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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023	L\$185.3556/US\$1	L\$187.3029/US\$1

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

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Can CDC secure 1st round victory?



President Weah



Mr. Stanton Witherspoon

Boakai's moneymen pleads guilty

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Continental News

Nigerian Delegation Meets With Niger's Junta as Military Intervention Looms

A delegation of religious leaders from Nigeria arrived Saturday in Niger and met with members of the military junta who took control of the country last month. Coup leader General

reinstated President Mohamed Bazoum, 63, who was deposed by members of his guard on July 26. The clerical delegation hopes to ease tensions between Nigeria and the junta leaders, a source close to the delegation told AFP. "The clerics are in Niamey to

staff of ECOWAS said. The meeting was to discuss the best options for deploying the standby force. "The military option seriously envisaged by ECOWAS is not a war against Niger and its people but a police

Niger Activist With Ties to Junta Says Region Needs to 'Accept New Regime' or Risk War

The only way to avoid conflict between mutinous soldiers that ousted the president in Niger and regional countries threatening an invasion to reinstate him is to recognize the new regime, a rights defender with ties to the junta told The Associated Press on Friday. In his first interview with Western media, Insa Garba Saidou, a local activist who supports Niger's new military rulers in its communications and says he is in direct contact with them, said there will be no dialogue with regional countries until they acknowledge the new head of state.

Nearly three weeks ago, mutinous soldiers led by the head of the presidential guard, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, overthrew the West African country's democratically elected president, claiming they could do a better job of securing the nation from growing jihadi violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group.

including Nigeria, Benin, Ivory Coast and Senegal. While the bloc says it wants mediation to prevail, multiple attempts by ECOWAS, as well as others, have yielded little. Last week a proposed visit by ECOWAS, the United Nations and the African Union was rejected. A day earlier, a top U.S. diplomat met some members of the junta but was unable to speak with Tchiani or see Bazoum.

Many Western nations saw Niger as one of the last democratic countries in the Sahel region, the vast expanse south of the Sahara Desert, that they could partner with to beat back the growing jihadi threat. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been poured into providing equipment and training for Niger's military by specialized French and U.S. forces, all of which could now be used by the junta to tighten its grip on power. The military regime is already entrenching itself, appointing a new government and stoking anti-French sentiment toward its former colonial ruler, to shore up its support. Mercenaries from the Russian-linked Wagner Group



A man waves Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso flags as supporters cheer from the stands while artists perform during a concert in support to Niger's National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland at General Seyni Kountche Stadium in Niamey

Abdourahmane Tchiani and junta-appointed Prime Minister Ali Maham Lamine Zeine both met with the delegation of Muslim religious leaders led by Sheikh Abdullahi Bala Lau, leader of the Izala Salafist movement in Nigeria, according to Nigerien media. Nigerian President Bola Tinubu gave his approval to the mediation delegation. Tinubu currently serves as the president of the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS), which has threatened to intervene militarily if the leaders of the military coup in Niger do not

explain to the junta leaders that Nigeria is not fighting Niger and that the decisions taken on Niger are not Nigeria's but those of ECOWAS as a regional bloc," the source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said. ECOWAS has approved the deployment of a "standby force to restore constitutional order" in Niger, but still hopes to find a peaceful resolution to the situation. The ECOWAS parliament met Saturday to discuss further action, but no decision was made. A crisis meeting set for Saturday was called off for technical reasons, the chiefs of

operation against hostage takers and their accomplices," Hassoumi Massaoudou, foreign minister in the ousted civilian government, said Saturday. Coup leaders defiant So far, the coup leaders remain defiant and refuse to restore constitutional order in Niger. The threat of a military intervention has proved divisive among the 15-member ECOWAS bloc, but it remains determined to restore Bazoum to his elected position while other African nations fear sparking a conflict with an unpredictable outcome. VOA



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, poses for a photo with Nigerien President Mohamed Bazoum during their meeting at the presidential palace in Niamey, Niger

Six Malian Soldiers Killed in Attack, Says Army

Six Malian soldiers have been killed in an attack by "armed terrorist groups" in the north of the country, according to an army report. An earlier army statement on the incident had said one soldier was killed and four wounded in the attack in Ber on Friday.

mission in Mali, known as MINUSMA, prepares to leave the country, the army said. Mali's junta, in power since 2020, pushed the U.N. Security Council in June to withdraw MINUSMA by the end of the year. Tuaregs report army attack Also in Ber on Friday, former Tuareg rebels said their forces were attacked by the army and

the Russian mercenary group Wagner. The Coordination of Azawad Movements, which controls vast areas of the north, said in a statement to AFP on Saturday that there were "maneuvers against its positions by the Malian armed forces accompanied by the Wagner militia." VOA

Tchiani was declared in charge of the country. The West African regional bloc ECOWAS has threatened to use military force if President Mohamed Bazoum, who took office two years ago, is not released and reinstated. The junta has dismissed its warnings and refused most attempts at dialogue. "There is only one option, accepting the regime or war," said Saidou. "It is finished for Bazoum. You must forget about him. ... It is a waste of time trying to restore him. It is not possible," he said. On Thursday, ECOWAS said it had directed the deployment of a "standby force" to restore democracy in Niger after its deadline to reinstate Bazoum expired. It's unclear when or where the force will be deployed, but analysts say it could include up to 5,000 troops from countries

already operate in a handful of other African countries and are accused of committing human rights abuses. Earlier this month during a trip to neighboring Mali, which is also run by a military regime and cooperates with Wagner, the junta reportedly asked the mercenaries for help. Days after ECOWAS' order for the standby force to deploy, it's still unclear what that entails or if they'll invade. The African Union Peace and Security Council could overrule the decision if it felt that wider peace and security on the continent was threatened by an intervention, say analysts. The African Union is expected to meet Monday to discuss Niger's crisis. Some Sahel experts say the insistence on force is a cover to spare ECOWAS from the embarrassment of having made a threat with no real capacity or notion of how to execute it. an African society to come and attack us in this manner. VOA



EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Peter Singer

Bloody campaign is unwarranted

Last Thursday's (August 10, 2023) bloody clash between rival supporters of opposition Candidate Joseph Nyumah Boakia of the Unity Party (UP) and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in Electoral District#9, Montserrado County that left zealous youth wounded in a campaign for the October 10th elections was totally unwarranted.

No Liberian or partisan of a political party has to die or has to be disfigured just for the love of a candidate.

After it all, we Liberians have to coexist as one nation whether members of a winning party or losing parties.

And there will be many losing parties as only but one out of the 20 candidates in the race, including incumbent President Weah will be declared winner either in the first or second round.

So why do we inflict injuries on one another during campaign for the sake of rival candidates? Do Liberians have to go to such extreme to demonstrate love and loyalty for a particular candidate? We think not.

As LPP's Presidential Candidate Cllr. Tiawan S. Gongloe has pointed out, political campaign should not be about enmity, but competition of ideas, ideas of how our candidates or candidates of our choice intends to improve the nation and all of its people, not only partisans, if elected President or member of the legislature.

However, the violence that transpired on August 10th in District #9 barely five or six days into the campaign was not only unfortunate, but highly disappointing especially, after political parties' leaders and candidates had expressed before the citizenry and international partners their commitment to violence-free elections.

Sadly also, we did not see leadership demonstrated at the highest level of the political parties that were involved in the clashes except denial by the ruling CDC and threats from the opposition UP that it would use every means at its disposal for self-defense.

We think that was below the belt. Both the incumbent administration and those desiring leadership should exercise tolerance and maturity in responding to crisis, which is one of the marks of a good leadership.

In our wisdom, all that was needed is for leaders of the two parties, thank God, they both have served our country at the highest level - President Weah being at the helm of power for six years and is seeking a second term, and Amb. Boakai, who had served as Vice President for 12 years and wants to come to the presidency.

So why was it so difficult in calling their respective followers and supporters to order, that citizens had to suffer wounds? Why was it so difficult for both leaders to call each other before coming out? Campaign should not be about enmity, but in Liberia, dare say Africa, this is what it is.

There is yet a long way to go, as campaign is officially expected to end on October 8, 2023 for Elections Day on October 10th.

The denial and the threat coming from both sides is sending wrong signals to the electorate and creating fear in the entire population of the kind of canvassing to expected, one mars by terror and blood perhaps, as we go to the polls, which is absolutely unwarranted.

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Feed People, Not Factory Farms

MELBOURNE - After Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, ships used to export grain from Ukraine's Black Sea ports stopped traveling there because they were liable to be attacked by Russian forces, which suspected them of carrying military supplies.

That caused grain prices to soar to record levels and sparked fears of famine in countries in the Middle East and Africa that had previously imported Ukrainian grain, especially wheat.

Eventually, in July 2022, Russia agreed to give ships traveling to and from Ukraine safe passage, on the condition that Russian officials could inspect them. During the 11 months that the Black Sea Grain Initiative was in effect, Ukraine exported 33 million tons of grain, and world food prices declined by approximately 20%. According to the United Nations, 57% of the exported foodstuffs went to developing countries.

But now Russia has withdrawn from the arrangement. When Russia announced that it would let the agreement expire on July 17, the price of grain rose by 8%. UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned that millions of people would now be facing hunger, and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that "Russia is responsible for denying food to people who are desperately needy around the world." In Kenya, the government described Russia's conduct as a "stab in the back" for people in drought-stricken countries (a group that currently includes Kenya).

In addition to ending the agreement and declaring that it will regard any cargo ships heading for Ukrainian ports as potentially carrying military goods, Russia has targeted Ukrainian ports on the Danube River, which could offer an alternative export route, and has also attacked grain storage facilities in Odesa, destroying an estimated 60,000 tons of grain.

At a recent Russia-Africa Summit in St. Petersburg, President Vladimir Putin attempted to show concern about possible grain shortages in Africa by promising 25,000-50,000 tons of Russian grain to six African countries (in four of which Russia's Wagner Group mercenaries operate). Kenya was not among them. In any case, the total quantity of grain pledged is less than 1% of the grain shipped by Ukraine while the agreement was in effect.

There can be no justification or excuse for Russia, in furtherance of its war of aggression against Ukraine, to target that country's grain exports, knowing that this will drive up grain prices and increase hunger among people in countries far from the conflict.

Nevertheless, comments from leaders like Guterres and Blinken risk creating the false impression that the world relies on Ukraine to produce enough grain to feed its people.

Each year, the world produces about 750 million tons of wheat and 1.1 billion tons of maize. Of this, 20% of the wheat (150 million tons) and 61% of the maize (671 million tons) is fed to animals confined in what the industry calls "Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations" or CAFOs. (That's in addition to 77% of the world's soybean crop.)

When we feed animals crops that we could eat, we end up with fewer calories and less protein than the crops themselves contain.

That's because the animals use the majority of the nutritional value of their food to keep their bodies warm and functioning, and to develop bones and other body parts that we do not eat.

One study carried out in the United States showed that grains and soy fed to beef cattle return less than 3% of the calories and protein that the crops contain, less than 10% when fed to pigs, and still only 21% when fed to chickens, the most efficient converters.

Putting all these figures together, and assuming that the average nutritional return across all the animals in CAFOs is 20% (although it is almost certainly less), we can conclude that feeding 150 million tons of wheat and 671 million tons of maize to animals is effectively wasting 120 million tons of wheat and 537 million tons of maize.

In comparison, the 33 million tons of grain that Ukraine exported when the Black Sea agreement with Russia was in operation is a relatively modest quantity.

Blinken is right to say that Russia is responsible for denying food to desperately needy people around the world, but let's not pretend that other countries are powerless to prevent the food shortages brought about by Russia's willingness to attack ships carrying Ukrainian wheat.

The US alone could easily offset the loss of Ukrainian exports by reducing the number of animals in CAFOs and exporting the resulting grain surplus.

The task would be easier still if other countries that produce most of their meat from CAFOs did the same.

By taxing meat, governments would free up enough grain to feed the "desperately needy around the world." In the process, they would also reduce local air and water pollution, cut greenhouse-gas emissions, and improve the health of their people.

OP-ED

By Jayati Ghosh

The Myth of Global Grain Shortages

In recent years, soaring food prices and the growing frequency and intensity of floods, droughts, and other extreme weather events have prompted warnings of a looming grain shortage, potentially spelling disaster for the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations. Although climate change poses the greatest medium to long-term threat to global food security, Russia's invasion of Ukraine is frequently cited as the immediate cause of the current hunger crisis. But this is a red herring.

To be sure, the war has disrupted wheat exports from both Russia and Ukraine, two of the world's leading producers, throwing critical trade relationships into disarray. Given that Ukraine and Russia previously accounted for more than a quarter of global wheat exports, policymakers and commentators attributed the surge in prices in early 2022 largely to supply shortages caused by the conflict.

But while the global wheat price index rose by around 23% in the months following Russia's invasion, prices began to drop in June 2022. By December, they had returned to pre-war levels. Even when acknowledged, this trend was attributed to the success of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI), a United Nations-backed agreement that lifted the Russian blockade of Ukraine's grain exports. Conversely, Russia's recent decision to pull out of the deal has raised concerns about its potential effects on the global grain trade.

These concerns are misguided for two reasons. First, the global wheat supply (both total production and the traded amount) has remained steady since the onset of the Ukraine war. The Agricultural Market Information System, administered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, incorporates data from the International Grains Council to provide estimates of supply, usage, and trade. Between July 2021 and June 2022 - a period when wheat prices peaked - global production rose by five million tons while trade volumes increased by three million tons. Over the same period, stocks rose slightly (by three million tons).

Most notably, the total wheat supply (defined as production plus opening stocks) exceeded utilization by as much as 275 million tons. This surplus challenges the prevailing narrative of a global shortage. Similarly, global supply is estimated to have exceeded demand between July 2022 and June 2023, suggesting a consistent trend.

Second, governments and the media tend to emphasize specific regional shortages while overlooking increases in production and trade in other parts of the world. In reality, wheat is produced globally, which means that shortages in one region could be offset by increased production in another.

So, what caused the surge in wheat prices? To answer this question, we must follow the money. The global grain market operates as an oligopoly, with the four largest grain traders - Archer-Daniels-Midland, Bunge (which recently merged with Viterra), Cargill, and Louis Dreyfus - controlling more than 70% of the market and Glencore accounting for another 10%.

In the early stages of the Ukraine war, especially between March and June 2022, the Big Four grain traders reaped record profits and revenues. Cargill's annual revenues were up 23%, to \$165 billion, while Louis Dreyfus's profits soared by 80%. These gains reflected price hikes that were not aligned with real-world demand and supply dynamics.

Moreover, grain futures markets experienced a flurry of activity between April and June 2022. Financial investors, including pension funds, increased their share of long positions in the Paris wheat futures market from 23% in May 2018 to 72% in April 2022.

Ten "momentum-driven" hedge funds reportedly earned \$1.9 billion by capitalizing on the food-price surge triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Instead of preventing or containing such financial maneuvers, regulators in the United States and the European Union allowed them to continue unabated.

Surprisingly, most of Ukraine's grain exports did not reach the world's poorest countries. Instead, 81% of the 32.9 million metric tons exported under the BSGI went to high-income and upper-middle-income countries, mostly European countries such as Spain, Italy, and the Netherlands, as well as China and Turkey. Low-income countries received 3% of Ukraine's grain exports and 9% of its wheat (most to Bangladesh). Given that food-importing African countries received only a fraction of these exports, the fears that the deal's breakdown would lead to mass starvation across the continent seem vastly exaggerated.

The BSGI seems to be more about facilitating exports from Ukraine - a laudable goal in its own right - than about addressing world hunger.

In addition to the Russian blockade of its maritime routes, Ukraine's overland routes have been compromised by the implicit import restrictions imposed by Central and Eastern European countries such as Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania, which aim to shield struggling local farmers from competitively priced Ukrainian grain. But, as others have pointed out, the BSGI primarily serves the interests of the agribusiness giants trading in Ukrainian grain and the financiers backing them.

While global hunger has surged in recent years, it is not because of a shortage of grain. Instead, plummeting exports, dwindling foreign-exchange revenues, capital flight, and higher debt-servicing costs have diminished many countries' ability to import foodstuffs.

To address these challenges, we must shift our focus. Rather than distribute grain as charity, global policymakers must mitigate impoverished countries' foreign-exchange vulnerabilities and take measures to support increased domestic and regional production of essential food items. We can still win the fight against global hunger, but only if we recognize the real causes of our current predicament.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the Club of Rome's Transformational Economics Commission.

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ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Stop sending the wrong signal

There is a proverbial saying that when "your Christmas will be good, you can tell from the early morning hours." Thus, recent violent events which marred the opening days of campaign ahead of the October 10, 2023, Presidential and Legislative elections no doubt signaled clear and present danger over the country.

The fact that these eruptions of violence are coming just on the heels of signing the Farmington Declaration by political parties and a peace deal by all presidential candidates at the National Elections Commissions Headquarters days before campaign kickoff speaks volumes of the level of commitments by political actors in this year's election.

These actions draw parallel to the famous God Father movie in which Michael Corleone is, on one hand, being asked: "Do you accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Personal Savior-yes" and on the other side "pew, pew, and paw, paw, as he gunned down other family members. "Do you denounce violence, yes" and on the other side "Bang, bang".

These early actions of violence if not corrected going forward could undermine the entire electoral process and plunge Liberia into another round of chaos which could reverse all gains made over the last two decades.

The National Elections Commission needs to be firmed in punishing political parties who are in violation of campaign rules no matter who is involved.

Why it is true that stakes in this year's elections are high, violent provocations, intimidations, threats, spewing of invectives, and innuendos are not campaign messages, rather they are actions and instruments of anti-peace.

Like NEC, the media too need to play a critical role in ensuring that it tries as much as possible not to be engaged in airing or disseminating messages of anti-peace coming out of the mouth of politicians.

Liberians have over the last 5 years heard all kinds of stories about politicians including the incumbent, they now want to listen to messages that can inform their decisions to vote right not provoke them into violence.

This election is about the future of Liberia and its people and should not be reduced to a personality or celebrity contest with supporters being unleashed to run amok.

Over the last 176 years, Liberia with all its rich natural resources is listed among the 10 poorest countries in the world and if not the first three poorest countries in South Saharan Africa.

Mismanagement of the country's resources, corruption, and poor leadership has left Liberia underdeveloped infrastructure-wise with one of the lowest per-human capital ratio.

According to a recent World Bank study, Liberia presents some of the worst HC outcomes in the world. Liberia's Human Capital Index (HCI) is 0.32 (of a potential 1.0), which is one of the lowest values worldwide.

This means that a child born today in Liberia can be expected to be only 32% as productive when they grow up as they could have been if they had access to the benchmarks of complete education and full health.

The study further revealed that this low score means that many children in Liberia have their future limited by the circumstances in which they are born, but it also entails difficulties for the economic development of the country. These alarming statistics show why this election is very crucial.

Therefore, Liberians are eager to listen to concrete messages from politicians on how they can change the trajectory of the nation to deliver a positive outcome, not to hear rhetoric, threats, intimidation, and provocation of violence.

At 176, and with the kind of rich natural resources, Liberia should be a paradise and beacon of hope for Africa, with the rightful leadership, not a problem to its neighbors.

This is why it is expected that the violent events which characterized the first two weeks of campaign should be condemned by all regardless, instead of trading blame. NEC should ensure that parties comply with the campaign rules to avoid a repeat of two parties holding rallies in the same vicinity.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Liberia: 2023 Presidential Election Updates One

By Dagbayonoh Kiah Nyanfore II

August 5, 2023, marked the start of the 2023 Liberian presidential and legislative elections campaign. The Liberian people and the international community are looking forward to October 10, the election date. Incumbent President George Weah of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) faces 19 other candidates, including former Vice President Joseph Boakai of the Unity Party and businessman Alexander Cummings of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP). These three entities are the current major political parties in Liberia.

In the 2017 election, Weah overwhelmingly defeated Boakai in the second round, winning 14 counties out of 15. Boakai only won his birth county, Lofa. Numerally, of the total votes cashed, Weah received 61.54%, and Boakai got 38.46. Boakai was vice president under President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for 12 years. But in this election, he vows to win by selecting Nimba County Senator Jeremiah Kuong. Nimba has the second largest voting population, second to Montserrado County in Liberia.

Further, Senator Prince Johnson, also from Nimba, has endorsed Boakai's presidency. He is politically influential and considered Nimba's kingmaker and Godfather. Johnson is a former warlord. In 2017, he supported Weah in round two and helped in Weah's massive victory. Nimba was a problem to CDC in 2005 and 2011 elections. In 2005, Joseph Korto, a presidential candidate from Nimba, supported Sirleaf in the second round. Prince Johnson did the same in 2011. Their support contributed to CDC's loss in both elections.

In 2020, the Unity Party (UP), the Liberty Party (LP), the Alternative National Congress (ANC), and the All Liberians Party (ALP) formed the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP). It was a collaboration of the main opposition parties, and it won more legislative seats and handily defeated the ruling party in that year.

Sen. Jeremiah Kuong

However, some analysts now view the opposition as being weak and divided. UP and ALP left CPP. Moreover, LP has split. One faction headed by Senator Nyongblee Karnga Lawrence supports Boakai. ANC and the legally recognized section of LP chaired by Musa Bility remained in the CPP and backed ANC's leader Alexander Cummings. Recently, ALP has withdrawn its support to Boakai. The party's action could affect the Boakai election. Its political leader, Benoni Urey, a businessman considered a millionaire in Liberia, has been a key Boakai backer. He now calls Boakai a betrayer and a tribalist.

The feud between the two politicians started with Boakai's selection of Kuong as running-mate. Many people thought Boakai would have picked Senator Lawrence or Henry Costa. Kuong was neither in the picture nor a CPP nor UP member. Costa is a popular radio talk show host and a strong Urey supporter. While selecting Kuong would help Boakai in Nimba, it creates three significant problems.

Firstly, Kuong is a protégé of Prince Johnson, whom the US has sanctioned for corruption. Many Liberians fear Johnson would influence Kuong and possibly become an unofficial Vice President if Boakai wins. Secondly, Costa has accused Kuong of selling human body parts. Kuong has yet to deny the allegation. Thirdly, Costa has expressed that Boakai has a serious heart illness; doctors have advised Boakai that he could collapse in six months if he engages in a stressful activity.

Before the breakup, Costa had a close and personal relationship with Boakai and is said to have helped arrange Boakai's medical treatments. While Boakai and his camp have not commented on Costa's claim, some individuals viewed Costa as incredible and a blackmailer. They see Costa's statement as a sour grape and ask, "Would he have said that had Boakai selected him with Kuong's blessing?"

But Costa is a great mobilizer. In 2019, he organized the Council of Patriots (COP), which held the largest protest in Liberia and called for Weah's resignation. Though Costa has declared not to back Weah in this election, he has been inconsistent in his relationship with the president. Interestingly, the opposition, particularly UP, cheered Costa and viewed him as credible when he voiced against Weah. But now, the party criticizes him and calls him unpatriotic. Meanwhile, CDC's partisans are replaying Costa's allegation for political gain.

This presidential election is different from the 2017 contest. In 2017, LP, ALP, and the Prince Johnson party, Movement for Democratic Restoration (MDR), participated in that election. LP and MDR took third and fourth place, respectively. LP alleged massive fraud in

February and July 2023, CDC pulled out a large and impressive crowd at its Montserrado County rallies. UP did likewise at its gatherings in Grand Bassa and Margibe counties. CPP also had a big crowd in Maryland County and Grand Bassa.

Nevertheless, crowds do not vote. A large political turnout at a function does not necessarily result in an election victory. For example, in the 2019 special senatorial election in Montserrado County, CDC candidate Representative Thomas Fallah pulled out an impressive crowd parked at the SKD Sports Stadium. But surprisingly, he lost to CPP's candidate Darius Dillum, though Montserrado is considered a CDC stronghold.

Turnout at the polls would be important. A 75 to 85% voter attendance would constitute a high turnout. A 50% or less would be low. Some Liberians think that a low turnout would benefit CDC. That could be true. Some opposition voters may stay home, thinking CDC already has the election in the bag.

The information below states the views of the three key parties regarding Liberia's conditions based on their pronouncements or statements.

COALITION FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE

CDC says it is running on its records. It maintains that the government met a broken economy of \$7M from the Sirleaf Unity Party administration. It explains that the UP government was out of funds from the consolidated account, operational money. Therefore, the UP administration continually borrowed from the Central Bank reserves to meet expenditures, including officials' high salaries and benefits. This practice caused a broken economy; in other words, the government had to borrow to make ends meet. Ministers determined civil servants' pay unevenly and unfairly. Some government officials earned US \$30,000 monthly, while civil servants made about \$150

monthly, and "the average Liberian lived on less than US \$1.25 a day", creating a vast income disparity. This situation hampered the Sirleaf government's ability to adequately meet national development, despite the infusion of \$17 billion from foreign aid and direct investments and \$4.6 billion in debt relief.

Moreover, UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) pumped millions of dollars into the country's economy annually for the mission operation during Sirleaf. Meanwhile, a significant part of the national budget went to recurring expenditures, monthly payroll, and other repetitive expenses. Further, many high-income officials sent a substantial portion of their earnings in American dollars to families living abroad. This capital flight helped cause the shortage of the US dollars and increased the dollar exchange rate in Liberia. Partly, the flight occurred because the government hired officials who once resided in the US upon the administration coming into power. According to the Washington Post, while Sirleaf's government improved the GDP to 12%, the growth decreased to 4% by the end of her 12 years in office. CDCians and other critics argued that the behavior and decline resulted from mismanagement. Former Vice President Boakai has confessed that the Sirleaf administration "squandered opportunities."

The CDC administration further states that when it came into power, it had to implement the necessary structure, including implementing IMF and World Bank recommendations not to borrow from the Central Bank, applying a salary harmonization program, and mobilizing domestic resources. The government reduced salaries and removed projects considered wastes. Despite many challenges, specifically COVID-19, the Weah-led



the first round and took the complaint to the Supreme Court, which disagreed. But in this presidential election, these three parties would not partake. As indicated earlier, LP divided since the death of Counselor Charles Kine, LP's founder and political leader.

Also, in 2005, twenty-two presidential candidates, including one independent, existed. In 2011 and 2017, the number dropped to 16 and 20, respectively. Now in 2023, the National Election Commission (NEC) certified 20 parties and an independent for the presidency. The number would have been more this election had nine other parties not pledged support to the ruling party. However, there are 46 political parties, including 16 new ones in Liberia. All the 2023 presidential candidates, except two, are males.

NEC also reported that 2,471,617 Liberians have registered for this election. Of this number, the females are slightly over the males, amounting to 1,237,257 females and 1,234,360 males. The figures differ from 2017, where the females were four percentage points less than the males, 52-48%. The total number of registered voters was 2.1 million. Montserrado County accounts for 36% of the total registrants for this election. Nimba County is second with 12%, and Bong County is third with 9%. For 2023, the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) observed the impressive participation of first-time voters, primarily youths, in the registration process. Youth constitutes over 60% of Liberia's population of 5.4 million.

The above statistics indicate that the candidate with immense support from the females and youths, particularly in Montserrado, Nimba, and Bong Counties, would have a good chance of winning. Indeed, numbers win elections. Before the start of the campaign, each party tried to show strength through mobilization. In

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WONGOSOL frowns on campaign violence

The Women Non-Governmental Organization Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) has frowned on recent wave of campaign violence across the country.

According to WONGOSOL



Madam Yango

Executive Director, Madam Esther S. Davis Yango, violence should not be the way forward in the democratic process of Liberia. She stated that electoral violence poses fear in ordinary citizens, most especially women, preventing them from freely participating in electioneering processes, which is a violation of their human rights. "Liberia is signatory to many international and regional frameworks as well as our national Constitution promote peaceful elections and therefore, the government should uphold the rule of law

by ensuring that this election is free of all forms of violence" she added.

Madam Yango said WONGOSOL's attention has been drawn to incidents of electoral violence since the inception of the campaign exercise a week ago, which she noted, has the propensity to disrupt the fragile peace currently being enjoyed in the country.

She observed that during crisis, women and children are the most affected.

Madam Yango made the statement over the weekend after supporters of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and the Unity Party (UP) clashed on Thursday, August 10, 2023 during a campaign tour of President George M. Weah in Electoral District#9 in Montserrado County. She noted that on April 4th, 2023, political parties signed the Farmington River Declaration which clearly sets the framework for free, fair, transparent and non-violent elections, which confirms and affirms a commitment by all political parties to uphold the rule of law. She stressed that all political parties in Liberia, including the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change committed to an orderly and peaceful election. Therefore, they are being counted on to live up to their commitment and ensure that the pending

elections are free of violence. Madam Yango called on all Liberians to maintain the peace, most especially the youth, stating that they are the future leaders hence, they shouldn't allow themselves to be influenced by politicians to engage in violence during these elections.

She also called on the ruling Coalition to put all necessary measures in place to prevent and avoid electoral violence at all levels. She reminded that the international community is watching Liberians to conduct themselves during and after the elections, but what is unfolding now is worrisome therefore, all necessary actions need to be taken to curb the violence. She emphasized that government, through the Ministry of Justice and the Joint Security should be vigilant by doing everything possible to arrest the situation before it gets out of hand, because Liberians had suffered violence over the years. She wants developing partners and foreign missions in the country to intervene in putting a halt acts of violence among rival supporters of political parties. She said elections will come and go, therefore, Liberians should conduct themselves orderly as they campaign for candidates of their choice and keep clear of actions that seek to undermine the democratic process. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

NEC urges parties and candidates to comply with Farmington Declaration

The National Elections Commission urges all candidates in the October 10th, 2023 Presidential and General Elections to be in full compliance with the Farmington River Declaration signed by Presidential Candidates,

Registered Political Parties and Independent Candidates, respectively.

According to the NEC, campaign activities for the 2023 elections run from 5 August 2023 to 8 October 2023.

Accordingly, the 2023 Campaign Guidelines (Submission of Campaign Schedule) require parties and candidates to notify the Commission in writing no later than 7 days before the commencement of campaign activities, of their schedules of campaign with detail of date, time, and venue, but the NEC says some political parties and candidates have not submitted their schedules.

The NEC Director of Political Affairs Ignatius B. Wisseh, said in view of this, parties and candidates that have not submitted their schedules, are requested to do so on or before Thursday, August 17, 2023.

He said Presidential Candidates are to submit their campaign schedules to the Chairperson of the NEC, Mdam Davidetta Browne Lansana at the Commission head office in

Monrovia, while Representative and Senatorial Candidates are to submit campaign schedules at Magisterial Offices in the counties.

Mr. Wisseh stressed that for the love of country, all candidates must ensure that Liberia is free of all forms of electoral violence during the campaign period, Election Day and after the polls. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Mdam Davidetta Browne Lansana

Adama Dempster damns extradition of Sa Leone's ex-Police Chief

The Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform of Liberia has described the extradition of the former Chief of Police of Sierra Leone Mohammed Toure by Liberia on suspicion of being part of a coup plot against the Sierra Leonean government as unfortunate and against international and regional human rights norms and practices.

Addressing a news conference on Wednesday, August 9, in Congo Town, the Secretary General of the Civil Society Advocacy Human Rights Platform of Liberia, Adama Dempster, said Liberia as a state party to international and regional human rights treaties should not have hastened the extradition of the former chief of Sierra Leone Police on the basis of his human rights and protection. According to Mr. Dempster, the Sierra Leonean should have been given due

Sierra Leonean government while in Liberia."

According to him, under Sierra Leonean extradition law, every fugitive criminal in Sierra Leone shall be liable to be apprehended and extradited in the manner provided by law.

"All requests for the extradition of a fugitive criminal shall be addressed through the usual diplomatic channels to the Attorney-General who, if satisfied of the authenticity of the warrant in virtue of which the request for extradition is made, and that any other conditions on which, in the particular case, the extradition depends, appears to be fulfilled, may issue and endorse on, or attach to, the original warrant or request an Order as prescribed in Form 1 in the Sixth Schedule, and the said Order shall be a sufficient authority to apprehend the fugitive criminal and bring him before a Judge or Magistrate", Mr. Dempster quoted. He noted that despite Mr. Toure being a Sierra



Adama K. Dempster
Secretary General

Mr. Toure

process as an accused person to access the nature of the allegation void of political interference. He said the Government of Liberia should have consulted diplomatic channels and involved Interpol before drawing to a conclusion. Dempster noted that a lesson learnt from the request for the extradition of Liberian Henry Costa in 2020, is that the Sierra Leonean government did not yield to Liberia's request for extradition. He indicated that Sierra Leone relied on diplomatic and human rights positions in not turning Mr. Costa over to the Liberian government. He said the CSO Platform and the human rights community in Liberia view the rushed extradition of Mr. Toure to Sierra Leone as unfair and against human rights best practices. "Mr. Toure should have been given the opportunity to challenge the allegations he was accused of committing in the extradition request from the

Leonean national, his rights to protection from torture and other inhumane treatment should have been guaranteed by his appearance before a Liberian judge to test the allegation levied against him in the warrant. Meanwhile, the CSO Platform called on the Liberian government to take responsibility and be blamed for failing to protect the basic rights of Mr. Toure's if the Sierra Leonean government subjects him to torture and other inhumane treatments. The civil society and the human rights community in Liberia maintained that they will be in consultation with the human rights community in Sierra Leone to follow up on the status of Mr. Toure, while condemning the wave of continuous coup d'etats in the West African region. "We further call on the regional body, ECOWAS and the AU to put appropriate measures in place to discourage coups and promote democratic governance in Africa. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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S/Court fines Justice, Information Ministers —Following contempt trial

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's Supreme Court has fined the Ministers of Justice and Information US\$500.00 each

against the judicial branch of government in the just US\$100m drugs burst case.

On 20 May 2023, the two defendants questioned the independence of the judicial

after the full bench of the Supreme Court ordered them to separately publish once a week for three weeks, in three widely read newspapers of Liberia, an apology to the Judiciary Branch of Government.

The court instructed that they should include a retraction of the 20 May 2023 statement within 72 hours as of rendition of the judgment and a copy of each publication filed with the Clerk of The Supreme Court. Additionally, the court instructed that the contemnors pay the US\$500.00 each into the government's revenue account within seventy-two hours of the rendition of the judgment.

It also ordered them to present a receipt for the payment to the Marshal of the Court. The nation's highest court warned that failure on the part of the defendants, the Clerk of the Court is ordered to issue a commitment to be placed in the hands of the Marshal for their imprisonment in the common jail of Montserrado-County until they abide by the mandate herein. Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh read the judgment on behalf of the court, saying the utterances and statements by the Co-contemnor Cllr. Dean was intended to undermine the dignity and integrity of the courts.



Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh

for bringing the judiciary to branch of government and public disrepute. The full bench of the court held a contempt hearing against Cllr. Frank Musa Dean and Mr. Ledgerhood Julius Rennie, and rendered the duo guilty of criminal contempt charge on Friday, 11 August 2023. Cllr. Dean, Liberia's Attorney General/Minister of Justice, and Mr. Rennie, the Information Minister were charged with contempt for their demeaning statements and negative utterances

However, on Friday, they narrowly escaped jail sentence

3 charged for negligent homicide in Maryland

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Police in Maryland County have charged and incarcerated three suspects from Gbon, Karluway, Maryland County Electoral District #3 in southeast Liberia for negligent homicide.

The three suspects are identified as Isaac Toe, aged 40; Friday Toe, aged 36; and Martha Toe.

They were charged on Wednesday, 9 August 2023 following an investigation by chief investigator Jimmie Kaydor of the Liberia National Police (LNP) Crime Services Department in Pleebo for the death of their 53-year-old mother Elizabeth Toe.

According to the police report, the 53-year-old woman meant her untimely death following a fistfight that broke up between her three children early Wednesday morning in Gbon.

The police report further revealed that on Wednesday, the three suspects got into a heated

argument that ended in a serious fistfight.

Their mother Elizabeth Toe attempted to separate them when she tragically collapsed on the scene due to overwhelming stress during the fistfights.

But a medical report hasn't confirmed the actual cause of her death. However, it is alleged that the late Elizabeth Toe may have died as a result of elevated pressure.

Chief Police Investigator Jimmy T. Kaydor narrated that the family of the deceased quickly invited the LNP including a team of health workers to intervene that early Wednesday morning.

He continued that a 15-man coroner's jury included representatives from the local authority of the town, health workers, and families of the deceased.

He said the coroner's jury established and

unveiled no evidence of foul play, injuries, or signs of external harm.

Meanwhile, the deceased's body was turned over to the family, while the three suspects were taken to the Pleebo Police Station awaiting court trial.

The news of the late Elizabeth Toe's death has brought fear to families and residents of the town.



Revenue sharing scheme will empower citizens through their local governments

-Say Assistant Commissioner Jaber

The Assistant Commissioner for Real Estate Tax Division at the Liberia Revenue Authority over the weekend says Revenue sharing scheme will empower citizens through their local governments by undertaking development priorities that will benefit their county. He made the disclosure at the three days training workshop of over 90 tax agents in Electoral District 3, Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County as part of several activities to expand the local Government Real Property Tax Administration Decentralization phase two project. The Real Property Tax Administration phase two expansion project is geared towards the government's domestic resource mobilization strategy that seeks to boost revenue collection, growth and development across the rural area. The training focused on data collection tools, qualitative and quantitative features of appraisal using an Electronic Mass Automation Appraisal System (EMAAS), data quality assurance, tax agents' demonstration of appraisal features of KoboCollect

to its own citizens. The Tax expert thanked Grand Bassa County local authority for the opportunity given to work together through tax awareness, communities' engagement and person to person dialogue to enhance tax base expansion and develop projects across the county. "Thanks to Grand Bassa County local authority for the opportunity given to work together through tax awareness, communities' engagement and person to person dialogue to enhance tax base expansion and develop projects across the county," he explains. According to Mr. Jaber, the Real Property Tax Administration Decentralization project phase two was centered around recruitment, selection, training and deployment of the Tax Agents through consultations and engagements with local county officials and citizens. He stated that during the engagement in the county, the LRA collaborated with County and Local Officials and several radio stations in the county to carry out radio announcements, print and media coverage, hold talk shows, jingles, flyers distribution, forum for community awareness and outreach on real property tax.



& EMAAS followed by field exercises that demonstrated tax agents understanding of the data collection tools. Hon. Jaber noted that the project commenced in Electoral District 3 and is expected to be implemented in the remaining four electoral districts in Grand Bassa County. He indicated that the project is intended to boost a revenue tax base and ensure that counties benefit from a fair share of revenue collected as part of government effort to decentralize development across the various county levels. Few months back, similar project was piloted in Margibi County with a fifty percent share between Margibi local authorities and central government and will be extended to other counties as part of the National Development Plan called the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) that explains given power

For his part, the United Nations Development Program representative, Mr. Eric Boykai praised the Liberia Revenue Authority, especially the Real Estate Tax Division for the level of commitment, training conducted and close engagement with the Tax Agents. He added that by working towards accomplishing tax base expansion projects will serve as an opportunity to transform their various communities and counties. The Real Property Tax Administration Decentralization project is funded by the Swedish Government through the United Nations Development Programs in Liberia to ensure that all revenues collected from registration and payment of real property tax in the county will help to enhance local development initiatives through revenue sharing in consonance with the Local Government Act of 2018 and the Revenue Sharing Law of 2022.

Français

Campagnes électorales : des heurts éclatent entre militants de la CDC et de l'UP

Des affrontements sanglants ont opposé des militants de la coalition pour le changement

direct jeudi soir. Pendant que M. Boakai se dirigeait vers le siège de l'UP pour nommer les membres de l'équipe de campagne de

boulevard principal Tubman pour accueillir le président George Manneh Weah et son entourage dans la circonscription électorale n° 9 de Montserrado.

La violence sanglante survient moins d'une semaine après que les militants du parti au pouvoir ont défilé dans les principales rues de Monrovia avec un cercueil qui serait, selon eux, celui de l'opposant Boakai.

Weah et Boakai se sont affrontés au second tour de la présidentielle de 2017 qu'a remporté le président actuel. Et Boakai revient encore cette fois. Peut-être se serait sa dernière tentative pour accéder à la présidence libérienne.

La police a dû se servir du gaz lacrymogène pour disperser les militants des deux partis adversaires qui s'affrontaient à coups de pierres au quartier général du principal parti de l'opposition. Selon nos informations, les militants de l'UP auraient été piégés par des partisans de la CDC, c'est ce qui aurait empêché M. Boakai d'atteindre sa base. Boakai a été contraint d'utiliser la longue route de Congo Town à travers l'autoroute du Japon avant de retourner au centre de Monrovia pour se rendre à Sinkor.

Conséquences, la rencontre a été annulée. L'un de ces blessés, Darius B. Rode, 28 ans, a déclaré qu'il était à moto en direction du siège de la campagne du Parti de l'unité, lorsqu'un

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Mr. Joseph Nyumah Boakai

démocratique au pouvoir (CDC) et ceux du parti l'Unité (UP) le jeudi 10 août, faisant quatre blessés.

Les affrontements ont éclaté pendant que le chef de l'opposition Joseph Nyumah Boakai se rendait au quartier général de sa campagne à Sinkor pour dévoiler les noms des membres de son équipe de campagne pour la présidentielle de 2023.

Certains médias en ligne ont rapporté l'incident en

son parti, des militants de la coalition au pouvoir ont fait obstruction au convoi de l'ancien vice-président.

Les militants de la CDC auraient attaqué plusieurs militants de l'UP qui se dirigeaient vers le quartier général de leur campagne "Rescue Mission" dans l'ancien bâtiment du service de l'immigration dans le district électoral n° 9 du comté de Montserrado. Ils se seraient rassemblés à la maison Varmoma sur le

Niger : le Parlement de la Cédéao veut mettre sur pied une délégation pour poursuivre les négociations

Une session extraordinaire - virtuelle - du Parlement de la Cédéao, a eu lieu, samedi 12 août. Elle a mis en évidence l'opposition de nombreux représentants de cet organe consultatif à une possible intervention militaire au Niger. Le Parlement de la Cédéao, composé de politiciens issus des différents États membres de la Cédéao, souhaite organiser une nouvelle mission de médiation à Niamey.

Vingt-trois membres du Parlement de la Cédéao qui compte 115 sièges, ont pris part aux discussions virtuelles lors de cette session extraordinaire, rapporte notre envoyée spéciale à Abuja, Liza Fabbian. La majorité d'entre eux s'est dite opposée à une intervention militaire au Niger, d'où sont originaires certains parlementaires.

Le Nigérien Amadou Ali Djibo a notamment souligné que les sanctions imposées actuellement à son pays ont déjà conduit à la fermeture

de nombreuses écoles et qu'une guerre aurait des conséquences déléteres sur la vie des plus vulnérables.

De son côté, Mohammed Ali Ndume, un sénateur du Nord-est du Nigeria, a estimé que son pays ne pourrait pas partir en guerre sans l'approbation non seulement de l'Assemblée nationale, mais aussi du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU.

A l'issue de cette rencontre virtuelle, les représentants du Parlement de la Cédéao n'ont pas signé de résolution mais ils sont tombés d'accord sur l'idée de mettre sur pied une délégation

pour tenter de poursuivre les négociations entre la Cédéao et les membres de la junte au pouvoir à Niamey.

Les modalités d'une telle médiation doivent être discutées, au plus vite, avec le chef de la Cédéao, le président du Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Cette nouvelle initiative a pour avantage de réunir des représentants originaires des différents pays impliqués.

D'autres initiatives pour renouer le dialogue

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Mohammed Ali Ndume

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'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 **Campagnes électorales : des**

groupe d'individus portant des t-shirts et des bérets de la CDC l'ont retenu en otage et commencé à le brutaliser.

Il a dit qu'on lui a coupé l'oreille droite avant que des militants de l'UP ne viennent le secourir. Le motocycliste qui conduisait la moto aurait également été brutalisé et ont emporté leurs biens. Les quatre individus blessés ont ensuite été transportés d'urgence dans le centre de santé le plus proche par leurs camarades de l'UP qui s'étaient rassemblés au quartier général de campagne.

Irrités par les événements, les militants de l'UP ont également fermé l'entrée du siège de leur parti dans la communauté d'Airfield et auraient attaqué des militants de la CDC et les forces de l'ordre qui s'y étaient rendus pour calmer la situation. S'exprimant dans une interview exclusive avec ce journal sur les lieux, M. Rufus Paul, secrétaire adjoint de l'UP pour la presse et les affaires publiques, a accusé la coalition au pouvoir d'avoir

provoqué les affrontements. Selon lui, la CDC a empêché l'escorte du porte-drapeau de l'UP ainsi que d'autres partisans de se rendre à leur programme et les a brutalisés.

« Notre porte-drapeau a été empêché de venir au programme par les supporters de la CDC à Varmoma. Ils ont brutalisé et blessé nos partisans », a-t-il déclaré.

« Vous étiez ici et vous avez tout vu. Nos partisans réagissent parce que quand vous poussez les gens contre le mur et qu'ils ne peuvent pas entrer, ils se défendent », a-t-il soutenu.

M. Paul a appelé la communauté internationale et la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) à agir et appeler la CDC à cesser la violence. Pour lui, la CDC veut un conflit.

Dans le même ordre d'idées, M. Daniel Sandoe a déclaré à une équipe de journalistes que l'action de la CDC contre les activités de la campagne Rescue Team est une recette pour le chaos. Sandoe a déclaré que l'action de la CDC constituait une violation de la déclaration de Farmington River signée par le président.

Niger : la junte de Niamey demande du soutien à la Guinée



hauts gradés du Conseil national du rassemblement pour le développement (CNRD). Le général Moussa Salao Barmou, qui conduisait la délégation du Conseil national pour la sauvegarde pour la patrie (CNSP), s'est félicité de l'excellence des relations entre Conakry et Niamey : « Il est question ici de montrer la gratitude du CNSP pour la solidarité et le soutien indéfectible à travers, dans un premier temps, la déclaration du 31 juillet du CNRD suite aux événements que vous connaissez. Ce message marquait effectivement la solidarité de la Guinée vis-à-vis du Niger. »

En réponse, le colonel Mamadi Doumbouya a réaffirmé la position de son pays en ces temps de crise : « En ce qui concerne la République de Guinée, nous sommes panafricains. Quand nos peuples ont des problèmes, nous sommes toujours présents, on sera toujours là et c'est ce qui a été le cas pour nos frères du Burkina, du Mali, du Niger. Pour nous, il n'y a que nous qui pouvons trouver des solutions à nos problèmes. Notre position, elle, est claire, c'est vraiment faire face aux problèmes de nos peuples qui est, pour nous, très important. »

Dès la prise du pouvoir par le CNSP, à Niamey, la Cédéao a pris une batterie de sanctions contre le Niger, sanctions que la Guinée s'est refusée à appliquer.

Au Niger, alors que les putschistes sont soumis à une forte pression de la communauté internationale et de la Cédéao pour rendre le pouvoir, la junte cherche du soutien. Une délégation des putschistes, conduite par le général Moussa Salao Barmou, s'est rendue, samedi 12 août, à Conakry. Elle a été reçue par le chef de la junte guinéenne, Mamadi Doumbouya.

Au palais Mohamed V où s'est tenue cette rencontre, le colonel Mamadi Doumbouya était entouré de quelques membres de son cabinet ainsi que des plus

Starts from page 8 **Niger : le Parlement de**

« Rétablissez l'ordre constitutionnel et tout deviendra possible » : c'est le message qui doit être porté ce dimanche aux nouvelles autorités nigériennes par un autre canal, celui d'un riche homme d'affaires de la sous-région, rapporte notre correspondant régional, Serge Daniel. On garantirait le pardon au général Abdourahmane Tiani, chef de la junte, et aux principales têtes du Conseil national pour le salut de la patrie (CNSP). La diplomatie américaine s'active également. Un diplomate des États-Unis pourrait effectuer prochainement un déplacement à Niamey.

Autre intervenant, le Togo.

Le président Faure Gnassingbé était présent lors du dernier huis clos d'Abuja et comme souvent, il a parlé peu selon des sources, pas du tout selon d'autres. Mais on sait que le Togo fait partie des rares pays qui jouent à fond la carte du dialogue et de la négociation pour trouver une issue à la crise. D'après nos informations, Lomé aurait parlé au moins deux fois avec les putschistes de Niamey. Parmi les demandes formulées : la libération du président Mohamed Bazoum et l'ouverture de négociations sincères pour la suite du processus. Un interlocuteur, au fait du dossier, ajoute : les Togolais ne sont pas pour une intervention militaire, mais pour des négociations, pour aller de l'avant.

L'équipe de campagne de Weah-Taylor rejette les allégations de l'UP

Le comité de campagne nationale Weah-Taylor 2023 a rejeté les allégations du Parti de l'unité (UP) selon lesquelles des partisans de la CDC auraient perturbé ses activités à Sinkor le jeudi 10 août.

Lors d'un entretien avec ce quotidien, le directeur de campagne de Weah a accusé les militants de l'ancien parti au pouvoir d'avoir provoqué les affrontements violents. M. Eugene Nagbe a déclaré que tout a commencé quand les militants de l'UP ont attaqué les militants de la CDC qui étaient à vélo. Il a également nié les dire selon lesquels le convoi de Boakai aurait été attaqué, car selon lui, l'ancien vice-président n'était pas sur les lieux.

Dans une déclaration publiée jeudi soir, le comité de campagne Weah-Taylor 2023 a précisé que la rencontre organisée par les leaders de la coalition au pouvoir jeudi dans les districts 9 et 10 du comté de Montserrado avaient été annoncées une semaine avant sur diverses plateformes médiatiques nationales. Il a déclaré que la CDC avait également communiqué ses dates clés de campagne à la Commission électorale nationale.

L'équipe de campagne Weah-Taylor 2023, dans sa déclaration signée par Me Kanio Bai Gbala, porte-parole de la campagne nationale, a expliqué qu'en dépit de ces annonces précédentes, et reconnaissant que le Parti de l'unité cherchait à provoquer la violence en ignorant délibérément le calendrier en vigueur et en planifiant son propre événement le même jour, a décidé de retarder le début des activités dans le district 9

de plus de quatre heures pour éviter tout conflit avec les partisans de l'UP qui avaient annoncé une conférence de presse pour 10 heures.

Selon lui, au contraire, ce sont les partisans de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique qui ont été brutalisés par les partisans de l'ancien parti au pouvoir.

Le comité de campagne Weah-Taylor 2023 a dit avoir attiré l'attention de la Commission électorale nationale, du coordonnateur résident des Nations Unies, du bureau du représentant de la CEDEAO et d'autres partenaires



internationaux bien intentionnés sur les violences de jeudi. "Le comité de campagne Weah-Taylor 2023 rassure ses nombreux partisans, sympathisants et Libériens ordinaires qu'il restera toujours pacifique et qu'il s'engage à faire respecter la loi et les principes de la déclaration de Farmington".

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Politics is competition of ideas, not about enmity

-Gongloe warns

By Lewis S Teh

Presidential Candidate Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe of the Liberian People's Party (LPP) says politics is not about "enmity" or "enemyship" but rather a competition of ideas or debate of issues, noting that Liberia is

His comment followed Thursday, August 10, 2023 violence between supporters of the CDC and the UP around Vamoma House in Sinkor, Electoral District# 9, Montserrado County that left several persons wounded.

Both the CDC and UP blamed each other for the violence that occurred just on day five of ongoing campaign for the

has taught Liberians lesson.

"Every leader or partisan of a political party should take into consideration that more than 300,000 people died in the country during the course of the 14 years civil war. Therefore, they should not remind us of their followers or supporters engaging in violence," Gongloe reflects.

He recalls his visitation to various political parties' headquarters recently thereby demonstrating that despite disagreement amongst politicians, politics is not about "enmity" or "enemyship" but a competition of idea as Liberia is not a trophy for any would-be winner of the October polls.

Gongloe adds that Liberians must jealously guard the peace that the international community helped to restore to the country, and condemns last week's violence stating that those involved were reckless, irresponsible and insensitive to the country's ugly past.

"Therefore, both the present and past governing political parties owe it to Liberia and its people to make sure that peace prevail during these electioneering periods because no amount of police we have in the street can do, if we the politicians do not speak out on what is happening," he warns.

Before the start of campaign here, local and international communities or stakeholders including the religious and civil society organizations, traditional rulers, women and youth groups as well as the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), African Union (AU), United Nations (UN), amongst others have been calling for issue-based, instead of hate language (speech) canvassing for votes. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

House Opens Book of Condolence for fallen Lawmaker

Signing of the Book of Condolence for the fallen Grand Bassa County Electoral District#1 Representative, Honorable Hans M. Barchue of the 54th Legislature will commence on Monday, 14 August 2023 in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building.

The signing will begin at 10:0'clock AM with the Liberian President, Dr. George Manneh Weah, the Vice President Dr. Jewel Howard Taylor, Speaker Dr. Bhofal Chambers and members of the Honorable House of Representatives, the Protem and members of the Liberian Senate, Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Protocol Division of the Honorable House of Representatives in conjunction with the family of the

Press and Public Affairs Bureau of the House of Representatives, On Thursday, 17 August, the remains of the fallen lawmaker will be removed from the Samuel A. Stryker Funeral Parlors in Sinkor and taken to the Capitol Building to lie in State at 11 O'clock ante meridian.

Following the State funeral at the Capitol, the body will be conveyed to the Port City of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County on the fairgrounds for a few hours, after which the fallen lawmaker's remains will be taken to his District, for a night of wake keeping.

On Friday, 18 August, the Body will be taken to the A.D Williams Memorial United Methodist



Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe

not a trophy for any would-be winner of the October polls to win.

He calls on President George Weah and UP Presidential Candidate Joseph Boakai to conduct themselves in a responsible manner during these electoral periods so as not to plunge the country into another round of violence because Liberians had suffer too much from the civil war.

Cllr. Gongloe on Friday, August 11 urged the religious community including Christians and Muslims, traditional leaders, civil society organizations and other peace-loving citizens to speak out now before it gets too late for the country and those residing within its borders.

October polls.

Gongloe urges both leaders to exercise leadership over their followers and supporters and not to drag the country back to another round of violence or conflict that could lead to bloodshed.

He notes that the current wave of happenings daily plus words of war between President Weah and Boakai and by extension, their supporters, have the potential of putting fear in the locals and investors desiring to do business in the country. He said whether the violence is in either of them favor or not, they should not support it in any form and manner because by doing so it could undermine peace and stability, stating that violence



Capitol Building

Late Honorable Hans M. Barchue, has released ceremonials marking the Home going of the former Deputy Speaker and Representative of Grand Bassa County, Electoral District 1.

According to a release from the

Church Owensgrove for another night of wake keeping and Saturday, 19 August the funeral service will take place at the same Church, thereafter his interment will take place in his hometown.

Center for Justice and Peace Studies trains Joint Security in Nimba

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

Anta, Nimba County-Ahead of the October 10, 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections, a non-governmental organization, Center for Justice and Peace Studies (CJPS) has embarked on training of Joint Security forces assigned in the county. The two days' training is sponsored by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and funded by the United Nations Peace Bundling Fund. The exercise is a community engagement initiative titled "Promoting Peaceful Electoral Environment and Community

Security in the Country and Strengthening community Action for Peaceful Elections and Development." The training brought together officers of the Liberia

Immigration Services, the Police and the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA) alongside the Community Watch Team, among others. The program manager for the Justice and Peace Studies Mr. Francis Konyon,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Center for Justice and Peace Studies Conducting Training for State Security in Nimba



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
2. Mr. John Nuah
3. Mr. Isaac Bowler
4. Mr. Marshall Dennis
5. Mr. Aziz Zouza
6. Mr. Christopher Berry
7. Madam Oliver Washington
8. Mr. Jerome

- INITIALS**
1. AET
 2. BMT
 3. RST
 4. O&D

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)

21st July 23
2023

Can CDC secure 1st round victory?

By Othello B. Garblah

Despite a crowded political field, supporters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC believe that they have the right message in place to enable them to secure first-round victory comes October 10.

The party has painted all its campaign banners and posters with the message of a resounding

Montserrado, which has a voting population of over 900,000 people.

However, the high turned out was met with mixed reactions with many arguing that those numbers could not be translated into votes, describing it as a crowd politics that cannot be solely relied upon for CDC to make such a bold statement for a

for over 100 years.

A footballer by training, he came to politics in 2004 after being petitioned. He was twice unsuccessful as a presidential and vice-presidential candidate. His subsequent election in 2017 is viewed by many as a blow to the political and business interests of Liberia's traditional politic elites, becoming president in spite of and despite their heated opposition.

Argument on performance

Despite his widely criticized salary harmonization policy, CDCians believe that President Weah has outperformed in the face of global economic challenges.

They named the construction of the Military 14 Hospital in Margibi and 8 hospitals under construction in the Southeast. 100-bed Emirate Hospital in Gbarpolu and newly constructed hospital in Rivercess as some of his achievements in under 6 years.

The new Redemption Hospital which is still under construction and increasing doctors' monthly pay from 700 dollars to 2000 as well as adding 2500 health workers to payroll even after donor health fund dried up and training of 19 specialist doctors as some major achievements in the health sector.

Weah's free education policy, and free WASSCE as well as building 28 high schools and 18 early childhood schools around the country are achievements CDCians say are under the belt of Mr. Weah. Proponents of Weah's first-round victory also list improvements in electricity connectivity, roads, and stable exchange rate as some of the performances that could see him through the finishing line in the first round. -To be continued.

Boakai's moneymen pleads guilty

Law-abiding Liberians may have to wait much longer for the dutiful second press release of UP Flagbearer, Joseph Boakai as his moneymen and campaign financier, Stanton Witherspoon changes his plea to guilty.

Mr. Witherspoon is expected to change his not guilty plea he entered earlier to guilty as he is being scheduled for hearing on August 24, this month. That would amount to confessing to putting thousands of American lives at risk through his grand medical fraudulent scheme.

Obviously, many of Boakai's slavish supporters are in denial about his declining health and mental acuity, which has seen the octogenarian repeatedly display the lack of sound leadership judgments.

"How else can a reasonable mind discern Oldman Boakai's recognition of a US federal criminal indictee as the de facto Unity Party Campaign Spokesman? Are there no lines desperate Boakai will not cross in his unhealthy search for the Liberian presidency," Isaac Jackson, a former deputy minister during the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's regime quipped.

Lord Randolph Churchill's quip against 77-year-old Gladstone appears justified to describe the aging former VP as an "old man in a hurry." William Ewart Gladstone was rightly criticised for attempting to gamble British democracy to gratify his ambition. Here, we see desperate old man Boakai, long past his prime, decapitating morality and abandoning principles of good leadership to "dance with the devil" - make that dancing with several devils - only to gratify his naked quest for power.

According to Jackson, it matters little to Boakai whether Witherspoon has put thousands of Americans' lives at risk as long as he [Witherspoon] supports his campaign. Yes, sadly and morally, it matters little to Boakai whether Witherspoon uses his criminally acquired wealth to promote his selfish endeavors in pursuit of fame, and the country settling his medical bills in the offing.

"When I last appeared on OK FM, about two weeks ago, I asked a rhetorical question: - Whether Boakai, as a highly experienced political figure, is convinced beyond reasonable doubts, that Witherspoon did not commit the crimes for which he was accused by the United States Government? The trouble here is that the Oldman who joyfully carries the title of an ambassador is noticeably less concerned about the sensitivities of the American Government and civilized societies at large, or any risks his relationships could engender against strengthening US/Liberia relations. Furthermore, by grappling onto Witherspoon, Boakai and his UP have no moral standing to chastise Weah and his minions for fielding US accused and sanctioned individuals. In fact, it's an open secret that the notorious killer and US sanctioned war lord, Prince Y. Johnson, named Boakai's running mate and hawks over Boakai as the man behind Boakai's throne! Should Boakai win the October Polls, at high risk, will certainly be US/Liberia relations! The US notice is clear: The US will not do business with anyone who does business with sanctioned individuals. Boakai doesn't care. He's shielding not just sanctioned persons but US criminal indictee who admitted to risking US citizens' lives, especially those of Boakai's age," Jackson wrote.

"How is Liberia supposed to get better

under Boakai? He has no vision in which he can project himself. Like Mo Ibrahim said, old leaders like Boakai are only setting to "lead us to the grave". What future can the personification of Liberia's past lead us to? Imagine Boakai failing woefully to demonstrate a sense of moral compunction about the crimes Witherspoon committed against the US Government and its people! For all that is now well known about Oldman Boakai and his reproachable policy choices, who in this world would sincerely believe that the United States would ever regard him as a serious and trustworthy leader of Liberia, in the unlikely event, he was to be elected as president?" He quipped.

"Boakai is a relic who is divorced from the reality of today's world," the former deputy information minister continued.

"Boakai is simply not endowed with what it takes to govern our country effectively. He cannot lead our country into any future of success. Boakai can only take us backward to his era of grievances, divisions, and "squandered opportunities", to borrow his words.

Liberia is at a critical juncture. The last thing our country needs is an older version of the current disastrous president who has no leadership abilities. Boakai is long past it. He has nothing new to offer the country. So, when I hear noisy junior comrades gloating about Boakai's leadership



President Weah

first-round victory, though critics say that is highly unlikely. The Liberian constitution requires that a candidate must obtain 50 percent plus one of the total votes cast to be declared winner of an election.

President George Weah is seeking re-election under the slogan "Hope You Can Depend On", while his main rivals, former Coca-Cola Executive Alexander B. Cummings of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) and former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai of the Unity Party are running on the slogans of "Fixer and Rescue" respectively.

A week before the campaign kicked off on August 5, President Weah's CDC locked down Monrovia in what the party said was a thank-you ceremony for the President for job well done over the last 5 years of his presidency. Observers say that the thank you rally was intended to send a message to rival candidates that Mr. Weah still has overwhelming support in the battleground county of

first-round victory.

Opponents of the CDC have continued to argue that the ruling establishment is overloaded with excess baggage which has in its contents- massive corruption, strangulated economy, human rights abuses, and failed promises.

But the CDC has remained unwavering, insisting that members of the opposition have refused to accept the unimaginable performance of President Weah. CDCians claimed that some members of the opposition bloc had marked President Weah as a failure, but he has surprised them with his performance over time.

President Weah, a kru by tribe hails from Grand Kru County. He is the first most popularly elected Liberian of tribal lineage who holds absolutely no connection to Liberia's traditional political super-structure-the Americo-Liberian elite that rule Liberia



Mr. Stanton Witherspoon

potential, I just laugh, realizing that childish exuberance often ends in painful frustration, eventually." Jackson concluded.

Center for Justice and Peace

Starts from page 11

said the training is part of activities being sponsored by the Peace Bundling Fund and UNDP on how communities and State securities can live together peacefully during and after the elections. He said it will enable security authorities to have knowledge of several things, including understanding the Liberian electoral procedure and regulations, understanding the role of security personnel in elections and how to effectively mitigate violence and human rights abuses, including violence against women in elections,

among others. The CJPS program manager noted that his organization is engaging every sector of the community and has been implementing in Montserrado, Lofa, Bong and Nimba, respectively. He said the training will give skills to security personnel, as they have major role to play during the election, providing security at various polling centers. Mr. Konyon added that the training will also help to promote peace among security personnel and community members and

urged the participants to apply skills acquired at their various assignment areas during and after the polls. For their part, Nimba County Police Commander Dixon Kemokai, the chief inspector for Ganta police department Dellin S.Fallah, Malison Gaylah of the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency and the county commander of the Community Watch Team, Stanley Vonzeah lauded the CJPS for the training, which they described as an eye opener. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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Cummings rallies young voters

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings says young people who constitute about 65 percent of

He said the CPP Government will institute polices and measures that will alleviate the extreme hardship, as well as afford young people access to quality education and

established 2020, is an umbrella organization of 100 auxiliaries of women, teacher and student groups, petty traders, Motorcyclists and other professional and



CPP Presidential Candidate Mr. Alexander Cummings

the country's population will be the biggest beneficiaries of the real change agenda of the CPP.

Cummings said its therefore incumbent upon young people to rally their friends, family members and loved ones to turnout in mass on October 10, to vote and reject the Ruling CDC and the Unity Party that have long, deprived young people of the opportunities to explore their full potential.

vocational school and improve health care services nationwide.

The CPP Standard Bearer gave the assurance, when a Montserrado County auxiliary, the ABC Strategic Alliance for Real Change 2023, reaffirmed its support to his Presidential bid at a special program held in Paynesville, August 12, 2023.

The ABC Strategic Alliance for Real Change 2023,

interest groups in support of Cummings Presidential bid come October 10.

Cummings expressed gratitude to the group for its continuous support and loyalty to his Presidential bid, and reassured young people, that a CPP Government will not disappoint them, in their quest for real change that will

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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