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**MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES**  
**LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR**

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023	L\$184.9104/US\$1.00	L\$186.8165/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

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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**FIXING LIBERIA FOR ALL LIBERIANS**

**2023 CUMMINGS FOR PRESIDENT**

VOL. 13 NO. 152 THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00

# I'm working for Liberia, let them talk'

**-President Weah**

**P11**

**Pres. Weah**

# Senate asked to probe RIA

**-Over information leak**

**P11**

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# Continental News

## Gabon Coup Ignites Debate on Central Africa's Long Serving Leaders

The apparent military coup in Gabon Wednesday is raising concern about the future of countries in the Central African economic bloc CEMAC, which

nation, since succeeding his father Omar Bongo, who died in 2009 after 42 years in power.

Gabon held elections on August 26 with Ali Bongo running for re-election. But contested results

"It is a shared feeling with those in Niger who are thinking at the moment that the time is now or never. They have all the resources, gold, diamond, timber and all of that, but we don't have any of the industries or factories that can process these materials, all are transported to the West and we have little or nothing to benefit from it," he said.

Gabon is a member of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, CEMAC, an economic bloc that has some of the world's longest serving leaders.

Eighty-one-year-old President Teodora Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea won elections for a sixth term in 2022. Obiang came to power in a 1979 military coup and is the world's longest-serving head of state. In the Republic of Congo, 80-year-old Denis Sassou Nguesso has been president for all but five of the last 44 years. And in Cameroon, 90-year-old Paul Biya has been the president for 41 years, since 1982. Central African Republic President Faustin Archange Touadera hasn't been around as long but recently extended the presidential term from five to seven years and did away with the two-term limit for presidents. The C.A.R. opposition says Touadera created a life presidency for himself. VOA

indicate 69-year-old Albert Ondo Ossa, a former minister and university professor, won the poll. Ondo said Ali Bongo wanted to steal his victory. Anong Jacob, a secondary school teacher in Yaounde, says post-election confusion in Gabon has given the military an opportunity to seize power, claiming that they want freedom for civilians, just like the militaries of Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali.



People celebrate in support of the coup leaders in a street of Port-Gentil, Gabon Aug. 30, 2023.

has some of the world's longest serving leaders. Several dozen youths, a majority of them students from the University of Yaounde, watch attentively as soldiers declare on Gabonese TV that the military, united in a transitional committee, is putting an end to the leadership of President Ali Bongo.

The 64-year-old Bongo has ruled Gabon, an oil-producing

## Two Ugandan Males Face Death Penalty for Violating Anti-Gay Law

Two Ugandan males have become the first people who may face the death penalty under Uganda's new anti-homosexuality law.

Prosecutors accuse Julius Byaruhanga in the eastern district of Jinja of performing a sexual act with a boy aged 12.

Another man, 20-year-old Michael Opolot allegedly performed an unlawful act of sexual intercourse with a 41-year-old male in the eastern city of Soroti.

Justine Balya, a lawyer from the group Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum, is defending Opolot. She said her client was reportedly seen engaging in a sexual act in a public space with a person who has a disability.

Opolot now faces a possible death sentence if convicted under the anti-homosexuality law that took effect in June.

"Having the death penalty

on the books, that changes significantly the protections that one is entitled to while they are waiting for trial," Bayla said. "And it certainly makes trial remand a punishment in and of itself."

Because the case involves a capital offense, Opolot will probably have to wait between three and four years for his case to be heard. Balya said several other cases involving alleged homosexuality are waiting to go to trial in Ugandan courts.

"We also have a case of a lady who has been charged with

promotion of homosexuality and homosexuality because of what they allege people were doing at a massage parlor that she owns. And of course, there's a host of other cases that are not in court but where people have been charged formally with homosexuality, promotion of homosexuality, even child grooming in one case."

Frank Mugisha, a lawyer and activist, said these cases are textbook examples of a witch hunt for lesbian, gay and transgender people. VOA



## On patrol with Tunisia's coast guard: Nine boats in 24 hours

Tethered to a small speedboat and being towed towards us was the first of nine migrant boats we would encounter during our 24-hour patrol with the Tunisian coast guard.

More than 180 people were rescued, all wearing rubber rings, but no life jackets, from what is now the world's busiest migrant route into Europe.

Within half an hour of our departure from the Tunisian coastal city of Sfax and boarding the national coast guard patrol boat, the radar had intercepted its first signal.

Working in tandem with two speed boats, these smaller, more agile vessels were deployed first to find the migrant ship.

Once located, their captain was ordered to turn off the engine and submit to being towed back to the larger patrol vessel where six Tunisian coastguards stood ready to assist.

larger aid package being offered by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Tunisia has not yet agreed to the terms of how exactly the money should be spent.

The UN reported that in the first six months of this year, 54,049 people were picked up by the Italian or Tunisian coast guard - a figure close to double the number who attempted the crossing during the whole of 2022.

It has also been an exceptionally perilous start to the year with the loss of more than 2,000 lives, according to the UN.

The coast guards were met with a wave of anger as the 46 passengers began to disembark from the migrant boat that had been towed.

"Let me go to Italy," one man shouted. "I'll only try again," screamed another.

All hailing from Ivory Coast and Guinea, they told us it was their third and even fourth attempt to cross this stretch of sea.

Although we were allowed to witness everything that went on during the operation, the crew on



The Tunisian coast guard's speed boat seizes yet another vessel - this time an inflatable dinghy

Sfax, which is less than 200km (124 miles) across the Mediterranean from the Italian island of Lampedusa, has long been a transit hub for sub-Saharan Africans wishing to travel illegally into Europe - as well as a network of smugglers seeking to profit from them.

Many migrants used to go by road to Libya, and from there catch a boat to Greece.

But last year, after the Libyan authorities deported thousands of them and intensified patrols along the coast, the preferred route for migrants wishing to travel to Europe switched to Tunisia.

In July, the European Commission offered to contribute \$115m (£90m) towards Tunisian efforts to intensify its border controls, search-and-rescue operations and anti-smuggling initiatives.

The \$115m is part of a

board had been told not to answer any of our questions. Instead, their spokesman Hossam El-Din El-Jababli, spoke to us once we were back at the port.

"There are those who threaten to throw themselves back overboard. To even pour petrol over themselves and set it alight," said Mr El-Jababli.

After releasing all the passengers back onto Tunisian soil, the radar soon detected another boat.

The two speed boats were sent to investigate.

As the second makeshift metal boat of the day pulled alongside us, all 20 people on board began begging for food and water. They tell us they have been adrift for more than 12 hours. The passengers, from Sudan, Yemen, Libya and Syria, described fleeing from war zones before ending up in Tunisia. Unlike the first boat, this group appeared deeply traumatised and exhausted. BBC



# 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**OPINION**

By Koray Caliskan

## 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.




**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-23-000025
- ISSUANCE DATE:** August 25 2023
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** September 8, 2023
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
- POSITION TITLE:** Computer Management Assistant.
- 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.
- 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.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.
- 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.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility and computer access.
- STATEMENT OF DUTIES:**

**BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION -**

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

**MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES -**
**1. LAN Administration and Security -30%**

- Performs LAN administration routines such as adding/removing users, support of Windows Servers, PC/LAN and PC hardware, software, applications, peripherals (Workstations, printers, plotters, scanners, tape and disk drives, DVD Writers, etc.), data communication equipment (switches, Data Cryptor servers, routers, cards or controller, network cabling, etc.) and auxiliary equipment (Central UPS, small to medium UPSs, temperature and humidity monitoring systems etc.) Maintain disk directories for users, manage profiles and printer locations. Sets up user's Access Rights to system files and software applications in the Windows File and Print Server. Carries out the installation and setup of new equipment in a PC-LAN network which includes configuration of memory, installation of approved software, configure desktops and procedures. Installs equipment at user locations and configures cabling modifications if necessary.
- Manages network resources for Windows for accessing the print services & print queues.
- The incumbent is responsible for operating USAID information systems and information security to a level of "Least Privilege", "Separation of Duties", "Individual Accountability" and "Need to Know" as defined in ADS 545.3.2.1.
- Ensures IT and Mission staff are aware of and in compliance with Agency specific Information Resource Management policies and guidelines. Understands the content and applicability of USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS), chapters 541-551 and 577 and 578 which pertain to Information Resource Management. Verifies that IT and Mission staff follow the appropriate Rules of Behavior as defined in ADS 545.3.1.5.
- Monitors the security of Servers and workstations on the agency approved Vulnerability reporting system. Ensures that USAID ISSO Security, FMFIA and NIST guidelines are being followed and patches/hotfixes are applied immediately when vulnerabilities are logged and reported. Ensures antivirus software and security patches are updated promptly on the servers and workstations. Oversees that Software Copyright laws are strictly followed in the Mission.
- The incumbent takes the responsibility to perform the job of the Systems Administrator of secured systems.
- Installation, monitoring, testing and network management of, Windows servers/workstations, network security devices, PC/LAN and PC hardware, software, peripherals, data communication equipment and accessories, recommending and performing systems programming, fine tuning, upgrades, enhancements and re-configuration to attain optimum system efficiency and performance.
- Secondary contact person for all LAN questions. Works with the supervisor on LAN problems. Notes down the exact nature of the problem and attempts to solve. Prepares himself as a backup person for regular LAN operations which would include bringing the system up, backing up the hard drives and maintaining the system.
- Assists in planning and scheduling adequate technical support for all systems which includes Routine Preventive Maintenance schedule (RPM) for all equipment at least once every four months.
- The incumbent will be called on to install, upgrade, and maintain a wide assortment of commercial, locally developed, and agency developed or approved software applications. Updates and service patches must be loaded when the department approves them. Anti-virus definitions must be kept up to date. Unexpected problems must be diagnosed and de-bugged. The incumbent will work with her/his subordinate to create and maintain an orderly library of the Mission's software and reference material. Develops and maintains a systematic, preventive-oriented approach to routine network maintenance tasks.
- Provides software support services designed to maximize ADP systems utilization and increase office productivity. These services include telephone assistance, on-site technical assistance, software installation and reinstallation, update and fixes, recovery of operating system, hardware or software problem isolation/identification/resolution and ADP consultations.
- Carries out activities relating to the various telecommunications links of the USAID network. Duties include implementation and operation of the WAN connection including Local ISP and State DTSP system. Incumbent monitors all links and always ensures trouble free operation, takes corrective measures in an event of failure by coordinating repairs with providers and implements backup routes to maintain communications. Incumbent monitors communications logs,
- Remains vigilant about information security, including anti-virus software updates, network intrusion detection, and proper file security settings.
- Recommends to the supervisor the acquisition of professional engineering services from outside contractors as needed.

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

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

**3. User Support and Training - 20%**

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

**4. Measurable Outputs - 10%**

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

**5. Administrative Functions - 10%**

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

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

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

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

**12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

**III. 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:

- AID 309-2 Offeror Information for Personnel Services Contractors with Individuals form
- A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
- 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.
- A supplemental document with a written response to the Evaluation Factors.

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

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

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

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

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



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# PYJ threatens to revenge in Nimba

By Thomas Domah,  
Nimba County

Senator Prince Johnson, who is seeking a third term in the senate, has threatened to pursue those

However, in a recorded cellphone call to Representative Kargon that has been circulating on Social Media, PYJ is heard threatening to go after the lawmaker, who he accused to had attended a

Johnson's threat statement as bad and not intended to unite the people of Nimba.

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

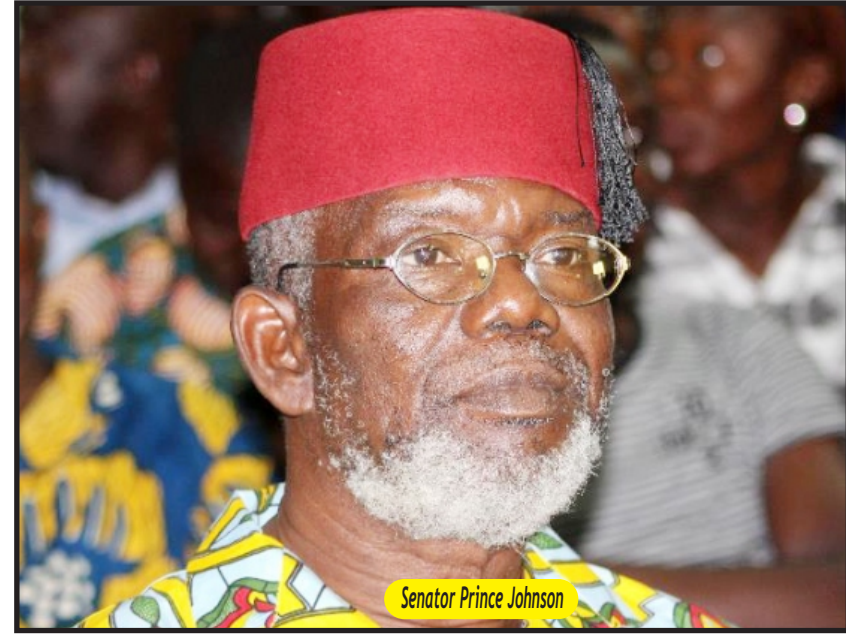
The incident occurred when Senator Johnson accompanied the vice standard bearer of the Unity Party, Senator Jeremiah Koug, on a campaign trail to the county.

Sen. Koug is standard bearer of the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) that is in a political marriage with UP Presidential Candidate, former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

Senator Johnson is on record of saying former Senator Thomas Grupee and others tried him and they died in the process. The former senator is reportedly confined in a wheelchair; he is not dead.

The threat by PYJ has led to debate in the county with citizens demanding retraction.

According to them, a leader should never speak in such manner, rather calling on the senator to pursue the path of peace and unity instead of preaching divisive politics. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Senator Prince Johnson

who recently attacked his vehicle while on a campaign trail in Gbor Wehplay Town, electoral district#4, Nimba County, including the district lawmaker Representative Gunpue L. Kargon.

Rep. Kargon is a former member of Senator Johnson's MDR party who joined the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change after his expulsion.

The senator alleges that those who attacked and destroyed his vehicle were supporters of Representative Gunpue Kargon, but such claim is yet to be independently verified.

meeting that led to the recent attack on his vehicle.

"Gunpue Kargon, your were in a meeting; someone from the meeting is here with me; I know your plans, and I saw it today", Sen. Johnson added.

In the cellphone call, the senator openly threatened to pay people to go after Kargon.

The self-proclaim political godfather of Nimba didn't explain in detail how he will execute his plot against the lawmaker.

But on a community radio station in Ganta, Nimba County callers described Senator

# Officials attend fact-checking masterclass training

By Kruah Thompson

The Center for Journalism Innovation and Development with support from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) has initiated a comprehensive three-day fact-checking masterclass training for government officials and parastatals in Liberia.

While similar initiatives have been undertaken by DUBAWA in Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Nigeria, and Ghana, this marks the first time that government and business officials in Liberia are receiving such specialized training.

The objective of the training is to equip key officials from various government institutions and agencies with the tools necessary to effectively identify and counter misinformation, ultimately fortifying democratic processes and civic engagement.

The training covers a wide range of essential topics,

ranging from Democracy and good governance; the intersection between accountability Journalism and civic participation, contemporary response to information disorder and online vices, fact-checking as a service and practice in any sector.

Participants will also gain hands-on experience in utilizing digital verification tools and enhancing cybersecurity measures.

At the opening session of the training on Monday in Monrovia, Caroline Anipah, Deputy Director of Media Literacy and Verification at Dubawa, underscored the importance of quality and accurate information access in advancing democratic accountability and civic participation, particularly during election periods.

▶ CONT'D page 7



# Liberia to host 2nd JEE for IHR core capacities

By Naneka Hoffman

Liberia's 2nd Joint External Evaluation (JEE) for International Health Regulations (IHR) Core Capacities gets underway here on Monday.

The endeavor underscores Government of Liberia's commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of its citizens. Addressing a news conference on Wednesday, August 30, 2023, in the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) main conference hall in Congo Town, the Deputy Director General for Technical Services, Julius S.M. Gilayeneh, Sr., said the Joint External Evaluation is a comprehensive assessment of the country's readiness to prevent, detect, and respond to public health emergencies in line with the

health crises. Our dedicated healthcare workers and other professionals, stakeholders, and partners have been instrumental in achieving these milestones", he says. He says subsequently, Liberia initiated its midterm assessment in 2019, with an overall readiness score of 49%, and a 2021 NAPHS Implementation evaluation, yielding a readiness score of 52%, which will subsequently inform the country's next national action plan for Health Security.

However, Gilayeneh also notes that the upcoming 2023 JEE will offer a comprehensive evaluation of Liberia's current status by pinpointing evolving gaps to chart a course for targeted interventions to overall systems strengthening in protecting the opportunities, adding that these provide insights of lives of people,



2005 International Health Regulations, noting that these regulations provide a global framework for managing cross-border spread of diseases and other health risks in order to ensure a coordinated national and international response.

He reveals that Liberia conducted its first JEE in 2016, resulting in an overall readiness score of 46%. This pivotal assessment led to the formulation of the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) for 2018 -2023, designed to address identified gaps and recommendations.

Director Gilayeneh notes that since the first JEE in 2016, Liberia has made substantial progress in strengthening its health systems and emergency response capabilities, evidenced by response to the COVID-19 pandemic. "We have diligently worked to address the recommendations from the initial evaluation, bolstering our ability to effectively manage

animals, and the environment.

He says the second JEE represents a pivotal moment in Liberia's ongoing journey to enhance health security, saying "Our goals are clear: to assess the progress they have made since the last evaluation, to identify areas for further improvement, and to collaborate closely to ensure that Liberia is fully equipped to handle health threats, whether they arise with our partners to fortify our response mechanisms. By doing so, they strive to domestically or have implications beyond our borders." He underscores that success of the Joint External Evaluations hinges on collaboration and partnership and the Ministry of Health extends gratitude to the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (USCDC), World Bank, and other international partners and donors, and the broader global health community for their unwavering support. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Students protest at UL Fendell campus

### -over scarcity of armchairs

By Lincoln G. Peters

Normal academic or learning activities at the University of Liberia Fendell campus were disrupted Wednesday, 30 August by protesting students demanding chairs.

The disruptions were resumption of the current semester, students at the Fendell Campus had have limited armchairs to sit in during classes.

standing in class just to take notes", he says.

Also speaking, Student Mary Johnson of the Progressive Students Alliance or PROSA, says that protest is the only language the UL administration and the government in general, understand therefore, they will continue to protest until they can have redress.

## President Weah breaks ground for 150-bedroom C.H. Rennie Hospital

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

President George Manneh Weah has broken grounds for the construction of a 150-bedroom C.H. Rennie Hospital in Kakata, Margibi County.

During the ceremony on Wednesday, August 30, 2023, Mr. Weah assured Liberians that more health facilities would be constructed under his administration.

Mr. Weah broke grounds for the facility as part of his presidential campaign activities ahead of the October 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

"We are pleased today to break ground for this hospital, which will replace the old C.H. Rennie Hospital," he said.

"This is part of my

delighted and will continue to build more hospitals in the country to serve our people," Mr. Weah said.

Built in 1970, the C.H. Rennie Hospital was a major referral hospital in Northeastern Liberia until it was burnt on 15 August 2021 following an electricity shock.

Since its damage, patients have faced difficulties in seeking medication, and they have to be transferred to JFK, and other hospitals in Monrovia and other parts of the country.

Following its damage, President Weah gave US\$250,000.00 to the hospital in 2022 for its immediate renovation. The construction of the hospital will be funded by the Government of Liberia. At the same time, President Weah has dedicated pro-poor housing units for nurses at the facility.

The hospital when constructed



masterminded by members of the campus-based Progressive Students Alliance (PROSA) and the Student Unification Party (SUP).

While students were in class during academic period, protesters were seen walking in corridors of the Academic Building chanting "No chair, no school. We are tired of sitting on floor."

The protesting students, dressed in their campus-based party T-shirts said that their objective of disrupting learning activities is to call the University of Liberia Administration attention to the limited sitting capacity on campus.

They note that since the

means but, their request has been downplayed or ignored by the administration.

Speaking in an exclusive interview, one of the protest leaders from the Students Unification Party, James Massaquoi, laments that it's quite unfortunate that the University of Liberia, after enrolling more than eighteen thousand (18,000) freshmen students, doesn't have seating capacity.

"My brother, look at this and tell me if it's fair. How can the University authority give admissions to over eighteen thousand students when they know they don't have seating capacity. This is complete wickedness. We have been

"We have little armchairs here. Some people who are fortunate to have armchairs will keep the chair to themselves until they are through for the day. That means, they will be toting armchairs on their head from the Agriculture Building to the Science Building and back to Chinese Building. Only the Engineering Building has little chairs because they are not many", she narrates.

Since the inception of the current semester, academic activities at the state-run university have been at a slow-pace with lecturers demanding pay and salary increment on one hand, while students agitate for chairs. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



administration's commitments to improving healthcare services in the country, and we are

will be the fifth hospital project under the leadership of the incumbent.

## Officials attend fact-checking

Starts from page 6

She highlighted that the task of discerning accuracy, facts, and authenticity has grown complicated due to the "avalanche" of false information across online and offline platforms, compounded by "the sophistication of those disseminating such misleading content."

"That's why CJID/Dubawa, with the support of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), has put this training together to build resilience, especially for state agencies," she said

At the same time, Anipah expressed optimism that the knowledge and skills gained during the masterclass would play a pivotal role in the upcoming elections and

participants' daily responsibilities.

Over 20 representatives from key government agencies and parastatals, including the National Elections Commission, Ministries of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism, the Liberian Senate, and the Press Union of Liberia participated in the training that ended Thursday, August 30, in Monrovia. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



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# Français

## Tentative de coup d'État au Gabon : le président Ali Bongo en résidence surveillée, selon des putschistes

Le président du Gabon depuis 2009, Ali Bongo, a été placé en résidence surveillée, ont annoncé ce

est gardé en résidence surveillée. Il est entouré de sa famille et de ses médecins ». C'est ce que des militaires putschistes ont déclaré ce 30 août 2023,

personnes pour « haute trahison contre les institutions », « détournement massif des deniers publics », « malversation financière internationale en bande organisée », « faux et usage de faux », « falsification de la signature du président », « corruption active », et enfin « trafic de stupéfiants ».

Les autres interpellés sont l'ancien directeur de cabinet de Nourredine Bongo, qui s'appelle Ian Ghislain Ngoulou, Mohamed Ali Saliou, directeur de cabinet adjoint du président Bongo lui-même et son frère Abdoul Océni. Ces deux hommes sont en fait les fils d'Ismaël Océni Ossa, le président du Conseil supérieur des affaires islamiques du Gabon. Dans la liste, il y a aussi Jessye Ella Ekogha, le porte-parole de la présidence, Steeve Nzegho Dieko, le Secrétaire général du PDG, le parti présidentiel, Cyriaque Mvouradjiami, directeur de cabinet politique d'Ali Bongo. Et le communiqué se termine en disant que tous ceux qui sont sur la liste « répondront de leurs actes ».

Une scène de liesse célébrant le général Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema En plus de ces déclarations, une autre séquence est régulièrement diffusée sur la chaîne d'information Gabon 24 : celle de scènes de liesse de militaires de la garde républicaine, chargée d'assurer notamment la sécurité de la



30 août 2023 des putschistes, à la télévision. Un des fils du chef de l'État sortant, Nourredine Bongo Valentin, a par ailleurs été arrêté, ont-ils ajouté. Un peu plus tôt ce mercredi, un groupe de militaires a déclaré sur la chaîne Gabon 24 l'annulation des résultats des élections générales qui donnaient la réélection d'Ali Bongo avec 64,27% des suffrages exprimés.

selon un communiqué lu à la télévision d'État par des membres de l'autoproclamé Comité de transition et de restauration des institutions (CTRI).

Ils affirment que plusieurs arrestations ont par ailleurs eu lieu dans l'entourage d'Ali Bongo, notamment celle de son fils Nourredine Valentin. Les militaires annoncent une enquête ouverte contre ces

Le président Ali Bongo «

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## La NEC réclame 3,2 millions de dollars américains pour la suite des échéances électorales

La présidente de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC), Mme Davidetta Browne-Lansanah, a informé le Sénat du Libéria qu'il manque encore 3,2 millions de dollars américains pour l'organisation des élections de cette année.

La patronne de la NEC s'est présentée devant le Sénat libérien le mardi 29 août 2023 et a déploré le déficit financier à moins de deux mois des élections présidentielle et législatives tant attendues.

Elle a déclaré que la Commission n'avait jusqu'à présent reçu que 49 710 210,00 dollars américains sur les 53 millions de dollars nécessaires pour organiser les élections du 10 octobre 2023.

Mme Browne-Lansanah a également informé le Sénat qu'un portail de recrutement a été publié pour le recrutement de personnel temporaire et que les données seront extraites du portail pour déterminer

la capacité des candidats à organiser les élections de 2023.

Madame Lansanah a en outre noté que la liste d'électeurs finale sera publiée et communiquée aux partis politiques en septembre. Elle a indiqué que contrairement à l'opération d'enrôlement qui a été biométrique, le vote se déroulera manuellement et qu'aucun gadget (caméra) ne sera autorisé dans les bureaux vote.

Interrogée par la sénatrice du comté de Grand Bassa Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence sur les raisons pour lesquelles 93

circonscriptions électorales ont dépassé le seuil de 3 000 électeurs en violation de l'article 4.3 de la loi électorale, la présidente de la NEC Madame Browne-Lansanah a reconnu avoir violé la loi.

Interrogée aussi par le sénateur du comté de Montserrado Abraham Darius Dillon sur l'identité de l'actuel chef de la section juridique de la NEC, la présidente a déclaré qu'ils travaillaient avec des consultants juridiques pour traiter les questions

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



NEC Chair Davidetta-Browne-Lansana

## Éditorial

### Tous les Libériens devraient signer le chœur de la paix

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Français

## Starts from page 8 **Tentative de coup d'État**

présidence, qui portent en triomphe leur chef, le général Oligui Nguema.

Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema est une des figures qui émergent, ce mercredi. Ce général est depuis deux ans le chef de la garde républicaine, la GR, l'unité d'élite censée protéger le président Bongo. Fils d'officier, formé à l'Académie royale militaire de Meknès au Maroc, il a même été l'un des aides de camp d'Omar Bongo, l'ancien président et père du chef de l'État actuel et ce jusqu'à sa disparition en juin 2009...

L'officier a accordé ce matin une interview au journal Le Monde, disant qu'il ne se déclarait pas encore président, et n'envisageait rien pour l'instant. « C'est un débat que nous allons avoir avec l'ensemble des généraux. Nous allons nous retrouver à 14 heures. Il s'agira de dégager un consensus. Chacun va émettre des idées et les meilleures seront choisies, ainsi que le nom de celui qui va conduire la transition », a déclaré le général.

Une autre vidéo circule sur Internet depuis ce matin. Elle dure moins d'une minute, elle n'est pas encore authentifiée mais on y voit ce qui semble être Ali Bongo assis, s'exprimant en anglais: « Je suis Ali Bongo Ondimba, président du Gabon. Et j'envoie un message à tous les amis que nous avons partout dans le monde, leur dire de faire du bruit, de faire du bruit, car les gens m'ont arrêté, moi et ma famille. Mon fils est quelque part. Ma femme est ailleurs. Et je suis à la résidence. Et il ne se passe rien. Je ne sais pas ce qui se passe. Je vous appelle à faire du bruit, à faire du bruit, à faites du bruit, vraiment. Je vous remercie. Merci. » Dissolution des institutions et fermeture des frontières annoncées Le Gabon est plongé en pleine incertitude ce 30 août 2023. Le président du Centre gabonais des élections (CGE) a annoncé à la télévision la victoire du président Ali Bongo avec 64,27% des suffrages. Puis, quelques minutes plus tard, un groupe de militaires est apparu sur Gabon 24 - dont les studios

sont dans la présidence - pour annoncer la fin du régime en place, l'annulation des élections et la dissolution des institutions de la République. Ces hommes disent faire partie des forces de sécurité. Ils déclarent être réunis au sein du CTRI. Selon leur déclaration, l'organisation des élections n'a pas rempli « les conditions d'un scrutin transparent, crédible et inclusif ». Les putschistes parlent même de « résultats tronqués ». Ils appellent les populations au calme et à la sérénité. Les autres mesures annoncées : la dissolution des institutions, la fermeture des frontières.

Un syndicaliste de transporteurs camerounais joint par Amélie Tulet, journaliste à RFI, affirme que la frontière est hermétiquement fermée depuis ce matin au poste-frontière de Kyé-Ossi, dans le sud du Cameroun. Les transactions continuent au niveau informel, au niveau des pistes, car dans cette zone forestière aux confins du Cameroun / Gabon / Guinée équatoriale, la frontière est poreuse. Mais au poste-frontière officiel de Kyé-Ossi, plus aucun camion ne passe, selon Hillaire Dzipan, conseiller spécial du Syndicat national des transporteurs routiers du Cameroun. L'Union africaine « condamne fermement la tentative de coup d'État » Dans les heures qui ont suivi la lecture du communiqué par les putschistes, les réactions internationales se sont multipliées. Le président de la Commission de l'Union africaine (UA) a ainsi condamné « fermement la tentative de coup d'État » au Gabon, dénonçant « une violation flagrante » des principes de l'organisation continentale, dans un communiqué publié ce 30 août 2023. Moussa Faki Mahamat « appelle l'armée nationale et les forces de sécurité à s'en tenir strictement à leur vocation républicaine, à garantir l'intégrité physique du président de la République, des membres de sa famille, ainsi que de ceux de son gouvernement ». Plus tôt, le ministère chinois des Affaires étrangères a invité les « parties concernées à résoudre pacifiquement leurs différends par le dialogue ainsi qu'au retour immédiat à l'ordre normal et à garantir la sécurité personnelle d'Ali Bongo », qualifié de « vieil ami » par le président Xi Jinping, lors d'une visite en Chine en avril.

## Starts from page 8 **La NEC réclame 3,2 millions**

juridiques de la Commission électorale.

Dillon a cherché à savoir qui dirige le département parce qu'Atty. Teage Jalloh ne répondait pas aux critères d'un conseiller pour occuper le poste de chef d'un tel

département.

En conclusion de l'audience, le président intérimaire du Sénat, Albert T. Chie, a donné deux semaines à la patronne de la commission électorale pour nommer un chef par intérim du département juridique.

## Campagnes électorales : La ligue de la jeunesse de la coalition au pouvoir fait le porte-à-porte



Pres. Weah

La Ligue de la jeunesse de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), au pouvoir, s'est engagée dans une campagne de porte-à-porte pour la réélection du président George Manneh Weah.

Le président de la Ligue de la jeunesse de la CDC, Emmanuel Mulbah Johnson, estime que le président sortant Weah est imbattable lors des prochaines élections présidentielles et législatives.

Le lundi 28 août 2023, le président Johnson s'est vanté de la gratuité des universités publiques, du davantage d'établissements de santé, du développement des infrastructures, de la connectivité routière et de la stabilité de l'électricité, entre autres, pour justifier la réélection de Weah.

Il estime que M. Weah peut remporter une victoire

éclatante au premier tour contre 19 autres candidats à la présidentielle.

Johnson a rallié les citoyens de la circonscription électorale n°4 de Montserrado pour voter pour M. Weah et pour les candidats de la CDC cherchant des postes législatifs sur la base du « vote un vote pour tous ».

Selon Johnson, l'élection du président Weah et des candidats de la CDC permettra au régime actuel de poursuivre le développement « sans précédent » du pays.

« En cinq ans », a dit Johnson, « M. Weah et ses dirigeants ont transformé la vie des gens et développé le pays. Le porte-à-porte vise à influencer les perceptions des électeurs et à les sensibiliser. Il vise également à sensibiliser les électeurs des communautés au processus électoral ».

Les bénévoles de la campagne de la CDC comprennent de nouveaux électeurs qui ont été déployés pour visiter des foyers dans diverses zones et communautés les plus reculées. Ils vont discuter des réalisations du président Weah et des raisons pour lesquelles il devrait être réélu.

« Il cherche à obtenir des commentaires sur les initiatives du président Weah en matière de développement économique et de protection sociale, telles que l'amélioration des infrastructures, les soins de santé et les réformes de la politique éducative, entre autres. Nous sommes ici pour rallier notre peuple, interagir avec lui, recueillir sa contribution au développement économique et aux moyens de subsistance sociaux », a-t-il déclaré. Malgré les points de vue et opinions mitigés du public sur le travail du président Weah, la campagne de porte-à-porte du CDC semble prendre de l'ampleur.

## L'UP menace de traîner le pouvoir en justice pour avoir fait fuiter des infos sur Boakai

Le principal parti d'opposition du Libéria, le Parti de l'Unité (UP) de l'ancienne Présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a menacé d'intenter une action en justice contre le pouvoir en place pour avoir divulgué des vidéos sur le départ du pays de Joseph Nyumah Boakai pour le Ghana. Les vidéos furent prises par les caméras de surveillance de l'Aéroport International Roberts de Monrovia.

Animant un point de presse le mardi 29 août 2023, le porte-parole de la campagne de l'UP, Mohammed Ali, a déclaré que le parti cible spécifiquement l'autorité aéroportuaire libérienne (LAA) et le directeur adjoint de la National Security Agency (NSA), M. Sam Siryon, dans le cadre du procès prévu.

L'UP accuse les deux agences d'État LAA et NSA de divulgation non autorisée et illégale de séquences vidéo exposant la vie privée de son porte-drapeau Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

Selon le parti, le 28 août 2023, son leader politique Boakai, qui fut vice-président du Libéria de 2005 à 2017, a décidé de procéder à une visite officielle au Ghana pour une période de trois jours. L'ancien parti au pouvoir a révélé que Boakai a quitté l'aéroport international Roberts (RIA) vers 7 heures du matin via ASKY.

« Quelques minutes après », déplore l'UP, « les journalistes de Freedom FM, propriété de M. Siryon, ont annoncé sur leur station que Boakai avait été transporté en toute hâte du Libéria pour recevoir des soins médicaux d'urgence au Ghana ».

L'UP a souligné qu'à la suite de la déclaration de Freedom FM, beaucoup de fanatiques de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir et des responsables du gouvernement, dont Sekou Kalasco Damaro et le vice-ministre des Finances Samora P. Z. Wolokolie, ont inondé les médias sociaux d'affirmations selon lesquelles l'opposant Boakai était malade.

« Mais l'UP tient à dire que sa campagne pour sa mission de sauvetage avait rapidement réfuté les affirmations des fanatiques de Freedom FM et de la CDC, y compris des représentants du gouvernement, à travers un communiqué sur Facebook du porte-parole de la campagne nationale, Mohammed Ali », a dit le parti.

Selon M. Ali, M. Siryon a illégalement donné accès aux journalistes et aux représentants de la CDC aux vidéos du porte-drapeau du Parti de l'unité prises par les caméras de surveillances lorsqu'il traversait le terminal de l'aéroport pour embarquer sur un vol.

M. Ali a en outre fait croire que les images de vidéosurveillance avaient été envoyées à M. Siryon par le directeur général du RIA Martin Hayes et que la diffusion non autorisée des vidéos de M. Boakai constitue une violation flagrante de l'article 17.40.3 du Règlement de l'aviation civile du Libéria, volume XXI, n° 70. 11 août 2021.



UP Political Leader Boakai



## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Liberian Presidential Election 2023: Observations and suggestions

By: *Dagbayonoh Kiah Nyanfore II*

Indeed, FrontPage gave a negative image of the campaign that the paper opposed. Voters reading the story may form a wrong and one-sided opinion that could influence their votes. Biased or fake news reporting does not help society. It misinforms and mis-educates the society, which it should protect.

The Daily Observer, a family newspaper to FrontPage Africa, appears to be pro-opposition but less pronounced than FrontPage Africa's stance. Spoon FM, a media financed by Stanton Whitterspoon in the US, speaks negatively of the administration. Meanwhile, Freedom FM and King FM tend to be pro-government, promoting the administration activities and candidates. To them, the CDC's government is succeeding and should be re-elected. They feature CDC candidates and guests in their programs. By giving only one side, they, too, mis-educate and provide a positive impression about the conditions in Liberia.

SKY Radio's 50-50 with T-Max Jleleh mostly features opposition guests, giving them the platform to express their views. One frequent guest is Representative Yekeh Kolubah, who regularly insults the president. There are neutral media such as the New Dawn newspaper, Prime FM, OK FM, Joy FM, and Bana FM Tough Talk.

On the first day of the start of the campaign, some CDC members paraded a casket bearing a photo of Boakai. Some UP partisans verbally attacked CPP official Musa Bility in the following days. Yekeh Kolubah, a former rebel commander running for re-election, threatened to take redress in the bush if he felt cheated. On August 24, 2023, a young man died of campaign violence in Nimba. While others condemned these behaviors, many institutions, including media outlets, failed to speak against these actions.

Media biases, prejudices, and silence have led to the misinformation of events and have also contributed to electoral violence in Liberia.

## POLITICS

Politics is non-static, and nothing is permanent. President Weah will not be president forever, nor will the other candidates still be in politics. When elected, the best they can do is to honorably serve the people and allow others to serve. A political election will have a winner and loser(s). Losing is not the end of the world. If you lose, accept the defeat gracefully. That would show your honesty, dignity, and patriotism. Do not give up. President Sirleaf lost in 1997 but won in 2005 and 2011. President Weah lost in 2005 and 2011 but won in 2017. Politicians and their supporters must be civil and non-violent in an election.

All electoral politics and campaigns, either in the West or Africa, have one common goal, which is to win. The way you tailor your message and how you get it across matters. In America, most electorates are literate and have TV and radio. In Africa, the majority of the population is illiterate. Most cannot afford TV or personal radio, so you must gear your campaign to that reality. Use the radio and a Jehovah's Witness campaign style involving door-to-door canvassing. However, all electorates are not stupid; they know and see their objective condition and want change. They want improvement in their lives. They want to be able to feed their families and be able to send their children to school. Sometimes, the need for change may take a while, but it will come; it will happen sooner when they put good and caring people in power. It would help if you talk about the bread-and-butter issues in your campaign.

## RULING PARTY

The ruling CDC party says that it is running on its record. The party must accurately discuss its record and tangibles or achievements. It must also tell the Liberian people what it will do in the next six years. An incumbent enjoys the office of the presidency, which gives the leader an added advantage. It is challenging to defeat an incumbent if the person is performing well and popular. But the president must be active and take the re-election campaign seriously. Like former President Sirleaf in her 2011 re-election bid, the incumbent must campaign hard, canvassing in the rains, mud, and villages, asking the people for their votes.

In this election, George Weah is the most experienced candidate as a president. He has occupied the seat for over 5 years. Again, his record or achievements will be his greatest asset. His camp must articulate them well. Opponent candidates must run on their records and what they will do when given the thrust to lead. The Unity Party (UP) and the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) are the major opposition parties in this contest. UP must tell what good it did during its 12 years in power and why the Liberian people should entrust power back to UP. Can Boakai do better than Sirleaf? Can he do better or more than Weah? Some voters may consider his age and health. Is he well enough to undergo a vigorous campaign and fit to govern for the next 6 years? Only he can answer. But New Dawn reported that his running-mate Jeremiah Koung, in an interview with OK FM on September 15, 2021, said that he opposed the former Vice President's 2023 presidential bid, citing possible mental and physical decline." In an interview with a radio station, Boakai incorrectly said that Liberia is 196 years old, though he should have said 176.

CPP must tell the voters that, though its standard bearer has no government experience, he can do better than Weah and Boakai. As a relative newcomer without a political stronghold, he must campaign harder. Besides his corporate expertise, what human and social services background or record does he bring? Can he relate to the ordinary Liberians?

## OPPOSITION PARTIES

The task of the opposition is to show that the ruling party has failed and can do better. On the other hand, the opposition needs to be united. There is strength in unity. As an opposition, the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) won in 2017 because of its coalition with two other parties. CPP won the 2020 mid-term senatorial election due to the collaboration of UP, LP, ANC, and ALP.

## MAJOR STRONGHOLDS

Politically, a stronghold is an area where a party historically and consistently receives significant votes in a presidential election. In Liberia, youth constitute over 60% of the population. Monserrado County, the largest populated county in the country, is a CDC stronghold. Though an opposition won a senatorial seat for the county in the 2019 and 2020 elections, Montserrado has gone CDC in the first rounds of the past three presidential elections.

Nimba, the second largest county, has favored Senator Prince Johnson in the first round of the 2011 and 2017 presidential elections. He was re-elected as a senator in the 2014 election for the county. His support to UP in 2011 and support to CDC in 2017 helped win the presidency for the parties, respectively. As expressed before, though he is not running for president in this election, he is backing UP by recommending Senator Jeremiah Koung to become Boakai's VP running-mate. Koung is from Nimba. However, observers credit the CDC administration for bringing more developments to Nimba than the Sirleaf-Boakai regime did in 12 years.

Nimba is a traditional and cultural society. Several months ago this year, information says that Nimba's elders told Johnson that they would support Weah. Moreover, some analysts believe Nimba would divide its votes among Boakai, Weah, Cummings, and Tiawan Gongloe. Thus, the county appears not to be a stronghold for any party.

An expert from Nimba says that the division of the votes results from the county's culture: Koung is considered a nephew of Nimba because his mother was born in the county. Weah is also a nephew; his mother was a Nimba's woman. Gongloe is a son because his parents were Nimbains. However, the expert projects that Weah would get the most votes due to the administration's development tangibles and campaign organization in the county.



Bong is the third largest county. It is the home of Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor. As said prior, she was a two-term senator of Bong County. Her party, the National Patriotic Party (NPP), joined the CDC coalition. But it is hard to tell which party has the stronghold in Bong. While Senator Prince Moya, Boakai's campaign manager, is from Bong County, Ambassador Jeremiah Sulunteh, Cummings' 2017 running mate and Bong native son, supports Weah and is active in the election. The county could be a battleground, meaning it could go to either party. In America, a battleground state swings to a Republican or Democratic in a presidential election. Therefore, all parties put their weights in a battleground state for victory.

Though Grand Bassa in the past presidential elections has been a Liberty Party stronghold during Charles Brumskim's leadership of the party, it could become a battleground in this election. The party has split since his demise. His daughter is Cummings' running mate, and CPP is trying to claim the county. The Western counties, comprising Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, and Gbarpolu,

could also become battlegrounds.

Lofa County is Boakai's home. It is the fifth largest county next to Grand Bassa County. Yet Lofa and Grand Bassa Counties strategically do not heavily matter in this election. As my last article states, according to the National Elections Commission's (NEC) 2023 voter registration statistics, Montserrado, Nimba, and Bong Counties should be the main focus. These three counties combined have 58% of the voting population. Individually, Montserrado has 36%, Nimba 12%, and Bong 9%. NEC's data further say that women voters are more than men. Hence, a party that gets substantial women and youth votes from the counties stands an excellent chance of winning. The party should concentrate on them as a strategy. Succeeding in the other counties in Western and Southeast Liberia would be an additional benefit. Again, an election is about numbers.

In a race with many candidates fighting for an advantage, particularly in a low-population area, the established and popular candidates tend to dominate, making new and less popular candidates get fewer votes. This usually happens at the close of the race when the dust is clear. Indeed, the results of the national votes of the 2005, 2011, and 2017 presidential elections attest firmly to this expression. Sirleaf, Weah, Brumskine, Tubman, and Johnson got the highest votes. At the same time, Varney Sherman, Roland Massaquoi, Kennedy Sandy, Gladys Beyan, Togba-Nah Tipoteh, Dew Tuah-Wleh Mayson, Benoni Urey, and the other candidates received far fewer votes. For example, the votes of the lesser candidates were 3.3%, 1.13%, 1.06%, 0.63%, and 0.48%.

Sirleaf Unity Party won by capturing Nimba, thanks to Joseph Korto in 2005 and Johnson in 2011, and by receiving significant votes from the other large counties. The other counties have less population, so their votes did not make enough impact in deciding the outcome. She received 59.4% of the total votes in the runoff of 2005, up 39.6% from 19.8% in the first round. Weah got 40.6%, which was 18.8% less votes in the runoff. The president struggled in her re-election bid. She could not obtain the 50% plus votes, forcing a second round. She received 43.93%, while Winston Tubman of the CDC got 32.68%. In the second phase, she got 90.71% in an unopposed election. In 2017, Weah won Boakai at 61.54%.

Usually, an incumbent with a good record of accomplishments, national support, and a divided opposition wins re-election easily, as happened in presidential elections in other countries.

Nevertheless, this is an initial observation; the variables may change as we get close to Election Day.

Pastor Foday Karpeh, who has studied and covered elections, echoed many of the above suggestions on OK FM Afternoon Conversation on August 23, 2023. Additionally, he observed that most Liberian political parties are not institutionalized but driven by individuals or personalities. Contrary to others, he does not discount a party winning on the first ballots in this election.

In this election, you should discuss your candidate's record and platform and avoid expressing negative statements about your opponent. You should be professional, respectful, factual, and convincing; by doing so, you would be helping your candidate. Your campaign should focus on the numbers and strategize for victory. The media should be fair and balanced. They should speak against electoral violence.



# I'm working for Liberia, let them talk'

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

President George Manneh Weah says he is working hard to develop Liberia and won't be distracted by rhetoric from the opposition.

"Let them do the talking as I'm doing the working. I will continue to work for you to leave a legacy of building this nation,

work he's doing for the nation and its people.

The incumbent repeated his desire to leave a legacy. He also responded to criticism that his government is doing nothing to improve the nation and the livelihoods of the people.

Weah has asked his partisans for support, urging

are under U.S. sanctions for corruption.

Despite the sanction, Weah rallied residents of Kakata to vote his former Chief of Office staff Mr. McGill.

He said McGill is best suited to work with the presidency as a legislator when he's re-elected for a



that everyone will remember," Mr. Weah said.

During his campaign tour in Kakata, Margibi County Wednesday, 30 August 2023, Mr. Weah said his task is to develop Liberia into a prosperous nation, despite huge criticisms of his administration.

He explained that his desire to develop Liberia is part of his commitment for the confidence reposed in him by the people.

President Weah echoed that he won't be distracted by rhetoric from politicians, but he would remain focused on the

them to focus on the work he has done rather than listening to lies and rhetoric from politicians.

Weah praised himself for being a peace ambassador, a reconciler, a unifier and a developer. In furtherance, Mr. Weah for the first time in public has asked supporters to vote U.S.- sanctioned former Minister for State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill as Senator for Margibi County.

Mr. McGill and two other officials of the Weah regime

second term.

For his part, Mr. McGill pleaded with residents of Margibi County to support Mr. Weah's re-election bid.

He described President Weah as a developer who has flown Liberia for five years and is flying the country into a better nation.

He assured electorate of a new Margibi under his watch as Senator and the leadership of President Weah.

Starts from back page

## Cummings Jehovah witness

with plenty to eat and drink.

The CPP Standard Bearer expressed gratitude to the hundreds of Partisans and supporters for the stamina and physical fitness exhibited in touring

the entire community of District #9, Montserrado County.

A CPP supporter, identified as Tamba Kollie, said the tour of District #9 was of great excitement and an exercise,

and commended the CPP Standard Bearer for enduring five hours of physical movement, without resting along the way.

# Senate asked to probe RIA

The Liberian Senate has been asked to probe the Roberts International Airport (RIA) about how a Closed-Circuit TV (CCTV) footage of Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai has been leaked to a journalist.

Liberian opposition Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, a major supporter of Boakai's 2023 presidential bid, petitioned her colleagues in the Senate Wednesday, 30 August 2023 to probe the state-owned RIA for security breach.

"We need to call the RIA management to tell us how that video got leaked to a journalist who works for the NSA Director," Nyonblee said.

She warned that RIA is the gateway to Liberia, and the leaking of CCTV video footage from the airport would affect the country's image.

"People will not feel protected, not even investors. So, this is a security matter. We need to call joint security actors to hear from them about this because it is a security concern," said Sen. Karnga-Lawrence.

National Security Agency (NSA) official Mr. Sam Siryon.

Senator Karnga-Lawrence said it is a breach of the privacy of the individual whose video from the CCTV at the airport has been leaked.

Earlier on Tuesday, Liberia's main opposition Unity Party (UP) threatened legal action against the government for allegedly leaking Boakai's CCTV footage that was captured during his departure from the country.

Amb. Boakai, Liberia's former vice president, is UP's presidential candidate and the main rival to incumbent President George Manneh Weah.

Boakai's party has accused the two state agencies Liberia Authority Agency (LAA) and NSA of unauthorized and unlawful disclosure of Boakai's video footage.

The party has complained that on 28 August 2023, its standard-bearer took a break from the campaign tour of Montserrado County for a three-day official visit to Ghana.

The former ruling party



She believes that if the Senate does not see this matter as an emergency, it would show that it is not in the interest of the country.

Senator Karnga-Lawrence said the leaking of Boakai's travel information has to do with the security of the state and the country's image.

"You have an international airport that should have rules and regulations. You have a CCTV camera that should operate by international standards and by international rules and regulations," she said.

But she noted that it is concerning that a video from the CCTV has been posted on Facebook by a journalist who works for

disclosed that Amb. Boakai departed the RIA at about 7 AM via ASKY. Minutes after Amb. Boakai's departure, the UP

lamented, journalists from Freedom FM which is owned by Mr. Siryon announced on 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 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.

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## Cummings Jehovah witness campaign hits District #9

**M**r. Alexander B. Cummings on Wednesday, August 30, toured District #9, visited homes, shops and market halls, shook hands and gave out campaign posters to thousands of citizens, rallying their support for his

contender, who is rated as the best to replace the inept leadership of President George Weah of ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC). His toured of Wroto Town, Airfield, New and Old Matadi, Fiamah, several densely

of political and religious affiliations. He has vowed to aggressively combat corruption, and halt the huge influx of dangerous drugs, which has ranked Liberia as a major drug hub and transit point in West Africa.



CPP Political Leader Mr. Cummings

The CPP Standard Bearer said upon his election as President, US\$20 million will be earmarked to kickoff a loan scheme for Liberian entrepreneurs including market women to grow their businesses aimed at developing a strong private sector, which will be firmly controlled by Liberians.

District #9 has over 17 registered Representative Aspirants, with CPP Representative Aspirant Mr. Fubi Heneries as the leading opposition contender, according to several residents interviewed.

Cummings' tour of District #9, under police escort, attracted hundreds of residents and marketers who braved the rain, joined the group and danced to tune "Alexander Cummings we want."

Cumming, along with hundreds of Partisans, supporters, sympathizers and well-wishers navigated their way from Fiamah through 24th Street, Sinkor and ended at the CPP 19th Street headquarters, where refreshments were held

Presidential bid in October. A party stalwarts said Cummings shook hands with an estimated 3,000 residents in District #9, most of whom, met him for the first time and admired his door-to-door campaign initiative, indicative of his physical fitness, and promised to support his Presidential bid.

populated slum communities in District #9, is part of his ongoing community engagement, giving hope and sharing his vision with citizens on the birth of the new Liberia.

Cummings has promised to fix the broken economy through massive job creation, improve the health and educational sectors, establish a government of national unity, inclusive of all competent and qualified Liberians, without discrimination

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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