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S/Court halts Gbarpolu election results



Associate Justice Madam Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh



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Continental News

UN Officials Say Fair Elections Unlikely in Uganda

U.N. officials warn prevailing political conditions in Uganda are stacked against the likelihood of free and fair parliamentary and presidential elections later this week.

The lead-up to Uganda's national elections has been marred by increasing violence, numerous human rights violations, and restrictions imposed on opposition candidates and

supporters.

Spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Ravina Shamdasani says the deteriorating human rights situation in the country is likely to discourage people from voting. This, she says raises the prospect of continued unrest after the election.

"Numerous human rights violations have been reported, including of the rights to

freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and participation, as well as arbitrary deprivation of life, arbitrary arrest and detention, and torture. ... Indeed, harassment, ill-treatment, arbitrary arrests and detention of opposition candidates and supporters have been worrying developments during the electoral campaign," she said.

In mid-November, the arrest and detention of two opposition presidential candidates, Bobi Wine and Patrick Oboi Amuriat, and members of the political opposition triggered riots and protests across the country. At least 54 people were killed.

Shamdasani says several presidential directives on COVID-19 have been issued since March, purportedly on health grounds. She notes Uganda's Electoral Commission issued a new decree in June. It prohibits mass rallies during the election campaigns, suggesting digital electoral campaigns instead.

"Human rights law, under

certain circumstances, may allow for restrictions to mass gatherings and physical campaigning for public health reasons," she said. "However, we have increasingly observed that the COVID-19 restrictions have been enforced more strictly to curtail opposition electoral campaign activities in a discriminatory fashion."

The U.N. human rights office is calling on the Ugandan authorities to protect peoples' rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. It is urging them to take measures to prevent electoral violence and to guarantee the rights of people to participate freely and peacefully in the election process. VOA



Security forces block the street leading to the Electoral Commission during a visit by Ugandan opposition presidential candidate Bobi Wine in Kampala

Zimbabwe Police Arrest Journalist for Third Time in 6 Months

Prominent Zimbabwean journalist Hopewell Chin'ono appeared in court Saturday after police arrested him for "peddling falsehoods." Media monitor groups fear Chin'ono's arrest – his third in six months – may be part of efforts by President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government to

stifle freedom of expression on social media.

Chin'ono arrived Saturday at the Harare Magistrate's Court in full personal protective equipment (PPE), complaining about his continued "persecution."

"Because we tell them the truth, we comment about corruption, they look for

frivolous charges to throw at me," he said. "But as a journalist I am covered by the law."

He sat for close to four hours as prosecutors looked for PPE to wear before proceeding with his case. Chin'ono said he has been in contact with two people who have since tested positive for coronavirus. Harrison Nkomo of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights told reporters that his client, Chin'ono, would be acquitted of the latest charge of "peddling falsehoods." "We are challenging placement of Hopewell on remand," he said. "The basis of our challenge is that they are proceeding in respect of a piece of legislation, which was repealed. I do not want to delve much into my argument." In 2014, Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court removed from the country's statutes the criminalization of the publication of false statements undermining public confidence in the uniformed forces. Tabani Moyo of Media Institute of



Journalist Hopewell Chin'ono arrives at the Harare Magistrate's Court on Jan. 9, 2021, in full personal protective equipment

Controversial Nile dam talks resume



Government officials from Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan are once again holding talks in a bid to try to resolve a long running dispute triggered by the construction of a huge dam on the River Nile.

In July last year the reservoir of the hydro electric dam in the west of Ethiopia started filling with water despite the breakdown of talks between the three countries.

The Addis Ababa government is determined to

provide electricity for its population and will also export power.

But Egypt is concerned that during years of drought its water supply will be greatly reduced.

Sudan has warned Ethiopia not to proceed with the second stage of filling the dam before an agreement is reached.

The latest round of talks mediated by the African Union will involve the officials meeting virtually. BBC

Southern Africa in Zimbabwe said this third arrest of Chin'ono is intended to intimidate citizens and journalists in Zimbabwe. "This immediate case points to a clear case of trying to effect a chilling effect on the media," Moyo said. "How do you come to a conclusion that Hopewell has violated any law of the country for providing an opinion on a video clip that has thousands of people communicating on it? Why, why arriving at Hopewell, a journalist for that matter? So, it is an assault on the media.

Secondly, it is meant to send chilling effect not only to the media, but to the users of the online spaces. This is a dangerous trend we are seeing." Monica Mutsvangwa, Zimbabwe's information minister, said Saturday that she would comment on the matter only after the courts had disposed of the case.

Meanwhile, Chin'ono is scheduled to be back in court Monday, when his lawyer is expected to challenge the law under which he was charged Thursday.

EDITORIAL

Weah's Executive Order#103 and Liberia's economic woes

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH WEAH at the close of 2020 issued Executive Order No.103 in what the Executive Mansion in Monrovia says is aimed at stimulating economic growth in the country without explaining clearly how.

THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE Order#103 slashes taxes here and there, and effects series of waivers but stops short of detailing how the Liberian economy, that has nose-dived, would experience a turnaround and hit growth that had diminished in the last three years.

FOR INSTANCE, THE President's Order declares that the Commissioner General of the Liberia Revenue Authority, in consultation with the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, may set forth a schedule of Waivers, in Regulation, to be reviewed annually for the granting of relief from assessment of penalties and interest related to Real Estate Taxes, Customs Duties and Related Levies including those under Administrative Review, Judicial Review, Audits or Examinations as a result of either or both failure to file or failure to pay such Taxes, Duties and Levies when due.

"FAILURE ON THE part of a Taxpayer to take advantage of a Waiver offered during an annual period shall preclude the Taxpayer from taking advantage of future annual Waivers for a period of 5 (five) years, during which period the Taxpayer is to be subject to sanctions, including the seizure and forfeiture of assets," noted the President's Executive Order.

BUT HOW CAN citizens and foreign business people remain faithful to paying taxes regularly when the economy is plummeted due to serious cash shortage and poor sales? The President failed to address the key issue of depleting the Government Consolidated Account with the Central Bank of Liberia that has led to borrowing from commercial banks without paying thus, affecting banks' liquidity.

WE ALSO WONDER how reducing taxes on air travel tickets from 10 percent to 7 percent and extending Work Permits to five years amid a heightened global pandemic stimulate growth in an economy that is heavily consumption-based.

"COLLECTION OF WORK and Residence Permits Fees: All fees for Work and Residence Permits shall be paid directly to the Liberia Revenue Authority for deposit into the Consolidated Account of the Government of Liberia."

THE EXECUTIVE MANSION also failed to address the critical issue of confidence crisis in the banking sector that has been characterized by restricting daily withdrawal which has inversely discouraged depositors from banking.

IF THE ECONOMY is to be resuscitated, restoring confidence in the banking sector is very critical to generating liquidity to avoid speculation and capital flight.

ADHERENCE TO TRANSPARENCY and accountability are similarly important to having a predictive economy that can stimulate forecasting and reliability. But when billions of local banknotes are printed and brought into the country, but never put in circulation without any explanation it leaves room for uncertainty and apprehension.

PRESIDENT WEAH AND his Economic Management Team should go back to the drawing board and carve a realistic economic plan that would give Liberians hope both for the short and long-term that they would get out of the current quagmire that is leaving many family heads with serious hypertension and early death.

COMMENTARY

By Jan-werner Mueller

Remove and Ban Trump Now

Although it is a serious matter to deny individuals their basic civil rights, outgoing US President Donald Trump richly deserves such a punishment. For Republicans to avoid being devoured by the insurrectionist movement they have unleashed, they must support Trump's impeachment, removal, and permanent exclusion from political life.

BERLIN - A year ago, jurists and pundits were debating whether impeaching an American president is primarily a matter of law or of politics. It is both, of course, and there is nothing wrong with the political part. Under the US Constitution, it is politicians, not courts, who are supposed to judge whether a president has committed "high crimes and misdemeanors," and, crucially, whether a chief executive poses an ongoing threat to the republic.

With less than two weeks to go before Joe Biden replaces Donald Trump in the White House, the issue has come up again, with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi making clear that the president should be removed either by his cabinet, through the 25th Amendment, or by impeachment.

The violent insurrection at the US Capitol, incited by Trump, represents something new and profane in American history. Even though Biden will be inaugurated on January 20, the office of the presidency cannot be made safe in Trump's hands. He must be impeached (again), removed from office, and barred from holding public office ever again.

Congress has a right, but not a duty, to impeach. Sometimes, lawmakers might simply tolerate certain presidential misdeeds, having concluded that the costs of pursuing further action would outweigh the benefits. But this is not one of those times.¹

Just as the act of punishing a public official sends a message about a polity's moral commitments, so, too, does a failure to punish when it is warranted. By voting to acquit Trump last year, after the House of Representatives impeached him over the Ukraine scandal, Senate Republicans signaled that they were sticking with a career criminal, come what may. Trump enablers like Senator Susan Collins of Maine hoped that those proceedings would teach Trump a lesson. And so they did: Trump learned that there were no consequences for illegally coercing others into doing him favors and rigging elections on his behalf.

Recall Trump's "perfect" phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in the summer of 2019, when he threatened to withhold US military aid unless Ukraine announced an investigation into Biden's son, Hunter. After getting off scot-free for that abuse of his office, Trump went on to have another perfect chat in the winter of 2020, when he tried to blackmail Georgia's Republican secretary of state, Brad Raffensperger, into falsifying the result of last November's election on his behalf. All those Republicans who have condemned the second call should be asking themselves why they condoned the first one.

If there is no punishment for the insurrection at the Capitol, congressional Republicans will again be signaling their own complicity in the crime. The message will be that this, too, is acceptable: a sitting president may indeed incite violence against one of the republic's three political branches.

Some will worry that a second impeachment and

a permanent ban would merely provoke Trump's "base." But this argument no longer holds water. No matter what Democrats or half-way responsible Republicans like Senator Mitt Romney do or don't do, Trump and his cheerleaders in the right-wing media will incite the movement anyway.

After all, right-wing populism is not subject to a reality check; an actual vote count is practically irrelevant for people who see themselves as the only "real Americans" (and therefore the only ones that count). Mobilizing these supposedly "real Americans" against nefarious elites and minorities (who should all go back to their "shit-hole countries") has been Trump's political model from day one, just as his business model as a real-estate developer was based on flimflam and fraud. Many a MAGA grifter and opportunistic Republican has invested in that political enterprise, and it will take more than a little bit of sedition and a few dead bodies in Washington, DC, for them to start dumping their shares.

The crucial step is not just to remove Trump but to ban him from politics for life. Though this entails a permanent restriction of an individual's basic political rights, many democracies nonetheless allow for such a possibility. For example, according to the German Basic Law, those who abuse free speech and other fundamental liberties in order to undermine liberal democracy can lose their rights. This provision has never been successfully applied, though, partly because the neo-Nazis for whom a permanent loss was considered had already been taken out of political circulation by criminal convictions.

To be sure, a permanent ban sits uneasily with a core assumption of democracy: people can change their minds. Contrary to Hillary Clinton's assertion in her infamous 2016 speech describing Trump's base as a "basket of deplorables," no one is utterly "irredeemable." If you are one of the many people who favors restoring voting rights to convicted felons, how could you justify a ban against someone like Trump? What if Trump were to repent and reinvent himself? Should we not be consistent in refusing to ban anyone permanently?

Never mind that repentance is unlikely. Trump has persistently tried to subvert the democratic process itself. That is not just any high crime or misdemeanor; nor is it comparable to any business dealings before (and during) the presidency for which he could be prosecuted. If someone refuses to play by the rules of the game (especially rules as basic as "the candidate who gets the most votes wins"), it is perfectly reasonable to eject that player.

Would Republicans support such a move? Plenty, like Senators Josh Hawley of Missouri and Ted Cruz of Texas, have bet their political fortunes on genuflecting to America's burgeoning far-right movement. But others might now be looking for a way out of the Trumpian maw. The storming of the Capitol demonstrated that you cannot have QAnon à la carte; neither Trump nor his Republican collaborators can control the forces they have unleashed. The revolution always devours its own children, and sometimes their fathers, too. If Republicans fail to de-Trumpify fully and immediately, they will learn that for themselves - but not before things get much, much worse.



O-PED

By Ian Buruma

Trump's Götterdämmerung

Without Trump's bizarre but effective grip on the party, Republicans may well face a period of vicious infighting, which could conceivably tear their party apart. If so, they richly deserve it.

NEW YORK - Anyone who was surprised by the mayhem in Washington, DC has not been paying attention for the last four years. The grotesque scenes around the Capitol on January 6 were indeed shocking: wild-eyed thugs with neo-Nazi flags and Trump banners smashing their way into the House of Representatives and the Senate, while mobs roared "USA" and "Stop the Steal" and others took selfies to show their moment of glory to their grandchildren one day.

But the most disgusting spectacle of all was that of Trump himself inciting his frenzied followers to march on the Capitol to overturn the election and fight the "evil" enemies who had supposedly robbed him of his victory.

It was shocking, but not surprising. Anyone could have seen this coming from that moment in 2016, during the second presidential debate, when Trump was asked whether he would accept the result of the coming election. He replied that this would depend on the result. In other words, he would accept only his own victory. Any other outcome would be illegitimate. It was clear then that he would not abide by the basic rules of liberal democracy.

That was not the only evidence: the free press were "enemies of the people," Hillary Clinton, his political opponent, should be "locked up," immigrants were rapists and drug dealers, and so on. As president, Trump condoned, and even encouraged, violent extremists who declared war on blacks and Jews ("Jews will not replace us!" they chanted in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017).

Nonetheless, Republican Party leaders - including those who distanced themselves from the president at the very last minute - supported him, flattered his colossal ego, and protected him against all efforts to temper his outlandish, and possibly illegal, behavior. They didn't do so for love of Trump. But as long as he gave them what they wanted - deregulation, lower taxes for the very rich, and the swift appointment of far-right judges - he could do as he pleased.

Some Republicans would admit that Trump was, well, not a "conventional politician." That is certainly true. Trump is more like a cult leader, a charismatic agitator who promised his followers salvation from the wicked world of violent and decadent cities, liberal elites, blacks, gays, immigrants, and other polluting aliens in the body politic. Many people voted for Trump because they believed in him more as a messiah than as a politician.

The big question now is whether a cult can last once the leader is out of power. Can Trumpism survive for long without Trump? He still owns much of the Republican Party. And he will try to preserve his influence through social media. He might even build his own little media empire. But will this be enough? Will it last?1

Trumpism may survive under a different leader. This is what a politician like Senator Ted Cruz of Texas is hoping. His attempt to pander to Trump's voter base by sabotaging President-elect Joe Biden's victory is a play for a future presidential run. But Cruz lacks the vulgar charisma of Trump. He is a highly-educated cynic, a ruthless political operator, but not someone who can easily inspire the masses.

The future of Trumpism also hinges on a long-debated philosophical question. Which is the greater driver of history: great leaders or socioeconomic conditions? Like Hitler, Trump is often seen, especially by people on the left, as a symptom, rather than the cause, of a social pathology.

There is something to be said for this view. Trump has shrewdly exploited problems and resentments that were there long before he entered politics: the widening gulf between rich and poor, fear of immigrants, loathing of Islam, the increasing dominance of big cities and finance over impoverished de-industrialized and rural areas, hatred of racial minorities, and so on.

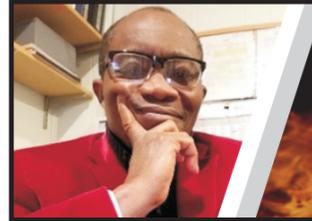
These issues have been used, with more or less success, by other contemporary demagogues as well. But, to succeed, such political operators still need to project a certain magnetism, a quality that more conventional politicians often underestimate at their peril.

Looks and demeanor play an important part in this. It is no mere coincidence that quite a few populist leaders sport such weird hairdos - former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's painted implants, Trump's platinum comb-over, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's carefully calculated blond mess. The hair, like Hitler's moustache, is part of their "brand." A born demagogue knows how to stand out.

More than most of his colleagues in the demagogue business, Trump is a creature of show business. His great success was not in real estate; he was in fact a terrible businessman, blundering from one failure to another. What made him was a television show. That is what boosted his brand, which he has used with a truly mammoth talent for self-promotion. Cruz, Josh Hawley, Tom Cotton, or Marco Rubio - all Republican senators with ambitions to follow in Trump's footsteps - don't even come close.

The rage, resentments, and economic problems that Trump exploited won't go away, of course. And he has made the social and political ills of America far worse. The symptoms will remain, but perhaps without a man with the malevolent genius to inflame them.

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With Jones Mallay

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LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

Third-World Style Democracy Resurfaces in the United States Under President Trump: Should Americans Lecture Third-World Countries About Democracy?

Unnumerable so-called Western democrats in persons of Emmanuel Macron, French President, Boris Johnson, UK Prime Minister, and other numberless Western democrats reprehended Daniel J. Trump, President United States for democratic subversion with the intent to override the will of the American voters by seek a subjective result in his interests and also influenced a terrible domestic terrorist group of Americans to hijack Lawmakers, vandalized their sacred political edifice and massacred 5 innocent Americans purposely for President Trump to clinch to political power at all cost against all democratic barometer which measures up to a Third-world style democracy found vividly in most parts of Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, some part of Europe, the Caribbean, and Africa which are known as banana republics or Sithole countries.

Millions of Latin Americans, Asians, Middle Easterners, Africans, Europeans take refuge in the United States, after their governments undermined democracy by raking all elections, hijacked Parliaments, use their armies to shoot and killed innocent civilians, put domestic terrorists on their streets to kill and destroy properties and chased their citizens out of their countries with the sole purpose of clinching to political power for the rest of their lives in the name of democracy.

Today, people from the aforesaid undemocratic countries no longer have a place to go for refuge, because, the United States which was once considered the place of the brave, and home to refugees and asylees fleeing from civil wars, political upheavals, military persecutions, and other domestic violence persecutions has got nowhere to go for refuse because the United States which was considered the only save heavens, has now joined the long list of banana republics and Sithole countries through the tireless efforts of Presidents Danial J. Trump who is simply a democratic by appearance but a senior authoritarian politician and a natural-born dictator.

President Trump is no doubt a Whiteman wearing an authoritarian and dictatorial garment next to Pres. Xi Jinping, China, Pres. Vladimir Putin-Russia, and Pres. Yoweri Museveni-Uganda (Africa) who has spent over 35-years in power as well as Pres. Alpha Condé of the Republic of Guinea, who killed over two dozen of his people simply to clinch to power for third terms and possibly for a lifetime. Americans have built strong reputations and reflections over 400-years ago to be the world's oldest democracy which has now been proven to be one of the greatest hidden fallacies' far from the truth by many standards.

This is a clear manifestation that the Republican Partisans, die-hard members, and well-wishers simply preached democracy but they did not practice democracy and lived by its tenets. The Republicans are by and large true dictators, this assertion is made because since President took the helm of affairs as the most powerful man in the world, he had been engaged in countless despicable acts that are contrary to the expectations of the so-called American democracy, for example, he used his presidency to go against his enemies openly, a banana republic style.

President Trump had turned the U.S. Attorney-General into his personal and private lawyer. He had failed to declare his assets and his tax returns. Trump is not transparent and accountable. President Trump is uncivilized and lacked diplomatic mannerism and deep respect for multinational organizations and democratic institutions. President Trump is on record for dismissing Americans in his government who do not exhibit open loyalty to him. Trump is a natural-born racist President who hates foreigners and also puts babies in cages and called black women pigs and dogs. Amid these disgraceful tendencies, Trump is being celebrated and honored by his fellow Republicans who possessed the same characters of malfeasance political practices, which made the Republican party very dangerous and ruthless in modern America. Pres. Trump's governance can no doubt be linked to the rule of the late Pres. Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías Venezuela, who suffered his people simply to consolidate his grip on power. He can also be compared to the late Pres. Muammar Muhammad Abu Minyar al-Gaddafi of Libya, who intended to be in power for life until he was killed. Trump shadows can also be found in the late Pres. Tubman of Liberia, who governed Liberia for 27-years by imposing his political will on Liberia and Liberians until he was taken away by the cold hands of death against his will.

Pres. Trump's action to deface the values and dignity of the so-called American democracy has one purpose that is for him to remain in power for life. This is indeed a third-world style concept of democracy. But Trump's political concepts truly designate his strong Republican base who has continued to support him since he became President 4-years ago and now had decided to overturn the will of American voting power and perpetuate his stay in power for life. Over 117 Republican representatives and 11 Republican Senators support President Trump as he exhibits his dictatorial posture in his last days in office.

Never in the lifetime of the American young generation, that democracy would be relegated to third world style democracy after 400-years of its existence. There is a lesson to also learn from Pres. Trump. The lesson here is that democracy has enormous weaknesses. It is a volatile theory that can be manipulated easily. For example, the elections can be easily manipulated in many ways and more and more Trumps will continue to rise in America until issues such as mailing ballots, absentees' ballots, and electoral votes system are lay rest the Trump factor will reoccur not in the too distance thus making America a continues banana republic and a Sithole county.

SPECIAL

ARTICLE

21st Press Conference by Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Xinjiang-related issues in Beijing

CONT'D FROM LAST EDITION

Today, Xinjiang is safe and stable, people are living in peace and contentment. We will persist in governing Xinjiang according to law, stabilizing Xinjiang by shared solidarity, culturally moistening the Xinjiang, enriching the people and prospering the region, building Xinjiang with a long-term goal, and strive to an era of socialism with Chinese characteristics in Xinjiang featuring unity, harmony, prosperity, civilization, progress, peaceful living and work, and sound ecology.

To answer your second question, I'd like to stress that Xinjiang is an open region. We conduct ourselves honestly and handle each thing according to its merits, and therefore we have nothing to hide. Since the end of 2018, over 1,000 people have visited Xinjiang. They include foreign diplomatic envoys to China, UN officials, Geneva-based senior diplomats of various countries, as well as more than 70 groups (or delegations) of people from news media and religious organizations of various countries. We welcome foreign visitors to Xinjiang, including those from UN Security Council and diplomats of EU countries to China, to see for themselves the real situation in Xinjiang. A joyful and harmonious Xinjiang awaits your visit.

Al Jazeera: 1) Last year, Xinjiang government announced all trainees had graduated. But the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) alleges that China has set up larger "detention centers." As all trainees have graduated, what measures government is going to take against those who are considered to have "separatist" tendency. 2) Could you provide some statistics on how many laborers from Xinjiang are now working in factories in other parts of China? how many people have benefited from this policy? and what do local government do to implement such a policy and are there any indicators to measure?

Ilijan Anayat: On your first question, I want to sternly state that over a past period of time, terrorists and extremists had been very rampant and deceived a large number of people. Through the vocational education and training program centered on learning the country's common language, legal knowledge and vocational skills as well as deradicalization, we have helped many trainees realize the criminal nature and serious harm of terrorism and extremism, get rid of the terrorists and extremists' influence and control, and achieved remarkable results. By October, 2019, all trainees under the vocational education and training program had graduated.

The ASPI's claim that "Xinjiang has built even bigger detention centers" is in every way conjecture and nonsense. Even Australian Citizens Part's official publication Australian Alert Service could not stand it anymore, so it published an article pointing out that the ASPI report was absolutely ridiculous. The two so-called "detention centers" in Turpan City alleged in the report are in fact office buildings respectively of the Industrial and Commercial Information Technology Bureau and Veterans' Affairs Bureau of Gaochang District; and the "detention centers" in Kashgar City are in fact local high schools and technical secondary schools. The ASPI report does not make any sense apart from fabricating sensational fake news. We have shown relevant photos on the scene of press conferences on Xinjiang-related issues. I hope our friends from the press can also read about the reports of these press conferences, and will not be blinded by

ASPI's lies.

Let's take a look at what on earth the ASPI is. It has long received financial support from the US government and arms dealers. It has been keen on fabricating and hyping various anti-China topics and spreading rumors for the benefit of its paymasters to stigmatize and demonize China. It is not an academic research institution at all, but an anti-China tool manipulated by the US government, and an anti-China vanguard in an academic guise. In particular, it has been notorious for throwing out fallacies on Xinjiang related issues that are unfounded and full of illusions and groundless suppositions. The ASPI just fawns on its paymasters so as to make more money. It is not responsible to its readers.

Of course, counter-terrorism and deradicalization is a long-term and arduous mission. Some violent terrorists and separatists are still trying to incite and deceive, and it cannot be ruled out that individuals may be deceived, but we believe that the vast majority of the people are clear-minded and have already seen through their ugly face and evil intentions, and thus will not follow those bad guys. For individual people who may be affected by terrorism and extremism, we will provide them with assistance, education and guidance in strict accordance with relevant Chinese laws and regulations, so as to enhance their capability to



guard against infiltration of erroneous thoughts and avoid taking the road of crimes.

Xu Guixiang: On your second question, in recent years, Xinjiang has prioritized employment, made and taken a series of policies and measures to enlarge employment, which aim to help workers of all ethnic groups to realize stable, sustained and long-term employment, so that they can live a well-to-do life through their hard work. One of the key measures is to utilize the central government's Xinjiang-aiding mechanism to make overall plan on employment in and out of Xinjiang and actively facilitate people of all ethnic groups to find jobs in inland provinces and cities. Since 2014, a total of 117,000 Xinjiang people have worked or been working in inland provinces and cities.

Supported and guided by the employment-oriented policies, many people from rural area in Xinjiang, especially those in southern Xinjiang, have migrated to cities to work. From farmlands to factories, the farmers have become workers, who have not only got higher pay but also realized their ideals and value of life. For example, Arapat Ahmatjan, from Charbagh village, Lop county, Hotan Prefecture, used to earn less than 10,000 yuan a year as a farmer. In 2017, he went to work in an electrical company in Nanchang city, Jiangxi province and earned more than 160,000 yuan within 3 years. Another example, Pashagul Keram,

from Bartokay Village, Wuqia County, Kizilsu Kirgiz Autonomous Prefecture, signed up voluntarily for a job in a company in Dongguan City. Today, she makes an annual income of 60,000 yuan from the job. Inspired by her experience, more than 1,300 workers from Kizilsu Prefecture have gone to Guangdong Province for work and most of them have shaken off poverty. Because of her leading role in hard work, Pashagul also won several awards, such as "China's most beautiful workers of 2020".

To assist Xinjiang's surplus urban and rural laborers in obtaining employment in other provinces, local authorities in Xinjiang have adopted a bulk of attentive and effective measures. First, forming a comprehensive picture of the local labor resources. Based on the labor offices at township/sub-district and village/community levels, local authorities have established basic information on the number, age, gender, education level, and employment status of the workforce in their respective jurisdiction, and formulated employment plans in line with local realities. Second, keeping track of the job preferences and needs of workers. The local government conducts regular surveys of the job preferences of workers, to keep track of their expectations in terms of location, position, salary, future prospects, and working and living environment, so as to increase effectiveness of employment services. Third, building employment information platforms. The local authorities have built an extensive contact network with employers to collect and collate job information, which is released timely through the human resource market, public placement agencies and online platforms, radio, TV, village and community bulletin boards, updating the laborers with information for voluntary and free choice of employment. Fourth, bolstering public employment services. The local authorities have built a well-defined, dynamic, five-tiered public employment service system for employers and employees, which is well-coordinated at all levels and covers every part of Xinjiang. It has also expanded its services in areas such as policy advice, employment and unemployment registration, career guidance and recommendation, and skills and business startup training.

By the end of 2019, there were 144 human resource markets at the county level or above and 8,668 primary-level labor offices across Xinjiang, providing employment services to more than 21.73 million people that year, and winning extensive praise from all ethnic groups.

Relocation of urban and rural surplus laborers for employment in Xinjiang adheres to the principle of voluntariness. There is no designated targets imposed nor any forced relocation. Laborers of all ethnic groups can get recruitment information from human resources markets or primary-level labor offices, such as weather conditions of the working place as well as type of work, accommodation and salaries that the employer offer, etc. After being well-informed, they could sign up for a job voluntarily according to their own conditions. Where to go, which enterprise to work for, and what post to take, all are their free choice.

Associated Press of Pakistan: How many students have graduated from vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang? How many of them have started business or got jobs? Can you update us on it?

TO BE CONTINUED

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

River Cess citizens decry development setback

Citizens of Central River Cess District have decry serious setback in the development agenda of both the district and the entire county since the "unceremonious" closure

in 2008, and later extended the deal to an additional five years in December 2016.

However, the company "unceremoniously deserted the forest on grounds that some "illegal" pit sawyers were

Community Development Committee (CFDC) of the Forest Management Contract-B explained how major development projects, which were sponsored through funds paid by the company as land rental fees, are currently at a standstill.

Basically, there are CFDCs in River Cess County with FMC-B being the biggest, totaling 57,262 hectares with 11 affected communities and headquarters in Nezuin, Central River Cess District.

Mr. Matthew Wallace, Head of the CFDC FMC-B explained that citizens of the district and the county at large have benefited proceeds from land rental paid by the company as well as other benefits in kind and cash since the company began operation in 2008.

However, he said those benefits, which were moving the district and the county forward in terms of development no longer exist since the departure in 2008.

"We signed the first forestry agreement in 2008 with EJ and J Logging Company and we have been getting benefits in kind and



Partial view of the deserted compound of EJ And J Logging Company and CFDC chair Matthew Wallace

of EJ and J Logging Company. EJ and J signed its first concession agreement with the people of River Cess County by and thru its representatives and the Government of Liberia (GoL)

intruding into its concession area.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with this paper during a recent visit to the county, several citizens of Central River Cess and the Head of the

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Who becomes deputy speaker?

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor
Members of the 54th Liberian Legislature resume official duties today, Monday, 11 January following electoral and annual breaks with the possibility of holding by-election for the Deputy Speaker post. The position was made vacant as result of the December 08, Special

Senatorial election where incumbent deputy speaker, Bong County Representative Prince Moye got elected to the Senate.

The race for deputy speaker is crowded with several names that want to occupy the seat.

Complete line-up of lawmakers with interest for the second highest office in the House are: Lofa County District #3 Representative, Clarence Massaquoi; Education Chairman,

Rep. Johnson Gwaikolo of Nimba County District #9; Commerce Committee chairman Rep. Samuel Kogar (Nimba County District #5); Rep. Moima Briggs-Mensah of Bong County District #6 and Rep. Richard Koon of Montserrado County District #12, respectively.

Grand Kru County Representative J. Fonati Koffa, is said to be favorite among the contenders.

According to the Legislative Information Services (LIS) headed by McCarthy Weh, House membership statistics (considering some siftings), the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change and the Prince Johnson Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction collaboration has over 26 members, while the opposition Collaborating Political Parties has 23 members.

The LIS also indicates that there are 12 Independent lawmakers, 11 members from other parties, with the People's Unification Party (PUP) having five members

Should what LIS is hearing

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Motorcycles sanctioning is to save lives

-Deputy Police Director

By Lewis S. Teh

Police deputy inspector general for operation Col. Marvin Sackor says recent restriction imposed on commercial motorbikes and tricycles from plying central Monrovia is meant to avoid frequent road accidents and save lives in the country.

"We didn't put sanction on motorbike and tricycle riders to put the youthful population out of jobs, but we did that to reduce the huge number of road accidents as the result of their motorcycles", he says.

Col. Sackor made the clarification Wednesday,

Col. Sackor narrates that in the meeting, the leadership of the motorcycle union appealed and they were allowed to speak, but the Police will not compromise public safety.

However, he notes that motorcycles coming from Brewerville, Montserrado County may use the back road to get to Logan town and then Somali Drive, instead of the main route from Monrovia to Duala, Bushrod Island, while tricycles are only permitted to ply the route to the Waterside General Market.

At the same Col. Sackor



January 6, 2021 when he spoke to reporters in Monrovia. According to him, Police authorities had meeting with the leadership of the federation motorcycle union, cognizant that some of them tax payers.

"In the meeting we told them that due to our road safety statistics, there is huge number of accidents and based on the statistics, we told them we were going back to status code anti, where there will be demarcation and they will only be allowed to ply the feeder roads."

observes government and private institutions also use motorcycles, but owners of those bikes should proceed to the National Police Headquarters on Capitol Hill to obtain passes that will allow them move freely.

Recently, the government, thru the Police barred commercial bike and tricycle riders from plying to Central Monrovia, but the riders, majority of the youth are protesting and saying this is an attempt by the authorities to render them jobless. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberian academic launches book on dual citizenship

By Winston W. Parley

Young Liberian academic Dr. Robtel Neajai Pailey has launched a book in Monrovia on Development, (Dual) Citizenship and Its Discontents in Africa: The Political Economy of Belonging to Liberia.

Launching the book in the auditorium of the University of Liberia (UL) Thursday, 7 January on Capitol Hill, Dr. Pailey, an activist and author with years of professional and personal experiences in Africa, Europe and North America, said this research started in Liberia and it was written by a Liberian for Liberians.

Even though she's based in London, the United Kingdom, Dr. Pailey says she was determined to ensure that the actual launch of her book would be done on Liberian soil.

In the book, she says she argues that there are a number of policy prescriptions that the government can take on, first of which is to reconcile the contradiction between the 1973 Alien and Nationality Law and the 1986 Constitution in respect to who's eligible for citizenship in Liberia.

Also she says Liberia needs to focus on reforming the Judiciary because one of the main reasons many Liberians reject dual citizenship is that they fear that people who have two passports or two citizenships will be able to flout the laws, disobey the laws and then leave the country without the possibility for the authorities here to extradite them.

"And that happened before in the past, and they have this sort of ... experience of that happening, and they're [afraid] for [that] and I think that fear is legitimate," she says.

Dr. Pailey indicates that

citizenship across space and time mean for development, she says.

She says the first of her three major arguments in the book is that in the mid 19th to mid 20th century, the Liberian citizenship was passive and constructed by a very powerful state.

On the other hand, she says in the mid 20th century Liberian citizenship onward has been active reconstructed by citizens themselves through processes of protests and events like the rice riot, armed conflicts.

In her second argument, she notes that the 21st century Liberia is one of seven countries (Cameroon, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Tanzania) in the continent of Africa that do not recognize dual citizenship.

On the third argument, she says domestic and diaspora Liberians really interpret and understand citizenship and dual citizenship differently.

In the book she says she talks about the fact that quite often scholars' work or maybe in the public discourse in Liberian there is an underlying assumption that dual citizenship leads to development, but notes that this assumption actually isn't true.

She argues that there are a number of scholars who refute this claim and suggest that there's no relationship and there's "no empirical evidence to support those claims" that dual citizenship leads to development.

"And this is why dual citizenship is so visually contested in Liberia right, because many Liberians in country believe that dual citizenship will reproduce, make sure that inequality prevails," she says.

She says many Liberians believe that dual citizenship will increase development, but again there is no empirical evidence to support the claim.

In a welcome statement earlier, UL President Rev. Dr. Julius JulukonSarwolo Nelson said the university celebrates academic excellence.

He adds that the university celebrates Dr. Pailey for her work and scholarship, adding that he looks forward to the reflection of her book.

"As we journey for 2021, we at the university will continue to pray for academic excellence, scholarship, good health, prosperity,

reforming the judiciary, making sure that laws are actually enforced will give people the confidence to consider introducing and endorsing dual citizenship.

Another thing she believes must be addressed is the inequality in Liberia, including income inequality, land access and transitional justice, among others.

Talking about the originality, importance of the book and what contribution it might make, Dr. Pailey says the book is about the continent of Africa, but it's specifically a case study on Liberia.

She suggests that this is the first study that actually looks at both domestic and diaspora construction and practices of citizenship across space and time.

Looking at what the construction and practices of



An edition of the the University of Liberia's intellectual platform Lux Talk was used for the launching of the book graced by several officials including Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon, Lofa County Senator - elect Brownie J. Samukai, UL Vice President for Graduate Programs Dr. Jonathan Taylor and others.

While acknowledging that dual citizenship is inevitable in Liberia given the continental trend, Dr. Pailey recommends however that Liberia needs to take a gradual approach to dual citizenship.

She thinks that because of continental and regional pressures, Liberia will eventually get dual citizenship, but it's going to take some time.

Police arrest criminal gang leader

By Winston W. Parley

Following a series of attacks waged by a criminal gang named KUBAH against peaceful citizens as well as disarming a police officer, the Liberia National police (LNP) early Thursday morning, 7 January arrested gang leader Varney Kiazolu, Alias Azonto around the 12 House community in Painesville.

His arrest came barely 24 hours after he and his gang being declared wanted for prosecution on Wednesday, 6 January. He is undergoing preliminary investigation at the LNP headquarters in Monrovia.

Ahead of their arrest, the LNP has charged Azonto and his gangs in absentia with

LNP from an isolated site.

Also he says on 19 December, Liberian comedian John Flomo was attacked and wounded by Azonto and his gang operatives.

"Sadly, on December 14, 2020, Azonto and his gang again were involved with arson attack thereby looting and burning the home of a family, Gloria Barloun and Emmanuel D. C. Freeman in the Marshall Boys Town road community," Carter explains.

He details that on 6 January 2021, a Liberian identified as Daniel Davis, alias, DMX, a resident of 3rd Street, Sinkor was gruesomely attacked by Azonto and his gangs thereby slashing the victim's neck with a sharp instrument believed to be a knife.



Criminal gang named KUBAH

multiple crimes ranging from arson, criminal attempt to commit murder, armed robbery and illegal possession of firearm in line with the Penal Code of the Republic of Liberia in view of these circumstances and attacks on peaceful citizens.

Police Spokesman Moses Carter told a press conference Wednesday, 6 January at the LNP Headquarters that on 16 December 2020, a police officer identified as Albert Logan was severely attacked with his firearm taken away by Azonto and his gang operatives.

However Carter says the firearm was later retrieved by the Anti-robbery unit of the

Carter indicates that victim Daniel Davis was taken to ELWA Hospital where he was treated and discharged.

"It's important to note that Azonto and his gangs are on the run and are being pursued by the Anti-robbery of the LNP," the Police Spokesman continues, as he calls on the public to contact the police on the whereabouts of Azonto and any of his gangs on contact numbers: 0770800111; 0770800109; 0770800420; 0770800428; 0770800412 and 0780800412.

The Police assure members of the public that everything will be done to ensure that Azonto and his KUBAH gang will face the full weight of the law.

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Français

Le ministère de l'agriculture a reçu 15 millions de dollars américains

Une première dans l'histoire du Libéria. Sous l'administration Weah, avec Mme Jeanine Cooper comme ministre, le ministère de l'Agriculture a reçu 15 millions de dollars américains du gouvernement et de ses partenaires.

Selon les rapports trimestriels générés à la mi-2020, le ministère de l'Agriculture, grâce aux stratégies de lobbying de la ministre Cooper, a obtenu le financement de la Banque africaine de développement (ABD) qui a fourni 3,1 millions de dollars, du Fonds International pour le Développement Agricole qui a fourni 2,29 millions de dollars et de la Banque mondiale (10,525 millions de dollars) pour soutenir le plan national d'urgence COVID-19 pour la sécurité alimentaire, la nutrition et les moyens d'existence.

Les rapports indiquent également que sur ce dernier montant, 5 millions de dollars américains ont été acheminés par le biais du Programme alimentaire mondial en tant que contribution au programme gouvernemental de soutien alimentaire aux

ménages, qui vise à atténuer les impacts de la COVID-19 sur les agriculteurs.

La ministre Cooper se concentre maintenant sur mise à disposition des agro-machines, soit plus de 200 équipements de transformation agro-alimentaire, dont des motoculteurs, des rizeries, des tracteurs et des machines de transformation du manioc achetés dans le cadre du projet de transformation des petits exploitants et de revitalisation de l'agro-industrie (STAR-P) du

ministère pour permettre aux agriculteurs du pays entier de passer de l'agriculture traditionnelle à l'agriculture industrielle.

Mme Cooper, qui a est arrivée à la tête du ministère au milieu de l'année dernière, s'est également engagée à mettre à disposition des produits agrochimiques et des engrais. Il s'agit de plus de 50 tonnes de divers types d'engrais et des milliers de gallons d'insecticides et de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Dernière ligne droite pour un vote test pour le président weah

Les Libériens sont allés voter jeudi dans l'un des deux comtés qui retardent la proclamation des résultats d'un référendum et de sénatoriales ayant eu lieu le 8 décembre ailleurs dans le pays. Des violences avaient éclaté le 8 décembre dans le

comté de Gbarpolu (ouest), poussant les agents électoraux à fuir et les autorités à repousser le vote. La plus grande circonscription des sept de ce comté était concernée par le vote de jeudi, soit quelque 30.000 personnes.

Dans un autre comté, celui

de Grand Kru (sud), le dépouillement avait été arrêté en raison d'accusations de fraude, et les autorités ont décidé de rappeler les électeurs aux urnes le 13 janvier. Le vote y est prévu dans trois circonscriptions sur les huit du comté. Le nombre d'électeurs n'était pas immédiatement disponible."

Aucun incident n'a encore été rapporté depuis ce matin. Les gens votent pacifiquement et les membres des bureaux de vote travaillent en toute sécurité", a déclaré à l'AFP Henri Flomo, le porte-parole de la commission électorale.

Les élections partielles à Gbarpolu et Grand Kru n'auront pas d'effet déterminant sur l'issue globale du vote selon les observateurs mais elles ont retardé la publication des résultats totaux des scrutins du 8 décembre. La loi libérienne impose d'avoir les chiffres globaux avant la publication des résultats

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Éditorial

Le décret n° 103 de Weah et les difficultés économiques du Libéria

À la fin de 2020, le président George Manneh Weah a pris le décret n° 103, qui, selon la présidence, s'inscrit dans des efforts du gouvernement de stimuler la croissance économique, sans expliquer clairement le comment.

Le décret présidentiel n° 103 réduit les impôts ici et là, et effectue une série de dérogations, mais s'arrête avant de détailler comment l'économie libérienne, qui a piqué du nez, connaîtrait un revirement et une croissance qui avait diminué au cours des trois dernières années.

Par exemple, le décret présidentiel donne le pouvoir au commissaire général de l'Autorité fiscale du Libéria, en consultation avec le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, d'établir un calendrier de dérogations, dans le règlement, qui sera révisé chaque année pour l'octroi d'une dispense de cotisation. Des pénalités et des intérêts liés aux taxes foncières, aux droits de douane et aux prélèvements connexes, y compris ceux faisant l'objet d'un examen administratif, d'un contrôle judiciaire, d'audits ou d'examens en raison d'un ou des deux manquements à la production ou au non-paiement de ces taxes, droits et prélèvements à l'échéance.

« Tout contribuable qui ne profitera pas de l'offre pendant la période d'une année se verra refuser toutes exemptions annuelles futures pendant une période de 5 (cinq) ans, période pendant laquelle le contribuable sera soumis à des sanctions, dont la saisie et la confiscation des biens », a dit le décret présidentiel.

Mais comment les citoyens et les hommes d'affaires étrangers peuvent-ils rester fidèles au paiement régulier des impôts lorsque l'économie s'effondre en raison d'une grave pénurie de liquidités et de mauvaises ventes? Le Président n'a pas abordé la question clé de l'épuisement du compte consolidé du gouvernement auprès de la Banque centrale du Libéria, qui a conduit à emprunter aux banques commerciales sans payer ainsi, ce qui a eu une incidence sur la liquidité des banques.

Nous nous demandons également comment la réduction des taxes sur les billets d'avion de 10% à 7% et l'extension des permis de travail à cinq ans au milieu d'une pandémie mondiale accrue stimuleront la croissance d'une économie fortement basée sur la consommation.

« Frais de recouvrement des permis de travail et de séjour : tous les frais relatifs aux permis de travail et de séjour doivent être payés directement à l'Autorité fiscale du Libéria pour dépôt sur le compte consolidé du Gouvernement libérien. »

La présidence n'a pas non plus abordé le problème critique de la crise de confiance dans le secteur bancaire qui a été caractérisé par la restriction des retraits quotidiens, ce qui a inversé et découragé les usagers.

Si l'économie doit être relancée, le rétablissement de la confiance dans le secteur bancaire est essentiel pour générer des liquidités afin d'éviter la spéculation et la fuite des capitaux.

Le respect de la transparence et de la responsabilité est tout aussi important pour avoir une économie prédictive qui peut stimuler les prévisions et la fiabilité. Mais lorsque des milliards de billets de banque locaux sont imprimés et introduits dans le pays, mais jamais mis en circulation sans aucune explication, cela laisse place à l'incertitude et à l'appréhension.

Le président Weah et son équipe de gestion économique devraient élaborer un plan économique réaliste qui donnera aux Libériens l'espoir à court et à long terme de sortir du borbier actuel qui provoque de sérieuse hypertension et mort prématurée chez les pères de famille.

Français

Le ministère de l'agriculture

fongicides différents pour protéger les cultures vivrières contre les insectes et les maladies auxquelles les agriculteurs sont parfois confrontés.

Le ministère a également mis des semences à la disposition des agriculteurs. «En outre, dans le cadre du plan d'urgence, des boutures de manioc, des semences de riz et des plants de palmier à huile ont été achetés avec le financement du FIDA et les engagements financiers de la Banque africaine de développement. La BAD finance le projet d'amélioration et de commercialisation de la productivité agricole des petits exploitants (SAPEC) du MOA», indique le rapport.

Déjà, le ministère a lancé la distribution de variétés d'engrais et de produits agrochimiques ainsi que d'engins de sécurité, en commençant par 70 groupes d'agriculteurs à Montserrado et, avec des moyens logistiques déjà disponibles, la distribution se déplace vers Bong, Bomi, Gbarpolu Grand Bassa, et les comtés de Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi et Nimba seront ensuite servis. C'est le cas pour les comtés du sud-est du Libéria.

Pour la première fois, le Libéria dispose désormais des pépinières de cacao qui s'étendent sur 30,4 hectares à Beeplay, dans le comté de Nimba. D'ici 2025, des milliers de producteurs de cacao libériens n'auront pas à voyager ou à importer des graines de cacao des pays voisins pour planter.

Le Fonds international de développement agricole

(FIDA), par le biais du Programme d'expansion des cultures arboricoles (TCEP) du MOA, finance le développement des pépinières.

Le Ministère, dans le cadre de son projet conjoint de transformation de l'agriculture et de revitalisation des petits exploitants agricoles financé par le FIDA et la Banque mondiale (STAR-P), a distribué 23000 plants de palmiers à huile à haut rendement à des groupes de petits exploitants agricoles des comtés de Bomi, Bong, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa et Nimba.

Le programme STAR-P devrait acheter de l'huile de palme auprès des transformateurs locaux afin de stimuler les achats auprès des agriculteurs qui ont un accès limité aux marchés. L'huile de palme achetée fera partie des réserves alimentaires nationales actuellement gérées par l'Agence des services généraux.

Pour le programme agro-industriel, le ministère a eu un impact significatif sur le marché local ; le rapport montre qu'il y a une augmentation de production de biens de consommation emballés (CPG) à base de plantes au Libéria par les petites et moyennes entreprises. Les Libériens produisent du savon et des produits cosmétiques à partir d'huiles de palme et de noix de coco et à partir de beurre de karité local ; plusieurs entreprises produisant du rhum à partir de la canne à sucre ; jus de fruits, mélanges de cuisson, collations alimentaires comme les chips de plantain et le granola, fruits secs, épices et assaisonnements, entre autres

Dernière ligne droite

totaux définitifs.

Environ 2,5 millions d'électeurs avaient été appelés à se prononcer sur huit amendements à la Constitution, dont un réduisant la durée du mandat présidentiel de six à cinq ans. Les sénatoriales visaient à renouveler la moitié des 30 sièges de sénateur.

Le «oui» l'a emporté dans les cinq comtés où le dépouillement est achevé, sur les 15 que compte le Libéria, selon des résultats partiels publiés par la commission électorale le 15 décembre.

Aux sénatoriales, sur les sept comtés entièrement dépouillés, l'opposition en remporte quatre, contre deux pour le Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) de George Weah et un pour un candidat indépendant, selon la NEC.

Ces élections avaient valeur de double test pour le président Weah, qui avait soulevé un immense espoir en 2018 en accédant au pouvoir dans ce pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest toujours marqué par la guerre civile de 1989-2003 et l'épidémie d'Ebola de 2014-2016.

COMMENTAIRE

By Jan-werner Mueller

Destitution et inéligibilité immédiates pour Trump

BERLIN - Il y a un an, juristes et commentateurs débattaient de la question de savoir si destituer un président américain constituait une démarche de droit ou plutôt de politique. Les deux dimensions entrent évidemment en jeu, et il n'y a rien de problématique avec la dimension politique. En vertu de la Constitution des États-Unis, ce sont les acteurs politiques, et non les tribunaux, qui sont censés déterminer si un président a commis des « délits et crimes graves », et, aspect essentiel, si le chef de l'État représente ou non une menace réelle pour la république.

À moins de deux semaines de la passation de pouvoir entre Donald Trump et Joe Biden à la Maison-Blanche, le sujet est à nouveau sur la table, la présidente de la Chambre des représentants Nancy Pelosi ayant clairement affirmé que le président devait être démis de ses fonctions, soit au travers du 25e Amendement, soit par une procédure d'impeachment.

Encouragée par Trump, l'insurrection violente survenue au Capitole représente quelque chose de nouveau et de profane dans l'histoire des États-Unis. Même à l'approche de l'investiture de Biden le 20 janvier, la fonction de président n'est plus en sécurité dans les mains de Trump. Il doit faire l'objet d'une procédure d'impeachment (à nouveau), être démis de son poste, et ne plus jamais pouvoir exercer quelque fonction publique que ce soit.

Le Congrès est en droit de procéder à un impeachment, mais il n'est pas tenu de le faire. Il peut arriver que les législateurs se résolvent à tolérer certains écarts de conduite de la part du président, considérant que le coût associé au lancement de procédures serait supérieur aux bénéfices. Mais ne nous y trompons pas, ce n'est pas de cela dont il s'agit aujourd'hui.

De la même manière que le prononcé d'une sanction contre un responsable public adresse comme message la nécessité d'un engagement moral dans le domaine politique, l'absence de sanction envoie le message inverse. En votant l'acquittement de Trump l'an dernier, après le lancement d'une procédure d'impeachment par la Chambre des représentants autour du scandale ukrainien, les Républicains du Sénat ont fait savoir qu'ils n'avaient aucun problème avec la présence d'un président criminel de carrière, quelles que puissent en être les conséquences. Certains soutiens de Trump tels que la sénatrice du Maine, Susan Collins, espéraient que ces procédures serviraient de leçon à Trump. Et la leçon a eu lieu : Trump a appris qu'il ne s'exposait à aucune conséquence pour ses manœuvres consistant à contraindre illégalement autrui à lui concéder des faveurs, ou à biaiser les élections dans son propre intérêt.

Rappelons-nous le coup de téléphone « irrécusable » passé par Trump au président ukrainien Volodymyr Zelensky à l'été 2019, dans lequel le premier menace de suspendre l'aide militaire américaine à moins que l'Ukraine annonce l'ouverture d'une enquête contre le fils de Joe Biden, Hunter. Non inquieté pour cet abus de la fonction présidentielle, Trump poursuit son œuvre dans le cadre d'une autre discussion irrécusable à l'hiver 2020, lors de laquelle il tente un chantage auprès du secrétaire d'État républicain de Géorgie, Brad Raffensperger, pour que celui-ci falsifie en sa faveur les résultats de l'élection de novembre. Tous les Républicains qui ont condamné ce deuxième appel téléphonique devraient se demander pourquoi ils ont fermé les yeux sur le premier.

Si aucune sanction n'a lieu concernant l'insurrection au Capitole, les Républicains du Congrès signaleront à nouveau leur propre complicité dans ce crime. Le message sera alors de dire qu'ici encore, la situation est acceptable : un président en fonction peut, sans être inquieté, inciter à la violence contre l'un des trois piliers politiques de la république.

Certains font valoir le risque de voir un second impeachment et une inéligibilité permanente venir simplement provoquer la « base » de Trump. Or, cet argument ne tient plus. Quoi que fassent ou ne fassent pas les Démocrates ou les Républicains un minimum raisonnables tels que le sénateur Mitt Romney, Trump et ses soutiens des médias de droite continueront d'inciter le mouvement.

Le populisme de droite ignore en effet tous les rappels à la réalité ; un décompte pourtant bien réel des votes importe peu aux yeux de ceux qui se considèrent comme les seuls « vrais Américains » (et par conséquent comme les seuls qui comptent). La mobilisation des supposés « vrais Américains » contre les élites malfaisantes et les minorités (qui devraient toutes retourner dans leur « pays de merde ») constitue le modèle politique de Trump depuis le premier jour, de la même manière que son modèle d'affaires en tant que promoteur immobilier reposait sur le mensonge et la fraude. À maintes reprises, l'escroc de l'Amérique d'abord et Républicain opportuniste a investi dans cette entreprise politique, et il faudra plus qu'un léger épisode de sédition, accompagné d'une poignée de cadavres à Washington, pour le conduire à renoncer aux fruits de cette entreprise.

L'étape cruciale doit désormais consister non seulement à destituer Trump, mais également à l'interdire à vie de tout exercice d'une fonction politique. Bien que cela signifie anéantir définitivement les droits politiques fondamentaux d'un individu, de nombreuses démocraties prévoient cette possibilité. Selon la Loi fondamentale allemande, par exemple, ceux qui abusent de la liberté d'expression et d'autres libertés fondamentales pour mettre à mal la démocratie libérale peuvent se voir retirer leurs droits. Cette disposition n'a toutefois jamais été appliquée, notamment parce que les néo-nazis pour lesquels cette privation de droits était envisagée avaient d'ores et déjà été chassés de la sphère politique via des condamnations pénales.

Certes, la perspective d'une inéligibilité permanente vient contrarier une idée fondamentale de la démocratie : les individus peuvent changer de mentalité. Contrairement à ce qu'affirmait Hillary Clinton dans son célèbre discours de 2016 décrivant les trumpistes comme une « bande de déplorables », personne n'est totalement « irrécusable ». Si vous comptez parmi les nombreuses personnes favorables à la restauration du droit de vote pour les criminels condamnés, comment justifier une telle interdiction pour quelqu'un comme Trump ? Et si Trump venait à se repentir, à se réinventer lui-même ? Ne devrions-nous pas faire preuve de cohérence, et ainsi refuser de rendre inéligible quiconque à vie ?

Seulement voilà, cette repentance n'aura jamais lieu. Trump a toujours cherché à contourner le processus démocratique. Il ne s'agit pas d'un délit ou d'un crime comme les autres. Ce n'est pas non plus comparable aux affaires commerciales survenues avant (et pendant) sa présidence, pour lesquelles il pourrait être poursuivi. Non, lorsqu'un individu refuse de suivre les règles du jeu (notamment la règle selon laquelle « le candidat qui obtient le plus de voix remporte l'élection »), il est parfaitement acceptable que le joueur en question soit exclu.

Les Républicains accepteront-ils une telle démarche ? Nombre d'entre eux, tels que les sénateurs Josh Hawley pour le Missouri et Ted Cruz pour le Texas, font politiquement le pari de l'allégeance au mouvement d'extrême droite qui monte en puissance aux États-Unis. Mais d'autres pourraient chercher à s'extraire de la gueule du monstre Trump. Le chaos survenu au Capitole démontre qu'il ne peut y avoir de mouvement QAnon à la carte ; ni Trump, ni ses collaborateurs républicains ne peuvent contrôler les forces qu'ils ont déchaînées. La révolution dévore toujours ses propres enfants, et parfois même ses parents. Si les Républicains ne se détrompent pas pleinement et immédiatement, ils finiront par le comprendre - une fois la situation devenue beaucoup plus chaotique encore.

Agriculture nets US\$15m

Starts from back page

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

pieces of agro-processing equipment, including power tillers, rice mills, tractors, and cassava processing machines being procured under the ministry's Smallholder Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P) to enable farmers across the country shift from subsistence to mechanized farming.

Madam Cooper, who took over the ministry mid last year, has also engaged in provision of agrochemicals and fertilizers with more than 50 tons of various types of fertilizers and thousands of gallons of different insecticides and fungicides purchased through the Smallholder Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P) to protect insects and diseases against food and

70 farmers groups in Montserrado and, with more transport logistics arrangements already in place, the distribution moves to Bong, Bomi, Gbarpolu Grand Bassa, Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi and Nimba counties next to be subsequently extended to counties in southeastern Liberia.

The Cooper's leadership employed livestock producers, and empowered six large producers with feed mills to process feeds for their poultry, while a main producer in central Liberia received incubators to increase hatchery.

Vegetable seeds for Nimba and Lofa counties have been procured, while orders are in for 30 power tillers for those two counties under the IFAD's financed TCEP projects.

Additionally, more cassava processing, rice threshers and other agro machineries for farmers are expected in the country this year, the quarterly

Grand Cape Mount, Lofa and Nimba counties to boost planting of new acreage of oil palm.

The STAR-P program is expected to purchase palm oil from local processors in order to stimulate purchasing from farmers who have limited access to markets. The palm oil that is purchased will form part of the national food reserves currently being managed by the General Services Agency.

For the agribusiness program, the ministry has made significant impact on the local market; the report shows there is a surge in the production of plant-based consumer packaged goods (CPG) in Liberia by small and medium enterprises. Liberians are producing soap and cosmetic products from palm and coconut oils, and from local Shea butter; several companies producing rum from sugar cane; fruit juices, baking and cooking



tree crops which farmers face at times.

In order to boast the agricultural sector and have more food, the Ministry provided seeds, including vegetable seeds to bring relief to farmers who have lost incomes as a result of the pandemic.

"In addition, under the emergency plan, cassava cuttings, rice seeds and oil palm seedlings have been procured with IFAD's financing and African Development Bank's financing commitments. ADB funds MOA's Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization Project (SAPEC)," the report says.

Already, the ministry has kicked off distribution of varieties of fertilizers and agrochemicals as well as safety gears, beginning with

report indicates.

For the first time, Liberia now has a 30.4-hectare land cocoa seed garden in Beeplay, Nimba County. Planting of cocoa in this garden is progressing.

By 2025, the garden will provide cocoa seedlings to thousands of Liberian cocoa farmers who will not have to travel or import cocoa seeds from neighboring countries.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) through the MOA's Tree Crops Expansion Program (TCEP) is financing the garden's development.

The Ministry under its joint IFAD and World Bank financed Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P), distributed 23,000 high-yielding oil palm seedlings to smallholder farming groups in Bomi, Bong,

mixes, food snacks like plantain chips and granola, dried fruit, spice rubs and seasonings, among others.

The report also points out that with World Bank's funding, the Liberian government, through the MOA, has completed the evaluation of Liberian agribusinesses for both the formal and informal agribusinesses that applied for matching grants to minimize the effects of COVID-19 on them.

Meanwhile, the World Food Programme, through the MOA has requested for an extension of the World Bank's Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) from December 31, 2020 to June 30, 2021 to allow WFP completes the remaining counties. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Larry Younquoi

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States government.

His reaction follows wild allegations by Rep. Younquoi that Sen. PYJ, leader of the defunct rebels Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia or INPFL, killed more people from Nimba during the Liberian Civil War than all other former warlords in Liberia.

He terms the allegation as blatant lies, saying, "Larry just hate to see me."

Younquoi further claimed on Tuesday, 05 January in a live talk show in Monrovia that the rebel leader-turned politician has never disarmed since the end of the 14-year bloody crisis that killed over 300,000 people, including women and children.

But PYJ debunks the assertion, saying he fully disarmed to international peacekeepers thru the United States Embassy in Liberia.

"I surrendered my weapons to peacekeepers, and from

Nigeria, I issued a communication via video recording to one Joseph Kokor in July 1992, instructing all of my men to disarm, so they were disarmed", he says.

On claim that he was taken from Liberia by ECOMOG in the 90s as a mere refugee after surrendering to the regional force, Sen. Johnson says he left here under the umbrella of the Federal Government of Nigeria, and was not a mere refugee, as Younquoi alleged.

Relationship between the two Nimba lawmakers has never been cordial since Rep. Larry Younquoi got elected to the House, with the latter seeing Sen. PYJ as imposing and domineering in the county's politics, always wanting his voice to be the final.

But Younquoi has disclosed that he is on a mission to demystify Sen. PYJ, who he said, continues to portray himself to the Nimba people as a deity.

JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

SITTING IN ITS DECEMBER TERM A.D. 2020

BEFORE HIS HONOUR: **SCHAEPLOR R. DUNBAR** ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE





THE PETITION OF **RICHMOND KORMA AKOI** OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA PETITIONER PRAYING THIS HONOURABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE KNOWN, REGARDED AND CALLED, AS "RICHMOND DENNIS"

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME:

RICHMOND KORMA AKOI filed a Petition through his legal counsel requesting this Honourable Court to order the change of his name to "RICHMOND DENNIS"

During the hearing, the Petitioner's testified that the change of his name, requesting this Honourable Court is intended to reflect his true family name and render his 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 his name proposed by him is therefore, it is adjusted as follows:

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on SEPTEMBER 27, 1988 in MONROVIA, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, Republic of Liberia unt MR. JOSEPH DENNIS and MRS. MAMIE DENNIS respectively, all of the City of Monrovia Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia and that the Change of name will substantially promote his interest In all of the understandings and help to establish just identify more firmly, and been Satisfied that he has met all legal requirements for the Change of his Name in this Jurisdiction, it therefore DECREED as follows:

That the PETITION having been heard be and same is hereby ordered granted and we now Render that the name RICHMOND KORMA AKOI be changed to "RICHMOND DENNIS" Beginning this 5TH day of JANUARY A.D. 2021.

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 _____ DAY OF JANUARY A.D. 2021

COURT SEAL: **SCHAEPLOR R. DUNBAR**
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME _____ PAGE(S) _____

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Cont'd from page 7 **Liberian academic**

partnership, peace, unity, togetherness, justice, reconciliation, sustainable development at the University of Liberia, the nation's premier institution of higher learning...," he says.

launching of the book, Dr. Nelson announces that 15 of its copies were being purchased by the University of Liberia, as Dr. Pailey adds five copies to the number being purchased by UL. The book costs US\$50.00.

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S/Court halts Gbarpolu election results

By Winston W. Parley

Associate Justice presiding in Chambers of the Supreme Court of Liberia Madam Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh has ordered the National Elections Commission (NEC) to halt all actions, pronouncement or announcement on election from affected area (s) of Gbarpolu County, pending the hearing and decision of the complaint filed before the county's Elections Magistrate.

Last week election was rerun in a border town of

(s) of Gbarpolu County, pending the hearing and decision of the complaint filed before the Elections Magistrate of Gbarpolu County, up to and including the hearing and disposition of appeal by any party even up to the Supreme Court," the order dated 8 January reads.

Prior to the court's order, the rerun had already been conducted last week, pending pronouncement of official results when the process was then halted by the court. However unofficial reports appear to project Madam Kanneh to have maintained her

Election Day, 8 December and took away the boxes containing ballot papers and other voting materials.

Reports of voters' intimidation flared with many locals reporting the presence of a traditional (country) devil ordered in town by the Clan Chief, a diehard CDC supporter, which prevented many people from accessing the town.

In December, delegates of the main opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) including the party's head of secretariat Cllr. Aloysious Toe were arrested



Nomodatum, Gbarpolu County District #3, near Sierra Leone after it had been stalled for weeks due to election violence caused by a Clan Chief who unleashed a Traditional Devil on Election Day, 8 December 2020.

"By directive of Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Associate Justice presiding in Chambers, you are hereby informed to stay all actions/or pronouncement or announcement on the election of the affected area

lead over her rival Rep. Alfred Koiwood, though official results are pending the outcome of the election case.

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) on behalf of its senatorial candidate Rep. Alfred Koiwood filed the petition before the Supreme Court for the writ of prohibition against the NEC.

The election violence emerged in Gbarpolu after angry youth acting on the instructions of the Clan Chief stormed voting centers on

by state security officers in Gbarpolu County, amid continuing electoral violence that had stalled the senatorial election led by female independent candidate Gbotoe Kanneh.

The CPP said its delegation got arrested and detained beyond statutory period when it traveled to the county on a fact - finding mission to possibly lend technical support to Madam Kanneh.

River Cess citizens

Cont'd from page 6

cash and other things. Mainly our 30%, we have benefited from that. We have built a vocational training center with 56,340 US, and we have built a clinic that worth USD62,000. We are building a bridge that we have contributed 35,000 to. We have gotten money for the cubic meter fees and we have distributed 1,000 in each of the 75 towns in the 11 clans and have carried some things there. So, with benefit, we have really benefited, even though that may not be to our expectation," Wallace stated.

He said they signed a second agreement in 2016 on December 21, 2016 that covers land rental and scholarship besides cubic meter fees, adding, "So we supposed to receive 5,000 per semester for our students. But we went six semesters and we were only able to receive only two, the other four semesters left on the company and the company closed down unceremoniously and the only complaint they gave us is that pit sawyers illegally got into the forest

disappointment with the local authorities and the community people.

"I brought the matter to the attention of the FDA and it said the money being paid by the pit sawyers doesn't give them ground to saw in concession areas. It means that they supposed to go to leftover forest, where community people have their own forest. FDA again said it never knew that the people were sawing planks from the concession. They promised for us to work together and go to the forest to take the people from there, but since then we have not been able to form that team. It has been a year now, since January 2020. The sawing is against that contract. This is hampering the developmental needs of the county," Wallace concluded.

When contacted, the Chief Executive Officer of EJ and J Logging Company, Madam Mrs. Eliza D. J. Kronyahn, admitted the sudden departure of the company, stating that it has not been protected.

"I don't want to discuss this because it has to do with the



against the will of the CFDC and the company and they started sawing pieces. The company said since we could not do anything, it was leaving and since it left, we are not getting those benefits anymore."

He said all 11 affected communities have been affected since the closure of the company and there is no prospect for completion of those projects that had already started or to begin new development projects.

"The second contract has duration of five years, but the company closed down just in the second year. As I speak to you all the 11 communities are all affected by this, because it hampers our developmental progress," he lamented.

He added that they contacted relevant authorities, including Forestry Development Authority and the CEO of the company, Madam Eliza Kranyahn, who told them she has written an official communication to the FDA, stating her

government and FDA is the government. Just take car and go there and you will see exactly what really wrong. You will see it and nobody will have to tell you. Just go there and take picture," she explained.

"FDA is sitting here and a concession that the President has signed; the Legislature has ratified has been in a ruin. What happens, they will tell you. I paid all debts, I don't owe government one cent. Be it premier, be it reactive premier, or land rental, I paid all. So that's it yaa baby. The people put me in mess," said Madam Kranyahn, who is also Treasurer of the Liberia Timber Association.

FDA has yet to comment despite several engagements through calls and text messages to Managing Director Mr. C. Mike Doryen and Department of Communications. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Cont'd from page 6

suffices, in terms of Representatives J. Fonati Koffa and Clarence Massaquoi contesting as CDC and CPP lawmakers, respectively, the deciders will obviously come from the huge bloc of independent members as well as those from other parties.

LIS reveals that Rep. Fonati Koffa has an edge over his main contender; Rep. Clarence Massaquoi, who enjoys the endorsement of the CPP. Rep. Koffa is known to be affable, (human friendly) generous, and financially potent. He is very proactive and love to see things done. He is a 'goal getter'; thorough and assiduous;

Evidenced by his chairmanship on Judiciary committee in the House, he is a giant on the floor once in

Who becomes deputy speaker?

Session. Many of his colleagues look up to him for counsel and guidance on variety of issues and subjects.

Information gathered from the corridors of the House of Representatives, says Rep. Koffa has netted 35 lawmakers as strong supporters and dependable voters for the deputy speaker post.

House Speaker Bhofal Chambers, is reportedly but clandestinely supporting CPP's candidate Rep. Massaquoi for the deputy speaker post, against his (Chambers) CDC's candidate.

According to information available to this paper, Rep. Fonati Koffa seems to be the center of attraction in the pending Deputy Speaker election slated for Tuesday, January 12.

According to a source, Rep. Koffa and Speaker Chambers have never experienced a cordial

relationship, and the both southerners are always in sour relationship without even speaking to each other for couples of months. Chambers fears if Cllr. Koffa is given the chance to serve as deputy speaker, possibility of (him Koffa) dethroning is high.

Koffa had earlier thrown his hat in the race, but was advised by President George Weah to back off for Chambers. Chambers, who struggled to control legislative floor during heated debates in plenary, reportedly senses that the relationship of President Weah and Koffa have developed hugely.

Tuesday's election is expected to settle the dust over who becomes the next deputy speaker in the lower House. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Larry Younquoi envies me

-Sen. PYJ reacts to attack



Sen. Prince Y. Johnson

By Jonathan Browne
Nimba County Senator Prince Yormie Johnson sternly reacts to persistent attack from kinsman

Representative Larry P. Younquoi, on his personality, terming it as sheer envy due to the level of development he (Johnson) has undertaken in Nimba.

He brags of establishing a modern polytechnic university in Nimba, the first ever in the history of the county, claiming that in Representative Younquoi's two terms in office, he has never executed any development in electoral district#8, his constituency.

Speaking to The New Dawn Wednesday, January 06, 2021 via mobile phone in Monrovia, Sen. Johnson explained that unlike him, Rep. Younquoi has no home in Nimba, alleging that the Nimba district#8 lawmaker currently resides in a family house with no property or development of his own.

He points to establishment of the PYJ Education Foundation, a personal initiative, among other achievements, arguing that Bob Jones University and Oral Roberts University in America are not owned by the United

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Agriculture nets US\$15m

-as MOA jumpstarts activities

First in history, under the Weah administration with Madam Jeanine Cooper as Minister, the Ministry of Agriculture has netted US\$15 million from government and partners to invest in the sector.

According to quarterly reports generated in mid 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture through the

lobbying strategies of Minister Cooper secured the funding from the Liberian government, with the African Development Bank (ABD) providing US\$3.1 million, while US\$2.29 million came from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and US\$10.525 million from the World Bank to support the COVID-19 National Emergency Food Security, Nutrition and



Agriculture Minister Jeannie Cooper

Livelihood Plan. The reports also indicates that of that last amount, US\$5 million was channeled through the World Food Program as contribution to the government's COVID-19 Household Food Support Program, which is meant to mitigate impacts on farmers, should the Covid-19 pandemic continue amidst global shutdown of supply chains that may affect food. Minister Cooper is now focusing on agro machineries support with more than 200

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