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FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023	L\$184.9887/US\$1.00	L\$186.9578/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

TRULY INDEPENDENT

LAUNCHING OF THE
AMOS C. SAWYER
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Book & Book LAUNCH

Title:
"No Land, No Vote"

THE STORY OF THE 1979 SAWYER CAMPAIGN FOR
MAYOR OF MONROVIA AND THE FIGHT FOR
VOTING RIGHTS IN LIBERIA.

Date: Wed., August 23, 2023 | 1:00PM
Venue: EJS Ministerial Complex, Congo Town

VOL. 13 NO. 148

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023

PRICE LD\$40.00



Pres. Weah

We choose you, not him



Sen. Morris Saytumah

-Bomi citizens reject Sen. Saytumah



Mr. Stanton Witherspoon

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MoMo Waysay-Wasa 3

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Continental News

Is a new bloc emerging to rival US leadership?

The announced expansion of the five-nation Brics club of emerging economies was described as "historic" by Chinese President Xi Jinping, but it is still not clear how far

are set to join in January. China was the state pushing hardest for group expansion as a way to counter Western dominance.

Steve Tsang, director of London's Soas China Institute, says though the Brics members do not

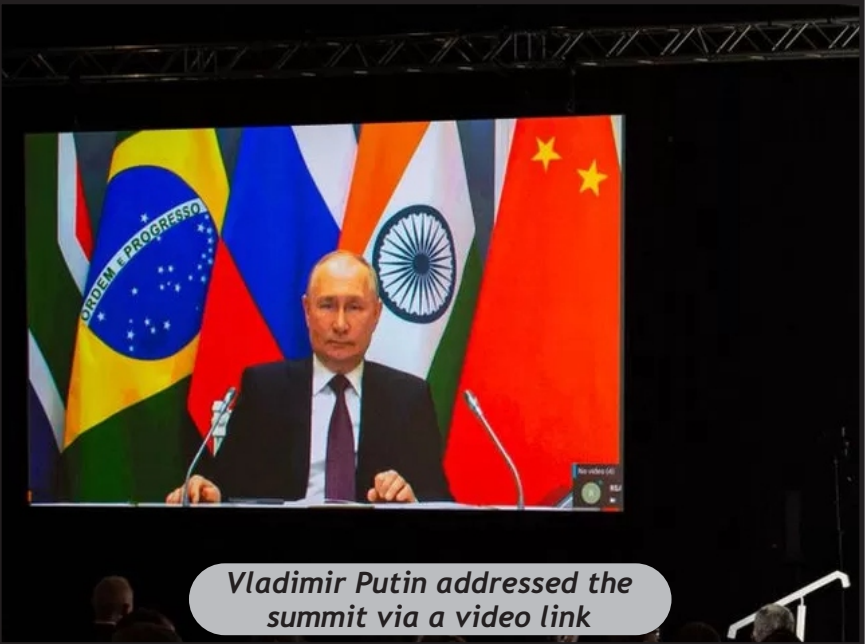
beamed as he made the announcement about the new joiners.

"We value the interest of other countries in building a partnership with Brics," Mr Ramaphosa said.

He went on to say that more countries will join in the future after the core nations agree on criteria for membership.

But there were divisions this time on how many countries should be allowed to join and how quickly.

A leaders' press conference was scheduled for Wednesday after rumours were swirling about five countries being added to the bloc, but it was cancelled at the last minute. Then Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva was a no-show to Wednesday's leadership dinner. We do not know why exactly, but he is very conscious about maintaining ties with his Western allies, and was picky about admittance. Then late Wednesday night, journalists received an advisory for an early morning press conference, just for it to be delayed again by two hours. These were signs that discussions were under way until the very last minute, as there was a surprise sixth country added. At the press event, the leaders from each country were then able to give individual reactions to the news. BBC



Vladimir Putin addressed the summit via a video link

the countries' common interests stretch.

The growth of Brics "will... further strengthen the force for world peace and development" the president said while addressing the leaders gathered at a conference centre in South Africa's commercial hub, Johannesburg.

The Brics countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - are often seen as a counterweight to the Western-led world. The six new countries - Argentina, Egypt, Iran, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates -

have much in common on the surface, President Xi was trying to show his fellow bloc members that they all want a similar future: none of them want to live in a Western dominated world. "What the Chinese are offering is an alternative world order for which autocrats can feel safe and secure in their own countries," says Prof Tsang.

"They can find an alternative direction of development without having to accept the conditionalities imposed by the democratic Americans and European powers."

The host, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa,

Sharp unemployment rate drop recorded in Nigeria

Three in four Nigerians of working age were employed by the end of March, according to data released by the country's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). This contrasts sharply with the last data, from the end of 2020, which showed that one in three Nigerians that were able to, and actively looking for a job, could not find one. But what looks like a sharp drop in unemployment is not all that is seems.

The figures were expected to change drastically after the NBS announced that it was revising its methodology to bring it in line with International Labour Organisation (ILO) guidelines.

One of the major changes is that now all those of working age who are engaged in any activity for pay or profit for at least one hour a week are deemed employed. In the past,

the benchmark for employment was a minimum of 20 hours work per week. The report showed that 75% of working Nigerians owned their businesses or were engaged in farming, while only 12% were employees as at March. It is also likely to be contentious as it was carried out before the removal of a decades-long fuel subsidy at the end of May when a new

government came into power. It has also loosened currency restrictions, which has sent prices of commodities spiking. Small businesses and low-income earners are among those most badly affected by these changes. Local media has been reporting on business closures and how people have had to stop working because of high transport fares. BBC



Anyone working for at least one hour a week is now deemed employed

Zimbabwe poll monitors arrested amid election

Police in Zimbabwe have arrested 41 election monitors for allegedly trying to disrupt the voting process.

Those being held, from civil society groups, were allegedly co-ordinating the release of results from Wednesday's general election, police say. They are being charged with breaking electoral law, their lawyers say.

Civil society groups have tried to do their own vote count to compare results with the official tally in light of disputes over past election results. The 41 are being accused of attempting to announce results before the state elections body - who by law are the only ones who can declare a winner. Previously the state elections body chairperson Priscilla Chigumba had urged civil society groups to set up their own parallel tabulation processes to encourage transparency and scrutiny

devices were confiscated: "The equipment was being used to unlawfully tabulate election voting statistics and results from polling stations throughout the country."

The arrests have been strongly condemned by NGOs who said it was a "ploy by the state to target civil society organisations and ultimately silence their voice on the 2023 elections".

The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition also called for the unconditional release of the detained poll monitors.

On Wednesday, Zimbabweans went to the polls to elect a president, members of parliament and local councillors.

The arrests came as voting was extended to a second day in three provinces of the country due to delays on Wednesday. In Harare, only a quarter of polling stations opened on time because of problems with ballot papers. In some areas, ballot papers ran out, forcing voters to wait late into the night.

The electoral commission blamed last-minute court



Voting was extended into a second day in parts of the country

Officers carried out a series of raids and arrests in the capital, Harare, including at a hotel and offices of the Zimbabwe Election Support Network and the Election Resource Centre, where the 41 worked.

Initially, lawyers said they had received disturbing distress calls from clients, adding that they did not know where the police had taken them. But they were later granted access to their clients.

Police spokesman Paul Nyathi has said that 38 laptop computers and 93 phones were seized from the offices. He added that "any form of chaos" during the election would be "severely" dealt with.

A statement from the police explained why the

challenges for the late arrival of council election ballot papers.

Meanwhile, leader of the main opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) Nelson Chamisa accused the authorities of "voter suppression". Vote counting is under way and election officials have five days to declare the results of the presidential election. In 2018, Mr Chamisa was unsuccessful in his legal bid to overturn the results from that year's election, which he described as a "coup against [the people's] will".

Official results showed that he took a 44% share of the vote in the presidential election - the incumbent, Emmerson Mnangagwa, won with 51%.

This week's vote was the second time the two men have faced each other in a race for the top job. BBC

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Justina Nixon-Saintil

All Liberians should sign the peace chorus

Advancing Environmental Justice with AI

THE UNITED STATES Embassy near Monrovia issued a statement here on Thursday, August 18, reminding Liberian political parties currently campaigning across the country ahead for the October 10th Presidential and General Elections to adhere to the Farmington River Declaration by committing to free, fair and peaceful elections, and condemning all forms of violence and violent rhetoric.

THE STATEMENT COINCIDED with Liberia's commemoration of 20 years of relative peace since the restoration of democratic rule in 2005 following 14 years of brutal civil war that left over 250,000 persons killed, including women and children, and hundreds of thousands others languishing in refugee camps across the region.

TWENTY YEARS AFTER, the guns are still silent, giving citizens and residents the opportunity to resume normal life and economic activities, including active politics.

THE U.S. EMBASSY'S Statement last Thursday comes on the heels of the fourth democratic elections in October exclusively being organized and conducted by Liberians themselves.

THE CALL FOR free, fair non-violence elections was echoed days earlier by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Leonardo Santos Simão, who paid a two-day visit to Liberia last week and met with President George Manneh Weah, officials of the National Elections Commission, representatives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), youth and women groups.

AMBASSADOR SIMÃO POINTED to the need for all candidates in the race to uphold their commitment to the Farmington River Declaration that sets the path to an inclusive, peaceful, and democratic process, underscoring that it is the responsibility of all stakeholders to educate their supporters on the rules of good conduct prior to, during and after the polls, in demonstrating responsible leadership.

THE PEACE CHORUS is the song that should remain on the lips of every peace-loving Liberian as the country moves to elections, for without peace the nation will retrogress to vestiges of the past that we don't want repeated.

THE UNITED STATES, the U.N. and ECOWAS are three key partners that stood by Liberia during her dark days, so pieces of advice coming from them in crucial moments of our electoral process should be heeded to keep the nation peaceful AND stable.

VIOLET POLITICS AND rhetoric are counterproductive to democratic elections and so those found wanting in such practices should be called to book and condemned, as they have no place in the future Liberia we envisage.

CAMPAIGN RHETORIC SUCH as victory has already been won even before the actual polls should be discouraged by political parties and their leaders, as incendiary statements have the propensity to propel overly zealous partisans and supporters to resort to violence if the poll results do not go their way as expected.

NEW YORK - Climate change is undoubtedly the defining challenge of our time, but its effects are not equally distributed. In both developed and developing countries, environmental degradation disproportionately affects communities marginalized because of race, ethnicity, religion, and poverty. More often than not, these communities are already confronting systemic inequalities such as water scarcity and greater exposure to pollution and extreme weather events - all of which are exacerbated by the climate crisis.

It is a reality with which I am intimately familiar. As a child, my family had a farm on Dominica, a small Caribbean island state that faces the threat of hurricanes each year. One tropical storm could knock out power grids and wipe out entire harvests, destroying local livelihoods.

According to the World Bank, climate-related disasters push 26 million people into poverty annually. And because the world's poorest people often depend on agriculture - a sector highly dependent on favorable weather conditions - to support themselves, they urgently need access to technical, financial, and institutional resources to prepare for and respond to ever more frequent and intense extreme weather events.

Given its capacity to innovate climate solutions, the technology sector could provide the tools we need to understand, mitigate, and even reverse the damaging effects of global warming. In fact, addressing longstanding environmental injustices requires these companies to put the newest and most effective technologies into the hands of those on the front lines of the climate crisis.

Tools that harness the power of artificial intelligence, in particular, could offer unprecedented access to accurate information and prediction, enabling communities to learn from and adapt to climate challenges in real time. The IBM Sustainability Accelerator, which we launched in 2022, is at the forefront of this effort, supporting the development and scaling of projects such as the Deltares Aquality App, an AI-powered tool that helps farmers assess and improve water quality. As a result, farmers can grow crops more sustainably, prevent runoff pollution, and protect biodiversity.

Consider also the challenges that smallholder farmers face, such as rising costs, the difficulty of competing with larger producers that have better tools and technology, and, of course, the devastating effects of climate change on biodiversity and weather patterns. Accurate information, especially about soil conditions and water availability, can help them address these issues, but has historically been hard to obtain.

One could imagine regional officials in a developing country deploying a machine learning algorithm to forecast future

population growth and corresponding change in energy demand using temporal and spatial data. With this forecasting model, policymakers could optimize the country's energy network, redirecting supply to where it will be needed most. That is also something that we are supporting today.

Developing AI-powered mobile apps and virtual assistants, and making them widely available, promotes equitable access to data and technical insights. With highly accurate weather forecasting, advanced agronomy techniques, and carbon-footprint calculations, as well as other predictions generated by AI, smallholder farmers can build greater climate resilience and boost both production and income by adapting to changing conditions more quickly and managing crops more sustainably.

At the same time, simply handing over these tools to disadvantaged communities will not solve the problem - apps alone are not an antidote to climate injustice. To implement AI-based technology successfully, tech companies must be willing to share knowledge with users, including instructions on how to take measurements that will yield data. They must build in the ability for users to collaborate independently with one another, and solicit feedback from farmers and other users. To that end, an AI chatbot that automates question-and-answer exchanges could help minimize user-training challenges while democratizing access to information. As companies develop AI solutions, we also need to support local tech firms and app developers, as they are best positioned to put these tools to use.

Beyond increasing access to new AI-powered tools, the tech community, together with NGOs, governments, and international agencies, can help build an equitable, resilient future for disenfranchised communities by providing training in the technical skills and knowledge required for green jobs. As the transition to a low-carbon global economy accelerates, demand for so-called "green skills" is projected to outstrip supply. Preparing workers for the jobs of the future, in combination with the widespread adoption of new technologies, will strengthen climate resilience, especially in developing economies.

All of us - individuals, corporations, organizations, and governments - share the responsibility to address growing environmental threats. Tech firms, in particular, must channel more resources to combat global warming. That means investing in the development and implementation of AI tools and ensuring that those in the greatest need can access them. Finding climate solutions - and achieving environmental justice - depends on the private sector mobilizing its expertise for the greater good.



Lord, de people say Sodjar talk for himself, no free ride

Dear Father:

Hmm, our people ready this year ooh. They say no more free ride. Every sodjar mon fight for himself. Da thin weh they can do to go stand behind brabee for people to vote for them-it na fini! Tell me something my son!

Oh, Father, you na hear de orlor day. Aya, our people in Bomi told de Footballer da they were na there for da mean man, so he mon na waste him time talking to them to vote for him.

They told Country Giant that they were only there because of him and not for that mean man who chopped Chief for 9 years and foko he na do for them.

But de Country Giant sef ya, loka de kina people da want to ride on him. How de man wor able to win him first nine year sef, people still wondering.

Da one, da complete lesson for Country Giant. He mon stop roaming around de place with these excess baggage who abused their people trust. They are only around him now because they feel he can rescue their political boat from capsizing.

Bor da one da lie. De people from Bomi fini showing everybody de light. If you think you will stand behind de Country Giant so de people can feel sorry for you to put you back, you on you own. Da OYO.

How can you be at de Traditional Council for nine years and foko you na do for your people. By de time they say voting time na come, you jumped behind de Footballer even though you na from him camp oo, bor you want ride on de man.

All lor yor mon hear it oo. No more free ride. Every monkey mon tot him own tail in this orlor election here. If you been in de House and been thinking da you na owe de people who voted for you anything, da time na we will all know who de boss be.

Da orlor chief, I heard he left him District to move to another district after the people took him from de ghetto to make him chief. He left them and moved to another district to build mansion. Na he wan de people to put him back.

Can you imagine da Father! And da de one de Country Giant mon lee him owner campaign to go campaign with? In fact, de moment de people see de Country Giant with him sef, da problem for de Country Giant.

People mon know da we de villagers are not fool. They say you can fool some people some time, bor you can't fool all de people all de time.

In fact, if da me be de Country Giant, none of them will put my picture side them, because identifying with them mean, me myself I have failed.

Can you imagine, somer them na make 9 years, 12 years and 18 years and nothin they na do for their people and they wan to come na and geh another free ride-lalal.

Our people na stupid here. They know wah they wan. You can't chop chief job for all those years, you na do anything for yor people and you wan come say what-you will balance.

Ehn yor say dog da cat? You will see. All lor yor will balance.

OPINION

By Lili Fuhr

The Fossil-Fuel Industry's Obstructionist Climate-Change Tactics

BERLIN - As the world grapples with an unprecedented confluence of devastating floods, wildfires, and droughts, the debate about how to address the escalating climate crisis is increasingly distorted by big-business interests peddling false remedies and promoting deceptive narratives.

The fossil-fuel industry is a prime example. In a desperate effort to deflect attention from their historical responsibility for climate change, oil and gas companies have been touting various speculative technological fixes. But the stark reality is that these companies are engaging in a stalling tactic meant to enable them to keep polluting.

Given the urgency of the threat posed by climate change, we must rally behind the only real solution: a rapid, equitable, and complete phaseout of all fossil fuels. Coal, oil, and gas are the primary drivers of climate breakdown, accounting for more than 75% of the world's greenhouse-gas emissions and nearly 90% of all carbon dioxide emissions.

But the harm caused by fossil fuels is not limited to climate change. Fossil fuels and petrochemicals such as plastics, fertilizers, and pesticides poison our air, water, and food and perpetuate environmental injustices. Air and water pollution from fossil fuels leads to countless deaths and illnesses globally, and the plastic pollution crisis is visible proof of the industry's detrimental impact.

That is why reducing emissions is not enough. Mitigating the multifaceted environmental crises we face requires tackling its root cause: fossil fuels. A complete phaseout of oil, gas, and coal represents our greatest opportunity to minimize the catastrophic effects of global warming, limit the average temperature increase to no more than 1.5° Celsius, and safeguard our planet for future generations.

To this end, a growing coalition of governments, civil-society organizations, indigenous communities, and concerned citizens around the world is rallying behind the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Representing an actionable solution to the climate crisis, this proposed treaty would put us on a path toward a sustainable future by leaving no room for oil and gas companies to continue their reckless activities.

The fossil-fuel industry will not go down without a fight. This is evident in its latest greenwashing and delay tactic: the suggestion that we could reduce emissions through technologies such as carbon capture and storage (CCS) and carbon capture and use. But CCS currently captures less than 0.1% of global emissions, has a decades-long history of overpromising and under-delivering, and is inefficient, costly, and does nothing to accelerate the shift away from fossil fuels. Moreover, carbon-removal technologies that rely on CCS, such as bioenergy with CCS (BECCS) and direct air capture, pose significant risks, come with great uncertainties, and could impede more effective near-term measures.

But those profiting from business as usual have other powerful weapons in their arsenal. A new diversionary tactic gaining traction - primarily in the United States and among other major polluters - is solar geoengineering, also known as solar radiation modification (SRM). Advocates of this highly speculative and risky technofix believe that by spraying reflective particles into the stratosphere or by manipulating clouds to "dim the sun," they could mask some of global warming's worst effects, at least temporarily.

This approach, however, represents the ultimate false solution - a large band-aid with potentially disastrous consequences, including the potential to alter global precipitation patterns. And there's one additional huge concern: while carbon lingers in the atmosphere for thousands of years, sun-dimming particles in the stratosphere would dissipate within a year or less, necessitating constant renewal. Discontinuing solar geoengineering could trigger a catastrophic "termination shock," causing global temperatures to rise so fast that humans and ecosystems could not adapt. In other words, this method would require indefinite maintenance and global governance.

Despite its flaws and risks, SRM is already distracting policymakers from the urgent task of phasing out fossil fuels. With the US and the European Union researching and discussing multilateral solar-geoengineering governance, a theoretical climate intervention strategy largely relegated to science fiction has emerged as a real and present danger to climate action and environmental justice.

The correct approach to this high-risk technology is to prevent its development and deployment, as more than 400 leading academics from 50 countries suggested when they called for an international non-use agreement on solar geoengineering in 2022. Policymakers must heed these warnings, reject SRM, and refrain from wasting precious time contemplating non-solutions.

Governments play a crucial role in the fight for a safer climate and a sustainable future on this planet. Over the coming weeks and months, political leaders will have a chance to demonstrate true climate leadership at key events such as the United Nations Climate Ambition Summit in New York on September 20 and the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai later this year. They must seize these opportunities to take meaningful steps toward climate justice.

For starters, global leaders must follow the lead of countries like Vanuatu and Tuvalu - as well as numerous cities, health institutions, academics, and civil-society organizations around the world - and commit to working toward a robust and clear fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty. By ensuring that no loopholes are left open for the industry to exploit, policymakers can prevent oil, gas, and coal producers from postponing the inevitable decline of the fossil-fuel-based economy.

Moreover, governments must stop supporting the fossil-fuel economy through subsidies for CCS and carbon-removal technologies, which merely serve as cover for further industry expansion and potentially doom us to a toxic future. At the same time, political leaders must heed the call for an international agreement preventing the development and deployment of solar geoengineering and should refrain from normalizing this untested and dangerous technology as a viable climate policy option.

OP-ED

By Raj Persaud

What Motivates Killer Nurses?

LONDON - Recently convicted of murdering seven babies and attempting to kill six others at the Countess of Chester Hospital between June 2015 and June 2016, neonatal nurse Lucy Letby has the grisly distinction of being the United Kingdom's most prolific child serial killer. Over the course of Letby's ten-month trial, believed to be the longest murder trial in UK history, prosecutors detailed how she had harmed the infants in her care by injecting air and insulin into their bloodstreams, infusing air into their abdomens, and dislodging their breathing tubes.

What would provoke a nurse - a caregiver by profession - to inflict such terrible suffering? Even after covering the trial and spending months in Letby's presence, BBC journalist Judith Moritz struggled to understand her motivations. One text message hints at a possible god complex: "...sometimes I think, how do such sick babies get through & others just die so suddenly & unexpectedly?" Letby wrote. "Guess it's how it's meant to be." But, in Moritz's view, this does not provide a satisfying answer.

An examination of similar cases could offer insights into Letby's psychological state. Serial-killer nurses, it turns out, are more common than many would like to believe. Consider Niels Högel, who admitted to killing 43 people while working as a nurse at two clinics in the northern German cities of Oldenburg and Delmenhorst between 2000 and 2005.

Högel, the most prolific serial killer in postwar Germany, embodies the gravity of the danger posed by a disturbed health-care professional. Officials suspect that as many as 300 patients may have died by his hand.

As a psychologist explained during the trial, Högel did not seem to enjoy killing, nor did he do it for financial gain. Rather, Högel admitted to acting out of boredom, as well as a deep yearning to flaunt his superior resuscitation skills. After misusing medication to trigger cardiac arrest, reviving a patient was an act of personal aggrandizement - he was even nicknamed "Resuscitation Rambo" by admiring colleagues.

In his ruling, the judge cited a psychologist's assessment that the former nurse was a narcissist who liked to portray himself as a hero. While Högel relished the excitement of resuscitation, and sometimes even succeeded in reviving patients, at least 87 died. Likewise, when Letby was on duty, infants in the Countess of Chester Hospital often inexplicably required emergency resuscitation.

Serial-killer nurses tend to use injectable medications like insulin, opioids, and potassium chloride because they can be difficult to identify after death, as most health-care professionals would know. Beverley Allitt, for example, killed at least two babies by administering large doses of insulin while working as a nurse at Grantham and Kesteven Hospital in Lincolnshire, England, between February and April 1991. She was ultimately convicted of murdering four infants in total, attempting to murder another three, and causing grievous bodily harm to six more.

One theory invoked in the Allitt case is that she suffered from Munchausen syndrome by proxy, a rare and controversial diagnosis in which a caregiver inflicts harm on a child to gain personal sympathy. It is similar to one of the possible motivations that the prosecution in the Letby case identified: the nurse was attacking babies to attract the attention of a doctor with whom it is alleged she had become infatuated.

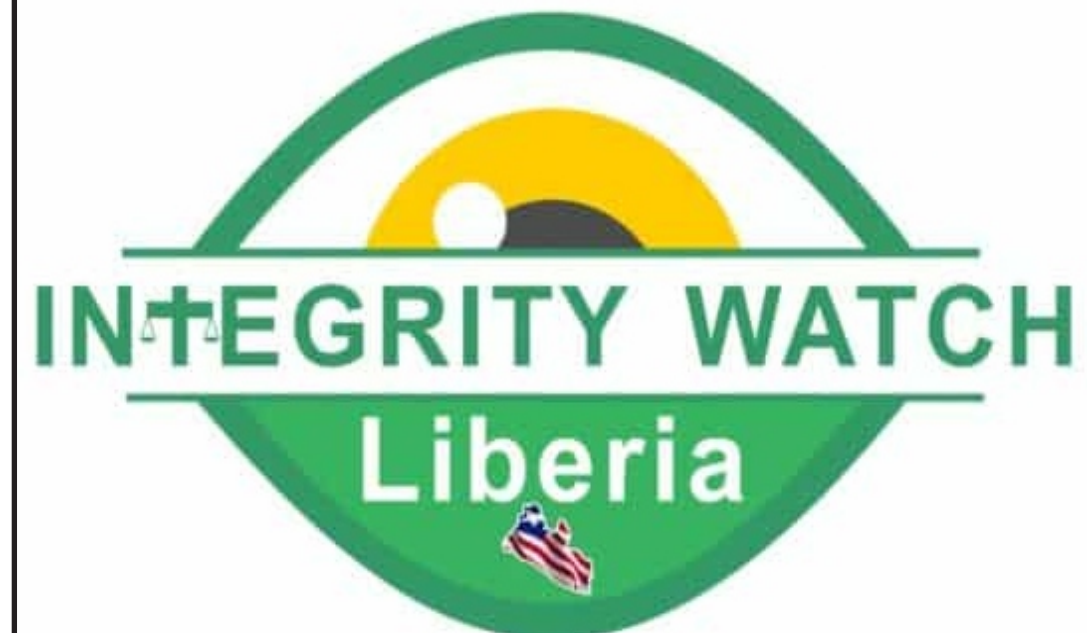
Insulin injections were also Ontario nurse Elizabeth Wettlaufer's weapon of choice. In September 2016, Wettlaufer admitted to killing eight long-term care residents and attempting to murder six others. Wettlaufer's crimes were uncovered only because she spontaneously confessed while receiving drug-addiction treatment. She had never been under any suspicion, and it would have likely remained that way had she not implicated herself.

Wettlaufer may also have admitted the truth to a childhood friend, telling him: "A lot of what I've done has been triggered by my anger issues. "But how could killing people under your care become a means of acting out anger issues? Who hasn't experienced homicidal urges against frustrating colleagues, or maybe undeserving patients blocking your precious beds, if you are a clinician struggling to run an under-resourced service?"

The nature of their jobs put these health-care professionals in closer proximity to death than most ordinary people; regularly dealing with mortality could have warped their perspective. Or perhaps they were always drawn to the emotional intensity, and heightened bonding, produced in any team confronted with the ultimate crisis. In any event, because psychological screenings are secondary to technical skills when hiring in medical fields, and all these serial-killer nurses seemed to excel technically, dangerous pathology likely would not have been flagged when it's often difficult to find the basically clinically competent.

None of the experts giving evidence during the Letby trial presented a coherent theory explaining her motivation; maybe even expert clinicians remain in denial about the demons in their midst. Although other "angels of death" can provide clues about what gives rise to such evil, the most worrying implication of the "god complex" explanation is that the next "angel" more likely will be found among the better, or even the best, nurses. And it will always be counterintuitive to search for a killer among the healers you most rely on in an emergency.

Integrity Watch Liberia ends dialogue on hate speech



By Lewis S. Teh

As a means of combatting hate speeches and curtailing electoral violence ahead of the upcoming October 10th Presidential and Legislative Elections, Integrity Watch Liberia and its partners with support from the peacebuilding fund have held a day-long dialogue in Monrovia.

Remarking at the start of the dialogue on August 23, 2023, at Icampus on Carey Street in central Monrovia, executive director, Harold Aidoo described the organization of the forum as a major milestone.

He says Liberia is observing twentieth anniversary of sustainable peace following many years of conflict, noting that peace isn't only the absence of guns, but the presence of respect for fundamental human rights and the rule of law.

"Peace is not just a fundamental right irrespective of ethnicity, gender, condition, geographic location, but it is the presence of rights." Mr. Aidoo says the dialogue which is captured as countering hate speech amid a trigger of electoral violence, was held when Liberians are few days away from the crucial October 10th polls, saying that October 10th represents an important milestone on the history of Liberia for many reasons.

According to him, the pending elections present an opportunity for every citizen to consolidate the peace which has been harvested for the past twenty years and also represent an opportunity for citizens not to destroy the gains made throughout the years. He says the project is anchored on the backdrop that during the elections there may be provocations that tend to undermine the peace of the country.

He reveals that the dialogue is also aimed at helping everyone to contribute to development, so it presents tools that will enable everyone including CSOs to monitor and track different kinds of utterances and provocations that constitute hate speech, something, he says has the proclivity to undermine peace and incite violence.

"Today's event is to validate and finalize different kinds of indicators that will be developed by various CSOs that will track hate speech." United Nations Peacebuilding Fund coordinator in Liberia, John R. Dennis, extolled Integrity Watch Liberia for taking a

bold step in tackling issues of electoral violence, ahead of the October elections.

Mr. Dennis also extolled the UN Peacebuilding Fund for its continuous support of Liberia, adding that the PBF has specific interest in ensuring that it has a peaceful electoral environment.

He said it was on this basis they have invested a little over US\$5 million for the elections and other projects with focus on women's political participation.

"We want to thank Integrity Watch Liberia for a job well done and we look forward to seeing hate speech not define its way in our politics", he added.

Mr. Dennis underscored that hate speech should be avoided at all costs because it misrepresents the facts, something, he says prompted the UN to invest in the Human Rights Commission.

"Up to now, the PBF has spent up to US\$82 million in Liberia on peace, so we don't want anyone jeopardizing the gains we have made as a country."

In response, the communication director at the National Elections Commission, Henry Flomo, thanked Integrity Watch Liberia for what he described as brilliant initiative that will sustain the peace of Liberia.

Mr. Flomo noted that hate speech especially, during elections period, undermines the growth of any country and as such, there's a need for supporters of various political parties to abide by the Farmington River Declaration for the common good of the country. He said the NEC has been working tirelessly in making sure that political actors abide by all of the electoral guidelines to maintaining peace.

The day-long dialogue brought together various CSOs, local and international partners, media practitioners and youth groups, among others. Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Gongloe condemns Boakai

By Lewis S. Teh

Presidential Candidate and Standard Bearer of the opposition Liberian People's Party (LPP) Cllr. Tiawan S. Gongloe, has strongly condemned and frowned at former Vice

statement. I don't think anyone in this country, given the violence that Liberians had experienced in this country, should ever say anything that promotes violence in any shape, form or manner", Gongloe reacts.

still struggling in maintaining peace, adding that silence of weapons is not necessarily peace, but it is just an opportunity for people to build peace, so Liberia is in the process of peacebuilding after fourteen years of bloody civil unrest. "Ladies and gentlemen, like I said the other day, opposition isn't about enmity; it is an established tradition of every Liberian county and ethnic group and all religious persuasions that when someone dies in a town, that whole town is bereaved and everyone will have to sympathize. So on behalf of the opposition Liberian People's Party, we want to sympathize with the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change and family members of those children, who lost their lives", he adds.

The ruling Coalition lost three partisans, all females, in a car crash on August 22, in Bong County with several others wounded. President George Weah immediately suspended campaign activities and declared two days of mourning for the lost.

Cllr. Gongloe reveals that as a way of sympathizing with the ruling CDC, he led a high-level delegation of LPP executives to the Coalition headquarters to extend sympathy for the lost.

"We did so because even as

▶ CONT'D page 7



Cllr. Tiawan S. Gongloe

President Joseph Nyumah Boakai of the Unity Party for spewing language of violence. Cllr. Gongloe warns that violence statements have a proclivity of causing tension in the country, especially, as Liberians go to the polls in October. "Imagine Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai, who is the oldest of all the Presidential Candidates, said the other day that no one has monopoly over violence. I condemn that statement; I think he should walk away from that

Speaking in a news conference here Wednesday, August 23, the LPP flag bearer for the 2023 Elections, reechoed calls to all political leaders in this country to tune down the rhetoric about violence.

"I call for calm. We should not compromise the peace and unity of this country to anyone; it's our responsibility as leaders to be role models in promoting peace across the country."

He notes that Liberians are

Health worker charged with statutory rape

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

A health worker, 39-year-old Sylvester C. Weseh, has been incarcerated for allegedly raping and impregnating a 16-year-old minor in Harper, Maryland County, Southeast Liberia.

On Thursday, August 17, parents of the minor alerted the Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberia National Police in Harper that their daughter had been sexually abused by the suspect.

She was immediately rushed to the J. J. Dossen Hospital in Harper, where health authorities conducted examination and confirmed that the minor was three months, and 2 days pregnant.

Narrating the entire ordeal to the head of the woman and children protection section of the Liberia National Police, the minor said months back during the evening hours, while she and her brother only identified as Diamond had

gone to buy mosquito coil, they saw Suspect Sylvester C. Weseh coming from the bathroom and he allegedly called them.

She continues that while the both of them were talking, Diamond left and the suspect went in his house, but later came outside and called her closed to himself in his room despite resisting sexually abused her.

Following the explanation, the suspect was accorded his

legal rights to be represented by a lawyer, but admitted to the allegation made against him.

Based upon the facts established, Suspect Weseh was charged with the crime of statutory rape and forwarded to the Harper City Magisterial Court for pretrial and later reminded at the Harper Central Prison, pending court trial during the November Term of Court. The women and

▶ CONT'D page 7



Women Peace Builders to dialogue on building and sustaining peace in Liberia

By Kruah Thompson

The Women Peace Builders has embarked on a momentous journey by organizing an inter-generational dialogue aimed at sharing insights, reflections, and experiences related to building and sustaining peace in Liberia.

Scheduled for Friday, 25 August 2023, the dialogue is set to take place at the Monrovia City Hall. The event carries the overarching theme "Celebrating 20 Years of Peace in Liberia: Women Building and Sustaining Peace Across Generations."

This meaningful dialogue gains significance as it coincides with the 20th Anniversary of the Accra Peace Agreement, a historic pact signed on 18 August 2003 that marked the end of the

the Accra Peace Agreement aligns with Liberia's preparations for the upcoming presidential and legislative elections scheduled for 10 October 2023.

"This juncture offers a unique opportunity to reiterate the significance of conducting peaceful elections, while also recognizing the invaluable contributions that women have made and continue to make in upholding peace," the release said.

Furthermore, the statement emphasized that the event also aims to empower and inspire a greater number of women to engage actively in the democratic process.

Moreover, it further stated that without a doubt, this inter-generational dialogue serves as a testament to the collective



second civil war in Liberia and marked the dawn of a new era of peace.

As per a press release dated Tuesday, 22 August 2023, the Women Peace Builders acknowledges the pivotal role played by Liberian women, particularly the 'Women's Mass Action for Peace,' in concluding the second civil war in the nation.

However, the upcoming inter-generational conversation holds the potential to facilitate connections between young women peace builders and the trailblazing women who were instrumental in securing peace two decades ago.

This exchange aims to foster a meaningful transfer of experiences and insights, ensuring that the legacy of peace endures.

According to the release, the timing of the 20th Anniversary of

endeavors of diverse partners dedicated to upholding Liberia's vision of promoting peace, gender equality, and the empowerment of women.

The event is being sponsored by the Women's Mass Action for Peace, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Centre (EJS), the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, UN Women, as well as the Embassies of Ireland and Sweden.

As Liberia looks back on two decades of progress and anticipates a future of democratic participation and empowerment, the Women Peace Builders' inter-generational dialogue according to the release promises to be an essential step toward promoting sustainable peace across generations. Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Muslim Council states position on legalizing abortion

By Naneka Hoffman

The National Muslim Council of Liberia says its position on plan by the Liberian Legislature to legalize abortion is that married couple who are caught

He stresses that when a pregnancy reaches four months, it is much forbidden in Islam to perform abortion.

According to him, before four months, doctor should provide concrete reason why

Recently, the Liberian Council of Churches objected the abortion bill before the Legislature because it is unbiblical, foreign and the Holy Bible forbids killing. Early this week, Senate Pro-tempore Albert Chie, clarified here that there is no stand-alone bill on abortion before the Liberian Senate, contrary to public perceptions.

Delivering his opening statement Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at the return of the 54th Legislature to a special session, Senator Chie pointed that rather, there is only a new chapter in the new Public Health Bill on sexual and reproductive health.

According to him, this new chapter addresses issues of sex education, family planning and abortion.

"Let me also point out that there is no stand-alone bill on abortion before the Senate, as it is being perceived in some quarters; but rather, there is a new chapter in the new Public Health Bill on sexual and reproduction health," he said.

The Pro-tempore's clarification comes amid longstanding claims and counterclaims in the public that there is a bill currently before the august body to address abortion.

The bill, when passed into law, per public speculations, seeks to determine at what time and at what condition can a pregnant woman be given the right to legally abort a pregnancy. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Sheik Musa Sheriff

in extra sexual leading to pregnancy should be stoned to death in line with Holy Koran.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the NEW DAWN, a member of the Fatwua Committee in the National Muslim Council of Liberia, Sheik Musa Sheriff, says the Holy Koran forbids abortion but outlines conditions and circumstances under which abortion may be performed. Sheik Sheriff says the Koran allows abortion provided that a competent medical doctor can prove that the pregnancy poses a danger to the life of the woman and it must be between one-to-three months.

abortion is necessary, such as threat on the life of the woman. Mr. Sheriff explained that according to the Islamic Carlo, if a person is gang raped, leading to pregnancy, abortion is allowed.

He maintained that after a pregnancy reaches four months, Islam does not allow abortion because life has been formed, so the woman should bear patience until she gives birth.

For some time now, the Liberian Legislature has been deliberating on a proposed bill aimed at legalizing abortion by women in the country.

Starts from page 6 Gongloe condemns Boakai

we are competing for national leadership, we are all Liberians, and we will not compromise the Liberian value or showing sympathy when someone is bereaved."

He calls on LPP members throughout the country to show a sign of bereavement by halting all festivities and campaign songs and instead, be in an atmosphere of sadness

in solidarity with the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change.

"I'm also shock to hear that Nimba County, which was rocked by festivity last weekend when we launched our national campaign and introduced our Vice Standard Bearer to the Nimba people, is now in sadness due to the loss of one of their sons", the

human rights lawyer and former president of the Liberia National Bar Association notes.

Gongloe, who carries a broom, symbolizing his pledge to fight corruption in the public sector, says if elected President of Liberia, he will make public salaries of his officials, including his own salary. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 6 Health worker charged

children protection section of the Liberia National Police headed by regional commander, Chief Inspector Leona Gaye-Kangar, is committed to ensuring that the rights of every Liberian is protected especially, women and children.

The suspect is a health educator at the James Jenkins Dossen Memorial Hospital.

The victim was asked to

constantly visit the hospital for further examination and medication.

The women and children protection section pointed out that the crime is in violation of Section 14.70 of the Revised Rape Law of Liberia which states that a person who has sexual intercourse with another (Male or Female) has committed rape if; (a) He intentionally penetrates the Vagina, Anus, Mouth or any

other opening of another person (Male or female) with his penis without the victim's consent.

Meanwhile, the Independent Commission on Human Rights, Monitor in the county, Boniface Nyemah, has frowned at the inhumane act and reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring justice for both the minor and the perpetrator. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Government and Partners Conduct ToT for Small-scale Miners

The Ministry of Mines and Energy in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Independent National Human Rights Commission (INCHR), Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection (MoGCSP) has conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) for Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners (ASM). The ToT was supported by UNDP and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency through the Environmental Governance Programme (EGP). The small-scale miners were trained on the proper use of a handbook for Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners (ASM) developed by the EGP in 2021 aimed at promoting and supporting sustainable mining and environmental monitoring at the community level.

The handbook, developed by key stakeholders, including miners themselves, is a user-friendly tool that provides information on best practice

important for addressing some of the key challenges of the sector.

Also making remarks, the President of the Federation of Miners Association of Liberia (FOMAL), Thomas Cassell mentioned that the organization is working with communities in the western region to set up local Participatory Environmental Monitoring Committees (PEMCs).

The PEMC is a local governance platform that is intended to support the integration of environment and human rights into the governance of the mining sector. The platform is used to mitigate the impacts of ASM and contribute to an improved state of the environment in line with Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration of Access to Information, Public Participation, and Access to Justice and supports the community's vision for ensuring that mining activities do not affect good life and health but mitigate impacts of ASM. The ASM handbook is an eye-opener enriched with guidelines on the processes and



Training in session

guidelines intended to promote sustainable ASM activities.

The Assistant Minister of Planning & Policy at the Ministry of Mines & Energy said the government recognizes the importance of the ASM sector and is committed to making the sector work for the benefit of the people and the country at large.

Johnson Willabo said the training was an opportunity and an important effort needed to share ideas and information that would help curtail the issue of illicit mining. Willabo urged beneficiaries of the training to use the skills and knowledge acquired to train other miners and ASM operatives.

The Compliance and Enforcement Manager at the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), John Jallah stressed that one of the most important contributions of the EGP in Liberia is that it has created a multi-stakeholder platform that promotes dialogue and joint stakeholder monitoring, which is

procedures of how to mine sustainably, as well as how to acquire a mining license. It also provides guidance on how to ensure health and safety, human rights, and gender safeguards in mining areas. Howard Chea, a local miner from Rivercess County described the training as timely. "It gives us information that inspires hope that ASM can be a positive venture if we follow the required guidelines and good practices provided in the Handbook," Chea noted. This training is the second leg of similar training conducted in Northwestern Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpolu Counties in 2021. Following the training, the ASM Working group is expected to convene a one-day official session to review progress made and identify actions needed to advance efforts to improve the regulatory framework and governance of the ASM sector. The meeting will include ASM Working group members from the government as

Français

Le gouvernement et la BMMC sont sur le point de signer un accord minier secret de 25 ans (Pt1)

Le gouvernement du Libéria s'empresse actuellement de conclure un nouvel accord de développement minier (MDA) d'une durée de 25 ans

le 10 octobre. Il existe des allégations selon lesquelles l'argent pourrait être la motivation derrière une telle précipitation.

La Bea Mountain Mining

et les allégations d'accaparement des terres. La société a également été accusée de ne pas respecter le MDA actuel.

Contrairement à ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) Limited, dont le

Éditorial

Tous les Libériens devraient signer le chœur de la paix

L'ambassade des États-Unis près de Monrovia a publié une déclaration le jeudi 18 août, demandant aux partis politiques libériens, qui font actuellement campagne dans tout le pays dans le cadre des élections présidentielles et générales du 10 octobre, de se conformer à la déclaration de Farmington River en vue des élections libres, équitables et pacifiques. Elle a condamné toutes les formes de violence et de rhétorique violente.

La déclaration a coïncidé avec la commémoration par le Libéria de 20 ans de paix relative depuis le rétablissement du régime démocratique en 2005 après 14 ans de guerre civile brutale qui a fait plus de 250 000 morts, dont des femmes et des enfants, et des centaines de milliers d'autres languissant dans des camps de réfugiés à travers la région.

Vingt ans après, les armes se sont toujours tues, donnant aux citoyens et aux habitants la possibilité de reprendre une vie et des activités économiques normales, y compris la politique active.

La déclaration de l'ambassade des États-Unis jeudi dernier fait suite aux quatrièmes élections démocratiques d'octobre exclusivement organisées par les Libériens eux-mêmes.

L'appel à des élections libres, justes et non violentes a été repris quelques jours plus tôt par le Représentant spécial du Secrétaire général et Chef du Bureau des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et le Sahel (UNOWAS), Leonardo Santos Simão, qui a effectué une visite de deux jours au Libéria la semaine dernière et rencontré le président George Manneh Weah, des responsables de la Commission électorale nationale, des représentants de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO), des groupes de jeunes et de femmes.

L'Ambassadeur Simão a souligné la nécessité pour tous les candidats en lice de respecter leur engagement envers la Déclaration de Farmington River qui ouvre la voie à un processus inclusif, pacifique et démocratique, soulignant qu'il est de la responsabilité de toutes les parties prenantes d'éduquer leurs partisans sur les règles de bonne conduite avant, pendant et après le scrutin, en faisant preuve d'un leadership responsable.

Le refrain de la paix est la chanson qui devrait rester sur les lèvres de tous les Libériens épris de paix tout au long de la période électorale, car sans paix, la nation risque de rétrograder vers les vestiges de son passé que personne ne veut voir se répéter.

Les États-Unis, l'ONU et la CEDEAO sont trois partenaires clés qui se sont tenus aux côtés du Libéria pendant ses jours sombres. Par conséquent, les conseils venant d'eux dans les moments cruciaux de notre processus électoral doivent être pris en compte pour maintenir la paix et la stabilité de la nation.

Les politiques et les rhétoriques qui incitent à la violence sont contre-productives pour les élections démocratiques et donc ceux qui sont responsables de telles pratiques devraient être interpellés et condamnés, car ils n'ont pas leur place dans le futur Libéria que nous envisageons.

S'autoproclamer vainqueur pendant la campagne bien avant même les scrutins proprement dits devrait être découragé par les partis politiques et leurs dirigeants, car les déclarations incendiaires ont tendance à pousser les militants trop zélés à recourir à la violence si les résultats ne vont pas favorables comme prévu.



avec la société minière turque Bea Mountain ou BMMC, un peu moins de deux mois avant les élections générales et présidentielles.

De toute urgence, les législateurs ont abandonné leurs différentes campagnes et sont retournés au Capitole dans ce qui a été décrit comme une précipitation pour voir l'accord BMMC franchir la ligne avant les élections du

Company se trouve à Kinjor, dans le comté de Grand Capemount, et il reste trois ans à son accord actuel.

Pendant ce temps, ses opérations au fil du temps ont été entachées par une série de protestations, principalement de la part des employés et des habitants des villages environnants, contre les mauvaises pratiques de travail, la pollution de l'eau

troisième renouvellement du MDA s'est heurté à un problème en raison de certaines clauses cachées après que le document a atterri au Capitole pour ratification, le nouveau MDA de 25 ans de BMMC a été entouré de secret. On n'a pas beaucoup entendu parler de ce nouvel accord, mais il semble y avoir une hâte pour qu'il soit conclu le plus rapidement possible.

Cette dernière décision du gouvernement libérien et de BMMC a

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

En 2021, Koung disait douter de l'état de santé de Boakai, son colistier d'aujourd'hui

Le sénateur Jeremiah Koung disait en 2021 qu'il ne soutiendrait pas la candidature de l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai à l'élection présidentielle de 2023, invoquant un possible déclin mental et physique chez le leader de l'opposition libérienne dont il est aujourd'hui le colistier sur la liste du Parti de l'Unité (UP).

Le sénateur de Nimba, invité le mercredi 15 septembre 2021 par la chaîne de télévision locale OK FM de OK Conversation, avait expliqué pourquoi il avait soutenu la candidature de Boakai à la présidentielle de 2017, tout en insistant que pour ce qui concerne la présidentielle de 2023, il ne le ferait pas.

M. Koung avait affirmé qu'il était convaincu que Boakai deviendrait président en 2017 et ne ferait qu'un seul mandat pour se retirer. « J'étais d'accord avec lui. Mais pour 2023, non, je ne suis pas

d'accord. Dans mon esprit, il devrait se reposer, trouver quelqu'un d'autre », avait déclaré Koung le 15 septembre 2021, plus d'un an avant que Boakai ne le choisît le 28 mai 2023 comme colistier.

Dans cette interview, Koung avait précisé qu'il était naturel que l'on déclinât mentalement et physiquement, citant l'exemple de son père pour qui il disait acheter des couches tous les jours.

« Vous ne tenez plus, vous descendez la colline. C'est

naturel. Mon père, en ce moment, je lui achète des couches. Chaque jour, je dois lui acheter des couches. C'est l'homme qui m'achetait des couches avant, mais aujourd'hui c'est moi qui le fais », a déclaré M. Koung.

Mais aujourd'hui, M. Koung et M. Boakai se présentent désormais sur la liste de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, le Parti de l'Unité (UP) qui reste le principal rival et principal

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UP political leader Mr. Boakai

Senator Jeremiah Koung

Français

Starts from page 8 **Le gouvernement et la BMMC**

fait sourciller, en particulier lorsque les opérations de BMMC ont été caractérisées par des protestations et des accusations, avec des allégations selon lesquelles l'entreprise n'aurait pas respecté les clauses de son MDA actuel.

Protestations et accusations

En janvier 2022, des tensions ont éclaté au sein de l'entreprise suite à son non-respect de son accord. Les citoyens du comté se plaignaient auparavant du manque de possibilités d'emploi au sein de l'entreprise.

Ils ont allégué que l'entreprise continue de faire appel à des ressortissants étrangers pour effectuer des tâches dont ils sont capables, les privant ainsi de possibilités d'emploi.

Quelques jours plus tard, trois de ses employés auraient été retenus en otages par des membres de la communauté de Matambo dans la zone de concession, afin de contraindre l'entreprise à se conformer au MDA.

Les experts ont déclaré que le gouvernement du Libéria était responsable de la crise actuelle à Bea Mountain. L'octroi de permis à des étrangers pour assurer la sécurité et la peinture des locaux de l'entreprise ainsi que d'autres tâches qui ne nécessitent pas d'expatriés a alimenté les tensions dans la zone de concession.

Une partie du problème, selon les experts, réside également dans l'incapacité répétée du gouvernement à impliquer les citoyens locaux lors des discussions sur d'éventuels accords de développement minier.

Le recrutement de ressortissants étrangers pour

des emplois que les Libériens pourraient occuper a également suscité les critiques de la Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l'homme (INCHR), qui a appelé à l'application de la politique de libérianisation au sein de l'entreprise.

En février 2022, le président de l'INCHR, Me T. Dampster Brown a porté cette question dans un débat national, accusant la Bea Mountain Mining Company d'opérer au mépris total du droit du travail du Libéria.

Me Brown a accusé BMMC, affirmant que l'entreprise n'avait pas adhéré à la politique de libérianisation qui vise à offrir des opportunités d'emploi aux citoyens du Libéria.

Des protestations et des différends répétés entre BMMC et les communautés locales ont poussé la Chambre à charger son comité mixte des mines, de l'énergie et du travail d'examiner les violences récentes et les menaces potentielles à la sécurité nationale et à l'État de droit au sein de l'entreprise.

La Chambre a pris la décision ici mardi 20 juin, lors de sa session ordinaire à la suite d'une communication du représentant Thomas A. Goshua, dans laquelle il a évoqué des menaces potentielles pour la sécurité nationale et l'État de droit dans l'entreprise.

Selon le représentant Goshua, il a reçu une plainte d'un membre de sa circonscription, qui travaille pour Bea Mountain Mining Corporation à Kinjor, Grand Cape Mount, selon laquelle, le 4 juin 2023, un groupe de personnes soupçonnées d'être à l'emploi de Bea Mountain se sont livrés à des activités violentes au cours desquelles ils ont harcelé et battu plusieurs employés de l'entreprise, dont des expatriés et l'avocat de l'entreprise qui a failli être tué. - À suivre.

Starts from page 8 **En 2021, Koung disait douter**

challenger du président sortant George Manneh Weah, candidat à sa propre succession sur la liste de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir.

Il est étonnant de voir à quel point le temps change les croyances d'un homme. Les Libériens sont en droit de demander à Koung ce qui a changé aujourd'hui en ce qui concerne l'état de santé de l'ancien vice-président.

De toutes les façons, la base de soutien de Boakai semble attirer de plus en plus de jeunes déçus par la gouvernance du président

Weah. C'était avec le soutien de ces derniers que le président Weah avait remporté le second tour de l'élection présidentielle de 2017 contre Boakai. Mais aujourd'hui beaucoup semblent soutenir désormais l'ancien vice-président.

Il y a eu un rassemblement massif de jeunes, y compris de motocyclistes commerciaux, devant la chaîne privée Truth FM 96.1 le lundi 21 août 2023 dans la communauté de Du-port Road, à Paynesville, lorsque Boakai est apparu pour s'adresser au public au sujet de sa quête présidentielle.

Niger : le chef de la médiation de la Cédéao juge l'aunte fermée à un retour au pouvoir de Bazoum



Dans un entretien accordé à la BBC en hausa, Abdulsalami Abubakar, ex-président du Nigeria et chef de la médiation de la Cédéao qui s'est rendue au Niger, est revenu sur sa rencontre avec les putschistes à Niamey. Il explique les avoir notamment trouvés fermés à tout retour au pouvoir du président renversé le 26 juillet, Mohamed Bazoum.

Sur la crise nigérienne, l'émissaire en chef de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cédéao) a accordé une interview à la BBC en langue hausa. L'ancien président du Nigeria y est revenu sur ses derniers échanges avec le Conseil national pour la sauvegarde de la patrie (CNSP), l'organe qui dirige le pays depuis le coup d'État du 26

juillet 2023. Dans cet entretien, Abdulsalami Abubakar dit qu'il a trouvé le général Abdourahamane Tiani, le leader du CNSP, très ouvert au cours des échanges qu'il a eus avec la junte. Trois heures d'échanges, dit-il. Un point semble cependant impossible à aborder avec le CNSP : celui du retour au pouvoir du président renversé, Mohamed Bazoum. Abdulsalami Abubakar assure que le général Abdourahamane Tiani « a souligné qu'ils ont déjà destitué le président Bazoum et que la question de son retour au pouvoir ne sera pas possible. Ils ont dit qu'ils ne le feraient pas, qu'ils ne ramèneraient pas Bazoum au pouvoir, mais qu'ils seront prêts à négocier sur toute autre chose. »

Abdulsalami Abubakar estime que la proposition d'une transition de trois ans est quelque chose de positif car, rappelle-t-il, au début, le CNSP ne voulait pas négocier du tout. « Ils auront une réponse de Tinubu », assure l'émissaire, au sujet de l'actuel président du Nigeria et patron en exercice de la Cédéao.

Les militaires, a-t-il ajouté, veulent la réouverture des frontières et la reprise de l'alimentation en électricité. Ils ont dit que, même en temps de guerre, il y a de l'humanité à autoriser les médicaments dans le pays.

L'émissaire dit enfin qu'il a été très heureux de voir Bazoum, et a rendu compte de l'insatisfaction du président renversé sur la façon dont il était traité. Bazoum, selon lui, est dans un état préoccupant, car il n'a pas d'électricité. La médiation a demandé à la junte de rétablir le courant avec en substance cette réponse : tant que le Nigeria coupera la nôtre.

Le Conseil paix et sécurité de l'UA « prend note » de la décision de la Cédéao de déployer une force et suspend le Niger

Dans un communiqué, ce 22 août 2023, le Conseil paix et sécurité de l'Union africaine (UA) déclare qu'il « prend note » de la décision de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cédéao) de déployer une force en attente au Niger et demande une évaluation des implications économiques, sociales et sécuritaires de ce déploiement. Le CPS décide par ailleurs de la suspension de ce pays, où un coup d'État a eu lieu le 26 juillet, de toutes les activités de l'UA « jusqu'au rétablissement effectif de l'ordre constitutionnel ».

Le Conseil paix et sécurité (CPS) de l'Union africaine (UA) approuve les décisions économiques imposées par la Cédéao après le coup d'État du 26 juillet au Niger qui a renversé le président Mohamed Bazoum.

Le communiqué final de la réunion du CPS, qui s'est tenue le lundi 14 août à propos de la situation au Niger, vient d'être publié.

Dans ce texte de trois pages, l'organe de l'Union africaine, au sein duquel les débats ont été houleux, souscrit aux sanctions économiques mais affiche sa prudence, sans s'y opposer, à une éventuelle option militaire.

« Entreprendre une évaluation des implications » d'un déploiement au Niger En effet, le Conseil paix et sécurité « prend note » de la décision de la Cédéao de déployer sa force en attente. Mais ce Conseil demande dans le même temps à la Commission de l'UA « d'entreprendre une

évaluation des implications économiques, sociales et sécuritaires » d'un tel déploiement au Niger.

Le CPS réaffirme sa volonté de privilégier l'option diplomatique et demande la nomination d'un haut représentant pour encourager les efforts de médiation de la Cédéao.

Sur le volet économique, le CPS dit en revanche « faire sienne » la décision de la Cédéao d'imposer des sanctions. Mais, là encore, « tout en veillant à son application progressive et en minimisant son effet disproportionné sur les Nigériens ». « S'abstenir de conférer une légitimité au



régime illégal du Niger » Le CPS demande par ailleurs aux Commissions de l'UA et de la Cédéao de soumettre d'urgence la liste des membres de la junte et de leurs soutiens militaires et civils, y compris ceux impliqués dans la violation des droits du président Bazoum et d'autres détenus, « en vue de sanctions ciblées et de l'application de mesures punitives individuelles ».

Enfin, le CPS appelle les États membres de l'UA à mettre pleinement en œuvre les sanctions décidées par l'organisation ouest-africaine et plus largement tous les pays « à s'abstenir de toute action susceptible de conférer une légitimité au régime illégal du Niger ».

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Political Campaign

By Naneka A. Hoffman

President George Weah practically went on his knees recent in Montserrado County Electoral District Three (Pipe Line, Paynesville) begging residents not to reject him for the second time. The NEW DAWN asked some citizens in Monrovia what they think the President should do in addressing such issue with voters who do not buy into his campaign messages, as has noted. Read their responses below.



Isaiah J Gbainhea

“President Weah has the chance to do what he supposed to do; you know every good leader will not suffer for vote or ask people to vote for them, in the sense that President Weah should not be begging people to vote him. That is, the work he has done in the past should be speaking for him. But because President Weah lacks some potentials in the

place of some of his promises that weren’t fulfilled. And because of this today, President Weah has to passing around here and there, begging people, especially in district#3, where we have one of the Candidates from Unity Party, C. David Barshall. You know, you can’t go in an environment where you have not made an

impact, most of the projects people are looking at, the President did his part and also other partners like World Bank, which is funding road projects; those guys did their part. So President Weah needs to do more with his campaign messages. Let him forget about the opposition and speak on what he can do, not attacking personality because personality is not the debate. What he has to implement will encourage voters - whether first time voters or those who voted before, so the opportunity he has now is to be able to use his campaign teams to come up with a better strategy so they can be able to resolve some of these issues that are making him to be begging for vote here and there.”

“President Weah has nothing to do now to get the people of District# 3 votes. After the 2017 Elections, he supposed to have data to tell those counties and districts in which he got votes from and where he didn’t get votes. In so doing, he should have investigated early what was the cause for his poor performance in those areas and to work on it longtime ago, not now. Now any project he carries on there, it will be a political project, as the people didn’t believe in him and he provided it to them. Yes indeed, they shouldn’t have believed in him by what he had done. Firstly, every government current or past will not be free of



Mohammed A. Kiazolu

challenges, but admitting your challenges and asking citizens how to work on those challenges is key. But looking at full grown people that are educated and telling them that you have done something and they can’t see it, only you can tell me what

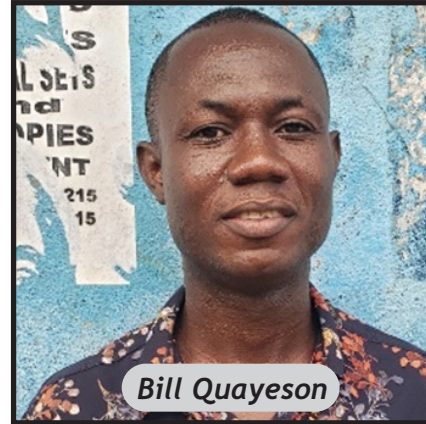
you have done for me. So it is not the time now. He should identify projects he has carried out there and programs that can transform lives that the people themselves will see it before going there, and they will tell him thank you.”

“President Weah is doing the right thing. President Weah is appealing to the people because he never did anything and the people elected him for six years so he’s appealing to the people to reelect him come October 10, 2023. So it is not like he is begging, but is appealing to them. I think we are in a hot campaign period and people have their businesses to do; that was the reason for the poor turnout in the district. So it is not like the people are staying away from President Weah. I want the people from the green fence to know that President Weah is still strong and is engaging the people the right way. This is the way to engage the people: go to the people, do the door to door



Mohammed S. Sonii

campaign and appeal to them that we want to win these elections on a one-round victory. This is the reason you see President Weah moving from door to door; this is the right thing the President is doing. The president is campaigning based on issues. If President Weah told you go to Old Road, you will see the market building I built there. What the President is doing is the right thing. He is engaging the people.”



Bill Quayeson

“Let the President went to other district, the place was overcrowded but for districts 2 and 3, it was low which means that there is some issue that the people have been affected within that district. The President needs to work on it which means, he to put his feet on fire and address the issues that the people are faced with because within six years, unemployment rate is very

high, high level of poverty, roads connectivity and electricity and we listened to the Finance Minister. He said that Liberia is giving electricity to Ivory Coast and we have residents in Freeport community still in darkness; residents on Jonah Island still in darkness; we have other people in lower Montserrado, even in the urban of Montserrado people are still in darkness; so these are contradictions in the economy that need to be settled The President needs to solve these issues to empower people.

If you look on people faces, you will see extra poverty, so the President needs to find solutions to those problems and tell the people what he can do for them.”

“I think the President didn’t do well in that district, which is why the people are angry with him there. All he needs to do is to go back to that same district and carry out door-to door campaign, asking the people what are the issues and see how he can address them. He needs a strong campaign team that will discuss the issues and stop attacking personality.”



Sekou Massalay

We choose you, not him

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Despite President George Mannrh Weah's plea to the people of Bomi County to reelect

broke political alliance with the regime sometime this year. However, during the rally in Bomi, President Weah

remark. But he was denied, despite President Weah and Bomi County Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe's passionate



Pres. Weah

Sen. Morris Saytumah

incumbent Senator Morris Saytumah, electorate in the county are resolved to kick the Senator out of the Liberian Senate come October for his poor performance.

Having already served two 9-year terms in the Senate with virtually no impact on the citizen's life, Saytumah is seeking a third term, but he seems to have lost favor with the electorate, who have drawn a red line despite plea from the President.

He joined the campaign rally of President Weah and his entourage Tuesday, August 22 in the county, using the President to campaign for him in what many say is shameless move of a man, who, in spite of serving Bomi for 18 years, cannot face his own people, but to pass under the arm of the President.

Sen. Saytumah is seeking re-election, but he faces huge tasks against former Speaker Alex Tyler. Mr. Tyler is an ex-member of President Weah's ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

Tyler and his Liberian People Democratic Party (LPDP) supported Weah's 2017 presidential bid after a political marriage with the CDC, but he

passionately appealed to the citizens of Bomi to vote for Saytumah and CDC candidates to calibrate the development of the country because he (Weah) wants to leave a legacy.

President Weah noted that since no CDC candidate is contesting in Bomi, the electorate she reelect Sen. Saytumah, who he described as his father, for another nine years.

The President revealed that Saytumah supported him when he was serving in the Liberian Senate for Montserrado.

But his plea was overwhelmingly rejected by the citizens, as they booed Senator Saytumah, preventing him from speaking at the rally. In an apparent defiant posture, the electorate continued booing the incumbent senator with some maintaining that their gathering was only to show support and respect for President Weah, not Saytumah.

Hundreds of potential voters chanted and booed the Bomi Senator as he mounted the podium to make a brief

plea with the electorate. "Boo, boo, boo, boo. No, no, we don't need Saytumah! Go!" the residents chanted.

The incumbent lawmaker has spent nine years in the Senate. He is seeking re-election with critics saying he has failed to impact the lives of the citizens.

But Saytumah, openly pleaded with the citizens, promising to work assiduously in their interest, if reelected.

He urged them to remain calm and exercise their constitutional rights at the ballot box.

Sen. Saytumah: "These things happen in politics, I'm not surprised that you would reject me."

"This... gives the courage to do more, if I want to become a senator and run for any other position, but I openly apologize. Thank you ya," he said. A former member of the opposition Unity Party (UP), Saytumah is supporting President Weah's reelection bid. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Witherspoon may get 20 years

The Office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida says a maximum prison term of up to 20 years, and up to US\$250,000 fine may be imposed against Mr. Stanton Witherspoon.

Mr. Witherspoon who relinquished his administrative role over a media empire he founded in Liberia following his indictment by U.S. authorities, has agreed to plead guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

In return, the United States agrees to dismiss the remaining counts of the indictment with respect to the defendant at the time of sentencing.

The U.S says Mr. Witherspoon is aware that the sentence will be imposed by the court after considering the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and Policy Statements.

The defendant has acknowledged and understand that the court will compute an advisory sentence under the Sentencing Guidelines and that the applicable guidelines will be determined by the court relying in

may depart from the advisory sentencing guideline range that it has computed and may raise or lower that advisory sentence under the Sentencing Guidelines.

Meanwhile, the United States Government has filed with the court the factual basis in support of the change of plea of defendant Witherspoon.

Authorities of the U.S. Government and defendant Witherspoon signed the instrument on Thursday, 24 August 2023.

In January this year, U.S. prosecutors indicted Mr. Witherspoon for wire fraud, accusing him of selling false and fraudulent diplomats to nursing students seeking nursing credentials and employments.

Prosecutors said buyers used the fraudulent and false nursing credentials, transcripts and diplomats and other documents created by Witherspoon, Alfred Sellu, and Rene Benadel to obtain licensure as registered nurses in various states including Maryland



Mr. Stanton Witherspoon

part on the results of a Pre-Sentence Investigation by the court's probation office.

The court's probation office's investigation will commence after the guilty plea has been entered. Mr. Witherspoon, according to the plea bargaining, is also aware that, under certain circumstances, the court

and Georgia. Referencing Siena College's website, the U.S. authorities said it was licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education and the Florida Board of Nursing, and Siena offered a Practical Nursing Program and an RN to Bachelor of Science.

Starts from back page

Cummings campaign picking

posters, while residents rushed to meet and greet Cummings. The residents expressed great appreciation for the visit, while some citizens said they had long awaited the visit of the CPP Standard Bearer.

Cummings and entourage paraded the various streets of District # 10, through Oldroad, Chugbor, Smythe Road, Gaye Town, and shook hands with residents, shop owners, pedestrians and marketers, giving them hope for a better Liberia under a Cummings leadership. A Gaye Town resident, identified as Varney Hoff and a market woman in Chugbor, identified as Precious Kollie, spoke highly of Mr.

Cummings and his strong desire to relieve Liberians of extreme suffering and poverty.

The visit to District #10, by the CPP Standard Bearer was part of his community engagement to meet citizens and solicit their views on prevailing socio-economic conditions of families and communities in the lead up to the general elections on October 10. Cummings is the leading opposition presidential candidate, with huge popularity, especially amongst female voters and young people, who constitute about 65 percent of Liberia's estimated five million population.

The CPP Standard Bearer, Cummings, with great energy and enthusiasm, has, since the start of National campaign, August 5,

begun, early morning walking exercise, which has gained popularity with hundreds of his supporters joining in the activity.

The tour of Communities in Montserrado County District #10, by the CPP Standard Bearer was climaxed at its National Headquarters, with a festive ceremony.

Cummings expressed gratitude to the hundreds of Partisans, supporters, sympathizers, and well-wishers for the continuous show of support and solidarity and reassured them of victory on October 10.

Starts from page 6 Government and Partners Conduct

well as civil society. UNDP Liberia Programme Coordinator and EGP Focal Point under its Inclusive Green Growth Portfolio said the government and its partners recognize the ASM sector as important for income and job creation for the population. Abraham Tumbey stressed that the collective commitment of all the stakeholders can make the ASM sector sustainable in ways that contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "With the PEMC, communities have a local platform that can allow them to serve as stewards for promoting a healthy environment for themselves," Tumbey emphasized. The Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Sector of Liberia has attracted both local and foreign miners

owing to the limited barriers to entry in the sector, including limited expertise and equipment utilized and the income and livelihood the sector offers. The sector is said to be a major source of livelihood for more than one hundred thousand (100,000) gold and diamond miners in Liberia who depend on it for income (World Bank, 2012).

Notwithstanding, the sector for the most part has been under-regulated thus undermining its huge potential to support social economic growth and livelihood of rural communities with little or no access to basic services and income-generating activities.

Cummings campaign picking up steams

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings was on Wednesday, August 23, given a rousing welcome by hundreds of residents of District #14, including Vai Town, Gibraltar,

crowd, Cummings begun walking from the Clara Town Store, made brief stops at the Varnee Mosque and the Feed My Sheep Church, where he made passionate pleas to both the Muslim and Christian communities, to pray fervently for God's divine guidance to help

where he had personal encounters with residents, shared his campaign posters and explained his vision of economic prosperity and alleviating hunger and extreme poverty in Liberia.

The five-hour tour and engagement with citizens of District #14, was climaxed with a special program in Doe Community, where the CPP Standard Bearer reaffirmed his commitment to good governance and working hard to revive the ailing economy through massive job creation.

Cummings promised to fix the deplorable road condition, the health and educational systems, and said Liberians will immediately begin to feel a difference in their living condition, on his election as Liberia's next President.

Last, Tuesday, August 22, the CPP Standard Bearer,

also accompanied by hundreds of Partisans, supporters and sympathizers and well-wishers, stormed District #10, Montserrado County, amidst massive jubilation by residents, marketers, shop owners and citizens, who hailed his visit and shouted slogans like, "Cummings is the man we want."

Amidst the downpour of rain, on August 22, partisans and supporters placarded CPP



CPP Political leader Mr. Cummings

Clara Town, Cow Factory, Abuja and the Doe Community on Bushrod. Cummings and entourage were joined by hundreds of CPP supporters and sympathizers from the various communities on his tour of District # 14, as part of Community engagement to interact with citizens and rally their support for his Presidential bid in October.

Liberians choose good leaders on October 10. Liberians, wearing CPP t-shirts from adjacent communities in Freeport, Paco Yard, Cow Factory, and other areas, carried banners with the photos of Mr. Cummings and Vice Standard Bearer, Counsellor Charlyne Brumskine, chanted slogans of support and solidarity with the CPP.

The CPP Standard Bearer also made a brief stop at District #14,

Accompanied by a large

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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