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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2023	L\$185.4583 /US\$1.00	L\$187.3918./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.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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VOL. 13 NO. 139 FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00

EDC and UP supporters clash

-In early campaign violence



EDC denies attacking UP

CDC campaign chair Mr. Eugene Nagbe

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Continental News

Ex-UN peacekeeper who staged the coup in Niger

Once involved in peacekeeping efforts in war-hit countries, General Abdourahmane Tchiani has now triggered a major crisis in West Africa by staging a coup in Niger. Low-profile and hitherto little known outside his immediate circle, he was the commander

of Niger's presidential guard until he emerged from the shadows to overthrow the man he was charged with protecting, President Mohamed Bazoum. Gen Tchiani declared himself the head of the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland, the military junta set up after he seized power on 26 July.

Meanwhile, his former boss languishes under house arrest. Mr Bazoum has been in sporadic telephone contact with international leaders but he is otherwise isolated.

Gen Tchiani has, so far, rejected all suggestions of

compromise. He has kept most international envoys at bay, but gave an audience to Nigeria's ex-central bank governor and former Emir of Kano, Muhammadu Sanusi, on Wednesday.

US Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, visiting Niger on Monday, was unable to secure an audience with the 62-year-old

general. A delegation from the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) got no further than the airport.

A planned second joint mission by Ecowas, African Union (AU) and United Nations (UN) envoys, scheduled for Wednesday, was postponed after the junta said it was not the right time to meet them. Gen Tchiani is certainly living up to his reputation as stubborn and taciturn. He was not at the huge rally the junta organised in Niger's capital Niamey on Sunday. He has only appeared on TV on three occasions since the coup, and has spoken twice - once to present himself as

Niger's new leader and once to make an Independence Day address. That is perhaps in part because even he does not really know where this crisis goes next. Will Ecowas, to whose good governance and democracy protocol Niger is a signatory, really launch a military intervention, as it has threatened to do? Or will the West African bloc wait for sanctions to gradually do their work in ratcheting up pressure on the junta, particularly as there is significant political opposition to the military option in Nigeria and some other Ecowas states?

Once involved in peacekeeping efforts in war-hit countries, General Abdourahmane Tchiani has now triggered a major crisis in West Africa by staging a coup in Niger. Low-profile and hitherto little known outside his immediate circle, he was the commander of Niger's presidential guard until he emerged from the shadows to overthrow the man he was charged with protecting, President Mohamed Bazoum.

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Gen Tchiani has, so far, rejected all suggestions of compromise. BBC



Gen Tchiani made a televised address to the nation on 28 July

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Relative calm as Ethiopia's Amhara militias retreat

Local militias who have been fighting against government troops in Ethiopia's turbulent Amhara region have retreated from some of the major cities. Residents in the region's two biggest cities, the capital Bahir Dar and the historic Gondar, told the BBC that relative calm had returned on Thursday morning after a week of violence.

A command post set up by the government to oversee a state of emergency declared in the region in relation to the clashes has imposed a night-time curfew in six cities and towns. It's also banned the carrying of weapons and public demonstrations.

According to residents in Bahir Dar, the relative calm has allowed burials of civilians

killed in the violence to take place.

Rights watchdog Human Rights Watch (HRW) has called on the international community to "forcefully urge the government to protect civilians". In a statement on Wednesday, the group accused the authorities of

responding to the growing violence in Amhara with "increased repression".

The UK has reiterated its earlier call for its citizens who might be stuck in the violence to shelter in safe places and stay there until it's safe to leave.



Local militias have retreated from major towns

UN concerned for ousted Niger president's health

The US and UN are concerned about the health and safety of Niger's elected President Mohamed Bazoum, who has spent more than two weeks under house arrest.

"We are greatly worried about his health and his personal safety and the personal safety of his family," a US state department spokesman said. The Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) had given Niger's coup leaders until Sunday to stand down.

Ecowas said on Thursday it was still considering all options.

"No option is taken off the table, including the use of force as a last resort," Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu, who chaired a meeting of Ecowas leaders, said. "We remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting Niger in the journey towards peaceful democratic stability," he added.

Ahead of the meeting, Muslim clerics from northern Nigeria, which shares a long border with Niger, had urged President Tinubu against using

Department spokesman Matthew Miller added: "As time goes on, as he's held in isolation, it's a situation that is of growing concern to us." Mr Bazoum's political party, PNDS-Tarayya, claimed in a statement that Mr Bazoum and his family had no access to running water, electricity, fresh goods or doctors. The statement echoed previous comments made by Niger's elected prime minister Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou, who has said Mr Bazoum was being held with his wife and son without electricity or water. The head of the presidential guard, Gen Abdourahmane Tchiani, claims he now runs Niger, while the junta appointed ex-finance minister, Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine, as the new prime minister following the coup.

A new cabinet has now been announced by the junta, despite leaders across West Africa demanding that they end the military takeover. The new regime has also closed Niger's airspace until further notice, citing the "threat of military intervention" from Ecowas. On Wednesday, Gen Tchiani met influential Nigerian Muslim cleric, former Emir of Kano Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, in a bid to



Demonstrators hold placards and Niger flags as they gather outside the country's embassy in Paris in support of President Mohamed Bazoum

force to oust the coup leaders.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said he was concerned about the reportedly "deplorable living conditions" Mr Bazoum and his family were in. Earlier, his party said they were being detained under "cruel" and "inhumane" conditions, Reuters news agency reported.

Mr Bazoum was deposed on 26 July.

Since then, a military junta has ruled Niger while Mr Bazoum has been kept in the presidential palace. Members of the junta have made no comment about the ousted leader's condition.

On Tuesday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called Mr Bazoum and assured him of the US's ongoing support, Washington said. US State

mediate the crisis. It was one of the first meetings the coup leader has held, having previously shunned several envoys including Nigeria's most senior religious leader, as well as delegates from the US, UN and African Union.

Also on Wednesday, France denied accusations from Niger's military junta that it was trying to destabilise the country. Niger is a former colony of France, having received independence in 1960.

Coup leaders claimed French aircraft had breached the country's airspace and French soldiers had freed captured jihadists in order to attack military positions. BBC

"France firmly denies the new unfounded accusations by the putschists in Niger," the French defence and foreign ministries said in a joint statement quoted by AFP news agency.

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Tarja Halonen,
Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim

The call from Ellen is welcoming

Winning the Fight for Women's Land Rights

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.

HELSINKI/N'DJAMENA - Women have cultivated and nurtured life on our planet for centuries. Yet while the world enjoys the fruits of their labor, they often have no say or control over the land they work.

decision-making, women in some countries have started to fight for their land rights. Sierra Leone, for example, recently passed a new law that grants women the right to own, lease, or buy land in the country.

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.

To add insult to injury, the twin threats of drought and desertification - intensified by climate change - have reduced the amount of usable land, jeopardizing livelihoods as well as food production. Moreover, unsustainable farming is eroding soil 100 times faster than natural processes can restore it. The United Nations has classified up to 40% of the world's land as degraded.

In Tanzania, women who have been given stronger land rights are earning up to 3.8 times more income and are also more likely to have individual savings. This highlights an important byproduct of equal land rights: economic security for women and girls. Giving women a greater say in land management can have cascading knock-on effects on household income, food security, and investment in children's education and health.

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.

Land degradation is a huge challenge, but the solution lies in the people most concerned about protecting this valuable resource: women. When given the chance, women are responsible stewards who use their extensive knowledge and skills to protect and restore the land in their possession. They have also proven capable of building resilience to droughts, which are becoming more severe and more common as temperatures rise.

Equal land rights could also boost food security, as women invest more in agricultural technology, and use their indigenous traditional knowledge, that results in higher yields. In fact, if women farmers had access to the same level of resources as men, the number of undernourished people in the world could be reduced by as much as 100-150 million people.

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

As matters stand, women are rarely offered such opportunities. Discriminatory practices such as inadequate land-tenure systems, limited access to credit, unequal pay, low levels of decision-making autonomy, and sexual- and gender-based violence prevent their active participation in land management.

To make this a reality, governments must remove the barriers that prevent women and girls from owning and inheriting land. More broadly, policymakers should involve women in decisions about land management, conservation, and restoration.

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.

In Chad, the government excludes many women and girls from land allocations, leaving them with insecure tenure. Gender norms that devalue the contributions of women further reinforce their precarious position. The common expression "Mara sakit," meaning "She's just a woman," exemplifies this sexist dynamic.

The private sector also has a critical role to play. By expanding access to credit, for example, financial institutions can make it easier for female agricultural workers to purchase the technology and inputs required to improve yields, protect soils, and guard against land degradation.

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.

The problem extends far beyond one country. Despite comprising nearly half of the world's agricultural workforce and producing up to 80% of food in developing economies, women own less than one-fifth of land worldwide. More than 100 governments continue to deny women the right to inherit their husband's property.

Yet the most important work, including raising awareness and campaigning for change, falls to local communities. Campaigns like With Rural Women for a Chad Without Hunger have pushed for land reforms and encouraged dialogue with authorities, putting affected women front and center. The outcome in Chad is promising: after mobilizing more than 25,000 women in seven provinces between 2017 and 2019, 300 hectares of land were allocated to 18 women's groups.

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.

This imbalance, coupled with the worsening climate crisis, leads to female agricultural workers bearing the brunt of land degradation. They suffer from food and water scarcity and are often forced to migrate, which is a contributing factor to gender inequality and its expression through violence and discrimination against women and girls. Indigenous women and girls, people with disabilities, and women human-rights defenders are particularly vulnerable in such conditions.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification has placed gender equality at the core of its mandate - and for good reason. As the convention acknowledges in its Gender Action Plan, women play a crucial role in sustainable land management. Consequently, securing women's land rights is not only the right thing to do; it will boost land-restoration efforts, develop long-term resilience to droughts, and create more equitable economies. Our planet, and the health of our societies, depends on it.

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.

Frustrated by their lack of agency in

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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.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,

UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.

Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /

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Lord, who tell them the Footballer people geh time for facts

Dear Father:

I beg you ya, who tell them de Footballer people geh time for facts. In fact, who tell you da they can even listen to him when he talking before your want them to be correcting him.

The man say the Old man used to be sleeping so he never used to see him putting him hand up. Which one be your own to come start making noise around here? Is it becus he say only him man Alberto used to see him hand whenever he wor presiding? Yor lee us mehn.

You say whatin, da Alberto wor there?

I beg you ya, Alberto who just came in de picture de orlor day wehplay he wor eh?

So, it mean de Old Man talked true da our man never used put him hand up or he never used to attend meeting at de Traditional Council when he wor there? Becus he na even know who was de Paramount Chief sef. Damn! Father, it look leh de sleepy Old Man win dis orlor debate oo.

Bor my son, you want to tell me nobody wor there to correct de man?

Father, how many time I mon say dis one thing? When de people see de Country Giant all their brain them can scatter. Some can go spend time.

I say de people can be so happy da anything our big Brabee say da gospel truth to them. So, nobody geh time sef to understand de thing them de man can be talking. All they know, their man talking and they there-da all.

Bor come to think of it Father, me I na blame de people who are just there to see de man-whether we lekay or not, de man supporter them jus leh him.

De only problem I have is with de one them who can come be running with it on de Town Crier them, they wan to tell us da they too have lost their brains?

So, you see de problem there. Okay, so we understand de Footballer wor talking da day and him make mistake, you who come explain somer de thing them de man wor saying, you want to tell us you na listen well, well and do some background checking before you come on de village radio to explain to us-Ay mehn!

Bor my son who say somer de people geh time for de truth.

Father, de thing too bad mehn, leh talk so and talk so. I shame sef. If you do it leh da na, it will jus be looking ugly.

We all know de Footballer da human being, he can make mistake-you can't tell me he na know who wor de Paramount Chief when he wor at de Upper end of the Tradition Council.

So, to jus start running with de same thing leh da ay mehn, yor na doing well for our Brabee at all. Even de time de man talking about our village paper used to be 23 dollar of Uncle Sam money, na de 50 we are paying for it today.

Father, I know de Country Giant made honest mistake.

How do you know my son?

Father, I been following dis man since 2005, if da one thing I know about him, him na leh for people to lie for him. He will tell you de truth.

Ehn we here, all de people da going around telling all kina lies how de man na do dis orlor one here and da orlor one there de day de man geh ready to talk one on one, he will say my people leh me tell your de true yaa.

So, leh them be there lying all around here saying they helping and covering up for de man. Trust me Father, just listen to our man next time he talking, he will correct himself. Ley man na willing to give nobody chance to come and say bad, bad thing them about him here just so they can pretend leh they working becus when de shit hit de fence, they will all scatter looking for new places to hang their coat them.

OPINION

By Joel E. Cohen,
John E. Rogers

Financing Childhood Growth

NEW YORK - In 2020, chronic undernutrition stunted the growth of nearly a quarter of the world's children under five years old. Being too short for one's age, as a result of chronic undernutrition, can cause irreversible physical and cognitive damage and increases the risk of dying from common infections.

Improving the lives of these children is not a question of food supply. Current cereal grain production, about 2.8 billion tons, provides enough calories to feed 11-14 billion people - more than meeting humanity's current needs. But less than half of the world's grain is eaten by humans, with the remainder fed to animals or burned as fuel. Almost every gallon of gasoline in the United States, for example, contains 10% corn ethanol.

Too poor to affect grain prices in global markets, the chronically hungry are economically invisible. To avert the devastating and long-lasting effects of poor nutrition and health, we propose an innovative financing mechanism that will attract impact investors and ensure adequate food for these malnourished children.

In 2019, two World Bank economists, Emanuela Galasso and the late Adam Wagstaff, found that childhood stunting reduces adult economic productivity, estimating a per capita income loss of between 5-7% in developing countries. And that figure does not account for the millions of stunted children who die young.

Galasso and Wagstaff also conducted a cost-benefit analysis of applying ten tested nutrition interventions over ten years in 34 countries that together account for 90% of the world's stunted children. According to their estimates, the benefits would outweigh the costs by a ratio of at least five to one, and the annual rate of return would be 12%.

Such high payoffs could induce investors to buy development impact bonds focused on ending childhood stunting in low-income countries. The idea behind this type of financial instrument, in which investors provide financing for development programs and receive returns only if agreed-upon outcomes are achieved, is "to generate a positive, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return."

The World Bank's Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF) tried a similar mechanism, albeit to provide emergency funding to the poorest countries in the event of a pandemic. Investors purchased insured bonds in 2017, and the proceeds were to be paid to developing countries to contain infectious-disease outbreaks. The Bank closed the PEF in April 2021, amid criticism that it was too generous to investors while being too strict and too slow in payouts to governments. Nevertheless, an independent assessment from the London School of Economics concluded that a "properly reformed" PEF has "great potential" to contain pandemics with early and effective responses.

While the large benefit-cost ratio of tested nutrition interventions provides a compelling rationale for development impact bonds, a model of private financing or a public-private partnership could avoid the PEF's mistakes and overcome governmental and individual corruption, cumbersome bureaucracies, and political instability.

Returns on investments in nutrition-intervention bonds would be tied to programs' projected economic benefits. After all, effective nutrition interventions should boost productivity and increase the tax base in the participating country. For example, governments could contract with bond issuers to establish and operate anti-stunting programs and then gradually increase payments to these issuers for their nutrition interventions as the expected economic benefits materialize.

Of the many possible models for "childhood growth" bonds, the majority of these bonds would be jointly issued by a parent entity in the developed world and its subsidiary in the local country. Together, they would design the program in consultation with the participating government and recognized experts in child nutrition, field interventions, and data evaluation.

After receiving the invested funds, the parent entity would channel them tax-free to the subsidiary to implement the nutrition interventions alongside the government. That could mean buying food from local producers or markets and delivering it to poor pregnant women and undernourished children. Supplying food, at least in part, through monitored childcare programs outside the home could reduce misappropriation.

Under the contract with the parent and the subsidiary (whose terms would be public), government payments would be in a hard currency. A "sinking fund" would cover interest payments until the government begins to see results. The government would also have the right to assume control of the program at any time in exchange for prepaying the bonds.

The simplest model would offer fixed principal and interest payments, backed by fixed contractual payments. But investors with a greater appetite for risk may prefer governments to reward better-than-expected improvements in child nutrition and related tax revenues with larger contractual payments, triggering larger payments to the bondholders. Of course, poorer-than-expected improvements would result in smaller payments.

It will be important to design payment rights early and well. Given that emerging markets have a long history of debt crises, and that governments tend to repay development-finance institutions (DFIs) first, investors will want these bonds to rank equally in payment rights with the government's debts to DFIs. They may also insist on the contract being tied to a governmental obligation to a DFI, a DFI guarantee of the bonds, or an agreement by a DFI to purchase the bonds from the bondholders upon any payment default.

Nutrition-intervention bonds are an innovative financing vehicle that promises to put food on the table, prevent childhood stunting, and yield high returns for investors. If well-structured, they can be powerful catalysts for economic growth and improving the welfare of the world's most vulnerable people.

Analysis: Liberia Under A CPP Administration Will Ensure Food Security



By Wlemongar Krangar

In a surprising move that caught the attention of the world, India recently decided to stop exporting certain types of rice.

This decision has raised concerns about the global supply of rice. The goal of this action was to make sure that India has enough rice for its own people and to prevent a situation where food prices rise dramatically due to hyperinflation. This situation highlights how important it is for countries to plan ahead and think strategically, especially when faced with potential problems.

The upcoming presidential elections in Liberia on October 10th, 2023 make this situation even more important. It shows how essential it is for leaders to make smart decisions and understand how international trade works. The impact of India's decision has been felt far beyond its borders. Countries like Liberia, Nigeria, and others in the Mano River region are worried about the effects of this decision. I mentioned earlier, on July 26th, that this could lead to serious problems for Liberia unless they quickly came up with a plan to make sure they have enough food.

Now, all eyes are on the Philippines, hoping they can help lessen the risks. The Philippines imported 1.96 million metric tons of rice in the past seven months, which was a

16.37% drop from the previous year. This information comes from the Bureau of Plant Industry.

This situation should be a wake-up call for African governments. It shows how important it is to have strong plans for agriculture so that they're not relying too much on just one type of food.

Depending on global supply chains, conflicts between countries, and foreign policy decisions can lead to problems, as we saw recently with the difficulties around the Black Sea grain deals.

Now, with India stopping rice exports, it's even clearer that countries need to be more self-sufficient.

As the date of Liberia's presidential elections approaches, the idea of planning ahead, making accurate predictions, and handling uncertainty is becoming more and more important.

Governments that understand how international trade works, how businesses operate, and how markets behave are in a good position to guide their countries through the ups and downs of the world economy. This moment in time underscores the need for smart leadership that can plan well and quickly adapt to changes in the world, so that a nation's success isn't controlled by outside forces.

From all indications, the international connections, experience, forward thinking, strategic planning and leadership of the CPP provide some surety of steadiness in dealing with such geo-political and economic pressures without significantly injuring or tilting Liberia's long term global alliances.

Liberians will be well served with a Cummings-Brumskine ticket which is poised to check the chronic national economic decline and acceptance of the mindset of dependence to citizens' empowerment through credible leadership.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Ban on Indian rice export could affect Liberia

-MPC Freeman warns
By Lincoln G. Peters

Movement for Progressive Change (MPC) Presidential Candidate Simeon Freeman has warned the Government and

in the word and also Liberia's biggest partner in terms of rice importation.

"I am not President, but my greatest worry today is where we are going to find rice from

He further indicated that the Government of India had banned the exportation of rice due to the war that is currently ongoing between Ukraine and Russia.

Also, he said that the Indian government pointed out that their reason to ban the exportation of rice is due to the climatic condition therefore, they are keeping rice, sugar and other agriculture products to themselves until a remedy is found.

However, Mr. Freeman suggested that in order for Liberia to prevent this looming rice crisis, the country should prioritize investing in agriculture. "We should now learn from this and invest in agriculture because we are doom for serious crisis. We have killed a President in this country because of rice and so, this government needs to be careful and find means to handle this looming rice crisis. What I want to do in my administration is to integrate opportunity for Liberians to prevent urban migration", he explained. Mr. Freeman described Liberia as a manufacturer of poverty, adding that after every six years, Liberia makes foreigner importers of rice, while the people are poor because there is no opportunity for Liberians.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Mr. Simeon Freeman

people of Liberia of a serious looming rice crisis due to ban imposed on exportation of rice by India, one of the biggest exporters on the global stage. According to Mr. Freeman, Liberia is expected to face serious rice shortage and food insecurity due to India's refusal to export rice based on some global factors.

Speaking here on Monday, August 7, when he appeared on Prime FM, the MPC Presidential Candidate disclosed that India is the biggest importer of rice

now going forward, especially in December. India has banned the exportation of rice. India did that about two weeks ago and you know what that means for Liberia. Currently, India is the biggest exporter of rice in the world", Mr. Freeman noted.

The top 5 rice exporting countries in the world include India, Thailand, Vietnam, Pakistan and the United States of America which generated approximately three-quarters (72.8%) of the global value for rice exports in 2022.

Let's avoid violence

-Candidate Isaac Wesseh cautions residents of District#17

By Bridgett Milton

A Representative Candidate for Montserrado County district#17, Rev. Isaac B. Wesseh, is calling on residents of the district to avoid violence and unite to redeem the district. "From the pulpit to the mosques, from the market to the community and in all schools, let's preach peace and I Say Yes, We Can, together, We Can Do It", he says.

Montserrado and the country at large.

"This is a fight that will make the villages in the 22 clans and the 7 settlements to feel part of the District".

He said for too long people of district#17 have been left behind in development because they have been electing the wrong leaders, who only have interest for themselves and not the people who stood in the rain and sun

to elect them.

He at the same time called on them to make the right choice now, warning that any choice they make today, will be for the betterment of the district and the younger ones.

Candidate Isaac B. Wesseh, Jr., is the CEO and Founder of the only tuition free school in District#17 that has trained over 3000 people. He is also Lead Pastor of the Mountain of Faith Assembly of God. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Rev. Isaac B. Wesseh

FAO to build national strategic plan

-to improve Agricultural Statistics

By Naneka Hoffman

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has commenced a 10-day technical mission to Liberia to collaborate with Technical Working Group (TWG), comprising the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) and other relevant stakeholders that manage agricultural data in the country.

Speaking at the Project Implementation Unit of the Agriculture Ministry in Gardnerville, FAO's National Project Coordinator and Partnership Specialist, Emmanuel Kapee underscored the critical importance of data in making informed policy decisions, especially as it relates to food and agriculture vis-à-vis food systems strengthening and food security.

Agriculture, Officer in Charge for Planning, Jlopleh Wiagbe, urged participants to put forth their best while working with the FAO expert backstopping Liberia to develop a national agriculture and rural statistics road map document.

"As have been said by earlier speakers before me, our need for statistics is ever wanting. And the national strategy for the development of statistics, as the LISGIS DG proxy said, has been making tremendous progress with the exception of the agriculture sector, where various documents show that over 60-70 percent of the population finds their livelihood," said Mr. Wiagbe. He added that he Agriculture Ministry will continue to engage all stakeholders to ensure that the head of various entities represented at the technical training will support technicians on the frontline, currently brainstorming to set up a roadmap that will set the stage for the



Mr. Kapee said data scarcity is a major charge to achieving most interventions in Liberia to the extent that the lack of data to make informed decision has now become a cliché.

"The big question to all of us now is when are we going to change this narrative? I do believe the right time to change that narrative is now. There is no better time than now; that is why we need to own this process for us to be able to carry it beyond the technical level to key policy makers and decision makers who work in our various institutions", he noted.

He explained that FAO stands ready to work with the Government and people of Liberia in driving the GSAR initiatives forward. Mr. Kapee spoke on behalf of FAO Representative Ad interim, Bintia Stephen-Tehicaya, at the end of a 10-day technical mission to Liberia. Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of

development of agriculture and rural statistics here.

The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GSARS) working groups was developed in 2009 as a blueprint for a coordinated and long-term initiative to address decline in the agricultural statistical systems of many developing countries.

The initiative implements its activities through a partnership between FAO, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and PARIS21, with financial support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the European Commission.

The mission is in response to Liberia's request for technical support from FAO for the development of the country's National Strategic Plan aimed at improving agricultural and rural statistics, and will prioritize the launch of the Liberia Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Be a leader by design

-UP Representative Candidate urges emerging leaders

By: Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr., in Margibi

A representative candidate on the ticket of the opposition Unity Party (UP) in

person himself. "As a candidate, on my poster, you will see a leader by design. Everything about you has to be first design by you

want to be and then apply it and the public will see the quality of your design." The Margibi District#4 Candidate said it is not a mistake when he refers to himself as a leader by design because he designed his leadership quality first by himself prior to reaching to where he is.

Mr. Sankaituah also called on young people at the program to always have a clue of what they want to do, how they are going into it and how they would come out of it.

He inspired the youth by outlining how he made his way in leadership from high school days to national and international leadership, including regional director of the International Republican Institute in Gambia and Sierra Leone, respectively.

The representative candidate, who is vigorously preaching the message of Presidential Candidate Joseph Nyumah Boakai at all of his campaign rallies in the district, said there is no limit to where one starts and where he or she ends.

Encouraging the young people to read very understandably, he underscored that research has proven that readers are leaders. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Margibi County Electoral District#4, Joseph Jimmy Sankaituah, has urged an emerging Liberian leaders to lead by design, if they want to succeed.

and before it is planted into the world," Mr. Sankaituah stated. He noted that an individual's personal development hinges on strategic decision making.

Candidate Sankaituah made the statement this week while delivering the keynote address at the launch of the "Emerging Leaders Career Development and Work Readiness Program" under the Survivors Aid Int'l Liberia Inc or SAIL, in Kakata, Margibi County. According to him, everything about a person must first be designed by the

He said as a young person, one is an architect of his or her own future, citing that for an instance, if one wants to build a house, he should first have a design or blueprint before commencing construction.

"Even the kind of Leader you want to be, you have to first design the kind of leader you

There will be no electronic voting

-NPP clarifies

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The Vice Chairman for Administration of the National Patriotic Party (NPP) Mark Keshen has clarified that Liberians will cast their ballots normally as they have done in the past contrary to rumors that the National Elections Commission will introduced an electronic voting process in the October 10 Presidential and General Elections.

The NEC itself has also clarified that though it introduced biometric voter's registration earlier, but voters in the 2023 Elections will cast their ballots as they had usually done.

Mr. Keshen explained that there will be "no electronic voting" in October but rather the normal polling exercise that will require citizens to stand in queue to vote candidates of their choice.

"There's no electronic voting. Let me clarify what's confusing the people and rumors in the public. There will only be a

biometric checkmate at the polling centers on every individuals to avoid multiple entries. You can verify that with the NEC", he added. The NPP vice chair's clarification comes in the wake of public anxiety about electronic voting and fears that the polls would be rigged. A NEW DAWN's investigation observed in many quarters across Monrovia some citizens collecting voting cards and turning them to

heads of auxiliaries of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) for the purpose of establishing auxiliary campaign groupings ahead of the pending elections.

But Mr. Keshen said he is not aware and distanced the CDC from such activities, while assuring that the elections will be free, fair and transparent, with no electronic voting as being rumored in the public. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



NPP Vice Chairman for Administration Mark Keshen

15th China Medical Team offers free medical services

By Lincoln G. Peters

The 15th China Medical Team in Liberia has ended a two-day visit at the China Union Investment (Liberia) Bong Mines Company, Ltd in Bong County, providing free medical services to employees and residents of nearby communities.

The free services covered general surgery, internal medicine, cardiology, stomatology, traditional Chinese medicine (acupuncture), ultrasound and basic health care and multidisciplinary medical services.

The Chinese also offered free anti-malaria drugs, antihypertensive drugs, antibiotics, anti-allergy and various kinds of proprietary Chinese medicine drugs, totaling more than 700 boxes, over 200 copies of health brochures to nearly 300 employees from both Margibi and Bong countries and residents of nearby communities. The initiative officially carried out from August 4-5, was in commemorate of the 60th Anniversary of the dispatch of China medical aid teams with

medical resources, an area of high incidence of malaria, typhoid and other tropical diseases.

Before the start of the free clinical treatment, leaders of the local community and the company briefly introduced the basic information of the public health, including establishment and operation of the medical station, health security and disease spectrum characteristics of the employees and residents.

Chinese doctors gave suggestions on diagnosis and treatment, according to the patients, answered relevant questions, distributed medicines free of charge, and various health brochures about malaria prevention and control to the patients.

Speaking during the initiative, Dr. Wang Liang, leader of 15th China medical team extolled the company and residents for the invitation and trust. "This free clinic was the last free clinic of the medical team this year and the last free clinic during the term of office of the 15th batch of medical teams. In order to ensure the smooth progress of this free clinic, the medical team has done a lot of meticulous work. Although the



Presidential aspirant Mr. Simeon Freeman

the goal of deepening cooperation in the medical and health field between China and Liberia.

Over the past year and more, with assistance of the Chinese Embassy in Liberia, the 15th China medical team has successfully completed four rounds of free clinics in Grand Bassa, Margibi and Bong counties, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Phebe Gray Orphanage along the Robertsfield highway, respectively.

The Chinese medical team drove more than three hours to get at the company's site in the mountains of Bong County deep in the mountainous tropical rainforest, far away from major cities, with inconvenient transportation, relatively scarce

term of the 15th medical team is coming to the end, the medical team will continue to serve the Liberian people wholeheartedly with benevolence in accordance with China President Xi Jinping's instructions.

For his part, Mr. Bai Peng, general manager of China Union Investment (Liberia) Bong Mines Co., Ltd, said that the arrival of the Chinese medical team has greatly united the employees of China and Liberia, strengthened the relationship between the company and the local community, and provided strong assistance for the smooth progress of the project.

Residents of the neighboring community extolled the Chinese medical team for the initiative, expressing appreciation and

Français

Coup d'État au Niger : un nouveau sommet de la Cédéao en cours, le dialogue avec les putschistes au point mort

Le sommet de la Cédéao se tient en ce moment au Nigeria à Abuja. C'est le deuxième en quinze jours. Un seul sujet à l'ordre du

ouest-africains se sont retrouvés ce jeudi 10 août pour un sommet extraordinaire de la Cédéao. Le président du Nigeria et de la Cédéao,

sur tous les épisodes écoulés depuis dix jours. Puis, il a cadré la réunion en indiquant qu'il s'agissait « d'aider le Niger à retrouver sa stabilité », une stabilité indispensable, selon lui, pour toute la zone Cédéao en termes de développement, paix et prospérité. Bola Tinubu s'est exprimé en disant « nous », incluant ses pairs chefs d'État de la Cédéao. Le président, en mode modérateur de réunion, a conclu très sobrement son discours. À la fin de son propos, quelques applaudissements avant que la séance s'ouvre pour un huis clos intégral où chaque chef d'État est accompagné seulement d'une délégation réduite.

Sont annoncés à ce sommet le président ivoirien Alassana Ouattara, le sénégalais Macky Sall, le Bissau-guinéen Umaro Sissoco Embaló. Et même le président mauritanien dont le pays n'est pourtant pas membre de la Cédéao, signe de l'implication des pays de la région dans la crise nigérienne. Quant à Mohamed Bazoum, toujours retenu sous la garde des militaires, il sera représenté par son ministre des Affaires étrangères, Hassoumi Massoudou. C'est ce qu'a indiqué un conseiller du président nigérien à RFI. Les chefs d'État ouest-africains vont-ils annoncer une opération militaire ? Ou bien dévoiler des avancées significatives dans leurs prises de contact avec la junte nigérienne ? La perspective d'une opération militaire semb



jour : la situation au Niger. Les dirigeants vont devoir faire le choix, dix jours après le coup d'État, entre le dialogue ou l'opération militaire. Les putschistes n'ont toujours pas rendu le pouvoir au président élu Mohamed Bazoum, à la fin de l'ultimatum fixé dimanche dernier. L'ONU s'inquiète même de ses conditions de détention puisqu'il est séquestré depuis le coup d'État du 26 juillet. Les chefs d'État

Bola Tinubu, a ouvert le sommet avec un ton posé et modéré. Bola Tinubu a adopté un niveau de langage davantage diplomatique pour ouvrir le sommet extraordinaire de la Cédéao sur la situation politique au Niger, rapporte notre correspondant sur place Moïse Gomis.

Le président nigérien a tenu un discours préliminaire assez court où il a d'abord dit qu'il n'était pas nécessaire de revenir

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Une réunion des forces de l'ordre avec les candidats en vue des élections non-violentes

Les forces de sécurité conjointes du Libéria, dirigées par le ministre de la Justice et procureur général, Frank Musa Dean, ont organisé une rencontre avec les candidats aux différentes élections en vue de la sauvegarde de la paix et des élections apaisées et non-violentes.

La rencontre a eu lieu au complexe ministériel Ellen Johnson Sirleaf à Congo Town le mardi 8 août, sous le thème "Dites oui à la paix et non à la violence avant et après les élections de 2023".

L'objectif principal de la rencontre est de favoriser la confiance entre le secteur de la sécurité, les partis politiques et les candidats indépendants pour s'assurer que le processus électoral est non-violent.

Au cours du dialogue, les représentants de diverses institutions politiques du Libéria se sont mis d'accord sur l'engagement de l'appareil de sécurité pour les élections de 2023. Les candidats ont en même temps souligné l'importance du maintien de la neutralité

de la Sécurité commune tout au long de la période électorale et au-delà. Le ministre de la Justice, Frank Musa Dean, a souligné la responsabilité constitutionnelle de son ministère d'assurer la sécurité pendant le processus électoral.

Il a affirmé que l'effort de collaboration de la part des forces de l'ordre vise à établir une relation de travail positive avec tous les partis politiques et tous les candidats. Pleinement conscientes de l'histoire de la nation, les forces de sécurité s'efforcent, selon lui, de faire de leur présence quelque chose

d'amical et de bénéfique et qui agit dans l'intérêt du public. Il a ajouté que pour jouer son rôle de manière constructive, les forces de sécurité mettront en œuvre des réformes et établiront un comité d'examen de la paix pour répondre à toute préoccupation.

"Cet engagement garantit les mesures de sécurité nécessaires. À cette fin, nous avons pris des mesures pour affecter quatre policiers armés à chaque groupe, soit

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

L'appel de la Présidente Sirleaf arrive à point nommé

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'État. 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 Coup d'État au Niger : un nouveau

le bel et bien s'éloigner, mais les militaires postés à Niamey affichent toujours une attitude intransigeante.

Quoi qu'il en soit, la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cédéao) vit un moment crucial alors que ses tentatives répétées pour esquisser une sortie de crise ont semblé bien vaines jusque-là. L'existence même de la Cédéao est en jeu, selon le président de Guinée-Bissau.

La situation est difficile pour l'organisation, car la pression monte clairement entre la Cédéao et les putschistes depuis le coup d'État qui a renversé le président nigérien Mohamed Bazoum.

Et pendant que le bloc ouest-africain s'accorde sur la marche à suivre, la junte nigérienne, elle, s'installe encore un peu plus au pouvoir. Hier soir, elle a nommé un nouveau gouvernement composé de six militaires, le reste étant des civils.

« Aucune option n'a été écartée »

Aux sanctions économiques, les militaires au pouvoir à Niamey ont opposé leur refus d'établir un dialogue. Une première délégation nigérienne a dû faire demi-tour la semaine dernière, puis c'est une mission conjointe de la Cédéao, de l'Union africaine et de l'ONU qui a été éconduite lundi soir.

Pourtant, les liens ne semblent pas totalement rompus. Ce mercredi, l'ancien émir de Kano et ex-gouverneur de la Banque centrale nigérienne, le très respecté Lamido Sanusi, a finalement pu rencontrer le général Abdourahmane Tiani à Niamey. « Je suis venu en espérant que ma visite puisse ouvrir la voie au dialogue. J'ai eu des échanges francs et

constructifs avec le général Tiani et je retourne rencontrer le président nigérien pour lui faire le compte rendu », a déclaré Lamido Sanusi, qui a précisé ne pas être un émissaire du gouvernement de son pays.

Le sommet se fermera avec une autre prise de parole du président nigérien Bola Ahmed Tinubu, dont l'avenir est plus que jamais sur la sellette. L'homme d'État a réaffirmé que le dialogue restait la « meilleure voie à suivre » mais « aucune option n'a été écartée », précise son porte-parole.

Une ambiguïté partagée par la délégation ivoirienne menée par Alassane Ouattara accompagné par son directeur de cabinet, Fidèle Sarassoro, la secrétaire générale adjointe de la présidence, Masséré Touré et les ministres des Affaires étrangères et des Finances ainsi que le chef d'état-major des armées. Et selon une source proche du gouvernement, la position de la Côte d'Ivoire devrait rester ferme pour resserrer l'étau sur la junte nigérienne.

Mais pour le moment, la Côte d'Ivoire entend jouer la pondération afin de mobiliser l'opinion internationale pour l'étape suivante, qui pourrait être militaire. L'objectif principal étant de faire des putschistes au Niger un exemple pour la sous-région, explique notre source, même si le rôle de la Côte d'Ivoire dans une éventuelle intervention armée de la Cédéao n'a pas encore été précisé par les autorités. Appels au dialogue

Plus le sommet s'est rapproché, plus les voix se sont faites entendre contre une opération militaire qui déstabiliserait fortement la région. Par exemple, dans une lettre adressée à Bola Tinubu, plusieurs anciens Premiers ministres et présidents de l'Assemblée nationale du Niger appellent au dialogue avec les putschistes.

Ils se disent « préoccupés » par l'avenir du Niger.

Starts from page 8 Une réunion des forces de l'ordre avec les

candidats indépendants et à leurs partisans avant et pendant les élections. Le document indique qu'il est crucial pour eux de faire respecter la loi et l'ordre tout au long de la période électorale. En outre, la Sécurité commune doit veiller à ce que les droits fondamentaux des citoyens libériens, des résidents étrangers et des invités ne soient violés à aucun moment avant, pendant et après les élections.

Les forces de sécurité sont tenues de faciliter la libre circulation des personnes et du matériel pendant les élections et autres activités connexes.

comme protection VIP pour la coordination, soit comme gardes du corps personnels pendant les activités de campagne. « Selon lui, ces officiers travailleront aux côtés de l'équipe de sécurité nationale au sens large. « Notre objectif est de garantir un processus électoral juste et impartial ».

Cependant, l'engagement de la sécurité, tel qu'énoncé dans l'agenda du programme, leur donne la responsabilité de créer un environnement propice et d'assurer une protection égale à tous les partis politiques, aux

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Niger : le pays a un nouveau gouvernement, les putschistes s'attribuent six ministères



La junte qui a pris le pouvoir il y a deux semaines a nommé, hier soir, une nouvelle équipe. Vingt ministres, dont quatre femmes, qui seront sous la direction d'Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine, nommé le lundi 7 août. Élément à noter dans cette liste : les militaires et le Conseil national pour la sauvegarde de la patrie (CNSP) prennent les ministères régaliens.

Les putschistes s'attribuent six ministères, notamment - sans surprise - celui de la Défense, donné au général Salifou Mody, vice-président du CNSP, numéro deux des mutins. L'ancien chef d'état-major, évincé avant de devenir ambassadeur, était allé rencontrer les putschistes maliens et burkinabè début août 2023.

Disparition du PNDS

Le ministère de l'Intérieur, Sécurité publique, Administration du territoire est donné au général Mohamed Toumba, vu comme le numéro trois de la junte, chef d'état-major adjoint de l'armée de terre. Les militaires prennent aussi les portefeuilles de la Jeunesse et des Sports, de la Santé, des Transports, de l'Environnement.

Autre fait notable : le PNDS du président Bazoum disparaît. Le parti d'opposition Moden Fa Lumana de Hama Hamadou obtient une place centrale. Il décroche ce qu'on pourrait appeler un « superministère », Pétrole, Mines, Énergie, avec à sa tête Mahaman Moustapha Barké, ancien directeur de campagne du Moden Fa Lumana et proche du chef du gouvernement Zeine.

Quelle marge de manœuvre ?

Le mouvement d'opposition obtient aussi les Affaires étrangères avec Bakary Yaou Sangaré, un diplomate chevronné, qui fut en poste en Arabie saoudite, en France, aux États-Unis ou encore à Cuba et l'ONU. Plusieurs personnalités sont des techniciens respectés, comme le professeur Mahamadou Saidou, recteur d'université nommé à la Santé, ou encore Alio Daouda, ancien président de la Cour d'appel, désormais ministre de la Justice. Reste à savoir la marge de manœuvre de ce gouvernement sous le contrôle de la junte militaire, et dans un pays sous sanctions. Des putschistes qui, on le voit, veulent avancer malgré la pression de la Cédéao.

Méditerranée : 41 migrants disparus dans un nouveau naufrage au large de Lampedusa

Un nouveau naufrage signalé en Méditerranée, au large de Lampedusa. D'après le récit de quatre survivants, une quarantaine de personnes au moins a disparu en mer. Leur navire parti de Tunisie a coulé en se dirigeant vers les côtes italiennes.

C'est à nouveau la forte houle qui a surpris un navire de migrants et l'a fait couler dans le canal de Sicile. Ils étaient partis le matin, jeudi 3 août, de Sfax en Tunisie, sur une embarcation en métal. Alors qu'ils se dirigeaient vers les côtes de Lampedusa, à une centaine de kilomètres de là, une mer très agitée a renversé le bateau six heures seulement après leur départ, rapporte notre correspondante à Rome, Blandine Hugonnet.

À bord, des dizaines de candidats à l'exil, dont trois enfants. Ils sont 41 au moins, à avoir disparu en mer ce jour-là. C'est en tout cas ce que racontent les rescapés, cités dans un communiqué par les agences des Nations unies pour les réfugiés (HCR), l'enfance (Unicef) et les migrations (OIM). Ils sont seulement quatre à avoir échappé à la mort dans cette traversée. D'après leurs témoignages, ces exilés ont été sauvés de la noyade grâce à leurs gilets de sauvetage, ils n'étaient qu'un tiers à en avoir à bord, et grâce à une autre embarcation trouvée vide en mer sur laquelle ils seraient montés. Ils auraient dérivé pendant quatre jours avant d'être secourus mardi 8 août par un cargo maltais.

Augmentation importante du nombre d'arrivées en Italie. Récupérés par les gardes-côtes italiens, ces naufragés, trois hommes et une femme originaires de Côte d'Ivoire et de Guinée, ont posé le pied sur la terre ferme seulement ce mercredi 9 août dans la matinée. Arrivés à Lampedusa, ils ont été pris en charge par la Croix-Rouge dans le centre



d'enregistrement de la petite île italienne.

Après trois autres naufrages en Méditerranée centrale ces derniers jours, c'est un énième drame aux portes de l'Europe qui s'ajoute au bilan de plus de 1 800 personnes qui ont déjà péri depuis janvier dans des naufrages en Méditerranée centrale, la route migratoire la plus meurtrière au monde, selon des chiffres compilés par les Nations unies.

Près de 94 000 migrants sont arrivés sur les côtes italiennes depuis le début de l'année, plus du double que sur la même période en 2022, selon les chiffres publiés par le ministère de l'Intérieur italien.

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“Go to the Trenches and Campaign for Weah”

-MOVEE's Political Leader commissioned Leadership as the party expelled three of its officials

The Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE) has completed a two-day National Executive



H. E. Amb. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah

Committee meeting, where critical political decisions were made.

The Party said an emergency meeting of its Executive Committee members was called for the Political Leader, H. E. Amb. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., to provide direction relative to President Weah's Reelection Campaign engagement activities in the counties.

"Consequently, MOVEE's Political Leader has commissioned county chapters and the national leadership to vigorously campaign in the trenches, villages, and from door to door to ensure a one-round victory for H.E. Dr. George Manneh Weah, the National Chairman, Robert M. Sammie, said in a press conference.

MOVEE's NationL Chairman

said his Party has prepared and dispatched campaign materials to the seventy-three (73) electoral districts across the fifteen political

subdivisions of Liberia. Quoting MOVEE's Political Leader, he said, "If there are any additional needs for campaign materials, they will be made available, but we have to work very hard to ensure President Weah wins on the first ballot".

According to Mr. Sammie, the party took disciplinary action by expelling some of its senior partisans and bringing on board creditable, respectable, and committed partisans for the effective and smooth operation of the party through "Resolution 002-2023".

"That the National Vice Chair for Mobilization, Recruitment, and Membership, Mr. Goodrich S. Cheayan, is expelled for violation of "Article XVIII, Section 3," which states that it is strictly prohibited for any member of MOVEE to bear or hold concurrent membership in

another Political Party within or outside of the Republic of Liberia. In essence, no member of MOVEE is allowed to be a member of any other political party.

That the former National Vice Chair for Youth Affairs, Mr. K. Edward Norman, Jr., and the former National Vice Chair for Gender, Auxiliaries, and Marginalized, Ms. Johetta Konuwa, are hereby expelled for actions that have posed embarrassment to the Party and brought the Party into public disrepute as determined by the National Executive Committee consistent with Article XVIII, Section 5, of the 2016 By-Law and Constitution" Mr. Sammie said.

Meanwhile, the National Executive Committee also endorsed some individuals in the following positions: "Partisan Williette P. Cooper, National Vice Chair for Gender, Auxiliaries, and Marginalized, replacing Ms. Johetta Konuwa, who has been expelled from the Party. Partisan Winston Gray, National Vice Chair for Youth Affairs, replacing Mr. K. Edward Norman, Jr., who has been expelled from the party

The Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE) reaffirmed its commitment to the re-election of President George Manneh Weah in the impending Presidential and Legislative elections.

MOVEE is one of the nine (9) constituent parties forming the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

Starts from page 6 **FAO to build national**

Statistics (SPARS) development process.

The technical working sessions are part of the second phase of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GSARS-II) with the intent of integrating agriculture into the National Statistical System of Liberia to ensure national data coherence and data comparability between countries.

The GSARS-II offers support in the elaboration of a Strategic Plan for the development of agricultural and rural statistics that will serve as a framework for reference.

Incorporating such a strategic national plan into the

National Statistical System guarantees the development of a coordinated system of agricultural statistics that would primarily respond to the existing national information gaps.

Activities of the mission include three days meeting with the Technical Working Group and other stakeholders on the practical approach to developing the strategy for the development of agriculture and rural statistics and preparing a roadmap document; two-days meeting for roadmap validation by national authorities and a public roadmap presentation as the first phase of the strategic plan process in Liberia. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Starts from page 11 **CDC denies attacking UP**

was on a motorcycle heading to the Unity Party Campaign Headquarters, when a group of individuals wearing the CDC T-shirts and berets held him hostage and began to brutalize him.

He indicated that the group members chopped off his right ear before some other supporters of the UP went to rescue him.

Rode said the motorcyclist who was conveying him to the party office was also brutalized and left helpless, while all their belongings were taken away.

The four wounded individuals were later rushed to a nearby medical center by some supporters of the UP who had gathered at the campaign headquarters. Angered by the events, UP partisans also blocked the entrance to their party headquarters in Airfield community and allegedly attacked CDCians and state officers who had gone there to calm down the situation.

Folks wearing CDC shirts and other party materials were attacked in an intensive stone battle. Speaking in an exclusive interview with this paper at the scene, Mr. Rufus Paul, UP Assistant Secretary for Press and Public Affairs, blamed the CDC for the situation. According to him, the CDC prevented the UP standard bearer's escort along with other partisans from going to their program and brutalized them.

"Our standard bearer was prevented from coming at the program by the CDC supporters at Varmoma. They brutalized and wounded our partisans," he said. "You have been here and you see everything. Our partisans are responding because when you push people to the walls and they can't enter, they have to defend themselves," he argued.

Mr. Paul however called on the international community and the National Elections Commission (NEC) to take action and call the CDC to book. He said the CDC wants a conflict.

LRA deploys 90 tax Agents in Bassa

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) has trained and deployed 90 tax agents in Grand Bassa County to officially kick off its Real Property Tax Decentralization Project which will result into revenue-sharing between the government and the county.

According to the LRA, the project seeks to ensure registration, documentation and evaluation of all real properties in Grand Bassa county, beginning with Electoral District #3.

The initiative also aims to expanding the collection of real property tax to enhance revenue growth. In accordance

with the Local Government Act of 2018, fifty (50) percent of all taxes collected from real properties in the County will be allotted to the county for local development.

Speaking during the deployment of LRA Tax Agents in Buchannan, Grand Bassa, LRA Assistant Commissioner (AC) for Real Estate Tax Division James A. Jaber, said tax agents will use GIS Technology and a new digital appraisal system developed to automate property valuation. The technology has also been integrated with KoboCollect to streamline the real property data collection process. AC Jaber thanked the local county leaders, UNDP Liberia and the Government of Sweden for their

support and firm cooperation. UNDP Liberia Project Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist Eric Boykai, challenged the Tax Agents to be steadfast in the performance of their assigned task by ensuring holistic community entry approaches when engaging taxpayers and real property owners. He also urged them to focus on the goal of the project by being remaining neutral especially, during this period of electioneering activities. "In your capacity, you should serve as neutral agents.

LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY
Old Ministry of Commerce Building
Asylum and Gurley Intersection
Monrovia, Liberia

July 31, 2023

Investigative Survey Notice

By the directive of the Resident/Assigned Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit, Civil Law Court, Montserrado County, the general public is hereby informed that the undersigned Registered Licensed Land Surveyor have being duly authorized to conduct an investigative survey in the case mentioned below on Tuesday 15, August 2023 beginning at 10:00 AM.

IN CASE REF: Ministry of Hope, Refuge of Hope and Ministry of Hope Prayer Band, by and thru its Head Pastor, David Kelleh and Roland Dyway of the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, RL
Versus
Prince Moye and those under his control and authority, Monrovia
Versus
Hawa Johnson/Cisse (to be identified) and all those under her control, also of the City of Monrovia, RL
Versus
John F. Wayea and all those under his control and authority of the City of Monrovia
Versus
Viola Washington and all those under his control and authority of the City of Monrovia ..Defendant

The Said parcel of land is lying and situated at **Back of Bibleway School, Robertsfield Highway, Paynesville City**

Therefore, all adjoining property owners, disputants and interested parties are requested to be present at the site on the day of the survey with their deed(s), diagram(s), map(s), technical representatives/surveyors and other relevant document to substantiate their claims.

Please let this survey notice and announcement claim the attention of the following individuals:

1. Madam Dubah Grisby	INITIALS
2. Mr. John Nuah	1. AET
3. Mr. Isaac Bowler	2. BMT
4. Mr. Marshall Dennis	3. RST
5. Mr. Aziz Zouza	4. O&D
6. Mr. Christopher Berry	
7. Madam Oliver Washy	
8. Mr. Jerome	

Signed:
Albert D. Giah Jr.
Chairman Investigative Survey Broad
Cell No. 0886-740-519

Cc. Sheriff, Civil Law Court, Mont. Co.
Liberia National Police (LNP)

CDC and UP supporters clash

By Lincoln G. Peters

Supporters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and opposition Unity Party (UP) were

Boakai remains incumbent President Weah's main rival in the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

Both men battled in the

other supporters of the UP went to rescue him.

Rode said the motorcyclist who was conveying him to the party office was also brutalized and left helpless, while all their belongings were taken away. The four wounded individuals were later rushed to a nearby medical center by some supporters of the UP who had gathered at the campaign headquarters.

Angered by the events, UP partisans also blocked the entrance to their party headquarters in Airfield community and allegedly attacked CDCians and state officers who had gone there to calm down the situation.

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According to him, the CDC prevented the UP standard bearer's escort along with other partisans from going to their program and brutalized them. "Our standard bearer was prevented from coming at the program by the CDC supporters at Varmoma. They brutalized and wounded our partisans," he said. "You have been here and you see everything. Our partisans are responding because when you push people to the walls and they can't enter, they have to defend themselves," he argued.

Mr. Paul however called on the international community and the National Elections Commission (NEC) to take action and call the CDC to book. He said the CDC wants a conflict.

In the same vein, Mr. Daniel Sandoe has told a team of journalists that the action of the CDC against the Rescue Team campaign activities is a recipe for chaos. Sandoe said the CDC action was a contravention of the Farmington River Declaration signed by Presidential Candidates.

CDC denies attacking UP

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) campaign team has denied reports that its supporters have attacked and brutalized supporters of the opposition Unity Party (UP), wounding four victims.

CDC campaign chair and Liberia Maritime Commissioner Mr. Eugene Nagbe denied the accusations Thursday night, 10 October 2023, terming them as false and misleading.

He clarified that at no time did the CDC or its supporters attack the escort vehicles of Amb. Boakai and brutalized partisans of the UP. "We didn't attack the UP or brutalize them as they are saying. I saw the communication they wrote to NEC and I want to address it because it's false," the Maritime Commissioner said. Mr. Nagbe said because the CDC wanted peace, it had to postpone its engagement with residents of Montserrado County Electoral District #9 and visited Electoral District #10, instead.

He noted that it's so surprising for the UP to accuse the ruling party of attacking and brutalizing UP partisans when they were peaceful at the Varmoma House junction. Supporters of the ruling CDC and the opposition UP were involved in violent campaign clashes Thursday, leaving four persons severely wounded as police fired tear gas canisters.

campaign headquarters in the Old Immigration building in Montserrado County Electoral District #9.

The CDC supporters who reportedly staged the attack were said to have gathered at the Varmoma House on the main Tubman Boulevard to welcome President George Manneh Weah and his entourage in Montserrado Electoral District #9.

The bloody campaign violence came less than a week after partisans of the ruling CDC paraded the principal streets of Monrovia with a casket decorated with photos of Amb. Boakai and marched to CDC headquarters.

Boakai remains incumbent President Weah's main rival in the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

Both men battled in the 2017 presidential run-off, and Boakai is back this time, possibly for his last try for the Liberian presidency in a crucial ballot which is due in just two months.

There was a stone battle at the UP 'Rescue Mission' campaign office. Police fired tear gas canisters during the incident at the UP campaign office. The UP supporters were allegedly entrapped by CDC supporters who had reportedly prevented Amb. Boakai from reaching the party's campaign headquarters. Amb.



involved in violent campaign clashes Thursday, August 10, leaving four persons severely wounded as police fired tear gas canisters.

The violent clashes began as opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai was enroute to his campaign headquarters on the Airfield in Sinkor, to name a new batch of members to his 2023 campaign team. The former vice president had to cancel his activities as he left the scene for his dear life.

Some local online media platforms reported the incident live Thursday evening. Mr. Boakai was headed to the UP's Airfield office to name a new batch of his party's campaign team when CDC supporters allegedly obstructed the former vice president's escort. In the process, CDC supporters allegedly attacked several UP supporters who were heading to their 'Rescue Mission' campaign headquarters in the Old Immigration building in Montserrado County Electoral District #9.

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Amb. Boakai was held in a huge traffic at the Ministerial Complex terrain, where the CDC had gathered with its campaign activities. Boakai was compelled to use the long route from Congo Town through the Japan Freeway before returning to central Monrovia to make his way to his campaign office in Sinkor.

The situation prompted one of the rescue supporters, Daniel Sandoe to announce the cancellation of the program which was geared at naming the party's final campaign team.

One of those wounded, 28-years old Darius B. Rode, said he was on a motorcycle heading to the Unity Party Campaign Headquarters, when a group of individuals wearing the CDC T-shirts and berets held him hostage and began to brutalize him.

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1 Burkinabe shot dead in Nimba

By Thomas Domah, Nimba
A Burkinabe farmer has been shot dead by an unknown person in Electoral District#6, Nimba County. Reason behind the discharge of fire arm is yet to

Residents of the district from the Liberian side normally cross into Ivory Coast to buy goods where they reportedly engaged some Burkinabes to come and farm for them in Liberia.

However, those in support of their presence have been providing farmlands to the foreigners to plant crops.

The Burkinabes are said to be living in that part of Liberia without knowledge of the Liberia Immigration Service officers assigned in the county. They are currently farming in the various forests, planting cash crops mainly Cocoa that are reportedly ready for harvest, but some of the citizens of Kparlee do not want them back on the farm to process their Cocoa for market.

Weeks ago, some Burkinabes drown in a river between Liberia and Ivory Coast. However, addressing reporters subsequently, the commander of the Liberia Immigration Services in Nimba, Madam Yei Dolopaye, said LIS officers alongside the county administration visited the town several times.

Commander Dolopaye blamed those citizens in search of workers and bringing in the Burkinabes to stop, but it seems that her warnings are being heeded. Few years ago, a land dispute in Kparlee led to the death of a youth leader after exchange of fire. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



be established nor the perpetrator arrested.

Since 2015 to present, huge population of Burkinabes have crossed into Liberia from neighboring Ivory Coast, roaming in towns and villages in the district. They have been involved in farming, a situation that is now creating tension among the citizenry and the foreigners. Report says the Burkinabes entered Liberia via Nimba upon invitation of farmers in Kparlee, electoral District Six.

The NEW DAWN gathered that the victim, identified as 25-year-old Glekwa Kabore, was allegedly shot by an unknown person in Zoedru Forest, Nimba were huge numbers of Burkinabes are currently working.

Some of their hosts in the district have been identified as Darlington Tiah and Daniel Chayee on whose farms they work, but not all citizens welcome their presence in the area.

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