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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, AUGUST 07, 2023	LS185.6972/US\$1.00	LS187.6294/US\$1.00

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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VOL. 13 NO. 135 MONDAY, AUGUST 07, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00

EDC throws first punch

-As condemnations flow



Cummings officially kicks off campaign

-Vows to put Liberians first above all else

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Continental News

Dozens Saved by Italy From Migrant Shipwrecks

Dozens of migrants were dramatically rescued by Italy as they foundered in the sea or clung to a rocky reef Sunday after three boats launched by smugglers from northern Africa shipwrecked in rough waters in separate incidents over the weekend. Survivors said some 30 fellow migrants were

southern European shores in hopes of being granted asylum or finding family or jobs, especially in northern European countries. In all, 34 migrants had been stranded for two nights on the reef, including two pregnant women, said Federico Catania, a spokesperson for the Alpine assistance group whose experts were lowered from a hovering

jagged rocks safely. A day earlier, Italian helicopters dropped food, water and thermal blankets down to the migrants on the reef. Meanwhile, survivors of two boats that capsized on Saturday some 23 nautical miles (42.5 kilometers) southwest of Lampedusa told rescuers that about 30 fellow



In this picture taken from video distributed on Aug. 6, 2023 by the Italian Alpine Rescue squads, a migrant stranded on a rocky reef on the tiny Italian southern island of Lampedusa is pluck to safety by helicopter.

missing from capsized vessels. In a particularly risky operation, two helicopters battled strong winds to pluck to safety, one by one, migrants stranded for nearly two days on a steep, rocky reef of tiny Lampedusa island. Firefighters said all the migrants, including a child, who had been clinging to the rocks after their boat smashed into the reef late Friday early Saturday, were saved. For years, migrants have taken to smugglers' unseaworthy vessels to make the risky crossing of the Mediterranean to try to reach

Italian air force helicopter. Migrants, some wearing shorts and flip-flops, clung to their rescuers as they were pulled up into the copter. One of the women, eight months pregnant, was taken to hospital, said Giornale di Sicilia, a local newspaper. Some were rescued by a firefighter helicopter and the others by an Italian air force copter, which lowered expert Alpine mountaineering rescuers down to the reef and one by one hoisted the migrants from the rocks. The helicopter operation was launched after the coast guard determined the rough sea would make it impossible for rescue boats to approach the

migrants were missing. The Coast Guard said that in two operations it saved 57 migrants and recovered the bodies of a child and of a woman. Coast Guard members lowered a wide rope ladder and helped pull up migrants into their rescue vessel, rocked by wind-whipped waves. At least one coast guard diver jumped into the sea to help guide a raft, tossed into the Mediterranean by the rescuers, so the survivors could cling to it while it was pulled toward the vessel, according to details gleaned from a coast guard video of the rescue. VOA

French Lawyer for Senegal Opposition Leader Imprisoned in Dakar

Juan Branco, a French lawyer for Senegalese opposition politician Ousmane Sonko, is in custody in Dakar on terrorism, conspiracy and public order charges, among others, his lawyer told Reuters on Sunday.

conference by Sonko's legal team in Dakar in late July, according to French newspaper Le Monde. He then went to Mauritania. "Juan Branco is for now in the hands of an elite police unit," Senegalese Interior Minister Antoine Felix

Abdoulaye Diome said on Sunday. "These legal proceedings are meant to silence a lawyer," Branco's lawyer Robin Binsard told Reuters. Bamba Cisse, a member of Sonko's legal team, told Reuters that all they were asking was for his rights to be protected. VOA



Franco-Spanish lawyer Juan Branco representing Senegalese opposition leader Ousmane Sonko speaks during a press conference in Paris on June 22, 2023.

Deadline Arrives for Niger's Junta to Reinstate President

The deadline has arrived Sunday for Niger's military junta to reinstate the country's ousted president, but the West Africa regional bloc that has threatened a military intervention faces prominent appeals to pursue more peaceful means. Neighboring Nigeria's Senate on Saturday pushed back against the plan by the regional bloc known as ECOWAS, urging Nigeria's president, the bloc's current chair, to explore options other than the use of force. ECOWAS can still move ahead, as final decisions are taken by consensus by member states, but the warning on the eve of Sunday's deadline raised questions about the intervention's fate. Algeria and Chad, non-ECOWAS neighbors with strong militaries in the region, both have said they oppose the use of force or won't intervene militarily, and neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso — both run by juntas — have said an intervention would be a "declaration of war" against them, too. The coup is perhaps the most challenging one so far for the West Africa region

at a dozen roundabouts until morning, checking cars for weapons and heeding the junta's call to watch out for foreign intervention and spies. "I'm here to support the military. We are against [the regional bloc]. We will fight to the end. We do not agree with what France is doing against us. We are done with colonization," said Ibrahim Nudirio, one of the residents on patrol. Some passing cars honked in support. Some people called for solidarity among African nations. It was not immediately clear on Sunday what ECOWAS will do next. The regional bloc shouldn't have given the junta a one-week deadline to reinstate Bazoum but rather only up to 48 hours, said Peter Pham, former U.S. special envoy for West Africa's Sahel region and a distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council. "Now it's dragged out, which gives the junta time to entrench itself," he said. The most favorable scenario for an intervention would be a force coming in with the help of those on the inside, he said. The coup is a major blow to the United States and allies who saw Niger as the last major counterterrorism partner in the Sahel, a vast area south of the Sahara Desert where jihadists linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic



Supporters of Niger's National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP) demonstrate in Niamey

struggling with military takeovers, Islamic extremism and a shift by some states toward Russia and its proxy, the Wagner mercenary group.

State group have been expanding their range and beginning to threaten coastal states like Benin, Ghana and Togo. The United States, France and European countries have poured hundreds of millions of dollars of military assistance into Niger. France has 1,500 soldiers in the country, though their fate is now in question. The U.S. has 1,100 military personnel also in Niger where they operate an important drone base in the city of Agadez.

Niger's ousted President Mohamed Bazoum said he is held "hostage" by the mutinous soldiers. An ECOWAS delegation was unable to meet with the junta's leader, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, who analysts have asserted led the coup to avoid being fired. Now the junta has reached out to Wagner for assistance while severing security ties with former colonizer France. Hours before Sunday's deadline, hundreds of youth joined security forces in the darkened streets in Niger's capital, Niamey to stand guard

While Niger's coup leaders have claimed they acted because of growing insecurity, conflict incidents decreased by nearly 40% in the country compared to the previous six-month period, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data project. VOA

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson,
and Austin Lentsch

The call from Ellen is welcoming

Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is cautioning members of the board of commissioners of the National Elections Commission (NEC) that they owe a sacred duty to the people of Liberia to conduct free, fair, transparent and credible elections, come October 10th.

Speaking at a women's forum Friday, August 4th in Congo Town, Monrovia, she emphasized that men and women on the Board of Commission of the NEC should know that they have a sacred duty to the State and its people to ensure processes leading to the polls enable everyone to have a freedom of choice.

This is advice coming from a voice of wisdom, an icon of Liberian politics with 12 years of experience from the Presidency that the NEC should heed as it endeavors to conduct free, peaceful democratic elections.

The NEC should uphold the Constitution as its guide in conducting these elections to ally all suspicions and doubts, leaving no room for confusion.

It should apply rules governing the electoral process across the board without fear or favor or other interests than the stability of the State and its citizens that includes the former President.

An electoral process that lacks credibility and trust is a recipe for confusion and chaos that no peace-loving Liberian wants, especially at a time when the entire West Africa is in turmoil arising from leadership struggle.

Already, Liberians had have their own share of bloody conflict with devastating consequences that they don't want repeated from poorly managed elections. Transparency and proactiveness should be the hallmark of the NEC as it moves on with the process.

Transparency and proactiveness would require the NEC to provide regular and timely updates to the public and willingness to listen to all sides in the competition.

Liberians should be proud that, for the very first time in many, many centuries, the nation has a former President that is alive and lives right in the country, willing to offer pieces of advice for the steady progression of the Motherland.

We should not take it for granted. She is an enormous human resource that this nation needs and should tap from to remain on the path of peace, stability, and unity.

On the other hand, we appeal to political parties and politicians vying for public offices to place the nation above their personal quests.

The Presidency is for only one person chosen by majority of the people at the ballot box, so the 20 candidates in the race, including incumbent President George Weah should be cognizant of this and allow the will of the people to prevail. Absolutely nothing else.

The reality is that 19 candidates will lose at the close of the polls whether in the first round or second round.

Hence, Leaders of political parties telling their partisans and supporters that they can never be defeated should begin to tune down such rhetoric, because it sets the stage and prepares the minds for violence.

The Hollywood Writers' AI Fight Is Everyone's Fight

Artificial intelligence is big business's new flavor of the month. Companies are rushing to showcase how they will be using new generative AI models, and the media is full of stories about the technology's transformative potential. There is no denying that it could significantly increase productivity. But who stands to benefit? The ongoing Writers Guild of America (WGA) strike may offer an answer.

Hollywood screenwriters are confronting a future that all knowledge workers will soon face - and without the benefit of union representation. At issue is how AI will be used, and by whom. Will TV and movie producers see AI as a way to replace writers and cut costs, or will they use it to create higher-quality content, empowering creative workers to be more productive and earn higher incomes?

We have been down a similar road before. In the early twentieth century, rapid improvements in manufacturing technologies such as moving assembly lines and electrical machinery led to a sharp increase in productivity. Henry Ford, a pioneer in applying these technologies, estimated that motor-enabled machinery "alone has probably doubled the efficiency of industry," while also making it possible to build much larger factories. But workers did not automatically share in these gains. On the contrary, that did not happen until new tasks had been created, and until workers had acquired enough bargaining power to demand higher wages. These are the two pillars of shared prosperity.

While Ford and his contemporaries certainly did automate some processes, their improved factories also introduced a lot of new activities that required human labor - from material preparation and machine maintenance to coordinating operations. These tasks expanded workers' contribution to production and translated into a big increase in the demand for labor. In 1899, the US car industry employed a few thousand workers, producing around 2,500 vehicles per year. By 1929, Ford and GM were each making 1.5 million cars annually (with total US auto production around 4.5 million), and the industry employed more than 400,000 people.

The second pillar is bargaining power. The famous sit-down strike at GM in 1936-37 was a key step in achieving union recognition, improved working conditions, and higher compensation for workers. Over several decades, the new balance that developed between management and workers in automobile manufacturing contributed to rapid wage growth. Part of what made this possible was an emphasis on continually training and upskilling workers to handle new tasks. Both employers and employees benefited from the productivity gains.

By the 1960s, US auto production had doubled since the 1920s, with the four largest manufacturers employing 1.3 million workers - more than three times the industry's employment four decades earlier. Moreover, inflation-adjusted profits for the dominant firms, GM and Ford, were around five times higher than in previous decades.

The rise of organized labor in the auto industry also established a model of capital-labor negotiations for other industries to follow. Imagine what would have happened if manufacturing companies attempted to adopt

"worker-less factories" in the 1950s, as some had started advocating. Productivity growth (not to mention shared prosperity) would have suffered greatly as the human contributions to technical work, design, maintenance, inspection, and creative problem-solving were undermined or lost.

Today, we are confronting equally revolutionary changes, now that executives are considering how to apply generative AI to all components of knowledge production and distribution. Leading tech-focused companies face many of the same choices that car manufacturers had to make at the beginning of the twentieth century. Should powerful new technologies be used to automate knowledge work and sideline workers? Or could AI become a tool to boost worker productivity and creativity? Much will depend on whether workers have a voice, and on how such choices affect productivity and product quality.

There are grounds for thinking that the WGA strike could be more important even than the struggles for union recognition at Ford and GM's factories a century ago. For starters, Hollywood's creative workers are uniquely well-organized and powerful compared to workers in other industries. If they fail, other knowledge workers will stand even less of a chance of shaping the future of work and technology.

The choices ahead of us are epochal, because there is an obvious temptation for movie producers to choose the low road of "just automate everything you can." This approach may be profitable in the short term if it allows for more shows to be cheaply produced, with fewer screenwriters, actors, and other staff. But studio profits and high-quality output are not the same thing. There still is no substitution for human ingenuity and creativity. Look past the hype, and it should be clear that predicting the next word in a sentence and aggregating the "wisdom" available on the internet are unlikely to generate superior artistic output - even if large language models could produce mediocre sitcoms.

The low road is especially costly because of what it misses. Generative AI could become a tremendously beneficial tool in the hands of creative artists, by helping with research and the development of new ideas. If we can find our way to this high road, AI could drive further technological progress and bolster the returns from human ingenuity.

Much is riding on the writers' strike. Obviously, it would be a disaster for workers if they are sidelined by movie studios. Knowledge workers - and, indeed, all workers - should hope that the WGA and its members succeed in showing not only how unions can raise wages in the short term, but also how technology can be used to support creativity, rather than simply displacing it.

Daron Acemoglu, Institute Professor of Economics at MIT, is a co-author (with Simon Johnson) of *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity* (PublicAffairs, 2023). Simon Johnson, a former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, is a professor at MIT's Sloan School of Management and a co-author (with Daron Acemoglu) of *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity* (PublicAffairs, 2023). Austin Lentsch is a policy fellow at MIT's Blueprint Labs.

OP-ED

By Jordan Dey

Achieving Zero Hunger Is Still Possible

This year marks the halfway point for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the ambitious set of global targets introduced by the United Nations in 2015.

These 17 goals, devised to address today's most pressing challenges and put the world on the path to sustainability, seek to reduce poverty, improve access to health care and education, and mitigate the worst effects of climate change by 2030. But when it comes to meeting the critical goal of eradicating food insecurity, much of the progress made over the past decade has been undone.

When the SDGs were launched, the target of eliminating food insecurity and malnutrition worldwide within 15 years seemed ambitious but within reach. At the time, hunger levels had been trending lower for more than two decades, largely thanks to rising agricultural productivity and global economic growth.

Over the past few years, however, the world has been hit by a series of compounding crises, from the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine to extreme weather events caused by climate change. As a result, global hunger has surged, with the world's poorest people suffering the most.

According to a new UN report, approximately 735 million people are experiencing food insecurity, an increase of 122 million people since 2019. Alarming, seven countries - Somalia, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Yemen - are now on the brink of famine. Not only are we falling short of reaching zero hunger by 2030, but we are worse off than we were in 2015.

So, where do we go from here? To meet the UN's zero-hunger target, we must first recognize who makes up the majority of the world's poor and understand where most of their food comes from. The answer to both questions is surprisingly straightforward.

The vast majority of the world's poorest individuals are the smallholder farmers who also produce most of the food consumed in many developing countries.

These farmers have been hit hard by the shocks of the past few years, in addition to the systemic challenges that have kept them trapped in poverty and food insecurity. Yet within the current crisis lies an opportunity. By supporting smallholder farms, the international community could make significant strides toward ending global hunger.

Governments and international institutions can aid smallholder farmers and eliminate global food insecurity in several ways. First, most smallholder farms in developing countries generate disproportionately low crop yields compared to their developed-country counterparts, largely because they lack basic inputs, such as improved seeds and organic fertilizers.

This is particularly evident in Sub-Saharan Africa, where yields for staple food crops are significantly lower than global averages. Increasing access to high-quality farm inputs, especially those that help farmers adapt to climate change, could thus greatly enhance food security.

Second, lack of access to credit prevents most smallholder farmers from purchasing improved agricultural inputs or investing in their farms. Greater global support for programs that provide these farmers with financing would help.

Third, smallholder farmers typically harvest crops once or twice a year. This means that food must be stored for months to ensure that supplies last until the next harvest. Given the limited access to proper storage technology, staple food grains are frequently exposed to damage by insects, mold, and other pests, contributing to post-harvest crop losses and household hunger.

These smallholder farms require greater access to advanced storage options, including low-cost, hermetically sealed bags that can preserve crops for extended periods and eliminate the need to treat stored grains with potentially harmful insecticides.

Finally, smallholder farmers need better access to viable markets for their crops, enabling them to move beyond subsistence and build reliable livelihoods.

The international community, alongside public- and private-sector actors, must do more to bolster local capacity and encourage investment in agricultural value chains. This would empower more smallholders to develop sustainable businesses.

Despite the massive challenges ahead, achieving zero hunger remains a feasible target. In September, global leaders attending the UN General Assembly will evaluate progress toward achieving the SDGs.

If we are to create a world free from hunger, supporting agriculture and smallholder farmers must be at the top of the agenda.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

CDC zealots' action was provocative-plain and simple

The parade with a casket bearing images of Unity Party's Standard Bearer Amb. Joseph N. Boakai by a group of youths from the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) at the start of campaigns for the 2023 Presidential and Legislative elections on Saturday, August 5 was provocative-plain and simple.

This action which came just days after the 20 presidential candidates vying for the nation's highest office signed their commitment to peaceful campaigns is worth condemning by all peace-loving Liberians in the strongest term no matter which side of the political divide one belongs to.

Campaigns are about winning hearts and minds through debates and selling messages through organized rallies to woo potential voters not engaging in provocations or anti-peaceful activities for conflicts and chaos.

There are no doubts that the stakes of this 2023 presidential and legislative elections are high, but this does not warrant acts of hooliganism and other vices that would question its outcome and drag its credibility in the mud.

What Liberians hope to see over the next two and half months is a rush by candidates to showcase their platforms and visions for the country not engaging in acts that would undermine the electoral process and bring the country to its knee.

Election campaigns should be conducted based on mutual respect, constructive debates, and peaceful rallies, not through acts of violence, intimidation, and incitements, which are all recipes for the breakdown of law and order- chaos. And the CDC of all parties should not be found wanting to send such a message.

Therefore, leaders of the CDC including incumbent President George Weah should stand up and condemn such a disgraceful act by a handful of partisans who are projecting their noble party as a group of provocateurs, who desire nothing else but pandemonium.

Such condemnation should be done in the strongest term with deterrence for any other group both within the CDC and any other political party whose followers think that provocations are the best scrips for campaigners.

Let the CDC zealots and any other group that may be thinking in similar direction be reminded that over the years, Liberians have thrived to solidify the country's democracy and have done so through peaceful elections.

Through that commitment, Liberians have witnessed the transfer of power from one government to another. This 2023 election should not under no circumstances be manipulated to reverse such significant gain.

This election, like the ones before it, should be conducted based on the principles of democratic values which promote inclusivity, unity in diversity and echo the will of the people.

The ability to agree to disagree is what promotes peaceful exchange of ideas through debates, while still respecting the other party regardless of their views-this is what peaceful campaign is all about.

Let these CDC zealots and their likes be reminded of unfolding events in the sub-region and why it is imperative that Liberians go through this electoral process void of reasons that would undermine the integrity of the polls.

This election is also a litmus test for the ruling CDC, which has much to lose in this process than the rest of the 19 political parties combine and, therefore, is under obligation to ensure the transparency of the process.

Cummings officially kicks off campaign

Collaborating Political Parties Standard Bearer, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings wasted no time in kick starting his 2023 presidential campaign with a pledge to prioritize Liberians' interest above all else.

and corruptly enrich themselves. I understand why many Liberians feel this way about politics and leadership in our country. I do, too.

Although the pictures of politicians may be on the ballot, the life of every Liberian is at stake. The direction of our

is about all of us. For Liberians who have continued to suffer, especially through the last six years, we want to make October 10 the beginning of the end to the worsening hard times.

We know that Liberians do not want to beg. Our people

of leadership that is hurting our people. We will restore international confidence in the new leadership of the Liberian government, and attract serious international investors back to our country. With your support and vote, October 10 will be the beginning of the end to stealing in government, abuse of office, mismanagement of public resources, and the sale of Liberia's wealth by government officials while Liberians continue to remain poor.

There is something that is even more dear to my heart and will be a major focus of our presidency. After October 10, with your vote and support, we will not rest until we see the success of Liberians prioritized in our country. If you have a dream, and you are willing to work hard to make it come true; in Liberia, there will be no reason why you should not be able to turn your dream into reality. From business to entertainment, we will apologize to no one for Liberians succeeding in Liberia. In fact, we will make it easy for Liberians to succeed.

Your vote and support on October 10 will be the beginning of the end to wickedly cutting Liberian salaries while the costs of food, school fees, rent, transportation and medicines are all going up. Our educational system will improve. Our hospitals will not be neglected while the president, vice president, speaker, pro-temp and deputy speaker take the lion share of the budget for themselves. This is selfish, irresponsible, wrong, and wicked. We will fix it.

Let me be very clear: There are businesses that are exclusively for Liberians by law. Not only will we enforce the law, but we will provide additional opportunities for Liberians to succeed in business, sports, music, movie, literature, and other forms of arts. It is a disservice to any people for their government to not prioritize their success. This is why, to promise that Liberians will not be spectators in their economy, only to end up throwing them outside the stadium, is a national disgrace. We will fix this, too.

We promise to reform, resource and professionalize the administration of justice in our country. Impunity for crimes will end. Victims of rape and other sexual and gender-based crimes will be protected. Our courts will

I believe in Liberian entrepreneurship. I am who I am largely because my mother was a midwife who also sold women undergarments. I feel deeply

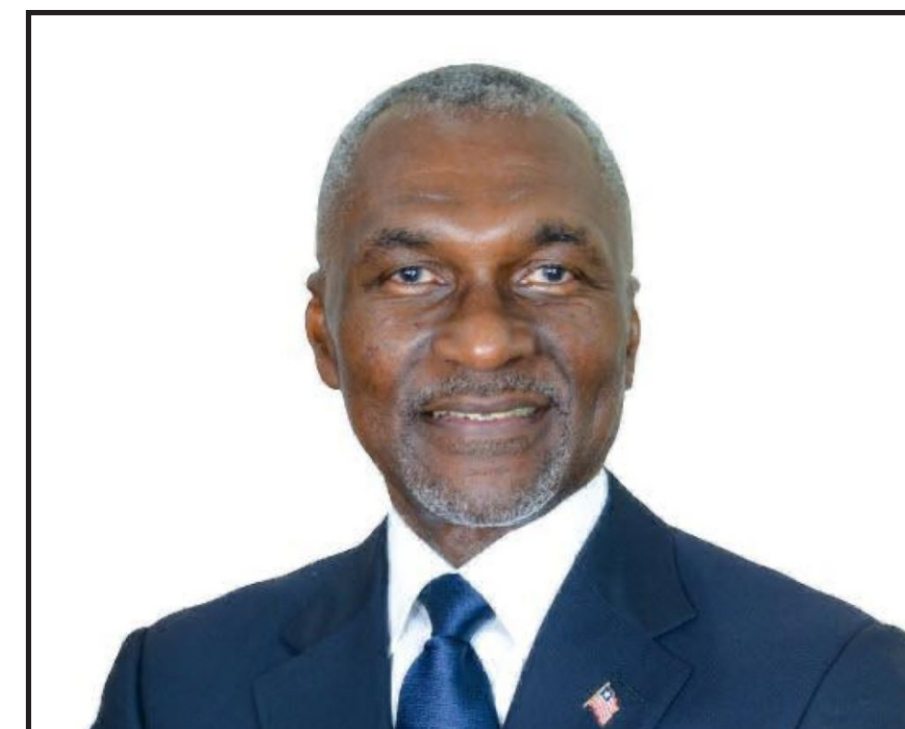


Saturday, August 5 on the opening day of campaign nationwide, Cummings announced that he would put the US\$10 million aside annually for Liberian business development. He argued that this will help Liberians achieve their maximum potential in all spheres of economic ventures.

the country and the future of our children will be decided by each vote cast. The decisions of October 10 can worsen the conditions we are living in today, take us backward to a past of "squandered opportunities", or move us forward into a brighter future.

want to work. We want jobs. A Cummings - Brumskine administration will create jobs, decent and high-paying jobs.

Under President Weah, no serious international investor has come to Liberia to help us create jobs. In fact, some investors left because the government is too corrupt. Officials act lawlessly, and the president either does nothing or acts in a 419 way to cover up stealing and abuse of public offices by his friends and closest officials. Decent jobs do not get created in countries where drug traffickers are allowed to walk free, accused persons are never prosecuted, and promised investigations for alleged crimes are never held.



"From business to entertainment, we will apologize to no one for Liberians succeeding. In fact, we will make it easier for Liberians to succeed," Cummings said.

Liberians are ready for real change. Counsellor Charlyne Brumskine and I are ready to work hard, lead differently, and by good examples, bring real change to our country. We bring a new mindset, vision, energy and a combination of unique leadership perspectives that are needed to move our country into real 21st Century transformation.

Today, I promise you that a Cummings - Brumskine administration will fix this lack

not have to take too long to decide cases. Our judges and justices will no longer feel intimidated or have their judgments interfered with by the political branches. Access to justice will not continue to be too expensive, especially for ordinary people. With Counsellor Brumskine by my side, we will fix it.

indebted to my mother, and to all Liberian mothers, many of whom, like my mother, are selling to send their children to school, and to help fathers put food on the table.



After October 10, with your vote and support, no child needs to go to bed hungry in a country blessed with fertile soil and abundant rainfall. Liberians are not cursed by God to be so poor in a country He has blessed to be so rich. We promise you today that we will pave our main roads and ensure our roads are passable all year round. We will push the reach of technology into our villages and towns so that no matter where you are born, you, too, can be connected to the internet and the world, with the endless possibilities of reaching your dreams.

Every year, in a Cummings-led administration, we will provide a 10-million-dollar loan facility for Liberian women businesses. Additionally, we will provide training, mentorship and other opportunities to guarantee the growth and success of Liberian businesses. We want to see Liberian retailers becoming importers and wholesalers. We want to see Liberian waiter markets becoming shops, and shops becoming stores. If you have a dream and the drive, together, we will find the means to let you thrive. This one, dah my area!

If a pekin from Gbeken, who grew up in Point Four and Fiamah, and attended Demonstration Elementary School and CWA, can reach the top of a giant international company; and if a

My fellow citizens:

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

South easterners gown Speaker Chambers for "exceptional leadership"

House Speaker Dr. Bhofal Chambers has been honoured by scores of Liberians under the banner, Professionals South easterners.

The Officials and Members of the group on Friday, August 4, 2023, certificated and

legislature along with President George Weah will sustain the gains made and ensure speedy continuation.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of a custom-designed traditional gown, signifying the exceptional leadership qualities of Speaker

countless policy makers across the Country.

Dr. Chambers renewed fervent calls for their continued support to the Government. Stating that as Gov't navigate through the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, the unwavering backing of citizens remains the cornerstone of the nation's progress.

He said over the years, Gov't have achieved remarkable milestones together. From economic growth and infrastructural development to social welfare and infrastructural advancements, which he says has been collective efforts propelling the Gov't to move forward. "However, we must not rest on our laurels; there is still much work to be done". Speaker Chambers averred.

He then appreciated the Professionals Southeastern for Chambers for the recognition and honor bestowed upon him. The Pleebo Sodoken Lawmaker vowed to always prioritize the welfare of the Country and its people void of distractions from anyone. At the same time House Speaker Bhofal Chambers says ahead of the political campaigning across the Country the involvement of citizens is pivotal in shaping the future of Liberia by engaging in constructive dialogues, participating in civic activities, and exercising their right to vote are crucial steps towards a stronger democracy. "It is only by working hand in hand, as a united front, that we can overcome challenges and forge a prosperous path for the generations to come". Chambers stated.



traditionally gown Speaker Chambers.

According to them, the Speaker has demonstrated leadership at its highest peak, evidence of stability at the Liberian legislature since his election as Speaker 15 January 2018 til today.

They maintained that such leadership in the spirit of the separation of powers existing among the three branches of government, has enhanced the rule of law and Governance.

The Southeastern Professionals then lauded the Speaker for his humanitarian gestures to cross sections of Liberians.

They are of the view, the re-election of Speaker Bhofal Chambers as Representative and Speaker of the 55th

Bhofal Chamber. The gown, according to the group, serves as a tangible reminder of the honor and recognition bestowed upon him by the Professionals southeasterners for Chambers.

In remarks, Speaker Chambers, was glad that citizens can attest to the progress made within the Legislature and the Country at large under the Coalition for Democratic Change Weah-Taylor regime. Chambers, a trailblazer and visionary in the Liberian Legislature from 2006-2023, has consistently demonstrated exemplary leadership qualities that have transformed the lawmaking House. His unwavering dedication, innovative thinking, and commitment to excellence have not only earned him respect from peers but also inspired

Superintendent Prowd cautious citizens ahead of elections

Maryland County Superintendent George A. Prowd, has cautioned the people of Maryland against violence during the pending presidential and legislative elections in October.

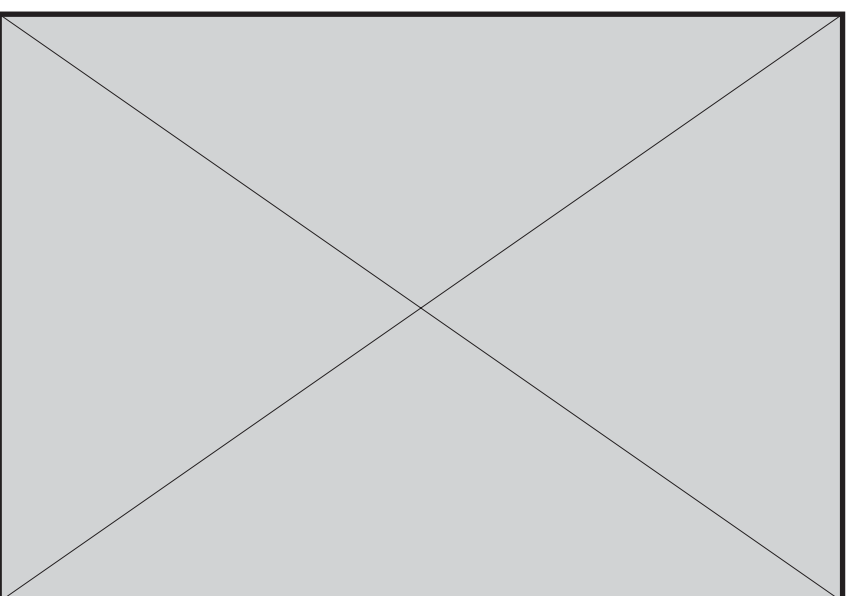
Superintendent proud cautious to citizens at the Pleebo intellectual center followed official campaigns declaration made by the National Elections Commission (NEC) on August 5, 2023.

The superintendent's daylong interaction with citizens brought together youth, women, supporters of political parties and local government officials, among others.

Speaking at the discourse, she stressed that election is an event so it shouldn't be the reason why citizens would be against one another.

According to him, the best way to maintaining the peace of Liberia is by accepting one

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



JFK resumes Corneal transplant

The Liberian Eye Center at the John F. Kennedy (JFK) Medical Center has announced the resumption of corneal transplant procedures.

It comes on the heels of the facility's recent accomplishment of five successful surgeries, marking a remarkable advancement in Liberia's ophthalmic healthcare landscape.

One of the five patients came from The Gambia with the rest being Liberians.

The surgeries were performed by a medical team led by Shalini Singh, a visiting Ophthalmologist who works with L.V. Prasad Eye Institute in India.

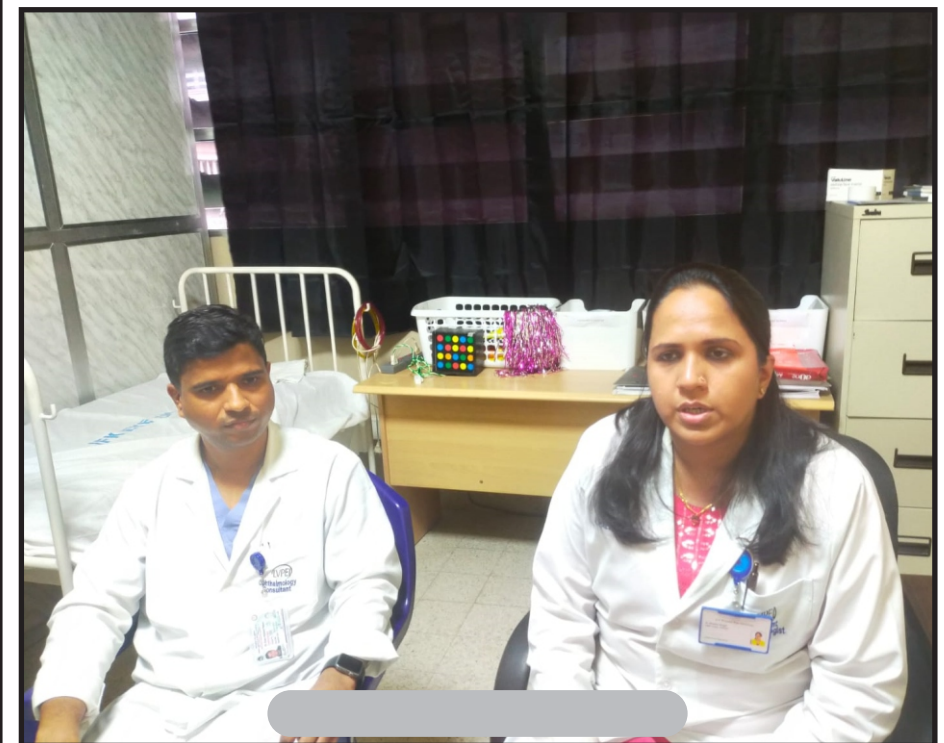
The team worked for hours to ensure the success of the surgeries which was made possible by the state-of-the-art equipment at the JFK Eye

Center, run by L.V. Prasad Eye Institute of India.

of the procedures comes after a few years of a halt as a reason for coronavirus. "We are thrilled to have achieved this significant milestone," Pehere noted. "So far we have performed nine corneal transplant procedures since the beginning of this year and two of our patients came from Ghana."

which started in Liberia in 2017, came to a halt as a result of coronavirus. The corneal, which is the clear front surface of the eye, plays a pivotal role in focusing light and transmitting visual information to the retina. Any damage to it can result in vision impairment or even blindness. Transplantation, which is the most safer procedure to replace a damaged cornea, has long been a challenge in West Africa due to limited access to advanced eye care services.

According to Dr. Niranjan Pehere, an ophthalmologist at the Liberia Eye Center, the resumption of the transplants holds tremendous promise for those afflicted with corneal blindness, a condition that severely impacts visual acuity and quality of life. Pehere who is the head of the Center added that the resumption



Center, run by L.V. Prasad Eye Institute of India.

Singh, who is a renowned surgeon, noted that Prasad would continue to support the JFK Eye Center as the resumption of corneal transplant surgery is "here to stay."

Eye care, Singh noted, is very important. As such, Prasad will continue to send a surgeon every three months to ensure that the service is maintained and operational.

"A corneal is very important and any damage to it can result in vision impairment or even blindness.

"Due to advancements in technology, transplants have become safe and easy to perform," Singh added. "People in Liberia must take advantage of this because this is one of the best surgeries with a very good outcome." The corneal transplant surgery,

of the procedures comes after a few years of a halt as a reason for coronavirus. "We are thrilled to have achieved this significant milestone," Pehere noted. "So far we have performed nine corneal transplant procedures since the beginning of this year and two of our patients came from Ghana."

"This kind of surgery is hard to perform and there are not many hospitals in the sub-region that have the capacity to do such. But here at JFK eye center, we have the capacity to do such for local and international patients at an affordable cost." The Eye Center, Perehe noted, is working tirelessly to improve medical services and provide innovative treatments for eye diseases and will continue to do "so no matter the situation."

According to Singh, corneal is not just about transplants but other corneal diseases. Singh noted that she has examined 70 patients with different eye diseases in the country with only three or four persons needing transplants.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Bomi Farmers Lauds Cummings

An estimated 800 farmers group, predominately women in Amadu Town, District #3, Bomi County has lauded Mr. Alexander Cummings, Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), for his invaluable assistance and support that have enabled hundreds of families to earn their livelihood.

Mr. Cummings was invited by elders and citizens of Amadu Town, to join in celebrations of Madam Haji Sarnor Massaley and others, successful holy pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Madam Majuah Johnson, harvest lost," and pleaded with Mr. Cummings for a meeting and cherished him for his kind humanitarian gestures, that has relieved most of the families of extreme poverty.

statement of appreciation by the 800 group of farmers in District #3, Bomi County for his assistance and relief to the families.

The CPP Standard Bearer, however, used the occasions to caution Liberians to be conscious of who they support and elect in these elections, come October 10.

Cummings said the CPP aspires for a new Liberia, where



Chairlady of the farmers' group, said seven years ago in 2016, help them to establish farms and are growing collard greens, cabbage, lettuce, ground peas, and vegetables, covering an estimated eight hectares of land in District #3, Bomi County.

At a special welcome ceremony for Madam Haji Fatumatta Sarnor-Massaley, who returned home from the holy pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, Ms. Majuah Johnson used the occasion, to express their gratitude to Mr. Cummings for the laudable assistance.

She said while the harvest is good, the lacked storage facilities is causing "poor

In remarks, Madam Haji Fatumatta Sarnor-Massaley extended thanks and appreciation to Mr. Cummings and entourage for accepting to attend her family welcome ceremony from the holy pilgrimage and commended him for his assistance to the over 800 farmers in District #3, Bomi County.

In remarks, Mr. Cummings expressed gratitude for the warm receptions accorded him and entourage and said it was an honour to join the Sarnor and Massaley families in the welcome ceremony.

Mr. Cummings also acknowledged with thanks,

every citizen, irrespective of their political and religious affiliations or ethnicity and gender, will be guaranteed equal rights and access to jobs, and will equally share in the benefits of the country's resources, without discrimination.

The program organized by the Sarnor and Massaley families, was seemingly a family reunion and was attended by several Bomi County Representative Aspirants and officials of the All Liberian Solidarity Party, many of whom spoke well of the CPP Standard Bearer invaluable contributions to Liberia and Liberians.

Superintendent Prowd cautious

Starts from page 6

another's views and concerns despite political differences.

According to the Superintendent Prowd, in days and months to come, the country will be engaged in a crucial democratic process, where diverse ideas and visions will be presented and as such, citizen should be educated on violence free election.

He urged the people of Pleebo, including political parties and candidates to respect one another, exercise tolerance, and constructive dialogue, stating that it's not force for everyone to be on the same party, and this year's

campaign messages should be void of violence.

"Let me say to you my citizens, please focus on the real issues that matter most to our people and accept a peaceful exchange of ideas because the peace of our country lies in our hands, and it is by peacefully engaging one another that we can build a better Liberia for all".

The superintendent use the medium to call on every citizen to peacefully participate in the democratic process and let the mind of peace guide them through the campaign season; stressing that together, they as citizens of the country can

maintain the peace.

He at the same time presented two brand new TVS star motorbikes to the Voice of Truth 95.5 FM and the Voice of Hope 103.2 FM respectively, local community radio stations operating in Pleebo, Maryland County electoral district#2.

Mr. Prowd disclosed that the donation came from the local authorities through President George Weah as a way of giving back to the two community radio stations.

The citizens, including the management and staff of both stations lauded the superintendent and promised to maintain the peace currently in the country.

Dr. Moses Gray pays to Liberian Embassy in Paris

The Dean of the Amos C. Sawyer College of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Liberia, and Co-chair of the Board of Trustees, Grand Kru Technical College, Associate Professor Dr. Josephus M. Gray, has paid a courtesy visit to the Liberian Embassy in Paris, France, meeting with Diplomatic Staff there.

According to a release, during the visit at the Embassy located at 12 Place du General Catroux, Paris, Dr. Gray praised the diplomatic officers particularly Mr. Francis R. Grant, Minister Counselor and Chargé d'Affaires a.i, and Madam Tracy Ashley Grigsby, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary-designate, for their continuing service to the state, particularly in their current positions.

Dr. Gray encouraged Mr. Grant and the diplomatic officers to keep up the fantastic work in

him for future challenges and the competing job market.

He, therefore, strongly encouraged the staff to make use of the added advantage to become bilingual and pursue higher education in various disciplines in Paris.

Dr. Gray used the visit to brief the Liberian diplomats of the new trajectory of the Amos C. Sawyer College particularly the University of Liberia and requested Mr. Grant to convey his high esteem to His Excellency, Mr. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemaya Sr, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia for this able leadership and achievements.

Recounting numerous achievements, Prof. Gray said since Dr. Nelson took over the affairs of the institution, almost four years now, the flagship university has prestigiously positioned itself on a path of new academic trajectory, thus propelling itself far above redemptive glamour, instead elected to strengthen ties and collaboration at all echelons with



projecting the nation's image globally, especially in France and Western Europe.

He said it was incredible to see Liberian diplomats consistently pushing the nation's foreign policy and international relations, saying "Mr. Grant, thank you for the warm reception and hospitality accorded me this afternoon." He used the visit to inform the staff at the embassy that it's incredible to be back home at the Embassy of Liberia, adding that "I had the opportunity to working with different groups of people for about five years as Political Counsellor at this Embassy and [I'm] pleased with my services here, it was rewarding to work at this strategic diplomatic mission in France." According to Dr. Gray, his service and days at the Embassy in Paris were rewarding, as he took advantage of the opportunity to pursue his Ph.D. studies in International Relations and Diplomacy which prepared

emphasis on academic and development that benefiting the entire institution and the country in particular. Dr. Gray informed Mr. Grant that the Amos C. Sawyer College will be pleased to hire competent and qualified Liberians from France to render professional teaching service in the Department of French Studies and other disciplines across the College. He said the College contains 286 faculty of which 21 persons are Ph.D. holders while 220 are holders of master's degrees or double master's degrees of which 56 faculty members are females.

In welcome remarks, Mr. Grant, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. welcomed Dr. Gray to the Embassy and thanks him for the visit, saying welcome back home. He expressed appreciation for the level of new progress at the Amos C. Sawyer College of Social Sciences and Humanities under Prof. Gray's leadership and encouraged him to keep doing a fantastic job at the college. Press

Français

L'Université du Libéria s'associe au PNUD pour accélérer la numérisation à l'aide du projet UniPod

L'Université du Libéria (UL) et le PNUD Libéria ont signé un protocole d'accord pour commencer la mise en œuvre du projet University Innovation Pods (UniPod).

Le projet vise à encourager les étudiants des universités à s'engager dans l'innovation et la réflexion conceptuelle dans le cadre de la nouvelle initiative du PNUD pour l'Afrique de Tombouctou impliquant 11 pays (Bénin, Guinée, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Soudan du Sud, Togo, Ouganda, et Libéria).

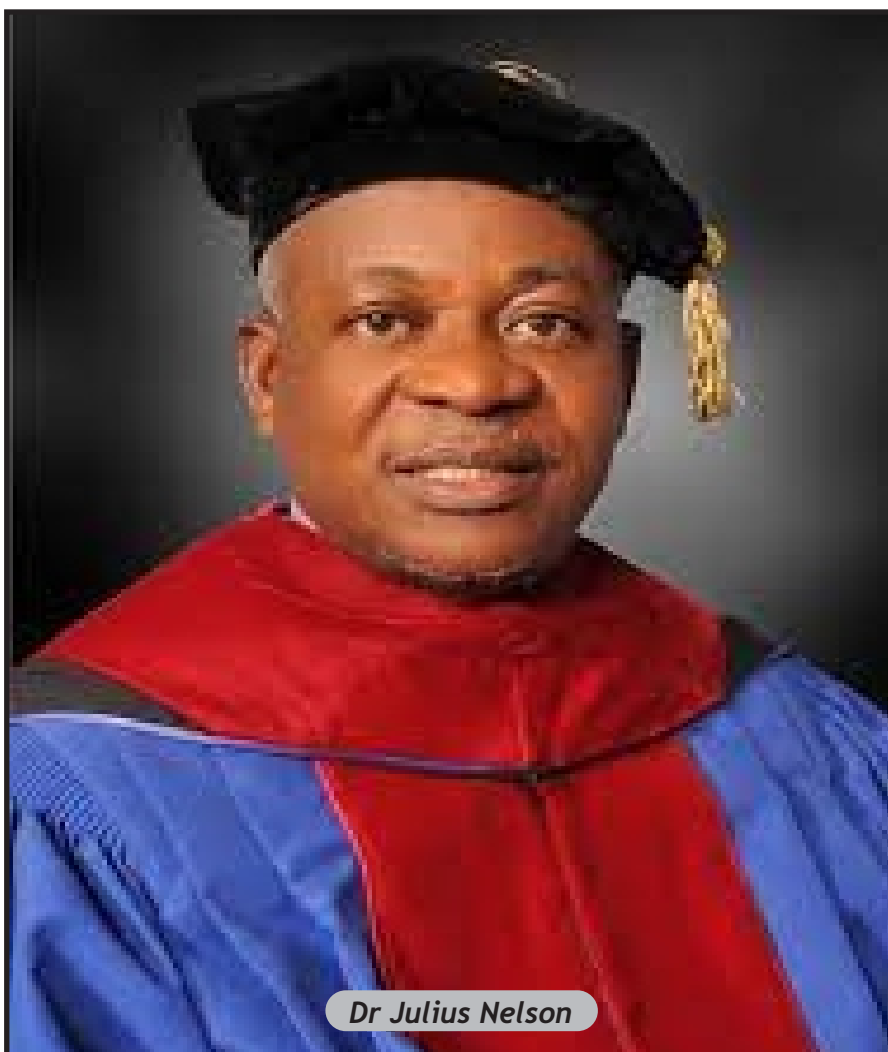
Lors d'une brève cérémonie de signature le 27 juillet 2023, sur le campus de l'Université du Libéria, le représentant résident du PNUD au Libéria Louis Kuukpen a décrit l'initiative comme une occasion de tester l'imagination des élèves en ce qui concerne créer des idées et trouver des solutions.

Kuukpen a déclaré que la signature du protocole d'entente est un appel à l'action pour accélérer la mise en œuvre du projet UniPod en travaillant en étroite collaboration avec des groupes de réflexion et d'autres partenaires pour

s'assurer qu'il est accessible aux autres étudiants et soutenu.

En réponse, le président de l'Université du Libéria, le Dr Julius

Le Dr Nelson a déclaré que le projet prépare le terrain pour aider l'Université du Libéria à atteindre certains de



Dr Julius Nelson

Nelson, a exprimé sa gratitude au PNUD et à ses partenaires pour ce qu'il a appelé "Transformer un rêve en réalité" avec le lancement du projet UniPod.

ses objectifs en matière de numérisation et d'innovation.

Le projet UniPod dont le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Nigeria : le Sénat frileux sur une opération armée au Niger

Ce dimanche 6 août sera le dernier jour de l'ultimatum lancé par la Cédéao aux putschistes nigériens pour abandonner le pouvoir. L'organisation ouest-africaine menace les mutins d'une intervention militaire. Grande puissance régionale, le Nigeria pourrait jouer un rôle de leader dans cette opération. Le pays assure d'ailleurs la présidence de la Cédéao. Mais dans le pays, la pression politique est forte sur le chef de l'État, Bola Tinubu. Le Sénat lui a d'ailleurs demandé de privilégier d'autres options.

Bola Tinubu avait écrit aux sénateurs pour leur demander d'approuver les résolutions de la Cédéao. Mais les élus n'ont pas donné un blanc-seing au chef de l'État. Bien au contraire. Après plusieurs heures de réunion, la Chambre a finalement demandé à Bola Tinubu de renforcer les options diplomatiques et politiques pour résoudre la crise au Niger.

Dans sa réponse, certes le Sénat a rejeté le coup d'État

militaire, mais il montre aussi sa frilosité vis-à-vis d'une confrontation armée.

Déjà vendredi soir, les sénateurs du Nord, eux, s'étaient inquiétés des répercussions d'une opération militaire. Les deux pays partagent 1 500 km de frontière et les élus de la région avaient souligné les liens culturels, religieux, linguistiques entre les deux côtés. Ils avaient donc alerté

contre « un recours à la force avant d'avoir épuisé toutes les voies diplomatiques », ajoutant qu'une opération aurait « des implications au Nigeria » avec une possible déstabilisation de régions très pauvres déjà sous pression des groupes armés.

Enfin, la pression politique

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Bola Tinubu

Éditorial

Arrêtez la violence à Nimba

L'augmentation de la violence caractérisée par l'usage des armes à feu et la destruction des propriétés publiques et des entreprises privées dans le comté de Nimba constitue un obstacle pour le développement non seulement dans ce comté, mais aussi sur l'ensemble du pays, d'où la nécessité d'une attention particulière sur cette question de la part de tous les Libériens épris de paix.

Il est tout à fait regrettable qu'un pays encore sous le choc de 14 années de guerre civile dévastatrice se délecte de la violence comme moyen d'obtenir réparation des problèmes auxquels il est confronté, comme dans le cas récent d'ArcelorMittal Liberia qui fut victime de vandalisme. Ces nouveaux événements soulèvent de sérieuses questions psychologiques sur le comportement des Libériens.

La violence de vendredi dernier (28 juillet 2023) à Zolowee, dans la deuxième circonscription électorale du comté de Nimba, était totalement injustifiée. Il y a eu vendredi dernier des affrontements entre un groupe de jeunes citoyens et des éléments de la police lors d'une perquisition. Un homme de 20 ans a été abattu, un policier blessé et plusieurs autres civils hospitalisés.

Ces violences arrivent alors que nous ne sommes qu'à moins de 80 jours des élections générales et présidentielle et que la tension politique monte de plus en plus.

Nous nous empressons de rappeler que la violence persistante des citoyens lésés dans le comté de Grand Cape Mount pour des raisons foncières et autres était l'une des principales raisons pour lesquelles la société malaisienne de palmiers à huile, Sime Darby, a fermé ses portes et a quitté le Libéria, laissant plusieurs milliers de Libériens sans emploi.

Aujourd'hui, des actions similaires ont lieu dans le même comté, cette fois-ci, contre la société minière Bea Mounting, en particulier à Kungbor et dans d'autres districts.

Des citoyens lésés de la ville de Zolowee le long de la route Sanniquillie -Yekepa dans la deuxième circonscription électorale du comté de Nimba s'en sont pris à des agents des forces de sécurité qui exécutaient un mandat de perquisition de plusieurs maisons de la ville pour retrouver des biens appartenant à ArcelorMittal Libéria.

Les citoyens n'avaient aucune raison de devenir violents si leur conscience était claire et étaient convaincus qu'ils n'avaient aucun objet volé à l'intérieur de leurs différentes maisons.

Il convient de rappeler aux Libériens qui résident à proximité des zones de concession à travers le pays que les investisseurs viennent ici pour un accord gagnant-gagnant avec le gouvernement qui fournit des emplois aux citoyens. Mais lorsque les terrains de concession deviennent des champs de bataille, l'argent réel s'envole et l'économie se met à genou comme nous l'avons vécu pendant la guerre civile. N'oublions pas que le gouvernement ne peut pas fournir d'emplois. Il a besoin d'investisseurs pour générer des revenus pour le développement auquel aspirent tous les Libériens.

Au lieu de recourir à une violence persistante, vandalisant biens publics et privés, nous encourageons les citoyens ayant des préoccupations, aussi graves soient-elles, à choisir la table ronde pour demander réparation, car nous avons besoin d'investisseurs étrangers pour maintenir l'économie.

Français

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L'Université du Libéria

Le coup est de 600 000 \$ US (six cent mille) est financé par le PNUD. Il a plusieurs volets et se concentre sur le soutien et la croissance de l'entrepreneuriat innovant, évolutif et percutant des jeunes d'Afrique tout en s'appuyant sur un tremplin de partenaires qui, ensemble, contribuent de manière significative à la construction d'un écosystème de l'innovation et des start-up de la jeunesse africaine. Au Libéria, l'UniPod sera hébergé au River View Complex, Fendall, Université du Libéria. De plus, un Orange Digital Center à Congo Town à

Monrovia alimentera l'UniPod de l'Université du Libéria en partenariat avec lcampus.

L'UniPOD disposera d'un laboratoire de conception qui créera un espace où les étudiants pourront apprendre à penser différemment aux problèmes et à concevoir des solutions à l'aide d'outils dédiés, un espace équipé et doté en personnel pour permettre aux innovateurs de fabriquer des choses et prendre en charge le prototypage rapide et la production numérique, ainsi qu'un espace pour inspirer la collaboration créative et la mise en réseau des étudiants, des ateliers et des événements.

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Nigeria : le Sénat frileux sur

s'est encore accentuée sur Bola Tinubu avec les propos fermes de la CUPP. Samedi matin, la plus importante coalition d'opposition a dénoncé un projet militaire « non seulement inutile, mais irresponsable ». « Le Nigeria ne peut pas se permettre de

gaspiller ses ressources qui s'amenuisent et les vies précieuses de nos soldats. Un nouveau front pourrait plonger l'économie fragile dans une crise encore plus profonde », avaient déclaré les opposants.

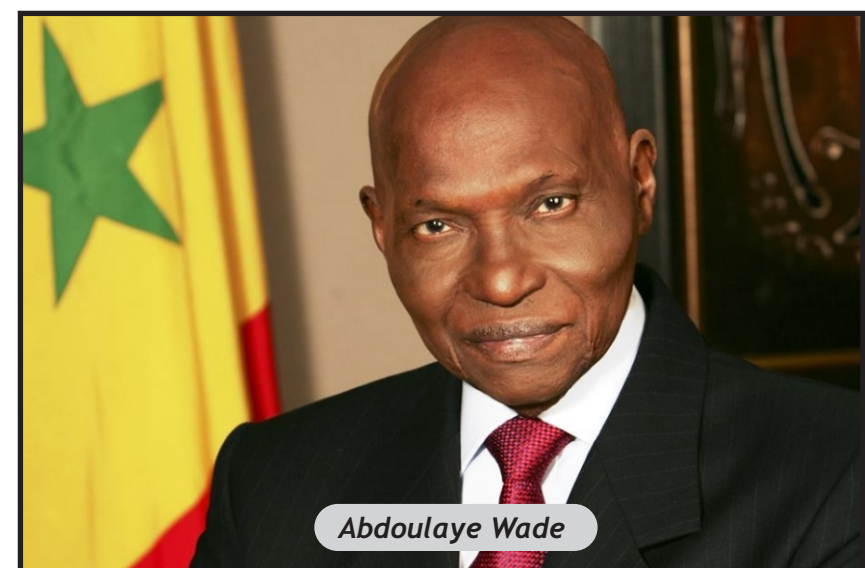
Sénégal : Khalifa Sall et Karim Wade devraient pouvoir être candidats à la présidentielle

Sept mois avant la présidentielle sénégalaise, les députés ont voté, samedi 5 août dans la soirée, un texte qui devrait permettre aux deux figures de l'opposition, Khalifa Sall et Karim Wade, de se présenter. Le projet de loi largement adopté permet de leur rendre leur éligibilité.

Adoptée par 124 voix pour, 1 contre et 0 abstention, la réforme du code électoral sénégalais permet à toute personne condamnée et ayant

présidentielle de février 2024.

En raison de condamnations dans des affaires financières distinctes, ils avaient été empêchés de concourir au scrutin de 2019 contre le sortant et futur vainqueur, l'actuel président Macky Sall. Leur réhabilitation électorale pourrait permettre de contribuer à apaiser en partie les tumultes traversés par le Sénégal. Le pays, qui se distingue par sa relative stabilité dans une région



Abdoulaye Wade

ensuite bénéficié d'une amnistie ou d'une grâce de figurer sur les listes électorales, et donc de se présenter aux élections. Si le texte défendu par le gouvernement est promulgué, Khalifa Sall, ancien maire de Dakar, et Karim Wade, héritier de l'ex-président Abdoulaye Wade, pourront donc se lancer dans la course à la

troublée, a en effet vécu depuis 2021 plusieurs épisodes de contestation meurtrière, liée au bras de fer entre l'opposant Ousmane Sonko et le pouvoir. L'incertitude sur une candidature du président sortant à un troisième mandat, finalement écartée par Macky Sall, avait aussi contribué aux tensions.

La NEC lance une campagne d'éducation civique et électorale



Madame Davidetta Browne Lansanah

La Commission électorale nationale (NEC) a lancé une campagne d'éducation civique et électorale en vue des élections présidentielle et législatives de 2023 sous le thème : « La participation des citoyens est indispensable ».

81 organisations communautaires (CBO) ont été choisies pour la campagne de sensibilisation dans les 15 comtés et les 73 circonscriptions électorales que compte le Libéria, à en croire la présidente de la NEC, Davidetta Browne Lansanah.

La Commission aurait également accrédité et certifié 400 organisations de la société civile pour la campagne de sensibilisation. Il y aurait des organisations confessionnelles, des OSC et des organisations communautaires. Leur mission consisterait à expliquer davantage les connaissances sur les droits des Libériens à se manifester en nombre.

La présidente de la NEC a souligné que l'opération permettra aux Libériens de prendre des décisions éclairées une fois dans les urnes le jour des élections. Le président du comité directeur, Floyd Oxley Saylor, a déclaré pour sa part que l'opération permettra aussi aux libériens de participer au processus électoral de manière libre, équitable et indépendante.

M. Saylor a exhorté tous les partis politiques et les organisations communautaires à participer à l'opération afin que les citoyens sortent le 10 octobre pour voter. Quant à Ernestine Morgan, elle a insisté sur l'importance de la communication pour l'organisation des élections libres, équitables et crédibles. Il est important selon elle, d'expliquer le sens du civisme et de l'obligation civique afin que les citoyens connaissent leurs droits et comment les exercer lors des élections.

L'ancien parti au pouvoir propose une stratégie pour éviter la fraude électorale

Le Parti de l'unité (UP), un parti d'opposition, propose la proclamation des résultats de l'élection présidentielle du 10 octobre dans les différentes circonscriptions électorales afin d'éviter les irrégularités et les fraudes.

Le parti a fait la proposition le mercredi 2 août 2023, lorsque la Commission électorale nationale (NEC), en partenariat avec la CEDEAO et les Nations Unies-Libéria, a organisé un forum interactif avec 20 candidats à la présidence sur la nécessité de promouvoir des élections pacifiques.

Le forum s'est tenu sous le thème : « Renforcer la confiance des candidats à la présidentielle dans le fonctionnement de la NEC ».

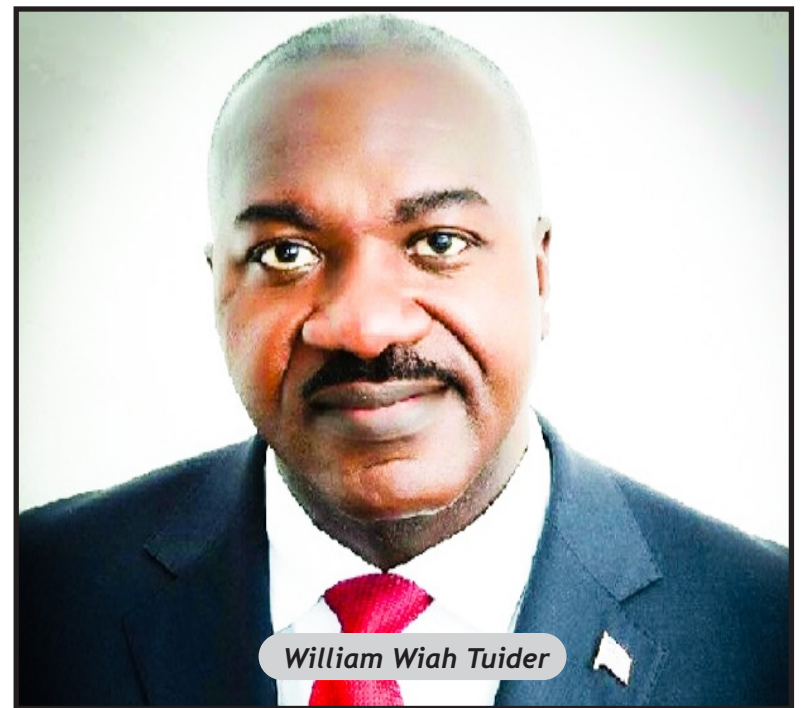
Le candidat à la vice-présidence de l'UP, le sénateur Jeremiah Koung, a proposé que les résultats des élections présidentielle et générales soient annoncés dans divers districts du pays pour garantir la transparence.

Dans la pratique, les magistrats électoraux avaient toujours affiché les résultats préliminaires dans les bureaux et centres de vote avant de transporter les urnes à Monrovia pour leur publication officielle par la NEC. Cependant, le sénateur Koung, surnommé Rescue-2, croit que si les résultats de l'élection présidentielle sont prononcés dans les circonscriptions électorales sous l'autorité des magistrats électoraux, cela rendra les élections sans violence et crédibles et les résultats seront acceptés.

Il a également ajouté sa voix à celles des candidats à la présidence pour demander au ministère de la Justice d'augmenter et de renforcer les mesures de sécurité afin de protéger l'ensemble du processus électoral et

d'éviter la violence.

Pour sa part, le leader politique de l'Allégeance nationale démocrate (ADN) William Wiah Tuider a appelé à la justice, à l'équité et à l'égalité dans l'ensemble du processus électoral. M. Tuider a mis en garde contre la violence qui pourrait saper les résultats des élections tout en promettant de



William Wiah Tuider

porter plainte contre tout individu qui commettrait des violences auprès de la Cour pénale internationale (CPI).

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CDC throws first punch

By Othello B. Garblah
& Lincoln G. Peters

Partisans of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC drew the first blood on day-one of the 2023 presidential and general elections when they

headquarters after the parade.

"We can't allow people to injure this peace," Kojjee said while informing the crowd of partisans that President George Weah had asked him to rebuke the perpetrators and ask them to refrain from all forms of violence.

victory in the upcoming elections. It therefore urges everyone working towards this ultimate goal to remain on message.

The act of provocation was also condemned by Senator Edwin Snowe, a none CDCian who has pledged his support to

involving a casket bearing a derisive portrait of a Statesman, not only represents a clear violation of the nonviolent agreement but also confirms the Unity Party Alliance's position - that the CDC lacks maturity and has no clear message for its attempts at re-election." A statement signed by UP's National Secretary General Amos Tweh said.

It alleged that violent actions have consistently characterized the activities of the CDC since its establishment, and the party has not implemented desirable policies for the benefit of the Liberian people during its six years in power.

The UP scribe opined that governments in other jurisdictions typically present the gains they have achieved over the years and outline their development policies. "However, parading with a casket on the first day of the campaign demonstrates that the CDC is no longer worthy of the trust and confidence of the Liberian people. The use of a casket as a symbol is deeply troubling, as it represents death, and the Unity Party Alliance empathizes with the suffering of the Liberian people while the CDC appears to delight in it, even wishing for more deaths," Tweh added.

The statement further argued that CDC government has not been accountable for its stewardship of the country over

the past six years, opting instead for unprovoked actions that incite violence and undermine the elections. The Liberian electorate is seeking alternative policy prescriptions for the vexing issues they face.

It further that CDC's failures are evident in the increased poverty, healthcare costs, and lack of access to education. Civil servants have suffered salary cuts and lost their dignity, unable to afford tuition for their children. Governance, rule of law, and basic social services have been undermined, leaving hospitals without basic drugs and schools without essential supplies.

"Under a Unity Party government, President Amb. Joseph Boakai will prioritize restoring the dignity of civil servants and healthcare professionals and teachers as part of the JNB-JKK development concept called ARREST (Agriculture, Road, Rule of Law, Education, Sanitation/Health, and Tourism) agenda," the release went on. "While the Unity Party Alliance is committed to a nonviolent campaign, the CDC, as the ruling party, should be reminded of its constitutional responsibility and refrain from unprovoked actions. We call on our citizens to remain calm, and we will officially notify our partners about the CDC's violent actions. To all foot soldiers of the rescue mission, be on alert as you may be called into action at any time," the statement ended.



paraded with a casket bearing images of Unity Party's Standard Bearer Amb. Joseph N. Boakai with inscription-Rest in Peace.

The parade was performed on the principal streets of Monrovia and ended in front of CDC's headquarters with key stewards and executives of the party in attendance.

The officials in attendance included CDC Secretary General Jefferson Kojjee, Assistant Minister for Bureau of Correction and Rehabilitation Andie Telawion and Montserrado District #8 Representative Moses Acarus Gray.

The group of zealous partisans who carried the casket during the parade sang songs with provocative lyrics such as: "Rest in Peace Amb. Boakai. "We tell you to leave this thing but still you say no". "Oh, my people, the papy na die oo," among others.

According to the partisans, the displayed and parade of the casket was a dramatization and symbolization of the celebration of home going of former vice president Baokai, who is one of CDC's biggest challengers in the 2023 presidential race.

The Condemnations

The action of the CDCians has been greeted with condemnation from within the party itself.

Monrovia City Mayor Kojjee who doubles as the ruling party Secretary General immediately condemn the action after partisans retired inside the compound of the party's

"We can't win these elections by injuring the peace. We call on those young patriotic citizens to refrain from any act that will spark up violence," Kojjee added.

He said actions by partisans to have paraded the principal streets of Monrovia with coffin bearing photograph of Amb. Boakai was uncalled for and totally out of order, adding that it does not represent the character of the founder (Weah) of the CDC.

In addition, CDC National Campaign Team in a press statement released late Saturday evening, deplored action by its partisans saying its unacceptable.

"The Weah-Taylor 2023 Campaign Committee of the Coalition for Democratic Change re-commits itself to the conduct of an issue-based campaign that emphasizes the exceptional record of development and good governance of His Excellency President George M. Weah, while also stressing the importance of maintaining a peaceful democratic environment" the communication Signed by the National Campaign Manger Maritime Commissioners Lenn Eugene Nagbe stated.

The statement noted that the action is unacceptable and does not represent the set of activities that have been envisioned to characterise this crucial democratic exercise.

"The committee believes that the unprecedented gains the Weah Administration has made over the years provide sufficient nuggets for a massive

Weah's second term bid.

Sen. Snowe wrote: As a passionate and ardent believer in the principles of democracy, I am compelled to speak out against the recent actions witnessed during yesterday's parade organized by a group of overzealous youth of the CDC.

It deeply saddens me to see a casket with the image of the lead opposition leader, Amb. Joseph N. Boakai, Sr., of the Unity Party, paraded in such a manner.

As someone who has declared support and endorsed the second term bid of President Weah, I must emphasize that I can not condone any actions that undermine the very essence of our hard-earned democracy.

Our democracy thrives on the pillars of respect, inclusivity, and constructive debate. Using provocative displays like the one witnessed in yesterday's parade only serve to stoke division and animosity among fellow citizens. Such actions do not only tarnish the reputation of the CDC, but also threaten the foundation of our nation's democratic principles."

Unity Party's response Meanwhile, reacting to the action by the CDC, UP Alliance 2023 Campaign team did not only describe the action by CDC as "childish" but also a violation of the Farmington Declaration signed by all parties.

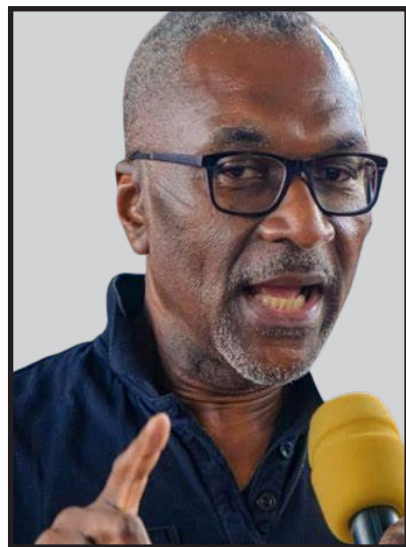
"The recent childish and violent action of the CDC on the first day of the campaign,



Cummings officially kicks

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Bassa girl, born in Yekepa, can learn law so well as to teach it, manage her own law firm, and dux her admission to the Liberian Supreme Court Bar, after advising governments on how to reform; I promise you that any Liberian child, born anywhere in Liberia, should be able to reach any



heights and achieve any success, in Liberia, and anywhere else in the world.

In a Cummings-Brumskine administration, names, gender, religion, and tribe will only identify Liberians. It will never be used to measure the capacity of Liberians, nor the potential of a Liberian child to achieve anything they dare to dream. Dividing our people along lines of tribe, religion and gender must come to an end, if we are serious to change and build our nation together. United we will stand. Divided we will fall. I know that we can overcome our division. I also know that Liberians are industrious and hard working. After October 10, with your votes, we will support Liberian farmers to grow what we eat, eat what we grow, and sell our surplus to the world. Farming with hoe and cutlass may get us to feed our families, but it will never be enough to get us to feed our nation and export to the world. To fix the economy and grow the budget, we will have to invest more than we have been doing in agriculture.

We have talked about 'going back to the soil' and about 'the green revolution,' yet we still cannot feed ourselves. We have to act. We will make the required investments in agriculture and provide the necessary training in modern farming methods and technology, so that we finally shift from an import-based economy to an export-based one. We will also add value to our produce in agriculture. Through agriculture, we will add value to our land, increase production, create jobs, increase exports, and make Liberia food secure. Today, let me put all of us on notice. Shipping out Liberia's raw materials will no longer be good enough for our country. Our cocoa can make chocolate. Our rubber can make medical gloves, condoms, and car tires. Our palm oil can make good creme and other health products. And our iron ore can make steel rods. We will look to open factories to make these things here, in Liberia. Let us look to stamp 'Made In Liberia' not only on bags of plantain chips but also on boxes of computer chips. Dream big, my people. A new

dawn is upon us. A new daybreak is before us. Don't let anybody tell us that Liberians can't change. We are Liberians. We are winners. We can do anything.

I have worked in many foreign capitals around the world. I have built, managed and led teams comprising citizens of many countries. I know that Liberians are smarter and hard working. I know there is nothing we cannot do once we put our minds to doing it. We are Liberians. We are winners, my people. We set records. We overcome. We always find a way. Too often, what we have lacked in our country has been the visionary leadership and right mentality to truly put Liberia and Liberians first. We will provide that leadership and mentality. We will demand more from ourselves, and our friends and partners. We will encourage innovation and competition. We will set higher standards for leadership. We will win!

Now, let me say a few words to our young people. More than any group of Liberians, this election in October is about you, our young people. You are the ones to help build and inherit the new future whose shaky foundation we are looking to fix. We know that today, many of you are feeling let down, frustrated, and betrayed. It feels like you are struggling alone, and no one cares, no one understands, or wants to help you. Some of you correctly understand that failure in leadership today will hurt you tomorrow. The current leaders have to stop putting too much debt on you with nothing to show for it. Doing the right things today, which we are committed to doing, will make it easy on you tomorrow. We therefore need your support. Join our real change movement because it is about you. Charlyne and I understand some of the disappointments and frustrations. We care and desire to help. This is why we invest in education as private individuals, and will lead the government, with your support, to invest way more in the national budget to fix the broken educational system in our country. We are determined to fix Liberia so all young people feel involved, included, and empowered to chase their dreams. We will support and expand technical and vocational education to produce graduates who will be ready for immediate employment. We will provide technical and vocational school graduates with soft loans and management training to open and manage their own businesses. We will reintroduce vacation jobs and mentorship programs for our high school students. No young Liberian needs to be left out or left behind.

I know that because of the lack of job opportunities, some of our young people are forced to risk their lives recklessly driving keh-keh and pehn-pehn. Others are selling in the street just to have a day's meal. These young people have dreams, too. Many are working as hard as they

can to make ends meet. They just need a government that can help them empower themselves. Today, I promise that a Cummings-Brumskine-led government will help young people. From driving keh-keh and pehn-pehn that are owned by others, for example, we want to see our young people owning their own cars and homes, tomorrow. We want to give young people second, third and even fourth chances to be the best that they can be. For those struggling with addiction and are drawn to a life of crime, help is on the way. If you do not give up on yourself, I promise you that we will not give up on you.

My people, the CPP is the best bridge to inclusive generational change in our country. We believe in the hopefulness of young people. This is why we will continue to empower and include young people in all that we do because they are the cornerstone to the future we are looking to build. Finally, my people, Liberia will not change overnight. But under a Cummings presidency, real change will happen in Liberia. It will be hard because real change is hard. But it will positively affect the lives of all Liberians. We will obey the law, demand that all others do the same, and restore honor, dignity and respect to public service, beginning with the presidency. We will be thoughtful and consultative, but never afraid to make tough decisions and judgments. We will never ask any Liberian to do what we, as leaders, are not also willing to do. We will seek international assistance, but we will not ask anyone to do for Liberians what we can and should be doing for ourselves. After all, my people, we are Liberians. We are winners. Join us to win for Liberia. Together, let us fix our country. Real change is coming. Liberia deserves better. Liberian deserves better.

God bless you. God bless Liberia.

Ellen warns NEC over elections

By Lewis S. Teh

Former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has reminded the National Elections Commission (NEC) that it owes a sacred duty to Liberia and its people, urging it to conduct a free, fair, transparent, and credible election.

"Also we want the Elections Commission, especially the men and women on that Commission to know that they have a sacred duty to our country and its people to make sure that the processes enable everyone to have a freedom of choice," said Mrs. Sirleaf.

At the opening of a peace dialogue at the Ministerial Complex in Oldest Congo Town Friday, 4 August 2023, Mrs. Sirleaf

"We want to see a Liberia where our children can grow up with a singular purpose of seeking their education and safety in a common environment," she indicated.

She continued that Liberians are approaching a very important event and that is to choose their leaders.

Former President Sirleaf stated that it is a constitutional duty that each of the women has as a responsibility, reminding them that they will have to live with what they choose.

The program, according to the former president, is meant mainly to be informative in what the process is like based upon peace and civility to



Former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

said she wants to see a process that is free and fair as the Constitution calls for.

The dialogue was organized under the auspices of the Leymah Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa in collaboration with the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development, MADRE, and the African Women Development Fund (AWDF) for women leaders and aspirants. "We also want everyone to feel safe to go to the polls and cast their ballot in accordance with their heart and conscience," she noted.

Throughout Liberia's history, she said, women have made a difference, adding that the gathering over the weekend sent a message once again for women to come together to demand change in some things.

respect each other. She encouraged them to be able to talk without getting into things that lead to unfair expression and tension in society. Also making opening remarks, Madam Leymah Gbowee said the gathering of women was a conversation that was primarily meant for women, aspirants, and leaders. "We are hopeful that we can all talk about where we find ourselves as a nation. It is not by accident that we are having an election twenty years after the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement in Ghana," said Gbowee. She recalled that twenty years ago, Liberians were running around thinking about what would have been the future of their country.

This should never

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again. You cannot be with God and allinge yourself with the devil. What happened yesterday, should never happen again. We CDCians, we are peaceful and have been the ones keeping this peace from 2005 to 2017 till now. Besides, we as government should be hoping for a peaceful election", he said.

He said partisans of the ruling Coalition should not be carried away by noise from the oppositions and be distracted, but they must always prove supremacy over their rivals that they're the best and only government that has done much for the country.

"I urge you Mr. Chairman and your partisans, go to the tranches, the bushes, the communities and convince your people of what you are doing for them, and what you can do for them that others have not done for the people. Therefore, preach the message of your

tangibles, and do not carry anyone's casket. If you believe in God, God will see you through; CDC, we are peaceful people", President Weah added. Speaking earlier, the General Overseer of the Eternal Life Christian Ministries Tabernacle of Holiness, Prophetess Fatumata Abieso, rallied Liberians to retain the CDC and President George Weah, who she said is the only one that can move the country forward.

Preaching on the theme: "Stay in the Boat" Prophetess Abieso urged Liberians to stay in the boat of the ruling CDC in the face of waves of criticisms from the opposition.

According to her, Mr. Weah is the best leader for Liberia and its people, while describing the President as a simplicity of Jesus Christ.

The Prophetess urged the President to keep his focus, despite negative criticisms, and do what God has asked him to do for Liberia.

This should never happen again

-Weah warns CDCians

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

President George Manneh Weah, on Sunday, 6 August 2023 delivered a stark warning to

they are the ruling government and should lead by example, always exhibiting peace and unity as the country goes to Presidential and Legislative Elections on October 10th.

Nyumah Boakai of the Unity Party.

The CDC took the action to indicate defeat of the opposition barely two months before the poll and wished the UP Standard Bearer death.

The scene went viral on Social Media with many describing it as an unlawful act portrayed by the ruling establishment in breach of the elections law of Liberia and contrary to the Farmington Declaration signed recently by political parties and their leaders to uphold peaceful elections in the country.

Speaking Sunday during an intercessory prayer service held at the Eternal Life Ministries Tabernacle of Holiness in Barnesville for successful campaign activities across Liberia, President Weah condemned the act of ruling partisans parading with casket of the opposition, noting that this should never happen again.

He urged the ruling party supporters to always follow government's footprint of peace and democracy.

"This should never happen



Pres Weah

partisans of his governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) to do away with violence or anything that has the propensity to cause chaos and undermine the nation's democracy.

The President's comments are in response to Saturday's start of official campaign here when dozens of ruling party partisans paraded the streets of Monrovia with a casket, bearing the photograph of opposition leader Amb. Joseph

Mr. Weah partisans that

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