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NEC to release Final Voter Roll

-ahead of December senatorial elections **See Page 6**



CPP sets protest dates

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Continental News

Sudan's Red Sea State Oil Facilities Reopen After Protests End

Leaders of a group of protesters in Sudan's Red Sea state that had blocked the main road linking Khartoum to oil facilities in Port Sudan town for two straight days called off the protest on Wednesday.

The protest leaders released a statement Tuesday saying all roads, oil facilities and ports would be reopened after Sudan's security and defense council met and agreed to send a delegation headed by Sovereign Council member General Ibrahim Jabir to the area to meet with leaders of the Beja community and resolve their issues.

The protesters rejected what's been called "the eastern track" of the recently signed Sudan peace deal between the government and armed rebel groups in Juba.

Protesters killed a police officer on Monday at oil field facilities in Haiya town, some 208 km from Port Sudan, according to eyewitnesses.

Armed with spears, knives and sticks, the protesters attacked several oil facilities in the area, forcing oil companies to shut down operations.

The protesters said the peace deal signed on Saturday does not protect their rights. The Beja Congress of Eastern Sudan was one of nine rebel groups that formed an umbrella

group called the Revolutionary Front, which took part in the Sudan peace talks.

Abdallah Obshar, an intellectual with the Beja tribe and a protest organizer, accused supporters of ousted president Omar al-Bashir, whom he said were of Eritrean origin, of trying to use the

agreement to take over their land.

"The eastern track signed in Juba is a clear encroachment to the Beja tribe because the group which represented eastern Sudan during the negotiations have not had any relationships with the area whatsoever. They are a group of individuals which had been receiving support from the previous administration to change the demography of the Beja area," Obshar told South Sudan in Focus from Port Sudan. The Beja people are an ethnic Cushitic nomadic people who inhabit Sudan,

Egypt and neighboring Eritrea. The Beja people primarily live between the Red Sea coast and the River Nile in Sudan.

Obshar said the group representing eastern Sudan at the talks had no historical or geographical ties to eastern Sudan and do not even speak the Beja language.

"Our area has been witnessing marginalization and exclusion since the independence of the country; it is still being practiced against our people, and the worst is now they are trying to change our demography and do away with our identity. This is one of the dangerous series of plans that is facing the people of eastern Sudan," Obshar told VOA.



A man stands opposite the modern port at the harbor in Port Sudan

US frees Nigeria of \$1.5B liability

The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Dispute in the United States of America has relieved Nigeria of a \$1.5bn liability in connection with a contract agreement involving two oil firms, the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mr Abubakar Malami (SAN), said in a statement on Wednesday.

The statement issued on

behalf of the AGF by his Spokesperson, Dr Umar Gwandu, stated that the tribunal headed by Prof. William Park, had in its decision delivered earlier on Tuesday, ruled that Nigeria did not breach any of its obligations in the contract. It added that the tribunal ordered the two oil firms, Interocean Development Company and Interocean Oil Exploration Company, to pay the Federal Government of

Nigeria the sum of \$660,129.87 as reimbursement of Nigeria's share of the arbitration costs incurred in the proceedings.

The statement read in part, "The oil companies that has among its legal team, Mr. Olasupo Shasore, SAN, requested, among others, relief from the Tribunal directing the Federal Government of Nigeria, its relevant privies and instrumentalities to pay aggravated damages in an amount to be proven during these arbitral proceedings which the claimants estimate at being in excess of US\$ 1.5 billion (One billion five hundred million United States dollars)."

The statement quoted part of the judgement as reading, "The Tribunal finds no liability on the part of respondent in connection with claimants' loss of control over their investment, Pan Ocean."

Reacting to the judgment, Malami described the judgment as "an addition to the multiple success stories recorded in international litigations by the Federal Ministry of Justice." AFP



EU warns Nigeria over democracy

The European Union on Wednesday warned Nigeria not to take the democracy it now enjoys for granted.

The organisation also stressed the need for Nigeria to "increase the participation of youths in governance building on the momentum of the Not-Too-Young-To-Run campaign."

The EU Ambassador and Head of its Delegation (Nigeria and ECOWAS), Ketil Karlsen, said this during the

taken for granted anywhere, not within the European borders, certainly not in Africa or Nigeria either; it is something that must be developed.

"Looking at the growing population of Nigeria, about 60 per cent are young, it is really (not) strange to see how the National Assembly is opening up the doors for the youths.

"Another set of youth ambassadors from different states are taking part in the



orientation and induction programme for Legislative Interns organized by the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre in Abuja. While calling on youths to contribute towards strengthening Nigeria's democracy, Karlsen said the programme was an opportunity given to youths by the National Assembly to engage actively in securing a participatory process for democracy in Nigeria.

He said "The consolidation of democracy must not be

process of what is the bedrock of any democratic society in the National Assembly. So, this is really a vital signal of engagement from the Parliament, one example of how we work together to support democracy in Nigeria." Speaking at the event, the Executive Director of Policy Legislative Advocacy Centre.

Clement Nwankwo, stressed the importance of youth involvement in the

EDITORIAL

Liberians should fear for their lives

ADMITTANCE BY THE Inspector General of Police Col. Patrick T. Sudue that officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP) contaminated the crime scene of two deceased employees of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) whose corpses were mysteriously found in a parked vehicle early Friday morning, 2nd October on Snapper Hill, Broad Street in Monrovia is very worrisome.

THAT SINGULAR CONFESSION by IG Sudue jeopardizes further investigation into the mysterious deaths of two citizens, who were diligently serving the Motherland up to their suspicious demise, leaving the entire nation hopeless about any possibility of finding their killer(s) or circumstances that led to their death.

WE ARE HIGHLY disappointed in the Liberia National Police for making such public confession of error over a major crime that has kept Liberians speechless and created a sense of insecurity in our society.

WHEN COL. SUDUE appeared at a news conference at the National Police Headquarters in Monrovia on Monday, 5 October with a flying sheet to address the public concerning the death of Albert Peters and Gifty Lama journalists had thought the Police was in possession of a lead.

HOWEVER, RESPONDING TO a reporter's question why police officers drove the car in which the two LRA employees' bodies were found instead of towing it or lifting it from the scene to protect evidence, Col. Sudue disappointingly replied, "This is what we call contamination of the crime scene."

"LOOK I MUST say publicly that there was some errors on the crime scene but those errors on the crime scene were not significant as to destroying the evidence that we had..."

LIBERIANS ARE APPREHENSIVE and rightly so, that this mysterious death case may never go to court or even if there were formal charges, probable suspect or suspects may find escape route within the law, and walk away because of this so-called "contamination of the crime scene."

THE STATE HANDLING of previous mysterious and suspicious deaths had left much to be desired and citizens seem to have mistrust for the system that should guarantee their security at all times.

IT IS ABOUT time the Police and the entire national security apparatus become robust in exercising professionalism during incidents that lead to loss of lives. Liberians expect nothing less because their taxes are paying for these services.

WE CAN BUT only hope that circumstances that led to the mysterious deaths of these two public servants would be established by the relevant authorities, particularly the Police so that perpetrators would face justice and members of the bereaved families can trust the system governing their peace and happiness.

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COMMENTARY

By Raghuram G. Rajan

What Should Corporations Do?

For all the excitement about corporate "stakeholders" and "purpose-driven" firms, the new mode of capitalism is simply a repackaging of the old. Successful companies will continue to focus on the value of their shares over the long term, while avoiding the risks of wading into areas where they don't belong.

CHICAGO - With the COVID-19 pandemic reinforcing concerns about economic inequality, left-behind communities, discrimination, and climate change, there is increasing pressure on corporations to do more than sell a good widget at an affordable price. Responding to the changing public mood, the US Business Roundtable declared last year that, "Each of our stakeholders is essential. We commit to deliver value to all of them, for the future success of our companies, our communities, and our country."

But this way of framing the issue is unhelpful. A corporation's stated objectives should help guide its choices. If all stakeholders are essential, then none are. In an attempt to please everyone, the Business Roundtable will probably end up pleasing no one. Recent evidence even suggests that the corporations that signed on to the group's "stakeholder capitalism" statement have been more likely to lay off workers in response to the pandemic, and less likely to donate to relief efforts.

Nevertheless, is the shareholder-centric view propounded by Nobel laureate economist Milton Friedman wrong? Friedman's rationale was that because managers are employed by shareholders, their duty is to maximize profits - and thus the share price - over time. While this approach was widely embraced by corporate executives in the United States and the United Kingdom over the past 50 years, its basic logic was misunderstood. To many observers, the idea that businesses should favor millionaire investors at the expense of long-term workers is appalling.²

Yet there is a deeper argument for Friedman's view, based on the recognition that managers will not necessarily squeeze everyone else to favor shareholders. Because shareholders get whatever is left over after debt holders are paid their interest and workers their wages, management can maximize shareholders' "residual claim" only if it expands the size of the corporate pie relative to these prior fixed claims on it. To the extent that management must satisfy everyone else before looking to shareholder interests, it already does maximize value for all those who contribute to the firm.

True, some would counter that the imperative to boost quarterly profits leads to cost cutting in areas like worker training. But if companies want to maximize their shares' value over the long term, they will train workers where needed, encourage sustainable practices from their suppliers when it reduces costs, and foster lasting relationships with customers instead of ripping them off. Put another way, even if CEOs do focus primarily on share prices, that doesn't mean the stock market only rewards actions that boost this quarter's earnings. Amazon showed little profit for years, but is thriving now precisely because it invested so much in its business.¹

Moreover, when quarterly results do affect share prices, it is often because the short term has been interpreted as a credible reflection of the long term. By the same token, instead of trying to boost short-term profits by sacrificing the long term, corporate managers would do better to explain their strategy and encourage investor patience. And if market analysts do not buy their argument, perhaps they have a point, and new management

may be in order. It is up to good corporate boards to decide, without being swayed by meaningless short-term results. They can certainly encourage managers to take a longer-term view. Vague statements about serving all stakeholders need never be issued.

To be sure, corporate managers have misused Friedman's original formulation to justify ever-increasing pay denominated in stock, which they claim "aligns" their interests with shareholders'. But this reflects a failure of corporate governance, not fundamental objectives. The real problem with Friedman's formulation is that no matter how correct it is technically, the fact that it is misunderstood makes a difference: Today's idealistic workers and customers refuse to accept it. The ironic implication of this attitudinal shift is that corporations that announce a commitment only to maximizing shareholder value risk driving away key constituencies, which will be reflected adversely in their share price.

This is why, as a recent McKinsey & Company report shows, more corporations are becoming "purpose-driven." Among the benefits they claim are stronger revenue growth (by attracting socially conscious customers), greater cost reduction (such as through energy or water efficiency), and better worker recruitment and motivation (making "doing good" an employment perk).

Of course, none of these targets is at odds with the objective of maximizing shareholder value. Corporate purpose is useful only insofar as it entices critical constituencies. If purpose is meant to please everyone, however, it will introduce an impossible standard and backfire. The key is for management to make clear how it will choose between different constituencies when trade-offs must be made.

For example, when Google withdrew from a US government program to develop artificial intelligence for military purposes, it signaled that its employees' objections were more important than the interests of a large, lucrative client. As a result, Google employees and customers all have a better sense of how the company weighs their interests, and that clarity will be beneficial in the long run, including to its share price.

Some corporations have taken things even further, such as by developing sustainability guidelines for themselves and their suppliers in the absence of state regulations. Collective acts of corporate noblesse oblige are worrisome: guidelines that large players can easily meet may keep out smaller market entrants, and nobly intentioned buyers may form "cartels" to squeeze suppliers. As such, it would be better if corporations pressed elected governments to regulate, rather than acting on their own.

Finally, there is the growing issue of corporate political influence and speech. Many stakeholders now want companies to weigh in on issues such as the restrictions on LGBTQ rights in some US states. These are often the same stakeholders who object to corporate money influencing elections. Generally speaking, interventions outside a company's business interests raise profound questions of legitimacy: Whose views are being represented? Management? But managers were appointed for their competence to run the firm, not for their political views. Stakeholders? Which set and on what basis?



Lord, this is a village living in fear!

Dear Father:

Hmmm, this one na, it hard to talk oo. You mean da how we will be going one by one. You wake up in the morning bomb! They find someone body in the car, somewhere by a road or the beach. The thing is so scaring.

What's happening again my son?

Oh, Father, hmm, da the way people dying in our village nowadays! talking here so oo. And the way people talking it sef, it already na start making some of us scary-the entire village is living in fear right na.

Tell me something!

Yes, oo Father, it na easy. The other day two people-a man and a woman working with our big tax house were found dead in their car parked on the main street.

Ehn?

Da na alloo, now we hear, they say another one from the same place was murdered too. Hmm, this time when you leave your house and go back home you moth have a small thanksgiving service oo because right na we don't know. So my son oo, you want tell me the entire village na get security?

Father, even the security people sef, you go to them they will speak big book da they na equip. The only people you see with big, big gun them da the people guarding our big, big people them. For the rest of the village, we just have to look up to the Old Man up there to send his boys to look after us at night.

Then da na small thing yor going through oo.

Um, Father da the one you talking slow like that so. Ehn da the thing them we can be talking here and the other people who are not living in this village can say we talking bad about the government every day.

But you see God na like ugly. One other one was here the other day. I na say they say, from his own sefmouth telling the whole world the things we are going through in this village. And this is a man, a whole pastor oo, he will get on Face to Face and be defending our government and causing everybody who say bad thing.

So, he came down from Uncle Sam's village to visit and not only did he see for himself but all the bad things that we are going through here he experienced almost half of them just for that short time.

You joking!

Father, this one da na joke oo. The man say the place he was sleeping the children opened the window to fish in his room, the same thing we can experience here every day. He na stop there oo. He say while he was preparing to leave the village, they stole his phone.

The man say, while turning around to the place the children jerk his phone, some of the same children came and say he should give them money to go collect it.

He say the children brought their big man for the rogue them in da community to him. The man say he must pay money. He got vex, he went to the police, the police say they na equip to go after the children.

The police people sef, sef tell the man say they know the area the boy can be but they na equip to go there.-see trouble!

But this is somebody who sitting down comfortably in Uncle Sam's village oo. When he ready to put his mouth on people here defending the Footballer as if allor us here are bad people who na like the man.

Now, him sef, sef say the way he saw things, if we na careful we will fight war here again-God forbid!

He say even on the street, the rogue them are all over the place trying to jerk people things and securities will tell you they na equip to protect the poor citizens. This one da na Congou people doing oo.

You see Father, da the thing about our brother and sister them who are not living in this village. When outside there, they think their lives are more superior than those of us that are hear. In fact, they think, they are the most educated, most civilized and most everything and they alone get the best ideas and when they come home and taste just a little of what we live with then they get all over the place.

We who wearing the shoes say it hurting, you say we are lying, we just want to draw attention-now I jus waiting to see whether his posts on Face to Face will change from now on.



With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

If Liberia's 5th President Was a Nigerian, who Then is or isn't a Liberian?

The 5th President of Liberia Edward James Roy, was a Nigerian. He was the first pure descendent of an Ibo tribe in Nigeria. His Nigerian parents were taken as slaves to North Carolina but later migrated to Newark, Ohio USA, where he was born on February 3, 1815. Roye was the first pure black slave to occupy the executive mansion as head of state and commander-in-Chief, Armed Forces of Liberia. He arrived in Liberia in 1846 one year before independence was announced and he became president in 1870.

What is seriously and exceedingly laughable, is the fact that a Nigerian and other strange national like Jamaicans, Ghanaians, and Senegalese all of whom from systemic slave backgrounds served as Presidents of Liberia at different times interval. The question becomes; who then is or not a Liberian? Even the so-called natives or inhabitants of the land before the emergence of the so-called slaves did not own the land legally or constitutionally, it was the slaves who finally named the land, and legalized its existence.

The inhabitants of natives who occupied the land now called Liberia before the advent of the slaves from the US didn't have any legitimate, legal, or constitutional documentation to claim land, the slaves did. The natives were rather a group of loose individuals who were potential wanderers and traders from Mali, Ghana, Ivory Coast Guinea, Sierra Leone, etc., who settled in those dark forests and later owned multiple spots for themselves illegally.

The so-called natives were rather covered by slaves who officially discovered the land, named it, legitimized its status, created a government, created a constitution, and declared official independence in 1847 under the very noses of those who called themselves natives or inhabitants of the Land, before the emergence of the slave's junta. The land was first named by a Portuguese explorer Oct. 6 1462 as Grain Coast or Pepper Coast under the noses of the same so-called natives who had no idea of statehood, needless talks about a constitution. Who then is a Liberian and who owned the land officially, the Native or the Slaves?

Who is or isn't a Liberian is a big issue? Millions of other nationals around the world possess Liberian passports and also call themselves Liberians who are involved in the multinational business as Liberians around the world. For example, Liberia Maritime head office in the US is heavily possessed by foreigners who called themselves Liberians. Today there are 3, 377 ships currently flying the Liberian flags and every worker at the US Maritime office carries Liberian passports but doesn't know where Liberia is even located in Africa.

The majority of other Africans bordering Liberia called themselves citizens of Liberia as soon they crossed into Liberia. For example, Guinea borders Liberia in the North. Guineans who crossed to Liberia referred to themselves as Liberians. The bulk of them hides under the shield of the religious Muslim culture as well as the Mandigo tribe especially when the late Doe referred to them as citizens.

Today the Mandigo tribe is protected by the feeble 1986 Liberian Constitution initiated by the late Pres. Samuel Doe. Today, the Mandigo tribe has succeeded to have their district call "Quinobodo" exclusively to themselves with no other tribe in their midst which is one of the most dangerous precedents the late Doe ever put into motion in the constitution. Sierra Leone also bordered Liberia on the West. A great deal of the Mandi tribe crossed from Sierra Leone into Liberia and referred to themselves as Liberians, the same is with those who hailed from Ivory Coast and Guinea.

When the Liberian civil genocide broke and many Liberians settled in foreign parts especially in refugee camps across Africa, those countries nationals, like Ghanaians, Togolese, Nigerians, Guineans, Sierra Leoneans, and Ivorians took advantage of huge overseas traveling opportunities under the banner of Liberian refugees and were opportune to travel as Liberian all over the world as Liberian refuse to escape from the civil wars brought upon them by Charles Taylor, Prince Johnson, and other warlords.

Most of the above nationals are getting ample benefits as Liberians when the true native Liberians are being denied regularly. Another emerging group that is using their leverage to become citizens of Liberia are the Lebanese, Fulani, Jamaicans, Ivorians, and ordinary Nigerians and Ghanaians especially those in the fishing category in Liberia.

Today, the question remains who is a Liberian, and who owns Liberia? Is it the natives, the foreigners, or the slaves who discovered the land under the noses of the so-called natives and the mixture of other close inhabitants? The issue of who is a Liberian will one day trek another war in Liberia.



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SPECIAL NOTICES

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) VERTICAL CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT SERVICES

This Request for Information (RFI) is published to enable USAID to assess the market for Liberian companies which are capable and interested in providing Architect & Engineering (A&E) services to provide construction oversight, professional engineering and other technical services to USAID/Liberia. These services will encompass feasibility studies, engineering designs and construction supervision and related support, ranging from quick response to short and long-term services in Vertical Construction Oversight (VCO) across the Mission's portfolios.

DISCLAIMER

This is a Request for Information only. It is not a Request for Proposal, Request for Quotation, an Invitation for Bids, a Solicitation or an indication that USAID/Liberia will contract for the services. The RFI is an attempt to reach out to the market to determine the scope of industry capabilities and interest and will be treated as information only. In accordance with FAR 15.201 (e), responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government of the United States to form a binding contract. Responses are strictly voluntary, and USAID will not pay respondents for information provided. Responses will not be returned, and respondents will not be notified of the result of the review. If a solicitation is issued, it will be sent to a selective set of companies at a later date, and all interested parties contacted must respond to that solicitation separately from any response to this notice. The RFI does not restrict the Government's acquisition approach on a future solicitation.

INSTRUCTIONS

The complete RFI can be downloaded from BetaSam using the following link <https://beta.sam.gov/> searching by the RFI No. 72066920R00011 or "USAID/Liberia Vertical Construction Oversight".

To respond to this RFI, interested sources must provide no more than ten (10) pages in Microsoft Word or PDF format, a capability statement expressing interest and documenting ability to meet the requirements as specified in the Description of Services. Interested sources must provide their full business name, address, name and title of contact person by Thursday October 15, 17h00 (5:00 PM), Liberian time, to Luisa Alvarado at lalvarado@usaid.gov with copy to Edward S. Lamin at elamin@usaid.gov.

Sincerely

JUDY J WEBB

(affiliate)

Judy J. Webb

Supervisory Contracting Officer

Digitally signed by JUDY J
WEBB (affiliate)

Date: 2020.10.05 16:32:03 Z

OPINION

BY KEMAL Dervis

Can Biden Save the World?

An administration led by the Democratic challenger could pursue a concerted US effort to renew multilateralism and reverse the trend toward a starkly divided world of great-power rivalry. At a time of unprecedented global challenges, such an outcome would benefit all, including China.

WASHINGTON, DC - The outcome of the US presidential election on November 3 will have momentous consequences for America in terms of economic policy, racial justice, the judiciary, health care, and the overall quality of its democracy. But the election's international effects could be equally far-reaching and lasting. In particular, can a victory for the Democratic nominee, former Vice President Joe Biden, prevent a dangerous great-power confrontation and usher in a new era of global cooperation?

If President Donald Trump were re-elected, he would not necessarily seek more confrontations abroad during his second term. On the contrary, as Trump's electoral incentive for hardline posturing diminished, he might become less hawkish, notably toward China, and pursue "economic deals" whenever possible.

In fact, the Trump administration's grandstanding about "values" and human rights may cease altogether. After all, the president is perfectly comfortable with autocrats, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's recent lambasting of China for human-rights abuses was more electoral theater than evidence of moral conviction.

A second-term Trump administration - much like the first - would not try to project systemic notions of democracy and human rights around the world. Instead, it would pursue a purely transactional approach to diplomacy with allies and rivals alike, calculating that America's huge domestic market and military-industrial prowess, along with the dollar's extraterritorial reach, will strengthen its bilateral negotiating power, even vis-à-vis China and the European Union. But, although bilateral deal making may be effective in specific cases, Trump's neglect of alliances and disdain for multilateralism - a key source of US strength for decades - has diminished America's power and influence.

True, despite Trump's malign efforts, the United States retains considerable soft power, because much of the world regards his presidency as an aberration that does not reflect America's "true" character. But if Trump is re-elected, that soft power would decline precipitously. A purely transactional approach would further erode the already weakened multilateral system. The need for rules and standards will nonetheless grow.

A world of greatly diminished multilateralism would likely crystallize into three rival spheres of influence - led by the US, China, and the European Union - each with its own rules and standards. The EU could have enough weight to form a third pole of its own, particularly if it can attract some like-minded medium-size countries into its sphere. Should the EU lack the cohesion to do this, the world would become bipolar, because the weight and gravitational pull of the US and China are orders of magnitude greater than those of any other potential rivals.

Such a world would be inefficient, with different rules and standards segmenting markets. Moreover, reaching burden-sharing agreements to provide global public goods such as climate mitigation would be very difficult. It would also be a dangerous world: despite their still considerable interdependence, China and the US might slide into a technology cold war that could become hot, owing to miscalculations on both sides - including with regard to new cyber weapons.

How might the future play out differently if Biden wins?

Regarding the US-China relationship, not much would change in the near term. If anything, bilateral frictions might even increase, because a Biden administration would elevate the human-rights issue in a more consistent fashion. Current tensions on trade, industrial policies, and technology would persist, and a strong Sino-American rivalry would remain a feature of the international system.

But a Biden administration could radically change America's current relations with its traditional allies - notably Europe - as well as its approach to multilateralism. Forcefully pursuing such a strategy could prevent inefficient and dangerous fragmentation of the international order.

With Biden in the White House, the US, Europe, and many African, Latin American, and Asian countries could work together to establish common rules and standards reflecting fundamentally similar values, although difficult compromises would be necessary in areas such as data management and digital taxation. The US would undoubtedly re-engage with the World Trade Organization and champion a rules-based global trading system, while also seeking much-needed institutional reforms.

America under Biden also would remain a member of the World Health Organization and work on pandemic prevention in a multilateral framework. Likewise, it would rejoin the 2015 Paris climate agreement and commit to serious mitigation goals.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NEC to release Final Voter Roll

-ahead of December senatorial elections

By Nathaniel E.J. Daygbor

Amid increasing reports of alleged malpractices in the recent Voter Registration process conducted by the National Elections Commission in preparation for the special senatorial elections in December, the NEC has vowed to make the Final Voter Roll public before the poll.

NEC Chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne Lassanah said to fulfill the aspirations of all Liberians for free, fair, credible and transparent elections on 8 December 2020, and the Commission's desire to ensure transparency and commitment to meet the

Counties, respectively.

The ECC delegation was headed by its Coordinator, Oscar Bloh, while Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lassanah, Co-chairperson Cllr. P. Tephel Reeves, Barsee Leo Kpankai, Floyd Oxley Saylor and Cllr. Ernestine Morgan Awar represented the Commission.

Speaking earlier, Mr. Bloh said the ECC had gone to the Commission to get first-hand information relating to the conduct of the three elections on 8 December 2020.

Mr. Bloh said the ECC is concerned about the outcome of the just-ended Voter Roll Update and worried about the conduct of a free, fair, credible, and transparent election

Commission has no doubt that the government will provide necessary funds needed for the Special Senatorial Elections, National Referendum and the two by-elections.

She disclosed that procurement processes are ongoing, according to plan, and that with the level of commitment from the Liberian government to provide the needed funds, the three elections will be held as scheduled.

Liberians go to the poll in December to elect 15 senators that would join other 15 in the Liberian Senate and to vote for four propositions in a referendum, calling for changes in terms of the presidency from six to five



NEC Boss, Mrs. Davidetta Browne

aspirations of Liberians, a copy of the Final Registration Roll, FRR will be given to registered political parties, key civil society groups as well as members of the International Community to countercheck the Final Voter's Roll.

Chairperson Davidetta Lassanah gave the assurance Thursday, 8 October when a three-person delegation from the Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) visited the NEC to ascertain first-hand information on status of the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Election, National Referendum and by-elections in Sinoe and Montserrado

hence, he wanted to know challenges facing the Commission and what could be done to remedy such constraints, if there were any.

In response, NEC Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lassanah expressed confidence of timely and adequate funding from the Government of Liberia and international partners for the electoral process.

She said government is committed to providing funding for the Special Senatorial election, but she did not state clearly how much money up to date, the NEC has received against US\$13 million requested for the conduct of the election.

The NEC boss said the

years; the Senate from nine to seven years; the House of Representatives from six to four years, and dual citizenship.

However, four opposition parties under the banner Collaborating Political Parties or CPP, have collectively challenged the Final Voter Roll, demanding a complete clean-up before the poll.

The CPP has vowed to stage a sustained protest until the FVR is cleaned up as was mandated by the Supreme Court of Liberia during the 2017 presidential elections.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

WIN calls for firm stance against rape

The chief executive director of Women Initiative Network (WIN) Davidetta Davis calls on young women and girls in Liberia to stand firm in the fight against rape and to take self-initiatives in combating gender-based violence in the country.

WIN was founded on May 19, 2017 to challenge women and girls to become proactive in the fight against rape.

According to Madam Davis, the formation of the Network came after she read a South African drama series titled "Dancing Queen" that illustrates a story about a young beautiful South African girl, who was raped, but decided not to tell her story to anyone.

"When I got through reading the drama series, I realized that there are many

young women and girls must also take self-initiatives by reporting any issue of rape to help combat the crime and deter who-be perpetrators in society.

She stressed a need for young women and girls to create a medium through which to educate and inform people in society, especially teenagers, who are on the average being raped so that they will learn how to report rape cases to relevant authorities, and also learn preventive measures.

"Rape is a serious issue in the country, and we all know about it. It is happening right around us. We see and hear about babies being raped. I do not think it is about sexual pleasure because how men can create sexual feelings for a baby? It's totally insane and we



WIN chief executive director, Madam Davidetta Davis

young beautiful women and girls who might have gone or are going through similar condition but decide not to speak out", she noted.

She said there are some young women and girls who might want to speak out their stories of being raped but do not want to take self-initiative by reporting cases to relevant authorities, rather choosing to remain mute and await pressure from parents or community leaders.

Speaking in Monrovia at an Anti Rape Speaker Series Program held in the conference hall of the Muslim Congress High School on Mechline Street, Madam Davis stated that in as much as national government and international partners have joined the fight against rape and other gender based violence issues in Liberia,

must stand firm to protect our girls by creating the awareness, informing them on the necessary preventive measures and also cautioning them to stand up and report rape cases, which will help to prevent ourselves."

President George Manneh Weah has declared rape a national emergency through proclamation. The President also appointed a Special Prosecutor for rape and established a national "Sex Offenders Registry."

Madam Davis said gender based violence stands to destroy the future of young women and girls in society, lamenting that issue of gender equality in the country will not be realized because there might not be many girls to compete with their male

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Speaker Chambers donates to Pleebo Health Center

By Patrick N. Mensah,
Maryland Co.

In the wake of ongoing protest across Liberia by health workers demanding better incentives and pay rise, House Speaker Bhofal Chambers, who represents Maryland County Electoral district#2, has

made the presentation recently to the Health Center.

Speaking during the presentation, he said the donation is the Speaker's own way of identifying with the health facility that is faced with several constraints regarding regular medical supply.

large.

The county development superintendent added that Speaker Chamber's gesture to the Health Center is not limited only to his district.

He recalled that in July this year, the Speaker donated two drums of fuel to the J.J. Dossen Referral Hospital in Harper, including Covid-19 preventive materials to health facilities in Nyanbo Towns, his own district.

He also disclosed that the Speaker similarly donated 250 bags of rice to the county, which was shared among traditional chiefs, various health centers, towns and villages, and groups, including people living with disabilities.

Meanwhile, receiving the assorted drugs at the Pleebo Health Center, administrator Garrison Sayon, lauded Speaker Chambers for the gesture and noted though the health center has been confronted with several constraints, a charity group, Partner In Health has also been helping the center with medical drugs.

Mr. Sayon however called on other lawmakers, including citizens of Maryland to come to the aid of the Pleebo Health Center.



donated assorted medical drugs to the Pleebo Health Center in Pleebo District, Maryland County.

County development superintendent Rovin, on behalf of Speaker Chambers,

He noted that although the Speaker is not a medical practitioner, but he was very concerned about addressing some of the challenges the Pleebo Health Center faces in the district and the county at

Lonestar Cell MTN announces the introduction of voice and data surcharge

The Management of Lonestar Cell MTN announces that in accordance with LTA-Order 0016-02-25-19 issued by the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), a surcharge on mobile voice on-net (Lonestar to Lonestar calls) and mobile data services has been introduced.

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Liberia prepares for National Transfer Accounts profile

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) through its Sub-regional Office for West Africa formally begins a three-day capacity-building workshop in Liberia for several institutions of the Liberian government.

A release issued by a member of the ECOWAS Economic Journalists Network, Jacob N.B. Parley, said the virtual training workshop, taking place in Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia, is aimed at producing economic and National Transfer Accounts (NTA) profile on Liberia.

According to the release, the exercise is bringing together two employees, each, from key institutions of government, including the Ministries of Finance and Development Planning,

need for investment in demographic transition.

Mrs. Diop strongly believes capturing the demographic dividends in West Africa plays an essential role in improving living conditions of the populations through sustainable development and structural transformation of the region's economies.

"Liberia is now the only country in the region that does not have the NTA demographic profile and as such, the training is intended to build the capacity of Liberians that will help the government develop the NTAL profile on Liberia." She added.

Mrs. Diop also stressed the need for employees from government entities to familiarize themselves with the handbook for measuring the generational economy, published in 2013 by the United



Participants pose for photo

Labour, Health, Agriculture, Justice, the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) and the ECOWAS Economic Journalists Network. The Network, established in Dakar, Senegal, in 2017, reports on economic and environment issues, among others.

The National Transfer Accounts (NTA) is an idea dedicated towards helping to strengthen capacities of government employees, specifically in areas that enable ECOWAS member countries, including Liberia, integrate issues relating to demographic dividends in developmental policies.

In a virtual remark made on behalf of the ECA Director for West Africa, Mrs. Ngone Diop noted that West Africa's 2019 population of 391 million inhabitants, raises urgent

Nations and cited the importance of the document in line with the vision of the West Africa Sub-regional Office to invest in approaches aligned with demographic economics.

"The ECA will do everything possible to institutionalize the NTA approach and support countries to institutionalize it."

The ECA executive, at the same time mentioned that the program has a window of economic growth, if accompanied by appropriate government policies, including investment in health and education and further described demographic dividend as economic benefits that arise from changes in population age structure and from other demographic forces that enhance opportunities for

Français

Présidentielle en Guinée : l'ONU dénonce les discours de haine pendant la campagne

Deux hauts responsables des Nations Unies ont mis en garde contre les « discours de haine à relent ethnique » en Guinée pendant la campagne pour l'élection présidentielle prévue le 18 octobre prochain.

Alors que la campagne électorale entre dans sa phase décisive, l'ONU s'inquiète des discours de haine des certains candidats

au scrutin présidentiel et interpellent l'ensemble des acteurs politiques sur la nécessité à préserver la paix avant, pendant et après les élections.

« Les responsables politiques, en particulier les candidats à la prochaine élection présidentielle en Guinée, devraient s'abstenir d'invoquer des affiliations ethniques et d'utiliser un langage provocateur, lesquels

pourraient conduire à de la violence, à de la discrimination et à d'autres violations des droits de l'homme », ont déclaré ce mercredi Michelle Bachelet, Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme, et Pramila Patten, Conseillère spéciale par intérim pour la prévention du génocide et Représentante

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Vers une monnaie unique : du franc CFA à l'éco

Une étape importante vers la monnaie unique a été franchie le 21 décembre 2019, lorsque le Président ivoirien et actuel Président en exercice de l'UEMOA, Alassane Ouattara, et le Président français, Emmanuel Macron, ont annoncé la réforme du franc CFA, la monnaie commune aux huit pays membres de l'UEMOA. 134 millions de personnes au

Bénin, au Burkina Faso, en Côte d'Ivoire, en Guinée-Bissau, au Mali, au Niger, au Sénégal et au Togo utilisent le franc CFA. Le franc CFA sera renommé « éco » ; la France se retirera de tous les organes de gouvernance et la moitié des réserves de change ne seront plus détenues par la Banque de France. L'éco continue cependant d'avoir une parité fixe avec l'euro et la France garde pour le moment

son rôle de garant financier.

Créé en 1945, sous le nom de « Franc des colonies françaises d'Afrique » et devenu en 1958 « Franc de la Communauté financière africaine », le changement de nom de la monnaie commune est hautement symbolique. Le projet de réforme prévoit de réduire les liens financiers avec l'ancienne puissance coloniale. Cependant, de nombreux économistes africains pensent qu'il ne devrait plus y avoir aucun accord de coopération monétaire entre la France et les pays africains. « Avec le maintien de cette garantie, en attendant l'éco, nous voulons éviter la spéculation et la fuite des capitaux », a expliqué Alassane Ouattara. D'autres voix critiques affirment que la réforme du franc CFA ne va pas assez loin, notamment en ce qui concerne le taux de change fixe avec l'euro qui rendrait les exportations ouest-africaines moins compétitives.

Au niveau international, la réforme du franc CFA a été saluée par la Banque africaine de développement ainsi que

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Mr. ERIKSSON

Éditorial

Arrêtez la violence !

Le Libéria est en passe de renouer progressivement avec la violence d'une envergure si inimaginable au point de risquer de renverser le sens des aiguilles de l'horloge et provoquer la chute libre de ce pays, en plein pandémie mondiale.

En prélude aux élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat qui doivent avoir lieu en décembre, le pays assiste à une vague d'affrontements entre militants des partis rivaux (la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir et la collaboration des partis politiques), menaçant tout ce qui reste de l'économie et de la paix sociale.

Cette situation est dangereuse. Ainsi interpellons-nous l'administration Weah à prendre immédiatement des mesures. Des députés issus de l'opposition (Abraham Darius Dillon et YekehKolubah) sont quotidiennement victimes d'attaques ces derniers mois pour avoir critiqué le régime en place.

Le dimanche 27 décembre, le domicile du représentant de la circonscription électorale n° 10 du comté de Montserrado, YekehKolubah, a été complètement saccagé par des jeunes militants du CDC, à l'image de ce qui s'était produit à Zwedru, dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, il y a quelques mois.

Le gouvernement semble être à l'aise face à la violence faite aux militants de l'opposition, tout en espérant pouvoir ainsi museler l'opposition. Le régime en place est totalement paranoïaque et allergique aux critiques, ainsi s'en prend-il à tout citoyen qui ose lever la voix sur les questions critiques, comme c'est le cas de Dillon et Yekeh.

Ce n'est certainement pas le type de démocratie que les Libériens ont vu dans le CDC en élisant son leader politique George Manneh Weah en 2017 à la présidence. Le silence assourdissant du président Weah sur la vague de violence à travers le pays est non seulement inquiétant, mais décevant.

C'est d'autant plus dangereux que le pays se rendra aux urnes le 8 décembre pour élire 15 sénateurs, alors que la Coalition au pouvoir cherche le contrôle absolu de l'Assemblée législative.

L'administration Weah devrait comprendre que la suppression violente de la liberté d'expression et des opinions dissidentes sont des traits de dictature qui sapent la tolérance et l'unité nationale. L'État de l'Europe de l'Est, la Biélorussie, est un exemple classique de l'endroit où le tyran règne d'une main de fer, écrasant à tout prix les voix dissidentes.

Le Libéria n'a pas intérêt à retourner dans une telle cacophonie parce que nos partenaires internationaux, y compris les États-Unis, les Nations Unies, la CEDEAO et l'Union africaine, entre autres, ont beaucoup investi dans ce pays pour nous amener là où nous en sommes aujourd'hui en tant que peuple.

Nous demandons au gouvernement d'agir rapidement en faisant en sorte que la violence cesse afin que règne la norme démocratique qui est indispensable au développement. Nous exigeons une enquête immédiate sur les violences de dimanche.

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Français

Présidentielle en Guinée :

spéciale chargée de la question des violences sexuelles commises en période de conflit.

À l'approche du scrutin, les appels aux affiliations ethniques, en particulier aux ethnies Malinké et Peul, ont été de plus en plus répandus et ont créé des divisions et ont créé des divisions pendant la campagne. Selon ces deux hautes responsables onusiennes, les candidats ont également suggéré que des actes de violence pourraient suivre l'annonce des résultats. « Compte tenu de l'histoire de la violence intercommunautaire en Guinée, je suis profondément préoccupée par une rhétorique aussi dangereuse de la part des responsables politiques, qui pourrait, dans certains cas, constituer une incitation à l'hostilité, à la discrimination ou à la violence », a déclaré Mme Bachelet.

S'abstenir d'instrumentaliser l'ethnicité

A ce sujet, elle fait état « de signes sérieux d'une augmentation de l'intolérance et des affrontements, notamment parmi des groupes de jeunes, et des médias qui amplifient

les messages de haine ».

Selon les médias, le Président Alpha Condé, candidat à un troisième mandat, et son principal opposant, Cellou Dalein Diallo, s'accusent mutuellement d'attiser les tensions intercommunautaires.

Michelle Bachelet a donc appelé tous les candidats à s'abstenir d'attiser les divisions ethniques. Elle les invite à garantir aux Guinéens d'exercer leurs droits à la liberté d'expression, à la réunion pacifique et à la participation au processus électoral sans violence ni intimidation, et sans discrimination.

De son côté, Pramila Patten demande aux partis de s'abstenir d'instrumentaliser l'ethnicité ou de toutes manipulations qui sèment les graines de la division à des fins politiques. « De telles manœuvres sont extrêmement dangereuses et doivent être stoppées. Tout individu responsable d'incitation à la violence ou à commettre des atrocités sera tôt ou tard tenu responsable de ses actes devant un tribunal national ou international », a-t-elle déclaré.

Vers une monnaie unique :

de nombreux autres partenaires financiers. Le FMI l'a considérée comme « un pas important dans la modernisation d'accords de longue durée » entre l'espace UEMOA et la France.

Au niveau régional, la réforme de la zone monétaire UEMOA facilitera son intégration dans la future zone monétaire de la CEDEAO qui a déjà été décidée en 2003 avec notamment la création d'une monnaie unique appelée également « éco ». Lors de la 56e session ordinaire de l'Autorité des chefs d'État et de gouvernement, le 21 décembre 2019 à Abuja, les responsables ouest-africains ont pris des mesures pour accélérer la création de l'Union monétaire de la CEDEAO en 2020. Ils ont adopté le symbole de l'éco, la monnaie unique de la CEDEAO et le nom de la Banque centrale de la CEDEAO : la Banque centrale de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCAO).

Les économies ouest-africaines peinent cependant à remplir les critères de convergence, notamment un déficit public inférieur à 3 %, un taux d'inflation inférieur à 10 % et une dette

représentant moins de 70 % du PIB national. L'introduction d'une monnaie unique a déjà été reportée maintes fois. La réforme du franc CFA ne représente ainsi qu'un pas important dans la construction de la nouvelle monnaie plus englobante de la CEDEAO et la question cruciale est de savoir si les économies anglophones rejoindront la nouvelle monnaie dans un futur proche. Si le géant économique qu'est le Nigéria a requis du temps pour analyser les implications de la réforme du franc CFA, le Ghana, la deuxième économie la plus importante de la région, a confirmé son soutien. « C'est une décision bienvenue que le Ghana applaudit chaleureusement. [...] Nous, au Ghana, sommes déterminés à faire ce que nous pourrions pour pouvoir rejoindre bientôt les États membres de l'UEMOA dans leur usage de l'Eco car nous pensons qu'il permettra d'éliminer les barrières commerciales et monétaires, de réduire les coûts des transactions, de stimuler l'activité économique et d'élever le niveau de vie de nos populations », affirme un communiqué de presse du gouvernement.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Raghuram G. Rajan

Quelles limites pour la responsabilité sociale et politique des entreprises ?

CHICAGO - La pandémie actuelle renforce les inquiétudes relatives aux inégalités, aux laissés-pour-compte, aux discriminations et au changement climatique. Aussi les entreprises sont-elles soumises à des pressions croissantes pour qu'elles ne se contentent plus de vendre de bons produits à un prix abordable. L'année dernière, en réponse à l'évolution de l'opinion publique, la US Business Roundtable, une organisation patronale américaine, déclarait ceci : "Chacune de nos parties prenantes est essentielle. Nous nous engageons à leur apporter à tous de la valeur, pour le succès futur de nos entreprises, de l'ensemble de la population et de notre pays".

Cet engagement pose problème. Les objectifs déclarés d'une entreprise devraient l'aider dans ses choix. Affirmer que toutes les parties prenantes sont essentielles revient à dire qu'aucune ne l'est. Essayant de satisfaire tout le monde, la Business Roundtable finira probablement par déplaire à tous. Des faits récents suggèrent même que les entreprises qui ont signé la déclaration de cette organisation sur le "capitalisme des parties prenantes" licencient plus facilement que les autres, et proposent moins que d'autres leur aide face à la pandémie.

Pour autant, le point de vue centré sur les actionnaires que propose Milton Friedman, prix Nobel d'économie, est-il erroné ? Selon lui, les dirigeants des entreprises étant employés par les actionnaires, leur objectif consiste à maximiser les profits (donc la valeur des actions). Au cours des 50 dernières années, les dirigeants d'entreprises britanniques et américaines ont été nombreux à adopter cet objectif, mais sans comprendre sa logique de base. Aux yeux de beaucoup d'observateurs, l'idée que les entreprises doivent favoriser l'intérêt des investisseurs millionnaires au détriment des travailleurs est inacceptable.

Pourtant, il existe un argument plus pertinent en faveur du point de vue de Friedman : les dirigeants ne favorisent pas systématiquement les actionnaires au détriment de tous. Ils essayent de réaliser le maximum de bénéfices, de manière à pouvoir verser leur salaire à leurs employés, leurs intérêts aux détenteurs de dette et réaliser certains investissements, ce qui reste constituant la "créance résiduelle" qui revient aux actionnaires.

A contrario, on pourrait dire que l'impératif d'augmenter au maximum les profits à court terme conduit à rogner sur certaines dépenses, par exemple celles liées à la formation des travailleurs. Mais si une entreprise veut accroître la valeur de ses titres sur le long terme, elle doit former correctement ses travailleurs, encourager les bonnes pratiques chez ses fournisseurs pour réduire les coûts et créer des liens durables avec ses clients plutôt que d'essayer de leur soutirer un maximum d'argent. La Bourse ne récompense pas exclusivement les entreprises qui réalisent le plus de profit à court terme. Ainsi durant de longues années Amazon n'a guère été rentable, mais elle réussit aujourd'hui précisément parce qu'elle a réalisé énormément d'investissements.

Par ailleurs quand les résultats trimestriels d'une entreprise affectent la valeur de ses titres, c'est souvent parce que le marché interprète le court terme comme une prémisse du long terme. De même, au lieu d'essayer d'augmenter le profit à court terme en sacrifiant le long terme, les dirigeants d'entreprises feraient mieux d'expliquer leur stratégie et d'inciter les investisseurs à la patience. Les analystes de marché ont parfois raison de ne pas croire aux arguments des dirigeants, un changement de direction pourrait alors s'avérer nécessaire. Un bon conseil d'administration décide sans se laisser influencer par des résultats immédiats peu significatifs. Il peut encourager les dirigeants à adopter une vision à plus long terme. En tout cas, il vaut mieux éviter de faire des déclarations vides de sens sur le fait d'agir dans l'intérêt de toutes les parties prenantes.

Des dirigeants d'entreprise utilisent abusivement l'idée originale de Friedman pour justifier leur rémunération toujours plus élevée sous forme d'actions, "alignant" leur propre intérêt sur celui des actionnaires. Pourtant cette stratégie ne reflète pas les objectifs fondamentaux d'une entreprise, mais plutôt un échec de sa gouvernance. Bien que techniquement correcte, la formulation de Friedman est souvent mal comprise ; aussi les travailleurs et les clients quelque peu idéalistes d'aujourd'hui la refusent. Cela débouche sur une situation paradoxale : les entreprises qui s'engagent uniquement à augmenter la valeur de leurs titres risquent de s'aliéner des groupes clés, poussant ainsi leurs titres à la baisse.

C'est pourquoi, comme le montre un récent rapport de McKinsey, de plus en plus d'entreprises se fixent de nouveaux objectifs. Selon elles, cela permet d'augmenter les bénéfices en attirant des clients socialement responsables, de réduire les coûts (par exemple par une meilleure utilisation de l'énergie ou de l'eau), d'améliorer le recrutement des travailleurs et de booster leur motivation en faisant de la participation à des actions à caractère social un bonus.

Aucun de ces objectifs n'est en contradiction avec la valorisation des titres de l'entreprise. Ces objectifs sont utiles dans la mesure où ils suscitent l'enthousiasme de parties prenantes d'importance cruciale. Cependant, si ce n'est à échouer, il est impossible de satisfaire tout le monde. Aussi l'entreprise doit-elle indiquer clairement son ordre de priorité entre les différentes parties prenantes lorsque viendra le moment de faire des choix.

A titre d'exemple, lorsque Google s'est retiré d'un programme du gouvernement américain visant à développer l'intelligence artificielle à des fins militaires, l'entreprise signalait que les objections de ses employés l'emportaient sur les intérêts d'un client important qui peut rapporter gros. Résultat : les employés et les clients de Google ont une meilleure idée de la façon dont l'entreprise prend en compte leurs intérêts, ce qui est bénéfique à long terme pour elle, notamment à la valorisation de ses actions.

Certaines entreprises sont allées plus loin, par exemple en élaborant des directives de durabilité applicables à leurs fournisseurs et à elles-mêmes en l'absence de réglementation officielle. Mais ce genre d'initiative pose question : des directives facilement respectées par les grandes entreprises peuvent laisser sur le carreau nombre de petites entreprises en difficulté pour les appliquer. Et avec les meilleures intentions du monde, des acheteurs risquent de former des "cartels" qui étrangent les fournisseurs. Plutôt que d'agir par elles-mêmes, il vaudrait mieux que les entreprises demandent aux gouvernements élus de réglementer.

Enfin, se pose la question de plus en plus pressante du discours des entreprises et de leur influence politique. Beaucoup de voix demandent maintenant aux entreprises de prendre position sur des questions telles que les atteintes aux droits des LGTBQ dans certains États américains. Ce sont souvent les mêmes qui s'opposent à l'intervention financière des entreprises dans les campagnes électorales. Plus généralement, quand elle va au-delà de ses intérêts commerciaux, l'action d'une entreprise pose une véritable question de légitimité : quel point de vue représente-t-elle alors ? Celui des dirigeants ? Mais ils ont été nommés pour leur compétence, pas pour leur opinion politique. Celui des parties prenantes ? Mais lesquelles, et sur quelle base ?

Les gouvernements sont responsables devant leurs électeurs et les dirigeants d'entreprise ont des comptes à rendre, par contre lorsqu'elles interviennent au-delà de leur champ propre, les entreprises ne sont guère contrôlées. De ce fait, elles risquent de dépasser les limites de ce que l'opinion publique est prête à accepter. Elles devraient faire preuve de prudence : mieux vaut ne pas réveiller un volcan endormi !

Assassins tailing

Starts from back page

Naymote Partners for Democratic Development (NAYMOTE-Liberia), and Accountability Lab Liberia.

The CSOs say they are deeply troubled by the increasing wave of insecurity and panic across the country, occasioned by several mysterious deaths.

Mr. Aidoo argues that they are not making accusations, adding that they have instead highlighted the issues and it is incumbent upon the government to investigate because the CSOs see it as troubling when they hear this information from political actors that they are being followed.

Pushed by this paper as to what clue he has that assassins are tailing political leaders, Mr. Aidoo suggests that the media should speak to political actors to authenticate if the claim being made by the four CSOs in the joint statement is unfounded or a mere assertion.

"We have spoken to a number of political leaders, opposition political leaders. No I cannot name anybody, but we've spoken to a number of political leaders and they have expressed this fear of they being followed daily and we believe that we cannot allow this to happen," Mr. Aidoo adds.

He notes that in a democratic society, he believes that there should be competition of ideas, saying that is why political institutions are established in the first place.

"So if we get to a point where political actors fear that they are being followed, as civil society actors, even the media, it is important that we bring this to light and we call on the government to investigate," he continues.

Giving his own experience, Mr. Aidoo claims that he was followed to his house, saying he reported the matter to the police but there was no further investigation to that.

He notes that there is glaring evidence that people are being killed mysteriously across the land and breadth of this country with no conclusive investigation and outcome.

But during an interview with the NewDawn via mobile Thursday, Moses Carter, Spokesman of the Liberia National Police says the police encourage the CSOs to write or formally complain to the LNP on the matter and the police will be willing to work with them to identify those

persons.

"So I'm hoping that the CSOs with such grave allegations can sit with the police and you know, we definitely will launch an investigation into the claims of you know, strange people running after, you know politicians," Carter says.

Regarding Mr. Aidoo's claim that he reported a personal experience to the police that he had been followed to his house, Carter says he is not aware of any complaint that Aidoo took to the police and the police did nothing about.

He notes that investigation is not an event, but it is a process characterized by information received from the public.

Reading the joint statement earlier, Mr. Anderson Miamen, CENTAL Executive Director said the CSOs are equally terrified by reports of key political actors reportedly being tailed daily by unknown men and reported assassins to eliminate key political actors.

"We fear that the country is gradually slipping into anarchy and therefore call on the government and international community particularly the Embassy of the United States of America, the European Union and other international partners to intervene," Mr. Miamen says.

He warns that this does not augur well for the peace and security of the country as well as stakeholders' confidence in its governance process.

"We strongly encourage the Government to do more to protect the fundamental human rights of all citizens and residents of Liberia, especially their rights to life and free movement," Miamen continues.

He notes that their attention has been drawn to the unexplained deaths of public servants at the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), Mr. Albert K. Peters, Assistant Commissioner for Internal Audit, and Madam Gifty Asmah-Lama, Manager, Taxpayers Services Division.

"The alleged accidental death of Mr. George F. Fahnboto on Saturday, October 3, 2020, another senior staff of the Liberia Revenue Authority, has equally claimed our attention," Miamen adds.

According to him, all of these are happening months after Mr. Matthew Innis, a senior staff at the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) was killed in a purported hit and run incident on Sunday, 1 March 2020 without any conclusive outcome since an investigation was launched by the Liberia National Police.

Such mysterious deaths, he says, are instilling fear in citizens and have the propensity to undermine investors' confidence in the country.

"Importantly, also, we call on the US Government and other partners to closely follow these investigations and support government, in whatever means possible, to timely conclude them ensuring that the outcomes are published and fully implemented," Miamen says.

He indicates that impunity for economic, financial and other crimes committed have been a long standing issue in Liberia, adding that the CSOs believe that the country cannot continue on this path whereby innocent lives are lost under mysterious circumstances and with little or no accountability.

He also suggests that the nominating former Commerce Minister Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh to head the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) without fully accounting for the Stimulus Package and Household Food Support Program, as head of the committee, undermines the principles of good governance and public accountability.



SECTION I. INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS (101st Graduation Academics) IFB NO.: UL/SP/NCB/002/20/21

September 15, 2020

- The University of Liberia has allotted portion of its Convocation's budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and intends to apply it towards the procurement of Academics for the 101st Graduating Class, 2020.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA), 2010 and approved by the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC) of the Republic of Liberia.

- Specification and quantity:

ItemNo.	Description	Quantity
LOT # 1	Academics LOT 1- Graduate Programs/Visitor/Professors	Assorted
LOT # 2	Academics LOT 2- Undergraduate Programs	Assorted

- Qualification requirements include:

- Valid Government of Liberia (GOL) Business Registration with Code M7410
- Valid GOL Tax Clearance
- Past Performance records including the names and contact numbers of at least 4 clients who had purchased same/similar goods in the last 4 years. They will be used as references to check the performance and quality of the offered model, if necessary.
- Bank statement for the past three (3) years to present
- Bids will be examined for proper signature and completeness before consideration for further evaluation.

- A set of bidding documents in English can be obtained by interested bidders for a non-refundable fee US\$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars) from the Procurement Department, Fendall Campus beginning September 15 – October 14, 2020 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.

- All bids must be accompanied by a Notarized Bid Securing declaration valid for 60 days after the opening of bids.

- Interested Bidders are advised to visit the Procurement Department (see address below) to view samples of the fabrics before submitting bids.

- Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 p.m., October 14, 2020 and will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the Administrative Conference Room (AC1-01), Right wing of the Administrative Complex, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow:

In the upper left corner of the envelop, print:

"SEALED BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF ACADEMICALS"

LOT#:

REF.: IFB NO.:UL/SP/NCB/002/20/21

Below the bid reference number, print the bidder's address.

In the middle of the envelop, print the address below:

Procurement Department
Administrative Complex, Right wing, 1st Floor, Room #: AC1-09
University of Liberia
Fendall Campus, Liberia

- Note that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Signed: _____
DIRECTOR/Procurement Dept.

Approved: _____
ADMINISTRATION

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WIN calls

counterparts in any given opportunity, because girls who are being raped lose enthusiasm to return to school due to trauma.

Speaking to one of the participants Freena S. Kokoi, 15, a 10th grader of the Williams V.S. Tubman High School, expressed gratitude to the founder and members of WIN for organizing such a unique platform that affords opportunity to teenagers like herself to listen to the meaning of rape and how it could be curtailed.

"Well, I must be grateful to God Almighty for having me as one of the participants in this program, and I have learned lot of things about rape and how to prevent myself and my community. And one key message that I gathered was, to speak out whenever someone is being raped", Kokoi said.

According to the teenager, speaking out or reporting rape cases should not only be left to victims, but also community dwellers, noting there are some victims who might not want to speak out due to threats from perpetrators or even family members.

Little Kokoi added that it is important to stand up and be an advocate of rape and gender based violence. People must not wait for the victims to come out before reporting

cases to relevant authorities because it might give the chance to the perpetrator to escape, citing they should always create awareness that will provide the education to young girls on the issue of rape and gender based violence.

She also pointed that lack of information and education are contributing factors to rape and other gender based violence in the country, and suggested in order to succeed in the fight, community residents should equally be informed and educated on the subject matter.

Kokoi wants information dissemination prioritized so that people will learn how to carry on all necessary preventive measures for the betterment of the Liberian society. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

CPP sets protest dates

The Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) has set Wednesday October 28, 2020 as the date to begin a sustained nationwide protest to press home their demands for a change on a wide range of national issues.

"This protest will continue until our demands which include but are not limited to cleaning the Voter Roll, cancelling and properly re-doing the just ended fraudulent voter roll update, and other issues of national concern affecting the lives of our people, are addressed,"

stability."

The CPP which comprises the Alternative National Congress (ANC), All Liberian Party (ALP), Liberty Party (LP) and the former ruling Unity Party (UP), noted that it has begun engaging other political parties, pressure groups, civil society organizations, etc to join the protest aimed protecting "our votes and fight for free, fair and transparent elections."

"We call on all Liberians, home and abroad to join this effort and mandate the government and it's NEC (National Election Commission)

Brumskine (now deceased) of the Liberty Party challenged to results of the election at the Supreme Court with a complaint of frauds and irregularities. This move led to an injunction being placed on the presidential run-off elections.

However, the Supreme Court on December 7, 2017, ruled denying the rerun of the entire election, but acknowledged that there were frauds and irregularities; thereby recommending a total cleanup of the Voters' Roll.

The CPP noted that more



the CPP said in a statement issued Thursday October 8.

The parties said the decision to embark on a sustained protest comes at a time "when our country is on a path of imminent decay as our systems fail us. We cannot overemphasize the importance of having free, fair and credible elections. We cannot overemphasize the importance of protecting your votes and ensuring that your voices are heard at the ballot box. A fraudulent and rigged election could be detrimental to our peace and

to implement our demands in order to protect your votes and rescue the country from further decline," the statement added.

It could be recalled that CPP recently filed a writ of Madams before the Supreme Court to halt the National Elections Commission (NEC), from proceeding with the just ended Voters' Roll Update until it had implemented a 2017 Supreme Court ruling and a June 2020 Resolution by the Legislature recommending same.

In 2017, following the first round of the presidential election, Cllr. Charles Walker

besides the electoral body refusal to clean up the voters' roll it also registered new voters, a process which the parties described as being characterized by fraud at every level which is only piling up the messiness of the voter roll.

Meanwhile, the writ was thrown out the window by the Justice in Chambers, Associate Justice Sie-A-Nyene Youh, allowing NEC to complete the process.-
Othello B. Garblah

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Liberia prepares

economic development, among others.

Meanwhile, Assistant Finance Minister for Development Planning, Benedict Kolubah, hailed the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) for selecting Liberia as host for the three-day training.

Mr. Kulubah, deputizing for

Liberia's Finance and Development Planning Minister, Samuel D. Tweah, noted that the occasion marked the beginning of a new day for Liberia.

"This program is a roadmap for enhancing the national demographic of our country and setting the profile comes at a time Liberia is in its preparatory stages of conducting a national

census." He observed.

Mr. Kolubah assured the UNECA that participants from Liberia are prepared to be trained and to adequately take part in the process so that Liberia cannot be the only country in the West African Sub-region without a National Transfer Accounts (NTA).

The workshop, running from Tuesday, October 6 to Thursday, 8th, October, 2020, is being facilitated by experts from the UNECA, in collaboration with the Liberian Government, through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP).

GSM companies

Starts from back page

and political purposes.

It can be recalled that in 2018, the LTA issued Order 0016-02-25-19 imposing floor prices and surcharges on on-net voice calls and data. Before issuing the Order, the LTA got all stakeholders involved and their inputs were considered. The LTA also conducted public consultations to be able to make informed decisions. Thereafter, the Order was finalized and took effect. This led to the elimination of the famous "Three Days Free Calls," by the two GSM Companies last year September.

Subsequently, when the order went in to force, the two GSM companies requested 6 months after which they will pay into government revenue the surcharges collected from the implementation of the floor price.

So the one major effect of the LTA Order was to abort the famous three days free-call as specifically requested by Orange Liberia and other stakeholders. Orange Liberia

prompted unfair competition and instability between Celcom (and later Orange Liberia) and Lonestar Cell MTN. As the result, LTA as the regulator issued the Order with the aim to achieve stability, coordination, and efficiency in the sector.

When Orange Liberia took over Celcom, and with its sole interest to maximize profit, it did not like the three days free call because Orange Liberia felt it could make more eliminating the three days free calls.

The Government too welcomed the idea likely because of its interest to collect revenue on paid calls, unlike free calls. Since there were no conflict of interests between the GSM companies on the one hand and the Government on the other, the LTA issued the Order which charges a floor price and surcharge in consultation with all stakeholders.

Surprisingly, having eliminated the free call and collected revenue from the floor price as the LTA Order,



and the stakeholders allegedly argued at the time that it was necessary to stop the three days free call because they believed it had no economic benefits to their owners.

The New Dawn investigation at the time revealed that the famous three days free call was introduced by Celcom prior to Orange acquisition of Celcom through purchase as reported. It was likely a business strategy employed by Celcom to increase its customers in order to attract potential buyers like Orange.

The three days free calls having lasted for years, thus Celcom's customers definitely increased, and Celcom sold to Orange Liberia. Among other things, the three days free call

Orange continued to refuse to pay the surcharge fee to the Government of Liberia as provided for in the same Order.

The order also provides that after it comes into force on April 15, 2019, and on the sixth month anniversary of the order, there shall be automatically impose, a surcharge on the on-net voice of US\$0.008 per minute, and on the data services a surcharge of US\$0.0065 for each megabyte.

But following the publication of this order in 2019, Orange Liberia continued to engage the LTA by numerous letters, outlining its objection to the order.

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Assassins tailing political actors? --CSOs make grave claim



By Winston W. Parley

In a grave allegation, four leading Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Liberia are claiming that they are terrified by reports of key political actors reportedly being tailed daily by unknown men and

reported assassins to eliminate key political actors, but fail to name any political actor who may have given a clue for this alarm.

But the Liberia National Police (LNP) when contacted on the matter Thursday, 8 October said it hopes that the CSOs with

such grave allegations can sit with the police, assuring its willingness to launch an investigation into the claims of strange people running after politicians.

During a joint press conference Thursday, 8 October at the office of the Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD), Mr Harold Marvin Aidoo, IREDD Executive Director claimed that the four CSOs have spoken to a number of political leaders, opposition political leaders and they have expressed this fear of being followed daily.

The joint statement is authorized by the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL); Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD),

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GSM companies given ultimatum to rescind illegal price hike

The Liberian Telecommunication Authority (LTA) says it has given the Mobile Networks Operators in the country 12 hours ultimatum to rescind what it says is an illegal hike in the prices of voice and data bundles.

"The MNOs are hereby given 12 hours to rescind this illegal price increase or face appropriate punitive measures," the LTA statement issued said.

Both LoneStar Cell MTN

and Orange have within days announced an increase in the prices of voice and data saying they were complying with the surcharge order issued over a year ago by the LTA

The LTA notes that it regards this act as illegal price fixing, collusion, and antitrust conspiracy. It opines that under relevant provisions of the Liberia Telecommunications Act of 2007, no "Term Services" can be increased without approval of the LTA.

The LTA issued an order

0016-02-25-19 introducing a Floor Price on Voice and Data, under which the MNOs eliminated the "3 days free call" package, thereby earning a windfall of over a 104 Million USD in extra revenue.

The Authority explains that the New Term of Services which is being implemented by the MNOs now is far in excess of what is required for the implementation of any order and designed for profiteering

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