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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2023	L\$184.9251/US\$1.00	L\$186.8557/US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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2023 CUMMINGS FOR PRESIDENT

VOL. 13 NO. 150 TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00

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Leaders of the 16 political parties in photos



Boakai's abrupt travel raises health concerns



AMB. Boakai

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Continental News

France defies Niger ultimatum for ambassador to go

France's ambassador has remained in Niger despite being given a 48-hour deadline to leave the country last Friday, French President Emmanuel Macron confirmed in a defiant

months, from Sudan, where France has been exemplary, to Niger at this very moment. "I applaud your colleague and your colleagues who are listening from their posts." Niger's President Mohamed Bazoum was toppled on

appears to show local Muslim imams leading prayers outside the base. In Monday's speech, Mr Macron defended France's military presence in Niger, stating that without intervention from Paris, the country would "no longer exist" with its "existing borders". Neighbours Mali and Burkina Faso would also have suffered the same fate without France, Mr Macron said.

France carried out a decade-long operation to fight Islamic insurgents in Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mauritania - all former French colonies - up until last year. At its high point, around 5,500 French soldiers were stationed in the African countries.

However, anti-French sentiment and protests in the region intensified recently, with some opponents complaining France's intervention was a modern form of colonialism. Others noted that the troops have not been able to overcome the threat from jihadists, whose deadly attacks on communities continue.

Amid this insecurity, soldiers in Mali, Burkina Faso and more recently Niger launched coups, saying a change of leadership was necessary to tackle the jihadists. Mali's military government has called on the Russian mercenary group Wagner to help fight the Islamist militants. It is suspected that the mercenaries could be active in the wider region. BBC

The \$5m cash and fake gold that no-one is claiming

A private plane found with more than \$5m (£4m) in cash, fake gold, guns and ammunition on board is at the centre of a deepening investigation in the Zambian capital, Lusaka. Everyone knows the aircraft flew from the Egyptian capital, Cairo, and landed a fortnight ago in Zambia, but that is where the certainties stop. So far nobody in Egypt or Zambia admits to chartering the plane or owning its contents. With so many questions unanswered rumours have been swirling.

Could those involved be high-level Egyptian or Zambian political or military figures? Was this a one-off flight or the first out of hundreds to finally be rumbled? What is known so far is that five Egyptians aboard the aircraft and six Zambians appeared at a magistrate's court in Lusaka on Monday. Both the Egyptians and Zambians have been

into the cash-filled aircraft.

These reportedly named three Egyptian military officers and a senior police officer among those arrested, backing up Mr Asaad's allegations. A barrage of protests on social media, many of them from fellow journalists, led to his release two days later. What exactly he had been arrested for remains another mystery.

The Egyptian authorities would only say that the aircraft mentioned on Mr Asaad's website was privately owned and merely transited through Cairo. In other words, the country and its officials had nothing to do with the case.

Soon after that the spotlight shifted to Zambia after the plane touched down at Lusaka's Kenneth Kaunda Airport. Somehow, it seems, a Zambian man carrying bags of what looked like gold was allowed to stroll through security and meet the newly arrived Egyptians on the plane.

Nobody appears to know who authorised this but, according to Zambian media reports, a few cash handouts had helped ease his



In the wake of July's coup in Niger, protesters tore down the sign of France's embassy in the capital,

speech. Ambassador Sylvain Itte had been ordered to go amid rapidly deteriorating bilateral ties. But hours after the coup leaders' deadline had passed, the president said he "applauds" Mr Itte for staying put. The junta overthrew Niger's elected president last month.

In a major foreign policy speech to ambassadors gathered in Paris as well as others listening remotely, Mr Macron said: "France and its diplomats have faced particularly difficult situations in some countries in recent

26 July in a coup that has been condemned by France and many of Niger's neighbours, including the West African regional bloc Ecowas.

Ambassador Itte had refused to meet Niger's new leaders after the coup, the junta said on Friday, as it announced the French ambassador had 48 hours to leave. Thousands of Nigeriens in favour of the coup demonstrated on Sunday near the French military base in the capital, Niamey.

Some held signs demanding the departure of French troops, while footage posted on social media

Nigeria strikes oil thieves in air raids

The Nigerian air force says it carried out strikes on illegal oil refining sites in the Niger Delta region on Sunday.

The force said it had destroyed several illegal sites in oil-rich Rivers state and also targeted a boat that was loaded with crude oil and headed for the open waters.

Nigeria has been cracking down on oil thieves in the Niger Delta, burning crude-laden ships and small illegal refineries, but aerial bombardments are uncommon.

Most of the illegal oil refineries tend to be located in the creeks away from communities but environmentalists have condemned the continual burning of the refineries.

Illegal crude vessels that have been seized in the past by a private security contractor have also been burned by authorities, with the crude intact.

Sunday's attacks coincided with a visit of defence and oils chiefs to Rivers state, where

Nigeria's National Security Adviser Nuhu Ribadu said the country was losing 400,000 barrels of crude daily to thieves.

Read more on the theft of oil in Nigeria: BBC



The military released this photo



charged with smuggling and corrupt practices. The Zambians also face espionage charges. Among the Zambians appearing in court was an official at State House, the official residence and office of the president. None were asked to enter a plea.

The world might have remained oblivious to it all were it not for a journalist whose fact-checking website, Matsda2sh, accused officials in Egypt of involvement in the incident. Soon after that Egyptian plainclothes security forces raided Karim Asaad's Cairo home in the dead of night and arrested him.

At first he just disappeared. Nobody knew where or why Mr Asaad had been taken. Then independent Egyptian journalists published documents over social media purportedly taken from the Zambian police investigation

path. After he climbed aboard the man allegedly sold a portion of the supposed gold he was carrying to the men on the plane. They then asked him for more.

What is not clear is if they managed to discover that what he was selling was actually counterfeit before security staff arrived to search the aircraft. The arrest, it seems, was not straightforward. Several of the officers who entered the plane are now being investigated for allegedly receiving up to \$200,000 each from the Egyptian nationals aboard the plane. It is claimed this was their reward for allowing the plane to take off without arresting anyone. When word somehow got out that wads of money on the plane were allegedly changing hands, another group of security staff charged onto the aircraft and arrested those inside. Presumably the suspects had trouble explaining what they were doing with millions of dollars in cash.

EDITORIAL

Party militants are threats to peace

Liberia's Attorney General and Minister of Justice Cllr. Musa Dean, is being diplomatic when he says militants of political parties should adjust their dress codes at rallies because they are symbolic of extreme militancy that could undermine integrity of free, fair elections in the country.

"We need to communicate to them that their actions are not beneficial to us. While they may believe their behavior supports their party's agenda, but it isn't benefiting the country, instead, it is eroding the foundation of our opportunities and progress", Minister Dean observed here Friday, August 25, while addressing the Women Peace Builders Inter-Generational Dialogue at the Monrovia City Hall.

We find it difficult to fathom when the Minister says parties should tell their militants to adjust their dress codes. The fact of the matter is that party regalia and militancy send wrong messages and they should not be encouraged in anyway whatsoever.

Instead, the Attorney General should come clear by taking a definitive action now against such political outfits that tend to promote violence and undermine the relative peace we all enjoy right now as Liberians.

The government should not be seen as pampering something that is dangerous for our electoral process and the stability of the state. Party militants and brigades serve no national interest other than their respective institutions and personal goals, which often conflict with the general good.

Militant style of campaign and rally instigate violence that are bent on diluting what supposed to be a clean and peaceful political process as this nation goes to elections.

The minister recounts that during a visit to the Monrovia prison center, he came across a girl, who was in juvenile detention for taking the life of a fourteen-year-old boy. Likewise, he shared that in his neighborhood a few years back, a twelve-year-old boy took the life of a fifteen-year-old boy, adding these kids claim self-defense when questioned about their actions

"We need to reach a point where we can assure them that they don't have to resort to defending themselves, because their protection is better served by the authority of Liberia. It's a message that needs to be instilled in them."

We urge the Attorney General to help spread such message by reminding all sides in our political divide about existence of the rule of law and penalties for violators whether political militants or ordinary citizens.

It is important that we call a spade a spade and move promptly in denouncing acts that are inimical to peace, stability and violence-freed elections by allowing the chip to fall not matter who is hurt to keep the Motherland on the peace caravan.

COMMENTARY

By Zhang Jun

Why Hasn't China Rushed to Bail Out Its Economy?

SHANGHAI - China's aggregate demand has weakened significantly over the past three years. In addition to the enduring effects of China's anti-COVID policy, the country has also been weighed down by the decrease in global demand. Exports fell by 14.5% year on year in July, a stark contrast from the robust 17.2% export growth recorded in July 2022. Given these downturn pressures, the government's decision not to announce a massive stimulus package, as many had anticipated, has left foreign and Chinese observers deeply perplexed.

While China's leaders are certainly aware of the ongoing economic slowdown, they may be estimating that the risk of a bailout is worse than the risk of inaction. Or perhaps they have more confidence in the domestic economy's resilience against a global recession and believe that the economy will recover quickly on its own.

Regardless, China seems to have chosen not to take further action. In fact, China currently faces significant roadblocks to any additional economic intervention. After all, the accumulation of massive debts, particularly among local governments, has left China with limited room for maneuver. Moreover, the external environment has become increasingly unfavorable to China since at least 2018, presenting challenges unlike any it has faced over the past 40 years

Consequently, China has adopted an increasingly cautious approach to macroeconomic management. Monetary policy is an interesting case in point. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, for example, the US Federal Reserve immediately cut interest rates to near zero. By contrast, the People's Bank of China lowered interest rates by only 0.2 percentage points. Similarly, while the Fed has raised interest rates rapidly in response to surging inflation, hiking rates by five percentage points since March 2022, the PBOC has pursued a series of modest rate cuts to accommodate GDP growth and reduced demand.

This approach is also the main reason why China has avoided runaway inflation over the past two years. This was made clear in an April speech by former PBOC Governor Yi Gang during his visit to the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, DC. During his speech, Yi highlighted the PBOC's adherence to the so-called "attenuation principle," which suggests that central bankers should refrain from taking drastic actions under uncertain circumstances. While this well-known concept was first introduced by Yale economist William Brainard in 1967, Yi's speech offered valuable insights into the shift in China's economic-policy thinking in recent years.

In theory, a more conservative monetary policy could better align short-term measures and long-term goals. To this end, central banks should set real interest rates as close as possible to the potential growth rate of output. Nobel laureate economist Edmund S. Phelps's pioneering work on the golden rule savings rate illustrates the benefits of this approach.

To the extent that Yi's speech reflects current ways of thinking and changed policy style among China's top policymakers, it helps

explain why China's economy has become less volatile in recent years. With the scaling back of countercyclical policies, China has managed to sustain growth even without a demand surge. This may align with the government's development plan, which aims to minimize the huge costs associated with achieving unbalanced growth, such as the rapid pile-up of short-term financial risks.

Indeed, China's move away from aggressive macroeconomic policy could be attributed to the leadership's recognition of the threat posed by the country having reached a critical threshold of systemic financial risk a few years ago. Given the nature of the Chinese political system, such risks would be deemed to pose an unacceptable threat to social and political stability.

As a result, China launched a comprehensive "de-risking" effort in 2016. Policymakers adopted de-risking as a guiding principle, shifting from aggressive macroeconomic policies to a more prudent approach. To mitigate risk and address the excessive financialization of the real economy, China initiated a wave of deleveraging and targeted financial interventions, cracking down on the asset-management industry and triggering a correction in the heavily leveraged financial and real-estate sectors.

Risks and uncertainties increasingly stem from external pressures as well. Two decades ago, when the Chinese economy was relatively small and had a fixed exchange rate, its domestic policy was largely insulated from external influences. But the Chinese economy has become too large and its relations with the world's economies have changed dramatically, prompting China to adopt a more cautious approach in response to uncertainty. The PBOC, for example, must now closely monitor shifts in the US-China interest-rate differential and assess the potential impact on China's capital markets and the renminbi exchange rate.

Having said that, China's move away from aggressive macroeconomic policy should not come as a surprise. De-risking policies might have proved effective in preventing a financial or debt crisis, but the pandemic and subsequent COVID-19 policies have hampered the economy's capacity to rebalance and rebound, resulting in further demand reduction.

Bringing aggregate demand back to pre-pandemic levels is crucial for accelerating China's economic recovery. To this end, China's fiscal and monetary policies can be more proactive, given that de-risking policies have remained in place for so long. While policymakers face a delicate balancing act, the growing risk of a protracted downturn underscores the need to find more effective solutions to the pressing challenges facing the Chinese economy.

But China could still do more to rebalance its economy. By committing to carrying out structural reforms, removing barriers to entry, and opening up sectors that are currently closed to foreign competition - such as education, training, consulting, and health care - China could create numerous market opportunities for the private sector and move closer to achieving long-term economic stability.

OP-ED

By Joel E. Cohen,
John E. Rogers

Financing Childhood Growth

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OPINION

By Koray Caliskan

Regulation, Not Crypto, Is Broken

NEW YORK - When the Venetian merchant Marco Polo traveled the Silk Road in the thirteenth century, he encountered not only unfamiliar peoples, but also new (to him) forms of finance. In China, he was shocked to learn that Kublai Khan had introduced paper money. It was lighter, easier to transfer and store, and more valuable than the metal coins packed in his purse. After returning to Venice, Marco Polo taught his fellow merchants how to use the Khan's innovation. Even though some rejected the flat, foldable currency, arguing that it was no gold and never would be, paper money would change the world.

Like those stubborn thirteenth-century merchants, many today refuse to accept the newest form of money: cryptocurrency. The United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) recently filed lawsuits against Binance and Coinbase, the world's two largest cryptocurrency exchanges, accusing them of operating as unregistered securities exchanges. For years, Coinbase, a publicly traded company with a large US customer base, has been asking American regulators for reasonable rules, to no avail.

Instead, government agencies have been confused about how to define crypto, often providing conflicting views. For the SEC, crypto is an asset that behaves like a security, while for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), it is a commodity. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), meanwhile, treats it as property. Like the fable of the blind men and the elephant, each sees only one aspect and believes it to be the whole. This apparent lack of understanding precludes effective regulation.

Let us be clear: cryptocurrency is not digital money. All metal and paper fiat currencies have been digitized for half a century - your bank account is a digital asset. Crypto, on the other hand, monetizes the exclusive right to send data by a new accounting technology called blockchain. When transferring an Avax or Ethereum to someone else, the right to transfer data is sent from one location to another, and this transaction is registered on the blockchain without the need for a bank or a state. Accountants, also called miners, carry out the bookkeeping in exchange for crypto.

Recognizing this radically new money and accounting is the first step in regulating crypto markets. But since the SEC, the CFTC, the IRS, and similar institutions in other countries are designed for paper currency and its digital versions, they have struggled to adjust to the realities of data-money economies. Without a profound shift in thinking about finance, no regulation will be fit for purpose.

Many policymakers also wrongly believe that crypto is a speculative vehicle. But that ignores the blockchain's revolutionary innovation: it enables economic actors to make their own monies and transact with minimal cost. Thousands of cryptocurrencies are already being exchanged for goods, services, and other (crypto)currencies by governments, companies, and individuals in more than 45,000 markets, operated by 524 centralized exchange platforms.

Regulators must understand four things about crypto. First, it is not an alternative to the dollar, the euro, or other fiat currencies. In fact, my research has shown that crypto contributes to dollarization. Second, cryptocurrency exchanges undermine blockchains by using their own centralized bookkeeping: more than 90% of Bitcoin traded in 2021 was kept as custodial assets in exchanges. That means, if markets go bust, customers lose their money. Third, many decentralized blockchains are based on centralized economic services, such as commodity trade accounting; crypto is an innovation that creates order, not chaos. Lastly, various forms of fiscal logic are already embedded in crypto economies, making them more suited to regulation than many people expect.

As for how to regulate the industry, a central bank digital currency (CBDC) is crucial, because it would provide governments with a financial instrument whose transaction speed matches that of cryptocurrencies. Currently, stablecoins are beyond the reach of central banks, imitating fiat currencies like the dollar without bearing the political and economic costs of fiat maintenance. Moreover, it would be easier to regulate exchanges by following a cryptocurrency's value once it could be expressed and transacted with reference to a CBDC.

Above all else, regulators must ensure a level playing field. That means preventing exchange platforms from issuing their own data monies or tradable crypto assets; otherwise, they will be competing on their own platforms. Crypto exchanges should also be required to keep all custodial assets beyond the reach of their own traders or owners - a simple regulatory measure that would have protected customers' investments following the collapse of FTX. Lastly, tax authorities could use a CBDC to locate more taxable events and also propose a new tax for crypto income, thus increasing revenues.

For now, policymakers continue to act like those obstinate Venetian merchants. The problem is not with crypto, but rather its regulation. It is time to accept that crypto is here to stay and put the right rules in place to govern it.



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-23-000025
2. **ISSUANCE DATE:** August 25 2023
3. **CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** September 8, 2023
4. **POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
5. **POSITION TITLE:** Computer Management Assistant.
6. **MARKET VALUE:** USD 27,502 to 44,008 [USD] equivalent to FSN- 09
In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment.
7. **PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five (5) years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.
8. **PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.
9. **ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.
10. **SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility and computer access.
11. **STATEMENT OF DUTIES:**

BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION -

This position is in the Information Technology (IT) Division of the Executive Office. The job holder is responsible for assisting in the management of computer systems and automated programs. The incumbent of this position will be involved in the day-to-day operations, development, installation, repair, maintenance, support and management of Windows, LAN and PC hardware, software, peripherals, accessories, and automation. The incumbent is responsible for the development, installation, operation, and maintenance of the Mission's network and desktop installations. The work involves comparing the organization's work process to LAN system capabilities and developing methods to improve both, operating day-to-day network and maximizing system performance, providing management advisory services, user support and training. The incumbent is expected to develop, implement and manage computer-training programs on different applications and operating systems. The incumbent provides IT systems and application support to users. Application support incorporates the use and refinement of hardware, software and user expertise in Mission Standard Applications. The incumbent will work with other IT staff in furthering USAID/Liberia Intranet website development and coordination. The incumbent works under the supervision of the Computer Management Specialist and takes full charge of the computer center operations during his absence. S/he performs systems development and maintenance of applications related to USAID/Liberia operations. S/he will be responsible for maintaining the Mission's LAN hardware for approximately 105 users, 105 workstations, modems, routers, switches, scanners, printers, and various peripherals of computer equipment.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES -

1. **LAN Administration and Security -30%**
 - Performs LAN administration routines such as adding/removing users, support of Windows Servers, PC/LAN and PC hardware, software, applications, peripherals (Workstations, printers, plotters, scanners, tape and disk drives, DVD Writers, etc.), data communication equipment (switches, Data Cryptor servers, routers, cards or controller, network cabling, etc.) and auxiliary equipment (Central UPS, small to medium UPSs, temperature and humidity monitoring systems etc.) Maintain disk directories for users, manage profiles and printer locations. Sets up user's Access Rights to system files and software applications in the Windows File and Print Server. Carries out the installation and setup of new equipment in a PC-LAN network which includes configuration of memory, installation of approved software, configure desktops and procedures. Installs equipment at user locations and configures cabling modifications if necessary.
 - Manages network resources for Windows for accessing the print services & print queues.
 - The incumbent is responsible for operating USAID information systems and information security to a level of "Least Privilege", "Separation of Duties", "Individual Accountability" and "Need to Know" as defined in ADS 545.3.2.1.
 - Ensures IT and Mission staff are aware of and in compliance with Agency specific Information Resource Management policies and guidelines. Understands the content and applicability of USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS), chapters 541-551 and

577 and 578 which pertain to Information Resource Management. Verifies that IT and Mission staff follow the appropriate Rules of Behavior as defined in ADS 545.3.1.5.

- Monitors the security of Servers and workstations on the agency approved Vulnerability reporting system. Ensures that USAID ISSO Security, FMFIA and NIST guidelines are being followed and patches/hotfixes are applied immediately when vulnerabilities are logged and reported. Ensures antivirus software and security patches are updated promptly on the servers and workstations. Oversees that Software Copyright laws are strictly followed in the Mission.
- The incumbent takes the responsibility to perform the job of the Systems Administrator of secured systems.
- Installation, monitoring, testing and network management of, Windows servers/workstations, network security devices, PC/LAN and PC hardware, software, peripherals, data communication equipment and accessories, recommending and performing systems programming, fine tuning, upgrades, enhancements and re-configuration to attain optimum system efficiency and performance.
- Secondary contact person for all LAN questions. Works with the supervisor on LAN problems. Notes down the exact nature of the problem and attempts to solve. Prepares himself as a backup person for regular LAN operations which would include bringing the system up, backing up the hard drives and maintaining the system.
- Assists in planning and scheduling adequate technical support for all systems which includes Routine Preventive Maintenance schedule (RPM) for all equipment at least once every four months.
- The incumbent will be called on to install, upgrade, and maintain a wide assortment of commercial, locally developed, and agency developed or approved software applications. Updates and service patches must be loaded when the department approves them. Anti-virus definitions must be kept up to date. Unexpected problems must be diagnosed and de-bugged. The incumbent will work with her/his subordinate to create and maintain an orderly library of the Mission's software and reference material. Develops and maintains a systematic, preventive-oriented approach to routine network maintenance tasks.
- Provides software support services designed to maximize ADP systems utilization and increase office productivity. These services include telephone assistance, on-site technical assistance, software installation and reinstallation, update and fixes, recovery of operating system, hardware or software problem isolation/identification/resolution and ADP consultations.
- Carries out activities relating to the various telecommunications links of the USAID network. Duties include implementation and operation of the WAN connection including Local ISP and State DTSP system. Incumbent monitors all links and always ensures trouble free operation, takes corrective measures in an event of failure by coordinating repairs with providers and implements backup routes to maintain communications. Incumbent monitors communications logs,
- Remains vigilant about information security, including anti-virus software updates, network intrusion detection, and proper file security settings.
- Recommends to the supervisor the acquisition of professional engineering services from

outside contractors as needed.

2. System Development, Maintenance, and Implementation - 30%

- Primary person for all programs being used in the Mission along with applications to be developed and maintained for the better workflow in the Mission and Mission Programs. Develops an information system to prioritize and schedule the implementation of all possible and planned information systems. Writes the basis for such prioritizing and discusses it with the EXO and the Computer Management Specialist.
- With consultation with the Computer Management Specialist, the incumbent performs periodic maintenance activities required on servers and workstations to remove unnecessary files, release unused disk space, re organize databases, archive inactive documents, etc. with the ultimate goal of balancing workload, minimize system degradation, improve system performance, data integrity and maximum utilization of disk space.
- Develops/Maintains the mission intranet website.
- Identifies, analyzes and writes technical specifications for possible new information systems for eventual implementation. Estimates the hardware and manpower resources necessary to implement them.
- Evaluates and recommends PC & LAN hardware configurations, and software packages appropriate for Mission use. Tests and implements all automation software from AID/Washington and other Missions.
- Provides in-depth training to all the Computer Center staff on the Automation software being used in the Mission to back-up on technical issues during absence.
- Provides prompt repair and maintenance services to automation equipment by utilizing contractor engineers working under various repair and maintenance contract agreements.
- Makes recommendations to the supervisor as to how hardware resources should be balanced between offices, particularly whenever any significant percentage of hardware is down.
- Assists in the installation, testing and configuration of IT equipment. This will also include suggestions on relocation of PCs, Laptops, scanners, Document Senders, Smartphones, printers, etc.
- Performs development and maintenance services on applications that: electronically logs3 service requests; monitors repair and maintenance services; records of parts replaced; status and conditions of ADP systems; and preventive maintenance schedules.
- Compliant to Mission-adopted development and documentation standards, performs systems analysis and design of application and databases; programming coding, compilation, testing and debugging using approved programming languages, standard desktop publishing, forms designer software and related tools; parallel run using live data to beta test completed programs; implement application, input data, regular and ad hoc reports generation; maintains applications to cope with management and technology changes.

3. User Support and Training - 20%

- Provide IT support to around 100 users and various IT devices.
- Primary contact person for users with PC, Laptop, problems. Promptly investigates problems, if unable to solve the same day, writes a technical support notice, and initiates plans to solve expeditiously with the supervisor.
- Responsible for providing user support on the use, operation, features, capabilities of Windows OS, Google Apps, PC/LAN hardware; conversion of data, Word, graphics and images to various format and storage medium; archive and retrieval of data.
- Interacts with end users on a day-to-day basis and provides first line support on standard application software packages and other agency software installed on the various platforms.
- Contact person for users with any sort of PC problem including hardware, system software, application software and automated systems. Promptly investigates problems, attempts to solve them immediately, or initiates plans to bring to a solution. Reports the problem to the other members of the computer center and works on the solution as soon as possible.
- Contact person for users with any PC problem if the problem is beyond the individual PC and more on the network. Documents the exact nature of the problem and reports to the supervisor for action. Assists the supervisor to
- respond to the service needs of USAID end users, responding within reasonable time after receipt of a service request.
- The incumbent will provide customer support on Multimedia setups.
- The incumbent will conduct computer training to the LAN users. Generally training will be one-on-one; however, when there is a need s/he will organize larger, more formal classes. Training will include commercial applications such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Windows OS, My USAID and Google Apps. The incumbent will also be called on frequently to assist users in learning department specific software. S/he may also be called on to teach locally developed software.

4. Measurable Outputs - 10%

- In consultation with the Computer Management Specialist, performs critical tasks such as preventive maintenance, operating system upgrade and recovery, administrative support outside regular office hours when necessary and urgent, to keep system down time and inaccessibility to end-users to a minimum.
- Makes recommendations to the supervisor as to how hardware resources should be balanced between offices, particularly whenever any significant percentage of hardware is down.
- Performs other related tasks and duties that may be assigned by the Division Chief.
- The incumbent should suggest Budget Planning for yearly procurement of IRMS and should also plan the allocation of Hardware to the entire mission Users.

5. Administrative Functions - 10%

- Secondary contact person in Mission for all communications with CIO/Washington.
- Receive, inspect, and record all automation-related deliveries, warranty claims, short

shipment claims, out-of-office or out-of-country repairs, inter-office transfers, and disposal. Regularly updates the Mission inventory of automation hardware, software, peripherals, and auxiliary equipment.

- Manages the automation facilities implementing time-in and time-out log, pull-out and return log, spare parts control and issuance, physical security, cleanliness, non-smoking and other administrative policies applicable.
- Maintains an up-to-date listing of the automation resources Hardware, software auxiliary equipment, facilities, manuals, schematic diagrams and licenses of the Mission including its physical distribution and assignment, classification, condition, source of funding, related purchase orders, warranty coverage, etc.
- Prepares purchase requisition for any PC hardware and software necessary, keeps an updated inventory on it. Work with GSO and EXO on procurement of IT equipment.
- Assists supervisor, recommends and performs engineering improvements and modifications to improve the operation, safety and/or reliability of the ADP Systems recommended by the manufacturer and approved by Computer Management Specialist.

- **Supervision controls:** This position is directly supervised by the IT Systems Manager.
- **Supervisory Relationship:** None

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

1. **Education:** A Bachelor's degree in computer science or a related field is required.
2. **Prior Work Experience:** Three to five years of progressively responsible technical experience in the field of IT is required. At least three years of experience with a Non-Governmental Organization or International Organization is required. Experience with network installation and support along with web page experience is also desired.
3. **Work/Residency Permits:** For applicants who are not Liberian Citizens, valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia are required. This information should be clearly stated in the application package.
4. **Language Proficiency:** English proficiency requirements by level II, III and specialization (speak/read): Proficiency in speaking and writing English Level 4 is required.

III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

The Evaluation Factors listed below will be the basis for evaluating and ranking applicants for the position. Applicants will be scored based on the documentation submitted within the application. Applicants must submit a supplemental document outlining their responses to the evaluation factor(s) in order to be considered.

1. Selection Process

After the closing date for receipt of applications, a committee will convene to review applications that meet the minimum requirements and evaluate them in accordance with the evaluation criteria. As part of the selection process, the most qualified candidates will be interviewed. Reference checks will be made only for applicants considered as finalists. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities.

2. Evaluation Factors

Those applicants who meet the minimum education and experience qualifications will be evaluated based on the content of their application as well as on the applicant's writing, presentation, and communication skills. Applicants should include their name and the announcement number at the top of each additional page. Failure to specifically address the Evaluation Factors will result in the applicant not receiving full credit for pertinent experience.

FACTOR #1: Please describe how your technical, administrative, and operations experience directly relates to the major duties and responsibilities of this position.

3. Basis of Rating

Applicants determined to be competitively ranked will also be evaluated on their interview performance and satisfactory professional reference checks. The Applicant Rating System is as follows:

Evaluation Factors	50 points
Factor #1	50 points
Interview Performance	50 points

Interview questions will revolve around the candidate's ability to:

- respond in a clear and concise manner to a series of questions about the applicant's experience, skills, and goals as they directly relate to the position duties and responsibilities described above.

Total Possible Points 100 points

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

1. Eligible Offerors are required to complete and submit the form AID 309-2 (**Offeror Information for Personal Services Contracts with Individuals**) (please copy and search on your browser); and a current resume that provides detailed information as contained in

the AID 309-2 form.

2. Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-23-000025 - Computer Management Assistant** to LiberiaHR@usaid.gov

Applicants may submit an application prior to the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3 mentioned above unless revised.

Qualified applicants must submit the following documents or their applications will not be considered for this position:

1. AID 309-2 Offeror Information for Personnel Services Contractors with Individuals form
2. A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
3. A minimum of three (3) professional references, who are not family members or relatives, with working telephone and email contacts. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities. At least one reference provided should be a current or former supervisor.
4. A supplemental document with a written response to the Evaluation Factors.

Candidates who are applying for this position must fully meet the education requirement (graduated and degree and/or diploma already received) as specified. Candidates must also meet the full work experience requirement and demonstrate in their application that they are an eligible offeror as required in I.9 above. There is no exception to these requirements.

Short-listed candidates may be requested to provide educational documents such as transcripts for degrees, diplomas, certificates, and other pertinent documents as needed.

Any attachments provided via email must be compatible with Microsoft Word or PDF and not zipped. Note that attachments to email must not exceed 25 MB. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The Agency retains the right to cancel or amend the solicitation and associated actions at any stage of the recruitment process.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Mission provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

PYJ suffers attack on campaign trail

By Franklin Doloquee, Nimba County

Koung, on a campaign trail to the county.

not immediately established but eyewitnesses narrate that the two senators entered the town and asked citizens not to reelect the CDC government and Rep. Kargon, on grounds that Liberians are experiencing extreme hardship under the Weah administration amid alleged misuse of public funds.

Rep. Gunpue joined the CDC subsequently this year following his expulsion by the MDR, so to have gone in his hometown to campaign against him, eyewitnesses say was provoking.

The senators also lamented drug abuse among young people across the country, among others that they blamed on lack of will by the government.

There has been no arrest since the alleged attack but reports from the town say youth that were allegedly involved, have crossed to neighboring Ivory Coast for fear of arrest.

"We were in the town when Senator Jeremiah Koung and Senator Prince Johnson entered the town from Karnplay City. We welcomed them and listened to their speeches, encouraging us to abandon our mission [decision] to support the re-election of President George Weah and Representative Gunpue L.

Sen. Koung is standard bearer of the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) is in a political marriage with UP Presidential Candidate,

former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

According to eyewitnesses, both senators had gone in the hometown of District#4 Representative, Gunpue L. Kargon to campaign for the Rescue Ticket of the UP that carries Ambassador Boakai and Sen. Koung. As they left the town for Bahn district, a group of young people allegedly stoned and destroyed one of the vehicles in the senators' campaign convoy that specifically belongs to Senator Johnson.

The cause of the attack was

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We'll beat them face-down

Dallon tells supporters

By Kruah Thompson

Montserrado County Senator, A. Darius Dallon, now a member of the faction of the Liberty Party that is collaborating with the Unity Party of former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, vows here that the UP will defeat incumbent President George Manneh Weah in October by six hundred thousand (600,000) votes.

Addressing supporters on Thursday, August 24, 2023, during the Unity Party's fundraising rally in Montserrado County electoral district#9, Senator Dallon said the UP will not only achieve victory but to secure a commanding lead in the polls.

He criticizes the Weah

Candidate Boakai's strategy to boost economic growth and create jobs by fostering environmental investment, detailing "Our priority is empowering citizens, not engaging in mere rhetoric. We will encourage investment, and the private sector will flourish under our leadership."

He promises that if elected President comes October, Amb. Boakai will declare his assets before taking office.

"Asset declaration is crucial for accountability," he says, emphasizing "Knowing what officials have will help the public understand their actions while in government."

Dallon, who is the UP campaign chair for Montserrado, says a Boakai-led government will investigate corruption and bring



Sen. Prince Yormie Johnson

group of aggrieved young people in Gbor Wehplay Town, electoral district#4, Nimba County.

The vehicle destroyed was the last to leave the town, carrying children of Senator Johnson. Following the attacks, one of the children rushed to the senator and informed him of the violence allegedly by the youth of Gbor Wehplay Town. No casualty was reported.

The incident occurred when Senator Johnson accompanied the vice standard bearer of the Unity Party, Senator Jeremiah



Sen. A. Darius Dallon

administration for poor performance and accuses the President of obstructing the nation's progress and neglecting concerns of everyday citizens.

Senator Dallon vows to campaign rigorously on a platform of transparency, accountability, and economic revitalization while revealing plan by an elected UP government to audit the current administration and hold all individuals accountable if they are tried and found guilty of corruption.

He frowns at drug abuse in Liberia, noting "We are steadfast in our mission to replace George Weah and his associates, eradicating the scourge of drug abuse and its detrimental impact on our nation."

According to Dillon, a UP government will not only fight drug abuse but also ensure rehabilitation and reintegration of victims into society as productive individuals.

He outlines Presidential

those who have stolen from government to justice, adding that without such actions, the notion of looting the country could become normalized.

He also speaks of education and healthcare, promising that the UP will overhaul public schools across the country from kindergarten to 12th grade to deliver quality education that could compete with private institutions.

According to him, the UP will also improve retirement in the public sector by advocating for a comprehensive plan that would provide comfort and peace for citizens in their old age.

He cites Boakai's agricultural expertise as a differentiating factor in the race to the Executive Mansion, saying "Boakai is the only candidate who truly understands agriculture." The UP Standard Bearer once served as head of the former Liberia Produce Marketing Corporation (LPMC) in the 80s and minister of agriculture respectively. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Gongloe promises to uphold rule of law

By Lewis S Teh

Veteran Liberian lawyer and Presidential Candidate, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, says when elected President of Liberia, he would waste no time in subjecting corrupt officials to the rule of law, as the foundation for development.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the press, we continue to stress rule of law in this country and by God's power if elected, all those officials that are going against the law by means of corruption, violation of the law and citizens' rights will be subjected to the rule of law, because this is the foundation for the development of Liberia", he promises.

Cllr. Gongloe, who is Standard Bearer of the Liberian People's Party (LPP) made the vow on Friday, August 25, in a news conference held in his office on Ashmun Street in Monrovia.

He says the rule of law is the number one on his platform for a better Liberia, underscoring

that nothing happens in any country positively in the absence of the rule of law.

"Rule of Law sets the tune for sustainable economic development, investment, employment, education, health for everything that government wants to do, that is why I'm emphasizing on it."

The Counselor further vows that is the kind of standard he envisages for Liberia where anyone irrespective of status

will be equally subjected to the rule of law once the law is violated, including janitors.

"Even if my son or daughter violated the law, they will bear the penalty because nobody is higher than Liberia."

He frowns at the country's poor health care system, which he observes,

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Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

U S Charge d’Affaires lauds Defense Ministry’s apolitical approach

The Charge d’Affaires of the United States Embassy near Monrovia, Catherine Rodriguez, has expressed her

the international community is in Liberia’s best interest.

Also speaking, Minister Ziankahn welcomed Madam Rodriguez to the Ministry and elaborated on the great partnership the Liberian Government has with the US Government, ranging from assisting Liberia’s Defense Sector with Operational and Tactical training and logistical support as well as intelligence sharing geared towards regional security stability.

Honorable Ziankahn assured the United States Government that the AFL will continue to be apolitical at all times.

He informed Madam Rodriguez that the AFL is working with other security apparatuses of Liberia’s joint security to ensure that Liberia have an apolitical joint security sector.

The Chief of Staff of the AFL, Maj. Gen. Prince C. Johnson, III., on behalf of the men and women in arms, thanked Madam Rodriguez for the visit, and informed her that the AFL looks forward to continuing the existing relationship between Liberia and the United States of America. -Press release



satisfaction over the apolitical approach being exhibited by the Ministry of National Defense and the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL).

“I am very impressed on hearing that the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) is an apolitical institution, Madam

Rodriguez intimated, during a working visit to Liberia’s Defense Minister and other top defense officials at the Ministry of National Defense

on Monday, 28 August 2018.

Madam Rodriguez further stated that “AFL is very fortunate to have a fantastic arrangement with the Michigan National Guard and look forward to continuing said relationship.”

She further hinted that an election that is recognized by

Cllr Scott, others murder trial resume

-As they entered not guilty plea

The trial of former Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott and three others facing murder charges resumed on Monday, August 28, taking several twists and turns as both prosecutors and defense lawyers faceoff.

Cllr. Scott and her relatives, Gertrude, Rebecca, and Youdey Wisner are on trial for the alleged murder of Charloe Musu and are being tried on charges of murder, criminal conspiracy, and making false statements to law officials. The defendants have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The trial resumed weeks after prosecution withdrew their motion for a change of trial venue two weeks ago, with a resubmission of the same on Friday, August 25 without any attachments of evidence for such a serious determination, after the case had already been assigned for trial on its merit.

However, the trial proceedings that should have been heard were delayed as the judge had earlier

entertained information from the defence that it had filed two applications to the court; one to visit the crime scene and another to conduct an autopsy and or medical examination on the rains of the late Charloe Musu by Defence hired pathologists and forensic examiners but said information was summarily denied on grounds of being premature, even though neither of the Defence applications were heard.

The motion for change of venue was argued by both sides and denied by Judge Roosevelt Z. Willies based on statutory grounds and the

interpretation of said statute by the Supreme Court.

The judge relied on 29 Liberia law reviews to state that the provision of the statute is mandatory and has long been held to be a right to be enjoyed by the accused.

The trial process resumed following the setting aside and denial of the state’s change of Venue or place of Prosecution as the same is not supported by law. Thereafter, Prosecution requested the juror selection which began but was postponed for tomorrow Tuesday, August 29, 2023, after a series of sidebar consultations with the judge.



Mrs. Musu Scott

Cllr. Johnny Momoh ordered arrested

By Lincoln G. Peters

Civil Law Court Judge Kennedy Peabody has ordered Cllr. Johnny Momoh arrested over a complaint his fiancée Ms. Marie Nallon filed against him.

Judge Peabody ordered Cllr. Momoh’s appearance before the court on Monday, 3 September 2023 beginning 10 a.m. to answer to Madam Marie Nalloh’s complaint.

Cllr. Momoh and Madam Nalloh have been through a court battle since April this year, based on the former’s claim that the renowned Liberian lawyer allegedly violated womanhood.

During a hearing before the Brewerville Magisterial Court in June this year, she provided a video footage against Cllr. Momoh’s alleged action. According to Ms. Nallon, Cllr. Momoh is seen publicly disgracing her before her son who had come to Liberia for the first time after fifteen years.

her jewelry valued at US\$500, 000 as well as cash amounting to US\$75, 385 plus L\$80, 000 were all thrown out.

Another thing that got missing was her personal business money, which was intended to travel to China, summing the grand total of US\$575, 385.

While together, according to the report, both jointly constructed a structure that allegedly cost US\$400, 000 of which the complainant is said to have contributed US\$90, 000.

Surprisingly, gossipers informed her that the land on which the house is being constructed is in the name of the defendant’s son and not himself. The complaint said it brought mental anguish to Ms. Nallon

Meanwhile, the Civil Law Court in Monrovia is not hearing the case, and it has commanded defendant Momoh to attach and take possession of all identifiable properties, and or assets including monies, equipment, vehicles and real property lease



Cllr. Johnny Momoh

On 13 April 2023, Cllr. Momoh was arrested and arraigned before the Brewerville Magisterial Court in Electoral District #17, Montserrado County.

He is accused of allegedly committing domestic violence, felonious restraint, and criminal coercion.’

The writ against Momoh and his co-defendants was a result of the defendant’s eight years old collapsed relationship with Madam Nallon. According to the complainant, her suitcases containing clothing and other assorted materials including all

rights to recover the principals and costs of these proceedings.

The court orders the appearance of Cllr Momoh for action of damages filed by Madam Nallon.

Additionally, the court has ordered that Cllr. Momoh be arrested and kept in any common jail until he complies with the terms and conditions of the writ of attachment and the mandate from the court.

Meanwhile, the Court has notified defendant Momoh to file his formal appearance and or answer to the complaint on or before 3 September 2023.

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Français

Witherspoon risque 20 ans de prison ferme

M. Stanton Witherspoon risquerait une peine de prison maximale pouvant aller jusqu'à 20 ans

plaider coupable de complot en vue de commettre une fraude électronique.

En échange, la justice

déclarations de politique.

Le défendeur a reconnu et compris que le tribunal calculera une peine consultative conformément aux lignes directrices en matière de détermination de la peine et que les lignes directrices applicables seront déterminées par le tribunal en s'appuyant en partie sur les résultats d'une enquête préalable à la condamnation menée par le bureau de probation du tribunal.

L'enquête du bureau de probation du tribunal débutera après que le plaidoyer de culpabilité aura été enregistré. M. Witherspoon, selon la négociation de plaidoyer, est également conscient que, dans certaines circonstances, le tribunal peut s'écarter de la fourchette des lignes directrices en matière de détermination de la peine qu'il a calculée et peut

augmenter ou réduire cette peine consultative en vertu des lignes directrices en matière de détermination de la peine.

Entre-temps, le procureur a déposé auprès du tribunal la base factuelle à l'appui de la modification du plaidoyer de l'accusé Witherspoon. Les autorités du gouvernement américain et l'accusé Witherspoon ont signé un accord le jeudi 24 août 2023.

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et une amende de 250 000 dollars américains, à croire le bureau du procureur du district sud de la Floride aux États-Unis.

M. Witherspoon, qui a dû renoncer dès son inculpation par les autorités américaines à son rôle de Président Directeur General de l'empire médiatique qu'il a fondé au Libéria, a accepté de

américaine accepte de rejeter les autres chefs d'accusation concernant l'accusé au moment de la détermination de la peine.

Selon elle, M. Witherspoon est conscient que la peine sera imposée par le tribunal après avoir examiné les lignes directrices fédérales en matière de détermination de la peine et les

Campagne électorale : Gongloe s'en prend à Boakai et présente ses condoléances au parti au pouvoir

Candidat à la présidentielle et porte-étendard du Parti du peuple libérien (LPP), un parti d'opposition, Me Tiawan S. Gongloe a fermement condamné l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai du Parti de l'unité pour avoir tenus des propos violents.

Pour Gongloe, les propos de violence ont tendance à provoquer des tensions dans le pays, en particulier

à l'heure où les Libériens se rendront aux urnes en octobre.

« Peut-on s'imaginer que l'ancien vice-président Joseph N. Boakai, qui est le plus âgé de tous les candidats à la présidentielle, puisse déclarer l'autre jour que personne n'avait le monopole de la violence. Je condamne cette déclaration. Je pense qu'il devrait s'éloigner de cette déclaration. Je pense que personne dans ce pays, compte tenu de la violence que les Libériens ont subie dans ce pays, ne devrait jamais dire quoi que

ce soit qui promeuve la violence sous quelque forme ou manière que ce soit », a dit Gongloe.

S'exprimant lors d'une conférence de presse le mercredi 23 août, le candidat du LPP aux élections de 2023, a demandé à tous les dirigeants politiques de ce pays de mettre un terme à la rhétorique de la violence.

« J'appelle au calme. Nous ne devons compromettre la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



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 la 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.

Français

Starts from page 8 **Witherspoon risque 20**

En janvier de cette année, les procureurs américains ont inculpé M. Witherspoon pour fraude électronique, l'accusant d'avoir vendu de faux diplômes à des individus à la recherche de diplômes et d'emplois d'infirmiers.

Les procureurs ont déclaré que les acheteurs ont eu à utiliser ces diplômes, des relevés de notes et d'autres documents frauduleux et faux créés par Witherspoon, Alfred Sellu et

René Benadel pour obtenir des permis d'infirmiers pour pratiquer dans divers États, dont le Maryland et la Géorgie.

En faisant référence au site Web du Siena College, les autorités américaines ont déclaré qu'il était agréé par la Florida Commission for Independent Education et le Florida Board of Nursing, et que Sienna offrait un programme de soins infirmiers pratiques et une infirmière autorisée au baccalauréat ès sciences.

Starts from page 8 **Campagne électorale : Gongloe**

paix et l'unité de ce pays. Il est de notre responsabilité en tant que dirigeants d'être des modèles dans la promotion de la paix à travers le pays.

Selon lui, les Libériens luttent toujours pour maintenir la paix et le silence des armes n'est pas nécessairement la paix, mais il s'agit simplement d'une opportunité pour les gens de construire la paix. Le Libéria est donc dans un processus de consolidation de la paix après quatorze années de troubles civils sanglants.

« Mesdames et messieurs, comme je l'ai dit l'autre jour, l'opposition n'est pas une ennemie ; C'est une tradition établie dans chaque comté et groupe ethnique libérien et dans toutes les convictions religieuses que lorsque quelqu'un meurt dans une ville, cette ville entière est endeuillée et tout le monde doit sympathiser.

C'est pourquoi, au nom du Parti du peuple libérien, parti d'opposition, nous souhaitons sympathiser avec la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir et avec les membres des familles de ces enfants qui ont perdu la vie », a-t-il ajouté.

La Coalition au pouvoir a perdu trois partisans, toutes des femmes, dans un accident de voiture le 22

août dans le comté de Bong, et plusieurs autres ont été blessés.

Le président George Weah a immédiatement suspendu ses activités de campagne et déclaré deux jours de deuil pour les disparus.

Me Gongloe a révélé qu'il a dirigé une délégation de haut niveau de dirigeants du LPP au siège de la Coalition pour présenter ses condoléances.

« Nous l'avons fait parce que même si nous sommes en compétition pour le leadership national, nous sommes tous Libériens, et nous ne compromettrons pas les valeurs libériennes ni ne ferons preuve de méchanceté lorsque quelqu'un est en deuil. »

Il a appelé les membres du LPP dans tout le pays à montrer un signe de deuil en arrêtant toutes les festivités et chants de campagne et à rester dans une atmosphère de tristesse en solidarité avec la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir.

« Je suis également choqué d'apprendre que le comté de Nimba, qui a été secoué par les festivités le week-end dernier lorsque nous avons lancé notre campagne nationale et présenté notre vice-porteur d'étendard au peuple Nimba, est maintenant dans la tristesse en raison de la perte d'un de leurs fils. », a dit l'avocat des droits de l'homme et ancien président de l'Association nationale du barreau du Libéria.

Niger: «À mesure que la junte s'installe au pouvoir, la perspective d'une solution diplomatique s'éloigne»



Au Niger, 20 000 partisans du coup d'État se sont réunis, samedi, à Niamey. Un rassemblement dans le stade Général Seyni Kountché alors que la junte a adressé, vendredi soir, un ultimatum de 48 heures à la France pour que son ambassadeur quitte le pays. La Cédéao, de son côté, prépare toujours son intervention armée dans le pays pour rétablir l'ordre constitutionnel et libérer le président renversé, Mohamed Bazoum, toujours retenu avec sa femme et son fils.

Un mois après ce coup d'État, on fait un point sur la

situation aujourd'hui avec Seidik Abba, journaliste, enseignant et président du Centre international de réflexions et d'études sur le Sahel. Il est auteur de Mali-Sahel, notre Afghanistan à nous.

RFI : Des milliers de Nigériens apportent leur soutien aux putschistes. Ils étaient donc 20 000 environ, samedi 26 août à Niamey. Aujourd'hui, quel est le sentiment dans la population ? Est-ce qu'une majorité de Nigériens soutient ce coup d'État ?

Seidik Abba : C'est difficile d'avoir une évaluation très exacte de la popularité dont jouit la junte. On note simplement sa capacité à mobiliser du monde pour montrer qu'elle n'est pas toute seule. Vous l'avez rappelé, il y a ce bras de fer avec la France et aussi, à côté, le bras de fer avec la Cédéao. Donc, pour la junte, il est essentiel de montrer qu'elle n'est pas toute seule et qu'elle peut mobiliser autant de monde.

Mais lorsqu'on mobilise une foule comme celle-là, elle n'est pas homogène. Il y a des gens qui viennent pour soutenir la junte, il y en a d'autres qui viennent parce qu'ils sont contre tout projet d'intervention militaire. Et il y a enfin une troisième catégorie de personnes qui viennent parce qu'elles considèrent qu'il faut affirmer la souveraineté du Niger et que le bras de fer de la junte avec la France mérite d'être soutenu.

La Cédéao prépare toujours cette intervention armée pour rétablir l'ordre constitutionnel dans le pays

Selon vous, cette crise peut-elle encore se régler par voie diplomatique ?

À mesure que la junte s'installe au pouvoir, la perspective d'une solution diplomatique et politique s'éloigne, puisque aujourd'hui, les positions sont tellement éloignées que je ne vois pas de compromis politique. La junte est inscrite depuis le dernier discours de son président, le général Abdourahamane Tiani, dans une perspective de transition. Cela veut dire que pour elle, la VIIe République est derrière elle. Maintenant, il faut envisager la VIIIe République, mettre en place la transition alors que la communauté internationale et la Cédéao prônent un retour à l'ordre constitutionnel normal avec le président Mohamed Bazoum comme président.

Donc, vous voyez, les positions sont tellement éloignées que la perspective d'un compromis politique s'éloigne et à mesure que le compromis politique s'éloigne, la Cédéao n'aura aucune autre option que l'intervention militaire, puisque au-delà du cas du Niger, la Cédéao joue quand même sa crédibilité. Elle n'a pas réussi à avoir la main sur les transitions au Burkina Faso, au Mali et en Guinée, elle ne veut pas rater le cas du Niger. Parce que, pour elle, ce serait ouvrir la voie à une dévolution du pouvoir par les armes dans l'espace ouest-africain.

Selon les ordres de la junte, l'ambassadeur de France, lui, doit avoir quitté le Niger ce soir. Un ultimatum adressé vendredi. La France, qui ne reconnaît pas

l'autorité du Conseil national pour la sauvegarde pour la patrie (CNSP), ne souhaite pas rapatrier son ambassadeur. Samedi, lors de ce rassemblement de partisans du coup d'État, le CNSP a déclaré que « le combat ne s'arrêterait que le jour où il n'y aurait plus aucun militaire français au Niger ».

C'est clairement la prochaine étape pour vous ? Non, il va y avoir une confrontation puisque la posture de la France, avant même le dossier de l'ambassadeur, était de ne pas reconnaître la dénonciation de différents accords militaires, parce qu'il y a plusieurs accords militaires qui régissent la coopération entre le Niger et la France. La junte les a dénoncés et la France a dit qu'elle ne les reconnaissait pas. Là, nous sommes dans une nouvelle étape. La junte a demandé le départ de l'ambassadeur, Sylvain Itté, sous 48 heures. Le quai d'Orsay a répondu qu'il ne partira pas. Donc,



progressivement, on va s'acheminer vers une confrontation ouverte entre la junte et la France. Quel type de confrontation ? Comment va-t-elle s'organiser ? C'est cela qui est l'inconnu, mais il me semble aujourd'hui que nous sommes dans une posture de confrontation de part et d'autre. N'oublions pas que la France a des moyens militaires importants au Niger : 1 500 soldats. Est-ce qu'elle va les engager dans la protection de l'ambassade ? Est-ce que la junte va aller jusqu'à l'ambassade chercher Sylvain Itté pour le mettre dans l'avion ? Il y a une situation de conflictualité assez élevée entre la junte et la France. Et ça, ça risque d'être important dans les prochains jours.

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NAC holds two days training on stigma and discrimination

The National Aids Commission (NAC) in collaboration with partners, has embarked on a two-day stakeholders training on stigma and discrimination.



The training is held for the media, religious and traditional leaders, law enforcement, youth organizations, finance and resource institutions. Speaking at the opening of the training, NAC Chairperson Theodosia Kolee said socio-economic vulnerability, stigma and discrimination remain a challenge for HIV programs in Liberia.

The NAC boss specifically cited members of the key population groups, lamenting an increased number of People Living With HIV (PLWH) who experience interruption

in treatment and lost to follow-up.

She referenced the People Living With HIV Stigma Index study 2.0 report published in

2022.

In that report, she said, 90.6% of male and 87.2% of female respondents reported that it was difficult to tell people about their HIV status. "57.2% of respondents who have stopped or interrupted treatment stated that the main reason behind these actions was a worry that someone would find out about their status," she said.

Similarly, Madam Kolee continued, stigma, discrimination and violence due to sexual orientation, gender identity and drug user remain common.

According to the 2018 IBSS report, regular verbal abuse or physical violence for engaging in what is considered immoral behavior was reported by 70.4% of MSM (men who have sex with men), FSW (female sex workers), and (32.7%) and PWID (people who inject drugs) (5.6%). She said over 15% of MSM (15.8%) and 25.7% of transgender confessed that they were beaten, and 11.9% of MSM and 35.4% of transgender reported experiencing verbal harassment.

Additionally, she said 6.7% of MSM and 20.3% of transgender have been blackmailed for their sexual orientation and 6% of MSM and 18.6% of transgender have been bullied.

NAC added that the overall objective of this training is to strengthen advocacy and the national response to stigma, discrimination and violence against PLHV (people living with HIV) as well as key and vulnerable populations in Liberia, including access to and uptake of HIV services.

NAC said this training is aimed to create awareness and improve the understanding of stigma, discrimination and violence, and how they affect PLHIV and key populations in Liberia.

Starts from back page Ellen wants Liberia's

November 2005, Liberian women made history again by electing Africa's first female President (Ellen Johnson Sirleaf), saying "This showcased the resilience of a woman of substance in leading a war-torn nation through the arduous process of recovery, peace building, and development."

Highlighting Liberia's remarkable achievements, the UN women's country representative further recalls that in 2011, two Liberian women, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Madam Leymah Gbowee, were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. "This solidified Liberia's status as the

context, she stresses the importance of commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Accra Peace Agreement recently in Monrovia and the ongoing election campaign.

Lamptey urges reflection on how Liberia's historical achievements can fuel women's leadership in sustaining hard-won peace, both before and after the elections.

Recognizing the value of intergenerational exchange, she highlights the role of young and emerging women peacebuilders in maintaining Liberia's peace. At the same time, the UN Women's Country Rep. warmly lauds participants for their contribution



only African country with two women Nobel Peace laureates."

She praises the strength, pioneering spirit, and standard-setting role of Liberian women, and salutes all women peacebuilders, including those in memory, who contributed to Liberia's enduring peace.

Regarding the present

to the event, especially partners, including Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace, former President Sirleaf, ECOWAS, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Embassy of Sweden, and Embassy of Ireland, panelists, and moderators for their efforts in organizing a successful dialogue.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 6

Gongloe promises to uphold

was responsible for the death of former Minister of Justice, Cllr. Henry Reeves Cooper.

Cllr. Gongloe laments that it's unfortunate and shameful that Liberia lacks good diagnostic process with lot of treatments being conducted thru guess work all because of the absence of appropriate equipment to diagnose patients, adding that when people are not diagnosed properly, it's difficult to treat properly.

"If the John F. Kennedy Medical Center, which is considered first among all, does not have paracetamol, you do not expect the clinic in 'Bocongodea' or in Sasstown to have medicine", he continues.

He says the people of Liberia are living by the grace of God, because the whole medical system is broken down completely due to lack of rule of law, but vows that when he is elected President, he will never go abroad to seek medication.

The Presidential Candidate who carries a broom in public to symbolize his commitment to sweep corruption in the public sector, also vows that he will not take a cent from government coffers to seek treatment abroad, if elected President, saying "me, my vice president and the government will collectively work to make our health care system works."

"No sick people can do things well; you can't go to school or work if you're not healthy", the Counselor adds.

Meanwhile, the LPP candidate is calling for reconciliation among political actors, noting that even though former President Sirleaf admitted failing to reconcile the nation, there's a need for citizens to reconcile.

"Everywhere I go during this campaign period, I reconcile the people; imagine I slept in Tuzon, former President Doe's town. Given

what happened between the Mano, Gio, and Krahn people during the civil war, I had the courage to sleep in that town and the people knowing where I come from were happy", he reveals.

He notes that Liberians want to be united and they are yearning for a leader that is capable of bringing them together.

According to him, his recent decision to have gone to the ruling CDC headquarters to sympathize with the Coalition for the loss of three female partisans was meant to demonstrate unity, stressing "As we engage in politics and speak against each other, we must not compromise the single star of the country that became the first in Africa." Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 6

PYJ suffers attack on

Kargon, whose hometown they had gone", one eyewitness explained.

Since PYJ and Koung embarked on a 10-day tour of all 19 administrative districts in Nimba, they have asked Nimbaians not to support the re-election of President Weah, because he has brought untold suffering on the people with drugs taking over the entire country, destroying the youth.

Speaking to the NEW DAWN, Representative Kargon said he was not physically present in the district when the incident occurred. He expressed sorrow to Senator Johnson and called on young people in his district to desist from violence.

Meanwhile, political debate among young people in Soe-Vanyanglay town has led to the death of a 32-year-old man.

The late Aloysius Bahn who had reportedly undergone surgery, was pronounced dead at

the G.W. Harly Hospital in Sanniquillie.

Family members told this paper that their brother was suffering from hernia, and during the debate, he was hit in his stomach by Suspects Anthony Saye and Patay Flahn. He was rushed to the hospital in Sanniquillie where another surgery was performed, and spent two nights before his death.

The debate got heated after the deceased asked Anthony Saye and Patay Flahn about a decision taken by former lawmaker now Chair of the Governance Commission, Garrison Yealue, Jr., who supported the opposition Unity Party in past election but is currently supporting the ruling CDC. The violence in Vanyanglay town brings to four the number of attacks in the town including the burning of rice farms and other properties, among others. Editing by Jonathan Browne

16 parties unite to protect votes

Boakai's abrupt travel raises health concerns

By Lewis S. Teh
 Barely 43 days to the October 10th elections, sixteen (16) opposition parties here have signed a pact

disagreements on some things as they compete politically, but the need to safeguard the Liberian people's votes is

asked me to convey his sentiment to this process." For his part, the standard bearer of the opposition Collaborating

By Othello B. Garblah

Unity Party Standard Bearer and former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai announced impromptu travel in the ECOWAS region on Monday, 28 August has raised serious concerns about his poor health and fitness to run as President.

The opposition UP in a statement reacting to social media posts that its standard bearer had been rushed to Ghana on ASKY for health reasons said, Amb. Boakai had made an impromptu trip in the ECOWAS sub-region for three days.

The party also announced in the same statement that it was suspending a planned campaign tour of Montserrado County due to the impromptu travel by its Standard Bearer.

"The Standard Bearer of the Unity Party, Amb. Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., has made an impromptu trip in the ECOWAS sub-region for three days.

In view of the above, the Montserrado District tour involving the Standard Bearer is hereby suspended for the same period of

the time saying, he reportedly checked in at the hospital for precautionary observation after he felt minor fever.

The party's statement did not dispel the cloud which was hovering over the former vice president's health.

And as to add insult to injury, 2011 Nobel Laureate Ms. Leymah Gbowee in an open letter urged Amb. Boakai to retire from politics to focus on his health and grandchildren, saying Unity Party should do the right thing.

"The writings are on the wall; my Uncle Joe is in no position to contest! Uncle Joe, please be well—I pray god's blessings upon you." Ms. Gbowee wrote.

The peace advocate in her write-up at the time further called on UP to reconsider partnering with other political parties to form a merger that will provide a viable political option for the Liberian people.

She concluded by saying "Dear Unity Party, Liberia's political future, and interest lie and rest squarely in your hands! It is high



to protect and safeguard their votes during the polls. Speaking on Monday, August 28, 2023, during the signing ceremony, lead organizer and Presidential Candidate for the opposition African Liberation League (ALL), Madam Sara Beysolow Nyanti, said it has been her vision for the opposition bloc to unite under one umbrella to protect and safeguard the Liberian people's votes. Madam Nyanti, former UN Resident Coordinator to Sudan, stresses that poll-watching is a critical element of the electoral process, so members of the opposition need to collaborate and maximize resources that will give the electorate confidence on polling day that those they cast their ballots for are on the watch for their votes.

"Nobody wants to vote and feels that their vote won't matter, and this is also meant for the Liberian people to have confidence in the electoral process; these are steps we have taken in that direction", she explains. She reveals after birthing the vision, she immediately communicated with all opposition parties and 12 of the parties attended the initial meeting, adding "Today, we have sixteen in attendance for this signing ceremony, from eleven of the parties have signed while the reminder six will do their signing later."

According to the only female candidate among a total of 20 candidates in the race for the Presidency, the idea is for the opposition bloc to unite despite fighting amongst themselves, saying "We have to find a way to unite and protect and safeguard the votes of the Liberian people."

She says there are

paramount. "It's time for every citizen to express joy over this collaboration, because the more we unite, the less we will avoid chaos and the more you find strength in unity, the better you are in terms of sustaining the peace."

She further reveals that they have agreed to form a secretariat with one member from each political party that will prepare a framework, noting there's still a lot to be done in actualizing the dream.

Former female presidential candidate standard bearer for Movement for One Liberia, Macdella Cooper, says it is very important that they fight to protect their votes and it's incumbent upon the opposition to protect and safeguard their votes.

"This government is trying everything possible to steal the results and we can't allow this to happen; if we must redeem this country from the hands of these unfit people then it's time that we act quickly", Ms Cooper urges.

The chairman of the former ruling Unity Party, Rev. Luther Tarpeh, extols Madam Nyanti and her team for organizing and initiating the process leading to the signing of the MOU.

He describes the signing ceremony as historic moment for the opposition bloc, saying

"This is a historic moment for us as opposition; Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai would have loved to be here, but he's gone to Accra for a business purpose, and he had

Political Parties (CPP) Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, describes the initiative as a brilliant idea aimed at uniting the opposition, stressing that this is the period to collaborate instead of competing against themselves. Mr. Cummings: "I also want to publicly remind President Weah that it is his responsibility to ensure a free, fair, and transparent election; he has the constitutional obligation to that.

He has all of the state apparatus; he has control over the NEC and subsequently their appointment and ultimately, it is his responsibility to make sure that this election is free and fair."

The CPP candidate further underscores the need for the opposition to verify if the pending elections will be free, and to do so they must collaborate with a common goal to unseat President Weah.

Opposition parties that were in attendance and affixed their signatures to the MOU include the African Liberation League, Collaborating Political Parties, Democratic People Party, Liberian People's Party, Liberia Restoration Party, Movement for One Liberia, New Liberia Party, Reformer National Congress, The People Party, and Vision for Liberia Transformation, among others. Editing by Jonathan Browne



days. The Montserrado Campaign Team in collaboration with the UP Montserrado Leadership will reschedule the tour for the remaining districts. Meanwhile, the campaign will continue with the same vigor throughout the country." UP forward to this writer via WhatsApp read. Amb. Boakai, 79, has been rumored to be facing some health complications ahead of the 2023 October polls in which he stands as one of the major challengers to incumbent President George Weah.

The former vice president has over 40 years of experience serving in government under his belt including as an agriculture minister from 1983 to 1985 before becoming Liberia's 29th vice president from 2006 to 2018.

Rumors about his poor health spread early this year after he was rushed at the ELWA Hospital on Sunday, January 8, 2023, when he was reported to have suffered a mild stroke, a claim his party denied at

time we put egos aside and put Liberia and her interests first! Do the right thing!!!!"

Just days after Ms. Gbowee wrote suggesting that Boakai should retire from politics to focus on his health and grandkids, partisans of the Unity Party paraded with the former vice president to demonstrate his fitness.

UP partisans flooded social media with images of the former vice president sitting and taking a brief stroll with folder in his hands to demonstrate his fitness and readiness for work.

Pictures showed the former vice president also using his hand appeared to have been unmovable when he was being discharged from the ELWA hospital last week.

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Ellen wants Liberia's peace sealed

By Kruah Thompson

Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says continuity and preservation of peace in Liberia heavily rely on women of Liberia walking the path of

all conditions, offering daily prayers for Liberia's enduring peace.

She made the call on Friday, August 25, in Monrovia when a women's group, Women Peace Builders, organized an inter-

peace." She served as President of Liberia, between 2006 and 2018.

"You don't exercise right, you exercise responsibility. We should also acknowledge that right is a choice; we have the right to issue a statement because it's a right given by the Constitution, so we say to all of you, go and do the right thing."

"It's incredibly important, truthful, and meaningful, as they shaped it into what it is today. Now, it's up to us; today is just an event," Madam Sirleaf reminds. UN Women's Country Representative to Liberia, Ms. Comfort Lamptey, applauds Liberian women for their significant achievements over the past two decades.

"Their collective efforts demonstrated that women could accelerate a country's journey towards peace. While acknowledging that the peace agreement might have eventually been signed, Liberian women's influence pushed warring factions to sign it when they did", she recalls. Ms Lamptey continues that not long after



Ms Sirleaf at the Inter-generational dialogue

their predecessors and honoring their sacrifices that brought the country to its current state.

Madam Sirleaf underscores a need for Liberian women to celebrate and emulate women leaders of the country such as Leymah Gbowee, Jowea, Aisatu, Bendu, Hawa, and the late Mary Brownell, who she notes, unwaveringly endured

generational dialogue to share insights, reflections, and experiences on building and sustaining peace here, especially, as Liberians go to elections in October.

Ms Sirleaf, the first woman elected president in Africa, highlights that for Liberia to experience a peaceful election in October, there's a need for something to "seal this

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