



WEST AFRICAN DEMOCRACY AND RESILIENCE DIGEST

week 12



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West African Democracy and Resilience Digest



To support good governance, democracy and sustainable development in West Africa, The Abuja School of social and Political Thought takes a look at the activities in the region...

Here is a round up of your bi-weekly Democracy Digest, a quick summary of some important events from West African countries to note today

INTRO

NIGERIA



More details have emerged on how pressure from Labour, civil society organizations and other bodies, both local and international, forced the government to release the NLC President, Joe Ajaero. Ajaero was arrested and detained by the DSS at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja. He was en route to the United Kingdom, UK, where he was scheduled to attend and address the Congress of the Trade Union Congress, TUC, of Britain. He was to represent Nigerian workers in critical discussions on workers' rights and social justice. According to sources within the NLC, "all modalities for a nationwide strike had been concluded. It was only left for the National Executive Council, NEC, meeting earlier scheduled for Tuesday (10-09-2024) at 9 a.m. to endorse and declare the strike yesterday. All critical sector unions were already mobilized and were ready to begin a total strike yesterday until the NLC President was released unconditionally. Many groups, including the civil society organizations, CSOs, were already threatening fire and brim stones. It was equally gathered that the trade unions across the globe were already pushing their home governments to take action against Nigeria over alleged human rights abuses, and persecution of union leaders, among others. Among the unions are Public Service International, PSI; International Trade Union Confederation, ITUC; and IndustriALL Global Union, IGU. However, Ajaero was freed ahead of the 12 midnight. It was the deadline given government to free the detained labour leader. (<https://feji.us/sf1cqm>)

Four days before the September 15, 2024, date announced by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited to start lifting Premium Motor Spirit, popularly called petrol, from the Dangote Refinery, investigations by The PUNCH show that no commercial agreement has been reached to that effect by both parties. Multiple sources from NNPC and Dangote confirmed on Tuesday that the two oil firms had yet to reach a deal on the quantity and pricing of PMS to be lifted by the national oil company. On September 5, 2024, the Executive Vice

President of Downstream, NNPC, Adedapo Segun, said during a live television programme that the company would lift Dangote petrol on September 15. He also outlined factors that would determine the price of the commodity, as he stated that foreign exchange rates and market forces would influence the cost of petrol, stressing that the market had been deregulated. But on Tuesday, government sources close to the development revealed that no paperwork had been signed by both parties for the lifting of petrol from the \$20bn Dangote refinery by NNPC from September 15. They stated that the terms and conditions required for the deal had not been agreed on, stressing that the national oil company may not lift any petrol from Dangote on the announced date. When told that September 15, 2024, is around the corner and asked whether plans had been concluded for NNPC to lift Dangote petrol from that day, a senior official at Dangote refinery, who spoke to one of our correspondents in confidence due to lack of authorization to speak on the matter, said nothing had been agreed on pricing, and petrol lifting, among other things. (<https://feji.us/vdcbtf>)

Thousands of Maiduguri inhabitants have been displaced, with the Nigerian Correctional Service recapturing three inmates after a jailbreak, while 80 per cent of animals at the Sanda Kyarimi Park zoo died as Borno State suffered its most devastating flood disaster in 30 years, The PUNCH reports. Following the disaster, President Bola Tinubu, who's currently abroad, called for the immediate evacuation of residents in communities overtaken by floods. Seventy per cent of Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, has been submerged by the fast-moving waters, according to the National Emergency Management Agency, while the flood also ravaged other major city locations, including the palace of the Shehu of Borno, Umar Ibn Garbai El-Kanemi, the state secretariat, post office, cemetery, Lagos Area, Bulabulin, Gwange, Monday Market, University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital and Kofar

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Shehu. Some locations that I personally know and consider to be high ground, from the report we received, are already underwater, including Lagos Street, the market area, the palace of the Shehu of Borno, at least the front of the palace, we can see water there," NEMA spokesman, Manzo Ezekiel, told The PUNCH. About 70 per cent of the town is already underwater. So, many people are trapped as the flood intensified when people were sleeping; some people woke up to discover that they were inside water. The NEMA spokesperson said Borno's flat ground geology made it easier for water to flow into passage areas in Maiduguri city, adding that the flood began after the Alau Dam overflowed following heavy rains. The overflow of the main source of the dam in Borno State, called Alau Dam, has brought the city to be underwater since last weekend. So, our attention now and our energy are geared towards providing necessary support, by way of search and rescue, and supporting people that have been impacted. That is what we are doing now. (<https://feji.us/mjha53>)

Don't give up on Nigeria, Atiku urges Nigerians in Diaspora

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has urged Nigerians in the diaspora to remain strong and optimistic for a better future for Nigeria. Abubakar made the call at a virtual interactive session with some Nigerians in the diaspora on Saturday, according to a statement. Abubakar called on Nigerian citizens not to give up on the nation, regardless of the current socio-economic challenges. According to him, the state of the economy has led to untold hardship for millions of Nigerians and the poverty index has continued to rise. "I urge you not to give up just yet. Your strength and resilience are crucial to Nigeria's future," Abubakar said. Abubakar said Nigerians in the diaspora played a big role in shaping the country's future.

GHANA



The Minister of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, Martin Adjei-Mensah Korsah, has launched the Local Economic Development (LED) Policy (2024-2029) and implementation plan. The revised LED Policy is aimed at promoting a conducive environment at the district level for sustained local business growth, decent employment opportunities and economic empowerment for all Ghanaians. The policy also identifies eight objectives, 29 strategies and 124 activities for implementation over the period across the country. It is also in response to goal eight of the Sustainable Development Goals which is to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all and the Africa Union Agenda 2063. Guiding principles of the LED are leadership, public-private partnerships, collaboration, transparency and accountability, gender, equality, equity and inclusiveness, environmental sustainability amongst others. Launching the policy in Accra yesterday, Mr Korsah, MP, Techiman South said the revised LED policy presented the opportunity for Ghana to build on the successes of the 2020 Policy and address the gaps. According to him, LED, over the years had been regarded as a key function of local governments, specifically by creating an enabling environment to efficiently harness and utilise local resources for economic growth. He expressed the hope that the revised policy would be used to promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation. (<https://feji.us/bakcwi>)

2024 elections: IEA requests submission of questions on thematic areas Ahead of this year's Presidential and Vice-Presidential debate, the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) has called on stakeholders to submit questions on 12 thematic areas to its Debate Committee by Friday, September 14, 2024. The 12 thematic areas include macroeconomic management, national development, and energy security, management of natural resources,

development of agriculture, industry, and service sectors, and private sector development. Others are governance, social sector, environmental security, leadership, judicial delivery, and foreign policy. The IEA, in a press statement issued in Accra on Friday, and copied the Ghanaian Times, said the questions could be submitted in-person or through its email address. (<https://feji.us/u78w5q>)

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are projecting some marginal reduction in fuel prices from this month if the Ghana cedi remains stable against the US dollar. The Chief Executive of the Association of Oil Marketing Companies, Dr Riverson Opong, in an interview on Joy News in Accra yesterday stated that, "All the variables that influence prices of petroleum products have been fairly stable over the past week and if that is sustained going forward, then there should be a reduction in prices at the pumps. Mr Opong, however, pointed out that the Cedi's performance would be a "major push factor when it comes to reviewing prices from September 16, 2024, by the various oil marketing companies. He refuted criticisms that OMCs do not quickly adjust prices when the variables indicate a price reduction. There is always a reason, why the OMCs delay in reviewing prices at the pumps, and that has nothing to do with the arguments that they want to shortchange consumers," he indicated. Some OMCs earlier this month started reviewing prices at the pumps mainly influenced by the cedi's stability and a decrease in prices of crude oil on the international market. Dr Opong rejected the arguments that some of the OMCs collude to fix the prices of petroleum products. The Market is very competitive and it might be difficult for any operator to collude with another player. OMCs have little influence on the prices, this is because we take the price from Bulk Oil Distributors based on price. We factor the various levies and taxes and then our margins," he said. Our cost inputs are very high and margins are small and most of our members are

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struggling to break even and that is a fact,” he added. Dr Oppong revealed that the association was working to deal with complaints of service quality issues that have come up in recent times from some consumers. (<https://feji.us/s3ob9o>)

The Greater Accra Regional Minister, Daniel Nii Kwartey Titus-Glover, has issued query letters to all 29 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs) in the region for failing to attend the launch of a policy focused on local economic development. The launch of the Local Economic Development (LED) Policy (2024 – 2029) which was advertised to start at 8am in Accra yesterday delayed and started at 9:30 though Mr Glover and the Minister for Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, Martin Adjei-Mensah Korsah, had arrived well on time for the programme. When Mr Titus-Glover took the podium to address the participants which included representatives from academia and development partners, he asked that MMDCEs identified themselves but none was present. Fuming with rage, Mr Titus-Glover, a former Member of Parliament for Tema East said the chief executives would have to answer for their absence. When Mr Titus-Glover took the podium to address the participants which included representatives from academia and development partners, he asked that MMDCEs identified themselves but none was present. Fuming with rage, Mr Titus-Glover, a former Member of Parliament for Tema East said the chief executives would have to answer for their absence. We have come here to launch a policy on how to improve on your local economies and none of you is here? Such an important exercise and none of them is here? “These are the things they do and people blame we the politicians. They think we are close to elections so they can do what they like? We shall see,” Mr Titus-Glover stated. Speaking exclusively with the Ghanaian Times after the programme, Mr Titus-Glover said he has already directed his Chief Director to issue the queries to the chief executives. I am

going to deal with them. I have asked my Chief Director to issue queries to them. The Chief Executive has the mandate to monitor the project so they should have been here with their economic planning officers. These two people are very key in the implementation of the policy and should have been here,” he emphasized. (<https://feji.us/pg64k1>)

SENEGAL



Civil society calls for respect for citizens' rights. This call, contained in a press release sent yesterday to the newspaper *Le Quotidien*, follows the bans on leaving the national territory imposed on certain personalities of the former regime by the current one. And this, within the framework of accountability. Due to its commitment to the fundamental values of justice, equity and respect for the rights and duties of citizens, Civil Society welcomes any initiative aimed at strengthening the integrity of our institutions through responsible management of public affairs," states Civil Society. "Indeed, accountability, a pillar of democracy and social justice, must be based on solid legal foundations. To date, we have observed that bans on leaving the country are applied to people without any administrative or judicial decision previously notified to the persons concerned, allowing them to possibly seek defense through appropriate means of appeal," state the Civil Society organizations. "These practices, although they may be motivated by precautionary measures to safeguard public security and preserve national interests, risk undermining confidence in institutions and violating the rights of the persons concerned," warns Civil Society. However, precautionary measures such as restrictions on freedom, including travel bans, must be based on clear and transparent legal provisions, respecting the constitutional rights of citizens," these members of Civil Society emphasize. (<https://feji.us/bd2vbo>)

Yesterday, the deputies unanimously adopted the bill establishing the National Human Rights Commission (Cndh). With the vote on this bill, the Cndh will now replace the Senegalese Human Rights Committee. In the report of the Commission on Laws, Decentralization, Labor and Human Rights, the Minister of Justice, who defended this text, returned to its importance. Thus, in front of the deputies, Ousmane Diagne "recalled that in November 2012, the Senegalese Human Rights Committee was downgraded to status B because certain points of the Paris Principles concerning the status and functioning of national human rights institutions were not

respected by Senegal. This is how, he emphasizes, the "accreditation subcommittee made recommendations on the allocation of adequate funding by the State, the selection and appointment process, the need to appoint full-time members, as well as the power of the Csdh to recruit its staff freely." And to assure: "It is to correct all these shortcomings and dysfunctions that this bill was developed."

This bill, which was adopted, will therefore repeal and replace law n°97-04 of March 10, 1997 relating to the Senegalese Human Rights Committee. In committee, the Minister of Justice announced that "the proposed reform introduces the following major innovations: - the change of name from Committee to National Commission to harmonize with the name generally given to similar institutions on the international level, but also to dispel any ambiguity as to the status of the institution because it is often perceived as a civil society organization with the name Committee." In the same dynamic, it is noted "the change of name from member to commissioner, the reduction in the number of members of the institution, the establishment of a transparent and pluralist process for the designation of members, the appointment of full-time members, the strengthening of guarantees of independence of commissioners, the strengthening of the attributions of the institution in terms of protection, the strengthening of the financial, budgetary autonomy and the means of the institution. (<https://feji.us/wozum4>)

IVORY COAST

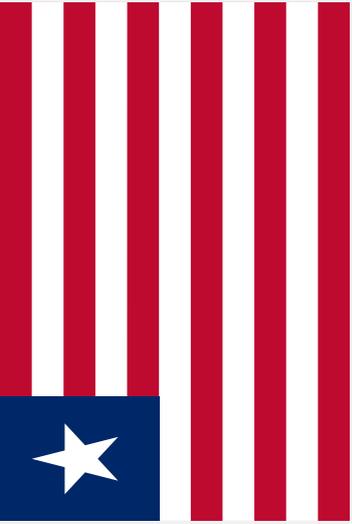


A large-capacity vessel carrying 75,000 tonnes of clinker, an essential raw material in the production of cement, docked at the bulk terminal of the Autonomous Port of Abidjan (Paa). This docking, a first in West Africa, was made possible thanks to the major investment work carried out in recent years by the Ivorian port authorities. On September 7, during a ceremony organized for this purpose, Essam Daoud, CEO of the Cultura group, expressed his satisfaction with the completion of this project. "The docking of a very large capacity vessel, a Panamax type ship measuring more than 230 meters, with a capacity of 75,000 tons, is a first in Côte d'Ivoire," he said. Adding that "many thought that this was not possible. This achievement demonstrates that with the will and thanks to an exemplary public-private partnership, ambitious projects can be carried out successfully. Essam Daoud also indicated that a lightening of 14,000 tons was necessary, at the anchorage level (floating docks), to allow this docking. Due to its length, this vessel had to be positioned to starboard. This consists of orienting the rear (tail) of the ship towards the left side. According to him, transporting large capacity ships gives private operators the opportunity to be more competitive. He welcomed the floating docks that will accommodate these types of ships and aims for even larger projects with this opening. (<https://feji.us/kghg9u>)

The Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural Council (CESEC), headed by Dr. Eugène Aka Aouélé, will open its second ordinary session of the year 2024 this Thursday, September 12 at 10 a.m., at the institution's headquarters in Plateau. This event will be marked by the presence of the Prime Minister, Head of Government, Mr. Robert Beugré Mambé, also Minister of Sports and Living Environment. This session is a continuation of the work begun during the first ordinary session, which was held from March 14 to June 20, 2024. Dr. Aka Aouélé highlighted the progress made under the leadership of the President of the Republic, HE Alassane Ouattara, by

emphasizing the importance of consolidating economic and social achievements. During this second session, the CESEC will address topics of national and international importance, including the contribution of non-state actors to the fight against climate change and the development of the food market. These themes reflect the priorities of the Ivorian Consultative Assembly, which had already explored issues such as the digital economy and sustainable housing during the previous session. This ordinary session will also be an opportunity for the CESEC to strengthen its international relations, after a first half of the year marked by fruitful collaborations with international organizations and private partners. The achievement rate of the objectives set during the previous assemblies reached 91%, thus illustrating the commitment of the CESEC to actively support the development of Côte d'Ivoire through strategic recommendations intended to guide public policies. (<https://feji.us/z3iszp>)

LIBERIA



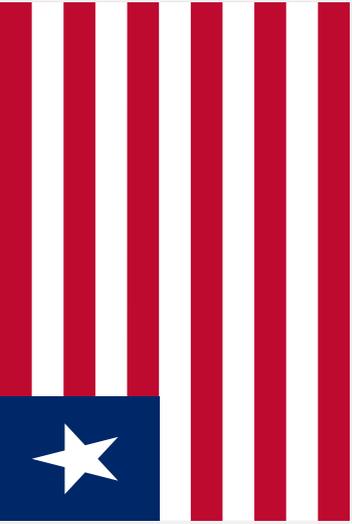
The “power of the purse” is a legislative power. The 1986 Constitution of Liberia lists the Legislature’s power, including the ability to apportion, borrow, and print money. With about 40 days to the preparation and submission of the Fiscal Year 2025 National Budget to the Legislature for robust scrutiny, Speaker J. Fonati Koffa has cautioned government ministries and agencies to make use of this period to make their respective cases for allocations to the Ministry of Finance and Development or the Office of the President. Speaker Koffa has advised heads of ministries and agencies against approaching him to discuss their budget needs, terming it as “not ideal. The Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 55th Legislature also advised the heads and representatives of the eighty (80) higher education institutions regarding the budget process, that partook in the three-day National Education Stakeholder Retreat in Ganta, Nimba County from Thursday – Saturday, 5 – 7 September 2024. Often, representatives from various ministries and agencies approach me to discuss their budget needs. While I am open to listening, this approach is not ideal. The proper channel is through your sectors’ chairs or their committee members. The Speaker added: “The Legislature’s job is to ensure that the President’s agenda aligns with legislative priorities. The President may propose, for example, US\$1 million for a particular sector, but if you believe US\$10 million is needed, it is up to you to make that case to the Executive before the Budget reaches us. So, during the budget process, engage with the Ministry of Finance and the President’s office, to ensure your numbers are included. And, of course, work closely with your committee’s chair to advocate for your needs. (<https://feji.us/ol69jm>)

The Press Union of Liberia (PUL) through its Interim Committee expresses deep sorrow over the passing of two esteemed members within the month of September. The journalism community is profoundly affected by this unfortunate sequence of events, marking a period of collective mourning as we bid farewell to Timothy T. Seaklon of the Independent Inquirer Newspaper and

Fidel Saydee of the Atlantic Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Radio. The late Journalist Timothy T. Seaklon, who died in Monrovia on September 4, 2028, served as Editor of the Inquirer Newspaper for many years before moving to the Independent Inquirer’s Newspaper, where he served as Managing Editor of the paper prior to his death. The deceased served the Independent Inquirer Newspaper over the past years diligently. As for the late Journalist Fidel Saydee, who served as Station Manager of ABC Radio, was pronounced dead at the Redemption Hospital in New Kru Town on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at about 2 pm, after a period of illness. Among other positions he held prior to his death was Director of Communication at the African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU). The two fallen members of the PUL will be highly missed for their individual contributions to the development of the Union, and their passing will leave a void. Meanwhile, the PUL extends condolences to the bereaved families of our two fallen colleagues’ families for their untimely deaths and urges them to take solace in the Lord as we mourn their loss. In this period of mourning, members of our Union are called upon to use Timothy and Fidel’s sudden passing to unite members of the PUL. The Union will soon announce the commencement of a shared book of condolence in honor of our departed colleagues, following consultations with their families and close associates. (<https://feji.us/vi8rgc>)

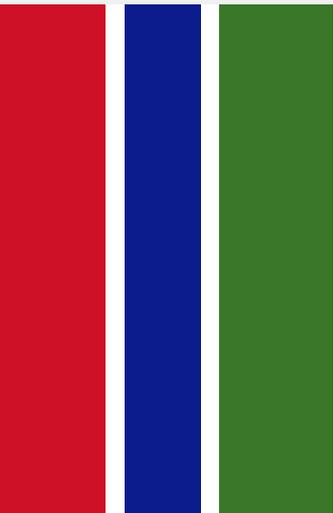
The House of Representatives has approved amendments to the Liberian Aliens and Nationality Law of 2022, unanimously removing restrictive clauses in the dual citizenship law. The revisions aim to protect the rights of natural-born Liberians who hold citizenship in other countries without renouncing their Liberian citizenship, allowing them to participate in elective positions. Previously, the dual citizenship provisions, enshrined in the Aliens and Nationality Law of 2022, allowed Liberians to retain their citizenship after acquiring a second nationality but required individuals interested in contesting elective positions to renounce their other nationality at least one year before applying to the National Election Commission (NEC). The recent amendments eliminate this requirement, acknowledging the circumstances that have led Liberians in the diaspora to acquire dual citizenship and ensuring

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they are not subjected to discriminatory practices. Additionally, the updated law grants the Justice Minister the authority to challenge an individual's citizenship, focusing on safeguarding residency for aliens of good moral character with substantial investments in Liberia. Streamlining the naturalization process, removing outdated regulations, promoting the employment of Liberians, and aligning laws with modern principles of reciprocity are other key features of the amended Alien and Nationality Law. The new Alien and Nationality law further removes references that are reminiscent of a colonial period in our country's history and aligns our laws based on reciprocity with other forward-thinking nations; and incorporates current government entities that were not in existence at the inception of the Law and clarify their functions and roles in the various processes to reflect the existing realities," a legislative source told the Daily Observer. Representative Musa Bility, the sponsor of the bill, emphasized that the amendments aim to align the Aliens and Nationality Law with the Liberian Constitution of 1986, creating a contemporary legal framework that addresses regulatory, policy, administrative, and operational aspects. The purpose of the bill is in compliance with Articles 27 & 28 of the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia (1986), amending Certain Provisions of the Aliens and Nationality Act of 2022, whose objective is to create a viable and contemporary Aliens and Nationality Laws with procedures and other functional activities, comprising regulatory, policies, administrative and operational," Bility said. (<https://feji.us/lts29i>)

GAMBIA



A new political movement calling itself the National Alliance For Change, was on Sunday unveiled at the Semega Janneh Hall, Serekunda East Park. According to the coordinator of the group, Lawyer Assan Martin, the NAC is a Gambian initiative for political change and an umbrella alliance comprising independent groups and concerned citizens seeking to change the dynamics and direction of politics in the 2026 elections. Lawyer Martin disclosed that the vision of NAC is to provide an ethical and fair country, promoting youth leadership, participation, winning back national sovereignty, putting an end to two-party dominance and political cultism. The political narrative has to be change in this country. because really our politicians have definitely failed us as leaders. So that is why we did a proper consultation to ensure that new crop of Gambians who are ready to come to the political terrain, "he added. Lawyer Martin continued: "Believe me, we have outstanding Gambians whom we have already spoken to and who are convinced that we have to stand up if we want to change this country. The current state of the country is as bad as 2016. This will not help our future generation". He called on all Gambians to join the movement. Speaking earlier, Lamin Manneh, a former secretary general of the Gambia federation for the disabled said of the three regimes that ruled Gambia, Barrow is the worse. He accused the Barrow regime of caring less for the disabled. (<https://feji.us/gcp2h0>)

National Assembly members yesterday agreed to a proposal to make same sex relations an offense punishable by a jail term of five years minimum. The Assembly is currently considering the 2020 criminal offences bill where this provision is contained. The bill initially provided that 'any person who engages in a sexual act with any person against the order of the nature or engages in a sexual act with an animal or permits any person to engage in sexual act with him or her against the order of nature commits a misdemeanor and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for two years. However, following a careful consideration yesterday, the Assembly

proposed that such offences are "aggravative" and require "rigorous imprisonment. Same sex is an uncomfortable subject for many religious societies in Africa including The Gambia. Successive governments in many countries have put in place laws prohibiting it much to the annoyance of many human right advocates. (<https://feji.us/da9hcxp>)

In another explanation about a major change in the controversial draft constitution, the government has explained why a clause in the 2020 draft which provides for presidential elections to be held six weeks before the end of the president's term, has been changed to three weeks, as obtained in the 1997 constitution. In its explanatory note about this changes, the government said: "Clause 82(2) of the 2024 draft amended it to the effect that the election of president will be held within three months but not later than six weeks before the end of the term of the incumbent president." "The 2020 draft provides a specific minimum timeframe but does not specify a maximum period, allowing elections to potentially occur long before the six-week period. The 2024 draft now provides that the election must occur within a specific window — starting from three months before, and ending six weeks before the term's end. This provides a more defined timeframe, marking both the earliest and latest possible dates for the election. According to the government, while the 2020 draft allows for more flexibility regarding the election date, it might introduce unpredictability and planning challenges. On the other hand, the 2024 draft with its defined three-month window, provides a blend of flexibility and predictability, potentially leading to more orderly elections and smoother transitions of power. By setting a precise range, Clause 82(2) might better serve the practical aspects of organizing and conducting presidential elections in a structured manner," the government argued. (<https://feji.us/ak0zml>)

NIGER



The Minister of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management, Mrs. Aichatou Lawan Wandarama, began a working visit to Maradi on Monday, September 9, 2024, focusing on the humanitarian situation resulting from the floods. Upon her arrival, she went to the Communal District 2 where she was able to see the availability of food (rice and millet) intended for the victims of this commune. On site, she witnessed the distribution of this food which is underway. In front of the beneficiaries, she indicated that she had come to present her condolences to the victims of the floods, to sympathize with their pain and to ensure that the State's donation of food is actually being made available to them. The Minister of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management then went to the family resettlement site where 197 families will be relocated and where a temporary health center is being set up. Tarpaulins to be used as housing have also been installed for the most part and toilets are being built. At the OPVN stores, the ministerial delegation noted the availability of food, donated by the State, but also the aid provided by people of good will consisting of food and clothing. In the afternoon, Minister Wandarama visited several families bereaved by the collapse of houses, particularly in the Sabon Gari district where four (4) neighboring families each lost a child. Finally, she visited the Bagalam Girls' School which currently accommodates more than 200 families. The Minister asked them, with the start of the

school year approaching, to do everything possible to establish civil status documents for their children so that they can go to school. (<https://feji.us/dae70d>)

The Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Finance of Niger, Mr. Ali Mahamane Lamine Zeine met, this Monday, September 9, 2024 at his Office, a delegation from the Republic of Azerbaijan, led by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of this country to the African Union, Mr. Ruslan Nasibov. (<https://feji.us/vcx1ud>)

SIERRA LEONE



President Bio last week, spoke about global peace and security at the 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit in Beijing, underscoring the urgent need to address global injustice and ensure fair representation for all nations. The President highlighted that Africa, having experienced the devastating impact of conflict, must be fairly represented in global decision-making platforms such as the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Your Excellency, President Xi Jinping, President of The People's Republic of China; Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government here present; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen. I express my profound gratitude to His Excellency President Xi Jinping and the Government of the People's Republic of China for their warm hospitality and the impressive arrangements for this 2024 FOCAC Summit. The Summit's thematic focus on Peace, Collaboration, Industrialisation, and a Shared Future couldn't have been more pertinent. This High-Level Event on Global Peace And Security is timely and of utmost importance to us all. Across the globe, we are witnessing unprecedented challenges that are not just threatening, but actively eroding the very fabric of our societies. The urgency of the situation cannot be overstated. (<https://feji.us/evltua>)

When complacency becomes the enemy of political stability

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has through its multilateral armed force ECOMOG, a history of successful military interventions to "restore constitutional order within the region. To sports fans ECOMOG is VAR; a formal arrangement for separate armies to work together. Just like the USA in NATO, Nigeria does the heavy lifting with larger numbers of personnel and resources. ECOMOG's successes include the interventions in Liberia (1990), Sierra Leone (1997), Guinea Bissau (1999), Cote D'Ivoire (2002) and Liberia again (2003), Mali (2013), and Gambia (2017) and many other troubled nations. Despite the collateral damages, this military body has not only helped to restore constitutional order but also prevented serious blood bath across the region. Many see it as a force for good. (<https://feji.us/icoomq>)

NRM demands APC Leadership adhere to 2022 Constitution or face serious repercussions

The National Reformation Movement (NRM), is taking a firm stand against the leadership of the All People's Congress (APC), demanding strict adherence to the party's 2022 Constitution. This strong warning comes amid growing concerns about internal governance and constitutional compliance within the APC. In a recent statement, the NRM, known for its advocacy for internal reforms within the APC, emphasized the critical need for unity and constitutional integrity to prevent escalating conflicts and potential legal disputes. The statement, released by NRM Chairman Ing. Philip Milo Kamara, underscored the NRM's commitment to upholding the party's constitutional mandates, particularly those outlined in section 47(a and b(iv)). These provisions require the party leader and deputy leader to resign within six months after the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL) announces election results, irrespective of ongoing court petitions. (<https://feji.us/i4hcom>)

MALI



The former deputy of the alliance for solidarity in Mali - Convergence of Patriotic Forces and third vice-president of the office of the association of friends of Fulani culture, Tabital Pulaaku, Idrissa Sankaré, kidnapped on Wednesday August 14, in Bamako was released by his captors. The circumstances that led to his release are currently unknown. In any case, it was on the morning of Tuesday, September 10 that the news of the release of former MP Idrissa Sankaré by his kidnappers gained momentum. These relatives contacted by us confirmed the news of his release without providing further details on the circumstances that led to this release. No information has filtered out on the identity of the perpetrators of this kidnapping and the place of detention. The political family and relatives of former MP Idrissa Sankaré have remained without this news since Wednesday, August 14, 2024, the date on which he was kidnapped by unidentified men in the Malian capital. (<https://feji.us/zik821>)

Press release from the Council of Ministers of Wednesday, September 11, 2024

The Council of Ministers met in ordinary session on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, in its deliberation room at the Koulouba Palace, under the chairmanship of Colonel Assimi GOITA, President of the Transition, Head of State. After examining the items on the agenda, the Council: adopted draft texts, and heard communications. (<https://feji.us/hndlj2>)

Crisis within the M5-RFP: the real reasons for the vindictiveness At the formation of the first Transitional Rectification Government, some Barons of the M5-RFP were among the first that Prime Minister Choguel consulted to be members and take charge of certain pressing demands of the Movement including the fight against corruption, financial delinquency and impunity. Surprise and intrigue: they flatly refused the proposal, and even told some "that they are not going to get involved with a team that will not last more than 3 months. (<https://feji.us/f1978j>)

BURKINA FASO



Due to the celebration of the Maouloud festival which takes place on Sunday, September 15, 2024, the Minister of State, Minister of Civil Service, Labor and Social Protection, in a press release, informs workers and employers in the public and private sectors that the day of Monday, September 16, 2024 is declared a paid holiday throughout the national territory. (<https://feji.us/f3oowy>)

Karamoko Jean Marie TRAORE, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation and Burkinabe Abroad, chaired a meeting on Tuesday, September 10, with a Ghanaian delegation on a 24-hour stay in Ouagadougou and led by Albert Kan-DAPAAH, Minister of National Security of Ghana. This meeting, according to the head of Burkinabe diplomacy, was intended to be a framework for strengthening cooperation between Burkina and Ghana.

"I would like to express the satisfaction of the Burkinabe government for the good collaboration with our brothers and sisters in Ghana. I reiterate our gratitude in the context of the management of Burkinabe refugees who, due to the security crisis, find themselves in Ghana, " said the head of Burkinabe diplomacy, adding that our compatriots live in good harmony with the brotherly people of Ghana. (<https://feji.us/o5u5ty>)

WEST AFRICAN DIGEST



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