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Continental News

Ivory Coast opposition urges 'transition' after vote

Opposition leaders in Ivory Coast are demanding a "civil transition", following Saturday's presidential poll that their parties boycotted.

Pascal Affi N'Guessan and Henri Konan Bédié say it was illegal for President Alassane Ouattara to stand for a third term as it broke rules on term limits.

But the president's supporters dispute this, citing a constitutional change in 2016 which they say means his first term effectively did not count.

Vote counting is still under way.

At least 16 people have been killed since riots broke out in August after President Ouattara said he would run again following the sudden death of his preferred successor.

At least two people were killed during Saturday's vote.

Key opposition figures are urging mass protests to block what they describe as a "dictatorship".

Mr N'Guessan said on Sunday: "Opposition parties and political groups call for the start of a civil transition."

"[We] note the end of President Alassane Ouattara's

mandate on 31 October and call on the international community to take note," he added, saying a civil transition was needed to "create the conditions for a fair, transparent and inclusive election." Several polling stations were ransacked in opposition strongholds on Saturday and election materials were burned.

In the eastern town of Daoukro, protesters erected roadblocks. Meanwhile tear gas was used to push away demonstrators who gathered

close to where the president cast his ballot in the main city, Abidjan. At least two monitors from the independent election group Indigo Côte d'Ivoire were attacked, the Washington Post reports. It quotes the group as saying 21% of polling stations were closed during the day.

But the electoral commission head called the disturbances on Saturday "minimal", saying they "only affected 50 polling stations out of 22,381".

Some 35,000 security officers were deployed across the country to transport election materials and ensure safety, the security minister said.

After voting in Abidjan on Saturday, Mr Ouattara called for an end to the protests. "I call on those who called for civil disobedience, which led to the loss of life, to stop," he said. "They should stop because Ivory Coast needs peace, these are criminal acts and we hope that all this can stop, so that after the election this country may continue on its course of progress, which it has enjoyed over the last few years." According to the

constitution, Ivory Coast has a two-term presidential limit. Mr Ouattara - who has been elected twice - initially said he would stand down.

But, in July, the ruling party's previous presidential nominee, Prime Minister Amadou Gon Coulibaly, died of a heart attack. Mr Ouattara subsequently announced that he would run for president after all.

His supporters argued that a constitutional change in 2016 reset the clock and that his first term did not count. His opponents do not share that view, arguing instead that it is illegal for Mr Ouattara to run for a third term. BBC



Key opposition figures are urging mass protests to block what they describe as a "dictatorship"

Two jailed over deadly Kenyan shopping mall siege



A Kenyan judge has sentenced two men to 18 and 33 years in jail after they were convicted of helping Islamist militants attack a shopping mall in 2013. At least 67 people died in the assault by al-Shabab on the Westgate shopping complex in the capital, Nairobi. The state said the four militants who carried out the attack were found dead in the shopping centre's rubble. The militants occupied the mall for four days, in one of the deadliest jihadi attacks in Kenya. These are the only convictions relating to the Westgate attack.

A third man who was found not guilty on all counts of conspiracy to commit a terrorist act has been missing since the day after the verdict was announced three weeks ago. Al-Shabab, an al-Qaeda

affiliate, is based in neighbouring Somalia, and has carried out a series of attacks in Kenya.

Kenya has troops in Somalia to help fight the militants. Mohammed Ahmed Abdi, who received the 33-year prison sentence, and Hussein Hassan Mustafa, who was jailed for 18 years, were charged with planning and committing acts of terror, as well as supporting and helping a terrorist group.

The third suspect, Liban Abdullahi, was found not guilty. The Somali refugee was also acquitted of the charge of being in Kenya illegally and possessing identification documents by false presences. Witnesses said that the day after he was found not guilty, gunmen stopped his taxi and abducted him. He has not been seen since. BBC

A vote 'to end years of deviousness' in Algeria

Algerians are voting in a referendum that is meant to cement changes made possible after long-time President Abdelaziz Bouteflika was forced to resign last year.

But opponents say it falls short of fundamental reform.

The referendum's timing is auspicious.

It falls on 1 November - the anniversary of the start of Algeria's war of independence against France back in 1954, a date today's government chose for its symbolism.

It also comes though as Algeria's president has been flown to Germany for medical care. The cause of his ill health has not been disclosed, but

President Abdelmadjid Tebboune had self-isolated and spent time in a military hospital in Algiers after a number of his aides and colleagues contracted coronavirus. Algerians are voting on presidential term limits and creating a new anti-corruption body.

To win the referendum, either the "yes" or "no" camp needs at least 51% of the vote.

Results are to be announced on Monday. President Tebboune, 74, came to power last year in a controversial election that followed the departure of Mr Bouteflika, who resigned in the face of massive popular protests against his bid for a fifth term in office.

Mr Tebboune's election campaign saw him vow to "lay the foundations of a new Algeria". He pledged an end to what he calls the practices of the "gang" of politicians and businessmen in President Bouteflika's inner circle.

Ultimately this new



Mass protests against ex-President Bouteflika rocked Algeria last year

government is answerable to the demands of the huge popular movement, or Hirak, to reform the political system. And doing this has required redrafting Algeria's constitution. Algeria will go back to allowing its presidents

a maximum of two terms in office, if the constitutional amendments are approved in Sunday's referendum.

The law had been changed under President Bouteflika in 2008 so he could run for a third term in power. 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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COMMENTARY

By Michael Bröning

Give Centrism a Chance

Progressives certainly should never be satisfied with the status quo. But with voters increasingly exhausted by years of political polarization, progressive parties that are serious about gaining and retaining power would be well advised to reconsider their opposition to centrism.

NEW YORK - Europe's progressive intelligentsia have come to scorn political "centrism." A misguided focus on the middle ground, critics argue, precludes the formulation of political alternatives, leading to the rise of extremist parties on the left and right. Seen through this lens, the corollaries of centrism are populism, polarization, and ultimately growing distrust of democratic principles.

This analysis is not without merit. Democracy requires candid and controversial conversations about the best way forward. Closing the door to political alternatives by blindly embracing the status quo is a recipe for disaster. "Debate is never finished," wrote the late Polish-born sociologist Zygmunt Bauman. "It can't be, lest democracy be no longer democratic."

But this does not mean that left-of-center political parties should turn their backs on pragmatism and moderation. In fact, evidence from some of the world's current electoral hotspots suggests they should do the opposite. Despite increasing political polarization in many countries, large numbers of voters seem considerably more comfortable with centrist positions than is often assumed.

Left-wing political parties keen on sharpening their ideological profile therefore face a dilemma. Whereas party activists frequently demand greater ideological clarity, voters are increasingly favoring pragmatism over purity. So, the most promising course of action for progressive leaders is probably to combine a long-term ideological vision with the reality of incremental change.

Consider Joe Biden, the US Democratic Party's presidential nominee. Although Biden's agenda clearly is more progressive than those of recent Democratic nominees, it appears significantly more centrist than those of two of his main challengers for the Democratic nomination, Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren.

Biden's platform is notable not only for what it endorses but also for what it does not. On immigration, the former vice-president advocates humanitarian generosity but has not called for decriminalizing illegal border crossings. On climate change, while he champions carbon-neutral housing and is calling for the US power sector to be carbon-free by 2035, he has steered clear of fully embracing the Green New Deal favored by his party's left wing. Likewise, Biden is shying away from calls to ban fracking, defund the police, and introduce universal single-payer health care.

Biden's centrism is shared by his running mate, Senator Kamala Harris of California, who has faced criticism from within her own party for her allegedly weak progressive credentials. But Biden's commanding lead over US President Donald Trump in opinion polls suggests that the Democrats may have found a winning formula.

A similar story is unfolding in New Zealand, where Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern won convincingly in the country's October 17 general

election. In progressive circles, Ardern is widely heralded as a global icon. She is only the second prime minister in modern times to have given birth while in office, is known for her open and honest communication, and most recently was a serious contender for this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

But, in contrast to her global image, Ardern's domestic success has resulted from centrist flexibility rather than transformative ambition. Heading a three-party coalition in her first term, Ardern was unable to implement her most far-reaching policy proposals - in particular, solving New Zealand's housing crisis. But she benefited from her effective management of the COVID-19 pandemic, and her compassionate and determined response to the March 2019 Christchurch massacre in which 51 Muslim worshippers were killed.

In its recent election campaign, Ardern's Labour Party focused on moderate reform proposals that appealed to centrist voters. These included limited increases in the minimum wage and slightly higher taxes for the wealthy as part of a responsible economic recovery, as well as law-and-order policies such as increasing, not reducing, the number of police officers serving their communities.

The United Kingdom's Labour Party, meanwhile, is currently in the process of reinventing itself as a more centrist political force following its disastrous defeat in the December 2019 general election, which forced far-left leader Jeremy Corbyn to step down.

Corbyn's successor, Keir Starmer, used Labour's (virtual) annual conference in September to announce a comprehensive break with Corbyn's legacy. Starmer's "new leadership" entails redirecting Labour toward family values, with a focus on security and economic prudence.

In his conference speech, Starmer declared to disgruntled blue-collar voters that, "We love this country as you do." His repositioning thus includes a notion of left-wing patriotism - anathema to his staunchly internationalist predecessor and a clear break with previous Labour parlance.

Starmer's stated objective is to regain the confidence of working-class voters who abandoned the party under Corbyn. So far, the plan seems to be working. Although the UK's next general election is not scheduled to be held until 2024, recent opinion polls put Labour neck and neck with the ruling Conservative Party.

The current momentum enjoyed by political progressives who are consciously addressing the political center holds important lessons for struggling counterparts elsewhere.

Progressives certainly should never be satisfied with the status quo. Offering political alternatives and a path toward a better future remains crucial - not least during a pandemic. But with voters increasingly exhausted by years of polarization, progressive parties that are serious about gaining and retaining power would be well advised to reconsider their opposition to centrism.

O-PED

By Toby Ord

Can Humanity Grow Up?

With rapid globalization and technological innovation have come profound new risks not just to individuals and countries, but to humanity's survival. The current stage in our history demands an entirely new ethical perspective, one that requires an ability to think in species-level terms.

OXFORD - The COVID-19 pandemic underscores just how tightly interwoven humanity has become. A single infected animal somewhere in China set in motion a chain reaction with effects that, nearly a year later, are still reverberating in every corner of the planet.

This should not be particularly surprising. The history of pandemics tracks our unification as a species. The Black Death traveled on new trade routes forged between Europe and Asia in the Middle Ages. Smallpox crossed the Atlantic Ocean with the Europeans, devastating the Americas. And the 1918 influenza pandemic reached six continents in just months, owing to technological advances in moving goods and people. Each time humanity takes bold steps toward deeper integration, disease follows.

This has yielded profound benefits. We pool our knowledge, innovation, and technology. We share in the rich traditions of each other's cultures. We cooperate across vast distances, working together on projects too great for any individual, or country, to complete on their own - such as eradicating smallpox from the face of the Earth.

But our interconnectedness also brings profound costs. We share not only our greatest knowledge and culture, but our greatest risks. We may go decades without seeing it, but our activities have a shadow-cost in risk that eventually comes due. And it is not limited to pandemics. Our newfound ability to share information across the world allows dangerous ideas - misinformation, warped ideologies, and hatred - to spread faster than any disease.

These challenges of an interconnected world require new approaches to ethics - new ways of understanding our plight and coordinating our response. Ethics is normally viewed from the perspective of the individual: what should I do? But sometimes we step back to take in a broader perspective, and think in terms of the obligations borne by societies or countries. And in recent centuries, we have begun to adopt a global perspective, asking how the world ought to respond to a pressing concern.

These new perspectives are demanded by a changing world. Before we had civilization, it would rarely have made sense to think of responsibilities beyond our immediate ties. Only when we became more unified and started encountering truly global problems did we begin to consider our collective obligations to our planet and ourselves.

But now we need to go one step further. Alongside our deepening interconnections, there has also been a profound change in the sheer reach of our actions. With the advent of nuclear weapons, humanity's ever-increasing power over the world around us finally reached a point where we could destroy ourselves. We entered a world where we could threaten not only everyone alive today, but everyone who could follow, and everything they could achieve; where we could betray not only the trust of everyone alive today, but of the ten thousand generations who preceded us.

As our power continues to grow, so do the risks: from extreme climate change, to the coming biotechnologies that will allow for engineered pandemics with a lethality and transmissibility beyond what nature has produced. Such threats to our entire future, whether via our extinction or an irrevocable collapse of civilization, are known as existential risks. How we address them will determine the fate of our species.

Meeting this challenge will require a radical reorientation in our thinking - seeing our generation as a small part of a much greater whole; a story that spans the eons. We will thus need to adopt not merely a global perspective, of everyone alive today, but the perspective of humanity itself - the hundred billion people who came before us, the nearly eight billion alive today, and the countless generations yet to be born. By adopting this ethical lens, we will have a better view of our crucial role in the larger story of our species.

Thinking in these terms can sometimes feel unnatural, because humanity is not a coherent agent. We have deep disagreements about what we ought to do, and we are constantly competing with one another. We struggle to act in concert even when it is obvious that we must. But this is true of all collective agents, and it doesn't stop us from referring to a company's interests or a country's priorities. The point is not to deny the differences and sources of friction between human agents; it is to ask what we could accomplish if we act together, or what responsibilities we collectively bear.

Consider the whole of humanity in the terms of a single human life. The typical species survives for around one million years, and humanity is just 200,000 years old, putting us in our adolescence. This seems an especially apt comparison, for like the adolescent, we are seeing rapid developments in our strength, and in our ability to get ourselves in trouble. We are almost ready for the world, ready to explore the dizzying potential the future holds. Yet when it comes to risks, we can be impulsive and careless, seizing the short-term benefits but neglecting the long-term costs.

Within individual societies, we resolve these tensions by giving the young enough space to grow and flourish, while at the same time steering them away from dangers that they do not yet understand. Only gradually do we grant them the freedoms of adulthood, hoping that we've given them enough time and guidance to make wise and prudent choices - and to recognize that with freedom comes responsibility. Unfortunately, humanity does not have the luxury of a caring guardian. We are alone and will have to grow up fast.

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OPINION

By Jason Stanley Federico Finchelstein & Pablo Piccato

Will Fascism Win the US Election?

For months leading up to the US presidential election, Donald Trump has been doubling down on the quintessential features of fascism, presenting himself as a messiah and father of the nation who must be defended by any and all means available. Voters must not harbor any illusions: democracy itself is on the ballot.

NEW YORK - Many Americans can see that voting for US President Donald Trump is tantamount to endorsing white nationalism and the kind of conspiracist, magical thinking that denies real threats like pandemics and climate change. But it also must be recognized that failing to vote against Trump in this year's election is itself a form of collaboration with an attack on democracy that is already underway.

America today is threatened not just by authoritarianism but by fascism, which operates as an explicitly anti-democratic cult centered around a leader who promises national restoration in the face of humiliation supposedly caused by minorities, liberals, and Marxists. Because fascism glorifies violence and the militarization of politics, we should be wary of the fact that Trump has refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power. Even if his regular use of anti-democratic rhetoric is merely a tactic to divert attention from his failure to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, such language from an elected leader is highly dangerous and should be shocking to citizens in any democracy.

But many Americans are not shocked at all. By normalizing anti-democratic speech and ideology, Trump has increasingly normalized authoritarian rule, too. That is why this election must be understood as a struggle for the survival of American democracy itself. Trump's strategy of undermining democratic norms and the legitimacy of the election is eerily reminiscent of the destruction of Latin American democracies in the 1960s and 1970s, when autocrats manufactured an environment in which acts that were previously deemed illegal suddenly became the new standard.

To be sure, whereas fascism typically offers a grand vision of "national restoration," Trump has no such vision to speak of. But that does not mean America is safe from fascism. Trump's attacks on democracy are a response to the challenges that his personality cult is facing, both from the nationwide mobilization of resistance against its main ideological pillar, white nationalism, and from the Democratic Party, which seems more unified than ever.

These two threats are not coordinated, as Trumpian propaganda would have it. But they have created a pretext for Trump to deploy the fascist playbook even more aggressively than he has before. As with the classic fascist movements of the past, this new, more dangerous phase of Trumpism features a campaign that has doubled down on messianic leadership, the subordination of violence, and open attacks on the constitutional order.

At this stage, the Trumpian personality cult has completely dispensed with the need for actual plans and proposals (indeed, the Republican Party, which Trump now controls, did not even bother to offer a policy platform for the election). Trump embodies whatever his supporters want, even when they themselves don't know what that is. This is all too typical of fascist leaders, who usually function as a father figure for those susceptible to the appeal of an authoritarian personality. As the father of the "MAGA" nation, Trump decides what is best for his children, and it is this patriarchal authority that provides the rationale for violence, lies, and even dictatorship.

In this context, other forms of authority (be it scientific or legal) are seen as direct threats to an aspiring fascist leader. It is no wonder that Trump responds with immediate anger when he is contradicted by Anthony Fauci, the top US infectious-disease expert. When Trump himself fell ill with COVID-19, he used the occasion not as a wake-up call but as an opportunity to demonstrate his physical strength (with the help of powerful steroids). By the same token, displays of strength, domination, and violence by supporters of the fascist leader are duly rewarded, especially when they clearly violate norms and civilized constraints, as when Trump pardoned the Navy Seal Eddie Gallagher, who was convicted of heinous war crimes.

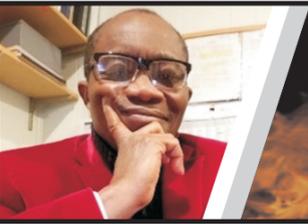
Finally, with Trump occupying the position of the father, there is a strong religious dimension to Trumpism. In this context, one must not take lightly Trump's cynical and clumsy displays of religiosity. The more that Trump's followers regard him as a kind of divine authority, the more justified they will feel in using violence to defend him. The armed civilians who threaten and even shoot protesters in the streets are not "defending property." Rather, they are claiming the right to use violence against the leader's enemies. The use of federal, state, and local forces against the same protesters is deemed justified - even when it is illegal - to defend an order that starts from the top.

With the approach of Election Day, Trump has elevated the risk of fascism. He routinely depicts those who oppose him in brazenly racist terms, and his administration has supercharged its mistreatment of immigrants under its control, including by allegedly allowing a "silent pandemic" to spread through an immigrant detention center in Georgia. The connection between immigrants and disease is a familiar trope in fascist propaganda, as is the strategy of making the propaganda come true, as the National Socialists did in Europe's ghettos in the 1930s.

Trump has also been stepping up his campaign to undermine the public's trust in electoral institutions. Here, he has been building on Republicans' long history of efforts to disenfranchise African-American voters and gerrymandering to reduce the weight of votes in more diverse, left-leaning urban centers.

The point of all this is to head off the possibility of an electoral loss by claiming that a broad, anti-democratic cabal of media elites is "rigging" the system to block the will of the people. As we have seen, no amount of empirical evidence can convince Trump's supporters that their leader's claims of election fraud are false. Fact-checking by the mainstream media is easily dismissed as just another conspiracy among elite enemies of the people.

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LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

With Jones Mallay

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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.

CALP empowers single mothers

Care for Liberia Population or CALP, stresses a need to enhance vocational skills of single mothers in the country.

Executive Director Samuel Jacobs says enhancing skills of single mothers would go a long way in enabling them to cater for their children.

He explains CALP is partnering with the Israeli Embassy for Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone which has provided sewing machines and hairdressing materials to train 30 single mothers in tailoring and beautician.

Director Jacobs made the disclosure on Saturday which officially launching the organization in Monrovia.

He discloses that CALP has been

Barrack Obama of the United States.

Mr. Jacobs reveals that CALP has also implemented Coronavirus Support Initiative program for single mothers and their children to prevent spread of the COVID -19 among them under auspice of MASHAV-Israel's International Development Agency.

Earlier, the Assistant Minister for Health and Vital Statistics at the Ministry of Health, Chea Sanford Wesseh urged single mothers to come closer to God so that He would direct their steps in society.

Minister Wesseh says being single mothers is not a crime, but they should be determined to train their children in the knowledge and fear of God so that they would follow the right path in life.



training single mothers in Monrovia and its environs, but also provided food items for single mothers in Grand Bassa and Montserrado Counties.

He says the training program for tailoring and beautician will last for four months and hopes that participants will take advantage of the opportunity, which is free of charge, including all materials to acquire basic skills.

He also emphasizes that single mothers in Liberia should do everything possible to train their children to make them productive citizens, noting that single mothers in other parts of the world have raised great leaders, citing former President

He notes that skills such as tailoring and beautician are good however, they should be backed up with requisite knowledge to develop their full potentials.

Meanwhile, some of the participants express delight for the opportunity to go through the program with the help of CALP and its partners.

They describe the program as being first of its kind in Liberia, for single mothers who are struggling to actually cater for children, especially amid the COVID-19 global pandemic, vowing that at end of the training they intend to establish tailor shops to implement skills acquired over the period. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
 SITTING IN ITS SEPTEMBER TERM A.D. 2020

BEFORE HIS HONOUR: **J. KENNEDY PEABODY** ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE PETITION OF LINDA MENTONA OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA PETITIONER PLAYING THIS HONOURABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE KNOWN, REGARDED AND CALLED, AS "HARRIET KPORSEH KPOR"

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME:

LINDA MENTONA filed a Petition through her legal counsel requesting this Honourable Court to order the change of her name to "HARRIET KPORSEH KPOR"

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the change of her name, requesting this Honourable Court is intended to reflect her true family name and render her identity more explicit and absolute. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the Change of her name proposed by her is therefore, it is adjusted as follows:

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that she was born on AUGUST 30, 1988 in GBARPLAY, NIMBA COUNTY unto the union of MR. PETER KPOR AND MISS. SUNDAY WEANEA respectively, all of the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia and that the change of her name will substantially promote her interest in all of the understandings and help to establish just identify more firmly, and being Satisfied that she has met all legal requirements for the Change of her Name in this Jurisdiction, it is therefore DECREED as follows:

That the PETITION having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now Render that the name LINDA MENTONA be changed to "HARRIET KPORSEH KPOR" Beginning this 13th day of OCTOBER A.D. 2020.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN OPEN COURT, THIS 13th DAY OF OCTOBER A.D. 2020

COURT SEAL: **J. KENNEDY PEABODY**
 ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING
 SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO THE LIBERIAN DEEDS AND DOCUMENTATION ACT, 10-2020 PAGE(S) 00005879

IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT.CO, R. L.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

New EU head visits NEC

The new head of the European Union Delegation to Liberia on Friday November 30 paid a fact finding visit to the headquarters of the National Elections Commission, (NEC).

and welcomed today, Friday 30 December 2020 by the Chairperson of the NEC Davidetta Browne Lansanah on the Compound of the Elections Commission on 9TH Street in Sinkor.

Ambassador DELAHOUSSE

elections.

The new EU Ambassador also expressed concerns about the level of funding from the Government of Liberia and partners to the Elections Commission to conduct the 8 December 2020 polls as well as the challenges facing the NEC.

Responding the Chairperson of the National Election Commission Davidetta Browne Lansanah said the government of Liberia has committed itself to providing the all of the needed funds to conduct the Special Senatorial Election, SSE, Constitutional Referendum and the two Representatives By-elections.

Chairperson Browne Lansanah said with this level of commitment from the Liberian Government to provide all of the needed funds for the elections, the Commission was confident that it will conduct a free, fair and transparent elections come 8 December 2020.

The NEC Boss informed the new EU Ambassador that all preparations for the conduct of the elections slated for 8 December 2020 are so far progressing according to plans.



EU Ambassador Laurent DELAHOUSSE and NEC Chairperson Davidetta Brwone Lansanah post for a photo after the meeting

Ambassador Laurent DELAHOUSSE was accompanied to the Elections Commission by the Deputy European Union head of Delegation Juan Antonio FrutosGoldarat.

The two-person EU delegation was met on arrival

and delegation said the Union was concerned about the level of preparedness by authorities of the National Elections Commission to conduct the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Election, SSE, Constitutional Referendum and two the Representatives By-

Mo Ibrahim Foundation calls for free and fair elections across Africa

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation is calling for free and fair elections across the continent, while frowning on violence and political unrest.

In a statement issued over the weekend, the foundation recognized that the continent is going through a busy election period but worried about the reports of violence against peaceful demonstrators or detention of political opponents.

The statement comes on the heels of violent protests in the West African state of Guinea, where the opposition is challenging the results of a just ended election. It also comes as voting was on the way in neighboring Ivory Coast. Ghana too is also preparing for Presidential and Parliamentary elections in December, while Liberians prepare for a midterm senatorial election on December 8.

There have also been elections in several parts of

the continent as well.

“Our democratic gains over the past two decades are being rolled back across too many of our countries. This is unacceptable, the statement read.

“While the world is preoccupied with the fight to control the pandemic, some of our political leaders feel they can act with impunity and trample over the rights of their

fellow citizens.

Election processes should be clarified and agreed before elections, and where disputes arise these should be settled in courts not on streets.

We call on all parties to respect the rights and dignity of all citizens and resolve their differences through constructive and open dialogue,” the Foundation concluded.



EPA clarifies

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia says its attention has been drawn to reports in the media that Executive Director, Professor Wilson K. Tarpeh has unilaterally instituted changes and demoted several staff at the agency.

The EPA notes that such Media reports and insinuations

governing the institution.

Furthermore, it explains that these changes are intended to realign available expertise and competencies with appropriate tasks, enhance productivity, reinforce our core values, and support our journey towards the efficient and orderly pursuit of our corporate mission.



Professor Wilson K. Tarpeh, Executive Director and CEO of Environmental Protection Agency

on social media that several staff were demoted or replaced with associates of former Executive Director, Nathaniel T. Blama are far from the truth and are intended to stir confusion at scientific institution.

The EPA further clarifies that changes made at EPA are consistent with the laws

All those transferred from one department to the other maintained the same grade level.

Transfer of staff is a normal practice at the EPA and falls in the preview of the Executive Director.

The EPA reassures its commitment to environmental protection and sustainability.

Woman with heart disease appeals for help

By Bridgett Milton

A 27-year-old single mother Ellen Corneh, diagnosed for heart infection, has sent out an SOS call to philanthropists, the Government of Liberia and well meaning Liberians for financial assistance to seek

surgery abroad.

Miss Ellen has been diagnosed of the disease by doctors at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital, the St. Joseph’s Catholic Hospital and the Jahmale Medical Solutions, respectively.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Gov't opens new COVID-19 testing site

The Liberian Government and its partners through the Incident Management System-COVID-19, will on Monday, November 1, 2020,

Beach.

As part of the opening of this new COVID-19 testing and simple collection site, the current COVID-19 testing and Simple collection site at the

other difficulties in getting COVID-19 test results, especially for travelers, the Incident Management System-IMS, in partnership with partners, including WHO, UNICEF, CDC-USA, USAID, have established a ultimate online system to allow the public and travelers do their registration and payment fees using an online platform that is connected to a UBA Account. The process generates a personal code of each patient which is integrated to accessing your COVID-19 test results and certificate via the online platform when your COVID-19 test results are negative.

The Incident Management System-IMS, encourages the general public to come out and do their COVID-19 at the Union Building, Sophie road, next to the beach, to ensure Liberia, returns to COVID-19 free country. Beginning Monday, November 1,2020, the new COVID-19 Testing and Simple collection site, at the Union Building, Shopie road, Oldest Congo Town, shall be open 24he's a day.



at 10:00 A.M., open a new COVID-19 simple collection site at the Union Building, formerly the Lebanese House, Sophie road next to the

Samuel K. Doe, sports stadium, Basketball Court will be closed to the public beginning Monday, November 1,2020.

To avoid rush, challenges and

Weah mourns Minister Nyenpan

President George Manneh Weah has expressed deepest sadness and grief over the death of Public Works Minister Mobutu Nyenpan.

An Executive Mansion release says Minister Nyenpan died on Friday, 30 October.

Minister Nyenpan had been

many rundown infrastructure in the country.

For his dedication and service to country, the Minister received a special plaudit from the President last year as a mark of encouragement.

His death has created a deep void in the cabinet; but will also personally impact



Strengthen police operation in Liberia

-Cllr. John S. Gbesioh

Liberian Counselor wants President George Weah to strengthen operations of the Liberia National Police by replacing current Deputy Police Inspector for Operations (102), Marvin Sackor, with his predecessor, Col. Abraham Kromah.

Cllr. John S. Gbesioh notes that Inspector Marvin Sackor is not proactive in duty thus, making peaceful citizens to lose their lives on daily basis in Monrovia and its environs, something he says, has a propensity to scare away investors from the country.

According to Cllr. Gbesioh, President Weah should put his feet on the ground by bringing back Col.Kromah, if there is no one in the current police force to replace Col. Marvin Sackor, lamenting the current security are not protecting lives and properties.

"Liberia has trained and qualified securities personnel, since the dissolution of the securities operators in 2003 as a result of the Comprehensive Peace Accords [is having negative effects]." He added.

Cllr. Gbesioh spoke

recently when he and two others - Sir Knight Dr. Elliot Wreh and Worthy Major Fielis S. Wiagbe were honored for their long services within the St. Patrick Commandery#448, St. Paul River Banks Grand Commandery, Supreme Subordinate Commandery of

authorities.

Cllr. Gbesioh warns that Liberia is threading on a wrong path due to increasing wave of deaths of peaceful citizens, including several professionals from governmental sectors recently, which Liberia



Liberia.

He also notes criminal activities have been on the increase especially, in principal streets of the city and its environs which should claim attention of relevant

National Police is investigating.

He reminds that Liberia was built on Christian principles, so its citizens should live in a peaceful environment.

undergoing treatment in Accra, Ghana following a stroke he suffered in early September.

President Weah says the deceased minister will be remembered for his humility, family values, love for country and strong work ethics, which resulted in the development of

President Weah who had come to regard the Minister as a friend and brother, the release says further.

Mr. Weah extends his profound sympathy to the family of the bereaved, praying that they take solace in the Lord during this trying time for them. -Press release

Woman with heart

Cont'd from page 6

Speaking to this paper in pain over the weekend in Monrovia, she said doctors have advised that she needs to be flown out of the country immediately for surgical operation to avoid untimely.

According to her, due to the sickness, she is unable to sleep.

Miss Corneh disclosed that doctors have advised that she needs more than US\$17,000 to seek urgent medical

treatment in Ghana, India or the United States.

She explained that prior to the gravity of her sickness, she worked as a nurse, but while returning from Sierra Leone in 2004, she was involved in a car accident that affected her heart.

Miss Ellen Corneh is a resident of 9th Street Community in Sinkor, Monrovia. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Also speaking at the program Rev. Father Dennis Cephas Nimene lauded the honorees for the level of contribution they have made to the Catholic Church and the organization over the years.

Father Nimene also urged young people to emulate these individuals if the Catholic Church of Liberia and the country at large must remain

supreme in Africa.

Cllr. John S. Gbesioh, Dr. Elliot Wreh and Worthy Major Fielis S. Wiagbe served the St. Patrick Commandery#448 for over 35 years. The Commandery is a fraternity within the Catholic Church of Liberia that promotes brotherhood and togetherness. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Paul-Simon Handy: Thabo Mbeki redoute «l'embrasement de la situation en Côte d'Ivoire»

En Côte d'Ivoire, le pouvoir et l'opposition ne se battent pas seulement sur la scène nationale. Ils se disputent aussi à l'échelle du continent. Ainsi l'opposition vient de recevoir le soutien du Sud-Africain Thabo Mbeki. Avec quelle chance de succès ? Paul-Simon Handy est conseiller régional à l'Institut d'études de sécurité de Pretoria. En ligne de Dakar, il répond aux questions de RFI.

RFI : Depuis quelques jours, Thabo Mbeki fait des démarches auprès de l'Union africaine et de l'ONU, pour dénoncer l'éventuelle élection d'Alassane Ouattara à un troisième mandat qu'il juge anticonstitutionnel. Pourquoi ce lobbying politique de la part de l'ancien président sud-africain ?

Paul-Simon Handy : Il y a déjà des raisons véritables, une crainte de l'embrasement de la situation en Côte d'Ivoire. La lettre de l'ex-président Mbeki au président actuel de la Commission de l'Union africaine, Moussa Faki

Mahamat, relève de nombreux points soulevés par l'opposition, particulièrement l'opposition radicale qui refuse de participer au processus électoral. Ce sont des points notamment bien connus, qui ont trait à la légitimité de la candidature du président Ouattara. C'est le premier point. Mais je pense que le deuxième, naturellement, est que le président Mbeki, certainement, n'a pas oublié la

main plutôt malheureuse qui avait été celle de l'Afrique du Sud, dans la gestion de la crise électorale d'il y a déjà dix ans. Il se fait certainement un certain plaisir à rappeler au président Ouattara tous les points qui avaient été rappelés, à l'époque, au président Gbagbo.

Derrière Thabo Mbeki, est-ce qu'il y a un courant de

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Sénatoriales 2020 : La Coalition de l'opposition perd la bataille juridique

La Collaboration des Partis Politiques (CPP) a subi jeudi une défaite juridique après que leur recours auprès de la cour suprême du Liberia a été rejeté. La Cour suprême, dans sa décision, a déclaré que le mandamus que requiert l'opposition n'a pour but que d'obliger un tribunal de première instance ou un organe du pouvoir exécutif de mettre en œuvre une action qu'il a négligée. Il ne s'agit pas de corriger une fonction officielle accomplie tardivement.

La CPP avait introduit un recours auprès de la cour suprême pour que celle-ci presse une action contre le pouvoir législatif pour non-respect de l'article 37 de la Constitution libérienne qui porte notification de la commission électorale nationale en cas d'une vacance à l'Assemblée législative dans un délai de 30 jours. A noter qu'il y a actuellement deux vacances à la chambre basse après le décès du représentant sinoe J. Nagbe Slohet de la représentante

de Montserrado Munah Pennoh Youngblood décédés respectivement le 20 juin 2020 et le 8 juillet 2020.

Mais dans sa décision rendue à l'unanimité par ses cinq juges le jeudi 29 octobre, la Cour suprême a fait valoir que la NEC ne peut en aucun cas être concernée par le mandamus que demande l'opposition car elle a fixé la date des élections partielles dans le délai requis, c'est-à-dire 90 jours suivant la réception de la notification de la part du président de la Chambre des représentants conformément à la Constitution. « C'est pourquoi et compte tenu de ce qui précède, le bref alternatif de mandamus est rejeté et le bref de préemption est refusée », a statué la haute cour de justice. Deuxièmement, la Cour suprême refuse également d'émettre un mandamus contre le législateur parce qu'elle a déjà notifié la NEC au sujet des vacances occasionnées par le décès des deux représentants.

« Par conséquent, il n'y avait plus d'obligation à accomplir puisque le bref extraordinaire de mandamus n'a pas pour but de corriger une tâche accomplie tardivement », déclare la Cour suprême.



Éditorial

Rumeur sur le troisième mandat de Weah : il n'y a pas de fumée sans feu

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'État 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'État 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

Paul-Simon Handy: Thabo Mbeki redoute

l'ANC, ou l'ANC dans son entièreté, qui soutiendrait Laurent Gbagbo contre Alassane Ouattara?

Il y a certainement un courant de l'ANC, l'ANC qui est devenu aujourd'hui un peu difficile à cerner sur les questions de politique étrangère, l'ANC qui semble être aujourd'hui plus dans un courant que l'on pourrait appeler anti-impérialiste, que porteur d'une vision véritable d'une politique de ce que l'on appelle un leader régional. Et derrière ce positionnement de l'ANC pour Gbagbo et contre Ouattara, y aurait-il aussi un ressentiment anti-Français?

Derrière des mots d'ordre d'anti-impérialisme, certains pourraient voir, dans le président Ouattara, ce que certains considèrent, au sein de l'ANC, comme un agent de la France. Ce n'est pas à exclure, mais je pense que ce positionnement du président Thabo Mbeki a des raisons historiques et tient certainement à une malveillance qui est certainement née à cette époque [entre 2005 et 2011], entre l'ex-président Mbeki et le président Ouattara.

Suite à ce lobbying de Thabo Mbeki contre Alassane Ouattara, on sait de bonne source que le président ivoirien n'a pas hésité, jeudi dernier, à appeler son homologue sud-africain Cyril Ramaphosa pour protester. Est-ce que l'actuel chef de l'État sud-africain peut désormais demander à Thabo Mbeki, l'un de ses prédécesseurs, de modérer ses attaques anti-Ouattara?

C'est sûr que le lobbying du président Mbeki est un irritant pour la présidence sud-africaine, c'est certain. Mais il serait difficile au président Ramaphosa de suggérer à l'ex-président Mbeki de modérer ses actions, parce qu'il le fait en tant que personne privée. La lettre écrite au président Moussa Faki est une lettre avec en-tête de la Fondation Thabo Mbeki. Donc si c'est un irritant pour le président Cyril Ramaphosa, légalement, il a très peu de moyens de demander à l'ex-président Mbeki de tempérer son enthousiasme.

Beaucoup disent que c'est l'ancien président Henri Konan Bédié qui a sollicité les services de Thabo Mbeki et

que c'est le même Bédié qui a approché un autre ancien chef d'État d'Afrique australe, le Mozambicain Joaquim Chissano, pour que celui-ci mène une facilitation en Côte d'Ivoire. Pourquoi l'opposition ivoirienne se tourne-t-elle plus facilement vers l'Afrique australe, que vers sa propre sous-région, l'Afrique de l'Ouest?

Il est vrai que l'opposition ivoirienne aurait attendu un positionnement plus clair de la part de la Cédéao. Mais il est très difficile à la Cédéao, déjà à sa commission, qui est dirigée par un Ivoirien - c'est peut-être le cas de le rappeler -, et à la Conférence des chefs d'État de la Cédéao, de prendre une position contre un chef d'État comme le président Ouattara, représentant d'un grand pays de la communauté. Donc il est très difficile à la Cédéao de prendre un parti anti-Ouattara dans cette dispute électorale ivoirienne.

Pour faire avancer la cause favorable à l'opposition ivoirienne, le Sud-africain Thabo Mbeki a écrit personnellement au secrétaire général de l'ONU António Guterres, au président de la commission de l'Union africaine Moussa Faki Mahamat... Quelles sont ses chances de succès?

Disons que l'activisme du président Mbeki est, même si on peut être d'accord sur la substance et sur le fond de ce que le président Mbeki relève, l'activisme reste quand même un peu curieux, quant à son caractère sélectif. Pourquoi la Côte d'Ivoire, pourquoi pas la Guinée, pourquoi pas la Tanzanie, d'ailleurs, qui sort d'une élection très contestée par l'opposition, aussi? Quant aux chances de succès, l'ancien président Mbeki aura certainement, par son activisme, contribué à tirer la sonnette d'alarme sur une situation en Côte d'Ivoire, qui peut avoir des répercussions sur toute la sous-région.

Et quand Moussa Faki Mahamat répond à Thabo Mbeki que c'est d'abord à la Cédéao, et pas à l'Union africaine, de s'occuper du dossier ivoirien, vous êtes surpris ou pas?

Il respecte le principe de subsidiarité, qui veut que ce soit d'abord à la Cédéao de s'occuper d'une situation locale. Donc cela ne me surprend pas beaucoup, parce que je pense qu'il n'avait pas d'autre alternative.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Michael Bröning

Donnons une chance au centrisme

NEW YORK - En Europe, les milieux intellectuels de gauche sont portés à la méfiance envers le « centrisme » politique. Sa malencontreuse prédilection pour le juste milieu, l'empêche, à en croire ses détracteurs, de formuler des solutions nouvelles, et conduit ainsi à la montée des partis extrémistes, à gauche comme à droite. Sous cet angle, les corollaires du centrisme sont le populisme, la polarisation politique et, en fin de compte, une défiance croissante envers les principes démocratiques.

Cette analyse n'est pas sans intérêt. La démocratie a besoin qu'on discute franchement et contradictoirement des meilleurs moyens d'avancer. Fermer la porte aux solutions politiques nouvelles en appuyant aveuglément le statu quo constitue l'une des meilleures recettes pour en arriver à la catastrophe. « Le débat n'est jamais fini - écrivait feu Zygmunt Bauman, sociologue né en Pologne. Il ne peut l'être, à moins que la démocratie cesse d'être démocratique. »

Mais cela ne signifie pas que les partis politiques de centre gauche devraient tourner le dos au pragmatisme et à la modération. En réalité, les éléments de preuves venant de quelques points chauds électoraux actuels suggèrent probablement l'inverse. Malgré la polarisation politique croissante qui caractérise de nombreux pays, beaucoup d'électeurs semblent bien plus à l'aise avec les positions centristes qu'on ne l'admet généralement.

Les partis de gauche, qui s'enchantent d'aiguiser leur profil idéologique font donc face à un dilemme. Si les militants exigent volontiers une plus grande clarté conceptuelle, les électeurs préfèrent le pragmatisme à la pureté idéologique. La direction la plus prometteuse que peuvent fixer à leur action les dirigeants progressistes est donc, probablement, de combiner une vision idéologique à long terme avec la réalité d'un changement progressif.

Il n'est qu'à voir Joe Biden, le candidat du parti démocrate pour l'élection à la présidence des États-Unis. Si le programme de Biden est nettement plus à gauche que celui des derniers candidats démocrates, il apparaît aussi indubitablement plus centriste que celui de deux de ses principaux adversaires lors des primaires, le sénateur Bernie Sanders et la sénatrice Elizabeth Warren.

Ce programme mérite non seulement l'attention pour les mesures qu'il soutient, mais aussi pour celles qu'il ne soutient pas. Sur l'immigration, l'ancien vice-président défend une position de générosité humanitaire, mais ne s'est pas prononcé en faveur de la dépenalisation du passage illégal de la frontière. Sur le changement climatique, s'il appelle à la neutralité carbone du logement et soutient l'objectif d'une production d'énergie décarbonée aux États-Unis d'ici 2025, il se garde de reprendre à son compte l'ensemble des préconisations du Green New Deal, défendu par l'aile gauche de son parti. De même, Biden s'est distancié des appels à l'interdiction de la fragmentation hydraulique, au gel du financement des polices municipales et à la mise en place de soins de santé universels à payeur unique.

La candidate démocrate à la vice-présidence, Kamala Harris, sénatrice de la Californie, partage le centrisme de Joe Biden, et elle a dû affronter les critiques de son propre parti pour un bilan jugé insuffisamment à gauche. Mais l'avance confortable de Biden sur le président des États-Unis Donald Trump dans les sondages d'opinion semble suggérer que les démocrates ont peut-être trouvé la formule gagnante.

Le même scénario se déroule en Nouvelle-Zélande, où la Première ministre Jacinda Ardern a largement

remporté les élections générales du 17 octobre. Dans les milieux de gauche, Ardern est acclamée comme une icône mondiale. Elle n'est que la deuxième femme d'une démocratie moderne ayant accouché alors qu'elle occupait une telle fonction, elle est connue pour sa communication ouverte et honnête et était une candidate crédible au prix Nobel de la paix décerné cette année.

Son image globale doit cependant être nuancée par sa souplesse centriste, à laquelle elle doit, plus qu'à ses ambitions réformatrices, ses succès de politique intérieure. À la tête d'une coalition de trois partis durant son premier mandat, Ardern n'était pas en position de mettre en œuvre les mesures les plus importantes qu'elle proposait - concernant notamment la crise du logement. Mais elle a bénéficié de sa gestion efficace de la pandémie de Covid-19 et de sa compassion comme de sa détermination face au massacre de Christchurch, en mars 2019, où furent assassinés 51 fidèles musulmans.

Lors de sa récente campagne électorale, le parti travailliste de Mme Arden a surtout mis l'accent sur des propositions de réforme modérées, susceptibles de séduire l'électorat centriste. On peut compter parmi ces dernières une augmentation limitée du salaire minimum et des impôts légèrement plus élevés pour les plus riches, au titre d'une relance économique responsable, mais aussi des mesures de maintien de l'ordre, comme l'augmentation, et non la réduction, du nombre d'agents de police en fonction dans les collectivités locales.

Le parti travailliste du Royaume-Uni, quant à lui, tente actuellement de se réinventer comme force politique plus centriste après sa défaite désastreuse aux élections générales de décembre 2019, ayant contraint à la démission de Jeremy Corbyn, l'ancien chef du Labour, appartenant à la gauche du parti.

Le successeur de Corbyn, Keir Starmer, a saisi l'opportunité du congrès annuel (virtuel) de son parti, en septembre, pour annoncer une rupture profonde avec l'héritage de son prédécesseur. La « nouvelle direction » prise par Starmer fait place à la défense des valeurs familiales par le Labour, avec une attention particulière portée à la sécurité et à la modération en matière économique.

Lors de son discours au congrès du Labour, Starmer a déclaré, s'adressant notamment à l'électorat ouvrier mécontent : « Nous aimons tout comme vous ce pays. » Son repositionnement fait donc place à la notion d'un patriotisme de gauche - inenvisageable pour l'internationaliste convaincu qu'est Corbyn -, en rupture nette avec le discours antérieur du parti.

L'objectif affiché de Starmer est de reconquérir la confiance des électeurs du milieu ouvrier qui ont délaissé le parti lorsque Corbyn en avait la direction. Jusqu'à présent, cette initiative semble lui réussir. Quoique des élections générales ne soient pas prévues au Royaume-Uni avant 2024, de récents sondages d'opinion placent le Labour au coude à coude avec le parti conservateur actuellement au pouvoir.

L'enthousiasme que semblent susciter aujourd'hui les dirigeants de gauche qui s'adressent en toute conscience au centre politique est riche d'enseignements pour leurs homologues ailleurs en difficulté.

Certes, la gauche ne doit jamais se satisfaire du statu quo. Il demeure essentiel qu'elle propose des solutions politiques nouvelles et qu'elle indique la voie vers un avenir meilleur - plus encore en période de pandémie. Mais compte tenu de l'épuisement des électeurs après des années de polarisation politique, les partis de gauche qui veulent vraiment conquérir le pouvoir et le garder seraient fort avisés de reconsidérer leur opposition au centrisme.

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FEATURE

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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 Hillary 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 Hillary 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 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 nationwide 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.

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 electorate 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. Indeed the high court decided the election of 2000 giving the presidency to George W. Bush.

As others have observed, Trump has restructured the judiciary system by appointing about 200 Rightwing Republican judges to federal courts, including three associate justices to the Supreme Court. That comprises his recent nomination of Amy Barrett to replace the late Ruth Ginsburg to the high

Weah launches Air-Liberia, but no plane

President George Weah on Friday announcing the launching of Liberia's first postwar national carrier at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) in Margibi County, but there was no plane to showcase for such elaborate program.

However, a statement release by Mr. Weah office said by launching the national carrier, President Weah has achieved one of the things he had long desired to see in the country—the Republic of Liberia owning its own air carrier.

Liberia,” he says.

He notes that the launch of Lone Star Air was consistent with his long-held wish, vision and clarion call for Liberia's place in the international aviation industry; for fair-minded investors to take interest and explore investment opportunities in the sector.

Mr. Weah recalls how he, on many occasions, promoted the need for investors to explore the aviation field and to engage into enterprises that create jobs and bolster the Liberian economy.

President Weah explains, thanking those who have undertaken the landmark initiative.

“It has been my dream, hope and vision that we will very soon see Lone Star Air, the Wings of Liberia, flying our flag in international skies, shining so brightly,” he continues.

President Weah maintains that it is his strongest conviction that the launch of Lone Star Air is a timely initiative that should be commended and encouraged.

He discloses that he has



“Having known that Liberia once owned what was then called “Liberia Airway” before the civil war, and feeling jealous seeing other smaller nations owning their own planes, the President had harbored the wish for the country to return to the sky with its red, white and blue colors,” the release says.

“I am so delighted to be here today to witness this ceremony organized by the promoters of the new airline to be known and styled as Lone Star Air, Wings of Liberia, to operate as a national flag carrier for

He specifically recalls that upon return from his first official visit to France, he encouraged investors to develop a new Liberian airline that will connect Liberia to the West African Sub-region and rest of the world.

“Recently, I was so happy when I was informed by authorities of the Ministry of Transport that potential investors from our sister country of Ghana had formed partnership with Liberian] entrepreneurs and have applied to the aviation authority for permission to jointly develop a new airline for Liberia,”

instructed the Ministry of Transport and the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority to give necessary support to the venture within the frameworks of all applicable laws and regulations, both domestically and internationally, to ensure that there is no compromise with the safety of citizens who will utilize the proposed services.

Meanwhile, with all the joy and peasantry, it is not yet know when the first Lone Star Air will ever land at the Roberts International Airport. Until then it remains the Presidents dream.

Biden Vs Trump

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bench against Democrats opposition saying that the appointment should be left with the next president. The Senate has just confirmed the nomination. Certainly reshaping the judiciary system is one of his campaign promises.

Meanwhile, battleground states, sometimes referred to as swing states, are neither Blue nor Red States. The Blue States usually vote Democrat, and the Red States tend to vote Republican. Because of the “neutrality” of the battleground states, presidential candidates tend to focus on them for victory. After his diagnosis of the COVID virus, Trump traveled to Florida while Biden went to Ohio. These states played a decisive role in the 2000 and 2004 elections respectively. According to the New York Times, Florida, which has the highest Electoral College votes (29) in the swing states, has the highest COVID-19 affected cases in the US. Florida and Pennsylvania are the states to watch in this election. If both go for Biden on Election Day, Trump would have a difficult and tough time to retain the White House.

A poll by Dallas Morning News and the University of Texas at Tyler has recently reported that Biden is narrowly leading in Texas by 3%, which is statistically a tie race. Moming Consult survey also shows a similar lead. This does not look good for Trump. Texas is historically and traditionally a Red state with the second-highest Electoral College votes next to California. No Democratic presidential candidate has won the state since Jimmy Carter in 1976. If Biden carries Texas on November 3, the election will be over for Trump.

Also, some polls have Biden ahead in the Electoral College votes, which determines the winner of the presidency. Each state is given a vote number based on its population and number of members in Congress. Larger states have more votes while smaller states have fewer votes. There are 538 Electoral College votes. To win, a candidate must have a minimum of 270 votes and must win “the absolute majority votes of the state to carry that state”. The Financial Times polls have Biden with 279 Electoral College votes and Trump with 125. CBS polls of October 25 gives Biden 279 and Trump 163.

In the Clinton-Trump election, the race was close. But in this election, the challenger is leading by double-digits in some states. Though the first debate was disappointing and was considered a draw, Biden's poll numbers increased after the exchange. In other words, the debate seemed to have benefitted Biden. The second but last debate held last week was considered better and cordial than the first, despite the viewers were less compared to the first. Debates seek to convince undecided voters because most voters have already made up their minds and debates do not matter. While each candidate claimed to win the debate, some viewers expressed that Trump was on the defensive. Others said that both candidates did better than previously. Nevertheless, CNN and other polls say Biden won the debate. CNN instant poll has 53% Biden and 39% Trump. Two other polls, including YouGov, have Biden winning by 19% and 11% respectively. Considering Trump's standing in the polls, he needed a knockout in the debate. Unfortunately, he did not. The debate may not change the polls. Most winners of recent debates lost the presidency. Hilary Clinton, John Kerry, and Al. Gore are examples.

However, as stated earlier, one should view polls with some skepticism. They are not always consistent. Several factors can cause their swift: a prevailing event in the final days of an election, and an overlook of social elements are some of the factors.

Starts from back page

Election materials

and National Referendum, all on December 8, 2020.

According to the Supreme Court, the NEC is not in error to have set December 8, 2020, for the holding of District#9 Montserrado and District#2 Sinoe counties by-elections; rather, the High Court says the Liberian Legislature should be blamed for such, on grounds that it did not notify the Commission of the vacancy in time.

A total of 118 aspirants are in the race, including 20 females, 98 males, 44 Independent, 74 political parties and alliance, and 17

members of the House of Representatives, respectively.

This is the first in contemporary Liberian political history for a special senatorial election to produce the highest sitting lawmakers from the House of Representatives to have developed interest in vying for the Liberian Senate.

Of the total number of aspirants, Lofa County tops the list with 11, followed by Montserrado and Grand Cape Mount counties featuring the second highest number of 10 each, closely chased by River Cess, Margibi, Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh and Gbarpolu Counties

with each featuring nine aspirants in the much publicized pending poll.

Meanwhile, the new European Union Head of Delegation to Liberia has ended a one-day fact-finding visit to the headquarters of the National Elections Commission (NEC) in Monrovia.

Ambassador Laurent DELAHOUSSE was accompanied by the Deputy EU Head of Delegation Juan Antonio Frutos Goldarat.

The delegation was received Friday, 30 October

by the Chairperson of the NEC Davidetta Browne Lansanah.

Ambassador DELAHOUSSE and delegation said the EU is concerned about the level of preparedness by authorities of the National Elections Commission to conduct the Special Senatorial Election, Constitutional Referendum and two by-elections.

The new EU Ambassador also expressed concerns about the level of funding from the Government of Liberia and partners to the Commission to conduct the polls as well as challenges facing the NEC.

Responding, Chairperson

Davidetta Browne Lansanah said the Government of Liberia has committed itself to providing funds needed for the exercises.

She said with the level of commitment from government, the Commission is confident it will conduct free, fair and transparent elections come 8 December 2020.

The NEC Boss informed the new EU Ambassador that all preparations for the polls are so far progressing, according to plans. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Election materials arrive



By **E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor**

Pre-packed kits for the December 8, 2020 Special Senatorial Election arrived here late Sunday, November 01, at the Roberts International Airport in Margibi County onboard a chartered flight, barely a month to the poll.

They include: actual materials, training materials,

and stationary polling items, among others, brought in the country by a local vendor, Unique Enterprise group of companies.

The NEC executive director Anthony Sengbe, received the materials on behalf of the Commission Sunday.

Total cost of the materials is placed at US\$1.6 million inclusive of the chartered flight. Value of the actual

materials is over US\$605,000 while the stationary polling items are placed at US\$700,000. The Chief Executive Officer of the Unique Enterprise, Mr. Daniel Kolubah said, the materials were produced into the country from Chain, transported on specially arraigned chartered flight due to their sensitivity.

This is contrary to recent statement by the Public Procurement and Concession Commission that the local vendor was unqualified to supply the electoral materials ahead of the December 08 election.

Last Thursday, the Supreme Court of Liberia denied a writ of mandamus filed by the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) seeking to prevent the National Elections Commission (NEC) from jointly holding two by-elections along with the Special Senatorial Elections,

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Messi 'difficult to manage', says former Barca boss Setien

Lionel Messi is "difficult to manage" at Camp Nou, according to former Barcelona head coach Quique Setien.

Setien was sacked by Barca following a tumultuous 2019-20 season which saw the club dethroned by bitter rivals Real Madrid in LaLiga and humiliated 8-2 by Bayern Munich in the Champions League quarter-finals.

Former Real Betis boss

Setien was replaced by Ronald Koeman at the end of the campaign, having only filled the void left by Ernesto Valverde in January.

Setien hailed Messi but reflected on a difficult period with the six-time Ballon d'Or winner in Barcelona.

"I think Messi is the best of all time," Setien told El Pais. "There have been other great players who have been great, but the continuity that this boy has had throughout the years



has not been had by anyone.

"Leo is difficult to manage. Who am I to change him! If they have accepted him as he is for years and have not changed him.

"There's another facet beyond just the player and it's more difficult to manage. Much more difficult. It's something inherent in many athletes that can be seen in the Michael Jordan documentary [The Last Dance]. You see things you don't expect.

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