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VOL. 13 NO. 136 TUESDAY, AUGUST 08, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00

"Reckless & irresponsible"

Cllr. Gongloe **Dr. Whapoe**

-Cllr. Gongloe reacts to Dr. Whapoe's divisive politics accusations

Sara Nyanti rallies opposition parties

-to safeguard Liberian democracy



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Continental News

Elderly woman caned at Kenyan care home - secret footage

In 2020, the Kenyan broadcasting channel, Ebru Television, filmed inside Thogoto Care Home. The manager, Jane Gaturu, presented an image of a safe haven, where residents were well fed and cared for.

BBC Africa Eye heard

down. Because if he gets angry, he can even hit you with a rock," she says.

The reporters filmed further examples of apparent neglect and mistreatment, including medical conditions being left untreated. One elderly man was suffering with a serious skin problem.

"I

be able to help you?"

"He used to tell me: 'We are waiting for death,' the reporter recalls.

It took around six weeks before the man saw a doctor, with money provided by his family. In photos taken by an undercover reporter, white flaky skin covers his entire body from the waist to the top of his neck. It is not known what the condition was. Ms Gaturu declined to comment on whether she was given money for medical treatment and then did nothing.

Government guidelines say residential homes should provide medical care for the residents.

"I personally was in pain when I see them suffering and I can't help," says the undercover reporter.

"I used to cry a lot. Most of the time I used to get to the toilet. I switch off my camera and cry."

One of the undercover reporters filmed an elderly woman using her hands to eat food left directly on the table without a plate because she was unable to feed herself with a spoon.

A former care worker said they witnessed similar scenes, describing how staff told her not to assist residents with their meals. "They told me not to help them today because no-one would help them tomorrow," she says.

An undercover reporter secretly filmed a conversation with a staff member about staff not feeding vulnerable residents. BBC

worrying reports this was not the case. Two undercover reporters got jobs at the care home and spent 14 weeks secretly filming inside the facility. As well as the footage of staff hitting the elderly woman with a cane, they recorded staff admitting to physically abusing other residents. "Sometimes you have to use force," says a staff member, sitting outside under a canopy during a tea break.

"Even carers who start being polite, they find themselves being aggressive towards clients," she says. They go on to describe one man who "is always being caned". "We beat him and that is what calms him

m feeling pain. Too much, too much. I feel like I'm burning," he can be heard saying in the footage, trying to show an undercover reporter his neck. He claims care home staff won't take him to hospital to be treated.

The gravity of his skin condition is difficult to determine in the secret footage, but the undercover reporter says he was bleeding very badly. "He gave money to Jane [Gaturu, the care home manager] to take him to hospital," the reporter says.

"He was not taken to hospital. And when he asked Jane, Jane was very angry with him. And she even told him: 'Your home is just around the corner, and your people have given up on you. Do you think I will

Wagner-backed Central African leader to win key vote

A referendum allowing the president of the Central African Republic (CAR) to run for office as many times as he likes has been labelled a farce by opponents.

Provisional results say 95% of voters backed changes to the constitution, but critics say turnout was as low as 10%.

CAR is still in the throes of a civil war that has uprooted a third of all people from their homes. President Faustin-Archange Touadéra is backed by Russian Wagner mercenaries. Extra fighters arrived ahead of the referendum to provide security.

Wagner forces have been accused of committing war crimes as they back President Touadéra in the fight against rebel groups who still control

large swathes of the country. They reportedly trade in the minerals and timber industries.

The proposed new law would scrap the current two-term limit and extend the presidential mandate from five to seven years.

It would also ban politicians with dual citizenship from running

for president unless they renounce the other. Campaign group Human Rights Watch says this stirs up memories of anti-Balaka militias who targeted Muslims for their perceived association with Séléka rebels in the 2013 conflict, which saw hundreds killed in a civil conflict that continues to this day.



Critics are calling it a constitutional coup

Niger junta shuts airspace as critical deadline expires

Niger's coup leaders have closed the country's airspace until further notice, citing the threat of military intervention from their neighbours. It comes after the Ecowas group of West African states demanded President Mohamed Bazoum be reinstated by Sunday. Ecowas had warned that the junta could face military action and will now meet on Thursday to discuss next steps.

Meanwhile Mali and Burkina Faso, both also ruled by juntas, said they would send officials to Niger in solidarity.

Flightradar24 showed a transport plane had flown from Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, and landed in Niger hours after airspace was closed. The growing instability in the region compelled former colonial power France on Monday to warn its citizens against travelling to the Sahel region, and for those still there to be cautious due to anti-France sentiment.

"It is essential to limit travel, to stay away from any

worked out about an "eventual intervention", the body wanted "diplomacy to work".

Over the weekend Nigeria's Senate discussed the situation in Niger after President Bola Tinubu wrote to it about the Ecowas resolutions imposing sanctions and the possible use of military force.

Local media report there was strong opposition to military intervention, especially from senators representing states near the long border the two countries share. President Tinubu has been especially vocal in demanding that the Niger military leave power and has threatened to use force if they do not - but he needs approval from the National Assembly for any foreign military intervention.

Italy and Germany have both called for an extension to the deadline to reinstate President Bazoum so that a diplomatic solution can be found. Mr Bazoum was deposed on 26 July, and Gen Abdourahmane Tchiani, commander of the presidential guard, later proclaimed himself the new leader. The military takeover has been internationally condemned, France and the rest of the EU, as well as the UN and the US.



Niger's junta leaders were cheered by thousands of supporters at a defiant rally in Niamey on Sunday

gatherings and to keep themselves regularly informed of the situation," read a statement from the foreign ministry. The junta in Niger on Sunday said it had information that "a foreign power" was preparing to attack the country, after military chiefs from Ecowas, a bloc of 15 countries including Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and Ghana, drew up a detailed plan for use of force.

It had issued a 23:00 GMT Sunday deadline to Niger's junta leaders to stand down and restore the elected president.

Earlier, Abdel-Fatau Musah, the bloc's commissioner for political affairs, peace and security, said that while "all the elements" had been

Hundreds of foreigners have been evacuated from Niger.

The coup leaders seem to be showing no sign of willingness to cede power, and on Sunday thousands of their supporters rallied defiantly at a stadium in the capital Niamey.

Burkina Faso and Mali earlier warned they would treat any outside military intervention in Niger as "a declaration of war" against them. The countries are both Ecowas members but have been suspended from the bloc since being taken over by the military. Niger is a significant uranium producer - a fuel that is vital for nuclear power - and under Mr Bazoum was a key Western ally in the fight against Islamist militants in West Africa's Sahel region. BBC

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Jordan Dey

The call from Ellen is welcoming

Achieving Zero Hunger Is Still Possible

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.

WASHINGTON, DC - 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. Alarmingly, 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.

OP-ED

By Biniam Bedasso,
Susannah Hares

A Well-Being Agenda for Poor Students

LONDON - There is growing concern that children in developing countries are not learning enough in school. Even before pandemic-related school closures, 57% of ten-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries were unable to read and understand a simple text - the definition of "learning poverty." The COVID-19 crisis has only exacerbated the situation, leading large donors and global institutions to launch a program aimed at improving foundational skills.

But if well-intentioned efforts to tackle learning poverty do not account for the complex and interrelated challenges that prevent children in poor countries from achieving academic success, they risk reproducing existing inequalities in educational outcomes.

For the more than one billion children worldwide who live in multidimensional poverty - lacking access to adequate nutrition, health care, safety, and sanitation - the barriers to learning extend far beyond the school gates. They may suffer from the psychological stresses of poverty or be hungry at school, both of which impede learning. Perhaps violence threatens them inside or outside the classroom, or they are at risk of being married off young and dropping out of school. Overreliance on technical solutions designed to address the proximate causes of learning poverty from the supply side could leave many of these children behind.

Policymakers in low- and middle-income countries and aid organizations tend to decouple education policy from the underlying issues of poverty and social vulnerability. This can partly be attributed to the fact that the Washington Consensus advocated small government in developing countries, limiting their ability to implement broad-based social policies in conjunction with expanding schooling. The advent of New Public Management reforms, which emphasized quantifiable performance based on narrowly defined organizational objectives, also likely discouraged education ministries from addressing well-being more broadly or encouraging intersectoral collaboration.

As for donors, their laser focus on channeling resources to cost-effective projects with specific and measurable outcomes has seemingly diverted attention from more complex problems that extend beyond the classroom. An overview of the education strategies of major multilateral and bilateral aid organizations shows that their inclusion and well-being agendas are too often limited to girls' education and children in fragile states or marginalized regions, leaving other forms of deprivation unaddressed.

Consider, for example, school meals, an area where education policies and anti-poverty measures intersect. Since the start of the pandemic, lower-middle-income countries have expanded their school-meal programs by an average of 12% - three times higher than their wealthier counterparts. This contrasts sharply with the 4% contraction, on average, in school-meal coverage in low-income countries, which usually have the neediest children but lack the fiscal space to expand meal programs.

The prevailing view in Uganda, a low-income country where the provision of school meals is patchy, is that the government has only a narrow role to play in education - a view enshrined in the country's legislation. As Joyce Moriku Kaducu, the minister of state for primary education, puts it,

"Education is a shared responsibility. The government and parents have different roles to play. The government ensures that there is a conducive environment for learning by providing infrastructure, teachers, and learning materials. Parents have the core responsibility of sending learners to school, ensuring the learner is appropriately dressed, and that the learner is well fed, even at school."

This narrow view of the state's role in education prevails among donors and policymakers and has been ingrained by the neoliberal notion of minimal government intervention.

The tendency to draw an artificial boundary between a child's education and overall well-being is also evident in the "smart buys" report. Produced by a panel of high-profile international experts and sponsored by many of the largest donors in global education, the report classifies school meals as an "effective, but ... relatively expensive" way to deliver learning outcomes. In the panel's view, "education systems face budget constraints, and they need to allocate scarce resources toward whatever interventions will deliver the most learning gains for the most children and youth on a given budget."

In fact, providing school meals - a form of transfer to households - is less of an economic cost to society than a direct fiscal cost to government. Moreover, spending on programs with multisectoral benefits does not necessarily have to be constrained by the education budget.

By the same token, some donors are fixated on the false dichotomy between intervention in early childhood and during school attendance. The United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, for example, notes that feeding children before the age of two is more effective than feeding school-age children. Apart from the moral issue at stake, it is unclear how allowing school-age children to go hungry can be cost-effective from an educational perspective. When examining the evidence, it makes little sense to separate the educational, nutritional, and safety-net benefits of school meals for children and their families.

Breaking through such conceptual silos in governments and donor bureaucracies could be the first step toward adopting a much more holistic approach to education policy and resource allocation. More fundamentally, better learning outcomes requires greater comprehension of the realities of school life for poor children. Like all children, they will learn best when they are free from hunger, illness, and violence.

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OPINION

By Ibrahim Assane Mayaki,
Daouda Sembene

The African Union Should Prepare Now for G20 Membership

JOHANNESBURG - With a growing chorus of voices calling for the African Union's admission to the G20, that outcome looks increasingly likely. Many of the group's most prominent members, including the United States, China, Japan, Germany, and France, have endorsed full membership for the AU, which Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proposed granting at the upcoming G20 summit in New Delhi.

Senegalese President Macky Sall, a champion of the cause during his recent tenure chairing the AU, has rightly pointed out that the move is long overdue, given the continent's economic and demographic weight. With full membership, African leaders can help devise a fairer and more inclusive global financial system and multilateral solutions to pressing challenges such as climate change and pandemics - to the benefit of all.

Advocacy efforts are still required to secure the seat, but it is not too soon for the AU to prepare a strategy to reap the potential benefits of joining. Such a strategy should rest on the following four pillars.

For starters, the AU must carefully select its representatives to the G20. While the sitting chairperson may be the obvious choice to attend the leaders' summit, it would be inadvisable under current circumstances. The constant turnover (the chairperson is elected for a one-year term), coupled with the limited institutional support currently available, would make it difficult for the AU to contribute effectively. One idea worth exploring is to select either the chairperson of the AU Commission, which oversees the Union's day-to-day activities, or a former head of state representing the AU at the leaders' summit for a multi-year term.

Obviously, a strong AU leader at the G20 summit is not a panacea. Adequate representation at meetings of ministers, central-bank governors, and technical working groups convened by the G20's Finance Track and Sherpa Track is equally important. Particular attention should be paid to the Finance Track, which has played a central role in developing G20 initiatives that have major implications for African economies, including the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, and the Sustainable Finance Roadmap.

Second, AU representatives can be effective only if African policymakers develop and advance common positions on global economic issues. While the AU has traditionally succeeded in shaping African views on diplomatic matters, opinions on economic policy tend to be fragmented and are offered only sporadically. Leaders of a few African countries are outspoken on these issues, but the continent will need to speak with one voice if it hopes to influence G20 decision-making. The prospect of full membership should create an impetus for the AU to put in place a process for shaping common economic positions that includes all relevant domestic stakeholders.

Third, the AU will need a clear agenda for reforming the global financial architecture. Amid interconnected crises related to climate change, food and energy insecurity, public-health emergencies, and conflict, the continent is confronting significant financing shortfalls. The international financial system currently covers only a small share of Africa's sustainable-development needs, which are an estimated \$1.3 trillion annually until 2030, and between 2016 and 2019 the continent received only 3% of global climate-finance flows. Such flows into Africa currently amount to \$30 billion per year, far short of the \$2.7 trillion needed by 2030 to implement its Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris climate agreement.

Political momentum for an overhaul of the system is building, but simply joining calls for reform would be insufficient. To effect change, the AU must have a comprehensive plan around which it can rally its partners. Given the scope of such an undertaking, African leaders should reach out to relevant African institutions and experts now to help design a proposal and organize its rollout.

Lastly, building coalitions with other G20 members will be critical for the AU to maximize its influence over the group's policymaking process. Such partnerships should be extended beyond governments and the European Union to all G20 actors involved in the forum, including think tanks, academics, civil-society groups, the private sector, trade unions, and young people's and women's organizations.

The AU should also engage with groups and development partners on the continent and seek their input and feedback on its G20 agenda. Pan-African institutions, multilateral organizations, and other non-governmental entities can offer valuable support that must not be wasted.

G20 membership will enable the AU to shape a global development agenda that is better aligned with its own Agenda 2063 and to mobilize external financing for climate adaptation, the energy transition, and infrastructure development. But in an era of great-power competition, the AU should not rely solely on multilateral cooperation. It must strengthen its ties with traditional partners, navigate the fraught relationship between the US and China to optimize development-finance flows, and leverage its growing economic relations with the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), as Brazil is scheduled to assume the G20 presidency next year.

The AU and its member states urgently need to prepare for the permanent G20 seat that is increasingly likely to be offered. But they must lay the necessary groundwork now to produce the hoped-for political and development outcomes.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

How Wicked Are Liberian Politicians?

As Caplan puts it, if you are in a position of power; freedom and lives are in your hands. You are required to act with extreme moral trepidation, never mindful of the possibility that you're trampling the rights of the morally innocent.

Sheldon Richman argued that making Economic policies, while remaining wholly ignorant of basic Economics, is the intellectual equivalent of drunk driving. And so is electing Politicians that are oblivious to national issues.

To do it once is irresponsible, to do it often is evil.

After all, some Politicians might be sincere, but sincerity is no substitute for understanding. Having an in-depth understanding of societal issues is the core



foundation of sincerity and in exercising discernment.

Inevitably, investing your time and resources in addressing these societal issues, makes you a conscientious and upstanding citizen.

A social problem is defined as any condition or behaviour that has negative consequences on a large number of people, and that is generally recognized as a condition or behaviour that needs to be addressed.

In Liberia, most people will agree that illicit drugs and the impact of motorbike accidents have become the worst social problems to date.

These have huge debilitating effects on society, and often these situations have a much deeper impact than presented.

Illicit drug use affects individuals, families, and the broader community. These harms are numerous, including its health impacts such as Burden of disease, Death, Overdose, and increased Hospitalisations.

It also has both Societal and Economic impacts, causing a rising rate in violence, crime, and trauma, undoubtedly increasing the overall cost of healthcare. In simple terms, illicit drugs are evidently destroying the future of

Liberia.

You will agree that motorbike-related accidents are a serious issue in Liberia. Accidents can be traumatizing, and you can never truly prepare for the emotional, mental, and physical aftermath of a crash.

Research suggests that road traffic injuries are ranked twelfth in contributing to Disability-related traumas, with 90% of those road traffic injury burdens, falling on low to middle-income families.

The economic loss associated with motorbike injuries in Liberia is huge. Politicians should be committed to collecting and analysing data to understand the true cost of motorbike injuries.

Clearly understanding factors associated with the human cost, should be a priority in reducing the socio-economic burden of injury arising from road traffic injuries.

The fact is that our Politicians do not recognise these as social problems, and for those that are aware and remain ignorant to these negative impacts, only magnify their true nature as immoral and wicked Politicians.

I will agree with Professor MacDonald Ebere, unlike Communism, Democratic politics is a marketplace. The politicians are the buyers and the voters are the sellers. Hence, Democracy can be perceived as a full-fledged market. The right and legitimacy to govern is the main product sold and purchased in this market.

The actual cost of market failure for liberal Democracy can be extremely expensive to society and this is the case in Liberia.

Politicians have failed to protect Liberians, and as a result, illicit drugs and Motorbike accidents are destroying our nation.

To conclude, without effective and well-planned preventative actions, we will remain locked to being reactive to crisis, instead of being proactive in its prevention. This is damaging for young people and their families, and an excruciating burden to bear as a society.

Musa V. Sheriff

Specialist, Social Planning/Community Development
Perth, Western Australia.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah joins Muslims in special prayers ahead of October polls

By Lewis S. Teh

Ahead of the October 10 presidential and legislative elections, President George Manneh Weah joined several Muslims in

key emphasis on the 10 October 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

President Weah reminded citizens, especially the Muslim

peace.

Flanked by Muslim clerics and influential officials of the government including members of the CDC national campaign team, President Weah noted that it is his endearing hope and aspiration that Liberia never goes back to its painful past.

President Weah urged that the 2023 elections should be squarely based on civil political engagements based on genuine political perspective, not brutality. Mr. Weah further admonished all citizens from different political spectrums to remember the importance of stability and be cognizant of the peace they enjoy as a people. "Why it is true that everyone may not have the same political ideology and styles of approaching national matters, but the biggest achievement of all Liberians is to hold unto the peace during the national campaign season and after the results of the much-publicized October 10, 2023, polls," Weah pleaded.

He stated that it is only the National Elections Commission that is constitutionally authorized to announce results to avoid political misapprehensions that usually lead to unjustifiable incitements.

community about the absence of the international peacekeeping mission in the country. He noted that the onus is on every Liberian to take full ownership of the state's peace and security.

President Weah indicated that the CDC government as a state actor has for the past years incontrovertibly managed to protect and sustain the state peace despite the absence of international actors who came to Liberia purposefully to implement the United Nations Agenda for

Liberia to offer special prayers for the nation. Mr. Weah offered his solemn prayer at the Benson Street Mosque in Monrovia on Friday, 4 August 2023. He urged all members of the Muslim Community to always pray for the maintenance of peace and tranquility during this delicate period in Liberia. The prayer was organized by the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

It was observed simultaneously in all the 15 counties of the country with

ALCOP wants more strategies on voter's education

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The Vice Presidential Candidate of the All Liberia Coalition Party (ALCOP) Matthew V.Z. Darblo is urging the National Elections Commission (NEC) to step up strategies aimed at improving voter's education ahead of the October's elections. Mr. Darblo decries illiteracy among the population, emphasizing that not too many eligible voters understand voter's education, urging the Commission to beef up its energy with new ideas to ensuring that majority of registered voters understand the voter's roll. He says strategies to support voter's education process will prevent too many people from voting wrongly and it will avoid violence during the October 10th Presidential and Legislative elections.

"If we all want a free, fair, transparent and violence-free elections we at ALCOL think there should be some additional strategies to voter's education to ensure that not

too many people will vote wrongly, so that when Lusinee Kamara wins the election, there can be no noise", he added. At the same time, NEC Chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah, announced commencement of Civic and Voter's Education Campaign to sensitize citizens about their participation in the October elections.

She assured ALCOP that the NEC will augment its activities on the CVE exercises.

The NEC on Wednesday

August 2, 2023, paraded Sinkor Streets in Monrovia with the launch of the Civic and Voter's Education Campaign for the 2023 Presidential and General Elections, under the theme: "Citizens Participation is MUST."

Mr. Darblo made the call during a one-day intensive interaction with members of the Board of Commissioners of the NEC, ECOWAS, and UN-Liberia on promoting Peaceful 2023 General Elections held on Wednesday 2 August held on the theme: "Building the Confidence of the Presidential Candidates in workings of the NEC."



President Weah rallies Liberians for his re-election

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

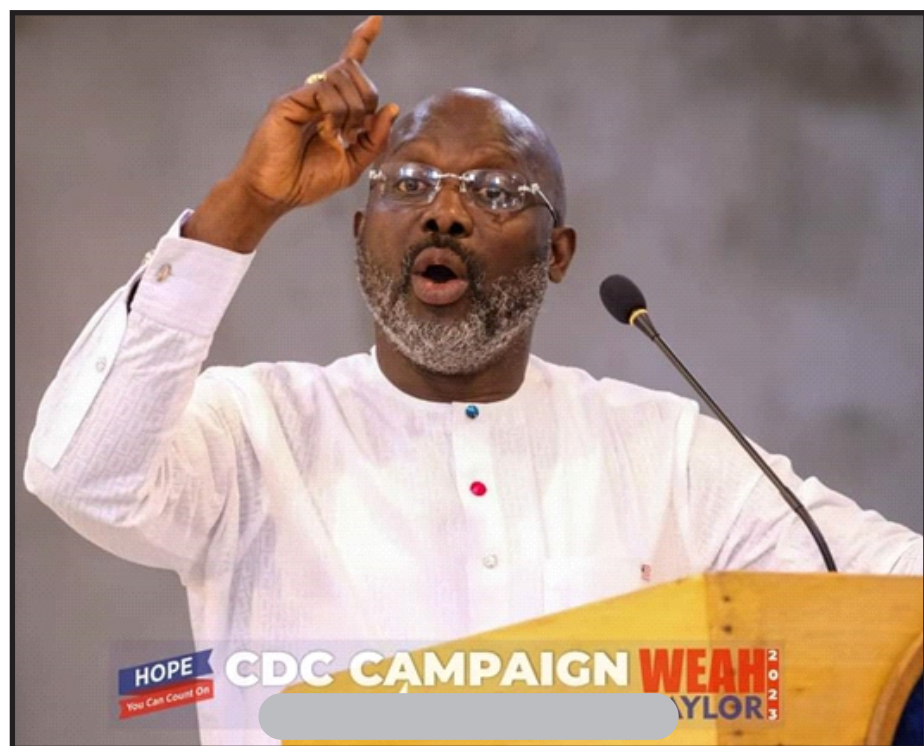
President George Weah has kicked off campaign for his re-election bid here, calling on Liberians to denounce his rivals, who he says have nothing to show, but to cause distraction and stop a rolling legacy that is transforming citizens' lives and moving the country forward. Mr. Weah urges Liberians to keep faith in the governing CDC-led government as the only choice that can Liberate them from poverty and illiteracy, rather than those who are criticizing, but have done nothing for them over the years while in leadership. "Don't mind them, these are the same people, who failed you for the last 12 years and are coming back to fool you again, telling you, you should remove people, whose legacy has no epilepsy. I say don't mind them, don't waste your time

complete work already at 99%.

"We are going to election asking the people to vote us, so that the 95, 96, 97, 98, and 99% of the work can be done, and finish our 12years so don't mind them".

He says his government is striving to develop Liberia and is exemplifying every effort in the best interest of the country, so Liberians should not be carried away, but to rather stay in the right path of good leadership that keeps transforming the country. He boosts that his record is unprecedented, while expressing overwhelming confidence that his government will be re-elected because they have proven their worth to the Liberian people.

Also speaking, the campaign manager for the re-election of President Weah, Maritime Commissioner Lenn Eugene Nagbe, rallied supporters to stay



with noise, these people are not organized and won't organize you", President Weah continues.

Addressing Liberians in his first campaign message delivered at the Eternal Life Ministries "Tabernacles of holiness during an intercessory prayers, the President cautioned CDCians do away with violence or anything that has the propensity to ensue violence that will undermine the democracy of the nation.

He warns them to stop toting casket, but rather, to campaign peacefully, speaking about tangibles and convincing the electorate that they're the best suitor for the Presidency, despite the woes, and are going to the election to complete the unfinished business (95%) of the work done.

He reiterates that his desire for the Presidency is to continue developing Liberia and

with the President's developmental agenda, rather than castigating their opponents, carrying casket or other things that could cause violence and halt the election, something, he says undermines the nature of a truthful CDCians. Mr. Nagbe also expresses overwhelming confidence of a one round victory for the CDC in the pending elections, noting that the party has every ingredient of winning again pointing to developments, progress, and rule of law, saying no other party can match the CDC in a free and fair election.

"There's no party that can defeat CDC in a free and fair election, so don't propagate hates about them, so that the game can end in confusion. We CDCians are peaceful and no one can beat us in a free, fair elections. Other people want the game to end in confusion, but this game will not end in confusion", he maintains.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Superintendent Prowd cautious citizens ahead of elections

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

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

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. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Superintendent George A. Prowd

presidential and legislative elections in October. another's views and concerns despite political differences.

Superintendent Prowd cautioned citizens at the Pleebo intellectual center and months to come, the 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. 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

CDC is leaving no stone unturned

-deputy campaign manager

By Kruah Thompson

Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) newly appointed Deputy Campaign Chair for Strategic Political Affairs, Mr. Isreal Joshua has said that the CDC will leave no stone unturned in ensuring President Weah's re-election come October.

During the official campaign launch Saturday, August 5, in Monrovia, Mr. Joshua emphasized a commitment to thoughtfully plan constructive discourse focusing on records set by the Weah's government, rather than resorting to insults.

He highlighted that the party will focus on defending its track records, including achievements in road construction, healthcare, and education over the past five years to allow the Liberian people to decide.

On the other hand, he criticized the opposition Unity Party's twelve-year tenure, accusing the former ruling party of squandering opportunities

that led to the current conditions the Weah administration is trying to fix. He said the days to seek international sanctions against Liberia is over, and pledged to work towards giving President Weah a one-round victory in October.

The deputy campaign manager said the only thing Boakai and the UP leadership is good at is seeking international sanctions against the country, but

pledged to give President Weah one-round victory when "we go to the ballot box on Tuesday, October 10, 2023." He called for unity among the CDC members, who are discontent that things were not going right with them in the previous years of administration. Meanwhile, Mr. Joshua revealed that the CDC's mission is to build a national campaign team of one million voters from across the country. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



MAP Liberia Land Platform launches programs

By Naneka Hoffman

The Multi Actors Platform on Land Governance and Responsible Agricultural Investment in Liberia (MAP Liberia Land Platform) has announced the launch of series of programs including the Private Sector Engagement Strategy and the Responsible Agriculture Investment. Giving an overview of the launch during the weekend at RLJ Hotel in Rehab, Paynesville, the National Program Coordinator for MAP Liberia Land Platform, John Kelvin, said the platform builds upon the foundation of achievements of the voluntary guideline on Responsible Governance of Tenure, Land and Fisheries in the context of National Food Security.

He explained that the MAP Platform is derived from the idea of the Multi-Stakeholders Platform (MSP) and the United Nations Sustainable

Liberia Land Authority, thanked the MAP Platform and CSOs working in the land sector for supporting the LLA to achieve its goal and objectives.

She acknowledged the high level of collaboration from the MAP Platform. "This meeting is another manifestation of our collaboration in working together to ensure that every individual is educated on their rights to land ownership", she added.

With funding from the German Ministry for Economic Corporation, the MAP Platform plans to validate the strategy on private sector engagement and the launch of a national program to engage with the sector to promote RAI in Liberia.

A national exercise is being planned by the platform thematic working group members on women, youth and people with disabilities to undertake gender audit in the context of land governance and RAI, with support of the International Land



Development Goals- (SDGs17) to strengthen the means of implementation and to revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

The lead facilitator of the MAP Liberia Land Platform, James Yarsiah, called for a more inclusive partnership among actors.

"This is the time to delegate responsibilities with each actor and monitor their progress", he stressed.

Mr. Yarsiah explained that the MAP Platform remains committed to working across all actors to ensure that the Platform achieves its objectives.

Also speaking, Mrs. Daniela Gray-Johnson, Project Director,

Coalition. The platform also launched its strategic partnership with platform members and Swedish organization Forum to implement recommendations from the 3rd national rural women land conference. These recommendations are geared towards promoting laws, policies and practices that ensure women land rights.

The program was held through financial support of Land for Life with the Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH).

Nearly 30 representatives from various civil society organizations working in the land sector and the Liberian government through the Liberia Land Authority were in attendance. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Français

Violences pré-électorales : le parti au pouvoir donne le ton

Les militants de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) ont donné le ton de la violence électorale au tout premier

réadaptation Andie Telawion et le représentant du district n° 8 de Montserrado, Moses Acarus Gray.

Les partisans zélés qui

l'ancien vice-président Baokai, qui est l'un des plus grands challengers de la CDC dans la course présidentielle de 2023.

Mais cela n'a pas plus à la classe politique, même pas au parti au pouvoir lui-même dont les militants défilaient.

Le maire de la ville de Monrovia, Koijee, qui fait également office de secrétaire général du parti au pouvoir, a immédiatement condamné l'action quand les militants sont arrivés au siège du parti après le défilé.

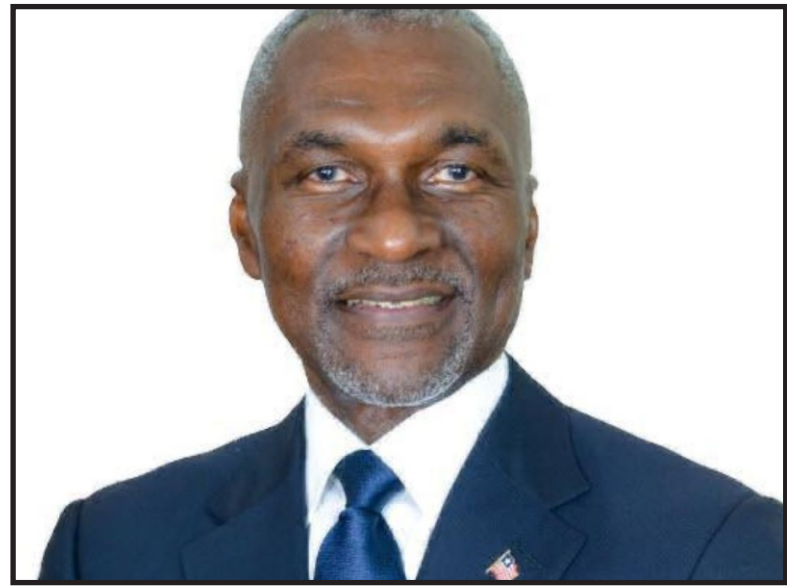
"Nous ne pouvons pas permettre aux gens de nuire à cette paix", a déclaré Koijee tout en informant la foule que le président George Weah lui avait demandé de réprimander les auteurs et de leur demander de s'abstenir de toute forme de violence.

"Nous ne pouvons pas gagner ces élections en portant atteinte à la paix. Nous appelons ces jeunes citoyens patriotes à s'abstenir de tout acte susceptible de déclencher la violence", a ajouté Koijee.

Il a dit que ce défilé était déplacé et totalement hors d'usage et ne représente pas la personnalité du fondateur de la CDC. De plus, l'équipe de campagne nationale de la coalition au pouvoir, dans un communiqué de presse publié tard samedi soir, a condamné l'action de ses militants et l'a qualifiée d'inacceptable.

"Le comité de campagne Weah-Taylor 2023 de la Coalition pour le chan

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



jour des campagnes en défilant avec un cercueil portant la photo du leader politique du Parti de l'unité Joseph N. Boakai et sur lequel il est écrit « Repose en paix ».

Le défilé s'est fait dans les rues principales de Monrovia et s'est terminé devant le siège du CDC en présence des responsables et cadres du parti dont le secrétaire général, Jefferson Koijee, le ministre adjoint du Bureau de correction et de

ont porté le cercueil pendant le défilé chantaient des chansons aux paroles provocatrices telles que : "Repose en paix Ambassadeur Boakai. Nous vous avons demandé de laisser cette chose mais vous dites toujours non. Oh, mon peuple, le vieux est mort ooo ».

Selon les partisans, le défilé du cercueil était une dramatisation et une symbolisation de la célébration du retour de

Niger : la diplomatie reste une option pour une sortie de crise

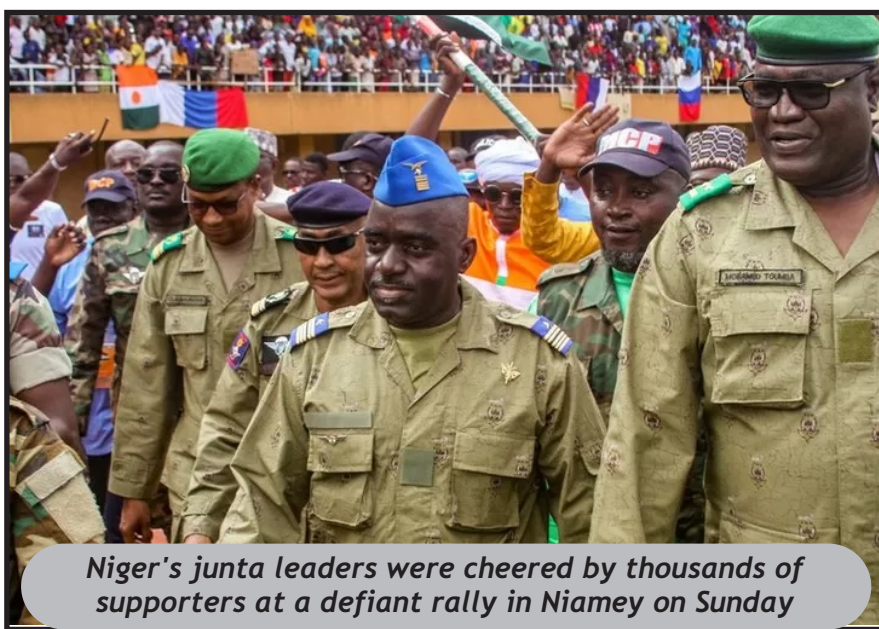
L'ultimatum lancé à la junte nigérienne par la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cédéao) a pris fin le 6 août 2023. Mais, dans l'immédiat, une éventuelle intervention militaire de forces membres de l'organisation sous-régionale ne semble pas prévue. Une, voire deux nouvelles missions pourraient être dépêchées prochainement à Niamey. Explications. L'ultimatum posé par la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cédéao) aux putschistes nigériens a expiré dans la nuit. C'est donc la fin du délai imparti aux militaires putschistes pour rétablir le président Mohamed Bazoum dans ses fonctions et restaurer l'ordre constitutionnel, à la suite du coup d'État du 26 juillet dernier. Des personnalités très actives dans les discussions confiaient que les choses iraient vite après la fin de l'ultimatum, souligne notre correspondant à Cotonou Jean-Luc Aplogan.

Selon les informations de RFI, le commandement de la force attend de recevoir l'ordre d'intervenir. Samedi 5 août, le président en exercice de la Cédéao, le Nigérien Bola Tinubu, n'a pas obtenu le soutien franc des sénateurs de son pays pour une telle opération.

Toutefois, depuis que les chefs d'état-major ont bouclé le plan d'intervention, vendredi 4 août à Abuja, les pays contributeurs de troupes - Nigeria, Bénin, Côte d'Ivoire, Sénégal - sont sur le pont et se préparent. Sont-ils totalement prêts ? Difficile de le dire, tout étant en effet secret défense. Aucune information ne

filtre ainsi sur le lieu de casernement des troupes. Certains spécialistes pensent qu'elles seraient proches des frontières du Niger. Pas de détails non plus sur les zones de déploiement opérationnel.

La fin de l'ultimatum n'entraîne pas automatiquement le déclenchement d'une opération militaire, expliquent plusieurs officiels de pays membres de la Cédéao. On apprend que ministres et chefs d'État de la Cédéao se parlent encore beaucoup au téléphone.



Niger's junta leaders were cheered by thousands of supporters at a defiant rally in Niamey on Sunday

Éditorial

L'appel de la Présidente Sirleaf est le bienvenu

L'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a averti les membres du conseil des commissaires de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) qu'ils ont le devoir sacré envers le peuple libérien, celui d'organiser des élections libres, justes, transparentes et crédibles, le 10 octobre prochain.

S'exprimant lors d'un forum des femmes le vendredi 4 août à Congo Town, Monrovia, Mme Sirleaf a appelé les hommes et les femmes du conseil d'administration de la NEC à organiser des élections qui permettront à chacun d'avoir une liberté de choix. C'est un devoir sacré ils ont envers l'État et son peuple.

C'est un conseil venant d'une voix de sagesse, une icône de la politique libérienne qui a 12 ans d'expérience à la tête de l'Etat. La NEC doit en tenir compte pendant qu'elle s'efforce de mener des élections démocratiques libres et pacifiques.

La NEC devrait faire de la Constitution son guide en organisant ces élections pour dissiper tous les soupçons et doutes. Elle doit appliquer les règles régissant le processus électoral dans tous les domaines sans crainte ni faveur ni autres intérêts car la stabilité de l'État et de ses citoyens en dépend.

Un processus électoral qui manque de crédibilité et de confiance est une recette pour la confusion et le chaos qu'aucun Libérien épris de paix ne veut, surtout à un moment où toute l'Afrique de l'Ouest est dans la tourmente sur fond de lutte pour le leadership entre leaders.

Déjà, les Libériens ont eu leur part de conflits sanglants aux conséquences dévastatrices qu'ils ne veulent pas voir se répéter à la suite des élections mal gérées. La transparence et la proactivité devraient être la marque de fabrique de la CEN à mesure qu'on se dirige vers les élections.

La transparence et la proactivité exigeraient que la NEC informe le public régulièrement et soit disposée à écouter toutes les parties qui sont en compétition.

Les Libériens devraient être fiers que, pour la toute première fois depuis de très nombreux siècles, la nation ait un ancien président vivant et vivant dans le pays, prêt à offrir des conseils pour la progression constante de la patrie.

Il ne faut pas que nous prenions cela à la légère. Mme Sirleaf est une énorme ressource humaine dont cette nation a besoin et dont elle devrait apprendre pour rester sur la voie de la paix, de la stabilité et de l'unité.

D'autre part, nous appelons les partis politiques et les politiciens en lice pour les fonctions publiques à placer la nation au-dessus de leurs quêtes personnelles. La présidence ne peut être occupée que par une seule personne choisie par la majorité des électeurs qui se rendent dans les urnes. Les 20 candidats qui sont en lice, y compris le président sortant George Weah, devraient en être conscients et permettre à la volonté du peuple de prévaloir.

La réalité est que 19 candidats perdront à la clôture du scrutin que ce soit au premier tour ou au second tour. Par conséquent, les dirigeants de partis politiques qui disent à leurs partisans qu'ils ne peuvent jamais être battus devraient commencer à atténuer cette rhétorique, car elle prépare le terrain et les esprits à la violence.

Français

Starts from page 8

Violences pré-électorales :

gement démocratique se réengage à mener une campagne thématique qui met l'accent sur le bilan exceptionnel de développement et de bonne gouvernance de Son Excellence le président George M. Weah, tout en soulignant l'importance de maintenir un environnement démocratique pacifique », déclare le communiqué signé par Lenn Eugene Nagbe.

L'action, selon le communiqué, est inacceptable et ne représente pas l'ensemble des activités qui ont été envisagées pour l'exercice démocratique.

"Le comité estime que les gains sans précédent que l'administration Weah a réalisés au fil des ans fournissent suffisamment de pépites pour une victoire massive aux prochaines élections. Il exhorte donc tous ceux qui travaillent vers cet objectif ultime à rester sur le message.

L'acte de provocation a également été condamné par le sénateur Edwin Snowe, qui n'est pas membre du parti, mais qui a promis son soutien à la candidature de Weah pour un second mandat.

Le sénateur Snowe a écrit : « En tant que partisan passionné et ardent des principes de la démocratie, je suis obligé de dénoncer les récentes actions observées lors du défilé d'hier organisé par un groupe de jeunes. Cela m'attriste profondément de voir des gens défilant avec un cercueil portant la photo du principal chef de l'opposition, Joseph N. Boakai du Parti de l'unité.

En tant que personne qui a déclaré son soutien et approuvé la candidature au second mandat du président Weah, je dois souligner que je ne peux tolérer aucune action qui sape l'essence même de notre démocratie durement gagnée. Notre démocratie repose sur les piliers du respect, de l'inclusivité et du débat constructif. Les actes provocateurs comme celui observé lors du défilé d'hier ne sert qu'à attiser la division et l'animosité entre concitoyens. De telles actions ternissent non seulement la réputation de la coalition au pouvoir, mais menacent également le fondement des principes démocratiques de notre nation. Réponse du Parti de l'unité Pendant ce temps, réagissant, l'équipe de campagne de l'ancien parti au pouvoir a non seulement qualifié d'enfantin l'acte des militants de la coalition au pouvoir, mais aussi d'une violation de la déclaration de

Farmington signée par toutes les parties.

"La récente action enfantine et violente de la CDC le premier jour de la campagne, impliquant un cercueil portant le portrait dérisoire d'un homme d'État, constitue non seulement une violation claire de l'accord, mais confirme également la position de l'Alliance du Parti de l'Unité selon laquelle le parti au pouvoir manque de maturité et n'a pas de message clair pour convaincre le peuple », a dit une déclaration signée par le secrétaire général national de l'UP, Amos Tweh.

Selon l'ancien parti au pouvoir, les actions violentes ont constamment caractérisé les activités de la CDC depuis sa création et n'a pas mis en œuvre de politiques souhaitables au profit du peuple libérien au cours de ses six années au pouvoir.

« Cependant, défilant avec un cercueil le premier jour de la campagne démontre que la CDC n'est plus digne de la confiance du peuple libérien. L'utilisation d'un cercueil comme symbole est profondément troublante, car le cercueil représente la mort, et l'Alliance du Parti de l'Unité compatit à la souffrance du peuple libérien tandis que la CDC semble s'en réjouir, souhaitant même plus de morts », a ajouté Tweh.

La déclaration a en outre fait valoir que le gouvernement de la CDC n'a pas été responsable dans sa gestion du pays au cours des six dernières années, optant plutôt pour des actions provocatrices qui incitent à la violence et sapent les élections. L'électorat libérien cherche une alternative pour les problèmes épineux auxquels il est confronté.

Il a en outre dit que les échecs de la CDC sont évidents vu l'augmentation de la pauvreté, le coût des soins de santé et le manque d'accès à l'éducation. Les fonctionnaires ont subi des réductions de salaire et ont perdu leur dignité. Ils sont incapables de payer les frais de scolarité de leurs enfants. La gouvernance, l'état de droit et les services sociaux de base ont été sapés et les hôpitaux sont sans médicaments de base.

« Si le président Joseph Boakai prend le pouvoir, il accordera la priorité à la restauration de la dignité des fonctionnaires, des professionnels de la santé et des enseignants dans le cadre du concept de développement JNB-JKK appelé programme ARREST (agriculture, route, état de droit, éducation, assainissement / santé et tourisme) », a déclaré le communiqué. "Alors que l'Alliance du Parti de l'unité s'est engagée dans une campagne non violente, la CDC, en tant que coalition au pouvoir, devrait se voir rappeler sa responsabilité constitutionnelle et s'abstenir d'actions non provoquées.

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.

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

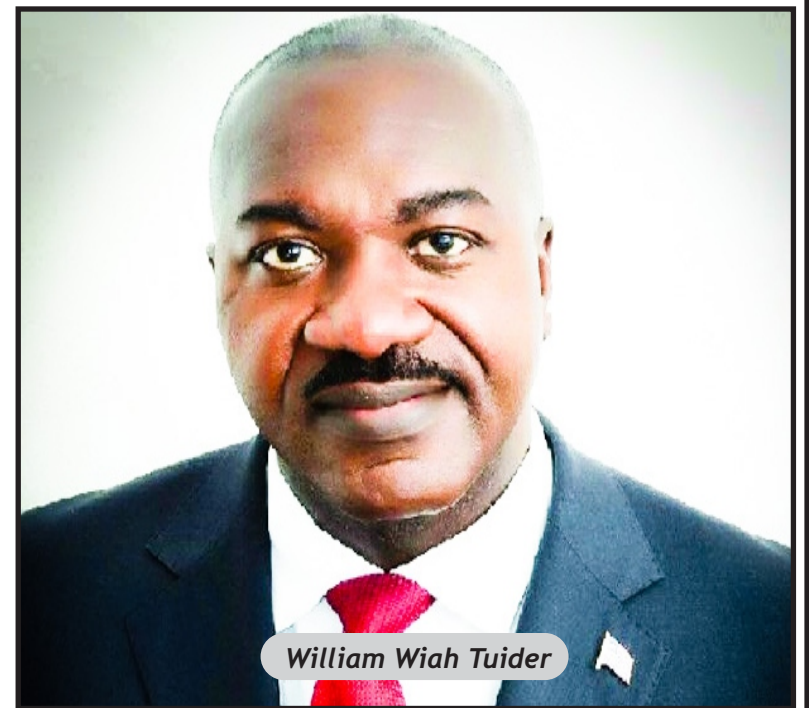
La Commission aurait également accrédité et certifié 400 organisations de la société civile pour la campagne de sensibilisation. Il y aurait des organisations confessionnelles, des OSC et des organisations communautaires. Leur mission consisterait à expliquer davantage les connaissances sur les droits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

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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LIBERIANS

DEBATE

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Topic: Political campaign

Campaign activities for the October 10th Presidential and General Elections started here over the weekend, as announced by the National Elections Commission. In this random interview, the NEW DAWN asked some Monrovia residents how political parties and their leaders should conduct their campaign to avoid violence and ensure a peaceful poll. Read their suggestions as compiled below.



Imam Amer Musa Kiazem

“We all are Liberians. Campaign is a political franchise, so we are expecting them to exercise it. But one must not campaign at the detriment of your opponents. We expect the campaigners whosoever candidate you will be campaigning for, you must be able to tell the public about their ability; what you think they can do for the people, this is what we’re expecting our campaigners to do or how to behave. You must always be there to tell us what your candidates able to do for the public. Tell the people my candidate will be able to change conditions of your livelihood in this community, fine. My

“I think people should campaign in a good manner because Liberia is all we have. Politicians today are friends tomorrow so, you will get one person supporting a side and another person supporting his side but you as a common man, you will not mind because of the person’s greed, you go and fight your fellow man. I think it makes no sense to go after those that supporting President George M. Weah, because at the end of the day, Liberia is above everyone. And one thing I will like for everyone to take into consideration is that regardless who becomes President, the fact of the matter is we need peace; it could be George Weah tomorrow. Ok, presently what we are seeing, other people are not seeing it. You make George Weah President today and then the same thing we have been going through years to

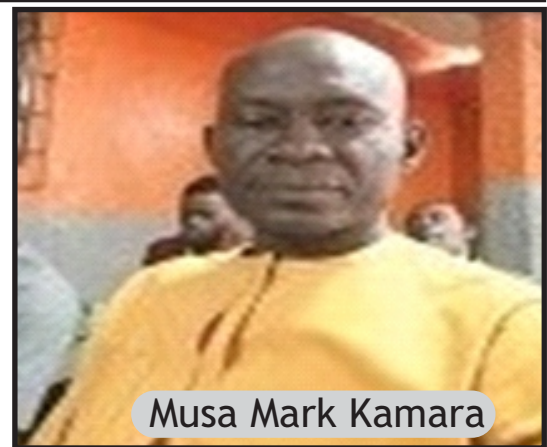


Sekou Mohhamed Sannoh

years, we’re going to go through it years to come. You understand, but if at some point in time we can only maintain the peace and re-elect President George Weah and I will elect Joseph Boakia, no problem but, let us maintain the common peace at least for the fact that we need to wake up the next day to find our daily bread; that is much more better than for us to be running to another person’s country again.”

candidate is able to do this and that but don’t go for another person’s candidate with a negativism because we all are Liberians, and campaign is just a short period so, if we say any bad words to affect any of those candidates, they are all Liberians; come tomorrow, we will not be that free to work with them. We are brothers and sisters; this country is very small so, we’re expecting everybody to be able to tell the public what your candidate is able to do but to go after someone negatively, we don’t see it as a very good campaign strategy and that is not our style of campaigning in Liberia.”

“Well, you can do your origin in our community, like what we are doing, talking to our people, marketing our platforms - why our candidate should be elected, moving around organizations and sending our people to the counties like what is happening. We have all our leaders in other counties. From now until next week



Musa Mark Kamara

before they get to town then we can do our official launch, so let’s respect one another to avoid violence. Let your friend say his or her own and pass, your shake hands and huge. It is all about Liberia.”



Sekou Massalay

“Supporters should campaign for their

candidates in a respectful manner, respect each other’s views no matter their difference. We should all be one, who ever wins, let us work with that person and maintain the peace in our country because I believe that Liberia is all we have and the Love of Liberty Brought Us Here.”

“As we’re approaching the October 10th elections, we have the full responsibility to convince our people; to talk to them about our candidate, to tell them why our candidate is the more favourite among the others. We have to turn the 2023 elections into intellectualism. The new course of politics in my mind, we should engage the issues and stop attacking personality because if you continue to attack John Brown, Peter and Paul, supporters of those people might get angry and they will want to react to those issues that you have been raising against their candidates so, at this point in time, I am asking every Liberian more especially, the young people, that this time around, we shouldn’t be used as scapegoat, people shouldn’t influence our decision by giving us money and telling us to go in the streets and protest, because October 10th is just a single day that will come and pass, but Liberia remains our common denominator. This is a country that you and myself can never and ever be deported from so, maintaining and sustaining the



Morris S. Siryon

peace of the country remains our full responsibility. How do we go about maintaining the peace is to avoid violence, not by fighting. It is not by taking stones and sticks, but about issues that concern the Liberian people. Issues that confront the Liberian people, you should be able to discuss them and tell the people how you are going to find solutions to those problems. So in my mind, we don’t want to get back to the black days, we don’t want Liberia as a country to see our people running back to the bushes. If we as Liberians want to achieve for Liberia what we all hope for can only be achievable in sustaining the peace.”

"Reckless & irresponsible"

By Lincoln G. Peters

Presidential hopeful and renowned Human Rights lawyer Cllr. Tiawon Saye Gongloe has termed as completely irresponsible, reckless, and baseless accusations from his kingsman Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe accusing him of preaching and

where he claimed he was not in the area. More to that, the program was broadcast on several online platforms. Therefore, if he can provide any recording that I said so, I will not contest the presidency. I will withdraw from the process as president " Cllr. Gongloe stated.

Cllr. Gongloe asserted that he doesn't know why Dr. Whapoe who he considered his small brother, someone who he has worked with many years when he was in human rights advocacy and having group that he helped trained and develop will be speaking against him in such manner.

"This my small brother had a Human Rights group during the administration of President Charles Taylor, and I used to help present and advise him how to go about the advocacy. When I was about to contest, knowing that he has contested, I asked him for dinner at Cape Hotel for him to decline and support me since we are from the same place, but he refused," Cllr. Gongloe state.

But, unfortunately, Cllr. Gongloe explained that Dr. Whapoe declined to accept his request and later they were called by the elders of the county again at which point he again declined despite promising that if any of them gained more attraction, the other will decline and support the next.

"I have been in several states in America. So, when it comes to exposure and recognition, I am far from him. But that doesn't mean he should make a damning statement against me. I consider his statement a distraction. Let him bring recording and I will withdraw from the process" Cllr. Gongloe concluded.

However, speaking in a telephone conversation with Dr. Whapoe Saturday, he said that if Cllr. Gongloe is serious let him bring the recording where he spoke in Zakapa.

" I don't want he and myself to pull and haul things but if he knows that he didn't do so fine, but I think it will be appropriate that he brings the recording from Zakapa where he spoke," he noted.

"I don't want he and myself to pull and haul things but if he knows that he didn't do so fine, but I think it will be appropriate that he brings the recording from Zakapa where he spoke," he noted.

"We are going to elections to make a one round. UP and its collaborators are looking for one round," he noted.

Sara Nyanti rallies opposition parties

The standard-bearer of the African Liberation League (ALL), Madame Sara Beysolow Nyanti, has hosted a landmark meeting aimed at fostering "collective action to protect the votes" in the upcoming Liberian general & presidential elections scheduled for October 10, 2023.

During the gathering attended by opposition political parties' representatives, delegates unanimously adopted a resolution pledging to work together in upholding democratic values, promoting voter education, and monitoring the electoral process to ensure fairness and transparency.

Held on Monday, August 7, 2023, the meeting witnessed the convergence of twenty-seven (27) delegates representing twelve (12) opposition political parties, reflecting a united front against threats to the integrity of the democratic process.

Amid growing concerns over potential electoral malpractices and voter intimidation, the only female Presidential Candidate took the initiative to rally opposition parties together, recognizing that a united front is crucial to safeguarding the democratic principles on which Liberia's future depends.

Held at Corina Hotel in Monrovia, the gathering witnessed Madame Nyanti outlining her vision for a

progress lies in the hands of its people. Our meeting today signifies our unwavering commitment to democracy and our determination to protect the rights of every Liberian to exercise their vote without fear or coercion," said Nyanti during her closing remarks.

The gathering marks a significant milestone in Liberia's political landscape, demonstrating the potential for a strong and united opposition to bring about positive change and secure a brighter future for all citizens.

As Liberia moves closer to the October 10 elections, the "collective action to protect our votes" initiative promises to be a critical force in ensuring a credible and peaceful electoral process, setting an example for other African nations striving to uphold democratic principles.

With public anticipation building, the Liberian electorate looks forward to witnessing how opposition parties continue to collaborate and demonstrate their dedication to a prosperous, democratic Liberia on Election Day and beyond.

Madam Nyanti is an advocate for peace, national healing & reconciliation, poverty



engaging in divisive politics in Nimba County.

Addressing a major press conference over the weekend at his law office, Cllr. Gongloe clarified that at no point in time, he has ever called for the division of Nimba, saying that the accusations bear no iota of truth.

"When the front page headlines in the NewDawn Newspaper, August 4, 2023, which says Battle for Nimba but superficially says Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe accused Cllr. Gongloe of preaching divisive politics.

In the story, he talks about I am dividing Nimba along the Mano and Gio lines. That statement is irresponsible, reckless, and bears no iota of truth" Cllr. Gongloe clarified.

Cllr. Gongloe, however, has vowed to decline to contest for the Liberian presidency if Dr. Whapoe and those that feel that he has engaged or preached divisive politics in Nimba can show any recording against him calling for the division of Nimba County. The opposition politician pointed out that it's true that he has made several appearances in Nimba and spoke, but at no point in time at an honoring program in Zakapa, he ever told the people about dividing Nimba along tribal lines.

"When I spoke in Nimba County in Zakapa particularly

The Liberian People Party standard bearer disclosed that he has been a force behind National unity and reconciliation in Nimba County and Liberia at large.

He further indicated that he has written several news articles particularly the most recent in 2014 warning Nimba and Liberia at large pointing out the threat and consequences of preaching divisive politics and dividing the county and country at large beyond tribal lines.

" I have told Nimba people that if they have opportunity as a Gio man, he should look for Mano or Mandingo man to work with. That has been my message. I did that when I was Minister of Labour and I have continued. How can I in fact contest for the presidency if I am engaging in divisive politics when the first responsibility of me as President will be to unite and reconcile the people " Cllr. Gongloe narrated.

He mentioned that he has condemned several individuals and actions and led series of protests against those wanting Nimba to be divided between Mano and Gio line, on grounds that he stands with Nimba County and its unity and togetherness remain paramount to him.

Starts from back page Boakai condemns CDC's

and the opposition community are doing very well and ready to take on the leadership from President Weah and CDC to restore good governance and economic growth. "I don't know what people talk about the opposition is divided. I don't believe so. We may not be working with certain people, but we understand that that is [a] democracy," he noted. "As far as the UP collaboration is

concerned, we are strong enough to be able to go into the election," he said. According to him, the opposition community can come together.

Boakai suggested that Liberians know the situation on the ground and so they will bring the opposition community together to dislodge President Weah. "We are not looking for [a] second

round before we unite, as it's said we are. But in the event that happens, we will as the people think," Boakai indicated. He said he has never looked for a second round, it's the CDC.

"We are going to elections to make a one round. UP and its collaborators are looking for one round," he noted.



Dialogue session with opposition political parties

transparent and fair electoral process, highlighting the significance of collective efforts in ensuring a level playing field for all candidates. In her address, she emphasized the need for unity, cooperation, and collaboration among opposition parties, transcending individual ambitions to protect the fundamental rights of Liberian citizens.

The meeting also served as a platform for opposition leaders to share their concerns and experiences regarding voter & opposition political party's suppression tactics and electoral irregularities. As they exchanged ideas and strategies, the delegates collectively brainstormed measures to counteract any attempts to undermine the democratic process.

Reverend Nyanti's leadership and inclusive approach were widely praised by participants, with many expressing optimism about the prospects of a united opposition front in the upcoming elections.

"I firmly believe that Liberia's

eradication, justice, systems/nation building, and sustainable development.

She has over twenty-five (25) years of experience in International Development, and leading transformation in conflict affected nations, and managing with integrity budgets of over one billion United States dollars yearly, as head of the United Nations to several countries, including South Sudan, Yemen, Nepal, among others prior to coming to politics.

Her decision to contest the upcoming elections, is a response to Liberians request for a better alternative in the Liberian political space; and to deliver the urgent healing, reconciliation, and development Liberia urgently needs from a Leader. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Boakai condemns CDC's casket parade

By Lincoln G. Peters
 Liberian opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai has condemned the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) partisans' parade with a casket bearing his image, saying it's completely unfortunate but he

party headquarters in Congo Town with key stalwarts and party executives in attendance.

The group of zealous CDC partisans chanted provocative lyrics such as: "Rest in Peace Amb. Boakai; We tell you to leave this thing but still, you

program Monday, 7 August 2023, Amb. Boakai said the CDC is noted for misbehaving and abusing law and order.

"For the CDC to sign to a peaceful election agreement and begin to misbehave, this way I think it's quite unfortunate," said Boakai. "But again that is the CDC. We know them and that is how they are. And so, we are not surprised" he noted.

According to the CDC partisans, their parade with a casket dramatized the celebration of the alleged homegoing of the former vice president. The CDC's action has been greeted with condemnation from within the party itself and several other well-meaning Liberians.

According to Mr. Boakai, Unity Party will never be drawn into causing elections violence or provocation that will disturb the peace and stability of the country. In the interview, Boakai was quizzed about disunity within the opposition and their preparedness to take on the mantle of authority from President Weah and the CDC government. In response, Mr. Boakai argued that he doesn't believe that there is disunity in the opposition. Instead, he stated that the Unity Party



is not surprised.

CDCians printed an inscription on Mr. Boakai's image that said, "Rest in Peace," and placed several copies on the coffins which they paraded with on the first day of campaigning Saturday, 5 August 2023. Partisans of the ruling party paraded with the casket on the principal streets of Monrovia and marched to their

say no; Oh, my people, the papy na die oo," among others.

The former Liberian vice president, now standard bearer of the opposition Unity Party (UP), is seen as the main rival to incumbent President George Manneh Weah, standard bearer of the ruling CDC.

In an exclusive interview with the Voice of America's (VOA's) "Daybreak Africa"

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