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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2023	L\$184.9192/US\$1.00	L\$186.8301/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

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FIXING LIBERIA FOR ALL LIBERIANS

2023 CUMMINGS FOR PRESIDENT

VOL. 13 NO. 151 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00

P11

UP threatens to drag GOL to Court

Pres. Weah **UP Political Leader Boakai**

-For alleged leak of Boakai's travel information

P11

Cummings sounds warnings

CPP Political Leader Mr. Cummings

-Cautions AMEZU Graduates

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Continental News

Somalia Military Offensive Suffers Setback as Troops Retreat

Somali government forces Monday retreated from towns and villages captured in recent months after the al-Shabab militant group carried out a deadly attack on a newly captured base in the village of

Somali government commander Major Ismail Abdimalik said troops pulled back from some previously captured areas. "There are small strategic retreats," he said while defending the strategy.

The retreat followed what appears to be one of the deadliest

suffered heavy losses. A local official described the attack in Cowsweyne as "painful."

Al-Shabab released a statement claiming to have "overrun" the base, killing 178 soldiers, and capturing prisoners. That claim has not been independently verified.

An al-Shabab official in central Somalia, Yusuf Isse Kabakutukade, Monday claimed the attack on Cowsweyne was a "historic victory." He said Somali government leaders had underestimated the militants saying, "it's a small group, we are going to round them up."

He boasted that al-Shabab fighters seized a large quantity of weapons in Cowsweyne that the group can use them fight for years to come. Somali officials said the militants attacked Cowsweyne using explosions from vehicle-borne explosive devices, or car bombs, followed by an attack by armed militants who engaged in heavy gun battles with government forces.

The state-run Somali National News Agency said government forces repelled the attack and destroyed the car bombs. But a purported al-Shabab video of the attack published Monday shows multiple dead bodies scattered in the base.

African music legend sings tune of Mali's coup leaders

Shock. Bafflement. Scepticism. These were some of the reactions among a group of music fans when Mali's much-beloved Salif Keita - known as the Golden Voice of Africa - was appointed as a special adviser to coup leader Col Assimi Goïta.

The 73-year-old might be in semi-retirement and eclipsed nowadays by Afrobeats stars, but he was one of the pioneering giants of a generation that put African music on the global map.

After 50 successful years in the music industry, he remains influential, admired and well-known.

Keita mixes traditional Mandé music with jazz, blues and Western music styles and was nominated several times for a Grammy for his infectious melodies and powerful voice.

He has albinism - and he has campaigned tirelessly against discrimination.

In 2005, the musician set up

on cultural affairs to a man who has led not one but two coups - the first in August 2020 and the second in May 2021?

Three years ago, there was significant popular support for Mali's military junta when it seized power after mass protests against then-President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, who is no relation to the musician. People had had enough of feeble leadership, corruption, economic hardship and chronic insecurity caused by an Islamist insurgency.

The musical mega-star was one of them - Keita had been very outspoken in his criticism of IBK, as the ousted and late president was known. In 2019, a video of Keita, speaking in the Bambara language and addressing IBK directly, went viral.

He demanded that the president stand up against the former colonial power, France, which then had troops in Mali fighting the militant Islamists. Keita dismissed France's President Emmanuel Macron as a "kid" - and falsely accused France



A Somali police officer looks from the broken windows following an attack by al-Shabab militants at the Liido beach in Mogadishu

Cowsweyne. Two Somali government officials who did not want to be identified because they are not allowed to comment on sensitive military operations told VOA Somali that government troops retreated from El Dheer, Masagaway, Gal'ad and Budbud. Without naming towns,

attacks by al-Shabab on Somali government forces Saturday in Cowsweyne, where troops had initially dislodged al-Shabab on Aug. 22.

Somali government officials have avoided giving details of the attack, but multiple security sources who did not want to be identified said the two brigades that captured Cowsweyne

Ugandan man faces death penalty under anti-gay law

A man in Uganda faces the death penalty after being charged with "aggravated homosexuality".

His lawyer told Reuters the 20-year-old was the first to be prosecuted for the offence under tough new anti-LGBTQ legislation signed into law in May.

According to the charge sheet, he is accused of unlawful sexual intercourse with a 41-year-old man, although no further details were given.

"Aggravated homosexuality" can involve sex with children or vulnerable people.

It can also be deemed aggravated if someone is forced to have same-sex relations, is infected with a life-long illness including HIV or in cases of serial offenders. The East African nation has among the harshest anti-LGBTQ laws in the world, and anyone convicted of engaging in homosexual acts faces life imprisonment.

The legislation has drawn widespread criticism outside

the country and prompted the World Bank to halt loans to Uganda earlier this month.

Several people have been arrested this month for allegedly engaging in same-sex activity.

The man charged with aggravated homosexuality appeared in court on 18 August in the eastern city of Soroti, Jacquelyn Okui, spokesperson for the state prosecutors, told the AFP news agency.

She told Reuters he will remain in custody until his case is heard by the High Court, given it was a

capital offence.

His lawyer, Justine Balya, told Reuters she felt Uganda's anti-gay laws were unconstitutional and were currently being challenged in court.

She gave no further details of the case, except to say it was the first aggravated homosexuality charge before the courts.

Uganda has not carried out an execution since 2005, but capital punishment has not been abolished. BBC



the Salif Keita Global Foundation to raise awareness of the condition and speak out against a perception in some African countries that albinism is an ill omen.

People with albinism are often shunned and bullied - as Keita was as a child - and in some countries, like Burundi and Tanzania, they are killed or body parts cut off and used in rituals. Keita's dream as a child was to be a teacher - but he was denied the opportunity and told he "would scare the children".

Keita has raised funds from his concerts and donated proceeds of his record sales to his foundation to help with medical assistance of people with albinism - who are more prone to skin cancer and poor eyesight because of their genetic condition.

So why would Keita take on such a role as special adviser

of financing the jihadists. He has also expressed doubts about Western-style democracy working in African countries.

"Democracy is not a good thing for Africa," he told the UK's Guardian newspaper in 2019. "To have a democracy, people have to understand democracy, and how can people understand when 85% of the people in the country cannot read or write?"

Keita suggested that African people needed "a benevolent dictator".

His views are out of step with most Africans - almost 70% of people in 30 African countries say "democracy is preferable to any other kind of government", according to a survey published by research group Afrobarometer in May. In Mali, however, 82% of people trust the military "somewhat" or "a lot". So Keita appears to be in tune with the public mood in the West African state by supporting the junta. BBC



Uganda has resisted pressure from donors to drop the Anti-Homosexuality Act that became law in May

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Raghuram G. Rajan

Party militants are threats to peace

The Populist Advantage

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.

CHICAGO - Even in the best of times, policymakers find it difficult to explain complex issues to the public. But when they have the public's trust, the ordinary citizen will say, "I know broadly what you are trying to do, so you don't need to explain every last detail to me." This was the case in many advanced economies before the global financial crisis, when there was a broad consensus on the direction of economic policy. While the United States placed greater emphasis on deregulation, openness, and expanding trade, the European Union was more concerned with market integration. In general, though, the liberal (in the classical British sense) orthodoxy prevailed.

So pervasive was this consensus that one of my younger colleagues at the International Monetary Fund found it hard to get a good job in academia, despite holding a PhD from MIT's prestigious economics department, probably because her work showed that trade liberalization had slowed the rate of poverty reduction in rural India. While theoretical papers showing that freer trade could have such adverse effects were acceptable, studies that demonstrated the phenomenon empirically were met with skepticism.

The global financial crisis shattered both the prevailing consensus and the public's trust. Clearly, the liberal orthodoxy had not worked for everyone in the US. Now-acceptable studies showed that middle-class manufacturing workers exposed to Chinese competition had been hit especially hard. "Obviously," the accusation went, "the policymaking elites, whose friends and family were in protected service jobs, benefited from cheap imported goods and could not be trusted on trade." In Europe, the free movement of goods, capital, services, and people within the single market were seen as serving the interests of the EU's unelected bureaucrats in Brussels more than anyone else.

After the old orthodoxy was found wanting, and after its proponents had lost the public's trust, the door opened to unorthodox solutions. But while thinking outside the box can produce good outcomes, policy prescriptions also need to be easily understood by the untrusting layperson. Therein lie the roots of bad populist policies.

If we need to create jobs, why not erect tariffs to protect workers? If we need to spend, why not just print money (as Modern Monetary Theory dictates)? If we want to revive manufacturing, why not emphasize the danger of depending on China, and offer subsidies and other incentives for firms to reshore or friend-shore operations? If we need to make the financial system safer, why not raise capital requirements on banks still further?

Because the liberal orthodoxy has been discredited in the eyes of the public, many such policies that were anathema to it have now re-emerged. But, equally important,

the appeal of populist policies, however unsound or unsuccessful in the past, is that they seem obviously true and are easy to communicate. As the American essayist H.L. Menken famously quipped, "for every complex problem, there is an answer that is clear, simple, and wrong." After all, who cannot see that import tariffs will protect at least some domestic jobs? Though the jobs saved by new steel tariffs will raise the cost of manufacturing cars domestically, leading to potential job losses in that industry, this point requires an additional step of reasoning that is harder to communicate.

Similarly, replacing a supplier from China with one in a friendly country would seem to make a supply chain more resilient to a potential China-US conflict; but it also may create a false sense of security, considering that many friendly suppliers still rely on China for key inputs. Analogously, raising capital requirements may have made banks safer after the global financial crisis; but to continue raising them will only increase banks' costs of funding and reduce their activities, leading to a migration of risk into the unregulated, opaque shadow financial sector.

According to the twentieth-century liberal French journalist Frédéric Bastiat, "There is only one difference between a bad economist and a good one: the bad economist confines himself to the visible effect; the good economist takes into account both the effect that can be seen and those effects that must be foreseen." But when there is no trust, warnings by policymakers and economists about unseen second-round effects simply will not be believed. Those urging fiscal restraint, for example, will be tagged with the Dr. Doom epithet and dismissed - at least until real (inflation-adjusted) interest rates increase to the point that servicing the bloated public debt requires austerity. Seeing is believing, but it comes too late.

Emerging markets and developing countries have been through such cycles before, which may be why some of them have emerged as proponents of orthodox liberal macroeconomic policies this time around. Yet the temptation to pursue unorthodox populist policies remains strong, especially now that rich industrialized countries have embraced them.

Hence, India, despite its terrible experience with the so-called License Raj, recently started requiring licenses to import computers - in part to support domestic production, and in part to reduce its dependence on Chinese imports. But what about the negative consequences for IT service exports (India's greatest source of export revenue) and for Indian business more generally? Argentina, an addict to populism, seems to be shifting its affections from the left-wing Peronists to a right-wing libertarian, who promises to cure inflation by, among other actions, adopting the US dollar (again!).

OP-ED

By Joel E. Cohen,
John E. Rogers

Connecting Liberia: Lonestar Cell MTN's 22 Years of Digital Transformation and Community Impact

(28 August 2023, Monrovia, Liberia) In an era marked by rapid technological advancements, the digital world has woven itself into the fabric of our lives, redefining how we communicate, conduct business, and access information. As Lonestar Cell MTN, Liberia's pioneering telecommunications company, celebrates its 22nd anniversary, it's not just a milestone for the company, but a testament to the transformative power of connectivity and innovation in shaping a nation's progress.

Since its inception, Lonestar Cell MTN has been unwavering in its commitment to bring the benefits of a modern and connected life to Liberians. Lonestar Cell MTN firmly believes that modernization and connectivity are not privileges reserved for a few, but fundamental rights that can foster economic growth, digital inclusion, and community development. This vision has propelled the company to become a driving force behind Liberia's technological evolution.

Key Achievements

One of Lonestar Cell MTN's remarkable achievements over the past 22 years is its expansive network reach. Through relentless dedication, the company's network coverage now blankets every part of Liberia, be it bustling urban centers or remote rural areas. This has played an instrumental role in bridging the digital divide, allowing even the most remote communities to participate in the digital revolution.

The introduction of MTN Mobile Money in 2011 stands as a watershed moment in Liberia's financial landscape. By empowering millions with access to banking services through their mobile phones, Lonestar Cell MTN unleashed the potential for financial independence and inclusion. This innovation has not only transformed how Liberians manage their finances but has also significantly contributed to the growth of the nation's economy.

Education has been another cornerstone of Lonestar Cell MTN's mission. Through initiatives like providing school supplies, internships, and digital learning resources, the company is nurturing the Liberian youth, preparing them for a technology-driven future. This commitment to education reflects a deep understanding of the role digital literacy plays in shaping the workforce of tomorrow.

Digital Technological Growth

Moreover, Lonestar Cell MTN has acted as a catalyst for entrepreneurship, enabling local businesses to harness the power of digital technology for growth. Through strategic partnerships and impactful programs, the company has provided essential support to these enterprises, thereby contributing to job creation and economic empowerment.

The company's dedication to environmental sustainability is commendable. By embracing eco-friendly practices and deploying solar smart generators, Lonestar Cell MTN showcases how a tech-driven enterprise can prioritize both progress and the planet.

But Lonestar Cell MTN's contributions go beyond technology and business. Its commitment to social responsibility is evidenced by its support for emergency response services and health-related initiatives, touching lives in meaningful ways. The "21 Days of Y'ello Care" campaign and the "Heroes of Change" initiative exemplify the company's ethos of giving back to the communities it serves.

As Lonestar Cell MTN commemorates its 22nd anniversary, it stands as a symbol of Liberia's journey into the digital age. Under the leadership of Rahul De, the Chief Executive Officer, the company remains dedicated to its mission of enriching lives through innovation. This anniversary isn't just a celebration of accomplishments; it's a reaffirmation of the company's enduring commitment to Liberia and its people.

Lonestar Cell MTN extends its heartfelt gratitude to its customers, partners, and stakeholders. Their support has been the driving force behind the company's journey, and as the digital world continues to evolve, Lonestar Cell MTN stands ready to lead Liberia into a future where connectivity knows no bounds.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Bomi has sent a message to the rest of Liberia

Last week, citizens of Bomi County booed and shouted No, no, when President George Weah introduced Senator Morris Saytumah at the start of his re-election campaign in Western Liberia.

Sen. Saytumah is one of two senators from Bomi County. Like his colleague Sen. Edwin Melvin Snowe, both men are not members of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC but have aligned themselves with the CDC for the 2023 October 10, Presidential and Legislative elections.

Unlike Sen. Snowe, Sen. Saytumah previously elected on the former ruling Unity Party ticket is seeking re-election in October and has thought to align himself with President Weah and CDC to boost his re-election chances.

However, the citizens are not buying into that and have been emphatic and very vociferous in making their feelings known when it comes to giving Sen. Saytumah another nine years in the Senate.

A former minister of state for Economic Affairs under former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's administration, Sen. Saytumah has become very unpopular with his people over time.

Sen. Saytumah, according to those opposing his re-election in the county has made little or no impact on the lives of the people in the county. His relationship with his people has been very poor to say the least—that is according to citizens in the area. Some say he lives in total isolation and wonder how he even got elected in the first place.

His upright public rejection by citizens against his re-election speaks volume of how far the Liberian voting populace have come in terms of electing their officials.

The booing and shouting of no, no, to the introduction of Sen. Saytumah by President Weah as someone who the electorate should vote for because of his alignment with him has sent a very clear message of how sophisticated Liberian voters are becoming.

It is a clear demonstration of their sophistication, that no matter whose shadow you hide behind, regardless of their loyalty and love for that person, they will outrightly reject you based on your own performance.

The upright rejection of Sen. Saytumah right before the very eyes of President Weah, though uncomfortable, but it's saying that Liberian electorates are beginning to think for themselves.

Many of the country's current legislators got elected because of placing their photos with that of an aspiring presidential candidate or say in the case of CDC lawmakers-President Weah.

Over time, majority if not all have performed dismally in their districts and counties but want to hide behind the popularity of President Weah to get re-elected. This is a message that should resonate with them as well.

Moreover, this should also be a warning to all presidential candidates who are roaming the country campaigning with candidates (sitting lawmakers) who have made little or no impact on the lives of their citizens but are now seeking re-elections and using their popularities to win voters over. These failed lawmakers could be thieves in their fest.

Meanwhile, the citizens of Bomi have sent a message that the rest of Liberia should take queue. That is, you cannot elect an individual because his or her hand has been lifted by someone you have explicit confidence in. Candidates should be elected based on their ability to deliver not on alignment.

Presidential candidates too should be very careful to avoid these failed politicians becoming an excess baggage for their campaigns. Politics, they say is about the numbers, but some numbers come in the form of subtraction, not addition.

There are presidential candidates in the current race whose alignment with some politicians is going to cause them a great due because Liberians would think that voting for these candidates would mean restoring them to state power.


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, reorganize 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

CDC Youth League in door-door-campaign

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Youth-League has engaged in a door-to-door campaign for the re-election of President George Manneh

elected.

He believes that Mr. Weah can win a resounding one-round victory against 19 other presidential candidates.

Johnson rallied citizens in

the lives of the people and have allegedly developed the country more than any other in the race.

The door-to-door campaign sought to sway voters' perceptions and create awareness. It also sought to provide voter education in communities about the electoral process.

The CDC campaign volunteers include first-time voters who were deployed to visit households in various zones, remotest communities, and blocs.

They discussed President Weah's achievements and why he should be re-elected.

Chairman Johnson, in furtherance, added that the door-to-door campaign aims to reshape the minds of voters, and their opinions, and to sensitize them.

It seeks to get feedback on President Weah's initiatives for economic development and social welfare, such as infrastructure improvements, healthcare, and educational policy reforms, among others.

"We are here to rally our people, interact with them, grab their inputs on economic development and social livelihoods," he said. Despite the mixed views and opinions

Female workers induct new leadership at Public Works

By Lewis S Teh

Female Worker's Association at the Ministry of Public Works has inducted a new corps of officers that will steer the affairs of the association for the next few years. Those installed along with Madam Saye include: Ms Rosetta Luolay Ajavon, Vice President; Miss Miatta Flomo, Queen; Mrs. Sonia Doe Twoe, Secretary General; Mrs. Patience N. Paye, Financial Secretary; Miss Aylmerlyn Joshan Brooks, Assistant Financial Secretary; Mrs. Christiana Gbadebo Rennie, Treasurer; Mother Comfort S. Arnor, Religious Advisor, Miss Diena Dunn Sherman, Chaplain; and Miss Janjay Harris, Head of Publicity.

Speaking at the 2nd inaugural program and empowerment

self-esteem despite growing up with many challenges."

Ms Saye said during her upcoming, she believed in herself and kept pushing forward, knowing there was a hero in her that would have shown up someday.

She cautioned members of her team to be courageous, stay positive and strong, noting that they can live a fulfilled life by being themselves. She revealed that the vision of the Association under her leadership will focus on seeking opportunities for empowerment, sustainability and efficient leadership as well as jobs and economic security.

She challenged her colleague females to pursue their top priorities in order to get on the path toward developing an "opportunity culture." "We want all our women to be able to fulfill



Weah. CDC Youth League chair Emmanuel Mulbah Johnson believes that incumbent President Weah is unbeatable in the forthcoming presidential and legislative elections. On Monday, 28 August 2023, Chairman Johnson bragged about the free-tuition scheme, more health facilities, infrastructure developments, road connectivity, and stable electricity, among others as grounds for Weah to be re-

Montserrado Electoral District #4 to vote for Mr. Weah and CDC candidates seeking legislative positions on a 'vote-one-vote all' basis.

According to Johnson, electing President Weah and CDC candidates will allow the CDC regime to continue unprecedented developments for the country.

Under five years, Johnson noted, Mr. Weah and his leadership have transformed

US\$3.2m outstanding for elections

-NEC chairperson

By Ethel A. Tweh

National Elections Commission (NEC) chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne-Lansanah has informed the Liberia Senate that there is an outstanding of US\$3.2M for the conduct of this year's elections.

The NEC boss appeared before the Liberian Senate Tuesday, 29 August 2023 and lamented the financial gap with less than two months to the presidential and legislative elections. She said the Commission has so far received US\$49, 710, 210.00 out of US\$53M needed to conduct the 10 October 2023 elections.

Browne-Lansanah also informed the Senate that recruitment of portal has been published for the recruitment of temporary staff and data will be retrieved from the portal to determine the capacity of applicants to conduct the 2023 elections. Madam Lansanah further noted that Final Registration Roll will be published and released to political parties in September.

The NEC chairperson indicated that while it is true that biometric was used for the

voters' registration process, voting is going to be conducted on a manual basis.

However, she stressed that no gadget (camera) will be allowed in the voting room.

Madam Browne-Lansanah was queried by Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence as to why 93 pprecincts have exceeded the threshold of 3,000 in keeping with Section 4.3 of the Elections Law.

The NEC chair conceded to violating the law. She was further questioned by Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon as to who the current head for the NEC's Legal Section is.

Dillon sought to know who heads the department because Atty. Teage Jalloh did not meet the criteria of a Counsellor to serve as head of such department.

In response, the Chairperson of the Commission stated that they are working with legal consultants to handle legal matters of the Commission.

Concluding the hearing, Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert T. Chie mandated the NEC chairperson to appoint an acting head of the Legal Department within two weeks.



NEC Chair Davidetta-Browne-Lansana



scheme launch recently, the president-elect Mrs. Irene Doegma Saye expressed a sense of both honor and humanity. "I'm deeply honored to welcome all of our invited guests for being here today", she said.

She thanked the Ministry of Public Works and members of the Association for the confidence reposed in her and the management team of the Ministry for their welcoming embrace.

Ms Saye said the new leadership has a mix of knowledge, skills, experience and determination to work hard on behalf of female employees of the ministry to deliver on its agenda.

"We will not pretend to be any more of experts than others, but we can assure all our women will feel they have a safe place in this association." According to her, despite coming from a poor background, one thing she did was never to allow people to take advantage of her situation, saying "I did not compromise my

their potentials; we want our members to be protected and supported, we want to reach out to the most vulnerable in our membership", Ms Saye underscored.

She added that there was a need to provide support to the new leadership to allow them introduce local initiatives that are both appropriate and sustainable, saying "As we launch this pilot empowerment skills training program, it is important to note why empowering women is so important.

Madam Saye named sense of worth, right to have and to determine choices, to have access to opportunities, and resources, to have power to control own lives, both within and outside of their various homes, including the ability to influence decision making as the five key components that women empowerment possess.

She narrated that the scheme is designed to provide female

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CECPAP takes Farmington Declaration to Central Liberia

Residents of Saclepea, Nimba County, will today, Wednesday, August 30, converge at the Saclepea

document. According to a release from CECPAP, the forum is being held under the theme: Promoting

of peace, anti-hate speech, disinformation, misinformation, and vices that fuel conflict and that constitute violation of the



Administrative Hall to dialogue on the Farmington River Declaration signed on April 4, 2023 by political parties and presidential candidates. The Center for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding (CECPAP) will guard the dialogue. Last week, CECPAP hosted similar dialogue forums in two counties - Zorzor, Lofa, and Gbarnga, Bong respectively.

The Saclepea dialogue forum is part of an ongoing eight-part series community dialogue that has been taking place in several counties for the past three weeks. Already, residents of Grand Cape Mount, Gbapolu, Lofa, and Bong counties have met and discussed the Declaration while Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, and Maryland counties are set to discuss the

Peaceful Electoral Environment and Community Security in Liberia. It is geared towards increasing Liberians' knowledge and awareness level about the Farmington River Declaration signed recently by political parties and presidential candidates.

The Saclepea dialogue seeks to engage county authorities, community leaderships, local dwellers, and other stakeholders on their civic responsibility to preventing and managing violence during this electoral period. Liberians, as part of their roles and civic responsibilities, have the moral obligation to create and promote a peaceful electoral environment before, during and after elections, the release stresses.

The forum will create awareness on the maintenance

2023 Farmington Declaration.

It is expected that at the end of the community dialogue forum, community leaders and stakeholders in the eight counties are sensitized about commitments contained in the Farmington Declaration and can hold political parties and presidential candidates to account for their misdeeds. The participants will also have the skill and ability to prevent violence and resolve issues surrounding electoral violence.

The community dialogue forum is being organized and facilitated by CECPAP with funding provided by the UN Peacebuilding Fund. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is supervising the implementation of the project. Press Release

Leadership crisis engulfs Liberia Labour Congress

By Naneka Hoffman

Former Ministry of Labor, Cllr. Philip T. Dixon, reveals here that the Liberia Labor Congress has been in leadership crisis since 2020, with two competing leaderships taking each other back and forth in court.

Speaking in an exclusive interview on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 Atty. Dixon explained that the Supreme Court of Liberia in its final ruling called for a new election as one of the purported leaderships' tenure had expired while the election of the other was invalid. According to him, both sides have been attending meetings of a committee that they claim not to recognize since February. He explains that the grouping complaining only began to have problems after August 16th, when he announced the timetable for election. Cllr. Dixon added that 19 members participated, adding that there is only a small portion (7) of the 26 member organizations that make up the Liberia Labor Congress. He says the elections were held in good fate and the court would hand down ruling on

Health Workers of Liberia and workers in the agricultural and informal sectors in all 15 counties of Liberia to be on a standby for an eventual indefinite stay-home action. Speaking on behalf of the elected members, newly elected Secretary General of the Liberia Labor Congress Marcus S. Blama, says the LLC has been in confusion over leadership for the past two years, adding that the case had dragged from the lower court to the Supreme Court. According to him, the Supreme Court mandated the lower court to enforce the judgment that was handed down in 2020, detailing that the ruling was that the Ministry of Labor should appoint a creditable committee to conduct election for the LLC because the was no more election commissioners. Mr. Blama reveals that the commissioners conducted the first election but the results went to court and they could not be found so the Congress couldn't use them. According to him, the Labor Ministry should have appointed a creditable committee to hold election for the LLC, adding that they had earlier appointed former Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Musa Scott, on the committee, adding that they



Cllr. Philip T. Dixon

Starts from page 6 Female workers induct new

workers and some of their male counterparts at the ministry additional skills that will aid their revenue generation.

According to her, the project seeks to offer skills training for about 250 persons 80% of whom are women and 20% men, at a cost of US\$6,560.00 with members contributing US\$550.00.

"Distinguished guests and members of the Ministry of Public Works Family, we're kindly asking you to help us

help ourselves. When women are empowered, the country benefits", she stressed.

Meanwhile, the guest speaker at the program, Rev. Odell Swen cautioned the new leadership to be the real deal that will seek the welfare of its followers. "Leadership is not so much about the journey but the processes; today as you have been installed into office, people will begin looking up to you.

You must act as leaders; you must take and follow

instructions at all time; the plight of the people should be your primary concern", Rev. Swen urged. She further challenged the newly inducted officials to provide clarity, support and opportunity to keep learning and leading. Among guests at the program were Police Inspector General Patrick Sudue, a proxy of CDC Campaign Manager, Lenn Eugene Nagbe, and Assistant Public Works Minister, Jeff Chesson.

the conduct of their mandate.

It can be recalled that over the weekend, the Liberia Labor Congress Acting Secretary General, John Nyemah Nat, held a press conference in which he rejected the outcome of the election conducted by Counselor Phil Dixon-led special election committee, because the Labor Ministry violated mandate of the Supreme Court by conducting the election without taking into consideration the laws governing elections. Mr. Nat discloses that the meeting will bring together members of the national executive committee, affiliate unions, and all public sector workers. He alleges that the Liberia Labor Congress Secretary General threatened to mobilize 900,000 members from the National Teachers Association of Liberia, Civil Servants Association of Liberia, National

started having meeting together with all the parties until she was charged for murder and taken to jail. Meanwhile, he acknowledged that Cllr. Dixon was appointed to chair the committee and he subsequently

called the first, second meetings they all attended, and in the third meeting, they were asked to apply for various elected positions, but their brothers from the otherside decided to backoff.

He states that the Supreme Court clarifies that Civil Servants, Health Workers and Teachers Association are not part of the Liberia Labor Congress because they have different standing rules, adding that this led to disagreement between them because some members are contending that these institutions or associations should be part of the election.

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Français

16 partis s'unissent pour « protéger les votes »

Seize (16) partis d'opposition ont signé un pacte pour protéger et sauvegarder leurs votes lors des élections présidentielle et législatives

vote du peuple libérien. Madame Nyanti, ancienne coordonnatrice résidente des Nations Unies au Soudan, a affirmé que l'observation des élections

peuple libérien ait également confiance dans le processus électoral. Ce sont des mesures que nous avons prises dans ce sens », a-t-elle expliqué.

Elle a révélé qu'après avoir donné

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.



prévues pour avoir lieu le 10 octobre prochain, dans moins de 45 jours.

S'exprimant le lundi 28 août 2023, lors de la cérémonie de signature, l'organisatrice principale et candidate à la présidentielle de la Ligue de libération de l'Afrique (ALL), Madame Sara Beysolow Nyanti, a déclaré que sa vision était de réunir toute l'opposition sous un même parapluie pour protéger et sauvegarder le

est un élément essentiel du processus électoral. Les membres de l'opposition doivent donc collaborer et maximiser les ressources qui donneront à l'électorat la certitude, le jour du scrutin, que ceux pour lesquels ils ont voté veilleront à ce que leurs votes soient pris en compte.

« Personne ne veut voter et estimer que son vote n'a pas d'importance. Il s'agit de faire en sorte que le

naissance à la vision, elle a immédiatement communiqué avec tous les partis d'opposition et 12 des partis ont assisté à la réunion initiale, ajoutant « Aujourd'hui, nous avons seize personnes présentes pour cette cérémonie de signature, dont onze ont signé et les autres le feront plus tard ».

Selon la seule candidate féminine parmi un total de 20 candidats en lice pour la présidence, l'idée est de faire en sorte que le bloc d'opposition s'unisse en dépit de leurs différences.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Le voyage brutal de Boakai suscite des préoccupations quant à son état de santé

L'annonce d'un voyage impromptu du leader politique du Parti de l'Unité (UP) dans la sous-région le lundi 28 août soulève de sérieuses inquiétudes quant à son état de santé et son aptitude à se présenter à la présidence.

Le Parti de l'Unité, dans un communiqué réagissant aux publications sur les réseaux sociaux selon lesquelles son porte-drapeau avait été transporté d'urgence au Ghana sur ASKY pour des raisons de santé, a déclaré : « L'Ambassadeur Boakai est allé en voyage improvisé dans la sous-région de la CEDEAO pour trois jours ».

Le parti a également annoncé dans le même communiqué la suspension de la tournée qui était prévue dans le cadre de la campagne dans le comté de Montserrado en raison du voyage impromptu de son porte-étendard.

« Le leader politique du Parti de l'Unité, Joseph Nyuma Boakai, est allé en voyage de façon improvisée dans la sous-région de la CEDEAO pour trois jours.

Compte tenu de ce qui précède, la tournée du District de Montserrado est suspendue. L'équipe de campagne de Montserrado, en collaboration avec la direction de l'UP Montserrado, reprogrammera la tournée pour les districts restants. Pendant ce temps, la campagne se poursuivra avec la même vigueur dans tout le pays »

Selon certaines rumeurs, Boakai, 79 ans, serait confronté à des problèmes de santé à l'approche des élections d'octobre 2023, dans lesquelles il se présente comme l'un des principaux challengers du président sortant

George Weah.

L'ancien vice-président a plus de 40 ans d'expérience au sein du gouvernement, notamment en tant que ministre de l'Agriculture de 1983 à 1985 avant de devenir le 29e vice-président du Libéria de 2006 à 2018.

Les rumeurs sur sa mauvaise santé se sont répandues au début de cette année après qu'il ait été transporté d'urgence à l'hôpital ELWA le dimanche 8 janvier 2023, où il

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Français

Starts from page 8 **16 partis s'unissent pour**

: « Nous devons trouver un moyen de nous unir, de protéger et de sauvegarder les votes des électeurs. Il existe des désaccords sur certains points car ils sont en concurrence politique, mais la nécessité de sauvegarder les votes du peuple libérien est primordiale. Il est temps que chaque citoyen exprime sa joie face à cette collaboration, car plus nous nous unissons, moins nous éviterons le chaos et plus vous trouverez la force dans l'unité, mieux vous serez confiants en termes de maintien de la paix. », a-t-elle dit.

Elle a révélé en outre qu'ils ont convenu de former un secrétariat composé d'un membre de chaque parti politique qui préparera un cadre. Il reste encore beaucoup à faire pour concrétiser ce rêve.

Macdella Cooper, ancienne candidate à la présidentielle et porte-drapeau du Mouvement pour un Libéria, a affirmé qu'il est très important qu'ils se battent pour protéger leurs votes et qu'il incombe à l'opposition de protéger et de sauvegarder leurs votes.

« Ce gouvernement fait tout son possible pour voler les résultats et nous ne pouvons pas permettre que cela se produise. Si nous devons libérer ce pays des mains de ces personnes inaptes, il est temps d'agir rapidement », a insisté Mme Cooper.

Le président du Parti de

l'Unité, ancien au pouvoir, a félicité Madame Nyanti et son équipe pour avoir organisé et lancé le processus menant à la signature du protocole d'accord.

Le révérend Luther Tarpeh a décrit la cérémonie de signature comme un moment historique pour le bloc de l'opposition. « C'est un moment historique pour nous en tant qu'opposition. L'ancien vice-président Joseph N. Boakai aurait adoré être ici, mais il est allé à Accra pour des raisons commerciales, et il m'a demandé de lui faire part de son sentiment sur ce processus ». Pour sa part, M. Alexander B. Cummings, leader politique de la Collaboration des Partis Politiques (CPP), a qualifié l'initiative d'une brillante idée qui vise à unir l'opposition, soulignant que c'est la période pour collaborer au lieu de rivaliser entre eux.

M. Cummings : « Je tiens également à rappeler publiquement au président Weah qu'il est de sa responsabilité de garantir des élections libres, équitables et transparentes. Il a l'obligation constitutionnelle de le faire. Il possède tout l'appareil d'État. Il contrôle la NEC et par la suite sa nomination et, en fin de compte, il est de sa responsabilité de veiller à ce que cette élection soit libre et équitable ».

Le candidat de la CPP a souligné en outre qu'il est nécessaire que l'opposition vérifie si les élections à venir seront libres et, pour ce faire, elle doit collaborer dans un objectif commun, celui de renverser le président Weah.

Starts from page 8 **Le voyage brutal de Boakai suscite des**

aurait subi un léger accident vasculaire cérébral, une affirmation que son parti avait démentie à l'époque, affirmant qu'il se serait rendu à l'hôpital pour une observation préventive après avoir ressenti une légère fièvre. La déclaration du parti n'a pas dissipé le nuage qui planait sur la santé de l'ancien vice-président.

Et pour ajouter l'insulte à la blessure, la lauréate du prix Nobel 2011, Mme Leymah Gbowee, dans une lettre ouverte, avait exhorté M. Boakai à se retirer de la politique pour se concentrer sur sa santé et ses petits-enfants,

affirmant que le Parti de l'unité devrait faire ce qu'il faut. « Les écrits sont sur le mur ; mon oncle Joe n'est pas en position de contester ! Oncle Joe, portez-vous bien, je prie pour que Dieu vous bénisse », avait écrit Mme Gbowee.

Dans son article de l'époque, la défenseure de la

paix appelait en outre l'UP à reconsidérer son partenariat avec d'autres partis politiques afin de former une fusion qui offrirait une option politique viable au peuple libérien. Elle a conclu en disant : « Cher Parti de l'Unité, l'avenir politique et les intérêts du Libéria sont entièrement entre vos mains ! Il est grand temps de mettre nos egos de côté et de donner la priorité au Libéria et à ses intérêts ! Faire la bonne chose !!!! "Quelques jours seulement après que Mme Gbowee ait écrit suggérant que Boakai devrait se retirer de la politique pour se concentrer sur sa santé et ses petits-enfants,

des partisans du Parti de l'unité ont défilé avec l'ancien vice-président pour démontrer sa forme physique.

Les partisans de l'UP ont inondé les réseaux sociaux d'images de l'ancien vice-président assis et se promenant brièvement avec un dossier à la main pour démontrer son aptitude et sa volonté de travailler.

Bernard Gomou annonce que la Guinée va fournir de l'électricité à "la Guinée Bissau, la Sierra Leone, le Libéria et la Côte d'Ivoire"



Le Premier ministre a effectué samedi une visite du terrain au Centre d'interconnexion électrique de Linsan pour constater de visu l'état d'avancement des travaux. Considéré par les autorités de la transition comme le plus grand distributeur de l'énergie de la sous-région avec une composante énergétique de 1700 Km de ligne pour 15 postes, il va desservir plusieurs pays de la sous-région dans le cadre de l'OMVG.

« Le poste de Linsan est un poste stratégique, c'est le

plus grand poste de distribution d'électricité en Afrique de l'Ouest. Donc, c'est une chance pour la Guinée d'abriter ce projet. C'est un projet de l'OMVG dont la Guinée est membre. Avec le poste de Linsan, nous allons électrifier la Moyenne Guinée, la Haute Guinée et c'est déjà fait pour Boké. Le courant pourra quitter la Guinée vers la Guinée-Bissau, vers la Sierra Leone, le Libéria et la Côte d'Ivoire », décrit le chef du gouvernement.

Bernard Gomou met cette réalisation à l'actif du Comité national du rassemblement pour le développement (CNRD). « A l'avènement du 5 septembre 2021, les travaux n'avaient pas avancé. Le colonel Mamadi Doumbouya a instruit son gouvernement de mettre tout en œuvre, en accord avec les autorités de l'OMVG, pour que ce chantier soit rendu avant la fin de l'année 2023 », assure le patron du palais de la Colombe.

Il rappelle que « lorsque le chef de l'Etat a rendu visite aux habitants de Labé, lors de la fête de Ramadan, ils avaient demandé que tout soit fait pour que tout Labé soit électrifié. Et le chef de l'Etat avait pris un engagement, mais il n'avait pas donné une date. Et dès son retour, le colonel Mamadi Doumbouya m'a instruit fermement de mettre tout en œuvre pour accélérer les travaux. C'est une fierté aujourd'hui de l'annoncer, les travaux sont pratiquement à 98% ».

Mali : bombardements à Anefis, vers une reprise de la guerre entre l'État et les ex-rebelles de la CMA ?

Au Mali, les ex-rebelles de la CMA, signataires de l'accord de paix de 2015, dénoncent de nouveaux bombardements de leurs positions le 29 août 2023 à Anefis, dans la région de Kidal. La veille, l'armée malienne affirmait avoir visé des groupes armés terroristes. Alors que Bamako appelle les groupes signataires à revenir à la table des négociations, les faits sur le terrain semblent plutôt indiquer la lente reprise d'une guerre qui ne dit pas son nom. Ce 29 août 2023 au matin, vers 8h30, tout comme la veille en début d'après-midi, des avions de l'armée malienne ont bombardé les positions des ex-rebelles indépendantistes de la Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad (CMA), signataires de l'accord de paix de 2015.

Sollicitée ce matin, l'armée malienne n'a pas donné suite mais un communiqué de l'état-major affirmait hier soir que les frappes avaient visé « un regroupement de groupes armés terroristes, auteurs de plusieurs exactions contre les populations civiles et d'attaques contre » les forces maliennes (Fama), sans précisions. Dans ce même communiqué, l'armée assure avoir « neutralisé » « plusieurs combattants terroristes » et détruit quatre véhicules.

Anefis après Ber

Mais la CMA confirme que ce sont bien ses positions qui ont été visées, et précise avoir procédé, hier comme ce matin, à des tirs de riposte. La CMA affirme ne déplorer aucune victime ni aucun dégât.

Ces événements surviennent deux

semaines après ceux de Ber, près de Tombouctou : l'arrivée de l'armée malienne dans le camp laissé libre par la Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations unies pour la stabilisation au Mali (Minusma) avait déjà donné lieu à des confrontations entre Fama et CMA. Depuis, les ex-rebelles accusent l'armée malienne et ses supplétifs russes du groupe Wagner de traiter « tous les habitants du secteur » de Ber comme s'ils étaient « des terroristes » : selon eux, 17 civils y auraient été arrêtés, torturés et, pour certains exécutés « sans aucune forme de procès ».

« Guerre » ?

Cela signifie-t-il que la guerre a bel et bien repris entre l'État malien et la CMA ? Officiellement, le mot n'est prononcé par personne.

Hier soir, dans un communiqué ne faisant pas mention des



événements de Ber ni d'Anefis, le ministre malien de la Réconciliation nationale, le Colonel Ismaël Wagué, a même réaffirmé son attachement à l'accord de paix et a « invité » les groupes armés signataires « à revenir à la table des négociations ».

Sollicité par RFI sur la concomitance de cette « invitation » et des bombardements, le ministère n'a pas donné suite. « Escalade »

Plusieurs cadres de la CMA, joints par RFI, la jugent quant à eux « insensée » vu le contexte. Ils estiment que les autorités maliennes de transition veulent la confrontation mais ne l'assument pas publiquement.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Liberian Presidential Election 2023: Observations and suggestions

By: *Dagbayonoh Kiah Nyanfore II*

2017 I gave preliminary observations and advice on the Liberian 2017 presidential election. I have updated the observations and maintained most of the suggestions for this 2023 election. When I listen to Liberian radios or read in the papers on this year's Liberian presidential election, I observe that some supporters of the candidates focus on discussing the opposing candidate or candidates negatively and not talking about their candidates. By only speaking negatively of the other candidate, you are saying that the opposing candidate is the one to beat, meaning that the candidate has the best chance of winning and, therefore, must be attacked. Attack communication or campaigning has a role in electoral politics but can backfire in many respects. Specifically, in the campaigns in developed countries, the opposing camp can implement 24/7 anti-media blasts in responding to negative campaigns or remarks. Such endeavor may include rapid response to any damaging statement from the opposite camp, affecting your platform and making your message difficult. Do not start a fight that you cannot continue.

If you have a candidate in the media, talk about the candidate. Discuss the issue. Say why your candidate is the right person for the presidency. Talk about your candidate's character, record, vision, and how the candidate is different. Talk about the candidate's platform and what he or she will do when elected. It would help if you dwell on something other than the candidate's education, speaking or oratory ability, and wealth, for they do not concretely tell about the candidate. Let your discussion be issue-driven. If you are involved in managing a campaign, it is helpful to have a "war room," not to fight or attack, but to plan and manage effectively. Like the war room of Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign in the US, the room should be a discussing arena for the frank deliberation of campaign issues and strategizing. Clinton was an underdog at the beginning of the election. Proper use of the room helped his camp win the election.

You should have a political map of the country and crack the numbers. An internal and external professional polling group should be weekly informing of public opinions regarding the campaign. The campaign team should manage expectations and honestly discuss matters with and advise the candidate. Further, in addition to media appearances, your campaign should advertise in the 15 counties of Liberia. Let your candidate personally tell his story and platform mainly on the radios in simple Liberian English. You should simplify your case and answer these questions: Is your candidate different? Does your candidate have a heart, feelings, and care for the Liberian people? Did your candidate demonstrate this care before entering politics? Is your candidate honest and has integrity? Did the candidate treat people fairly in business or private life before entering politics? Does the candidate have a story, a background that the ordinary Liberians can relate to? If so, tell it. Do not discuss the opponent. Tell the candidate's story and vision in local languages to be broadcast in villages or rural areas. We are human and like to know that the person who wants to lead us is one of us.

Many candidates see politics as a business; they want to be elected to make money, receive high income, complimentary gas slips and calling cards, and drive expensive and change cars every three years. Sadly, when elected, they care less about their constituents. If you do not believe in a candidate, do not speak or write about him or her. Do not degradingly address the candidate's opponent either. Politics is dynamic. It is moving and changing, and you do not know where you will be tomorrow.

ROLE OF JOURNALISTS, PRESS/MEDIA

Journalists should play a vital role in this presidential or any other election. They must carry and report the news fairly, balancing both sides. Accordingly, they are the society's "watchdogs". They must verify information and accurately report without sentiments and personal feelings. In the past, some journalists have taken sides in an election, reporting erroneous information. For instance, in the 2005 election, the press reported that candidate George Weah had married Mammy Doe, daughter of the late President Samuel Doe and that Weah told the people of Grand Gedeh, Doe's home county, that he would wipe off their tears, referring to their cry and sorrow for Doe's death. This information was inaccurate. Had the press checked the report, it would have discovered that Mammy Doe, known as Veronica Doe, was married and living with her husband in Europe.

Moreover, there was no fact to the alleged statement by Weah. This

misinformation intended to inflame the tension between Grand Gedeh and Nimba during the civil war. As known, Prince Johnson's forces killed Doe during the civil war. Johnson was a rebel general from Nimba. The reportage sought to drive Nimba votes away from Weah to benefit UP's candidate, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Here, journalists used bad journalism to recreate regional division and national disunity for selfish political benefit.

Another example was in 2019. The late Philip Wesseh, a veteran Liberian journalist, witnessed on October 3, 2019, the gathering of hundreds of protesters at the St. Joseph Catholic Hospital in Monrovia demanding the immediate release of Jestina Taylor, a patient who reportedly was to attend her visa interview with the American Embassy in the city. Henry Costa, proprietor of Roots FM, ordered the protesters to go to the hospital, alleging that the Liberian government was about to arrest and stop the patient from attending the interview. "Block the roads; go to the hospital to rescue her and accompany her to the embassy," Costa instructed his supporters.

The gathering turned violent, the *Inquirer*, a newspaper, reported, adding that the protesters threw stones at the police, and the police, in turn, used teargas and wasted water at the demonstrators. The violence led to "the closing many businesses and homes at the hospital", the paper ended. But the information was false. The hospital never arrested or stopped the patient. The incident shows the strength of the media and how they can misinform and mobilize people into violence. It brings to mind Radio Kigakali of Rwandan. This station promoted hit and negative messages and propaganda during the Rwandan crisis.



In a political campaign, some candidates and their supporters make erroneous statements. Journalists must fact-check the information, uphold the codes of journalism, and cease from misinformation and from what I call "prostitution journalism." I was glad for the partnership recently entered between the OK FM and Local Voices for fact-checking. The agreement shows the station's commitment to truth-telling. It will help stop misinformation. In the US, press or reporters covering a campaign report only the event; they ask questions, seek answers, and report. Sentimental reporting is discouraged. A journalist, however, can be a hired gun to promote a candidate but not to report the

news partially.

Further, the media, as an institution, can endorse a candidate. But the paper must give fair and balanced treatment to all candidates in an election. For example, in the 2016 presidential election in America, the *New York Times* endorsed Hilary Clinton. Still, it covered fairly all news regarding the election. The *Times* accurately, impartially, and professionally covered all news on Trump, though it supported Clinton's candidacy. That was professionalism; that was a duty.

The media in Liberia appear not to help improve electoral behavior. In this election, some media houses tend to be party partisans. Pro-government media dance to the administration's tune and report favorably on government activities, including ruling party candidates. Anti-government media report negatively on the administration and the president and focus on what is wrong with the government. They are generally biased in their reportage. It is easy to identify the media position by reading and listening to their reports or coverages.

Before the 2020 legislative election, anti-administration media promoted the June 7 Protest and, during the election, supported the opposition candidates. For instance, *FrontPage Africa*, a leading Liberian newspaper, published positive articles on opposition senatorial candidate Darius Dillon. One report named him the frontrunner without any basis, such as scientific or un-scientific polling. During the week before the rerun between CDC representative candidate Abu Kamara and CPP candidate Tyria Urey, it covered a violent incident involving a fight between the candidates' supporters in front of NEC headquarters. In its report, the paper said that Kamara's backers started the violence. But Joy FM, a radio station, took a different approach by interviewing eyewitnesses from each camp. It also talked to the Liberian National Police spokesman. The police representative reported from the police charge sheet the arrest of those involved in the violence. He said that a man wearing a Urey campaign tee shirt among the detained individuals was arrested driving a truck with rocks and cutlasses.



To be CONT'D next edition

UP threatens to drag GoL to Court

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's main opposition Unity Party (UP) has threatened legal action against the government for allegedly leaking a Closed

about 7 AM via ASKY. Minutes after Amb. Boakai's departure, the UP laments, journalists from Freedom FM which is owned by Mr. Siryon announced on

footage of the Unity Party standard-bearer making his way through the airport terminal to board a flight. Mr. Ali alleged further that the CCTV footage was



Pres. Weah

UP Political Leader Boakai

Circuit TV (CCTV) footage of Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai's departure from the country.

At a press conference Tuesday, 29 August 2023, UP's campaign spokesperson Mohammed Ali said the party specifically targets state-owned Liberia Airport Authority (LAA) and the National Security Agency (NSA) Deputy Director Mr. Sam Siryon in its planned lawsuit.

The UP accuses the two state agencies LAA and NSA of unauthorized and unlawful disclosure of video footage exposing the privacy of its standard-bearer Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

The party complains that on 28 August 2023, its standard-bearer and former Liberian Vice President Amb. Boakai took a break from the campaign tour of Montserrado County for a three-day official visit to Ghana.

The former ruling party disclosed that Amb. Boakai departed the Roberts International Airport (RIA) at

their station that Amb. Boakai had been hurriedly flown out of Liberia for emergency medical attention.

UP pointed out that following the pronouncement from Freedom FM, scores of zealots of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and officials of government including Presidential Aide Sekou Kalasco Damaro and Deputy Finance Minister Samora P. Z. Wolokolie flooded social media pages with claims that Amb. Boakai was sick.

But the UP stated that its Rescue Mission Campaign promptly refuted the claims of Sam Siryon's Freedom FM and CDC zealots including government officials through a Facebook release by National Campaign Spokesman, Mohammed Ali.

Mr. Ali alleged that Mr. Siryon unlawfully released to journalists at his station and surrogates of the CDC a CCTV

sent to Mr. Siryon by RIA Managing Director Martin Hayes.

Mr. Ali noted that the unauthorized release of the CCTV footage of Mr. Boakai is in clear violation of Section 17.40.3 of the Liberia Civil Aviation Regulations, Volume XXI, No. 70. August 11, 2021.

He indicated that the CCTV footage is part of the Passenger Name Record (PNR) of the UP's standard-bearer, and it is his privacy. "The Legal Team of the Rescue Mission Campaign is reviewing all of the legal implications associated with the release of the CCTV footage of the UP-Standard Bearer and will advise appropriately," said Mr. Ali.

"The right to that privacy was violated by the RIA and the government operating through the NSA and its surrogates," he lamented.

Cummings sounds warnings

Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Standard Bearer, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings has cautioned over 385 new graduates of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion University (AMEZU) against returning to the past, pretending that somehow, the past will move Liberians into a bright future.

Cummings said it is time to move forward, change the country's direction, fix the broken economy, so that no future graduation is ever celebrated in hopelessness and joblessness. The CPP Standard Bearer made the assertions when he served as Commencement Speaker at the 32nd Commencement Convocation of the AME Zion University, on Tuesday, August 29, in Vincent Town, Bomi County. Over 385 students were conferred bachelor's degrees in various academic disciplines including Agriculture, Business, Criminal Justice, Political Science and Religious Education.

Cummings said he believes people's conditions and circumstances, especially poor families, should change with the acquisition of knowledge, because, according to him, education and

and competency rather than choosing leaders on the basis "I love my party."

Cummings warned that the world is watching and will not change the decision Liberians will make on October 10, saying not only will each Liberian live with the decision made October 10, but also the world will determine our seriousness and give Liberia accordingly.

"If we know what is right, but choose to do what is wrong, that choice will be a burden for all Liberians to bear. If we choose to reward failure, we will get more failures," the CPP Standard Bearer cautioned.

He spoke against giving second chances to politicians who have disappointed and dashed the hopes of Liberians.

Cummings said it was heartbreaking that on the graduation day of 385 students, Liberians are suffering, no jobs, rising cost of living, abandoned hospitals, increased street peddling by children, and the old and retired citizens are forced into begging. He said Liberian



knowledge are powers, but unfortunately this is not the case in Liberia. He said after years of studies, and sacrifice by parents to pay school fees, many students are graduating into a reality of no jobs and opportunities for better their lives.

He stressed the significance of education as the lifeblood of any nation, requiring adequate government funding to improve the quality of education and making it accessible in every village and district, noting that no nation's future is safe, "when governments are failing schools and schools are failing students," he noted.

"Unless we are serious to invest in and fix the educational system, we will continue to remain poor and backward. Even worse, the future of Liberia will remain insecure," Cummings said. Cummings held that to put Liberia on the path of economic prosperity, Liberians will have to make the hard choice of putting the country's interest above Party, noting that "to reelect a failed President is to make a fool of ourselves."

He said, "our babies and children underage, deserve better lives and a future, and therefore its incumbent upon all eligible Liberian to choose leaders on the basis of qualification

businesses are catching "hell", while stealing in government has become rampant and widespread, growing insecurity, communities infested with dangerous drugs, disastrous roads, and lack of safe drinking water.

The CPP Standard Bearer spoke of the dire need for new leadership that is mentally and physically ready to do what they say and say what they will do, and not to continue gambling with the lives of Liberia's children and future.

Cummings vowed to restore basic social services, combat corruption, create massive job opportunities, and ensure no student will graduate into hopelessness and joblessness.

"There is nothing we set to do that we cannot do with the right mindset and leadership. I know Liberians are ready for change. We are ready to change our country for the better," Cummings said.

According to him, although the change process might get bumpy and sometimes uneasy, history has repeatedly shown that its the young and young at heart, the determined and passionate who have always reshaped the story and direction.

Former President Sirleaf launches

Starts from back page

and counties but with the single objective of upholding their peace and security.

"This tells us that we are all Liberians dedicated to the cause of rebuilding our nation; dedicated to not just ourselves but to our children, children to give them the place to pursue their dreams and ambitions. That is what we have come together as a people," she stated. Madam Sirleaf extolled ABIC and all its donors, supporters, and partners of the Women Situation Room for providing the funding for the project. "Once again, we have come together in the spirit of unity, togetherness, and the spirit of preserving the peace of this country." "Let us vote because it's a sacred responsibility and duty. Also, let us maintain the peace of our

country for our generation here and to come. With that, I hereby launch the WSR," Madam Sirleaf noted.

Earlier giving an over of the Women's Situation Room, ABIC Establishment Coordinator Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh described the WSR as a strategic operation platform that is meant to promote peace and unity.

Cllr. Chesson-Wureh said the WSR will be operating in Montserrado, Nimba, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Bong, Lofa, and Grand Gedeh Counties. For her part, former Foreign Affairs Minister and Chair of ABIC Board of Directors, Olubanke King-Akerele extolled ABIC for the launch of the Women

Situation Room. However, she called on the Government of Liberia to investigate every election violence across the country, adding that the early warning signs of conflict are numerous and unacceptable. In a brief remark, members of the diplomatic community including the United Nations Resident Coordinator to Liberia Madam Christine N. Umutoni, the European Union, and the Swedish Ambassador urged Liberia to take control of the peace. They expressed commitment and support to Liberia and the WSR, adding that the peace of Liberia is in the hands of Liberia.

Former President Sirleaf launches ABIC Women Situation Room

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on Tuesday, 29 August 2023, officially launched the Women Situation Room in Liberia, aimed at promoting a

violence and enhance peaceful co-existence during and after the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

It is supported and funded by the European Union, the

and students as well as motorcyclists.

Having observed that there was fatigue in the hall, Mrs. Sirleaf raised a battle cry and awoken the audience in the hall before launching



Mrs Sirleaf with officials during the launch of the Women Situation Room

peaceful electoral environment and community security here.

The Women Situation Room (WSR) is a flagship program implemented by the Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC) for Women Empowerment, International Peace and Security. The initiative also seeks to combat hate speech, and political

United Nations Development Program, and United Nations Peacebuilding Funds, among others. Held at the Monrovia City Hall Ball Room, the program was graced by former President Sirleaf, Cllr. Francis Johnson-Allison, and members of the diplomatic community.

The initiative brought together political parties, grassroots women, youths,

the program. Giving a brief remark, Madam Sirleaf said that chanting of slogan is not only to wake Liberians up but to unify and bring them together with oneness and unity. According to her, this is meant to tell Liberians that they are all one people, one nation from different tribes

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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