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'Accept the results'

Mayor Jefferson-T.-Koijee

-CDC warns defeated partisans following primaries

GPP will end CDC and UP's excuses



-Says Dumoe

Mr. Menipakai Dumoe

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Continental News

Sierra Leone's Opposition Demands Rerun of General Election After Incumbent Win

Sierra Leone's main opposition party on Saturday demanded a re-run of last weekend's presidential election after incumbent President Julius Maada Bio was declared the winner and swiftly sworn in for a second term in the West

entire team among others. "What culminated in the rogue announcement of fraudulent election results on June 25 was not just a naked theft of the votes of the suffering masses who needed change, it represents the biggest threat to our democracy, unity and survival as a nation," it said.

and law-abiding." "This is a collective victory for every citizen, and we must come together now that elections are over for the pursuit of a common goal, which is the development of our dear country," Bio tweeted.

There have been concerns that Sierra Leoneans who dispute the election's outcome could take to the streets. Already the West African nation has seen demonstrators protest the state of the economy in recent months. Nearly 60% of Sierra Leone's population of more than 7 million are facing poverty, with youth unemployment being one of the highest in West Africa. The APC's statement comes as pressure mounts on the electoral commission to open up its conduct of the tabulation process of the elections results. While regional observers like the African Union and ECOWAS declared the elections free and fair, other Western observers have stressed that the counting and tabulation process lacked transparency. The European Union, the UK, U.S. and France in particular have pressured the electoral commission to display results from each polling station. VOA



Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio speaks after casting his ballot in Sierra Leone general elections in Freetown

African nation. The opposition All People's Congress party, or APC, accused Sierra Leone's electoral commission of conspiring with Bio's party to rig the results. In a statement, the party also called for the resignation of electoral commission chairman Mohamed Konneh and his

According to official results, Bio received 56.17% of the vote, enough to beat his main challenger, Samura Kamara, while avoiding run-off. Electoral officials said Kamara had received 41.16% of ballots cast. Bio, who already was sworn into his second term several days after the vote, tweeted for "all Sierra Leoneans to be peaceful

Gambia cough syrup scandal: Parents seek justice

A group of parents in The Gambia have begun legal action against the government, an Indian pharmaceutical company and a medicine importer following the deaths of their children which have been linked to cough syrup manufactured in India.

Pharmaceuticals but said the children's cause of death was still being investigated. The findings of that investigation have been handed to President Adama Barrow but have not yet been made public. Maiden Pharmaceuticals is quoted as saying that they have valid drug approvals for export and do not sell drugs in the local market. The government has hired a US firm to look at the possibility of its own legal action.

Meanwhile, the authorities say they will enforce a mandatory inspection and testing of all pharmaceutical products in India before shipment to The Gambia, starting this month. The World Health Organization has said Indian-made cough syrup was the likely cause of death of the children in The Gambia, an allegation the Indian government has denied. India produces a third of the world's medicines and is a large supplier to many African countries. BBC

The 19 parents are seeking about \$4.7m (£3.7m) in damages. A team of lawyers from the Gambia Bar Association and the Female Lawyers Association of The Gambia are representing the parents. They want the health ministry and the medicines control agency to admit they failed in their duties to regulate the importation, distribution, and sale of medicines in the country. They are also asking for a declaration that their children did in fact die from the cough syrup and want the importer's license to be withdrawn. A parliamentary committee in The Gambia had recommended the prosecution of Maiden



Diamond Industry Experts Hail Botswana-De Beers Deal

Diamond industry experts are hailing the signing of a 10-year diamond sales agreement between the De Beers Group and Botswana, Africa's largest diamond producer. Under the deal, Botswana will progress from receiving 30% to half of all diamonds that De Beers mines in the southern African country. The deal was signed at the 11th hour following tense negotiations, as Botswana pushed for an increased allocation of rough diamonds from the 54-year-old partnership. The signing of a new agreement on Saturday has been welcomed by industry experts.

deal, a concern recently raised by some legislators in Botswana's National Assembly.

"What has been released so far (about the deal), there are many unknowns and conditionality. The past few years have shown that ill-informed public debates can breed mistrust between the two parties, or between the company and public at large. So, it will be important to invest in transparency and awareness raising to avoid this. The ideal way to achieve this will be to join the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative." The Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative is a global standard aimed at ensuring the good governance of oil and mineral resources. Meanwhile, De Beers chief executive Al Cook, speaking during the signing of the agreement in Gaborone Saturday, said the company is excited to continue its partnership with Botswana. "We at De Beers will never forget that it is a privilege to be the partners of the government of this great country. It is a privilege, it is not a right. We will

Edward Asscher, the World Diamond Council immediate past president, told VOA the deal will ease anxiety within the diamond industry. "First of all, that is a guarantee of stable supply of rough diamonds and we have all been waiting for this. Don't forget that De Beers is the



A still image from video shows coloured synthetic diamonds on display at De Beers' International Institute of Diamond Grading and Research in Maidenhead

leader in the rough diamond industry, but it also provides stability in the market and it's the only company in the diamond industry that is investing in the growth and marketing of natural polished diamonds," said Asscher. Belgium-based researcher on diamond mining Hans Merket said the new deal gives Botswana a greater chance to enjoy the proceeds of diamond mining. "The current deal builds on the achievements of the past to now expand Botswana's own room of maneuver in generating lasting benefits from the exploitation of its natural resources. The potential is definitely there but it remains to be seen how all this plays out," Merket said. He, however said while there is need for transparency from the two parties on the

always remember that it is a privilege." In recent years, Botswana has received about \$5 billion per year from De Beers. During negotiations, Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi repeatedly indicated his country was prepared to walk away from negotiations if a more favorable deal were not reached. Minerals Minister Lefhoko Moagi said the new deal represents the aspirations of the people of Botswana. "I am very happy today that we are here and it is all to do with people. Everything else comes second. It is about our people and it will continue to be about our people. We will continue to do that for the betterment of the people of Botswana and all our partners," Moagi said. Botswana sells its allocation of the rough stones from De Beers through state entity, VOA

EDITORIAL

Dreaming a new Liberia

Outgoing United States Ambassador Michael McCarthy, who ends his mission here in barely two weeks has projected a new Liberia in which the potentials of its citizens and resources would be utilized for future growth and prosperity.

Mr. McCarthy observed that if there is one reoccurring theme that unites every visitor to Liberia is the sense of the country's enormous potential with so many reasons for hope towards a forward march.

However, speaking last Thursday, June 29, 2023 in Monrovia at ceremony to commemorate America's 247th Anniversary Ambassador McCarthy underscored that Liberia can have a bright future if it so chooses but it will require substantial follow-through on issues he outlined, including peaceful, free and fair elections that are just two months away.

He added that one of the main goals of the U.S. Embassy Monrovia and the reason it continues to provide the country support across various sectors, including health, education, business and political leadership is to see a more prosperous Liberia.

But do Liberians realize their own potential and resources that God has endowed this country with and how to channel them in turning the wheels of poverty, disease, degradation and illiteracy around to enjoy prosperity and growth or do we prefer wallowing in the vices that have kept us in a vicious cycle of stagnation?

We believe the ambassador's remarks are a wakeup call to all Liberians to rise from their slumber and dream the kind of country they envisage for themselves in the next four decades or more to improve their personal and general wellbeing as a nation.

Envisioning for ourselves the kind of country we desire is the first step to making changes in our national life. Capacity may pose a challenge for now, but if we can only develop the youthful population that God has blessed the country with, a lot could be achieved to attain prosperity and growth that have eluded this country since the 70s and 80s.

As Liberia's traditional partner, we believe the United States is prepared to do much more in providing assistance only if we can get our acts together as a people, willing to make sacrifices. Prosperity and growth will not come wrapped in silver plate but hard work.

It goes beyond just changing leadership at the ballot box, but demonstrating love for country thru service.

With the return to the country of 13 Peace Corps Volunteers after three years absence because of COVID-19, Liberia stands to benefit if only we tap from their expertise in various sectors.

We believe strongly that the new Liberia that Ambassador McCarthy talked about is in reach if all Liberians put hands on deck and shun mediocrity, lip-service, greed and selfish bickering, putting interest of the common good in all that we do.

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COMMENTARY

By Arvind Subramanian

Understanding Biden's Big Bet on India

PROVIDENCE - The unprecedented lovefest between the United States and India has been striking and, frankly, puzzling. Following the pageantry of US President Joe Biden hosting a state dinner for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and of US Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy inviting Modi to address a joint session of Congress for a second time, one wonders if America is giving away the store and getting very little in return.

After all, symbols such as these are the least of it. Among other things, the US is transferring sensitive military technology to a non-treaty partner, nudging its companies to invest in India, easing visa restrictions for Indian nationals, and desisting from publicly chastising Modi's government for its democratic backsliding. In effect, America has drawn India into a one-sided quasi-alliance: it seems to have taken one, at most one-and-a-half, to tango. The strategic rationale, of course, is the need to counter-balance China. But what is the Indian quo for the American quid?

The former US diplomat Ashley J. Tellis believes the US is making a "bad bet," because India will never participate in coalition warfare with the US against China unless its interests are directly threatened. In a Sino-American conflict over Taiwan, India would remain on the sidelines, despite the generosity the US has shown it. Even US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan has acknowledged this.

But India experts such as Pratap Bhanu Mehta, a former vice chancellor of Ashoka University, point out that the US will increasingly need India as its own hegemony erodes. The new axis of autocracies includes not only China, Russia, and Iran but also Saudi Arabia and even Turkey.

Faced with this geopolitical development, the US at least needs to forestall any potential cooling with India, lest it find itself more isolated. Not only is America's adversary count rising, but its allies leave something to be desired. Europe is predictably inconsistent and ambivalent, especially when it comes to China; and though Japan and South Korea are reliable allies, their demographic decline deprives them of real heft.

But more to the point, it is not clear that the US needs to go to such lengths to prevent India from joining the axis of autocracies. After all, China is a hostile neighbor, Saudi Arabia is a global financier of militant Islam, and Russia - its primary military supplier - is headed for disorder. Partnership with such countries is not remotely enticing for India. Likewise, India, with its influential diaspora and basic congruence of economic and military interests, has little to gain by openly snubbing the US.

So, the US is giving away quite a lot either for something that India will never sign up to (military engagement against China), or for something that India would do regardless of the enticements on offer. What are American strategists thinking?

One plausible explanation is simply the economic arithmetic of hard power. Democrats and Republicans alike have concluded that China poses an existential threat that cannot be neutralized, only counterbalanced. According to the International Monetary Fund, America's GDP in 2023 will be \$26.9 trillion, whereas China's will be \$19.4 trillion (at market exchange rates). But over the next two decades, that 30% American edge will likely narrow.

Yet for all the euphoria around India's growth prospects, it is still a long way from matching Chinese economic and financial capabilities. China's GDP is more than five times greater than India's at market exchange rates, and about 2.7 times greater at purchasing-power-parity rates. Moreover, China's military spending is 3-4 times greater, and its foreign exchange reserves (to the extent that they can now be measured) are easily 6-7 times larger. The multiple on China's total trade over India's is similar, and its lead in global development lending is astronomical.

China's overwhelming economic advantage helps to explain why India often appears helpless in the face of provocations like China's extensive land grabs along the countries' border in the Himalayas. Such episodes make it painfully evident that India is no counterbalance to China.

But America's wager is based not on the present, but on the expectation that China and India's fortunes may change over the long term. Owing to longstanding structural and demographic challenges, not to mention Chinese President Xi Jinping's increasingly repressive approach to the private sector, China's long-run growth rate could well fall to about 2.5%. At the same time, India could continue to grow at perhaps 5-6% per year.

Though by no means guaranteed, this scenario is plausible if India develops better policies and stronger institutions. It would not eliminate the large China-India hard-power differential, but it could narrow the gap enough to force China to re-calibrate its decision-making. For example, if China's five-fold GDP advantage over India was to be halved over the next two decades, Chinese leaders could no longer afford to discount the possibility of India retaliating on trade or along the border.

Moreover, the future is a process, not some hypothetical endpoint. If Chinese growth were to wane and India's were to remain durably robust, its relative attractiveness as a partner, market, and investment destination would increase. In that case, the strategic calculus would change well before India reached a size sufficient to counterbalance China.

True, whether India can grow at 6% will be determined by Indian, not American, policymakers. But the US believes it is providing an important nudge at a critical geopolitical moment to boost India's fortunes. With China becoming more aggressive as its long-term growth prospects are revised downward, US actions also could encourage more capital to exit the Chinese market. And while re-shoring is the preferred outcome, the US will not object if fleeing capital decamps to India. US actions could also help upgrade India's military capabilities. In effect, the US is proclaiming to the world that India is "one of us." The fact that India is being coy about openly embracing that status ultimately may be less important.

Properly understood, Biden's "India Bet" is not about securing Indian military support in a hypothetical standoff with China, nor is it designed to prevent India from drifting toward the axis of autocracies. Rather, it is a calculated prod aimed at narrowing the real and perceived power gap between India and China. The smaller their hard-power imbalance, the more effective the counter-balance for America vis-à-vis China.

Arvind Subramanian, Distinguished Fellow at the Center for Global Development, is currently advising the Tamil Nadu government in India on power sector reform and the green transition.

OP-ED

By Hanan Morsy

Reforming the Global Debt Architecture

ADDIS ABABA - One in five people globally live in countries that are in debt distress or at risk of it. Two-thirds of low-income countries - most of them in Africa - fall into this category, while eight of the nine countries currently in debt distress are on the continent.

A confluence of factors has created this mounting debt crisis. With booming populations and massive infrastructure needs, coupled with the declining availability of official development assistance and concessional financing, African governments took advantage of historically low interest rates in the 2010s and borrowed heavily from international capital markets and China. Consequently, debt stocks more than doubled between 2010 and 2020.

But that debt has become a lot more expensive. Since 2020, the continent has been hit by a series of exogenous shocks. COVID-19, the Ukraine war, and worsening climate conditions have confronted many African governments with credit-rating downgrades, which rapidly increased their borrowing costs and made tapping international debt markets prohibitively expensive.

Moreover, the US Federal Reserve's massive interest-rate hikes since March 2022 have dealt a double whammy to African countries, whose loans are mostly denominated in dollars: their debt-service costs have gone up and their currencies' dollar exchange rate has gone down. In 2024, African countries will spend around \$74 billion on debt service, up from \$17 billion in 2010. Two states - Ghana and Zambia - have already defaulted, while Chad and Ethiopia are in restructuring talks.

The implications of this crisis are clear: African countries face the specter of a lost decade of development. Kenya has been forced to withhold civil servants' salaries to meet coupon payments. Other countries have reduced education and health-care financing. Debt service now averages 10.6% of GDP in Africa, compared to 6% for spending on health. In the wake of a default, increased borrowing costs inhibit a country's ability to invest in much-needed infrastructure, much less the clean-energy transition.

Efforts to remedy this situation have been made more challenging by the increased complexity of the creditor landscape. The G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), which paused debt payments for eligible countries between May 2020 and December 2021, provided some temporary relief. The G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments, a process through which low-income countries can request debt restructuring, was then established in November 2020 to complement the DSSI. While Chad, Zambia, and Ethiopia requested relief under the Common Framework in early 2021, Ethiopia still has not had its debt restructured. Chad concluded a tentative arrangement at the end of 2022, and Zambia reached a debt restructuring deal only last month. Given these delays, the Common Framework has not lived up to expectations. As one policymaker put it, "It is neither common nor a framework."

In response to the Common Framework's deficiencies, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the G20 Presidency (currently held by India) established the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable. The IMF and the World Bank agreed to share macroeconomic projections and debt-sustainability analyses with creditors, who in turn agreed to find a solution to distributing the burden of debt reduction. China, which had previously refused to participate in debt restructuring unless multilateral development banks (MDBs) shared the burden alongside other creditors, agreed to MDBs increasing concessional lending rather than taking a haircut. The Roundtable seems to be paying off: progress on Ghana's restructuring has unlocked a \$3 billion IMF loan and has paved the way for a potential restructuring of a third of its debt.

But this is by no means a systemic solution. In line with UN Secretary-General António Guterres's call for an "SDG Stimulus," strong action must be taken in three areas before the next G20 Summit.

First, the G20 Common Framework must be fixed. Middle-income countries, which are also struggling with unsustainable debt, should be eligible to apply. Applicants should be given a transparent timeline, and their debt-service payments should be suspended immediately to create fiscal space. Ideally, the IMF would provide debtor countries with a line of financing for essential spending during restructuring negotiations. Moreover, clear comparability of debt-treatment formulae would minimize future technical disputes.

Second, the legal framework for public debt needs to be strengthened. Specifically, the inclusion of enhanced collective-action clauses in all future sovereign-debt contracts would address the coordination challenges posed by restructurings. New York State, whose laws govern more than half of sovereign-debt contracts with private creditors, is well-positioned to lead this process, which would prevent vulture funds from preying on distressed debtors. To address the challenges of cascading crises, state-contingent debt instruments that link a country's debt-service payments to its capacity to pay should also be considered for future debt contracts. In particular, climate contingency clauses should be embedded in future debt contracts to defer debt repayment in case of major climate shocks or natural disasters.

Finally, international bodies should make room at the table for African countries and other developing economies. If the African Union had a permanent seat in the G20, for example, the continent could participate fully in discussions on G20 initiatives such as the Common Framework.

In the absence of better mechanisms for debt-distressed countries, more governments will struggle to service their obligations and will stop investing in the future. The resulting damage would have significant implications for the fight against climate change. Dealing with unsustainable debt burdens now will cost far less than dealing with unsustainable environmental burdens later.

OPINION

By Daron Acemoglu

Would AI-Enabled Communism Work?

BOSTON - Friedrich von Hayek is best known for his influential 1944 polemic *The Road to Serfdom*. But his most celebrated work in economics is "The Use of Knowledge in Society," a rather short article on how society uses and acquires dispersed information about economic fundamentals such as preferences, priorities, and productivity.

The article develops a powerful critique of central planning, arguing that no centralized authority can adequately collect and process "the dispersed bits of incomplete and frequently contradictory knowledge which all the separate individuals possess." Without knowing each individual's preferences among millions of products, let alone their ideas about where to use their talents most productively and creatively, central planners are bound to fail.

By contrast, market economies can process and aggregate such information both efficiently and effectively. Price signals seamlessly convey data about market participants' priorities and preferences. When tin becomes scarcer, its price rises, and Hayek explains, all that "users of tin need to know is that some of the tin they used to consume is now more profitably employed elsewhere and that, in consequence, they must economize tin."

Nor is this just about processing existing data. The market system, Hayek argues, is also better at discovering - or even producing - new, relevant signals: "the 'data' from which the economic calculus starts are never for the whole society 'given' to a single mind which could work out the implications and can never be so given."

Although Hayek is celebrated for offering a knowledge-based (or "computational") critique of central planning, his arguments are best understood as a call for decentralization more broadly. He notes that, "If we can agree that the economic problem of society is mainly one of rapid adaptation to changes ... the ultimate decisions must be left to the people who are familiar with these circumstances." Ultimately, Hayek concludes, "We must solve it by some form of decentralization" - namely, through the market economy and the price system.

For decades, Hayek's arguments provided the basis for rejecting all kinds of regulation. If any regulation of economic activity (such as measures governing the release of new products) or of prices (such as caps or controls) interferes with the functioning of the price system, they will hamper the decentralized process of adaptation to an ever-changing world.

But now, artificial intelligence - especially generative AI models that encode, process, and deploy (via hundreds of billions of parameters) massive amounts of pre-existing information - raises two challenges for Hayek's argument.

First, given AI's ability to absorb, organize, and interpret data on a massive scale, one might wonder if it could render central planning more efficient than today's market systems. Such is the hope behind "AI socialism" (or "fully automated luxury communism"): AI will give central planners the means to determine optimal and (supposedly) benevolent economic allocations.

But while AI socialism is an interesting thought experiment, it offers only a superficial critique of Hayek. Even if an AI could do all the computations and data collection that the market economy already does (a very big if), the concentration of power in the hands of a central authority would be a major cause for concern.

The famine that killed five million Ukrainians in the early 1930s was not the result of Stalin failing to compute the right allocations. On the contrary, he had sufficient information, and he used it to extract as much grain as possible from the region (owing to larger political motivations and possibly a desire to devastate Ukraine).

Moreover, Hayek's criticism of central planning goes beyond crunching the existing numbers. As we have seen, it is primarily focused on adaptation to change, and thus emphasizes the creation of information as much as its use.

"The sort of knowledge with which I have been concerned," Hayek writes, "is knowledge of the kind which by its nature cannot enter into statistics." The implication is that not even an all-powerful large language model (LLM) could deal with the true nature of dispersed information.

But AI also poses a second, deeper challenge to Hayek's arguments. In the age of generative AIs like ChatGPT-4, should we even presume that markets will facilitate the decentralized use of information? The technology's development is being led by Alphabet (Google) and Microsoft, two massive corporations that are very much in the business of centralizing information. Even if other companies can compete with this duopoly, LLMs, by their nature, may require high degrees of centralization. It is all too easy to imagine a scenario in which a large share of humanity gets its information from the same model.

Of course, Google or Microsoft's control of information is not the same as that of the Communist Party of China. But, as Simon Johnson and I argue in our new book, *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle over Technology and Prosperity*, even seemingly benign forms of centralization bring myriad economic and political costs, depending on who is ultimately in control. In the United States, these costs include rising monopolization of the tech sector, because control of data creates entry barriers, and the development of business models based on constant online engagement and individualized digital ads, which breed emotional outrage, extremism, and echo chambers online, with damaging effects for democratic participation.

Decentralization therefore is still desirable. But to foster it in the age of AI, we may need to turn Hayek's argument on its head - or at least on its side - by embracing regulation, rather than focusing solely on its potential costs.

Daron Acemoglu, Professor of Economics at MIT, is a co-author (with Simon Johnson) of *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity* (PublicAffairs, May 2023).

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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CDC lawmaker suspends membership

-After losing primary
By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

uling CDC Montserrado County electoral district#2 Representative Jimmy W. Smith has resigned from the ruling Coalition after losing

National Chairman Mulbah K. Morlu, the defeated District#2 Representative disclosed he was suspending his membership for alleged betrayal of agreement between the standard bearer, President George Weah, CDC

Chairman Morlu partially reads:

“Dear Mr. Morlu:I hope this letter finds you well. It is with mixed emotions that I write to suspend my membership with the Congress for Democratic Change, CDC. Over the years, I have been an active member, dedicated to promoting the values and principles that our party stands for. However, recent events have left me deeply convinced that my continue association with the party is no longer tenable.”

The District #2 lawmaker, who has been hugely criticized for his underdevelopment in the district by constituents, said the CDC breached the agreement, which was demonstrated on June 13, 2023, at the party’s headquarters, when at least 56 ruling party lawmakers of the 54th Legislature endorsed the re-election bid of President Weah.

He describes the CDC action as deeply disappointing and has eroded his faith to participate in its activities, writing “The perennial power struggles, internal conflicts/bad block towards me, and disregard for constructive dialogue have undermined the very essence of democracy that our party claims to champion.” Editing by Jonathan Browne



Representative Jimmy W. Smith (D-2)

the primary. Rep Smith lost the CDC primary on Saturday, July 1, 2023, to fellow partisan Kokolo Borvo 382 to 21 votes in the ongoing CDC primary to elect candidates that will compete on the Coalition’s ticket in the pending October 10th elections.

Legislative Caucus and the party. He also disclosed that it was agreed upon that all seated CDC lawmakers would have been a consensus candidate or elected on white ballot as a reciprocation for their endorsement of President Weah on February 4, 2023.

In a letter addressed to CDC Rep. Smith’s letter to

CDC maintains 3 lawmakers in Nimba

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) maintained all its three lawmakers during party primary conducted over the weekend in Saclepea City, Nimba County. The primary brought together hundreds of supporters and partisans of the ruling Coalition.

All three incumbent lawmakers won the primary on white ballot, including District#2 Representative, Prince O.S. Tokpah; District#3 Representative Joseph Nya Somwarbi and District# 9 Representative Johnson Gwaikolo, all won on a white ballots. The incumbent lawmakers, who are seeking re-election for second and third terms, pledged support to the re-election bid of President George Weah.

“We will fight in our respective districts to support the re-election of President Weah”, they promised.

Recently, citizens of Yarmie administrative district endorsed Representative Joseph Nya Somwarbi and

President Weah for the level of developmental activities across Liberia.

In response to the primary held in Saclepea, Representatives Tokpah, Somwarbi and Gwaikolo pledged to get more votes for Mr. Weah. They said the people of Nimba will not be ungrateful to President Weah for the level of development Nimba and other counties have benefited, thus rallying Nimbians to support the President’s re-election so that he may continue with his

development agenda. Saclepea City Mayor Jeremiah Yangean said ongoing pavement of Ganta-Saclepea-Tappita roads are among many reasons why President Weah should have a second term.

Youth chair of the ruling CDC in Nimba, Sam G. Ta-Kruah thanked executives of the Coalition for conducting a peaceful county primary, and pledged to rally young people toward Weah’s re-election bid. Editing by Jonathan Browne



LRA launches Guiding Principles to boost leadership revenue generation

The new guideline for the collection of revenue was launched in partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

Explaining the Guiding Principles for leadership revenue collection, LRA-Commissioner- General Thomas Doe Nah stressed that the initiative marks a significant step towards strengthening the LRA and boosting its performance in the collection of lawful revenue.

He said the Guiding Principles for Leaders is a comprehensive document aimed at enhancing leadership capabilities across various levels within the LRA, focusing on key thematic areas.

This initiative, Commissioner Nah added, seeks to bolster institutional capacity

Program Officer for Democracy and Human Rights at the Swedish Embassy, lauded the LRA Management for its unwavering commitment to Liberia’s domestic resource mobilization.

She considered this initiative a “significant milestone” and the beginning of a stronger partnership between the institutions.

Madam Stallhand highlighted the fruitful engagements between the HR Department, Management, and the Swedish Tax Agency since the inception of the project.

She expressed hope that the implementation of the Guiding Principles would bring about positive changes in the institution’s daily operations.

Augustus Flomo, the Deputy Minister of Finance for Economic Management, commended the LRA for consistently driving



The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) on Friday, 30 June 2023 officially launched new Guiding Principles for leadership revenue generation.

development and leadership for more effective tax administration.

“The Guiding Principles is going to change a lot of dynamics in having our leaders take leadership of their works and make the institution a vibrant place of teamwork and positive growth,” said Commissioner General Mr. Nah.

The Liberia Revenue Authority Boss thanked the Swedish Tax Agency for its genuine partnership and the value added.

He also admonished his employees to remain committed and tirelessly contribute to the generation of lawful revenues.

Nicolina Stallhand, the

positive changes.

He emphasized that the launch of the Guiding Principles would contribute to the Government of Liberia’s efforts in generating greater results through increased revenue.

Flomo extended his gratitude to the Swedish Embassy for its instrumental role in supporting the LRA and strengthening the institution’s human resources.

Meanwhile, launching the Guiding Principles for Leadership and introducing Human Resource Business Partners, the LRA, and SIDA aims to enhance revenue collection and create a more efficient and accountable tax administration system in Liberia.

-Press release

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President Weah, Israelis hold talks Tuesday

President George Manneh Weah will today Tuesday, 4 July 2023 hold talks with Israeli

Bundoo, and Presidential Press-Secretary- Isaac Solo Kelgbeh.

As part of the visit, on Tuesday morning, Mr. Weah will meet the Israeli President, Isaac Herzog, at the Presidential palace, known as Aghion House.

Later in the evening, President Weah, accompanied by government officials, including Ministers and some Members of the 54th Legislature, will hold another bilateral engagement with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the famous Balfour Residence.

The discussions will focus on cementing ties, trade, cooperation on international affairs, peace, and security, a dispatch from the Executive Mansion said. Meanwhile, President Weah is expected to return to the country right after these engagements.

The Executive Mansion said Mr. Weah is prepared for a crucial Presidential and Legislative election.

It noted that the incumbent faces a swift race from the opposition to retain state power. --Press release

Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv for a three-day working visit.

On the delegation are the



President Isaac Herzog and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as part of a high-level bilateral meeting between the two countries.

An Executive Mansion release says Mr. Weah and an entourage of government officials early Saturday morning, 1 July 2023, departed the Roberts International Airport and jetted at David Ben

First Lady Madam Clar Marie Weah, Liberia's Foreign Minister Dee Maxwell Saah Kemeyah, Commerce Minister Marwine G. Diggs, and Defense- Minister Major General Daniel Ziankahn.

Also on the delegation are Information Minister Ledgerhood Julius Rennie, Executive Mansion Chief of Protocol Amb. Nora Finda

INCHR and UNDP train locals on peace-building in Gbarpolu

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) with support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has rolled out a series of capacity-building training to enhance reconciliation and peace-building in Liberia.

The training was specifically designed to empower individuals in the local communities to actively participate in the reconciliation and peace-building process. The training was aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations.

According to INCHR's Transitional Justice Officer, Mr. Joseph Blamiyon, the training started recently in Bopolu City and focused on three key groups: awareness givers, statement takers, and Palava Hut hearing committee members.

He said each group played a vital role in fostering understanding, recording testimonies, and facilitating dialogue within the community. "By enhancing the capacities of these individuals, the local communities will

become more self-reliant in driving the reconciliation process utilizing the palava hut mechanism," he said.

The first training that lasted from June 26-27, 2023 was conducted for Palava Hut hearing committee members.

These nine individuals, three females, and four males, were appointed by their respective communities to serve on committees that would facilitate dialogue and reconciliation within the traditional palace system.

The training focused on conflict resolution, mediation techniques, and the principles of restorative justice.

The committee members

were encouraged to foster an inclusive and participatory process, ensuring that all voices be heard and respected. They were also taught how to effectively manage disagreements and guide discussions toward peaceful resolutions.

The second training segment involving six participants was focused on statement takers from Wednesday, June 28, 2023, to Friday, June 30, 2023. According to Blamiyon, these individuals are responsible for collecting and documenting testimonies from community members who had been affected by past conflicts.

"They were also taught

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Bong elders endorse Gongloe-Urey Ticket

By Lincoln G. Peters

Dozens of elders, women and youth from Bong County, particularly in Belefana town, Zota, District #4, have extolled presidential hopeful and standard bearer of the Liberian People's Party (LPP) Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, for choosing his running mate Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey-Yarkpawolo, from the county for the October's election.

Belefana was a scene of attraction over the weekend as many citizens converged, raining praises and singing joyously in appreciation of Cllr. Gongloe.

The event brought together elders, women, commissioners, clan chiefs and youth representatives, among others.

Elder council representative, William P. Cisco, said the selection of their son by the LPP standard bearer is not a surprise

words. Each time he promises us, he fulfills", Goteh noted.

However, he cautioned Dr. Yarkpawolo to remain focused, as he moves into a new political endeavor, while reminding him that promises made when he contested for representative seat should be looked at.

"I firstly want to appreciate Cllr. Gongloe for the decision he took by selecting one of us. Our brother, Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo being in our district and his being here has been a big plus for us. He was the only representative aspirant in this district that has developmental marks across towns and villages in this district. Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo is a man of integrity because when he tells you I will do something, he does it".

Women representative of Panta District, Justina Paye, described the selection of their son as a dream come through. She



but a boast for their district, noting that it is a great thing for their son to have been selected by another great son of the country to contest as a running mate. "As you have come to ask us for our son to be your running mate, we the elders, women and youth of this district have agreed that our integrity son, Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo will be your running mate. I want to thank God because God has chosen our son, Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo, but I also want to let you know that from today's date onward, Zota District and the entire district #4 is for you and we will stand by you forever, because since the establishment of this district, we have not seen anyone come to us for any of our children for such a position. We want to say the blessing of God is with your team as you go to these elections", Mr. Cisco said. David N. Goteh, Youth President for Zota District, thanked Cllr. Gongloe for selecting one of their kinds, describing Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo as man of his word. "Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo is a man of

disclosed that since Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo entered district politics, the political dynamics has changed over time.

In response, Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo expressed happiness for his selection as running mate and assured citizens of the district that he will continue to work in their interest to fulfill all promises. Cllr. Gongloe is expected to officially announce him on July 8, 2023 in Gbarnga, in Bong County.

Earlier, the LPP standard bearer told the gathering that his main reason for choosing Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo as running mate is because of the character he saw in him.

Gongloe, a former solicitor-general and ex-minister of labor from the Sirleaf administration, said since he took over the LPP as its political leader, several people have engaged him to be his running mate, but he has been looking for a person with character like himself, describing Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo as a "decent statesman and man with integrity."

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ECOWAS pledges US\$500,000 assistance package for Liberia's elections

By Naneka Hoffman

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has pledged to provide electoral assistance to Liberia valued Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (US\$500,000) for the October

generous donation. She reminds that Candidate Nomination process for the October 10th polls started since 14 June 2023 and will end at 5p.m. on 14 July 2023, stressing that all aspirants are encouraged to submit applications within the period

packages have been returned for Independent Aspirants, representing (22 males and 5 females), while Political Parties have returned 63 packages (57 males and 6 females) adding that total number of packages returned thus far is 90.

Meanwhile, she also reveals that procurement process for non-sensitive and sensitive materials for the 10 October 2023 Elections is progressing according to plan, with the expectation of delivery this July. She recalls in April this year, registered political parties, coalitions and alliances signed the 2023 Farmington River Declaration, committing themselves to violent-free elections and the elimination of violence against women in elections (VAWiE).

Similarly, she says the Commission, ECOWAS and UN-Liberia have scheduled a signing ceremony for Independent Candidates and newly registered political parties to affix their signatures to the Farmington River Declaration, adding that the event is slated for 19 July 2023 at Farmington Hotel, Unification Town, Margibi County. The NEC says accreditation process for the 10 October 2023 General Elections has begun and will run in September 2023, urging interested persons and organizations to contact its Political Affairs Section to process applications. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Justice Wolokollie suggests review of electoral laws

By Naneka Hoffman

Associate Justice Jamesetta Howard-Wolokollie of the Supreme Court of Liberia, is calling for a review of the country's electoral laws and regulations before the October 10th Presidential and Legislative Elections in order to challenge provisions that are inapplicable. Speaking over the weekend at the launch of the Bishop Arthur F. Kulah Lecture Series by the Liberia Council of Churches in Monrovia, Justice Wolokollie noted a need for politicians to hire services of lawyers to review the electoral laws and regulations prior to the polls. She stressed that this is necessary because some of the laws may not be applicable now, considering many challenges from deplorable roads to disregard of implementation of

According to her, the electoral laws and NEC regulations and guidelines must provide the framework for the conduct of free, fair and inclusive elections. "Most times," she notes, "conflicts exist because some political parties and independent candidates do not retain lawyers to guide them through the electoral process but only hire their services when a challenge is posed and some of the lawyers are not abreast of NEC's regulations and guidelines."

She adds that lawyers representing a political party, or an independent candidate should be abreast with the election's laws relating to electoral processes, and they must not incite their clients by prevailing on them that ruling against them are wrong when the fault is due to their misinterpretation of the electoral laws and NEC regulations. However, in his annual message, the President of the Liberia Council of



NEC Chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne-Lansanah

10, 2023 Presidential and General Elections, the chairperson of the National Elections Commission Davidetta Browne Lansanah, discloses here. Making the disclosure during a press conference over the weekend at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville, Madam Browne-Lansanah said this is in response to request to the regional body for assistance made by the Commission few months ago.

She says accordingly, the NEC has submitted to ECOWAS a list of items to be funded by the

specified, as there will be no extension of the exercise.

At the same time Chairperson Browne-Lansanah details that total number of nomination packages picked up at close of business on 29 June 2023 is 3,225 from political parties and independent aspirants. She says each political party is issued a package for 90 aspirants, including 73 Representative seats, 15 Senatorial seats, one Vice Presidential seat and one Presidential seat, respectively.

She continues that 27

Man arrested with 98 AK-47 rounds

By Thomas Domah / Nimba County

The Joint Security in Ganta, Nimba County has arrested a 26-year-old man alongside his girlfriend with over 98 rounds of AK-47 bullets, including two magazines that contained 39 rounds each plus 38 extra rounds all brand new from neighboring Guinea.

Suspect Richard Kollie crossed into Liberia alongside with his girlfriend via the Ganta border in Nimba and proceeded to Kakata, Margibi County.

Reasons behind Suspect Kollie bringing huge AK-47 ammunition from Guinea to Liberia is yet to be established by the Joint Security of Liberia.

The suspect and his girlfriend have been turned over to the Crimes Services Division of the Liberia National Police in Ganta undergoing interrogation.

The NEW DAWN gathered that a relative of Suspect Richard Kollie, who was a Guinean army officer, passed off recently in Guinea.

As a result of the loss, he went to Guinea to speak with family members but returned with the huge ammunition.

The suspect has been a generator repairer in Ganta but relocated to Boy's Town near

Kakata, Margib sometime ago.

He allegedly told Police investigators that he was carrying the 98 ammunition to Kakata, but his actual motive is yet to be established.

The arrest of Suspect Richard Kollie brings to ten the number of persons apprehended by Joint Security in Ganta for being in possession of illegal fire arms and weapons. Editing by Jonathan Browne



some provisions of the Liberian Constitution. She underscores that Justice and Rule of Law are key component of free and fair elections.

According to her, existing regulations and guidelines set by the National Elections Commission on August 22, 2016, relating to pre and post-electoral processes may be in certain instances, inapplicable considering the period in which elections are held in Liberia.

Justice Wolokollie also stresses that the design of an appropriate justice system is fundamental to democratic legitimacy, including credibility of electoral processes, adding that electoral justice system must be seen to act effectively, displaying independence and impartiality to promote justice, transparency, accessibility, inclusiveness, and equality.

She cautions that any perception that the system is not sound and robust may jeopardize its credibility and cause the electors to question their participation in the electoral process or even reject its final results.

Churches, Reverend Doctor Samuel Reeves, says the LCC will continue to preach peace, democracy, and rule of law.

He assures that the current Council leadership and its members will remain politically neutral, independent and stand for the respect for human rights.

Reverend Reeves urges electorate not to vote on the basis of tribalism and sectionalism but in the general best interest of all Liberians. He calls on pastors to lead their congregations to vote and to vote their consciences under the inspiration and influence of only the Holy Spirit. He says members of the LCC will maintain their declaration of political neutrality and objectivity as rooted in Godly integrity, and that no member of his administration should become spokesperson, affiliate, card-carrying member or partisan of a political party.

Dr. Reeves says the Liberia Council of Churches will partner with government but will take no money from the government for national church related programs, such as Fast and Prayer or July 26 Independence Day celebration, among other activities.

Français

La juge Scott dénonce des conditions de détention potentiellement mortelles

L'ancienne juge en chef du Libéria Gloria Musu Scott a dénoncé la détention

membres de sa famille sont derrière les barreaux de la prison de South Beach, une prison à détention maximale à Monrovia.

résidence de la juge Scott après que celle-ci a signalé aux autorités policières deux attaques à main armée présumées à son domicile de Brewerville.

Selon des sources fiables, l'ancienne juge a plaidé auprès des femmes avocates et des groupes de défense des droits de l'homme pour qu'ils envisagent d'offrir d'urgence un accès à la justice aux femmes derrière les barreaux.

Elle a également demandé à ses amis, à des organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) et à des sympathisants de cibler les efforts visant à améliorer l'état des quartiers féminins de la prison de South Beach, notamment la réparation des fenêtres, les fuites du toit et la fourniture de kits d'hygiène pour les femmes en détention.

La juge Scott aurait estimé que sa prétendue « détention injustifiée » lui a permis de voir de prêt les abus et la violation des droits des femmes en détention.

La juriste et défenseure des droits des femmes a dit à nos sources que la situation a renouvelé sa vigueur pour défendre les droits des femmes, y compris les détentions préventives prolongées qui n'ont pas accès à la justice et celles qui vivent des conditions inhumaines derrière les barreaux.



provisoire prolongée, le manque d'accès à la justice, les conditions d'hygiène déplorable et potentiellement mortelles dans les établissements pénitentiaires de Monrovia.

Selon les informations qui sont parvenues à ce journal, la juge Scott a appelé à une aide urgente pour les femmes détenues, en particulier les jeunes détenues qui n'ont pas accès à la justice et sont confrontées à des conditions déplorables à la prison centrale de Monrovia ou South Beach.

La juge Scott et trois

Elles sont en détention préventives depuis plus d'une semaine pour la mort de sa fille. Elles sont accusées de meurtre, de complot criminel et de fourniture de fausses informations aux forces de l'ordre.

Elles ont été inculpées et déférées au tribunal jeudi 22 juin 2023 après plusieurs mois d'enquête policière sur le meurtre Mlle Charloe Musu, l'une des filles de l'ancienne juge en chef Scott qui est poursuivie.

La mort de Charloe en février de cette année a choqué le pays et accru les craintes en matière de sécurité.

Elle a été assassinée à la

"Je suis capable de diriger", dixit Mme Sara Beysolow Nyanti

Mme Sara Beysolow Nyanti, ancienne diplomate libérienne auprès des Nations Unies, se dit apte à diriger le Libéria. Elle défendait sa candidature à l'élection présidentielle libérienne.

La candidate a dit personne au Libéria n'est plus apte qu'elle. Elle a aussi confié aux journalistes à Monrovia qu'elle n'a plus de cancer après trois opérations réussies. « Qui est meilleur dirigeant que moi au Libéria ? montrez-moi la personne. J'ai fait le tour du monde. J'ai été dans tous les pays et j'ai servi l'humanité. Alors ne me dites pas que j'ai un cancer, que je ne suis pas apte à occuper le poste de présidente de la République du Libéria », a déclaré Madame Nyanti.

"J'ai eu un cancer, mais avec l'aide de Dieu et après trois opérations réussies, je suis guérie du cancer", a-t-elle déclaré lors d'un dîner de retraite organisé dans un hôtel de Monrovia.

La déclaration de Madame Nyanti est une réponse à un rapport des médias locaux selon lesquels elle est en phase terminale de cancer et serait incapable de diriger le pays. Elle a expliqué que pendant dix mois, elle a lutté contre la maladie. Mais aujourd'hui tout va bien.

Elle a fait valoir qu'elle est parfaitement apte à assumer n'importe quel rôle de leadership. Madame Nyanti s'est dite

heureuse du fait que les gens aient écrit son histoire. Cela a envoyé une image claire que les gens au Libéria n'ont pas accès aux soins de santé et à la capacité de diagnostic qui doivent être améliorés avec un bon leader.

Elle a déclaré que son travail aux Nations Unies consistait de résoudre des

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Éditorial

Rêver d'un Libéria nouveau

L'ambassadeur sortant des États-Unis au Libéria Son Excellence Michael McCarthy, qui termine sa mission ici dans à peine deux semaines, a projeté un nouveau Libéria dans lequel le potentiel de ses citoyens et ses ressources seront mis à profit pour la croissance et la prospérité futures.

M. McCarthy a fait observer que s'il y a un thème récurrent qui unit chaque visiteur au Libéria, c'est l'énorme potentiel dont dispose le pays au point d'espérer une nouvelle marche en avant.

Cependant, s'exprimant le jeudi 29 juin 2023 à Monrovia lors d'une cérémonie commémorant le 247e anniversaire de l'Amérique, l'ambassadeur McCarthy a souligné que le Libéria peut avoir un avenir radieux s'il le souhaite, mais qu'il nécessitera un suivi substantiel sur les questions qu'il a décrites, y compris des élections qui auront lieu dans seulement deux mois.

Il a ajouté que l'un des principaux objectifs de l'ambassade des États-Unis à Monrovia et la raison pour laquelle elle continue de fournir un soutien au pays dans divers secteurs, notamment la santé, l'éducation, les affaires et le leadership politique, est de voir le Libéria prospérer davantage.

Mais les Libériens réalisent-ils leur propre potentiel et les ressources dont Dieu a doté ce pays et comment les canaliser en faisant tentant de se débarrasser de la pauvreté, de la maladie, de la dégradation et de l'analphabétisme pour profiter de la prospérité et de la croissance, ou préférons-nous nous vautrer dans les vices qui nous ont mis dans un cercle vicieux de stagnation ?

Nous pensons que la déclaration de l'ambassadeur est un appel à tous les Libériens pour qu'ils sortent de leur sommeil et rêvent du genre de pays qu'ils envisagent pour eux-mêmes dans les quatre prochaines décennies ou plus afin d'améliorer leur bien-être personnel et général en tant que nation.

Imaginer par nous-mêmes le genre de pays que nous désirons est la première étape pour apporter des changements dans notre vie en tant que nation. La capacité peut poser un défi pour le moment, mais si nous ne pouvons développer la population jeune avec laquelle Dieu a béni le pays, nous pouvons mieux faire pour atteindre la prospérité et la croissance qui échappent à ce pays depuis les années 70 et 80.

En tant que partenaire traditionnel du Libéria, nous pensons que les États-Unis sont prêts à faire beaucoup plus pour fournir une assistance uniquement si nous pouvons agir ensemble en tant que peuple, prêt à faire des sacrifices. On ne peut atteindre la prospérité et la croissance que par le travail acharné.

Il ne s'agit pas que de changer de leader par les urnes, mais de démontrer l'amour pour la patrie à travers le service. Avec le retour dans le pays de 13 Volontaires Peace Corps après trois ans d'absence à cause de la COVID-19, le Libéria a tout à gagner si seulement nous exploitons leur expertise dans divers secteurs.

Nous croyons fermement que le nouveau Libéria dont a parlé l'ambassadeur McCarthy est à portée de main, mais encore faut-il que tous les Libériens mettent la main à la pâte et évitent la médiocrité, les

Français

"Je suis capable de diriger"

problèmes, de construire des systèmes qui créent de la place pour la réduction de la pauvreté dans le monde et de donner la vie aux désespérés.

L'ancienne coordonnatrice résidente des Nations Unies au Soudan du Sud a souligné qu'en dépit de ses problèmes de santé, elle a été forte dans l'exécution de ses fonctions de diplomate des Nations Unies. Elle a promis de continuer à défendre la cause des femmes et des filles au Libéria, exprimant l'espoir que chaque fille au Libéria aura un avenir meilleur.

Madame Nyanti a remercié le peuple libérien d'avoir fait partie de son voyage de différentes manières. Son mari Stephen Nyanti, pour sa part, a déclaré que la carrière de la diplomate libérienne devrait être décrite comme un témoignage pour de

nombreuses jeunes filles au Libéria.

M. Nyanti a dit que chaque chapitre de la vie a été inspiré par Dieu, décrivant sa femme comme une femme forte et courageuse. Elle a brisé, selon lui, les barrières pour aider les femmes, les filles et les enfants du monde entier.

Avant d'occuper des postes de représentation de haut niveau à l'ONU, Madame Nyanti a été experte technique à l'UNICEF et au PNUD pour la mise en place de systèmes de gestion des subventions à grande échelle, la protection sociale/les transferts monétaires, le VIH/SIDA, la santé et l'éducation.

Elle a rejoint l'ONU au début des années 2000 après avoir travaillé pour le gouvernement libérien en tant qu'assistante spéciale du Dr Peter Coleman, ancien ministre de la Santé dans l'administration Charles Taylor.

Les Sénégalais divisés sur un éventuel troisième mandat du président Macky Sall

Le président Macky Sall s'exprimera ce lundi soir sur la Radio-Télévision sénégalaise pour dire s'il briguera ou non un troisième mandat en 2024. Pour lui et pour ses partisans, la question de la légalité d'un troisième mandat est réglée mais tout le monde ne voit pas les choses de la même manière.

En ce premier dimanche après la Tabaski, les rues de Dakar sont calmes, mais le discours annoncé de Macky Sall pour ce lundi à 20h est déjà sur toutes les lèvres.

« Tout le monde est dans l'attente pour ce discours parce que les gens souffrent et ne veulent plus voir les dégâts qui ont eu lieu dernièrement », dit un homme. « Je veux que ce soit un discours limpide pour qu'on soit réglé, pour que la situation du pays soit réglée », espère un autre. Un point final bienvenu après des années de rumeurs... ou un débat non avvenu pour certains Sénégalais, comme Serigne Samb, étudiant en droit. « Il n'y a pas à se prononcer là-dessus parce que la Constitution est très claire : il n'a pas le droit de se présenter pour un troisième mandat. Cela a créé des problèmes partout en Afrique et nous ne le souhaitons pas non plus au Sénégal. »

Tout le débat tourne donc autour de la Constitution qui n'autorise en effet que deux mandats consécutifs. Mais en passant du septennat au quinquennat, Macky Sall affirme avoir remis les compteurs à zéro. Le Conseil constitutionnel appuie le président, tout comme une partie des Sénégalais.

« Deuxième ou troisième

mandat, tout dépend de ce que la Constitution lui permet, estime Baba Tandian, homme d'affaires. Si elle le lui permet, pourquoi pas ? Ce qu'on veut, c'est un président travailleur. Peu importe lequel, lui ou quelqu'un d'autre. Le Sénégal restera le Sénégal, uni et indivisible. »

L'affaire Sonko en toile de fond Jusqu'au bout, Macky Sall aura maintenu le flou sur ses intentions. Le président répondra enfin, une décision libre et souveraine dit-il, sans pression et sans tenir compte de l'agitation des réseaux sociaux.

Dans ses dernières prises de paroles, devant la diaspora à l'étranger et les élus locaux au Sénégal, Macky Sall a volontairement maintenu l'ambiguïté, utilisant le « vous » ou le « nous » pour parler de l'après 2024.

Or, les enjeux sont immenses. Ce discours très attendu intervient dans un contexte tendu après les violences qui ont suivi la condamnation de l'opposant Ousmane Sonko début juin.

Si Macky Sall décide de ne pas briguer ce troisième mandat, « le gros ballon de la colère va se dégonfler » selon un politologue. Se poserait toutefois la question de sa succession comme candidat de la majorité, à seulement huit mois de l'élection et sans leader désigné. S'il se présente, en revanche, une partie de la société civile craint un regain des tensions.

Et cette semaine pourrait aussi débloquent la situation d'Ousmane Sonko, assigné à résidence depuis sa condamnation. La décision de justice a été rendue publique, le procureur de la république peut donc désormais donner l'ordre aux forces de sécurité de l'arrêter à tout moment.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Daron Acemoglu

Un communisme basé sur l'IA pourrait-il fonctionner ?

BOSTON - Friedrich von Hayek est avant tout célèbre pour son essai influent et polémique de 1944 intitulé *La Route de la servitude*. Ses travaux les plus reconnus en économie résident toutefois dans « L'Utilisation de l'information dans la société », un article relativement court sur la manière dont la société utilise et acquiert des informations dispersées concernant les fondamentaux économiques, tels que les préférences, les priorités et la productivité.

Cet article formule une puissante critique de la planification centrale, en faisant valoir qu'aucune autorité centralisée ne saurait efficacement recueillir et traiter les « éléments dispersés d'une connaissance incomplète et fréquemment contradictoire que tous les individus séparés possèdent en partie ». Sans connaissance des préférences de chaque individu parmi des millions de produits, et encore moins de leurs idées sur la question de l'utilisation de leurs talents de la manière la plus productive et créative possible, les planificateurs centraux sont voués à échouer.

Par opposition, les économies de marché peuvent efficacement traiter et rassembler ces informations. Les signaux de prix transmettent de manière fluide des informations concernant les priorités et préférences des participants du marché. Lorsque l'étain se fait rare, son prix augmente, et Hayek explique que « Tout ce que les utilisateurs d'étain ont besoin de savoir, c'est qu'une partie de l'étain qu'ils consommaient jusqu'alors est maintenant utilisée de manière plus profitable ailleurs, et qu'ils doivent par conséquent économiser l'étain ».

Il ne s'agit pas non plus de traiter seulement des données existantes. Le système de marché, fait valoir Hayek, est également plus efficace dans la découverte - voire la production - de nouveaux signaux pertinents : « Les 'données' à partir desquelles se fonde le calcul économique ne sont pas et ne peuvent pas être, lorsqu'elles concernent la société toute entière, 'données' pour un individu ».

Si Hayek est célèbre pour avoir formulé une critique - basée sur l'information (ou les « statistiques ») - de la planification centrale, ses arguments constituent plus largement un appel à la décentralisation. « Si nous pouvons admettre que le problème économique central d'une société est celui de l'adaptation rapide aux changements [...], il s'ensuit que les décisions finales doivent être laissées à ceux qui connaissent ces circonstances », observe Hayek, avant de conclure « Nous sommes amenés à résoudre ce problème par un certaine forme de décentralisation » - c'est-à-dire par l'économie de marché et le système des prix.

Pendant des décennies, les arguments d'Hayek ont servi de base au rejet de toutes formes de régulation. Si la réglementation d'une activité économique (de type mesures régissant le lancement de nouveaux produits) ou des prix (de type plafonnements ou contrôle) interfère avec le fonctionnement du système des prix, elle entravera le processus décentralisé d'adaptation à un monde en perpétuelle évolution.

Seulement voilà, l'intelligence artificielle soulève aujourd'hui deux défis quant au raisonnement d'Hayek - notamment les modèles d'IA générative, capables d'encoder, de traiter et de déployer (via plusieurs centaines de milliards de paramètres) d'immenses quantités d'informations préexistantes.

Premièrement, compte tenu de la capacité de l'IA à absorber, organiser et interpréter des données à

très grande échelle, on peut se demander si elle pourrait rendre la planification centrale plus efficace que les systèmes de marché d'aujourd'hui. Tel est l'espoir qui accompagne le « communisme fondé sur l'IA » (ou « communisme du luxe entièrement automatisé ») : l'IA confèrera aux planificateurs centraux les moyens de déterminer des répartitions économiques optimales et (supposément) solidaires.

Or, si le communisme fondé sur l'IA constitue une expérimentation intéressante, il ne représente qu'une critique superficielle d'Hayek. Même si une IA parvenait à effectuer l'ensemble des calculs et collectes de données que l'économie de marché permet déjà (et rien n'est moins sûr), la concentration du pouvoir dans les mains d'une autorité centrale serait extrêmement préoccupante.

La famine qui tua cinq millions d'Ukrainiens au début des années 1930 ne fut pas la conséquence d'un échec de Staline dans le calcul des répartitions appropriées. Au contraire, Staline disposait de suffisamment d'informations, et il les utilisa pour extraire autant de céréales que possible de la région (nourrissant des motivations politiques plus larges, et possiblement le souhait de dévaster l'Ukraine).

Par ailleurs, la critique hayékienne de la planification centrale s'étend au-delà de l'analyse des chiffres existants. Comme évoqué précédemment, elle se concentre principalement sur l'adaptation au changement, et insiste autant sur la création de l'information que sur son utilisation.

« Le type de connaissance que j'étudie », écrit Hayek, « ne peut par nature être prise en compte par les statistiques ». Cela signifie que même les grands modèles de langage (LLM) puissants ne parviendraient pas à gérer la véritable nature des informations dispersées.

L'IA soulève un deuxième défi, plus profond, concernant les arguments d'Hayek. À l'ère des IA génératives telles que ChatGPT-4, devrions-nous même présumer que les marchés faciliteront l'utilisation décentralisée des informations ? Le développement de cette technologie est conduit par Alphabet (Google) et Microsoft, deux très grandes sociétés qui opèrent pour ainsi dire dans le domaine de la centralisation des informations. Même si d'autres sociétés parvenaient à rivaliser avec ce duopole, les LLM pourraient en raison de leur nature nécessiter des degrés élevés de centralisation. Il n'est pas difficile d'imaginer un scénario dans lequel une majeure partie de l'humanité obtiendrait ses informations auprès du même modèle.

Bien entendu, le contrôle des informations par Google ou Microsoft diffère de celui exercé par le Parti communiste chinois. Pour autant, comme Simon Johnson et moi-même le démontrons dans notre récent ouvrage *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle over Technology and Prosperity*, même des formes a priori bénignes de centralisation aboutissent à de nombreux coûts économiques et politiques, en fonction de l'entité qui est en fin de compte au contrôle. Aux États-Unis, ces coûts incluent par exemple une monopolisation croissante du secteur technologique, dans la mesure où le contrôle des données crée des barrières à l'entrée, ou encore le développement de modèles d'entreprise fondés sur un engagement constant en ligne et sur des publicités numériques individualisées, modèles qui alimentent l'excès émotionnel, l'extrémisme et les chambres de résonance sur Internet, avec des effets dommageables pour la participation démocratique.

Ainsi la décentralisation demeure-t-elle souhaitable. Afin de promouvoir cette décentralisation à l'ère de l'IA, peut-être devrions-nous cependant considérer le raisonnement d'Hayek de manière inverse - ou du moins sous un autre angle - en acceptant la régulation, plutôt que d'insister exclusivement sur ses coûts potentiels.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Is first round victory for President Weah possible? **By Naneka A. Hoffman**

The first-round victory of Sierra Leone President, Julius Maada Bio recently has inspired some Liberians, especially supporters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change who believe similar scenario could play out in Liberia for President Weah in October.

CDCians are now dreaming of a first-round victory. But responses from ordinary Liberians are mixed as you will read below.



Oumarou Kiazolu

Julius Maada Bio, but for President Weah, who took over and we expected him to prosecute Madam Ellen Johnson-led government, this is the reason some of us voted for him and put him into power, thinking that he was going to prosecute the Ellen-led government and it didn't happen; that decision for the people of Liberia to vote for him to win first round like Julius Maada Bio, it is a big difference. He will not win first round because we believe that the idea of Julius Maada Bio is different from his idea."

"This is a very much big different, looking at Sierra Leone President, Julius Maada Bio, winning the first round election in Sierra Leone compared to Liberia's President George Weah. The foundation of Sierra Leone President, Julius Maada Bio, from our President George Weah, looking at the prosecution that took place in Sierra Leone, this gave confidence to Sierra Leoneans to elect

"If you asked me, I think I will say yes, President Weah can win first round like Julius Maada Bio, based on the level of work done by the President. The level of development across the country, the level of youth employment, I can tell you for sure that President Weah will win first round like what happened in Sierra Leone, and there will be no issue like discrimination like we heard people talking about in Sierra Leone during the election. The election in Liberia is going to be on a free and fair level and President Weah is going to win on white ballot based upon his level of work he has done. Look at Clara Town community; see the Clara Town football



Abubakar Corneh

field today; it has be developed to international standard; look at the Doe Community road today; you see massive development in the community; you see lots of young people being empowered and young people have been given opportunity to serve their country. You see free tuition across the country when it comes to public institutions and students' WASSCE fees have been paid by central government. Based on all these achievements, I believe that President Weah is going to win first round."

"No, President Weah can't win first round like Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio, because Sierra Leone has population more than us and secondly, the number of candidates in the race - everyone will take their own share of votes because everybody has their own followers."



Sekou Dukuly



Varlee Kromah

"It is not possible for President Weah to win first round like Julius Maada Bio, because in Liberia, I have not seen it and secondly, the

way the CDC government is running things in the country, everything is hard; no jobs for the youth. majority of the youth are not happy with the way this government is running the country, and it is the youth that voted for President Weah, so for President Weah to win first round like Julius Maada Bio, I don't say it cannot happen, but it will be difficult."

"Let's look at our economic system, how many youth are working in the country? Secondly, all the mysterious death cases, no prosecution. It is only Charloe Musu the government is trying to act like they can prosecute cases. Civil servants cannot get their salary on time; they have to



Sidiki Konneh

protest; for President Weah to win first round like Julius Maada Bio, it will be very difficult."

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'Accept the results'

By Lewis S. Teh

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) has warned defeated partisans against challenging the will of the people following

being ungrateful to the party and the people who made him over the years. Newcomer Kokulo Borvor acquired 382 votes as the CDC favorite, defeating the incumbent

October 10, 2023 elections would have been considered consensus candidates or elected on the white ballot for the party's ticket.

But Koijee reminded the defeated candidate that it was the same party that allowed him to contest on its ticket in the 2017 elections. Koijee argued that Smith has no morals to question the choice and decisions of the people.

According to him, the lawmaker was rejected by the citizens of District #2 when he contested on the Unity Party's ticket, after which the CDC gave him hope.

The CDC chief scribe suggested that it will be a terrible mistake if Mr. Smith rejects the decision of the same people.

According to Koijee, the CDC does not impose candidates on the electorate, saying the people are given the time and opportunity to decide their leaders to contest on the party's ticket in any election.

At the same time, Mr. Koijee congratulated the winner of the primary in Montserrado County Electoral District #2, Kokulo Borvor.

He also thanked Representative Jimmy Smith for participating in the process peacefully and democratically, adding that the decision of the people is bigger than anyone. Meanwhile, Koijee disclosed that all defeated candidates in the CDC primaries across the country are automatically members of the party's national campaign team.



Mayor Jefferson T. Koijee

unfavorable party primaries, or they would face the party's wrath.

Mr. Jefferson T. Koijee, Secretary General of the ruling party and Monrovia Mayor issued the warning while addressing a team of reporters following the CDC primary in Montserrado Electoral District #16 at the weekend.

"We want to call on defeated representative Jimmy Smith to accept the will and decision of the people or the party will take actions against anyone," said Mr. Koijee.

Mr. Smith, the CDC's incumbent representative for Montserrado County Electoral District #2, lost the party's ticket to his rival during a primary over the weekend.

Koijee warned Mr. Smith to accept his defeat and to stop

Representative Smith who obtained just 21 votes. A few minutes following the announcement of the results, Mr. Smith immediately suspended his membership with the CDC through a written communication addressed to party chairman Mulbah Morlu.

In his letter, Representative Smith alleged that the CDC standard bearer, President George Manneh Weah, and the executives within the CDC had betrayed him. According to him, Mr. Weah reached an agreement with the party's legislative caucus that all sitting lawmakers would not have been subjected to the primary.

He added that it was agreed that CDC lawmakers seeking re-election in the

'CPP will end CDC and UP's excuses'

By Kruah Thompson

Bong County defeated senatorial candidate Menipakai Dumoe says presidential hopeful Alexander B. Cummings' ticket will offer better alternatives for Liberians. During a radio appearance Monday, 3 July 2023, Dumoe said only Cummings' Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) ticket can effectively address the excuses that the Unity Party (UP) and Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) governments have made.

Dumoe accused the former ruling UP and the ruling CDC of squandering the opportunities given to them over the past 20 years.

Dumoe alleged that both the Unity Party and the CPP have employed failed strategies that only provide excuses to the Liberian people. He indicated that it is time to elect Mr. Cumming who will implement economic policies that will truly move the country forward.

According to Dumoe, the country has experienced nearly 20 years of uninterrupted peace.

Following a two-year interim

Boakai is beating his chest and bragging about a 4% increase.

The former senatorial candidate sees the upcoming elections as an opportunity to provide Liberians with renewed hope and a new direction for the country. In another development, Mr. Abdullah Kiatamba has raised concerns about the capacity of the National Elections Commission (NEC).

He alleged that the NEC has not demonstrated a willingness to address fundamental issues arising during the election.

Kiatamba appreciated the involvement of the international community in the election process and considered it a positive development.

However, he emphasized the need for assurances from the election commission and highlighted the importance of their engagement with the public. Kiatamba urged the international community to go beyond the ordinary and step up their efforts, as the upcoming



Mr. Menipakai Dumoe

government, he said the Unity Party was in power for 12 years while the CDC has been in power for nearly six years, amounting to over 20 years of peace.

However, Dumoe argued that none of them has been able to reach the country's tax basket of 12 billion dollars within these 20 years. Yet, he said, they continue to give excuses about diseases and the aftermath of the war.

"The African Development Bank's economic outlook report on Ivory Coast states that the country's GDP has grown by 7 percent," said Dumoe. He contrasted this with President Weah and the Unity Party's claims of a 4 percent increase in Liberia's GDP.

Dumoe stated that neighboring countries are making significant strides to improve their own countries while UP leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah

election is expected to be tense and critical.

Additionally, Mr. Mo Ali, while defending the Unity Party, disclosed that the unity party played a critical role in Liberia's development for which it has received more endorsements to rule the country. Mr. Ali believes that the Unity Party's wide-ranging endorsements and support from across the country increase their chances of winning the election in October, which is their ultimate goal.

Ali stated that all the endorsements received by the Unity Party have significant value, particularly at a time when the Liberian people are concerned about young individuals losing their lives due to drugs.

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INCHR and UNDP train locals on

effective note-taking and documentation methods to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the testimonies," Mr. Blamiyon explained.

"We were trained to record testimonies, allowing survivors to share their stories," said Leone Momo, one of the statement takers.

"This will help the Palava hut hearing committee members to facilitate productive discussions, leading to peaceful resolutions and healing within the community." As for the

awareness givers, these nine individuals were selected from various sectors of the community, including religious leaders, teachers, and community organizers.

Their training ran from July 1-2, 2023, aimed at equipping participants with comprehensive knowledge about the reconciliation process, the importance of forgiveness and healing, and the role of dialogue in community development.

Through the combined capacity-building training,

the INCHR Human Rights Education Officer, Annie D. Knuckles said her institution through the support of UNDP Liberia is gradually empowering the local communities to take ownership of the reconciliation and peace-building process. "The palava hut mechanism has been recognized as a powerful tool for fostering understanding, forgiveness, and healing after the Liberian civil war," she said.

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President Weah visits the Holy Land and Holy Sites

-Offers Prayers for Liberia's continued Peace and Prosperity

President George M. Weah Monday begun his official working visit to the State of Israel with a tour visit of Holy Sites in

for the Jewish people. Located in the Old City of Jerusalem, it is the last remaining outer wall of the ancient Jewish temple and an incredibly important

Holy Garden of Gethsemane at the foot of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem where, according to the four Gospels of the New Testament, Jesus Christ underwent the agony in the garden and was arrested before his crucifixion. It is a place of great resonance in Christianity. There are several small olive groves in the church property, all adjacent to each other and identified with biblical Gethsemane.

At these various Holy Sites in Jerusalem, Weah offered prayers for peace to reign in Liberia while also seeking God's divine blessings for a peaceful and successful election in October this year.

On Tuesday, President Weah accompanied by First Lady Weah, is expected to meet with Israeli President Isaac Herzog and wife Michal Herzog in the morning hours and later in the Afternoon meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

At these meetings, the leaders of both countries are expected to discuss areas of mutual cooperation, which include international peace and security, economic and trade ties, among others.



Pre. Weah

Jerusalem. Accompanied by First Lady Madam Clar Marie Weah, Ministers and some ranking members of the Legislature, President Weah and entourage were led on a guided tour by Israeli Government Representatives to some of the Holy Sites in the Holy Land of Jerusalem including the Western Wall known also as the Wailing Wall. This Wall represents the most religious site in the world

site of modern Israeli history. He also toured the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem's Old City, which contains the site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. It is Christianity's holiest site. The church stands at the end of the Via Dolorosa—the route Jesus is believed to have taken on the way to his crucifixion. President Weah and delegation also visited the

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