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CPP loses election battle

-What next?



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Continental News

Old men, chocolate and Ivory Coast's bitter election

Much of the world's chocolate is made thanks to the cocoa grown in Ivory Coast, where an election has opened up bitter wounds, writes James Copnall, a former BBC correspondent in the country.

A political quarrel between three, now old, men has monopolised political life in Ivory Coast for over a quarter of a century.

It has led to civil wars and coups, and almost derailed a country, which likes to see itself as a shining example for West Africa and beyond. Ivorians go back to the polls on Saturday with the three giants of politics - Alassane Ouattara, 78, Laurent Gbagbo, 75, and Henri Konan Bédié, 86 - still looming large, even if their fortunes have dramatically shifted over the last few years. And - as so often when elections roll round in Ivory Coast - tensions are extremely high.

It was meant to be an election too far for President Ouattara, who has been in power since 2011. The opposition insist he has served the maximum two terms allowed by the constitution.

Even Mr Ouattara himself

said earlier this year that he would not run. He rejected the charge that standing again would be unconstitutional - but announced it was time to make way for a younger generation.

And yet Mr Ouattara, known to his supporters by his initials "Ado", is not just running again - he is the favourite to win. So what has changed in the last few months, and why are tensions so high? First, the candidate of Mr Ouattara's RHDP party, Amadou Gon Coulibaly, a close confidant and protégé of the president, died unexpectedly in July, aged 61,

after travelling to France to have a stent fitted. After that Mr Ouattara went back on his commitment to step away from the front rank of political life.

He was apparently responding to the desires of his party, who believe he is their best chance of conserving power. Mr Ouattara's supporters say the two-term limit was reset when a new constitution was brought in in 2016. Alpha Condé used a similar argument in neighbouring Guinea, and won another

term in controversial elections earlier this month.

In Ivory Coast, the electoral commission accepted Mr Ouattara's candidacy. And so Mr Ouattara was free to continue his decades-long political battle with two former presidents, Mr Bédié and Mr Gbagbo, whose refusal to concede defeat to Mr Ouattara in the 2010 election sparked a bitter civil war. But not for the first time in Ivorian politics, there was a twist. Mr Gbagbo was one of nearly 40 potential candidates who was turned down by the electoral commission.

He is still in Europe, waiting for an appeal into the decision by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to acquit him on charges of crimes against humanity in the violence that followed the 2010 election.

Another prominent politician, Guillaume Soro, who led the New Forces rebels backing Mr Ouattara who defeated Mr Gbagbo militarily in the end, has also not been allowed to stand.

Both Mr Gbagbo and Mr Soro were blocked because they have been convicted by Ivorian courts.

The irony was not lost in Ivory Coast: Mr Ouattara was famously not allowed to run in 2000, with opponents casting doubt on whether he was really Ivorian, and much of the early years of his political life were spent struggling to get on the ballot.

Now, his political retirement seems to have been put on hold, and it's the turn of some of his most significant opponents to be excluded from the race. BBC



Tanzania opposition 'won't accept poll results'

Tanzania's main opposition presidential candidate has said he will not accept the result of Wednesday's election because of voting irregularities.

"Whatever happened yesterday was not an

election," Tundu Lissu told journalists in the main city Dar es Salaam. Responding to earlier criticisms, the electoral commission said on Wednesday that the accusations were unfounded.

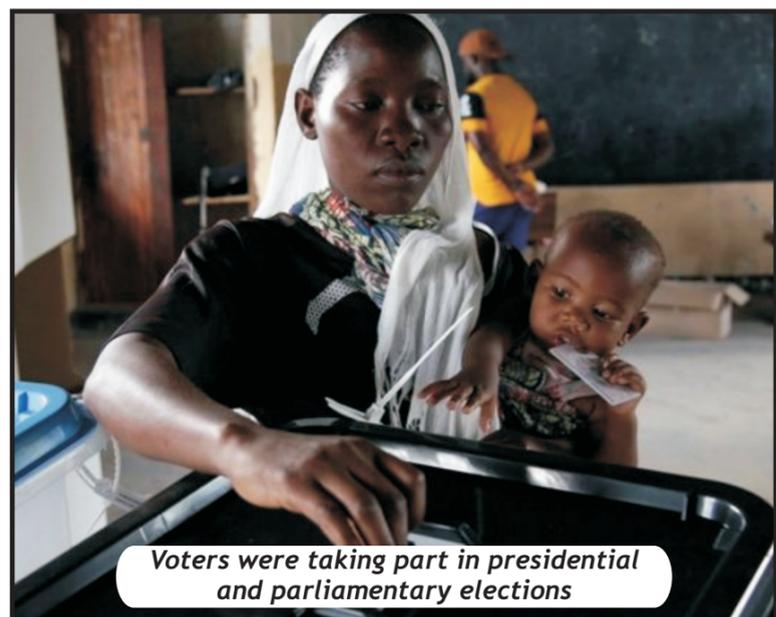
Mr Lissu was one of 14 candidates challenging President John Magufuli whose

party has governed for decades.

Admired by some for his no-nonsense approach, Mr Magufuli's first term was marred by allegations from rights groups that he was restricting democratic freedoms. Maalim Seif Sharif, the main opposition presidential candidate on the semi-autonomous archipelago of Zanzibar, has been arrested shortly after saying that the polls had been rigged and calling for mass protests.

On Wednesday, the head of the National Electoral Commission dismissed the claims of electoral fraud. Semistocles Kaijage said allegations of fake ballot papers were unsubstantiated. On both Tuesday and Wednesday, internet users reported that WhatsApp and Twitter, among other phone apps, had been blocked.

Voting itself was calm and peaceful on the mainland



Voters were taking part in presidential and parliamentary elections

Death sentences over 2015 Mali jihadist attacks



A court in Mali has sentenced two men to death over attacks that targeted foreigners in the capital in 2015.

At least 25 people died when gunmen stormed a nightclub in Bamako in March of that year and the Radisson Blu hotel in November.

One of the defendants told the court he was "proud" of his part in the attacks, which were claimed by a jihadist group.

It was a rare trial of jihadists in a country which has been fighting an Islamist insurgency since 2012.

French soldiers have been helping the Malian army, but the government has not been able to take full control of the

country. Fawaz Ould Ahmeida, a Mauritanian militant, said he had attacked La Terrasse nightclub in revenge for cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad published by France's Charlie Hebdo magazine.

Three Malians, a Frenchman and a Belgian were killed in that assault. Ahmeida's Malian co-defendant, Sadou Chaka, was also sentenced to death for his part in it. Ahmeida was also accused of plotting the Radisson Blu attack.

Two armed men held 170 guests and staff hostage at the during the nine-hour hotel siege, killing at least 20 before security forces stormed the building. BBC

after reports of violence on Zanzibar on Tuesday

"This was not an election by both Tanzanian and international laws. It was just a gang of people who have just decided to misuse state machinery to cling to power,"

Mr Lissu, the candidate for the Chadema party, said. He also urged the international community to denounce the poll and sanction those he accused of bungling the electoral process. BBC

EDITORIAL

Weah's third-term rumor has smoke

LIBERIANS WOULD NOT be scratching their heads over news that President George Manneh Weah is contemplating on remaining in office for three terms if the claim had not come from the President's political buddy, Senator Prince Yormie Johnson of vote-rich Nimba County.

BUT SEN. JOHNSON, an insider of the Coalition for Democratic Change-led government and political buddy of President Weah, reportedly made the claim on Sunday, 25 October while preaching at his church in Paynesville City.

"WHEN THE REFERENDUM passes, this current six years is a zero year for us. After this one, President Weah is going for two more terms; that is the third term", The NEW REPUBLIC, quoted the Senator to have said while preaching on his pulpit during worship.

LIBERIANS GO TO national referendum in December to vote for reduction in the presidential term from six to five years; the Senate from nine to seven years, and the House of Representatives from six to four years, respectively after which Sen. Johnson said Mr. Weah would have an opportunity to make his case for a third term.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT of Liberia, including the Executive Mansion is not short of words in debunking the statement that seems to have kept many Liberians, including politicians looking over their shoulders, given current political realities in neighboring Guinea and Ivory Coast, where leaders have gone beyond their constitutional tenures and are on their way to serving third terms, respectively.

THE MINISTER OF State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill has swiftly dismissed the claim as unfounded, saying that President Weah has no intention to remain in office for long - whatever that means. Under the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, Mr. Weah enjoys 12-year tenure in the presidency.

MINISTER MCGILL DURING a press briefing held at his residence on Tuesday said President Weah would do nothing to undermine the Constitution, as he [Weah] wants to provide leadership opportunity to younger generation of Liberians, and would not perpetuate himself in power.

DEPUTY INFORMATION MINISTER for Public Affairs, Eugene Fahngon similarly joined McGill in dismissing Sen. Johnson's allegation noting, "You want to be in office for a long time and you reducing your time already? That's the actual fact. It's not a secret. For the referendum, President Weah is saying my first term is six and I want my second term to be five and every other term after that is five. Our constitution is clear and it says two terms for president and we will respect that and if there is a need for a third term, you and I must agreed and that cannot be a secret."

PRESIDENT WEAH HIMSELF has not commented, but despite denials by the two cabinet ministers, a famous Liberian proverb says, 'where there is smoke, there is fire.' Besides, Senator Johnson is very close to President Weah. During the runoff presidential election in 2017, he took Mr. Weah on campaign trail to Nimba County and asked his kinsmen to elect the CDC leader to the presidency, which became successful. Currently, he is the conduit between President Weah and job opportunities meant for the people of Nimba. Even prior to the election in Liberia, Sen. Johnson took Mr. Weah to his spiritual father Prophet T.B. Joshua in Nigeria for prayers to win the presidency.

HOW COULD SOMEONE like Sen. Johnson who have had such very close ties with Mr. Weah before and after the presidential election that brought the latter to power, without any strain in their political marriage, announced publicly that they are seriously considering seeking third term, and officials from the Executive, who are equally participating in the misrule of the State amid continuous citizens' outcry, want the Liberian people to believe there is no such imagination? Liberians should shine their eyes and watch the writing on the wall.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

By Ekaterina Kotrikadze

How YouTube Brought Politics Back to Russia

After decades of having no alternative to state-controlled TV, Russians have increasingly begun to tune in to a new, fact-based reality online. Thanks to YouTube, serious, fair-minded journalists can now reach massive audiences and generate advertising revenue, and there is little the Kremlin can do about it.

MOSCOW - Television has occupied a prominent place in Russian households for generations. Relaxing while watching the news after a long day of work is a time-honored routine for many Russians. You might scream back at the people on the screen, but you remain glued to it nonetheless. In the Soviet era, the broadcasters would shamelessly lie across all six channels; today, they lie even more aggressively, and across even more channels.

In fact, twenty-first-century Russia has just one independent liberal TV channel: my employer, Dozhd TV, which has been excluded from main cable packages under pressure from the authorities. As a result, many Russians cannot access us, and tend to resort to whatever is available, knowing full well that they can't believe a word they hear from the "experts" and officials who appear there. They do so out of force of habit, inertia, and laziness - and may continue to do so for a long time.

But even under conditions of widespread censorship and ceaseless propaganda, there are promising developments underway in Russian journalism, thanks to the Internet. The country has increasingly come to be divided between two parallel realities: the familiar post-Soviet one, and a new one delivered by YouTube, where one can watch live broadcasts of rallies and protests, deep investigations into official corruption, and interviews with people who have been blacklisted from state television channels.

With serious journalism not only surviving but thriving online, Russian authorities are gradually realizing that they must reckon with the real-world consequences of this new virtual world. Consider the case of Sergei Furgal, who unexpectedly won the 2018 gubernatorial election in the Far Eastern city of Khabarovsk even though he had no connection to the ruling party, United Russia. In the ensuing two years, the Kremlin sought to neutralize this political upstart by charging him for several murders committed in 2004-05.

Much to the authorities' surprise, Furgal's arrest triggered mass demonstrations in Khabarovsk and many other cities. While the protests received only limited coverage on state TV channels, news about them spread like wildfire across social networks and YouTube, where live broadcasts are targeted to a hipper, younger audience. But unlike in the Soviet era, when the hacks on the screen could not hear you, those reporting from rallies read the comments and are responsive to viewer demand. Though the protesters in Khabarovsk were far from other population centers, they knew they were being watched - and supported - by millions of people across Russia.

Back before YouTube transformed Russian politics, many journalists here had started to lose all hope of working in the profession. They understood that the choice was either to produce state propaganda or hazard the risks of pursuing genuine, public-interest journalism. If you chose the latter, the authorities would do whatever they could to ruin you financially.

But with YouTube, one can make real money

doing genuine journalism. Aleksei Pivovarov, a former star of state television, left that world in the mid-2010s and launched Editorial on YouTube in 2018. The channel now features serious coverage of critical national topics, following all the principles of old-fashioned journalism, with high-quality images, on-the-ground reporting, and interviews with parties on all sides of a given issue. With such content absent from Russian television for so long, these online channels have quickly attracted millions of viewers, which translates into millions of rubles from advertising.

Moreover, the popularity of independent media on YouTube explodes the myth that Russians do not care about politics. YouTube figures have quickly adapted in order to reach wider audiences. For example, Yuri Dud, a former sports journalist, has cultivated a large, intellectually curious, passionate following. Initially featuring interviews with rappers and talk-show hosts, he has branched out into coverage of politicians and other figures.

Dud has had major successes with what once might have seemed like money-losing stories. For example, his videos on HIV in Russia, repression under Stalin, and the 2004 Beslan school terrorist attack have garnered tens of millions of views. Equally important, Dud's audience is dominated not by the urban liberal intelligentsia but by schoolchildren and students. Dud knows how to engage young people online, and he has been telling Russia's supposedly apolitical under-30s what is really happening in their country.

Finally, among the greatest success stories associated with the new media is Russia's main opposition leader, Alexei Navalny, whom Russian state TV did not even mention by name until very recently. In August, Navalny was poisoned with the nerve agent Novichok and then airlifted to Berlin for treatment, whereupon Russian state media finally started acknowledging his existence, referring to him as the "Berlin patient," "hooligan on the Internet," and just a "blogger." Navalny, of course, has long been banned from state TV; but that is no longer a problem. He recently granted Dud an interview from Berlin, and that video received more than 15 million views within days of being released.

There is no longer any doubt that YouTube has become Russia's main platform for political journalism. And unlike on state TV, its leading voices cannot get away with shoddy work or mistakes, lest they lose viewers (and thus their chance at fame and fortune).

The big question, of course, is how long these online channels can stay open. As matters stand, post-Soviet factotums still underestimate the power of YouTube or are aware of it and know that an outright ban would bring people into the streets on a scale beyond anything seen in Russia's modern history.

Russia is not North Korea. It is home to a generation of brave, free people who increasingly do not bother with state TV. And a growing number of older Russians have begun to follow this generation's lead. It doesn't hurt that most TVs now can be connected to the Internet, where a new, fact-based reality awaits viewers.



Lord, its glaring

Dear Father;

Come to think of it, they have gone too far. This is a total disregard of our village Oracle. And those who jumping ships now, declining their roles on the Footballer's Camp team-its late to be hailed as heroes and heroines.

Yes, it's too late. It's a double face game, your rejection should have been made known on the day you were placed there. You cannot come after days of confusion and waved your hands to say you are clean-no, you are not.

Hmmm, which one my son talking here so? You ready for trouble again eh?

Father, truth be told in politics, there is no depoliticized zone. In short there are no fences to sit on, you are either in or out. You can't say you are out but you will still play a supporting role. There is nothing in our Oracle that says a village servant should play supporting role to a camp during voting. It says you should not get involve-period!

Um, now I know where you are going with this thing my son.

Oh, really Father?

Yes, my son, at first I was a bit confused.

Yes, rite. Yea mehn, it sometimes get under my skin when people want to use a none-essential situation to claim purity, when in fact they will failed miserably where it is actually important to see them acting. You know, everybody in this village knows that our village elders, Paramount chiefs and Traditional Chiefs at the Traditional Council don't care for fewhn when it comes to being an example of our village Oracle that every citizen be it big or small supposed to abide by. No, they don't. Which is why the very code of conduct that supposed to regulate our village servants and bring about fair play in our village voting process is being abused so glaringly.

Not under this Footballer alone though, it happens even under our most celebrated Old Lady, in every aspect of it. Now it has even gotten worst-Conguo man would say "worsen".

Father it's like an upright total disregard of our village Oracle. The Footballer who swore to protect it is stumbling on it left and right what you think his kitchen cabinet staffers will do-follow there master even at the extreme-and they do it publicly with no fear or favor and who dare question their actions.

Ehn, talking about on one dare questioning them, they say what that other little boy from your village city fiefdom did the other day?

Oh, Father, the young man woke up one morning and told the people on our Bluffing Road that nobody should part their conveyer there anymore. The man says is an order and anybody who dares question him will face his wrath.

Tell me something my son!

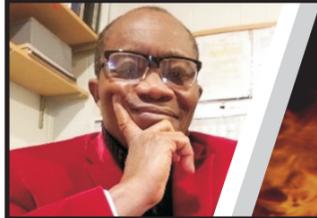
Oh, Father, even if the intention was good, there was no prior warning and who dare not obey?

Then your village is more than sojar man's camp now oo.

Father, da the one you talking slow so. They say the Village City Fiefdom head give order who dare to disobey, unless you want to rascals following him all around the Fiefdom to come and destroy your property and nothing will come from out of it.

Hmmm, na why oo.

Yes, Father, na really why oo and we inside. We are all inside it and staying in it as well. Let the children in the market will sing: "yor lee us oo, da "O..." we want."



With Jones Mallay

LIBERIA POLITICAL

HOT-FIRE

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

GOL Should Establish A Nationwide Medical Board of Medical Investigators

In 1966 the late Pres. William V.S. Tubman envisaged the establishment of a viable medical school in Liberia to train medical doctors for the nation, in particular for Africa at large with the help of the Italian Government, especially the Vatican and the A.M. Dogliotti Foundation made his dream possible in 1968, when Monrovia-Torino Medical School was established in 1968 and admitted very few students most of whom were foreign students.

With the late Pres. Tubman concrete support, Dogliotti became the epicenter of the advanced school of medical teaching in Liberia. In December 1973, the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine graduated the first set of medical students who received their degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD). In 1982, the College reached a milestone with the graduation of its first 100th medical doctor as 16 students graduated in that year.

According to reliable sources, one of Dogliotti's most hidden success stories was the fact that it was heavily shadowed by 95% foreign doctors from South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Cameroon, India, and the United States that made Dogliotti highly competitively prestigious in those dark moments. But Dogliotti's glorious days soon disappeared in the 80s when the late Pres. Doe's military takeover, it didn't only kill people, but it did kill thousands and thousands of good visions for Liberia, and Dogliotti's prosperous vision was one of such.

Today, post-war Liberia has continued to witness a huge proliferation of multiple Medical Schools followed by strange, strange Nursing Training Centers established by groups of young graduating nurses who in most instances posed as veteran doctors and registered nurses in most fake clinics around Monrovia. The confirmed report has it that there are 17 strange Medical Schools alone with 23 substandard Nursing schools and five of the Nursing schools are run directly by foreigners and the remaining are run by Liberians who graduated from other substandard nursing schools as well and together they were able to pull together their resources and their contacts to open a school in Monrovia with no checks and balances.

How can a new group of graduating nurses who with no prior practical experience, no internship knowledge, simply proceed to open their nursing school in Monrovia and treat people of different types of illnesses? Furthermore, how can doctors go about establishing their medical schools in the country? How can doctors, and nurses account for the numerous deaths of patients in their care? How are they held accountable for the sudden death of citizens in their operation theater or those that are given wrong prescriptions that caused their sudden death directly or indirectly?

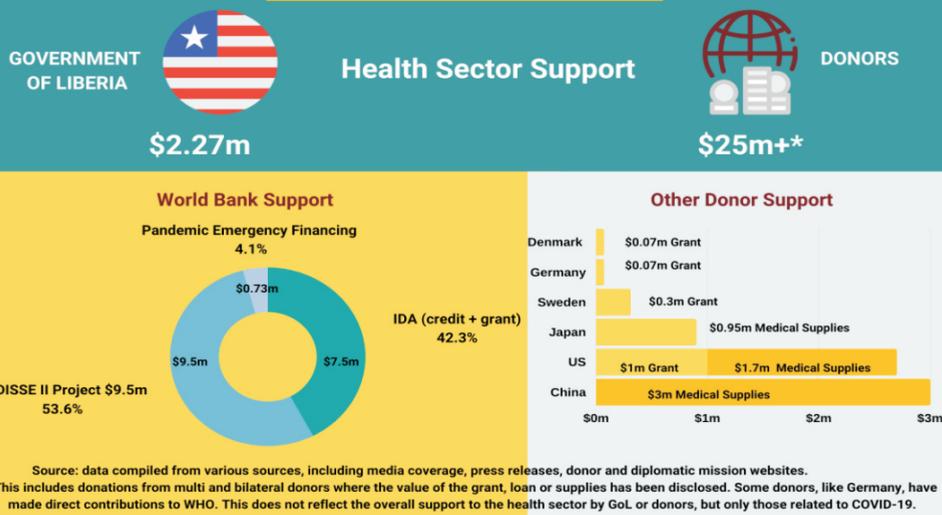
For many Liberians who attend clinics, Nurses are posed as doctors making prescriptions and carrying out surgeries. The majority of Liberians who attend clinics in Liberia and complain of having light fever, they all are often diagnosed with Typhoid fever and they all are often given drips upon drips, irrespective of their pre-existing medical condition.

The Liberian medical system is a piece of holy joke. It is indeed a rotten potato. Some sources revealed that there are too many fake foreign and local Liberian doctors and untrained nurses masquerading in the city killing innocent Liberians by way of administering either the wrong drug or prescription and diagnosing the wrong illnesses. Our source also disclosed that several untrained nurses go about killing innocent and helpless Liberians through the administration of fake and expired medication and no one is paying attention to such a gruesome undertaking in Liberia. Our sources also maintained that the system is heavily dodged with several fake doctors' majority of whom are either school drop-off or impersonating as Doctors and Nurses in Monrovia silently.

The medical field is a very critical sector of any society. In the West, for example, people go to medical schools between 10 to 12-years before they branched into their areas of specialization with an extra 2 to 3 years of rigorous internship. The nurses go to school between 4 to 5-years of professional studies. They also undergo a 2-years internship. They do not pose as doctors nor do they go about opening nursing or medical schools. Only Lib this can truly happens.

It is about time for GOL to put on its matching booths and weed out, all fake doctors, unqualified nurses, and shout down fake medical and nursing schools. Aside from that, GOL will need to establish a medical board of investigators who will investigate the death of any citizen in the hands of so-called doctors and unqualified and fake nurses who prescribed the wrong dose and carry out dangerous surgeries. Those who posed as doctors and registered nurses should be weeded out of the system and those who go about making very dangerous prescriptions at the detriment of innocent Liberians should be sent to jail with hard labor.

COVID-19 FOLLOW THE MONEY

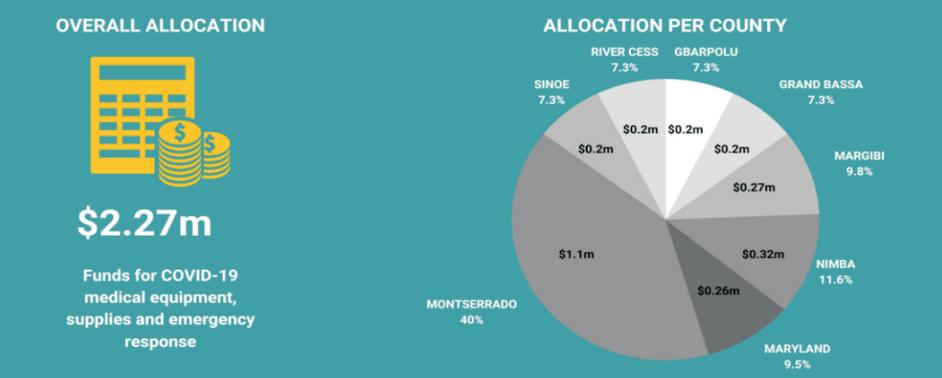


Source: data compiled from various sources, including media coverage, press releases, donor and diplomatic mission websites. *This includes donations from multi and bilateral donors where the value of the grant, loan or supplies has been disclosed. Some donors, like Germany, have made direct contributions to WHO. This does not reflect the overall support to the health sector by GoL or donors, but only those related to COVID-19.



COVID-19 FOLLOW THE MONEY

GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA HEALTH SECTOR ALLOCATION FOR COVID-19



Source: Government of Liberia Citizens Guide to Draft National Budget FY 2020/21. *Budget for only selected counties, where Accountability Lab CFAs have been following the money, are included.

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COVID-19 FOLLOW THE MONEY

Medical supplies and equipment

- GBARPOLU COUNTY HEALTH TEAM: \$0.075m
- 14 MILITARY HOSPITALS IN MONTSERRADO: \$3m
- MONTSERRADO COUNTY HEALTH TEAM: \$0.07m

- 22,500 surgical masks
- 7,000 N95 masks
- 30,000 latex gloves
- 350 non touch thermometers
- 275 visors
- 1,500 PPE gowns
- 1,000 safety glasses

Source: Accountability Lab CFAs.

- Accountability Lab (AL) has deployed Community Frontline Associates (CFAs) in Liberia's counties to track funds and supplies donated to tackle COVID-19.
- Medical supplies and equipment have been donated at various community health centers as well as larger hospitals.
- CFAs have been able to verify some of the donations, but getting reliable information remains a challenge.
- Some of these supplies include assorted drugs, sanitation materials, medical equipment, PPE.
- The adjoining list are some of the large donations, which are being verified by CFAs.

If you have any information on COVID-19 donations or spending, or any stories of great initiatives in communities, please contact us at nyema@accountabilitylab.org



COVID-19 FOLLOW THE MONEY

Liberian health workers, including doctors, nurses and other staff, have gone on a strike against the government. They are demanding better working conditions, higher pay and availability of necessary equipment and resources, including reliable power supply.

Despite numerous negotiations, the Union representing health workers and the Government have not been able to reach consensus.

On higher pay, the Government has tried to assure there will be gradual increase in the salaries of health workers, especially workers who are currently earning far below their standardized pay grade; and potential payment of a onetime hazard payment to health workers who are directly involved with the COVID-19 response. The government has said it is working on making the \$2 million available for health workers.

Deemie Dearzua, Assistant Secretary General of the Health Association of Liberia, when speaking with CFAs said even though interventions have been made by the government through Senator Saah Joseph, nothing concrete has been delivered on the ground. "If they say this 2 million is set aside for health workers, then why is it not in the accounts of health workers?", Dearzua asked.

He is also concerned how the \$2 million will be allocated among 16,000 health workers. "How are they going to share 2 million among



16,000 persons From my layman thinking if the money should be given in full, each person is supposed to receive 125 and 12.50 cents per month across the board ranging from doctors to cleaners." It is estimated that roughly 6,000 health workers are on strike. This is having a direct impact on the patients who are being turned away from health centers. The Government has responded by saying the health workers will be replaced if the strikes continue.

Source: media coverage as well as Accountability Lab CFAs' conversations with relevant stakeholders.



LLA denies receiving US\$10,000 -From real estate administrators

By Emmanuel Mondaye
The Liberia Land Authority denies receiving US\$10,000 from the administrators of the Barbour, Kpawee, Ballah, and Flee Nappy Estate in Paynesville to conduct an investigative survey on their land, contrary to claim by the administrators.

An investigative land survey scheduled to have taken place on 23 October by the Liberia Land Authority (LLA) on behalf of the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC) was aborted by the administrators of the mentioned estate on grounds that the LLA delayed in surveying over seven hundred acres of land that belong to them.

The land in question is situated in Omega community where the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC) claims it has at least four hundred acres of ancestors' land in the same vicinity.

This writer who went on the scene named participating government agencies involved with the process as Liberia Land Authority (LLA), National Housing Authority (NHA), Paynesville City Corporation (PCC), and Dr. Edward Liberty, among others.

Addressing reporters, the

appear in court. According to them, while the matter is still in court, the PCC without any authorization from the Civil Law Court which has jurisdiction over the case, took its representatives along with representatives from the LLA, NHA and others to the site of their land to conduct what they referred to as an 'Investigative Survey'.

They recalled that while their ancestors were alive, the Government of Liberia in 1973 asked the parties involved to allow the government survey portion of their land for the Omega Towel construction project.

The administrators added the government then informed their ancestors the land to be developed will be used for a short-time after which it would be returned to them, but that was never the case.

They said without consultation, the Paynesville City Corporation continue to invade their land, claiming ownership of portion of the land, including Dr. Edward Liberty, who's also making claim.

Ballah and Whergar disclosed the land on which the 14 Omega General Market is constructed forms part of their inheritance, adding that when the



administrators of the Barbour, Kpawee, Ballah, Flee, and Nappy Estate, Messer Nathaniel S. Ballah and Willaim Whergar, Town Chief of Norvelant Town respectively alleged that the LLA requested from them US\$10,000 as their (estate administrators') share of the survey fees with anticipation that the Land Authority would have conducted the survey, which it failed to do.

According to both Ballah and Whergar, while awaiting the LLA to carry out the survey, the Paynesville City Corporation requested the LLA to, on the same day [October 23, 2020] conduct another survey on four hundred and fifty-three (453) acres of land situated in the Omega Market area for government development purposes.

They said the action of the Paynesville City Corporation constrained them to file a lawsuit against the PCC before the Civil Law Court at the Temple of Justice on the matter.

The estate administrators explained the Civil Law Court made several assignments of the case, but lawyer representing the PCC failed to

land was acquired, the government at the time surveyed it in 1951.

They clarified that while they are not against development by the government, equally so, they expect the Paynesville City Corporation to also respect their rights as people in possession of the Mother Deed for the entire land in question thus, aborting the scheduled survey.

The administrators maintained they could not allow such investigative survey to go ahead in the absence of a ruling into the matter by the Civil Law Court especially, at the time when the LLA that is responsible for land in the country is showing less interest in conducting the survey on their behalf for which they allegedly paid US\$10,000.

At the same time they claimed Dr. Edward Liberty, who was also present for the survey said the Government of Liberia (GOL) had given him a portion of the land, as compensation for services he rendered to the State.

When technical representatives of the Liberia Land Authority, the Paynesville City Corporation, the National Housing Authority and Dr.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NEC begins second legal session in Bassa

The second in a series of Legal Awareness Forums organized by the Legal Section of the National Elections Commission (NEC) takes place today, Friday, 30 October 2020 in the Port City of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

Gbarpolu, Bomi, and Grand Cape Mount will attend the two-day Forum.

The NEC Legal Section says the second Legal Awareness Forum is to enhance stakeholders' Understanding of the Legal Electoral Processes for the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections, Referendum, and the

of the basis for conducting elections, sensitizing citizens about pursuing non-violent elections and enhancing citizens' participation in the democratic process.

It is also to ensure equitable and increased participation in all aspects of the elections, building confidence in the electoral management body's ability to conduct free, fair and transparent Special Senatorial Election, Referendum and by-elections as well as to provide information of the legal process in election to reduce the number of complaints especially, during post-elections period, the Legal Section's statement concluded.

Recently, the Legal Section of the National Elections Commission hosted 150 participants from Southeast Liberia, including legal practitioners, district commissioners, attorneys, Ministry of Justice Senior officials in the first of a two-day Legal Awareness Forum in Gbarnga City, Bong County under the theme, increasing stakeholders' Understanding of the Legal Electoral Processes for the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections, Referendum, and the two Representatives By-Elections slated for 8 October 2020.



According to NEC, 150 practitioners from the Ministry of Justice, Judges, Attorneys, District Commissioners, Traditional Leaders, Civil Society Groups, women and youth groups and people with disabilities from eight counties, including Montserrado, Sinoe,

two Representatives By-Elections slated for 8 December 2020.

A statement from the NEC Legal Section Thursday, 29 October says the overriding objectives of the legal discussion in Buchanan includes increasing legal practitioners and electorate's understanding

President Weah declares October 29 National Youth Day

President George Manneh Weah has issued a proclamation declaring Thursday, October 29, 2020 as National Youth Day to be observed as a Working Holiday throughout Liberia.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, the theme for the celebration of the day is "The Role of the Youth in Fighting COVID-19, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Electoral Violence in Liberia."

The proclamation therefore requests the Ministry of Youth

cohesion.

It notes that sustaining peace and enhancing social cohesion engenders the platform to discuss the National Youth Policy Act, as well as encourage policy makers, partners and all youth organizations in the country to work towards achieving youth empowerment and employment across the country.

The release further that the Government of the Republic of Liberia reaffirms



and Sports and all government agencies, as well as all national and international organizations to initiate and organize appropriate programs in observance of the day.

The proclamation notes that the 51st National Youth Day celebration places significant premium on strengthening the call to all youths across Liberia, in recognition of the importance of maintaining sustainable peace and enhancing social

through the Pro - Poor Agenda its commitment to ensuring security through economic empowerment and unimpeded access to youth opportunities across the country, as well as a determination to improve their livelihoods.

In 1969, the Legislature declared through enactment, October 29 of each year to be celebrated as National Youth Day throughout the Republic.--

Press release

MFDP Opens Refurbished Staff Cafeteria

A refurbished cafeteria has opened at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, to serve employees and visitors

act of innovation and vast thinking".

Mr. Tweah said he is glad that employees of the entity will now have somewhere to eat while at work.

initiative is good, and urged employees to visit the cafeteria and to eat hygienically.

Mr. Tweah also thanked the Senior Management Team for



to the Ministry. Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel D. Tweah Jr., in special remarks at the ceremony termed it as "an

He praised the operator of the cafeteria for being innovative, stating that he will give her the support needed for the business growth.

He also indicated that the

accepting the brilliant idea which led to the reopening of the cafeteria, and for providing the space.

He noted that people were sitting on diamonds, but

couldn't discover what they have, and with the cafeteria coming into being, the owner put "vision' into use.

He emphasized the need for people to take good care of our health in Africa citing diabetes as one of the major killers.

The Minister then advised employees to eat healthy meal always in hygienic places.

For her part, Vicky Jah, operator of the cafeteria,

disclosed that a variety of food will be available, and meals prepared will be healthy.

"We can assure you of having healthy food, because we have noticed that most people are developing health issues daily. Our foods are boiled and grilled" Vicky Jah said.

She also assured of observing high hygienic standards in the cafeteria.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia's CSO frowns on neighboring countries' excessive force against protesters

The National Civil Society Council of Liberia (NCSCCL) has frowned on the use of excessive force and the unnecessary killings of peaceful protesters exercising their democratic rights in the ECOWAS Sub-region.

In a press release dated 28

ECOWAS citizens.

"It is therefore completely unfathomable that peaceful gatherings of ECOWAS citizens will be greeted with iron fists, heavy boots and live bullets under the watchful eyes of governments and administrations they constitutionally instituted for their safety and happiness," the

practices when as elders, they treat other ECOWAS brothers and sisters in that manner and form. Meanwhile, the National Civil Society Council of Liberia is calling on the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to stand up and act now before situations blow out of proportion.

"The rights to peaceful assembly, protest and free elections are guaranteed under the AU Agenda 2063, AU Transitional Justice Policy, The Rome Status and other international protocols and treaties," the group says.

In Liberia, the council appreciates the collective engagement demonstrated by ECOWAS, UN and partners during the management of the emerging crisis ignited from the Voter Roll Update.

Going forward, the group notes that Liberia's peace is only guaranteed when the citizens' consciousness is enhanced via their sustained integration, ownership and capacity development to make informed constitutional decisions drifted away from ignorance, fear, limited knowledge about the Referendum and ongoing electoral matters.

The group says it expects ECOWAS to be proactive, action-oriented and disciplinary in as much as the will and happiness of the people requires.--*Press release*



October, the group says attention has been drawn to the ugly situations brewing in the Republics of Guinea, Cote D'Ivoire and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, where peaceful protests and demonstrations are being unwarrantedly quelled by the use of brute force leading to the deaths of scores of

release says.

In the release authorized by NCSCCL National Secretary General Jeremiah S. Swen and the National Chairperson Loretta A. Poke-Kai, the group wonders what moral standing would Guinea, Cote D'Ivoire and Nigeria have to chastise younger leaders who indulge into similar bad governance

CDC withdraws

Starts from back page

has made over the years, there must be strict adherence to Liberia's body of laws.

The ruling Coalition seems to be indicating thru its explanations that it has not been aware of the Code of Conduct for public officials, which is far from the truth, as it was in opposition, when the Code was drafted by the previous administration under ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Despite being fully cognizant, the ruling party ignored the Code and deliberately flooded its campaign teams with officials that should not involve in

others. These two officials, under public pressure, subsequently declined.

At the same time Morlu admonished other parties too, including those in the opposition, to continue to abide by the elections guidelines.

While assuring the general public of the party's commitment to do all in its powers to ensure a peaceful electoral process - bearing in mind that everyone has co-responsibility to maintain the peace the country enjoys, he said his decision doesn't bar any Liberian from freely associating with the ruling



conflict of interest, particularly during elections, which could put rival candidates at undue disadvantage.

Immediately when the ruling party published names of its campaign teams, Liberians generally condemned the decision, pointing to violation of the law and demanding withdrawal of the lists that had prominent officials, including the Managing Director of the National Port Authority, Bill Tweway and the Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency Professor Wilson K. Tarpeh, among

party's activities as guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic.

He disclosed a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Coalition for Democratic Change, held recently in Monrovia, has concluded a list of party faithful, who will be appointed shortly to complete the formation of its campaign committee, announcing November 29, 2020 as date for the launch of its campaign at the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville. - *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Pres. Weah's Islamic advisor calls for unity

The Islamic Advisor to President George Weah, Sheik Usmane T. Jalloh has urged Muslims and Christians in Liberia to rally behind President Weah to development the country.

Sheik Jalloh noted that since Liberia declared her independence in 1847, no past Liberian president or government ever had Islamic Advisor except President Weah so, Muslims in Liberia should join him for unity and transformation.

According to him, the Weah administration has exhibited religious tolerance therefore, he urged both Christians and Muslims to support the President in reconciling the entire country.

He said what President Weah has done during three



years in office is more than other presidents in promoting diversity and tolerance.

Jalloh disclosed his office

has worked out modalities with the Office of President Weah for the promotion of religious harmony, explaining

that the government has agreed for both Muslim and Christian advisors to the President to pray at all official functions.

He promised to invite great Islamic clerics here to offer prayers for the country, adding that transformation of Liberia depends on all citizens in respective of religion.

Sheik Jalloh admonished youths of Liberia to do away with protests, which he said is not in the interest of the country and its people.

The Islamic Advisor spoke on Wednesday, October 28,

2020 on Carey Street in Monrovia when he received a certification of appreciation from the Center for Intellectual Forum (CIF).

CIF President Kelfala told the gathering the certificate is awarded to Usmane Jalloh because of his numerous assistance to the Muslims community.

He said Muslims in Liberia feel comfortable with the CDC government, especially with Sheik Jalloh serving as Islamic advisor to President Weah. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Français

Les législateurs veulent-ils autoriser l'impression de nouveaux billets ?

Au milieu de la grave pénurie de billets libériens en circulation, des informations provenant des couloirs du Capitole et de la présidence font état de ce que les membres de la Chambre des représentants et du Sénat libérien vont revenir de leur congé annuel pour se réunir en séance extraordinaire pendant deux semaines pour donner le feu vert pour imprimer des billets de banque supplémentaires de la monnaie locale.

Des sources proches de la direction des deux chambres affirment que le président Weah demande une séance extraordinaire dans le seul but d'adopter une résolution pour l'impression des billets supplémentaires.

Les banques commerciales opérant ici sont confrontées à une crise de liquidité, qui a conduit à une restriction de la clientèle, faisant ainsi passer le taux de change de 200 à 175 dollars libériens contre 1 dollar américain.

La Banque centrale du Libéria avait imprimé environ 5 milliards de LRD, mais cet

argent ne semble pas être en circulation car on le voit à peine sur le marché.

La Chambre des représentants et le Sénat libérien n'ont pas encore répondu par l'affirmative au sujet du retour, mais c'est devenu un secret de polichinelle entre le pouvoir exécutif et le pouvoir législatif.

En mai de cette année, la CBL avait examiné les propositions soumises en

réponse à un appel d'offre et avait sélectionné l'offre la plus compétitive (Crane AB), en fonction du coût et du délai de livraison.

En conséquence, la CBL a l'intention de conclure un contrat avec Crane AB (« Crane ») pour l'impression et la livraison des billets de 500 dollars d'une valeur de 4 milliards de dollars libériens.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Élections : La France a pris en main la campagne de Ouattara (Katinan)

Les arguments à caractère «ethnico-religieux», publiés dans un article à caractère tendancieux, mardi 27 octobre 2020 sur le site de France 24, le média d'Etat français, ont fait réagir, Justin Koné Katinan, ex-ministre ivoirien du Budget, en exil au Ghana. Selon le porte-parole de Laurent Gbagbo, il n'y a aucun doute que derrière cet article tendancieux, se cache la main de la France officielle

qui tente de légitimer la candidature « anti-constitutionnelle » du candidat Ouattara. Ci-dessous l'intégralité de son adresse.

Koné Katinan revient sur l'article de France 24 : «La France veut éclipser le débat politique sur l'illégalité de la candidature de Ouattara»

«Elle annonce partout qu'elle s'abstient de s'ingérer dans l'élection présidentielle ivoirienne. Pourtant, jamais la France officielle ne rate aucune

occasion pour rappeler à ceux qui lui accordent le bénéfice du doute, qu'elle a pris fait et cause pour Ouattara. Elle donne de la voix assourdissante pour montrer qu'elle reste un acteur, certainement le plus important, de la vie politique ivoirienne. Il suffit, pour s'en convaincre, de lire ou d'écouter les porte-voix de cette France, notamment France 24 et les dépêches de l'AFP.

Ce mardi 27 octobre 2020, un article publié sur le site de F24 par sa correspondante en Côte d'Ivoire, Caroline DUMAY, reprend, mieux que ne l'aurait fait le service de communication de Ouattara, les arguments ethno-religieux de celui-ci. Le titre de l'article : « Présidentielle en Côte d'Ivoire : la place des musulmans, enjeu crucial du scrutin », est en lui-même évocateur du parti pris de son auteur. Cependant, au-delà du parti pris, c'est le caractère extrêmement dangereux de la thèse soutenue par cet article qui inquiète.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

La rumeur du troisième mandat de Weah a de la fumée

Les Libériens ne se gratteraient pas la tête après avoir appris que le président George Manneh Weah envisage de faire trois mandats au pouvoir si l'information ne venait pas de son allié politique, le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson du comté de Nimba.

Le sénateur Johnson, un homme influent du pouvoir dirigé par la Coalition pour le changement démocratique et allié politique du président Weah, a fait cette révélation le dimanche 25 octobre dans son sermon lors du culte de son église à Paynesville City.

« Si la nouvelle constitution est adoptée à l'issue du referendum, ces six années actuelles sont zéro pour nous. Après, le président Weah va pour deux autres mandats ; c'est le troisième mandat », a déclaré un journal de la place, citant le sénateur.

Les Libériens vont au référendum national en décembre pour voter la réduction des mandats présidentiel de six à cinq ans, sénatorial de neuf à sept ans et de la Chambre des représentants de six à quatre ans. Le sénateur Johnson a déclaré que M. Weah aura l'occasion de faire valoir ses arguments pour un troisième mandat.

Cependant, le gouvernement du Libéria, y compris la présidence, n'a pas eu suffisamment de mots pour démystifier la déclaration qui semble avoir poussé bon nombre de Libériens, y compris des politiciens, à regarder par-dessus leurs épaules, compte tenu des réalités politiques actuelles en Guinée et en Côte d'Ivoire voisines, où les dirigeants sont allés au-delà de leur mandat constitutionnel et sont sur le point de remplir respectivement un troisième mandat.

Le ministre d'Etat aux Affaires présidentielles, Nathaniel McGill, a rapidement qualifié de non fondés les propos de son allié, affirmant que le président Weah n'apas l'intention de rester longtemps au pouvoir. En vertu de la Constitution de la République du Libéria, M. Weahne peut rester au pouvoir que pendant 12 ans.

Le ministre McGill, lors d'un point de presse tenu à sa résidence mardi, a déclaré que le président Weah ne ferait rien pour saper la Constitution, car il veut offrir une opportunité à la jeune génération de Libériens alors ne saurait se perpétuer au pouvoir.

Le sous-ministre de l'Information aux Affaires publiques, Eugene Fahngon, s'est également joint à McGill pour rejeter l'allégation du sénateur Johnson en notant : « Vous voulez être en fonction pendant longtemps et vous réduisez déjà votre temps? C'est le fait réel. Ce n'est pas un secret. Pour le référendum, le président Weah dit que mon premier mandat est de six ans et je veux que mon deuxième mandat soit de cinq ans et tous les autres mandats après de cinq ans. Notre constitution est claire et dit deux mandats pour le président et nous respecterons cela et s'il y a un besoin pour un troisième mandat, vous et moi devons être d'accord et cela ne peut pas être un secret.

Le président Weah lui-même n'a pas fait de commentaires, mais malgré les démentis des deux ministres, un célèbre proverbe libérien dit : «là où il y a de la fumée, il y a du feu». En outre, le sénateur Johnson est très proche du président Weah. Lors du second tour de l'élection présidentielle de 2017, il a emmené M.

Weah en campagne électorale dans le comté de Nimba et a demandé à ses parents d'élire le chef du CDC à la présidence, ce qui a réussi. Actuellement, il est le lien entre le président Weah et les opportunités d'emploi destinées aux habitants de Nimba. Même avant les élections au Libéria, le sénateur Johnson a emmené M. Weah chez son père spirituel, le prophète T.B. Joshua au Nigeria pour des prières pour gagner la présidence.

Comment quelqu'un comme le sénateur Johnson, qui a eu des liens si étroits avec M. Weah avant et après l'élection présidentielle qui a amené ce dernier au pouvoir, sans aucune tension dans leur mariage politique, a-t-il pu annoncer publiquement qu'il envisageait sérieusement de briguer un troisième mandat, et les fonctionnaires de l'exécutif, qui participent également à la mauvaise gestion de l'Etat au milieu du tollé continu des citoyens, veulent que le peuple libérien croie qu'une telle imagination n'existe pas? Les Libériens devraient ouvrir leurs yeux.

Français

Les législateurs veulent-ils

Selon les termes du contrat, Crane imprimera et livrera le montant approuvé de billets à la CBL de Monrovia dans un délai raisonnable.

Le 12 mars 2020, la CBL a publié un appel d'offres, sollicitant des propositions pour l'impression de billets supplémentaires, avec une date limite pour les réponses au plus tard le 8 avril 2020. La CBL a reçu des propositions des sociétés d'impression de devises potentielles avant la date limite. Cinq sociétés d'impression de devises de renommée internationale ont été invitées à participer au processus d'appel d'offres. Par la suite, un comité de passation des marchés spécialement dédié à l'impression des billets supplémentaires a conduit un processus d'évaluation rigoureux des propositions, axé sur les aspects financiers et techniques par rapport à un ensemble de critères d'évaluation détaillés.

À la suite de ce processus, Crane a été recommandé par le Comité des achats de CBL

Élections : La France

Dès l'entame, l'auteur annonce les couleurs dans le chapeau de son article en ces termes « l'arrivée d'Alassane Ouattara au pouvoir en 2011, premier Président musulman de Côte d'Ivoire, a placé cette communauté, jadis exclue, au cœur des rouages du pouvoir administratif et social. Après dix ans de guerre civile (2002-2011) qui ont divisé les Ivoiriens sur des lignes autant politiques que religieuses, la question de la place des musulmans dans le pays pourrait faire ressurgir les fantômes du passé ». Est bien ingénieux qui pourra faire la différence entre cette thèse et celle que Ouattara avance pour justifier le viol de la Constitution en se présentant illégalement à un troisième mandat.

En effet, dans plusieurs de ses interviews de campagne, le Chef de l'Etat ivoirien justifie sa candidature par le besoin de protéger les populations du Nord. Il récidive ainsi en reprenant les arguments qu'il avait avancés en 1995 : « on me refuse d'être candidat à l'élection présidentielle parce que je suis musulman et du Nord ». Ouattara a assis toute sa stratégie de conquête et de conservation de pouvoir sur la victimisation de sa personne et l'instrumentalisation des clivages sociaux dangereux

en tant que fournisseur privilégié pour imprimer les billets supplémentaires avec les conseils techniques de la société américaine Kroll Associates Inc.

Le gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria, J. Aloysius Tarlue, Jr., avait déclaré : « la CBL tiendra le peuple libérien pleinement informé de chaque étape du processus de passation des marchés, jusqu'à l'arrivée et l'injection de billets de banque dans l'économie libérienne. »

L'économie libérienne de 3,3 milliards de dollars US, avec un PIB par habitant de 677 dollars US, a connu une contraction prolongée de 2018 à 1,2% tout au long de 2019 à 1,4% avant que le # COVID-19 ne la frappe encore plus durement provoquant une chute sévère.

L'inflation a atteint 31,3% en août 2019, contre 26,1% l'année précédente, selon la Banque mondiale.

Selon la Banque centrale, l'impression de plus d'argent permettra de résoudre le problème de liquidité persistant.

pour la cohésion de la nation.

Malheureusement, il est appuyé à fond dans cette démarche par l'élite politique française. En effet, certains milieux de réflexion politique français pensent trouver dans l'arrivée à la tête de certains Etats de musulmans modérés une parade idéale pour contenir l'expansion du Djihadisme.

La Côte d'Ivoire fait partie de ces pays. C'est pourquoi, la France officielle s'était accordée le violon avec Ouattara sur le choix d'Amadou Gon. C'est également pour la même raison qu'elle veut éclipser le débat politique sur l'illégalité de la candidature de Ouattara et les conditions opaques de ce scrutin pour l'amener sur le terrain de la légitimité de ladite candidature.

En effet, en relevant que les musulmans font 43% de la population ivoirienne, repartis sur l'ensemble du territoire avec une plus grande proportion au nord, l'auteur tente de légitimer la candidature de Ouattara tout en disqualifiant l'opposition qui n'aurait de ce fait, aucune chance de gagner une élection face à Ouattara même si celle-ci est organisée dans les meilleurs conditions de transparence. Dès lors, les revendications de l'opposition concernant la transparence du scrutin deviennent sans objet.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Ekaterina Kotrikadze

Comment YouTube a ramené la politique en Russie

MOSCOU - La télévision a occupé pendant des générations une place prédominante dans les foyers russes. Se détendre devant les nouvelles après une longue journée de travail, c'est, pour nombre de Russes, un rituel traditionnel. On crie parfois contre les visages qui apparaissent à l'écran, on y demeure cependant rivé. Durant la période soviétique, les présentateurs mentaient sans vergogne sur les six chaînes ; aujourd'hui, ils mentent encore plus effrontément, sur des chaînes encore plus nombreuses.

En réalité, la Russie ne dispose au XXIe siècle que d'une seule chaîne de télévision indépendante libérale : celle qui m'emploie, Dozhd TV, écartée de nombreux bouquets câblés suite aux pressions des autorités. Pour cette raison, de nombreux Russes ne peuvent nous regarder, et se rabattent sur ce qui est disponible, sachant fort bien qu'ils ne peuvent croire un mot de ce que leur disent les experts et les représentants du pouvoir invités sur les plateaux. Telle est la force de l'habitude, de l'inertie et de la paresse - et elle peut durer longtemps.

Pourtant, même dans la situation actuelle, avec une censure omniprésente et une propagande incessante, des changements prometteurs surviennent dans le journalisme russe, grâce à Internet. De plus en plus, le pays semble partagé entre deux réalités parallèles : l'habituel quotidien post-soviétique, et quelque chose de nouveau, diffusé sur YouTube, où l'on peut assister à des retransmissions en direct de rassemblements et de manifestations, prendre connaissance d'enquêtes sérieuses sur la corruption des pouvoirs publics, et entendre des intervenants exclus des chaînes de télévision d'État.

Avec ce journalisme de qualité qui non seulement survit mais se développe en ligne, les autorités russes comprennent progressivement qu'elles doivent tenir compte des conséquences dans le monde réel de ce nouveau monde virtuel. Ainsi Sergei Furgal a-t-il remporté contre toute attente l'élection au poste de gouverneur de la ville extrême-orientale de Khabarovsk, en 2018, alors qu'il n'avait aucun lien avec le parti au pouvoir, Russie unie. Dans les deux ans qui ont suivi, le Kremlin a cherché à neutraliser cet intrus en politique en l'accusant de plusieurs meurtres commis en 2004-2005.

À la grande surprise des autorités, l'arrestation de Furgal a déclenché d'importantes manifestations à Khabarovsk et dans de nombreuses autres villes du pays. Si ces manifestations ont été à peine mentionnées sur les chaînes publiques, les informations sur leur déroulement se sont répandues comme une traînée de poudre sur les réseaux sociaux et sur YouTube, où des retransmissions en direct ont touché une audience plus jeune et mieux informée. Mais contrairement aux pratiques de l'ère soviétique, quand les bonimenteurs derrière l'écran ne pouvaient entendre les spectateurs, ces reportages des rassemblements transmettent les commentaires et répondent aux questions posées. Si les manifestants à Khabarovsk étaient loin des autres centres urbains, ils savaient que des millions de personnes, dans toute la Russie, les regardaient - et les soutenaient.

Avant que YouTube ne transforme le paysage politique russe, de nombreux journalistes avaient ici commencé à perdre tout espoir d'exercer leur profession. Ils n'avaient le choix, comprenaient-ils, qu'entre la production de la propagande d'État et les risques encourus par la pratique d'un journalisme véritable, au service de l'intérêt public. Opter pour ce dernier, c'était s'exposer à toutes les tentatives possibles des autorités pour vous ruiner financièrement.

Mais avec YouTube, on peut gagner réellement sa vie

en faisant du vrai journalisme. Alexei Pivovarov, ancienne star de la télévision publique, a quitté ce milieu dans les années 2010 puis lancé Editorial, sur YouTube, en 2018. La chaîne diffuse désormais des reportages précis sur des sujets d'importance nationale, suivant les principes du journalisme classique, avec des images de très bonne qualité, des enquêtes de terrain et des débats contradictoires sur des questions données. Ce type de contenus ayant déserté depuis tellement longtemps la télévision russe, les chaînes en ligne ont rapidement séduit des millions de spectateurs, qui ont généré des millions de roubles de recettes publicitaires.

En outre, la popularité des médias indépendants sur YouTube fait voler en éclat le mythe selon lequel les Russes se désintéresseraient de la politique. Les figures de YouTube se sont vite adaptées pour atteindre un public plus large. Ainsi Youri Dud, ancien journaliste sportif, a-t-il entraîné une vaste audience, passionnée, intellectuellement curieuse. Ayant commencé à diffuser des interviews avec des rappers et des présentateurs des plateaux, il a diversifié ses centres d'intérêt et interroge désormais des personnalités politiques ou autres.

Dud a rencontré un grand succès avec des reportages qui auraient semblé, autrefois, jeter l'argent par les fenêtres. Ainsi ses vidéos sur le VIH en Russie, la répression sous Staline, et la prise d'otages par des terroristes dans l'école de Beslan, en 2004, ont-elles rassemblé des dizaines de millions de vues. Il faut aussi noter que le public de Dud n'est pas essentiellement constitué des milieux intellectuels libéraux urbains mais de collégiens, de lycéens et d'étudiants. Dud sait comment intéresser en ligne les jeunes gens et il raconte aux moins de trente ans, qui ne sont pas censés s'intéresser à la politique, ce qui se passe en réalité dans leur pays.

Enfin, parmi les plus grandes réussites dont les nouveaux médias peuvent s'enorgueillir, il y a l'histoire d'Alexei Navalny, dont la télévision publique russe n'avait, encore récemment, jamais mentionné le nom. En août, Navalny a été empoisonné avec l'agent neurotoxique Novitchok et transporté par avion à Berlin pour y être soigné, après quoi les médias d'État russes ont finalement reconnu son existence, sous les étiquettes du « malade de Berlin », du « hooligan d'Internet » ou, plus simplement, d'un « blogueur ». Navalny est bien sûr interdit depuis longtemps de télévision publique ; mais ce n'est plus un problème. Il a récemment accordé à Dud un entretien depuis Berlin, et cette vidéo a obtenu plus de 15 millions de vues dans les jours qui ont suivi sa mise en ligne.

Il ne fait plus aucun doute que YouTube est devenue la principale plateforme du journalisme politique en Russie. Et contrairement à la télévision d'État, ses voix les plus écoutées ne peuvent s'en sortir avec du travail bâclé ou des erreurs, à moins de perdre leurs spectateurs (et par conséquent leur chance de gloire et de fortune).

La grande question, bien sûr, est celle du temps : les chaînes en lignes resteront-elles accessibles longtemps ? Dans l'état actuel des choses, les hommes à tout faire de la Russie post-soviétique sous-estiment encore le pouvoir de YouTube ou bien en sont conscients mais savent qu'une interdiction pure et simple ferait sortir les gens dans les rues, créant une mobilisation comme il ne s'en est pas encore vue dans l'histoire moderne de la Russie.

La Russie n'est pas la Corée du Nord. C'est la patrie d'une génération libre et courageuse, qui se désintéresse de plus en plus de la télévision d'État. Et un nombre croissant de Russes plus âgés sont en train d'emboîter le pas aux plus jeunes. D'autant plus que la plupart des écrans de télévisions peuvent désormais être connectés à Internet, où une nouvelle réalité, fondée sur les faits, attend de nouvelles vues.

FEATURE

FEATURE

Biden Vs Trump

US Presidential Election 2020 Who would be the next president?

By Dagbayonoh Kiah Nyanfore Li

On November 3, 2020, Americans will go to the polls to elect a president. The race is between sitting President Donald Trump and challenger former Vice President Joseph Biden. Who would win? Trump, a Republican, became president in 2016 after defeating Hilary Clinton of the Democratic Party. During that election, the Republican Party took over the White House but also controlled both houses of Congress. But in the mid-term election, the Democrats recaptured the House of Representatives while the Republicans maintained the Senate. Some observers thought that the election represented what would happen in the presidential election this year. That is, the Democrats would win the White House. That view may not be true.

In 1902, Bill Clinton's election put both houses in the hands of the Democrats. But in the mid-term election, the Democrats lost the lower House and many pundits predicted that Clinton would lose re-election. He went on to retain the White House, despite difficulties in his first term. The same happened with Obama in his re-election bid. Who are the candidates in this election?

Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr. was vice president under Obama. He entered politics in 1972 as a senator from Delaware. He served six terms in the Senate. He unsuccessfully ran for the nomination for president for the Democratic ticket in the past, including 2008. He was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania to Joseph Robinette Biden, Sr. and Catherine Biden. The father was a used car salesman. Prior, Biden, Sr. was a successful businessman but the business went down due to the economic recession. The family lost their home and moved to live with a family member in an apartment.

Biden, Jr. earned his BA degree from the University of Delaware and a law degree from Syracuse University. In the Senate, he chaired the Foreign Relations Committee and was considered a foreign policy expert. But he was also viewed as an "attacked dog" in debating with his rivals. Many analysts were surprised by his selection by Obama as running mate in 2008. The general thinking was that Hilary Clinton was to get the selection since she was second in line for the Democratic nomination. Moreover, core backers of Clinton, largely women group, demanded that she should get the vice president pick as a condition for their support for the ticket. However, Obama selected Clinton for secretary of state after winning the election.

Biden was an effective vice president. He utilized his experience in the Senate to serve as the go-between the Obama administration and Congress. He headed the White House Taskforce for working families and played an oversight role for the infrastructure spending for the Obama Stimulus Package. He was instrumental in the Senate passage of the 2010 Tax Relief Act and the New START Treaty between the US and the Russian Federation. In 2015, he decided not to run for president in 2016. The opportunity was given to Hilary. Biden won the nomination for the Democratic ticket for this election after a challenge by Senator Bennie Sanders. Although he started slowly in the race, he

won subsequent primaries and the nomination.

Donald Trump was a businessman before entering politics. The presidency was his first public elected post. He handily defeated heavyweight Republican politicians for the party ticket in the 2016 primary. Unlike Biden, Trump's father was a billionaire in the real-estate business. Trump worked for his father upon graduation from the Wharton School of Business of the University of Pennsylvania. He became more popular with his support of the American Beauty Pageant and his reality show called "You're Fired". He challenged Obama American citizenship, stating that Obama was not born in America and offered financial rewards to anyone who would confirm his assertion. Many Americans considered the expression to be racially motivated.

As a political candidate, he ran on the platform as a Washington outsider, a non-politician determined to make America great again. He took advantage of the division of the country and the fear of Americans, generally rural White men without a college education. They feared of high crime rate, immigration, and the possibility of losing the country to foreign control. They had no trust in the established politicians. Although Trump lost all the presidential debates and the popular

But also under his administration, until early this year, the US economy improved. Unemployment later decreased and manufacturing jobs increased. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 22.7 million jobs were lost from March to April this year. But since then, about 4.4 million jobs have been added. Moreover, while the unemployment rate was under 5% in the Obama administration, it increased to over 14% under Trump before decreasing to the current rate of 7.9%. The country gross domestic product, GDP, has grown relatively, though below the 4% mark he had promised. Trump stimulus package in response to COVID-19 gave financial assistance to individuals and temporarily stopped student loan payment. Also, Black unemployment before the disease is reported to have decreased. Nevertheless, the government budget deficit grew unlike in previous years. Additionally, the poverty rates of Blacks and Latinos have increased according to a BBC recent report.

Trump's anti-China policy may have led to his insensitivity to the COVID-19 pandemic, which originated from China and has caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans and millions of people worldwide. Trump saw the pandemic as a Chinese virus, made fun of it, and failed to truthfully tell the American people of its danger. US has the highest rate of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the world about 6.3 million and a death toll of about "700 a day on a rolling seven-day average", according to reports. Trump's approval rate is little above 40%, far less than that of Obama. The rate is lower in his handling of the virus. He is the third president in American history to have been impeached, but the Republican-controlled Senate saved his presidency.

WHO WOULD WIN?

Polls or public opinions look at how the electorates feel about their candidates. Polls tell how a campaign is doing and whether or not a candidate stand a chance for victory. While they are good indicators and have been correct in most elections, they are not gospels. The 2016 US presidential election is an instance that polls can be wrong and should be viewed with caution. Clinton was leading in most polls and was expected to win. But that did not happen. Pundits were surprised by the election results.

CNN poll of polls as of October 22 shows that Biden is leading in the popular votes 10%, with 52% to 42%. Two weeks ago, the lead was a little over 10%. He has been leading since early this year. Other media polls indicate that Biden is also leading in most battleground states. He is ahead in Florida, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and North Carolina. Trump won these states in 2016. They enabled him to win the election. Biden's lead in these states has many political analysts to suggest that Trump's chances to win the election are low.

"FiveThirtyEight, a political analysis website, says Biden is favored to win and the Economist thinks he is "very likely to beat Mr. Trump". Trump's refusal to say that he would accept the results of the election if he loses has others worry if he would allow a peaceful transfer of power. The Supreme Court, which is controlled by conservative Republican judges, could get involved in the election if there is a problem.



votes to Clinton, he won the Electoral College votes with the support also of Angelical or evangelical Christians, receiving 81% of their votes.

Under Trump's presidency, the US took a strong stance on China and North Korea. He is fearful of China's technological and economic advancement. There has been a trade war and longstanding rivalry between the US and China influenced largely by ideological differences and the fear of economic dominance by either nation. The US and China are the world's largest economies. The imposition of tariffs on goods from each country has somewhat affected the world economy. Trump is viewed as "the most controversial and divisive president in modern American history". His non-cooperation with the World Health Organization and his put out from the Paris Climate Accord have brought criticism by the UN. Trump's divisive domestic policy is said to have increased racial tension in America as evidence of the killing of George Floyd and Heather Heyer by racist individuals that resulted in nation-wide protests in America. His policy has led to the formation of "Black Lives Matter", an advocacy group, and the growth of the "Proud Boys", a far-right White group. His refusal to denounce White supremacy has added fuel to the division and tension. He has completely met only 7 of his 20 campaign promises.

CPP loses election battle

By Winston W. Parley

The Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) was on Thursday dealt another electoral blow as the highest court denied its request for a writ of mandamus against the National Elections Commission (NEC), the Legislative and Executive Branches of Government for a delayed election.

The Supreme Court in its ruling said mandamus is not intended to correct late performance of an official duty.

The CPP case concerns the failure of the Legislature to abide by Article 37 of the Liberian Constitution to notify NEC of two vacancies in the Legislature within constitutional time of 30 days after the deaths on 20 June 2020 of Sinoe Rep. J. Nagbe Sloh and on 8 July 2020 of Montserrado Rep. Munah Pennoh Youngblood and caused by - elections to be held.

In a unanimous ruling handed down by the Supreme Court of five justices Thursday, 29 October, it said mandamus will not lie against the NEC because the commission had set the by - elections time within 90 days after receiving notification from the presiding officer of the House of Representatives as mandated by the Constitution.

"Wherefore and in view of the foregoing, the alternative writ of mandamus is squashed and the preemptory writ is denied," the Supreme Court says.

Secondly, the Supreme Court also refuses to issue a mandamus against the Legislature because the presiding officer of the House of Representatives had already notified the NEC of the vacancies in the House of Representatives occasioned by the death on 20 June 2020 of Sinoe Rep. J. Nagbe Sloh and the death on 8 July 2020 of Montserrado Rep. Munah Pennoh Youngblood before the CPP filed the petition for mandamus.

"[As] such, there was no duty left to be performed since the extraordinary writ of mandamus is not intended to correct the late performance of an official duty," the Supreme Court rules.

When a court issues a writ of mandamus, it compels someone, a lower court or a government agency to execute a duty that they are legally obligated to complete, to uphold the law or to correct an abuse of discretion.

However, the Supreme Court rules that as to the Executive branch, there is no

showing of any dereliction or non - performance of any official duty to warrant the issuance of the writ of mandamus.

While entertaining lawyers' arguments earlier on Monday, 19 October in the Banquet Hall of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr.,

the two by - elections caused by the deaths of Sinoe Rep. J. Nagbe Sloh and on 8 July 2020 of Montserrado Rep. Munah Pennoh Youngblood.

The CPP also wanted the court to determine whether mandamus can lie on the Legislature and the NEC if they did not comply with their

the delays in the conduct of by - elections to fill vacancies in the Legislature negatively impact and undermine the exercise of the right of the people to representation in the governance of the country.

The high court indicates that this right is enshrined in the Constitution of Liberia,

Court indicates that [in line with] its constitutional power of judicial review, it has jurisdiction in all cases whether emanating from courts of records, courts of non - records, administrative agencies, autonomous agencies or any other authority both as to law and fact.

The court notes that the Legislature shall make no law nor create any exceptions as would deprive the Supreme Court of Liberia any of the powers granted to it by the Constitution.

"That consistent with the foregoing, this Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine these mandamus proceedings against the Legislature and the Executive Branches of Government," the court rules.

Further, the court indicates that in exercising its jurisdiction, the Supreme Court or its Justice sitting in Chambers may cite, command, summon, mandate, order or instruct party litigants to do or refrain from doing any act, including the issuance of the alternative writ of mandamus directed to the Legislature and the Executive Branches. -

Edited by Othello B. Garblah



viewed the election matter as a tricky situation, asking the CPP lawyer if he didn't think this opened another wave for the court to say for example, expand the office of mandamus because this case is unprecedented.

"On the one hand I agree with you that if you had come before the expiration of the time, you will say but the people still got their time to do what they call, you cannot. Mandamus only takes place after you know, they have failed to perform. So it's a tricky situation," Chief Justice Korkpor said.

"Here we are, you filed a mandamus to compel the Legislature to do an act in 30 days when in effect it cannot be done because the 30 days [have] expired," he said.

In its request submitted before the Supreme Court against the NEC and the government at large, the CPP had asked whether Article 37 of the Constitution imposes a legal duty on the Legislature and the NEC.

This provision cited requires that in the event of vacancy within the Legislature caused by death, resignation, expulsion or otherwise, the presiding officer shall within 30 days notify the NEC, and the NEC shall not later than 90 days thereafter, cause a by - election to be held.

The CPP also asked if it is the contemplation of the Constitution that by - election to fill vacancies created in the Legislature be conducted within a maximum period of 120 days.

Thirdly, the CPP wanted an answer if the NEC and the Legislature were in compliance with their legal duty by setting 8 December 2020 as the date for

legal duties; and whether their failure to set the by - election date within the constitutional time frame offends democratic values.

"So I'm sitting down here thinking of it because all other cases of mandamus that we dealt with in this court so far, you filed to compel when the time is still there to compel. But in this particular case ... the time to compel to perform has already passed," he continued.

The lawyer representing the CPP Cllr. Benedict Sannoh agreed with the Chief Justice that "it's a tricky situation," but urged the Supreme Court to make a determination that even if mandamus is not granted, the opinion of the Supreme Court must address issues of the violation especially in light of the litany of violation so that there cannot be a recurrence.

Cllr. Sannoh, a former Justice Minister, stressed that it is important to make a declaration that because of the litany of violations of the Constitution, the Legislature must understand that Article 37 is mandatory and it's a legal obligation that the Legislature must uphold.

He argued that the Legislature is no different from the Executive because they are all created from the Constitution.

He noted that mandamus have been issued against the executive and can lie against the executive and so therefore mandamus can also lie against the legislature, especially if the performance is a ministerial function, a legal duty.

Though the Supreme Court rules that mandamus will not lie, it however takes note that

noting that institutions of government are therefore obliged to strictly adhere to timeliness set by the Constitution and other laws for the conduct of by - elections.

In the ruling, the Supreme

Weah hails Ellen's

Starts from back page

after he won the 2017 presidential election against the then ruling Unity Party (UP) candidate and former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai and several other contenders.

"On this day, therefore, I call on all Liberians to own the peace that we now enjoy. Let's remember that peace came at

a price that we all paid for through our collective endeavors to ensure our common patrimony remains a place that is safe for future generations," he says.

"[Once] again, let me say, "Happy birthday to Africa's first democratically elected female president," he concludes.

LLA denies receiving

Cont'd from page 5

Edward Liberty were contacted for their respective comments on the matter, they were tightlipped.

When the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC) Public Relations Department was also contacted over the weekend, our reporter was informed that the PRO office was close.

However, the Public Relations Officer at the LLA Kweshie G. Tetteh refuted claim by the estate administrators of paying US\$10,000 to the Land Authority for survey.

Mr. Tetteh explained that considering various processes leading to a land survey, including cost for publication of Survey Notice and distribution of copies to

parties involved, among others, the Liberia Land Authority received the sum of US\$3000.00 (Three Thousand United States Dollars) instead, from the estate administrators.

He said the LLA would never charge such an amount to survey a land, adding that it is the responsibility of the institution to ensure there exists harmony between parties to land dispute, so it would conduct the OMERGA land administrators' survey, pending decision from the court, appealing to them to exercise patience. -*Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Weah hails Ellen's dedication

-Expresses best wishes on her birthday



President George Manneh Weah has hailed former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's service and dedication to Liberia and humanity as a whole,

extending his heartfelt felicitations and best wishes to her in celebration of her 82nd birthday on 29 October.

"On the occasion marking the 82nd birth anniversary of former President Ellen Johnson

Sirleaf, I am pleased to extend my heartfelt felicitations and best wishes to her, praying that she continues to enjoy God's bountiful blessings," the Executive Mansion quotes President Weah as saying.

"We all recognize the service and dedication President Sirleaf rendered and is still rendering Liberia and humanity as a whole. Her longtime advocacy for democracy in our country gives her global acclaim for which we, Liberians, are all proud," Mr. Weah continues.

He recalls that his predecessor Mrs. Sirleaf served the country at a crucial time—a time the nation, then considered a pariah, was embroiled in a struggle to obtain peace and stability and to reposition itself in the comity of civilized nations.

Mr. Weah took over from Mrs. Sirleaf in January 2018

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CDC withdraws nominees

-following public condemnation

By **E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor**

Amid widespread condemnation for flagrantly breaching Code of Conduct for public offices, President George Weah's governing Coalition for Democratic Change has withdrawn its recent campaign team for the December 8, 2020 senatorial election, flooded with senior and junior government

officials.

The CDC recently appointed campaign teams to each of Liberia's 15 counties, predominantly involving officials from the public sector in complete violation of the Code of Conduct that requires public servants with political interest or desire to vie for elected posts, to quit government two years prior to election.

CDC Chairman Mulbah Morlu



said the decision, taken with full acquiescence of the party's Governing Council, is intended to sustain the rule-of-law as Liberia moves to another electoral period.

Addressing a news conference Thursday, 20 October at the CDC headquarters in Congo Town outside Monrovia, Chairman Morlu said he recognizes that in order to consolidate democratic gains the country

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