s Gift.

According to him, his guests who accompanied him on a tour of the Monrovia Central Prison were in tears and horrified to see how a government that often boasts of good human rights records would treat its own citizens and foreign nationals who have come in conflict with law, like wild beats.

He notes that rooms for inmates at the Central Prison are so overcrowded to the extent that some inmates tied cloths to iron widow bars to sleep on because of lack of space on the floor.

He cautions that the situation may give rise to jail break and people could lose their lives.

“As I am speaking, the President’s executive clemency granted for the release of about 500 inmates has gone on the opposite with the dramatic increase on the number of inmate’s incarceration”, Rev.

Kollie further observes.

He adds that the courts are now making money from the incarceration of inmates because it has become a precondition to release detainees, some of whom have been in prison beyond the statutory period.

“As for the women’s ward,” he went on, “which was constructed for less than five inmates, is now hosting more 45 women, including pregnant women behind bars for months [for just owing] 2,000 Liberian Dollars.”

The PFL boss calls on Chief Justice Francis Korkpor to wake from his slumber and visit the Monrovia Central Prison and other prison facilities to see the dehumanizing conditions of prisons in Liberia, stressing “with two more months before he retires, he needs to see things for himself or he will be leaving a bad legacy.”

The story is the same in every prison he visited, and the government is not giving any attention to the dehumanizing conditions of inmates.

Meanwhile, Reverend Kollie says he differs with President George Weah on his claim that his government has respect for human rights and justice in the country.

He says the CDC-led government really does not have respect for human rights, evidenced by the detention of citizens in such appalling and inhuman manner with some of them dying without being given justice.

“I am so discouraged with this judicial system; the rule of law



score of 75 points in implementing the 2019 EMT Standard,” Madam Helen Clark, EITI Board Chair said in a communication addressed to President George Manneh Weah.

In the communication dated 17 June 2022, Madam Clark said she was pleased to inform the president of the results of Liberia’s Validation under the revised EITI Standard.

She explained that

commitment and dedication of President Weah’s government, key office holders, staff, and Multi-stakeholder Group members.

She cited the government’s commitment to harness the EITI as a platform to advance reforms, inform public debate, and improve access to information on the mining, oil and gas, forestry, and agriculture sectors.

“The EITI Board

S/Leonean drug trafficker faces court

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan

The Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) Bong County Detachment has charged and sent Sierra Leone National Aleo Bankura to court for alleged drug trafficking.

The LDEA further confiscated 191 kilograms in Dekeh town, Fuamah District from the Town Chief, David Mulbah, who is believed to have been in trafficking and business contacts with suspect Aleo.

Town Chief Mulbah is on the run, according to the LDEA. He allegedly provided land to Aleo and others to produce marijuana and has allegedly been involved with the local sales of the narcotic drugs.

Bong County LDEA Commander Thomas Saye said after they got a tipoff, some of the Officers immediately pretended to be Consumers and went to the town to carry on the arrest.

The street value of the confiscated marijuana can be

placed at US\$8,595 Dollars or a little over LRD\$1,289,000.

The LDEA has declared Town Chief David Mulbah wanted and called on the Ministry of Internal Affairs and local citizens to help bring him to justice.

In a related development, the Bong County LDEA Commander Thomas Saye has identified the lack of vehicles as a major challenge for their operations.

He told journalists that he is currently using his personal vehicle to carry on arrests in the county.

He noted that the LDEA sometimes finds it very difficult to reach places that have bad roads.

Commander Saye wants the Liberian government to aid the detachment with a vehicle in order to fast-track the arrest of drug-dealers in the county.

For his part, Aleo Bangura



said he is innocent of the charges, promising to prove his innocence in court.

Suspect Bangura said he has

been living in Liberia for about ten years now and has never engaged in illegal things. --

Edited by Winston W. Parley

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Leave confidantes and cronies out of corruption fight

-CENTAL urges Weah's government
By Lewis S. Teh

As Liberia joins her counterparts in the subregion and other parts to commemorate Anti-

Transparency International's Movement has consistently reminded the AU Commission and her members states about their obligations and

African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) that was adopted in Maputo, Mozambique on 11 July 2003 and came into force in 2006.

Reading a statement at a news conference Sunday, 11 July in Monrovia Mr. Maimen noted the day is being held on the theme: "Strategies and Mechanisms for the Transparent Management of COVID-19 Funds."

He narrates that since the adoption of the Convention, African states have made significant efforts in the fight against corruption, including the establishment of national laws and creation of anti-corruption agencies.

To date, the Convention has been ratified by 47 Member States of the African Union, including Liberia, according to Mr. Maimen. He says despite the efforts, some major challenges still remain, cognizant of the need to continually reflect on approaches to ending corruption.

He adds that the African Union designated 11 July as the African Anti-Corruption Day, just as December 9 is celebrated as International Anti-Corruption Day.

According to him, since the

formation of the day, the African Union Commission and its specialized bodies, especially the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUBC) have since been holding relevant activities and events to commemorate the day.

He says the Commission is not mistaken in its decision, as Corruption remains the major hurdle to poverty reduction, sustainable and inclusive economic development, as well as peace and stability on the continent, especially in poor countries such as Liberia.

"In the words of the AU Commission, July 11 is meant to give prominence to the fight against corruption through the commemoration of the adoption of the AUCPCC as a mechanism for fighting corruption in Africa." The CENTAL Boss disclose that Liberia ratified the Convention in 2007 and has since been an integral part of legal frameworks for fighting corruption in the country besides the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), Economic Community of West African States Protocol on Corruption, and Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 16.5.

He says CENTAL as an integral part of global and continental fights against corruption, Transparency International and

her African Chapters, including the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) which he says join the AU Commission and other stakeholders in commemorating July 11 as African Anti-Corruption Day.

"To minimize the fight against corruption in any country, we have been urging African Governments to move away from rhetoric to more tangible and impactful actions, including but not limited to strengthening anti-corruption legal frameworks, providing adequate financial and moral support to public integrity institutions, as well as increasing efforts to address immunity--ensuring that there are no untouchable individuals and groups in the fight against corruption", Mr. Maimen underscores.

He adds that this was particularly meant for Liberia that continues to struggle with addressing Impunity due to limited political will, weak implementation of laws and policies, and poorly funded public integrity institutions such as the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, General Auditing Commission, Public Procurement and Concession Commission, and Liberia Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative, respectively. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



corruption Day here, the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia or CENTAL urges the Government of Liberia under the stewardship of President George Weah to foster robust and inclusive fight against corruption, void of confidants and cronies."The

commitments to fostering a robust, inclusive, and dynamic fight against corruption - a fight that does not protect confidantes and cronies of the power."

CENTAL Executive Director Anderson D. Maimen says the commemoration of the day is in line with the

Book of Condolence opens for women peace activists

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Women of Liberia gathered Monday, 11 July 2022 to sign the book of condolence for the late Madam Roseline Toweh, a peace activist, and other women and girls involved in peace advocacy.

The signing of the book of condolence will continue up to Friday, 15 July 2022.

Many prominent women including former Foreign Minister Olubanke King - Akerele, former Gender Minister Julia Duncan-Cassell and former Education Minister Evelyn Kandakai, were in attendance.

There were also several grass root women from across the country.

The women in their sober mood at the signing ceremony paid tributes to their fallen colleague, describing her as a great loss to the nation.

Mrs. Roseline Toweh died on 18 June 2022 at the St. Joseph Catholic Hospital in Congo Town.

She was the National Coordinator of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

She was also an Eminent

Woman of the Women's Situation Room (WSR).

She headed the Liberian Women Mass Action for Peace and recently read the position statement of the Women's Mass Action for Peace during the closure of a 14-day fast and prayer.

In her welcoming remarks, the National President of YWCA, Mrs. Helen Bassey, thanked the women for coming.

She said Roseline was like a friend to everybody and will be remembered for her role in ensuring that the peace of

Liberia is sustained.

Speaking in a brief interview, the Establishment Coordinator of the Angie Brooks International Center for Women's Empowerment, Cllr Cyvette Chesson-Wureh said Roseline Toweh was an eminent woman from the very start of the war room of the Women's Situation Room.

"The late Madam Toweh has been with us in several meetings of the WSR concerning the peace of this country," said Cllr. Wureh.

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Lack of capacity building leads to poverty



-Rep. Alfred Koiwood

By Bridgett Milton

Gbarpolu County district#1 Rep. Alfred Koiwood says empowering less-privileged individuals in rural Liberia is key to alleviating poverty, early marriage, teenage pregnancy and other forms of underdevelopment.

He stresses that when less-privileged Liberians are capacitated, they can overcome life challenges and immensely contribute to the growth and development of society. Representative Koiwood spoke over the weekend when over 500 students graduated from a four-month vocational training in soap making, baking and decoration, including tie

and dye in in the county.

The graduates were driven from Kpanta and Bordia towns respectively in Gbarpolu.

In response, the graduates, majority of whom are women, commend Representative Alfred Koiwood for reintegrating them into the society. They vow to apply the skills acquired for the benefit of their respective families and society at large. The graduates were presented kits (materials) valued 430,000 Liberian Dollars by the Gbarpolu lawmaker as a startup in their chosen acquired.

Rep. Koiwood underscores the need for rural women to have a level of independence, rather than depending on their husbands alone. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Français

Ayant refusé la création d'un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre, le parti au pouvoir s'explique

Deux hauts responsables de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), la coalition au pouvoir, ont publiquement défendu le refus de l'État du Libéria d'établir un tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques au Libéria.

Samuel D. Tweh et Saymah Syrenius Cephus, respectivement ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, et solliciteur général du Libéria, ont cité au cours du week-end la peur et de graves violations constitutionnelles comme étant certaines des raisons pour lesquelles le régime de Weah refuse d'établir le tribunal.

Les deux cadres ont pris la parole lors de la cérémonie du lancement officiel du livre de Me Arthur Tamba Johnson, avocat libérien. Le ministre Tweh accuse ceux qui défendent l'établissement d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre de vouloir renverser le gouvernement du président George Manneh Weah.

C'est la même raison, selon eux, pour laquelle le régime de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf a refusé d'établir le tribunal.

Lorsqu'il était à l'opposition, le Congrès pour Changement Démocratique (CDC), le parti du président Weah, avait demandé à la l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf d'établir un tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques au Libéria pour poursuivre les auteurs présumés des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques.

Le 8 juillet 2022, le conseiller Arthur T. Johnson a officiellement lancé son livre intitulé : "Examining The Consequences Of The Government of Liberia's Failure to Establish Economic and War Crimes Court to Prosecute War Criminals" (Examiner les conséquences du refus du gouvernement d'établir un tribunal des crimes de guerre pour juger les criminels de guerre).

Mais le ministre Tweh estime

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Mali: 49 soldats ivoiriens arrêtés à Bamako

Les soldats ivoiriens ont été arrêtés, dimanche 10 juillet 2022 en début d'après-midi, à l'aéroport de Bamako. Depuis, les messages alarmistes et même complotistes circulent sur les réseaux sociaux, les présentant comme des mercenaires lourdement armés venus déstabiliser le pays. Ces soldats appartiennent, en réalité, à l'armée régulière ivoirienne. Ils devaient sécuriser, selon l'armée ivoirienne, des sites

de la Minusma, la Mission des Nations unies.

Ils appartiennent au 8e détachement du NSE (National Support Element). C'est un cadre de l'état-major ivoirien qui le précise : ces 49 soldats sont arrivés à Bamako dimanche à la mi-journée, à bord du même avion qui avait ramené à Abidjan, le matin même, le précédent détachement. Deux avions même, pour être précis, l'un transportant les hommes, l'autre le matériel. « C'est une incompréhension malheureuse »,

explique ce haut gradé de l'armée ivoirienne, qui assure que tout était en règle pour leur arrivée.

Selon l'armée ivoirienne, ce sont pourtant des problèmes administratifs qui sont invoqués par les autorités maliennes. « D'abord, ils ont dit que l'avion n'était pas sur la liste des appareils autorisés à atterrir. Ce problème a été vite levé, poursuit cette source, mais maintenant, ils disent que nos soldats n'avaient pas de lettre de mission conforme. » Sollicités par RFI, ni l'armée malienne ni le ministère malien de la Défense n'ont souhaité répondre. Les 49 soldats ivoiriens ont passé la nuit en détention. Le problème n'est toujours pas réglé.

Selon les explications de l'armée ivoirienne, ces soldats sont là dans le cadre de la contribution ivoirienne à la Minusma. Ils sont détachés auprès d'une entreprise privée, SAS, Sahel Aviation Service, elle-même sous-traitante de la mission onusienne. Dirigée par un Allemand, cette entreprise travaille habituellement dans

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Éditorial

Que la direction de la LPRC s'explique

La direction de la Liberia Petroleum Refining Company ne dit presque rien sur la disparition présumée de 1,5 million de gallons de produits pétroliers d'une valeur de 6 millions de dollars américains de ses réservoirs de stockage. L'un des principaux importateurs de pétrole dans le pays, Petrol Trade, a récemment sonné l'alarme après avoir observé de manière choquante que son stock qui est à la LPRC a considérablement diminué sans savoir comment cela s'est produit.

La seule explication que la direction de la LPRC a donnée jusque-là est que la société Aminata possède 400 000 gallons de produits pétroliers et la société NEXIUM 300 000 gallons, selon la société Petrol Trade.

Mais comment ont-ils acquis des produits qui ne leur appartiennent pas en premier lieu. La LPRC leur a-t-elle donné ces produits ? Existe-t-il une politique établie à la LPRC qui permet à un importateur de prendre le produit d'un autre importateur sans son consentement et son approbation ?

Nous pensons que si c'était le cas, la direction de Petrol Trade n'aurait pas alarmé le public. En fait, le public a appris l'incident après que Petrol Trade a intenté une action en justice.

Petrol Trade, par l'intermédiaire du cabinet d'avocats Heritage, a récemment écrit à la direction de la LPRC pour lui demander où se trouvent ses 1,5 million de gallons de carburant qui lui avaient été confiés et mis dans ses réservoirs de stockage.

Outre les explications antérieures fournies par la direction de la LPRC, citées par Petrol Trade, le gouvernement du Libéria n'a pas encore donné de clarté ou d'explication sur la situation qui a tendance à éroder la confiance du public et à donner une image très négative du gouvernement et du pays.

La direction de la LPRC a adopté une posture consistant à dire très peu sur une situation qui est une première de son genre dans l'histoire du Libéria.

Y a-t-il des jeux qui se jouent ici ? Les bonnes pratiques commerciales exigent la transparence et la responsabilité, deux valeurs importantes qui sont nécessaires pour rester en affaires.

Mais il semble que l'administration Weah se soucie moins de l'image et de la crédibilité. Tout ce que nous voyons quotidiennement, c'est que le rythme continue, allant de la corruption généralisée à la mauvaise gestion, en passant par les assassinats arbitraires par les forces de sécurité en toute impunité.

Nous appelons la direction de la LPRC de fournir toute la clarté sur les 1,5 million de gallons de pétrole qui sont portés disparus sous sa surveillance afin de racheter son image, en tant qu'entité publique crédible du Libéria. Travailler dans l'ombre pourrait causer des dommages irréparables et négatifs pour ce gouvernement et provoquer un embarras pour le pays dans le futur.



Français

Ayant refusé la création d'un tribunal pour les

que la défense de l'établissement d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre au Libéria n'est rien d'autre qu'un jeu politique dont l'objectif réel est de renverser le pouvoir du président George Manneh Weah.

"Maintenant que Morlue est président du parti au pouvoir, ceux qui ont fermé les yeux sur son plaidoyer disent maintenant qu'il est temps d'établir le tribunal ou d'en assumer les coûts", a déclaré Tweah.

« Alors maintenant, la peur est l'objectif pour établir le tribunal. Nous devons rétablir le sens de la peur », a dit le ministre Tweah.

Il a en outre indiqué que la création du tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques au Libéria sera un risque et que ceux qui le réclament jouent à un jeu.

Le ministre Tweah a fait valoir que si on explique l'impact social et économique du tribunal des crimes de guerre et économiques au Libéria,

ceux qui plaident pour sa création s'en retireront.

Pendant ce temps, le ministre Tweah a acheté plus de 1 000 exemplaires du livre et a promis de s'assurer qu'ils sont accessibles à tous les étudiants.

Il a aussi dit qu'il veillerait également à ce que le livre parvienne à tous les membres du Congrès américain pour leur donner une compréhension claire de l'impact de la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et économiques au Libéria.

Pour sa part, Me Syrenius Cephus a déclaré que le gouvernement du Libéria n'est pas responsable de la création du tribunal des crimes de guerre et économiques car il s'agit d'une question constitutionnelle grave. Il a soutenu que le président Weah n'a pas le pouvoir d'établir le tribunal comme d'autres le souhaitent.

Me Cephus a également fait valoir que les articles 2 et 4 de la Constitution du Libéria empêchent le président parce qu'un arrangement constitutionnel supplémentaire est nécessaire pour établir la cour.

Mali: 49 soldats ivoiriens

la sous-région pour des ONG, des groupes miniers ou encore, donc, pour les Nations unies. C'est en tout cas ce que précise son site internet puisque, jointe par RFI, l'entreprise SAS a confirmé être mobilisée sur le cas des militaires ivoiriens, mais n'a souhaité apporter aucune précision.

Selon l'armée ivoirienne, les soldats arrêtés à Bamako sont censés sécuriser des sites de la Minusma, notamment à l'aéroport de

Bamako, mais aussi dans des « entrepôts logistiques ». La Mission onusienne n'a, elle non plus, pas souhaité faire de commentaire à ce stade. Cette affaire rappelle celle des militaires danois : en janvier dernier, ils étaient arrivés au Mali dans le cadre de la force Takuba, en suivant les procédures habituelles. Les autorités maliennes avaient estimé que ces procédures ne suffisaient plus à garantir leur « consentement » et les avaient contraints à rentrer chez eux.

Togo: au moins sept enfants morts dans une ou plusieurs explosions dans l'extrême nord du pays

Sept enfants sont décédés et deux autres grièvement blessés dans la nuit du 9 au 10 juillet dans la région des savanes, à la frontière du Bénin et du Burkina Faso, pas loin du parc de Pendjari et de la réserve de Pama. Dans cette région, des groupes armés attaquent régulièrement, côté burkinabè et béninois, et ces dernières semaines, côté togolais, il y a eu des attaques armées. Ces enfants ont-ils été victimes d'un acte terroriste ou d'une bavure ? Pour le moment, on ne sait vraiment pas ce qui s'est passé.

e confusion règne encore autour de la mort de ces enfants âgés de 10 à 15 ans. Plusieurs témoins de la localité attestent avoir entendu deux explosions dans la nuit, ce qui pourrait s'apparenter à des mines antipersonnel. Quand ils se sont rendus sur les lieux, des corps d'enfants difficilement reconnaissables gisaient au sol.

D'autres sources contactées affirment que les enfants ont été touchés par des tirs venant d'engins volants.

Explosion d'engin improvisé ou tir à partir de drone, impossible pour le moment de savoir ce qui s'est réellement passé cette nuit. Mais le chef d'état-major général des Armées indique dans un communiqué qu'une enquête est ouverte pour élucider les circonstances de cette explosion et identifier les auteurs.

COMMENTAIRE

par Raghuram G. Rajan

Non à la restriction du commerce aux pays amis !

CHICAGO - Lors d'un discours important devant l'Atlantic Council [un groupe de réflexion américain], la secrétaire au Trésor, Janet Yellen, a appelé à juste titre à revitaliser l'ordre économique mondial. Une phrase a particulièrement attiré l'attention, celle dans laquelle elle appelait à limiter le commerce des principaux intrants aux pays dignes de confiance, les pays amis ("friend-shoring"), ceci afin de réduire les risques encourus par les chaînes d'approvisionnement utilisées par les USA et leurs partenaires.

Cela devrait nous inquiéter. Aujourd'hui, les chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales (qui existent grâce à la baisse des taxes douanières, du coût du transport et des communications) ont transformé la production en permettant aux entreprises de fabriquer des biens là où le coût de production est le plus faible. Autrement dit, les intrants à grande valeur ajoutée (par exemple en recherche et développement, dans la conception, la publicité et la finance) proviennent des pays avancés, tandis que la fabrication est délocalisée vers les pays émergents ou en développement.

Les avantages sont évidents. Les produits finaux sont nettement moins chers, de sorte que même les pauvres des pays riches peuvent les acheter. Et le revenu des travailleurs du savoir de ces pays augmente, car le marché des produits à forte valeur ajoutée se développe.

De leur côté, les pays en développement participent au processus de production en utilisant leur ressource la plus précieuse : une main-d'œuvre à faible coût. Au fur et à mesure que leurs travailleurs acquièrent des compétences, leurs propres fabricants adoptent des processus de production plus sophistiqués et remontent dans la chaîne de valeur. Les revenus des travailleurs augmentant, ils achètent davantage de produits des pays riches. C'est le cas pour la Chine qui comptait en 2017 plus d'utilisateurs d'iPhone que tout autre pays.

Certes le commerce génère des bénéfices, mais ce n'est pas simplement un échange gagnant-gagnant car il ne faut pas oublier la répartition des gains et des pertes. Les petites villes exsangues du Midwest américain témoignent des inconvénients de la délocalisation de la production.

Il en a toujours été ainsi : dans les pays avancés, les villes de la "ceinture de rouille" [les zones anciennement industrialisées] se sont développées en mettant au chômage les artisans traditionnels. Toutefois avec un soutien politique approprié, le commerce ne laisse pas nécessairement des personnes ou des groupes sur le bord du chemin. Ainsi en Scandinavie, les entreprises s'efforcent constamment d'améliorer les compétences de leurs travailleurs afin qu'ils soient prêts au changement.

Tels sont les arguments de base en faveur d'un commerce libre et équitable ; on peut les trouver dans les cours d'économie pour débutant. Néanmoins au cours des dernières années, de nouvelles vulnérabilités sont apparues dans les chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales. Au nom de l'efficacité maximale, les entreprises ont parfois négligé la résilience. Les catastrophes climatiques (notamment les inondations, les sécheresses et les incendies de forêt) et les crises (par exemple le confinement lié au COVID-19) ont mis en évidence les nombreux goulets d'étranglement des chaînes d'approvisionnement à flux tendu.

C'est pourquoi les entreprises se demandent aujourd'hui si elles doivent augmenter leurs stocks à titre de précaution supplémentaire. Elles cherchent aussi à réduire les goulets d'étranglement en répartissant les sites de production dans différents pays et veulent accroître la flexibilité en rendant les intrants plus faciles à remplacer les uns par les autres. Le secteur privé vise ainsi à maintenir la continuité des chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales.

Mais la résurgence du protectionnisme, masquée et

renforcée par les nouvelles rivalités géopolitiques, constitue une menace plus dangereuse que les problèmes des chaînes d'approvisionnement. La bagarre du type œil pour œil, dent pour dent autour des taxes douanières entre les USA et la Chine pendant la présidence de Trump n'ont été qu'une première salve. Les restrictions ultérieures imposées par les pays occidentaux aux produits vendus par Huawei, le géant chinois des télécommunications et celles imposées par la Chine aux importations australiennes ont encore aggravé les incertitudes politiques. Et aujourd'hui, en raison de la pression de l'opinion publique liée à la guerre en Ukraine, les sanctions contre la Russie pourraient s'étendre au-delà de ce que souhaitent les décideurs politiques.

Si tout cela ne suffit pas à inciter les entreprises à repenser la valeur de leurs chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales, le plaidoyer des gouvernements en faveur de la restriction du commerce aux pays amis le fera certainement. Il est vrai que la sécurité nationale ne doit pas être prise à la légère. Il est légitime pour un pays de s'assurer que les biens et services essentiels à sa défense nationale sont produits sur son territoire ou par des pays amis voisins. Cependant les intérêts protectionnistes élargissent souvent le mot "essentiel" aux produits courants (par exemple l'acier et l'aluminium).

Si dans l'avenir la restriction des échanges aux pays amis devait englober ces produits, cela aura un effet dévastateur pour le commerce international. Dans le cadre de cette politique, on limite généralement les échanges aux pays qui ont des valeurs et des institutions similaires - en pratique, des pays qui ont un niveau de développement similaire.

L'intérêt des chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales tient au fait qu'elles impliquent des pays aux niveaux de revenu très différents, ce qui permet à chacun d'apporter son avantage comparatif au processus de production (par exemple les chercheurs titulaires d'un doctorat dans un pays, les ouvriers non qualifiés travaillant à la chaîne dans un autre). Or les restrictions commerciales envisagées affecteront cette dynamique, ce qui se traduira par une augmentation des coûts de production et des prix à la consommation. Certains syndicats se réjouiront de voir la concurrence réduite, mais la plupart d'entre nous la regretterons.

Par ailleurs, il n'est même pas certain que la délocalisation de la production à l'intérieur des frontières du pays ou dans un pays voisin contribue à accroître la résilience ou la fiabilité de l'approvisionnement. Aux USA, c'est un oligopole de quatre entreprises américaines protégé de la concurrence étrangère par des droits de douane élevés qui produit le lait infantile. Mais, en ce moment certains Etats américains sont en rupture de stock en raison de problèmes dans une seule usine. Voilà pour ce qu'il en est de renforcer la résilience par la production nationale !

De même, la concentration de la production au sein d'un groupe de pays avancés n'améliorera pas nécessairement leur sécurité. Comme l'a montré le Brexit, les amis ne restent pas toujours amis. Même des pays aussi proches par leurs caractéristiques que les USA et le Canada ont eu de sérieux désaccords entre eux lors de la présidence de Trump.

Enfin, ne commercer qu'avec des pays amis tend à exclure des échanges les pays pauvres qui ont le plus à gagner de la mondialisation pour prospérer et se démocratiser. Cela augmente le risque qu'ils deviennent des Etats défaits, un terrain propice au développement du terrorisme et à son exportation. Le chaos et les violences s'intensifiant, il pourrait en être de même de l'émigration de masse et des tragédies qui l'accompagnent.

La restriction des échanges aux pays amis est compréhensible si elle s'applique exclusivement aux produits qui touchent directement à la sécurité nationale. Malheureusement, la perception de cette mesure par l'opinion publique montre qu'elle pourrait s'étendre bien au-delà.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

By Naneka Hoffman

Unity Party Standard Bearer Joseph Boakai has called for a recount of votes cast in the June 28, 2022 Senatorial By-election conducted in Lofa County won by Cllr. Joseph Jallah of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change. But the National Elections Commission says it stands by the polls result. In this random interview, The New Dawn asks several residents of Monrovia whether there should be a recount of polls from the senatorial by-election, as the UP Standard Bearer demands. Read their views as compiled verbatim.



Adama Jah

“I will say No and if any other person is calling for recount, I think it should not be Joseph Boakai because the party Amb. Joseph Boakai heads is a party of confusion and there is nothing you can do in this country and succeed when conflict is in it. When unity is in

something, you will see succeed, but Amb. Boakai and others were testifying and their entire party was in court and other people felt bad. I myself was thinking about supporting the CPP but when I saw their disagreement, I felt bad so, there should be no recount because Amb. Joseph Boakai himself is a failure to the Liberian people.”



Archie Clay

“No, it will be difficult for Amb. Joseph Boakai because he has worked in

government for so many years without nothing to show. Even during their administration, when he was Vice President, nothing he could show to the Lofians. So, for an independent candidate winning his party in Lofa County, he has nothing to say to the Lofians. Now he is calling on NEC to do recount in the just-ended By-election. Let Amb. Boakai think on different thing, because Cllr. Joseph Jallah won the election convincingly and physically.”



Hassan S. Kamara

“Yes, there should be a recount. We are not satisfied with the results because the tally sheet

number is far different from the NEC number. So, we are not satisfied with the results. There should be a recount.”

“For me, I don’t support that idea (call for recount) because the person who won that seat is son of Lofa and he has been in the race before. If you follow his track record, he has been coming second in the past three elections and a very close start to the winner. Even during the 2020 election, he also came second so,



Titus Progressive Siakor

by him winning this time around with a narrow margin, it is not something that is not impossible, being that he has stayed long in politics and has built his capacity over the past years with the people of Lofa.”

“With me, if I were in the Unity Party, I could advise the former Vice President to let everything goes and congratulate Cllr. Joseph Jallah as winner. No, there should be no recount because the former Vice President hails from Lofa County and the election was conducted in Lofa among Lofians. The citizens of Lofa were deciding which of their sons or their daughters should represent them in the Senate and the people have chosen



Victor B. Weah

Cllr. Jallah. For the former Vice President to have a dissenting view against the will of the people, he will be creating the biggest separation in Lofa County.”

Weah tells cabinet: Time to deliver

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh
 President George Weah informs his cabinet, currently retreating in vote-rich Nimba County ahead of elections in 2023 that his government has entered a major phase of delivering to the Liberian people. According to President Weah, for the past four years, government has been improving its image and enhancing its capacity, but it

retreat since he came to office in 2018, President Weah on Monday, 11 July urged members of his cabinet to double up in tackling their various tasks and responsibilities to, in his words, "reach Liberia to the promised land."
 He calls for more cohesiveness and effective coordination amongst cabinet members, which he

review the status of those projects to ensure that they are fully aligned with the goals and intentions to take Liberia to its desired destination.
 According to him, he has included a Presidential Development Tour in the retreat activities, so that he can inspect key development projects and initiatives in Nimba County which has the largest voting population next to Montserrado County, the seat of government.
 "It is my expectation that all of you participants will actively engage in this Retreat, as we are now entering a crucial period for this Administration. In October 2023, just 15 months from now, the Liberian people will have the constitutional opportunity to reward us for the results we are achieving.
 It is, therefore, imperative that all hands are on deck with a full commitment to ensure that we get a resounding victory", Mr. Weah further urges the cabinet.
 However, the government is engulfed with massive corruption with development funds being misapplied or directly siphoned. Government audit reports are replete with improprieties and mismanagement of public funds that the President seems to be turning blind eyes on.
 Liberians are still struggling to digest claims by the Minister of Finance Samuel Tweh that he reallocated 27 million from

the National Road Fund to pay salary. The Road Fund is exclusively for road maintenance across the country.
 In what seems to be a cover-up subsequently, the Liberian Legislature that is led by members of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change hurriedly passed a resolution, endorsing the diversion of the Road Fund.
 As if that was not enough, there are reports that the account of the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Service (LISGIS) is depleted. LISGIS is supposed to

conduct housing and population census ahead of elections in 2023, but it has postponed the process three times amid alarm by the director of census that top bosses have been withdrawing money from the census account.
 The latest impropriety in the Weah administration involves the reported disappearance of 1.5 million gallons of petroleum products valued at US\$6 million from storage tanks at the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company that the government is yet to address. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



is time to deliver so that the impact can touch the lives of Liberians.
 However, critics say four years is too long for any serious government to prepare to deliver on its promises, noting that with barely 15 months to elections, Mr. Weah is beginning to campaign for his second term bid.
 Chairing the third cabinet

notes is indispensable to the expeditious achievement of the government's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).
 The President continues that in the last four years, his government has made great strides in the implementation of development projects across the country, and it is, therefore, imperative to

the Police Academy Junction.
 One eyewitness, Philips Martin, narrates that four unidentified men were refreshing at an entertainment center around the Police Academy Junction during midnight hours on Sunday, July 3, 2022 when an alleged white Hyundai Jeep with security lights in front of the bonnet stopped, and the driver called out to two bystanders; for what exactly, Philips couldn't account. But he continues that while the two bystanders attempted responding to the driver's call, one of them noticed that the driver was allegedly pulling out a gun from the side pocket of the car's door, so he immediately alarmed his

Another EPS Agent

three friends and they fled.
 According to Philips, the driver of the white Hyundai Jeep then disembarked and allegedly put his gun in readiness and discharged a warning shot in the air which "accidentally" hit Motorcyclist Valentine Teck Johnson in the head, instantly killing him.
 Agent Kollie has been disrobed, charged with murder by Police and is currently in detention, pending trial.
 At the same an officer the Police Emergency Response Unit (ERU) shot and killed one person at a ghetto in New Kru Twon. He is being investigated by the Police.
 Story compiled by **Jonathan Browne**

all parties in separate conferences at the Supreme Court with Justices Howard - Wolokolie and Sie-A-Nyeneh G. Yuoh.
 According to her, the LP also reaffirmed its commitment to the execution of the MoU that is binding by the signatures of its officials, by agreeing to correct the constitution and resubmitting it to the NEC.
 "Because Mr. Bility refused to honour the invitation for both parties to participate and witness the signing of the constitution, I have invoked Article 6 Section 1 paragraph 3 of the 2021 Constitution," said Madam Karnga - Lawrence. She added that it is consistent with the party's 2015 constitution that governed the January 2021 convention.
 Article 6 Section 1 Paragraph 3 of the 2021 Constitution states that the Standard Bearer/Political Leader, in consultation and collaboration with the NEC, shall formulate policy and procedures to implement the decisions of the National Convention.
 It says further that the

LP submits corrected constitution

By Lincoln G. Peters
 Opposition Liberty Party (LP) on 11 July 2022 officially signed the corrected version of its January 2021 constitution for resubmission to the National Elections Commission (NEC) in keeping with the party's Farmington agreement. The LP faction loyal to political leader and Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence graced the signing ceremony, but partisans loyal to embattled chairman Musa Bility were not seen there.
 LP has been engulfed in internal political crisis, amidst a claim by the Karnga - Lawrence faction that Mr. Bility's faction had tampered with the party's constitution.
 Early this year, both Karnga - Lawrence and Bility announced the expulsion of each other from the party leading the crisis at the doorstep of the Supreme Court.
 The Justice - in - chambers at the time, Associate Justice Jamesetta Howard - Wolokolie mandated that the party's constitution be withdrawn from the NEC in keeping with the Farmington

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and all corrections be made and resubmitted to the NEC.
 The Liberty Party corrected version of its constitution was signed by Mr. Jacob Smith, LP Secretary General whom Senator Karnga - Lawrence had introduced as chairman of the convention committee.
 The LP political leader and presiding officer of the convention, Madam Karnga - Lawrence approved the instrument.
 Speaking before the

official signing ceremony, Karnga - Lawrence said the corrected version of the Liberty Party January 2021 constitution has been signed and resubmitted to the National Elections Commission.
 "This action is an outcome of a Memorandum of Understanding that was signed by the political leader, the chairman, their resource persons and members of the National Advisory Council (NAC) of [the] Liberty Party at the Farmington Hotel," said Karnga - Lawrence.
 She said the action was also acknowledged and upheld by

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political leader shall call Special Conventions as provided for in Article VIII and take such other actions and proper measures as deemed necessary to advance the best interest of the Party.
 Accordingly, Senator Karnga - Lawrence instructed the Secretary of the Convention, Mr. Jacob J. Smith, to sign the Constitution for submission to the Authority of the National Elections Commission.
 Following the signing, LP stalwart and Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon said Bility's absence at the ceremony clearly shows who has the problem in the party.
 However, he told an interview with journalists at the Boulevard Palace in Sinkor that the signing of the constitution is a really good day for the party.
 He also said the signing of the corrected constitution of the party marks the beginning of a new dawn and a revamping of the party after facing a lot of issues for too long.
 Mr. Dillon believes that Liberty Party will continue to pursue peace and reconciliation. --
Edited by Winston W. Parley

Another EPS Agent opens fire again

-2 persons reportedly wounded



EPS Director Trokon N. Roberts

Barely a week after an agent of the Executive Protection Service (EPS), the elite guards of the Liberian Presidency shot and killed a man identified as Valentine Teck Johnson near Police Academy Junction in Paynesville, another agent of the Service, reportedly intoxicated, has discharged live bullets at an entertainment center, wounding two

persons. Eyewitnesses from the Renaissance bar & Restaurant on Du-Port Road, Paynesville narrate that an EPS Agent identified as Uel T. Davies, went at the entertainment center on Saturday, 9 July and after getting drunk, fired several rounds of live bullet into air, wounding two persons.

The victims, yet to be identified, are said to have been admitted in hospital,

receiving medications. An official press release issued by the Executive Protection Service on Monday, July 11, 2022, said by directive of the EPS boss, Trokon N. Roberts, Agent Uel T. Davies has been disrobed with immediate effect, and turned over to the Liberia National Police for investigation.

"The shooting incident took place during the night hours of Saturday, July 9, 2022 at the Renaissance Bar and Restaurant on Du-port Road, outside Monrovia", says the release issued by the Service.

When the New dawn contacted Police Spokesman Moses Carter late Monday for comment, Carter did not respond.

About a week ago, EPS Agent Patrick Kollie, shot and killed motorcyclist Valentine Teck Johnson near Police Academy Junction in Paynesville.

Eyewitnesses narrate that the late Valentine Johnson was also a student of STARZ College of Science and Technology in Sinkor, Monrovia. He was shot while riding his motorbike towards the route of

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