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These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.  
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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**P11**

# Cummings rallies Liberians for victory

CPP Mr. Cummings



**P11**

# Amb. McCarthy an opposition supporter -Pro-Tempore Chie alledges

US. Ambassador Michael McCarthy Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie

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# Continental News

## Air strikes pound Sudan capital as truce extended

Air strikes have pounded Sudan's capital, Khartoum, despite a truce aimed at allowing civilians to flee. The army said it was attacking the city to flush out its paramilitary rivals, the

intensive diplomatic efforts by neighbouring countries, the US, UK and UN. It was extended, but did not hold. However, it remains unclear on what they will do in the next stage of the deal arrived at with US and Saudi mediation, according to the army. The

expel the RSF from Khartoum - for all the army's superior firepower, the paramilitaries are highly mobile and more suited to urban warfare, our correspondent adds.

Before the announcement of the extension on Sunday, the army said it had conducted operations against RSF troops north of the city centre. On Monday, the World Food Programme announced that it was resuming its operations in Sudan, reversing its decision to pull out two weeks ago, after three of its staff were killed when fighting erupted in Khartoum. Hamid Khalafallah, from the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy, is one of those unable to flee.

"When there is very loud bombing and it gets closer, we take shelter in the house, try to all come to a central room, far from windows, far from walls, and so on, and just lie on the floor until it passes. When it's a bit further, we try to use the quiet hours that we get - a couple of hours a day - to just quickly go out and get what we need which is also very risky but we have to do it," he told BBC Newsday. Mr Khalafallah said his neighbourhood was dotted with RSF checkpoints, with people risking their lives every time they had to negotiate their way past. "It's basically a gamble. Sometimes they let you through, sometimes they don't. Sometimes they shoot at you, sometimes they steal your things and it's very random," he added. BBC

country is now in a civil war, says Sudanese businessman and philanthropist Mo Ibrahim, and its conflict must not be allowed to spill over its borders and become regional. "We don't want another Syria," he told the BBC, adding that it was difficult for either side to win outright. BBC diplomatic correspondent Paul Adams, who is monitoring events from the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, says the fighting is concentrated mainly in the north of Khartoum, close to the confluence of the Blue and White Niles, but right across the city, people are huddled in their homes, wondering whether it is more dangerous to stay or leave. The army will find it difficult to



Watch: Khartoum branch of Sudan Central Bank in flame

Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The fighting intensified even as the warring sides said they would extend the truce by another three days.

More than 500 deaths have been reported with the true number of casualties believed to be much higher. Millions remain trapped in Khartoum. Army commander Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and RSF chief Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, better known as Hemedti, are vying for power - and disagree in particular about plans to include the RSF into the army.

The generals agreed a humanitarian truce after

## Egypt frees Al Jazeera journalist after four years

A journalist from the Al Jazeera network has been freed in Egypt, four years after he was arrested, the Qatari media organisation says. Hisham Abdel Aziz was detained in 2019, reportedly on suspicion of belonging to a terrorist group. He was subsequently freed then rearrested. The broadcaster quoted Mr Aziz's family as saying he was back at home in Cairo.

He is one of several Al Jazeera staff arrested in Egypt since the current leadership came to power in 2013.

In July of that year, the then-Islamist president, Mohammed Morsi, was overthrown by the military following mass protests.

Rights groups say that since then tens of thousands of people have been arrested in a

crackdown on dissent. Many have been accused of links to the banned Islamist Muslim Brotherhood movement, which Egypt has accused Al Jazeera of supporting. According to Al Jazeera, Mr Abdel Aziz was arrested at Cairo airport on his arrival from Qatar, where he was based. He was on his way to see

his family, it said. A relative told the US-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) that Mr Abdel Aziz had been charged with membership of a terrorist group. Al Jazeera said his detention had been repeatedly extended on "baseless allegations" and that his health had suffered. BBC



Hisham Abdel Aziz was arrested on his way to visit family in 2019

## Stranded in Sudan with passports locked in Western embassies

A number of Sudanese citizens are unable to escape fighting in their country because their passports are locked inside European embassies. The BBC has spoken to several people whose passports were being processed for European visas when war broke out. Western diplomats evacuated without giving the passports back and now the embassies are closed. Spain's foreign ministry urged people to obtain travel documents from the Sudanese authorities.

Rami Badawi, 29, told the BBC he was stranded in Khartoum because the French embassy refused to return his passport. Mr Badawi works at the Sudan offices of a French technology company. His passport was at the embassy because he was applying for a visa for a business trip to France. "I want to leave but I can't," he said.

Mr Badawi contacted the

French embassy after the fighting broke out, asking if he could come and collect his passport. But he says they did not reply to his emails. The French embassy has not responded to the BBC's request for comment. "They started their evacuation and left without any communication." Speaking to the BBC on Sunday evening, he said he was angry and afraid: "I can hear the sound of guns from morning till night". His mother, father, and siblings have their passports and they planned to travel by bus to Egypt. They faced the agonising decision of whether to leave without him, but the whole family decided to stay in Khartoum rather than leave him there alone.

The main available routes out of Sudan are currently to take a bus to the northern border and cross into Egypt, or to travel to the coastal city of Port Sudan and take a boat



Rami Badawi and his siblings are stuck in Khartoum

passport is very valuable, I need it to escape from this war. And what hurts the most is that I never got any replies." Another man, who asked not to be named, said he felt "less of a human" after the Spanish diplomats evacuated themselves and their citizens without replying to his requests to return his passport. He told the BBC he managed to cross the border into Ethiopia using an old passport that had expired two years ago - but that was just luck. The Spanish foreign ministry told the BBC: "The Embassy closed its attention to the public and, since the evacuation, there is no longer a possibility to access it, among other reasons because of the huge security risk." The ministry said that warnings about this were posted on social media. "People who left their passport there have been urged to obtain another travel document from the Sudanese authorities," the ministry said. The Embassy of Sweden in Khartoum is also accused of failing to return passports before they evacuated their staff.

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# EDITORIAL

## No Liberians should die because of voter trucking

**RECENT NEWS** that three Liberians died and 12 others left hospitalized recently following a motor accident near Yao - Lepulah Town, in Nimba County while they were being trucked from Ganta towards Buu-Yao electoral district#5 to participate in the biometric voter registration is unfortunate. No Liberian has to die just to please a politician's quest for power.

**THE VICTIM** reportedly included a pregnant woman and 58-year-old Beatrice Glanma, identified as sister of a representative aspirant, James G.K. Sumah, who was allegedly trucking some eligible voters to have them registered.

**ACCORDING TO** report, since the BVR process kicked off in Nimba, representative aspirants, including those seeking re-election have been allegedly trucking people from one county to another, including from Ganta to Grand Gedeh and Grand Kru County in the southeast, while some leave from Ganta to Bong County, and from Monrovia to Ganta, respectively, among others.

**THE NEW DAWN** gathered that this act is taking place in all nine electoral districts of Nimba and elsewhere across the country in flagrant violation of the electoral law.

**SOME OF** the people being trucked are offered an initial amount of US\$50 each to go get registered and then wait until after casting the vote on polling day on October 10, to receive the balance US\$50 each.

**THIS PRACTICE** in our electoral process needs serious intervention to put an end to it or else, more lives could get lost before actual voting day, as poverty-stricken citizens in desperation are lured by selfish politicians.

**THE NATIONAL** Elections Commission under the chairmanship of Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah has persistently warned that voters-trucking is a violation of the Constitution and the elections law, as citizens 18 and above, are required to register and vote where they reside.

**HOWEVER, WE** urge the NEC to go beyond mere warning in the face of widespread trucking and stamp its feet down firmly by bringing perpetrators to book which will serve as deterrence to would-be truckers. We suggest that if caught, both those being trucked and those facilitating the process should be punished.

**AS LIBERIANS,** it is important that we sincerely endeavor to making our electoral process as clean and fair as possible, not only to maintain the trust of our international partners, but to maintain our respect as a people.

**ANYONE GOING** into a competition must be ready to play by the rules and demonstrate confidence in winning at the end rather than devising schemes to cheat in a bid to gain undue advantage just to satisfy their selfish desires. Such people, when they managed in getting their way thru, are nothing but a complete disservice to those they claim to lead, as we have experienced over the years in our body politics with painful consequences.

# COMMENTARY

By Carlos Lopes

## How Europe's Carbon Border Tax Could Help Africa

**J**OHANNESBURG - As the European Union pursues vigorous efforts to achieve its targets under the Paris climate agreement, the bloc's proposed carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) offers the tantalizing promise of cleaner industry and reduced emissions within and beyond its borders. By putting a price on the carbon dioxide emitted during the production of certain imports, the system aims to level the playing field between EU and third-country businesses and prevent so-called "carbon leakage" - the shifting of carbon-intensive industries to countries with weaker environmental standards.

A key objective of the CBAM is to generate "own resources" for the bloc: the EU expects that, by full implementation in 2030, the mechanism will raise around €10 billion (\$11 billion) annually, which is earmarked to repay the bloc's pandemic recovery debt. Perhaps more importantly, the CBAM will have global implications. While the mechanism could accelerate the green transition by effectively exporting the EU's stringent climate targets, it could also adversely affect developing economies, particularly in Africa.

One of the main concerns is that the CBAM, which officially begins its transitional phase in October 2023 and will initially apply only to cement, iron and steel, aluminum, fertilizers, electricity, and hydrogen, could significantly increase the cost of exporting to the EU. This would be especially problematic for African economies, which already face some of the highest trade barriers in the world and often rely heavily on exports to drive growth. David Luke, a London School of Economics professor specializing in African trade policy, recently warned that the CBAM tax may reduce African exports to the bloc by almost 6%.

More broadly, the tariff may have a disproportionate impact on countries with weaker economies and limited infrastructure. Lacking the capacity to meet the EU's stringent carbon standards would put these countries at a competitive disadvantage and further widen the economic gap with the bloc. An analysis by the Center for Global Development found that Mozambique's GDP, for example, could plausibly fall by 1.6%, given that the country sent more than half of its aluminum exports to the EU in 2019.

There are also concerns that the EU might, at a later point, impose trade sanctions against African states that fail to meet its emissions targets, exacerbating economic precarity and straining an already fragile global trading system. More immediately,

managing the CBAM, which requires countries to calculate emissions associated with goods produced domestically, will require technical knowhow and administrative capacity that many governments simply do not possess.

At the same time, it is important to recognize the CBAM's potential to drive positive change in African economies. By encouraging a reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions, the tariff could lead to the development of new industries and technologies that are less reliant on carbon-intensive processes. This, in turn, would create new economic opportunities and support more sustainable growth. The green transition is often touted as a job creator globally, and in Africa, the renewable-energy sector has the potential to create up to four million new jobs by the end of this decade.

Furthermore, African countries that are already making efforts to decarbonize would benefit from the EU's strategy to rein in carbon leakage. A clean-energy revolution will also go a long way toward boosting full electricity access, which, according to the International Energy Agency, could be achieved by 2030 with an annual investment of \$35 billion - less than 1% of global GDP. More than half of the estimated 770 million people currently living without access to electricity are located in Africa.

Ultimately, any implementation of the CBAM must consider the unique challenges African countries face. For starters, the EU currently accounts for about 8% of global greenhouse-gas emissions (and is historically a large emitter), while Africa's contribution is relatively small, around 4%. And yet the latter will bear the brunt of future global warming. Moreover, implementation requires a differentiated approach that makes allowances for widely varying levels of development. This could include providing financial and technical support to help African governments meet the EU's carbon standards and exempting certain products or sectors that are of particular importance to the continent's economies.

A carbon border tax is just one tool in the fight against climate change. It may prove to be a powerful force, but only if it includes provisions to mitigate adverse effects on developing economies. Just as addressing global warming requires a collaborative approach, applying the CBAM requires the EU to work closely with governments in Africa to support the continent's climate resilience. Failure to do so would undermine the mechanism's transformative potential.



# Financing the Common Good

**L**ONDON - The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank recently held their annual spring meetings, which, according to the organizers, produced a “strong message of confidence and a willingness to cooperate.” But lofty rhetoric and good intentions will not be enough to create a truly inclusive and sustainable economy fit for the twenty-first century. For that, deep structural change is needed.

Some are calling for it. Mia Mottley, the prime minister of Barbados, advocates a “New Consensus” between wealthier and less wealthy countries. Similarly, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has called for a “Common Agenda” - a roadmap for global intergovernmental cooperation aimed at moving from “ideas to action.”

Reforming international finance and cooperation goes to the heart of how we “do capitalism.” If we are serious about the Common Agenda, then it needs to be complemented by a new economics of the common good.

The international monetary system that emerged in the aftermath of World War II undoubtedly represented an important innovation. But its structure is no longer fit for purpose. The challenges we face today - from climate change to public-health crises - are complex, interrelated, and global in nature. Our financial institutions must reflect this reality.

Because the financial system echoes the logic of the entire economic system, this will require a more fundamental change: we must broaden the economic thinking that has long underpinned institutional mandates. To shape the markets of the future, maximizing public value in the process, we must embrace an entirely new economics.

Most economic thinking today assigns the state and multilateral actors responsibility for removing barriers to economic activity, de-risking trade and finance, and leveling the playing field for business. As a result, governments and international lenders tinker on the edges of markets, rather than doing what is actually needed: deliberately shaping the economic and financial system to advance the common good.

This helps to explain why the world is making so little progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, which are supposed to be achieved by 2030, and why, as action lags, the costs of meeting the SDG targets are rising. Reflecting the current system’s inability to respond promptly to crises, let alone prevent them, the SDG financing gap has increased from \$2.5 trillion annually before the COVID-19 pandemic to between \$3.9 and \$7 trillion today. While compensating countries for the loss and damage they suffer as a result of climate change or other crises is essential, creating the kind of sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economies envisioned by the SDG agenda will require a proactive approach.

At the same time, many developing economies are struggling with large debt burdens, exacerbated by an international trade and monetary system that favors rich countries. To mitigate, prepare for, and prevent crises, developing economies need patient, long-term finance. The question is how to mobilize and direct it.

The answer must reflect the principle of the common good. The need for governments, international financial institutions (IFIs), and multilateral development banks (MDBs) to account for the public good is well established. It is widely agreed, for example, that governance is needed to manage digitization, guide the energy transition, and protect public health. But this consensus remains rooted in an ex-post mindset: the state intervenes only to correct market failures. Instead, state actors should be deliberately shaping - even co-creating - markets in which the common good is the primary objective.

Acting ExAnte

Such a system requires an outcomes orientation; collaboration and knowledge-sharing; equity, accessibility, and sustainability; and transparency and accountability. In each of these areas, the “how” is just as important as the “what.”

The first step toward ensuring that finance supports the common good is to establish a clear mission. The 17 SDGs - with their 169 underlying targets - offer an ideal framework. But governments, IFIs, and MDBs must articulate their objectives and commit to designing the tools, institutions, and financial instruments needed to advance them.

This will entail a fundamental rethinking of the “social contract” between the state and business, with governments (as well as IFIs and MDBs) using innovative incentives, partnerships, and conditions to align private finance with the public mission. For example, the German state-owned bank Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) has promoted the green transition by issuing loans to the steel sector, conditioned on firms’ reduction of their resource use and greenhouse-gas emissions. Such interventions work

not by leveling the playing field, but by tilting it toward the desired outcomes.

If done right, missions can shift the emphasis from financing particular sectors or types of firms to promoting ambitious goals that require cooperation among many sectors and types of firms. Rather than picking winners, the state would coordinate intersectoral responses among the willing.

Second, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of broad-based cooperation - within and across borders - to tackle global challenges. And yet, rich countries, aided by a flawed system of intellectual-property rights, hoarded vaccine doses when they became available, and subsequent efforts to support effective redistribution were far from adequate. By making accessibility and equity an explicit objective, this “vaccine apartheid” could have been avoided, and more than a million lives could have been saved.

Unfortunately, the world seems to be moving away from cooperation. Tensions between the United States and China are increasing the risk of financial fragmentation, and divergent investment strategies by regional MDBs are not helping matters. In fact, MDBs, which together hold \$509 billion in assets and loans must play a central role in advancing mission-oriented policy, because they typically offer developing countries concessional financing. In its recent SDG Stimulus report, the United Nations estimates that MDBs could increase their loans by \$487 billion - and nearly \$1.9 trillion if governments paid in more capital. If these loans are to be leveraged for the common good, MDBs must incorporate shared objectives into their mandates.



More broadly, a common-good approach requires a comprehensive framework for global collaboration, coordination, and knowledge-sharing. What counts as collective intelligence must be clearly defined, and structures that impede its formation (such as IP regimes) must be reformed. Likewise, if countries are to invest in tackling shared challenges, they must be able to benefit from a more equitable global financial system. Specifically, they need sufficient administrative capacity to absorb international finance, design contracts with business that maximize public value, and ensure that the money is spent in ways that advance the common good. (Outsourcing capacity to intermediaries is not the answer.)

Third, conditionality is crucial for placing equity, accessibility, and sustainability at the center of contracts and financial instruments. The COVID-19 vaccine produced by Oxford and AstraZeneca was relatively cheap and easy to transport and distribute globally because it met the condition of being storable in a normal refrigerator. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, by contrast, required expensive ultra-cold storage and transport when it was first approved.

Such examples demonstrate why conditionality must underpin initiatives like the World Bank’s Financial Intermediary Fund, which leverages public and private resources to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response capacities at the national, regional, and global levels. To reach its potential, the FIF should commit to incorporating “common good” conditions - concerning, say, IP and pricing regulation - into its contracts, with the goal of ensuring inclusive governance and universal access.

Lastly, an objective-oriented common-good approach is impossible without an equitable, accountable, and credible financial system. But, because our current global financial system is designed to be reactive, it promotes short-termism and perpetuates inequality between North and South. Changing this will require, for starters, reforming the governance of the IMF and the World Bank, so that developing economies have a greater voice.

Furthermore, strengthening accountability and transparency mechanisms can help prevent misappropriation of funds, tax evasion, and fraud. The FIF can help here, by embedding transparency-related conditions into all of its partnerships with MDBs that involve investment in private-sector projects.

The UN secretary-general’s new report this week says that the “defining principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a shared promise by every country to work together to secure the rights and well-being of everyone on a healthy, thriving planet. But halfway to 2030, that promise is in peril.” Fulfilling it requires getting international finance right, which will be possible only if we replace the market-fixing paradigm with a market-shaping mindset, centered on the common good.

Mariana Mazzucato, Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, is Chair of the World Health Organization’s Council on the Economics of Health for All and a co-author (with Rosie Collington) of *The Big Con: How the Consulting Industry Weakens Our Businesses, Infantilizes Our Governments, and Warps Our Economies* (Penguin Press, 2023).



# ARTICLE

# ARTICLE

## A Statesman or a Desperado – Looking Under the Bonnet of Boakai’s Decision

Isaac W. Jackson, Jr

More than ever before, it is now bloody obvious that our country is in moral and national decline, in that, significant numbers of the population are willing to suspend their critical faculties in defence of an industrial murderer such as Prince Johnson, only because Joseph Boakai is handcuffed and shackled by Johnson’s godson, Jeremiah Koung. If Boakai’s supporters are willing to forgive Prince Johnson for the atrocities and widespread murders committed, why wouldn’t they take the rational argument that Koung’s proximity to Prince Johnson renders him a contaminated political figure unfit for national leadership? Mind you, the Bible teaches that “bad company corrupts good character”.

If the Boakai-Koung ticket were to succeed, would they turn over godfather, Prince Johnson, for possible war crimes prosecution or, are Liberians and the world at large willing to ignore thousands of murdered people who blood cry to heaven for justice? The natural response to the latter question is a resounding “NO!” Another obvious question comes into focus: What do our partners, especially the Americans, think about Prince Johnson’s mentee Koung as possible vice president? It may be recalled that U.S War Crimes Ambassador Beth Van Schaack visited Liberia in October 2022 and declared the US serious determination to prosecute Prince Johnson and others who destroyed innocent lives in Liberia. So, Boakai and his cohorts are positioning themselves to disregard the US concerns brazenly and blatantly?

This draws me to focus on the aging former Vice President’s judgement to have the actual simulacrum of Prince Johnson in the Executive Mansion. What decision is this that breathes life into a dying Prince Johnson choked by US-sanction when Boakai had a vast pool of talented progressive individuals to serve as vice presidential pick to maintain his legacy and the legacy of the Unity Party of Edward B. Kesselly? We are not unaware that Henry Costa, Kofi Woods, Tiawon Gongloe, Nyonblee and others have been working diligently with the Oldman in the hope of keeping the progressive dreams alive. How can Boakai, who boasts about a forty-year government experience, dig into a POLLUTED MUD HOLE for clean water?

Socrates in the Apology underscores the importance of practical judgement to leadership. Even Aristotle talks about good judgement as decoupling or separating the pathos from the situation, focusing through ethos to arrive at sound decision. Regrettably, Oldman Boakai has consistently violated the teachings of these great authorities. For example, as Head of the UP, he sat idly by when the Former Standard Bearer and former President of the Republic was expelled from the Unity Party on her birthday. Boakai also served as Government’s witness and testified against a fellow traveller on account of a bogus allegation.

Having associated extensively and flirted politically with Henry Costa and the political leader of the Liberty Party as potential vice-presidential picks, he would spurn both figures for a guy who has been cozying up to the regime. What’s the meaning

of this? If Oldman Boakai were not quarantined in his tiny bubble, he would have realised that Nimba is overly marketed as vote-rich, because the votes from Grand Gedeh will offset the votes from Nimba as a result of the bitter rivalry between Koung and Edith Gongloe-Weh. Also, Boakai may not get the angry votes from the Bassa-belt. Hence, I don’t see the political dividend of this poorly calculated move!

Besides, where is Uncle Joseph Boakai’s moral compass when he demonstrates to Liberians and the international community that he is supremely comfortable with the godson of a man who chopped off former President Doe’s ears and sexual organs while drinking Budweiser beer and giggling? I thought at this stage of our history, we are supposed to be working in harmony to ensure that Prince Johnson account for the grotesque trauma that he

government. Instead, he is widely known within legislative circles as a legislator who enriches himself on the Ways & Means Committee while poor people continue to suffer needlessly. In fact, like Prince Johnson, rumours abound that Koung has been involved in the cannibalization of politics in Nimba - the demonic act of extracting and selling body parts of children.

To be honest, while the desperate decision by Boakai to endorse Koung as his running mate is aimed at winning the Presidential election, Boakai may likely ‘win’ but Liberia will be the loser! Hence, choosing Koung is NOT the act or behavior of a statesman, but that of a desperado. Those who genuinely love Liberia should be concerned about the huge risk the Boakai-Koung ticket poses to the immediate future of our country both domestically and on the international front. Imagine, Prince



Former VP Boakai

Senator Jeremiah Koung

visited upon our dear country. Regrettably, we are unwittingly shielding the man for the so-called electoral votes anticipated from ‘vote-rich’ Nimba County.

By the way, how much comfort level does this Boakai-Koung team give to brothers and sisters from Grand Gedeh? What’s about the Mandingoes in Nimba who are still grappling with the issue of land? How can we be confident that the protégé of Prince Johnson will not resurrect the ugly ghost of the past? Koung has been conducting himself as a questionable lawmaker; therefore, Liberians don’t know where he stands with respect to the national legislative agenda, and issues of genuine reconciliation especially when his mentor, Prince Johnson, often boasts about murdering Doe.

Another issue that is worth mentioning: Koung has been vastly complicit in promoting and upholding the machinery of corruption in our country. As a Lawmaker, he has never raised a voice of protest against the wretched excesses of the CDC

Johnson hovering in the backroom as de facto Vice President and President!!!

Moreover, and finally: Highly confidential sources have confided that prior to announcing Koung as his running mate, Boakai held a closed-door meeting with his tribal kinsmen at which he vowed and assured them - emphatically - that he will never appoint anyone of repatriate bloodline as running mate, or to other high-level positions in his administration. To these twin declarations a constitutional question is circulating as to whether an elected Liberian President is intended to serve along tribal affiliations, rather than ALL LIBERIANS across the national political spectrum.

May Our Heavenly Father protect Liberia during this critical juncture of its political history!

Editor’s Note: The opinions and views expressed in this article at that of the author and does not represent the view of the New Dawn newspaper.



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## 'Exercise political maturity'

**-Samukai urges Boakai's allies**

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former Liberian Defense Minister Brownie Samukai is appealing to disenchanted allies of presidential hopeful Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai

leaders who feel let down after Boakai chose Nimba Senator Jeremiah Koung as his running mate, instead of one of his old allies who had backed his presidential bid for years.

A Lofa native, Samukai is a kinsman of Amb. Boakai and he won the 2020 senatorial

Interviewed over the weekend by Spoon FM, Mr. Samukai reminded Liberty Party (LP) political Sen. Karnga-Lawrence, Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon, Mr. Urey, and others that they have a future in the country.

"I want to tell my brothers and sisters, whether it's Senator Karnga-Lawrence, Urey, Henry P. Costa, [or] Mr. Urey, all of them have a future in our country," said Mr. Samukai. Senator Karnga-Lawrence, Senator Dillon, Mr. Urey, and some of Mr. Boakai's allies did not attend the ceremony during which he named Koung as his running mate on Friday, 28 April 2023. Their absence led many to suspect their dissatisfaction with Boakai's decision.

"It's time to tell the young people, as eager as you are, you will not throw everything away. Please give him the future," Samukai continued.

"Show to Liberians that your support toward him was not selfish, and self-centered," Samukai admonished them further. According to him, it's time for the unhappy Boakai allies to embrace the future.

"Let us demonstrate political maturity. You saw what happened with me during the election in 2020 where I spent ... tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of dollars." "I won the seat

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Former Defense Minister Brownie Samukai

to exercise political maturity and not break things apart.

"Tomorrow is at hand. Let us not break things apart only because Amb. Boakai did not choose you as his running mate. This is the time to demonstrate political maturity," Samukai pleaded with his opposition colleagues over the weekend.

His appeal is on account of an obvious disenchantment among several opposition

election in Lofa County on Boakai's Unity Party (UP) ticket before the court here denied him of taking office over his conviction in a criminal trial.

Mr. Samukai however, pleaded with Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karngar-Lawrence, All Liberian Party political leader Mr. Beniona Urey and others to demonstrate political maturity despite not being selected by Amb. Boakai.

## MacDella Cooper hails U.S. Envoy as good man for Liberia

By Kruah Thompson

Presidential hopeful and leader of the Movement for One Liberia (MOL) Madam MacDella Cooper has described U.S. Ambassador Michael McCarthy as a good man politically for Liberia.

Speaking over the weekend in Monrovia, Madam Cooper said the U.S. Ambassador has fearlessly utilized his voice against the rapid corruption engulfing the Weah government.

She said Amb. McCarthy's stance against corruption does not only benefit himself but Liberians who suffer from widespread corruption allegedly carried out by greedy officials in the Weah government.

She suggested that the ambassador's recent statement shed light on what she believed had been swept under the carpet by the Weah administration on many occasions. Last week, the U.S. Envoy said the elite in Monrovia is treating destitute

citizens in the leeward counties 'with a neglect that borders on contempt.' McCarthy said in a press statement that while hospitals went without, and service centers withered on the vine, Liberia's 30 senators and 73 representatives spent sixty-five million U.S. dollars feathering their nests.

Madam Cooper is one of the female politicians who ran for the presidency in the 2017 elections. She was born in

Monrovia, Liberia, in 1977 and moved to the United States as a refugee during the Liberian civil war in the 1990s.

In a recent statement issued at the MOL party headquarters on the Old Road in Sinkor, Madam Cooper said President George Manneh Weah has failed the Liberian people.

She said the president has not reacted to the high level of stealing and corruption that is

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Madam MacDella Cooper

## 'Retired thieves, warlords'

**-LPP brands UP**

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Liberian People's Party (LPP) through its 'Gongloe Youth Movement' has alleged that the former ruling Unity Party (UP) is a complete composition of 'retired thieves and warlords.'

The LPP Gongloe Youth Movement alleges that the UP retired thieves and warlords have reorganized themselves under a fake nomenclature of 'Rescue Team.' The has therefore called on Liberians to reject UP and the governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in the 10 October 2023 presidential and legislative elections. LPP political leader Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe is among several opposition leaders seeking the presidency in this year's elections.

The human rights lawyer led the Liberia National Bar Association as its president before announcing his bid for the nation's

against societal ills. He suggested Cllr. Gongloe is the man who has such qualities.

Meanwhile, the group has strongly condemned the political marriage between the former ruling UP and the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR). "The Gongloe Youth Movement condemns the political marriage between the failed former ruling Unity Party and the MDR of ex-rebel Senator Prince Johnson," said Mr. Nyumah.

He alleged that former Liberian Vice President Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai has openly pledged his commitment to continuously elevating warlords and state looters to national leadership by selecting MDR political leader Senator Jeremiah Koung as his running mate. He alleged should Boakai win the presidency, Nimba Senator Prince Y. Johnson will be a de-facto vice president.

Under such a government, Nyumah claimed that UP cannot guarantee the establishment of a



Cllr. Tiawan-Saye-Gongloe

highest seat. Addressing a press conference over the weekend, Gongloe Youth Movement (GYM) National Chairman Ephraim Nyumah said there is no difference between the CDC and the UP. "The Gongloe Youth Movement calls on the Liberian people to reject the CDC and the Unity Party," said Nyumah. "The only difference between the CDC and the Unity Party is [that] the CDC is a mixture of functionally illiterate gangs who are currently looting the state, while the UP is a composition of retired thieves and warlords reorganizing under a fake nomenclature 'Rescue team," he alleged. "GYM will only collaborate with opposition political parties that share a similar vision with Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe and the LPP," he noted. At the same time, Mr. Nyumah called on Liberians that want a better alternative other than the CDC and UP to join Cllr. Gongloe. He indicated that if Liberia is to be rescued from the hands of President Weah and the CDC government, the country needs people with integrity and a proven record of openly speaking

war and economic crimes court and the prosecution of corrupt public officials. He also alleged that Mr. Boakai is a quiet beneficiary of all ills in Liberia, therefore, he cannot be entrusted with the presidency.

According to Nyumah, the collaboration between the UP and Prince Johnson's MDR is no different from what is seen between the CDC and the [National Patriotic Party] of former President Charles Ghankay Taylor. Mr. Nyumah added that the Boakai-Koung ticket unveils for itself the worst contradiction in the collective call for a credible government. He wondered how Amb. Boakai will rescue Liberia if he can't rescue himself from deception. "The Boakai-Koung ticket is a reunion of retired thieves and rebels, regrouping to hijack state power under a false name, rescue team," Nyumah lamented. He recalled that Senator Prince Johnson killed innocent people in this country [during Liberia's civil war]. He warned that Senator Johnson can't be parading himself as a member of a rescue team when victims of the war are yet to get justice.



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## VP Taylor endorses Josephine Davies

**-To contest District #10**

Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor has endorsed former IG Josephine W. A. Davies, as representative candidate in Montserrado District 10, ahead of the forthcoming

clearly shows that the Vice President, young and old Liberians are convinced that Madam Josephine W.A. Davies have the competence and track record of performance to put District 10, where it rightly belongs.

Madam Josephine W. A.

"I am particularly grateful to you Madam Vice President for your wonderful support in promoting women participation in national politics. Thank you for all you do and continue to do". "The people of District 10, deserve better", she said.

She also pointed out that "This is not about me or the incumbent, this is about the fundamentals of our democracy. This is about the moral integrity of our house of honor, the house of legislature. This is about setting a standard for our future generations on how a lawmaker should comport himself".

"Look when you are a law marker of a district, that means you are like a father figure to your constituents. Your people look up to for leadership and guidance".

"They expect you to make decisions that improve their lives. The things you say and do have impact on your people especially the children".

However, Vice President Taylor reassured Liberians and residents of District 10, of the Government's resolve to implement programmes, and revitalize industries and create multiple jobs for economic growth.

Madam Davies, previously worked at the Ministry of Commerce as Inspector General, and is seeking a bid to remove current incumbent Yekeh Korluba.



election. Madam. Davies ambition to win the forthcoming election got a boost on Sunday following the vice president's endorsement as her preferred candidate.

VP Taylor as leader of the National Patriotic Party (NPP), announced the endorsement on during a held a meeting held at the NPP national headquarter in Monrovia.

An endorsement like this

Davies, who lauded the Vice President for her great efforts, said:

"On this day, I extend heartfelt appreciations and thanks to Her Excellency, Vice President Mama- Chief, Dr. Jewel Howard Taylor and Standard Bearer of the National Patriotic Party (NPP) for the open endorsement and support for me to contest on the ticket of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in the pending elections".

## 'Be a leader, not a follower'

**-Amb. Lewis Brown cautions community leaders**

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former Information Minister Lewis G. Brown has encouraged community leaders in Montserrado Electoral District #12 not to be followers, saying if they refuse to lead, they will be followers. He challenged the citizens over the weekend when the new leadership of the Swagger Island Community in District #12 was being inducted. Amb. Brown is the National Chairman and official spokesperson of Team Cummings 2023 campaign team. Delivering a keynote address at the induction, Amb. Brown said leadership is different from followership. He said nobody can be a leader and a follower at the same time, adding that they have to choose one of them.

"The problem that Liberia has currently is [a] leadership problem. We have somebody who wants to act as a leader and a follower, and that can't work," said Amb. Brown. "You have to choose one. We are suffering, things are difficult because we don't have somebody to make

decisions. Rather, we have a follower who is occupying the presidency," Brown added. He urged the newly inducted community leaders not to be followers. He explained to them that leadership represents direction, and not to complain as it is seen with the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government. "Let me remind you that God gave each of us a gift to choose [the] wrong leader. If you decide to choose the wrong leader today, you will have a difficult time tomorrow by [the] decision you took today," he warned.

"It doesn't matter where you come from, there are some people that are afraid of writing on their check. If you don't value yourself, this country will not value you," he told the community leaders.

Amb. Brown added that leadership comes from God, claiming that sometimes God sends bad leaders so the people can suffer as is seen today in Liberia. "When you lead people to regret why they voted [for] you, it's like leading you into temptation. And this newly inaugurated leadership should not follow this pattern of leadership because if they do, it will end the wrong way."



Former Min. Lewis G. Brown

## Supreme Court to hear PUL election case today

The Press Union of Liberia has said it is excited about the Supreme Court of Liberia's assignment of a motion to rescind Justice Joseph Nagbe's ruling, which annulled a stay order on the inauguration of elected leaders of the Union. This hearing is slated for Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at the Temple of Justice.

The annulment motion was born from a case involving Julius K. Kanubah vs. Press Union of Liberia Leadership, Membership, Congress, and Election Committees. Team Kanubah had accused the Press Union of Liberia Leadership, Membership, Congress, and Election Committees of voter roll piling. An accusation the leadership of the PUL has since described as preposterous and an intentional

journalists ahead, during, and in the immediate aftermath of the general election.

The PUL said the outcome of the case will usually add much needed value to the result of the election as it is free, fair, transparent, and verifiable.

The Press Union of Liberia said it is thrilled by the news of the hearing by the Supreme Court and prays that its outcome will solve the long-running impasse at the Union.

The Union said the long-awaited hearing comes ahead of the day journalists are expected to celebrate World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2023, which is good news for the media and journalists.

PUL is urging journalists to accept the outcome of tomorrow's hearing for the good of the journalism community.



ploy to stain the reputation of the union for self-seeking.

The hearing of the election fallout case within the PUL is crucial because it is tied to the credibility of the 2023 general election. The Press Union of Liberia believes an induction of duly elected leaders of the Union will work for the protection of

The Press Union indicated that the media has a significant role to play in the general election, and as such, the impasse within the Press Union of Liberia cannot continue unabated. It urged journalist, media workers and Media development practitioners to show up the Supreme Court to listen to the merits of the case.

## Starts from page 6 'Exercise political maturity'

overwhelmingly, but they took the seat from me. But what did I do? Nothing, because I know that there is a future," Samukai explained. He noted that this is the kind of maturity he wants his fellow opposition leaders to show and know that there is a future. He further indicated that the pronouncement of Senator Jeremiah Koung as Amb. Boakai's running mate was based on a series of conversations and consultations held with individuals for many months.

Mr. Samukai disclosed that it's the desire and aspiration of Liberians to see the kind of change that former Vice

President Boakai and Koung will bring as they put themselves together.

"Senator Karnga-Lawrence is a very excellent and astute politician. Jeremiah Koung is also a successful businessman and politician," said Mr. Samukai.

He also indicated that Mr. Costa is a good intellectual and aspiration of young people with a great future, adding that the same goes for Mr. Urey. "However, they should understand that only one person can occupy that position. This is the reason why I believe that all of us who are Liberians should know that only one person Amb. Boakai can choose."



# Français

## Un ticket Cummings-Nyonblee imminent ?

M. Alexander B. Cummings est susceptible de nommer la sénatrice Nyonblee Karngar Lawrence du comté de Grand Bassa comme colistièrre à la prochaine présidentielle. La rumeur fait suite au choix du sénateur Jeremiah Kpan Koug du comté de Nimba

pour favorite quant au choix du colistier de l'ancien vice-président Boakai, mais vendredi, c'est plutôt Jeremiah Koug qui a été sélectionné. Le choix du leader politique de l'ancien Parti au pouvoir a porté sur le sénateur du comté de Nimba, à la grande surprise du public, et au grand désarroi de la sénatrice du comté de Grand Bassa.

leader politique de a collaboration des partis politiques en vue de la prochaine élection présidentielle.

Toutes nos tentatives de contacter la sénatrice Lawrence ont été vaines, mais une source du Liberty Party a dit que la sénatrice considérerait l'offre de M.

## Éditorial

### Aucun Libérien ne devrait mourir à cause du camionnage des électeurs

Des nouvelles récentes font état de la mort de trois Libériens et de l'hospitalisation de 12 autres à la suite d'un accident de voiture qui s'est produit près de Yao - Lepulah Town, dans le comté de Nimba.

C'était un convoi d'électeurs en partance pour Ganta, précisément dans le district électoral n° 5 de Buu-Yao, pour participer à l'inscription biométrique des électeurs. C'est un événement très malheureux.

Aucun Libérien ne doit mourir juste pour faire plaisir à un politicien.

Parmi les victimes figuraient une femme enceinte et Beatrice Glanma, 58 ans, qui serait la sœur de James G.K. Sumah, candidat à l'élection législative, qui aurait transporté des électeurs éligibles pour les faire inscrire.

Selon le rapport, depuis le lancement du processus de l'opération d'enrôlement à Nimba, les candidats ont transporté des personnes d'un comté à l'autre, notamment de Ganta à Grand Gedeh et au comté de Grand Kru dans le sud-est, tandis que certains partent de Ganta au comté de Bong et de Monrovia à Ganta.

Le NEW DAWN a appris que cet acte se déroule dans les neuf circonscriptions électorales de Nimba et ailleurs à travers le pays en violation flagrante de la loi électorale.

Certaines des personnes transportées se voient offrir un montant initial de 50 \$ US chacune pour aller s'inscrire, puis après avoir voté le jour du scrutin le 10 octobre elles recevront 50 \$ US chacune.

Cette pratique dans notre processus électoral nécessite une intervention sérieuse pour y mettre fin, faute de quoi d'autres vies pourraient être perdues avant le jour du scrutin, car des citoyens pauvres et désespérés sont attirés par des politiciens égoïstes.

La Commission électorale nationale, sous la présidence de Madame Davidetta Browne Lansanah, a constamment averti que le camionnage des électeurs est une violation de la Constitution et de la loi électorale, car les citoyens de 18 ans et plus sont tenus de s'inscrire et de voter là où ils résident.

Cependant, nous exhortons la NEC à aller au-delà du simple avertissement face au camionnage généralisé. Il faut imposer des sanctions sur les auteurs afin de les dissuader. Nous voulons que ceux qui sont transportés et ceux qui facilitent le processus soient punis.

En tant que Libériens, il est important que nous nous efforcions sincèrement de rendre notre processus électoral aussi propre et équitable que possible, non seulement pour conserver la confiance de nos partenaires internationaux, mais aussi pour maintenir notre respect en tant que peuple.

Quiconque participe à une compétition doit être prêt à respecter les règles et à faire preuve de confiance en gagnant à la fin plutôt que de concevoir des stratagèmes pour tricher dans le but d'obtenir un avantage indu juste pour satisfaire ses désirs égoïstes.



par Joseph Nyumah Boakai pour devenir son colistier.

Le porte-drapeau du parti de l'unité a choisi le sénateur Jeremiah Koug comme colistier au cours d'une cérémonie élaborée au siège du parti le vendredi 28 avril 2023.

Les rumeurs avaient donné la sénatrice Lawrence, il y a des mois,

Une source proche de l'ANC a dit au NEW DAWN que M. Alexander Cummings, qui n'a pas encore nommé son colistier, avant les élections cruciales d'octobre, est sur le point de choisir la sénatrice Nyonblee Lawrence. La source a expliqué que M. Cummings a eu des rencontres à huis clos avec la sénatrice de Grand Bassa. Il serait question de la choisir comme colistièrre du

Cummings s'il lui était demandé de former un duo Cummings-Lawrence contre le président Weah.

Pendant ce temps, Archie Baynah, un fervent partisan de l'UP, a exprimé sa déception face au billet Boakai-Koug, préférant plutôt un billet Boakai-Nyonblee qui, selon

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## 1er-Mai en Côte d'Ivoire: les salaires au cœur des revendications de syndicats

En Côte d'Ivoire, en ce 1er mai 2023, la revalorisation des salaires et le respect du salaire minimum figurent parmi les principales revendications d'organisations de défense des travailleurs, comme la CGT-CI.

Plusieurs événements sont prévus en Côte d'Ivoire pour célébrer la journée internationale de lutte pour les droits des travailleurs, ce 1er mai 2023. Les centrales syndicales vont se retrouver à la Bourse du travail à Abidjan, avant d'être reçues à la primature par le Premier ministre qui présidera une cérémonie officielle. Parmi les revendications principales des organisations de défense des travailleurs : la revalorisation des salaires et le respect du salaire minimum.

« Beaucoup d'entreprises n'appliquent pas

l'augmentation du salaire minimum »

Désiré Atsé, le secrétaire général adjoint de la Confédération génération des travailleurs de Côte d'Ivoire (CGT-CI), égrène les principales revendications de son syndicat : « La revalorisation de salaires dans tous les secteurs, publics comme

privés, le respect des libertés syndicales, la revalorisation du Smic et l'application même du Smic dans les entreprises. »

En Côte d'Ivoire, le salaire minimum n'est pas indexé sur l'inflation. Entre 2013 et 2023, il n'a pas évolué. Il a finalement été augmenté de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09





# Français

## Un ticket Cummings-Nyonblee imminent ?

lui, est le choix populaire.

Selon Archie, Koung est moins connu à travers le pays, sauf dans son comté natal de Nimba, qui se lamente : « Alors, laissez Nimba voter pour UP, quant à moi, je suis déçu et je pense que c'est une décision terrible ; cette force ne peut pas vaincre le président Weah.

« Nous aurions pu aimer un billet Boakai-Nyonblee, plutôt qu'un billet Boakai-Koung ».

« Maintenant, nous espérons que M. Cummings choisira Nyonblee et nous soutiendrons cette force de tout notre cœur », a ajouté un partisan du Liberty Party, Abraham Nah.

À seulement quatre mois des élections présidentielles et générales du 10 octobre, les membres du bloc de l'opposition ici bougent leurs muscles, élaborant des stratégies pour vaincre le président sortant George Weah au scrutin.

Malgré les critiques contre ce régime qu'elle accuse d'incompétence, de mauvaise gouvernance et de corruption massive qui a causé des difficultés aux Libériens ordinaires, l'opposition a toujours du mal à se réorganiser

pour former une force unie pour pouvoir rivaliser vigoureusement avec le président Weah, et peut-être le vaincre.

Malgré leurs efforts, M. Weah reste toujours ferme dans sa quête de réélection, galvanisant les Libériens pour soutenir sa coalition au pouvoir.

D'un autre côté, le bloc de l'opposition est visiblement divisé, alors qu'il s'efforce de vaincre le parti au pouvoir. La Collaboration des partis politiques autrefois redoutable, est désormais réduit à un seul parti - le Congrès national alternatif dirigé par M. Alexander B. Cummings après le Parti de l'unité et le All Liberian Party ont quitté la Coalition.

Liberty Party, le troisième membre de Collaboration, est divisé au milieu à la suite d'un conflit interne, une faction étant dirigée par le président Musa H. Bility en mariage avec l'ANC / CPP, tandis que l'autre faction dirigée par le leader politique, la sénatrice Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence, peine à trouver sa place après l'évolution de vendredi dans l'UP.

## 1er-Mai en Côte d'Ivoire: les salaires au

25% le 1er janvier dernier, passant de 60 000 à 75 000 francs CFA (91 euros à 114 euros). Mais cette augmentation n'est pas toujours respectée par les entreprises, regrette Désiré Atsé : « Il y a beaucoup d'entreprises qui ne l'appliquent pas, beaucoup d'entreprises qui refusent d'appliquer les 75 000, bien que les entreprises aient pris des engagements. Il y a des recours, il y a l'Inspection du travail qui est pratiquement impuissante. Même l'État pratiquement laisse faire. »

« 75 000 francs CFA, pour vivre à Abidjan, ce n'est pas possible »

Le responsable syndical

évoque la bonne santé économique du pays pour demander la réévaluation du Smic : « On peut mieux revaloriser le salaire puisqu'en Côte d'Ivoire, l'économie se porte très bien. Ce n'est pas nous qui le disons, c'est le Président qui le dit. L'économie est résiliente, elle se porte bien. 75 000, pour vivre à Abidjan, ce n'est pas possible. »

En Côte d'Ivoire, un protocole d'accord lie les principales organisations syndicales et le gouvernement depuis 2018 dans le but d'éviter les mouvements de grève. Cette « trêve sociale » est aujourd'hui remise en cause par certains syndicats, comme la CGT-CI.

## Mali : la société civile de Gao critique une demande de retrait de la Minusma du mouvement Yèrèwolo



À u nord du Mali, la Fédération des organisations de la résistance civile de Gao (FORC-G) a critiqué une de ses composantes, « Yèrèwolo debout sur les remparts ». Ce mouvement a demandé le 28 avril que la mission de l'ONU dans le pays (Minusma) se retire alors que le mandat de cette dernière doit être renouvelé.

Alors que l'ONU s'apprête à renouveler le mandat de sa mission au Mali (Minusma), mandat qui expire le 30 juin 2023, la société civile de Gao se désolidarise de la demande de retrait de la Minusma formulée le 28 avril par une de ses composantes, le mouvement « Yèrèwolo debout sur les remparts ».

La Fédération des organisations de la résistance civile de Gao (FORC-G) est ainsi vent debout après que l'association Yèrèwolo debout sur les remparts a exigé le retrait pur et simple de la Minusma du nord du Mali.

« Une association ne peut pas se permettre de demander le

maintien ou le départ de la Minusma »

Pour Halidou Malick, secrétaire général de ce regroupement d'une dizaine d'associations, ce n'est pas à la société civile de faire cette demande. « Une association ne peut pas se permettre de demander le maintien ou le départ de la Minusma. La Minusma est là à la demande des autorités maliennes qui ont autorité en réalité de décider », affirme-t-il.

« Nous, nous disons tout simplement qu'il serait très imprudent de demander comme ça le départ de la Minusma, poursuit Halidou Malick. Ce qui est en revanche plus intéressant, c'est qu'on laisse les autorités de la transition discuter avec le Conseil de sécurité pour améliorer les interventions de la Minusma avec des mandats plus combattifs, plus robustes. »

Même si elle n'a pas rempli son objectif de ramener la sécurité aux populations, la Minusma, juge-t-il, a soutenu l'emploi et les services de base dans le nord du pays. Son retrait serait contreproductif, poursuit-il.

Sa fédération va porter plainte contre le chef de file de Yèrèwolo, Adama Ben Diarra, dit « Ben Le Cerveau », pour que son mouvement soit radié du Conseil national de transition.

## Chambers reçoit un accueil enthousiaste à Pleebo

Le président de la Chambre des Représentants, Bhofal Chambers, a reçu un accueil chaleureux dans son district natal de Pleebo Sodoken, dans le comté de Maryland. Il s'y était rendu pour s'inscrire sur la liste électorale.

Des milliers de Libériens favorables à la réélection du Dr Chambers et du président libérien, George Weah, ont pris d'assaut la rue principale pour accueillir leur héros.

La cérémonie d'accueil du président s'est terminée par un programme élaboré, qui s'est tenu sur la place publique de Pleebo City.

Au cours de ce programme, des auxiliaires, des jeunes, des femmes, des chefs religieux et traditionnels, entre autres, ont renouvelé leur engagement en faveur de la réélection de Weah et de Chambers aux prochaines élections présidentielles et législatives d'octobre.

Les citoyens ont également loué l'honorable président George Weah pour les nombreux projets de développement, notamment les bourses d'études, les prêts, les médicaments, les marchés, les



écoles, les églises, les stations de radio et l'emploi. Ils ont fait part de leur reconnaissance au numéro un de la Chambre des représentants et au Président libérien pour le projet de construction de la route côtière dans le sud-est du pays.

Pour sa part, le président Chambers a félicité les citoyens pour la participation à l'opération d'enrôlement biométrique des électeurs dirigée par la Commission électorale nationale. Il a aussi profité de l'occasion pour appeler ceux qui ne se sont pas encore inscrits sur la liste électorale à le faire.

Un certain nombre de dirigeants locaux et le sénateur Bleebo Brown ont également pris part à la cérémonie.

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# LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Politics

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's selection of running mate from Nimba County has sparked debate among Liberians. Many think the former Vice President was ungrateful in selecting Senator Jeremiah Kpan Koung of Nimba over Senator Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence of Grand Bassa.

But others argue that who becomes Mr. Boakai's running mate in the October's election is his sole responsibility and no one else. Read their views as compiled below.



Abubakar Corneh

"I see the decision as a very wrong decision from the former Vice President, taking Senator Jeremiah Koung over Senator Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence; Joe Boakia is noted for always making wrong decisions. We saw what happened in 2017 when he made a very wrong decision and he was defeated as an incumbent Vice President. And it's going to repeat itself because the decision he's made, it effects lots of people and lots of his allies - people like Senator Nyonblee Lawrence, and Henry Costa, who was also hoping to be his running mate. It has hurt lots of them. Some of them swear that they are not going to support him because of his action and inaction so, I think his decision was very wrong and is going to affect the Unity Party (UP) and they are not going to come back to power no

matter what. I see his decision as being desperate. They are the people that are desperate to come back to power to loot. Bringing the prestige of Prince Johnson and Jeremiah Koung is the prestige of Prince Johnson. Jeremiah Koung's face is in Prince Johnson. So, to bring Jeremiah Koung as a running mate, it means that you're bringing Prince Johnson as a vice presidential candidate so automatically, the issue of war crime court will die a natural death. The reason he (Boakai) carried Jeremiah Koung over Nyonblee is because Madam Lawrence will not be able to spend a lot of money that Joe Baokai needs now; Baokia is always noted for depending on his running mate to run his campaign. I saw it 2017 when I was with former Speaker Emmanuel Nuquay, and lots of the money that was spent during the campaign came from Nuquay. Jeremiah Koung is a businessman; in fact, he has been accused by Henry Costa as being human parts seller. You know human parts are very expensive around the world so, he has made lots of money from that. He will use some of the money to campaign for Joseph Boakai.

And Joe Boakai wants to have a free ride, not spending a dime but to get the Presidency on silver platter, and that is not going to work in this country. Liberians are wise and they know what they want. They are seeing it for themselves. So, they are not going to be carried away by Nimba factor, because you say you want vote from Nimba; no! that is not the issue. The issue is you should pick somebody that wants to be President. Is Jeremiah Koung being prepared to be President because the position of Vice President is a President in waiting. This is possible, because if anything happened to Joe Baokia tomorrow, Jeremiah Koung becomes the next President of this country. Is Jeremiah Koung prepared to lead this country? Can you entrust Jeremiah Koung with this country? I say no; he can't do that. So, we are not going to risk this country; we're not going to allow that to happen here; we are going to fight with our sweat and blood to make sure that what Liberian people want should be given to them. We are not going to allow Joseph Baokia's greed to take over this country."

"Well, when it comes to that issue, it was very critical; that decision was very hard to be made; however, partisans of the Unity Party are backing the party. The decision made by former Vice President Joseph Boakia for me, is a right decision, for the fact that when it comes to politics, before you name a vice running mate, you must do several investigations or surveys. If you come to the strength of the various counties in Liberia after Montserrado, Nimba is the second, so it is a critical issue and the

decision made by Joseph Boakia is timely. It is welcoming to me, because Nimba County is one of the populated counties in this country and its well known. And by taking running mate from that county, I think it can be a plus to our success on October 10, 2023 and it is a big threat to the CDC. And the decision that he made; I love his decision. However, Madam Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence was downhearted, because she was expecting to become running mate to the old man. however, as I stated, in a political



Abubakar S. Kiazolu

game, you have to make a survey and we know that Grand Bassa County is one of the populated counties. But it is not equivalent to Nimba; taking running mate from Grand Bassa it makes big sense but not compare to Nimba, because Nimba has more population than Grand Bassa. It is the best choice he made."

"Looking at Mr. Boakia forgoing Nyonblee, who has stood with him for the past two years is being highly ungrateful. No one can appreciate him for what he did. Over the years we witnessed she put her life on the line for Mr. Boakia when they were in the CPP crisis, where there was no one called Jeremiah Koung but surprisingly today, to see Mr. Boakia actually coming up with his running mate called Jeremiah Koung, it is surprising and sounds ungrateful and no one around here can appreciate. You see the man, who many thought would have become the running mate for Joseph Boakia is Prince Johnson, simply means that to be able to rescue himself from future embarrassment, because Prince Johnson has been one of the men who has been disconnected internationally. Prince Johnson can only travel from here to Nigeria because even if he went to Sierra Lone, he would be



Selekie Konneh

arrested. Why is he allowed to go to Nigeria, only ECOWAS can tell us. So, Prince Johnson is doing this for him to be rescued from future embarrassment. Because Prince Johnson is the owner of MDR and Jeremiah Koung is only serving as standard bearer for this term because of this reason, he is making Jeremiah Koung standard bearer this year. He is not seeing himself as MDR to win over President Weah and any candidate that will come because of this same stigma that we are discussing here; we Liberians in majority, we are not willing to put any one in leadership who has international stigma. If we do that at the end of the day, we will see no support coming from the international community. So, PYJ will bring someone to rescue him."

"I think the reason why Joseph Boakia chose Jeremiah Koung over Madam Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence is because of the unnecessary delay in the case between Musa Bility and Madam Nyonblee. If to say Madam Nyonblee and Bility settled the issue ever since. Choosing Koung I think was one of the best decisions ever taken. But what I am saying is that because the delay, Ambassador Boakia was also waiting for this court case to be over. But because of the unnecessary delay that's even how Koung came in the picture. But in whatsoever that happened, I want to kindly tell Madam Lawrence to please see reason and I even read her release and she said Liberia first, and whatsoever decision



Varlee Kromah

Ambassador Boakia took is his personal decision. I want to talk with her to be calm and let's see how we can get this monster out of our nick because where the country is right now, we can't understand anything. We're kindly talking with her because we know it is frustrating; it hurts. But she should please see reason and come onboard."

"I think for me, the ticket is a good ticket. Many people were saying that Joe Boakia was supposed to take running mate from the ANC and the Liberty Party (LP). But if you look at the ANC and Liberty Party (LP) are all in court. Looking at that situation, we can't say Joseph Boakia should take Madam Nyonblee because Liberty Party will not be in court to settle their despite then Madam Nyonblee will be running campaign for Unity Party; it will somehow undermine the campaign of the Unity Party. It will not really be a good thing for Unity Party. Also, we



Abraham Kendrick Gibson

have been told that ALP political leader Benoni Urey is often in the public eyes that he sees nothing but the Vice Presidency because this is what he has always wished for. If it can't be him, it shouldn't be someone from the ANC, because that is the shortest way to getting close to the Presidency."



# Cummings rallies Liberians for victory

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Mr. Alexander B. Cummings says the pending elections in October are about

“experience” in farming, is to agree to that the village people should die from starvation. “I am often criticized for not having “government experience.” Well, if

economy is growing while salaries are being cut and there are no jobs, with children going to bed hungry. “In a Cummings Administration”, he promises, “Liberian businesses will succeed. We will protect Liberian businesses, especially Liberian women businesses, and provide them the means they will need to grow”, and that from owning waiter markets, Liberians most grow to own and operate shops and subsequently stores.

He says these are not just empty political promises, but deliverables that a Cummings administration will actually provide for the Liberian people.

Mr. Cummings cautions Liberians that the next six years is neither for play-play nor time to take risks with their lives, as the hole Liberia is in is already too deep, and to climb out, they will need all the energies and capacities the country has, and Liberians themselves will have to work hard, work smart, and work for long hours.

“Let me be as clear as I can be: I am asking the Liberian people for the chance to lead our country not because I am looking for a political job. Together, and with your help, I want to lead us to change the corrupt system that continues to see us mismanage our God-given wealth only to keep our people poor.” Finally, my people: Poverty is not Liberia’s destiny. Our government does not have to be so rotten, careless and irresponsible. Officials do not have to care only about “buttering their own bread,” while many of our people cannot even buy cold bowl. It is a shame on any government to make beggars of its people.

He says under a Cummings presidency, anyone found to have stolen from the people, will face prosecution, and if found guilty, be required to retribute, and then sent to common jail, adding “We will stop the 419 leaders and hustlers from on the backs of our people!” He rallies Liberians to join him in his quest to deliver real change and stop asking whether he can win the presidency, but rather they should ask themselves if they are ready for real change, as together, victory is certain. **Story by Jonathan Browne**

# Amb. McCarty an opposition supporter

By Ethel A. Tweh

The President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate has blasted U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, Mr. Michael A. McCarthy, saying Liberians do not tell Americans who to vote for.

In his attempt to react to Amb. McCarthy’s report about how the elite in Monrovia treats destitute citizens with neglect, Chie claimed that it has been alleged that the Ambassador is an opposition supporter.

The Grand Kru County Senator argued that Liberians don’t get up and tell Americans to vote for Trump or Biden, so Ambassador McCarty has no right to tell Liberians who to vote for.

It remains unclear where and when Mr. Chie heard Amb. McCarthy telling Liberians who to vote for.

However, Mr. McCarthy released a report last week and said the elite in Monrovia are treating destitute citizens in the leeward counties ‘with a neglect that borders on contempt.’

The U.S. Envoy said in a press statement that while hospitals

group from the Embassy was coming to Grand Kru, and wanted to use Senator Bartekwa’s Guest House,” he continued.

He noted that there was no letter from the Ministry of Internal Affairs as customary that the Ambassador was going to the County.

“Do you know how many times our President goes to America without seeing Biden? Can you say Biden snubbed President Weah?” Chie continued.

He suggested that there is protocol in government. According to him, if the Ambassador wanted the Superintendent to be present, he should have communicated.

“But he did it intentionally. He didn’t want the Superintendent to be present because he came to our County to pick up falsehood,” Chief alleged.

He wondered how the Ambassador could say the Legislature appropriated US\$65 Million for itself in the 2022 National budget.

He added that if the Ambassador wanted the correct information, he would have visited projects of Senators and Representatives



CPP Mr. Cummings

making tough choices and hard decisions if Liberia must progress. He stresses that for things to really change in Liberia, Liberians must not just focus on changing ruling parties, but ruling principles and stop treating the Motherland like elephant meat that they take terms “to cut.” Reading a press statement on Monday, May 1, at the CPP headquarters in Monrovia, he further emphasized that for Liberians’ lives to get better, it is not going to be enough to just change individuals in October, but electing people with a different mindset about what government is supposed to do and what leaders are supposed to be.

Surrounded by CPP officials, including the Head of Team Cummings, Dr. Toga Gayewea McCintosh, Ambassador Lewis G. Brown, Chairman Musa Bility, George Wisner and several others, Mr. Cummings explains that government is not a stealing business, and leaders do not have to be hustlers, adding that government is to help make people live better and leaders are supposed to set and live by higher standards, without which he warns, things will remain the same.

In an apparent jibe to former Vice President Joseph Boakai, he quotes a wise oldman as saying that when hunger takes over a village, to give the only cutlass to one’s grandfather and the oldest man in the village, to go make farm, because he has

government experience is to steal from the people and neglect them to suffer then thank God I don’t have “government experience”, he says. Mr. Cummings brags that he has leadership experience in fixing things and systems so things work better for all to enjoy, saying “I have no ‘government experience’ in trying to benefit from the corrupt and broken down system. My experience is one of leadership in standing for principles and the values of hard work, integrity and honesty, and in keeping promises I make. My experience is one of leadership in doing the right things the right way, and not sacrificing my values and principles just to win.”

The CPP Standard Bearer says like everyone else vying for the presidency in October, he is in the race to win but prefers to lose while fighting for Real Change than to win only to keep things as they corruptly and wickedly are.

He vows that a Cummings administration will not just fight corruption, but fix the economy and grow the national budget in order to pay people well, and on time. “We will create jobs - decent paying jobs too - to restore people’s respect and dignity in their homes and communities. We will provide opportunities for all Liberians to live better lives and to care for their families. This is my area. I have done it all of my professional life.” He continues that a CPP-led government will not just cook up numbers to impress the public that the



U.S. Ambassador Michael McCarthy

Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie

went without, and service centers withered on the vine, Liberia’s 30 senators and 73 representatives spent sixty-five million U.S. dollars feathering their nests.

It seems Mr. Chie is not happy about this report but did not state where the U.S. diplomat told Liberians who to vote for.

Notwithstanding, Chie explained that during Amb. McCarthy’s visit to Grand Kru County, Superintendent Doris Ylatun didn’t snub him.

Instead, Chie said the superintendent wasn’t available during the visit. He alleged that it was the Ambassador who snubbed the Superintendent because he allegedly entered the County ‘nicodemously.’

“It has been alleged that the Ambassador is an opposition supporter. How can you come to a County without informing the Superintendent?” Chie alleged further.

“The only message the Superintendent got was that a

throughout the Country.

“This is just one example, a folder in my hand with many requests from our people. What do we do with our monies we get? We spend it on our people, we build clinics, we buy drugs for those clinics and hospitals, we build schools and pay teachers, we build Guest houses, bridges, among others,” said Chie.

“Have you ever seen a wealthy Legislator in Liberia who has retired? Absolutely no! But he goes on spreading falsehood because this is an election year so that the opposition can be strengthened. But he lied!”

Chie questioned how the U.S. Envoy could allegedly be spreading falsehood about the government?

He claimed that this is why Washington has recalled Mr. McCarthy.

“Because he is interfering with our politics, he is a foreigner and he must confine himself to his position,” noted Chie.

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# MacDella Cooper hails U.S.

taking place in the country. She underscored the need for the Weah government to be voted out of office for its incompetence revealed by the American Government. “The entire government from the Executive, Judiciary, and Legislature is corrupt and it is

that way because the president has been used as [an] example to carry out such acts,” Madam Cooper claimed. She added that if the president can allegedly steal, then those in the Legislature will steal too.

In reaction to Amb. McCarthy’s statement, Information Minister

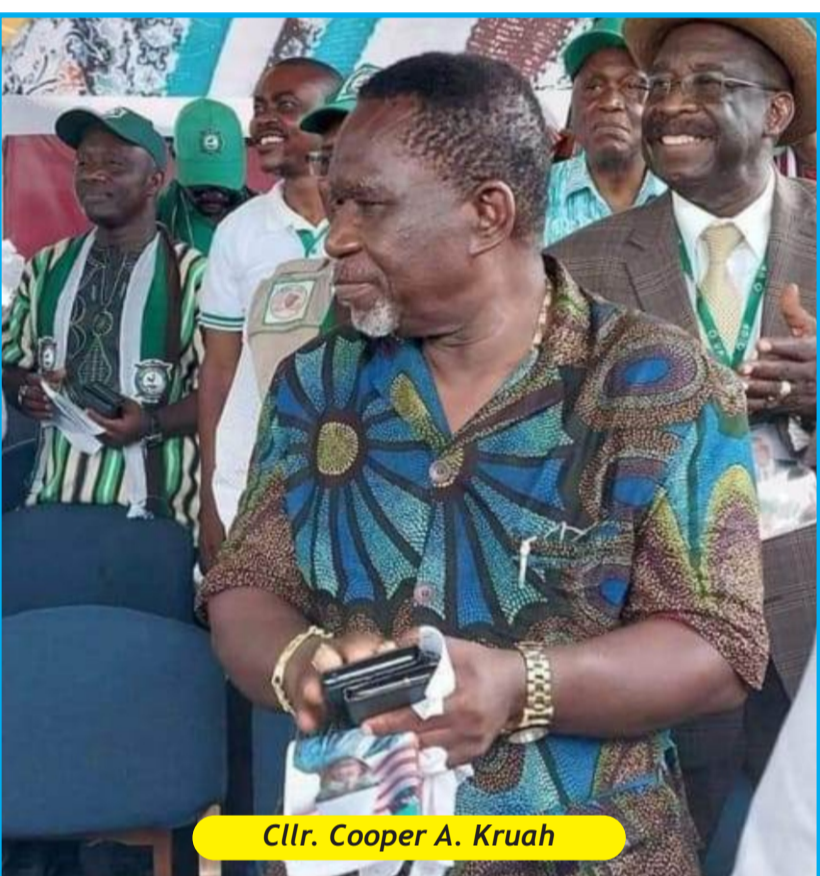
Ledgerhood J. Rennie suggested that the U.S. Envoy’s findings on the health sector of the country are inaccurate and far from the reality on the ground. But Madam Cooper has disagreed with the government’s response to Ambassador McCarthy’s statement.



## Weah punishes Kruah for attending opposition function

**-describes as traitor, replaces him immediately**

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh  
President George Manneh Weah has dismissed Posts and



Cllr. Cooper A. Kruah

Telecommunications Minister, Cllr. Cooper A. Kruah, days after he was branded as a traitor for attending an opposition function. Minister Kruah was visibly seen sitting in the front roll

clapping his hands, as one of his kinsmen, Senator Koung was being named as vice presidential candidate by former vice president Joseph Boakai on Friday, April 28, much to the dislike of the ruling establishment. President Weah's moves to fire Cllr. Kruah comes as a warning to other officials of his administration with

relationships to the opposition bloc ahead of the October 10 polls. Minister Kruah, a member of the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) party, of Nimba County Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, came into limelight as few of the first batch of officials appointed under the Weah-led Administration, back in February 2018. He was relieved of his duties on Monday, May 1, and has been replaced by Cllr. Worleasaywah Dunah subject to Senate Confirmation. Before his dismissal, the former Nimba County Senator between 2006-2018, came under serious criticism and mounting calls from members and partisans of the ruling establishment to resign. Cllr. Kruah had gone to grace the nomination of his kinsman and close friend Sen. Koung being named as running mate to Mr. Boakai. His presence at the ceremony was viewed as lending support to the collaboration between MDR and Unity Party ahead of the elections as being viewed as a stab in the back of the ruling party.

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