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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2023	LS185.0432/US\$1.00	LS186.9433/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

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2023 CUMMINGS FOR PRESIDENT

VOL. 13 NO. 154 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00

"I'm not that greedy"



--Weah denounces third term



Lofians fume over PYJ's leaked audio

P11

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Continental News

Protests in Niger Call for French Forces to Leave After Coup

Tens of thousands of protesters Saturday gathered outside a French military base in Niger's capital Niamey demanding that its troops leave in the wake of a military coup that has widespread popular support but which Paris refuses

neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso since coups in those countries, reducing its role in a region-wide fight against deadly Islamist insurgencies.

Anti-French sentiment has risen in Niger since the coup but soured further last week when France ignored the junta's order

coup, suggesting that support for the junta – and derision of France – was not waning.

"We are ready to sacrifice ourselves today, because we are proud," said demonstrator Yacouba Issoufou. "They plundered our resources, and we became aware. So, they're going to get out."

By early evening local time, there had been no apparent outbreaks of violence.

France had cordial relations with ousted President Mohamed Bazoum and has about 1,500 troops stationed in Niger. On Friday, French President Emmanuel Macron said he spoke to Bazoum every day and that "the decisions we will take, whatever they may be, will be based upon exchanges with Bazoum."

Niger's junta denounced the comments as divisive and served only to perpetrate France's neo-colonial relationship. France is not the only country with concerns. West Africa's regional bloc the Economic Community of West African States has slapped sanctions on Niger and threatened military action as a last resort. The United States and European powers also have troops stationed in the country. Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu, who holds ECOWAS' revolving chairmanship, said last week that a nine-month transition back to civilian rule could satisfy regional powers. VOA

As Africa Opens Climate Summit, Poor Weather Forecasting Has Continent Underprepared

Much of the world takes daily weather forecasts for granted. But most of Africa's 1.3 billion people live with little advance knowledge of what's to come. That can be both deadly and expensive, with damage running in the billions of dollars.

The first Africa Climate Summit opens Monday in Kenya to highlight the continent that will suffer the most from climate change while contributing to it the least. Significant investment in Africa's adaptation to climate change, including better forecasting, will be an urgent goal. At the heart of every issue on the agenda, from energy to agriculture, is the lack of data collection that drives decisions as crucial as when to plant – and when to flee.

The African continent is larger than China, India and the United States combined. And yet Africa has just 37 radar facilities for tracking

are simply going to wash them away."

Kenya, the host of the climate summit, is one of the few countries in Africa seen as having a relatively well-developed weather service, along with South Africa and Morocco. Kenya has allocated about \$12 million this year for its meteorological service, according to the national treasury. In contrast, the U.S. National Weather Service budget request for fiscal year 2023 was \$1.3 billion.

The vast expanse of the 54-nation African continent is relatively unserved and unwarned.

"Despite covering a fifth of the world's total land area, Africa has the least developed land-based observation network of all continents, and one that is in a deteriorating state," the WMO said in 2019.

And because of a lack of funding, the number of observations by atmospheric devices usually used with weather balloons decreased by as much as



Thousands of Nigerians gather in front of the French army headquarters in support of the putschist soldiers and to demand the French army to leave in Niamey, Niger, Sept. 2, 2023. (Mahamadou Hamidou/Reuters)

to recognize. The July 26 coup – one of eight in West and Central Africa since 2020 – has sucked in global powers concerned about a shift to military rule across the region.

Most impacted is France, whose influence over its former colonies has waned in West Africa in recent years just as popular vitriol has grown. Its forces have been kicked out of

for its ambassador, Sylvain Itte, to leave. Police have been instructed to expel him, the junta said.

Outside the military base Saturday, protesters slit the throat of a goat dressed in French colors and carried coffins draped in French flags as a line of Nigerien soldiers looked on. Others carried signs calling for France to leave.

Reuters reporters said it was the biggest gathering yet since the

Five Killed in Attack in Burkina Faso

Four Burkina Faso army auxiliaries and a Burkinaabe policeman have been killed in an attack in the center of the country, the army announced Saturday.

"Following an attack on Friday against a VDP position (Volunteers for the Defense of the Homeland, civilian auxiliaries to the army) in the vicinity of Silmiougou," police units were deployed as reinforcements, the army general staff said in a press release.

"One police officer and four VDPs unfortunately lost their lives during the fighting," the statement continued, adding that their forces had killed "around 10 terrorists" and forced them to retreat.

In mid-July, Burkina Faso's transitional president, Captain Ibrahim Traore, who seized power in a September 2022 coup, deplored the "increasingly recurrent

attacks against civilians," saying the jihadis were displaying cowardice.

The apparent motive for the country's two coups in recent years was anger at failures to stem a jihadi insurgency since it spilled over from neighboring Mali in 2015.

More than 16,000 civilians, troops and police have died in jihadi attacks, according to an NGO count, including more than 5,000 since the start of this year.

More than 2 million people have also been displaced within Burkina Faso, making it one of

the worst internal displacement crises in Africa.

In a separate statement on Saturday, the Burkinabe army said that "more than 65 terrorists" had been killed in the west of the country between August 7 and September 1.

"Large quantities of weapons, ammunition, foodstuffs, vehicles and communications equipment were recovered" at the same time from "dismantled terrorist bases," it added.

VOA



Men stand in line with their application letters to enroll as Volunteers for the Defense of the Fatherland (VDP), at the Governorate of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso



Displaced families arrive after being rescued by boat from a flooded area of Buzi district, 200 kilometers (120 miles) outside Beira, Mozambique

weather, an essential tool along with satellite data and surface monitoring, according to a World Meteorological Organization database. Europe has 345 radar facilities. North America, 291.

"The continent, at large, is in a climate risk blind spot," said Asaf Tzachor, a researcher at the Center for the Study of Existential Risk at the University of Cambridge. In August, he and colleagues warned in a commentary for the journal Nature that climate change will cost Africa more than \$50 billion every year by 2050. By then, Africa's population is expected to double.

The widespread inability to track and forecast the weather affects key development choices, their commentary said: "There is no point investing in smallholder farms, for example, if floods

50% over Africa between 2015 and 2020, a "particularly serious issue," the WMO said in a report last year.

Fewer than 20% of sub-Saharan African countries provide reliable weather services, the report said. "Weather stations are so far apart that their data cannot be extrapolated to the local level due to the varying terrain and altitude."

Now, 13 of the most data-sparse African countries, including Ethiopia, Madagascar and Congo, are getting money to improve weather data collection and sharing from a United Nations-created trust fund, the Systematic Observations Financing Facility. An older funding mechanism with many of the same partners, Climate Risk & Early Warning Systems, has supported modernizing meteorological systems in a half-dozen West and Central African countries.

And it's not just forecasting. As

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Daron Acemoglu

Heeding early advice from ECOWAS and UN

The Wrong BRICS Expansion

International partners, specifically ECOWAS and the United Nations are calling on the Government of Liberia to investigate reports of recent electoral violence in the country and hold those responsible to account.

BOSTON - At first blush, it may seem like good news that the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) group will expand to include Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Egypt, and Argentina. An 11-strong BRICS+ could be more representative of the world's emerging economies, providing a useful counterweight against American hegemony.

countries, remaking the global division of labor.

"We bring attention to inflammatory rhetoric which has the potential to instigate violence. We therefore urge political leaders to be active peace messengers and promote issue-based campaigns and refrain from incitement of followers toward violent action, especially violence against women in elections and politics and, to resolve any grievance through established legal mechanisms. We further caution against the instrumentalization of the youth", a joint statement issued in Monrovia on 31 August reads.

Yet, in many ways, the announced enlargement represents a major lost opportunity. The world does not need more countries to fall under Chinese and Russian influence, or to align against the United States; rather, it needs a genuinely independent third grouping to provide a counterweight against both the China-Russia axis and US power.

These technologies could have major negative implications for workers, especially in the emerging world, where countries such as India are already exporting various white-collar services. Ultimately, both white-collar and blue-collar workers everywhere may end up competing not against expensive, highly educated labor in rich countries, but against AI-powered advanced software, machinery, and robotics.

At the same time the International Partners are calling on signatories of the Farmington River Declaration 2023, particularly political parties and their leaders to abide by their commitment and promote the conditions for peaceful, transparent, and credible elections, prior, during and after the polls.

Because the enlargement includes only countries that already have friendly relations with China, BRICS+ is poised to be merely another tool of Chinese diplomacy. Rather than representing the interests of emerging economies, it will allow for greater Chinese involvement in them. Most likely, this will come at the expense of their workers and people, because Chinese foreign investors tend to tolerate - or even encourage - corruption, reduced transparency, and wasteful megaprojects financed with loans that cannot be easily restructured.

The same technologies are also likely to restructure politics in many countries, as AI-powered social media and misinformation (including deep fakes and other manipulative technologies) increasingly influence public opinion and electoral politics. Most developing and emerging economies do not have the supporting institutions needed to regulate and create guardrails against such disruptions.

We join ECOWAS and the United Nations in urging all Liberians, including the government to pay keen attention to this early warning call against violence in the 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections. We can do so with the help of the government by immediately bringing to book, those involved in instigating violence to disrupt the democratic process.

Moreover, adding Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, and the UAE will turn the BRICS into even more of an "anti-democratic" club. Yet among the institutions that emerging economies most need to ensure their future economic and social success, democracy is high on the list. My own work with Suresh Naidu, Pascual Restrepo, and James Robinson finds that democratization, historically, has equipped countries to achieve faster economic growth within 5-10 years, reflecting increased investments in education, health, and other public services.

Moreover, new technologies are giving governments unprecedentedly powerful tools for surveilling their populations and suppressing dissent. Authoritarian regimes are already sharing technologies and techniques with each other. Recent research shows that Chinese surveillance technologies are rapidly being exported to other non-democratic countries, with Huawei alone exporting such goods to 50 countries.

Whether they are from the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or the opposition bloc, those involved in such behavior need to be told in clear terms that violence has no place in 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections so there should be no place for people bent on instigating violence on the ongoing campaign activities across the country.

By contrast, Chinese engagement tends to hamper democratization and even foment authoritarianism. With many emerging economies facing a "democracy crisis," and with a growing number of countries experiencing weakening democratic institutions, the new BRICS+ threatens to pour fuel on the fire.

As matters stand, the future of technology is being shaped largely by Chinese authorities, US tech giants (with a limited degree of regulatory scrutiny), and - increasingly - European Union rules. None of these poles reflects the interests of the emerging world, and neither will BRICS+, which will most likely do China's bidding.

We believe strongly that one way to stamp out violence is by promptly taking action rather than just sitting back and condemning. Unless someone is arrested, brought before the law and if found guilty, punish to deter would-be perpetrators, the beat will go on, which is dangerous for peace and stability of the state.

Now that the Sino-American rivalry is intensifying - and potentially reshaping the world order - emerging economies increasingly need their own independent voice. After all, their interests are unlikely to be well served by worsening US-China relations and a reduction in their bilateral trade and financial flows.

Fortunately, China's own narrow selection of new members may have created an opening for a promising alternative to BRICS+ to emerge. Other major emerging economies - such as Indonesia, Turkey, Mexico, Colombia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, and Kenya - could form a truly independent bloc, with the hope of ultimately attracting Argentina, Brazil, India, and South Africa to join them. Though each of these countries has had its own problems with democratic processes lately, their experience with democracy, together with their economic size, gives them common ground.

All signatories of the Farmington River Declaration 2023 should demonstrate leadership they are craving for by abiding by their commitment to promote conditions for peaceful, transparent, and credible elections prior, during and after the polls.

Equally, emerging economies need to be able to influence the future of artificial intelligence and other rapidly evolving digital technologies. Even if the current enthusiasm around generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) turns out to be mostly hype, rapid advances in AI and other communication technologies are still likely in the near term, and these will affect all

Even more to the point, they could collectively declare independence from both China and the US, giving the wider emerging world a sorely needed voice in debates about the future of globalization and technology. Such choices are far too important to be left to today's geopolitical rivals.

There have spate of violence across the country since official campaign for the October elections started marred by injuries and deaths. These should not go with impunity. Someone has to be held responsible before the law. We cannot go to violence-driven elections and expect the outcome to be peaceful.

Daron Acemoglu, Institute Professor of Economics at MIT, is a co-author (with Simon Johnson) of *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity* (PublicAffairs, 2023).

It would save this country a lot, given the wave of insecurity precipitated by military coups in the region by doing everything to keep the peace. Zealous party partisans should not be blinded by loyalty to engage in uncouth activities as if there is no tomorrow.

Therefore, we have an opportunity as Liberians to jealously safeguard our peace and democracy and serve as an inspiration for Africa and the rest of the world by heeding the call from international partners to stamp out violence from our elections.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne

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OP-ED

By *Benedict Macon-Cooney,*
Tone Langengen

Closing the Clean-Tech Gap

LONDON - In the debate about how to curb global warming, climate action is often confused for climate justice. Many European countries (including the United Kingdom) have taken to self-flagellation, atoning for their long history of burning fossil fuels by attempting to decarbonize their domestic economies as quickly as possible, no matter the cost.

There is no question that European governments should meet their emissions-reduction targets. But climate change is a global problem, and industrialized countries should achieve these targets by enacting practical policies and developing technological solutions that drive economic growth at home while also supporting the green-energy transition abroad.

To be sure, the developed world has historically been responsible for much of the environmental damage done to the planet, owing largely to early industrialization. Until 2000, the United States and Europe produced nearly 70% of global carbon dioxide emissions. Yet the largest annual emitters have changed rapidly in recent years, as many countries have decoupled economic growth from emissions.

For example, the UK - the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution - now accounts for around 1% of global CO2 emissions, while China is responsible for more than 30%. Our estimates show the UK's emissions dropping to 0.6% of the global total by 2030, with China's share rising to more than 36%.

The sins of the past should not crowd out a clear-eyed climate strategy, especially in the UK and the European Union. Demonstrating serious commitment to the net-zero transition is an important signal to the rest of the world, but these governments must also ensure that they take an approach that charts a path to a better future for all. Otherwise, they risk being left behind as other countries assume global leadership on the climate challenge, which is as much scientific and technological as it is political.

The US recognized this and enacted the multi-billion-dollar Inflation Reduction Act, which has accelerated investment in clean-energy technologies, including in research and development. In the year since the bill was passed, nearly 80 major clean-energy factories have been announced.

Likewise, China dominates the clean-tech supply chain, especially in critical materials such as gallium, and has overseen the development of low-cost components for solar panels, wind turbines, and other technologies.

But rather than pursuing aggressive industrial policies to build clean technology, UK politicians have focused on minor matters, including such trivialities as UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's flying habits. European politicians, meanwhile, have wasted time squabbling over nuclear energy: in response to Germany's exit from nuclear power, Mélanie Vogel, member of the French Senate and co-chair of the European Green Party, tweeted, "Sex is good, but have you tried having your country shutting down its last nuclear power plants in 30 minutes?"

The EU's Green Deal, although a step in the right direction, is nowhere near as ambitious as it needs to be. Moreover, European countries haven't made the requisite leap forward in scientific and technological innovation, whereas the US has remained a global leader. The UK, for its part, is still struggling to find its post-Brexit economic footing.

European countries and the UK must put clean-tech innovation at the top of the agenda, alongside artificial intelligence and biotech. Policymakers should focus on technologies and solutions - including electricity generation and storage, carbon capture, and nuclear fission and fusion - that will help countries worldwide replace fossil fuels with cheap and convenient renewable energy.

To this end, the UK and European countries must increase and better allocate capital spending (it is telling that Amazon's R&D budget exceeds the state expenditure on R&D of every European country). Increased funding, as well as planning and research reforms, are essential for building an innovation ecosystem that fosters "frontier firms" (the 100 companies in each sector with the fastest productivity growth). Europe's competitiveness as a base for industry continues to decline, underscoring the need for concerted action.

Given that China has established a commanding lead in manufacturing low-cost green technologies, as evidenced by the growing number of Chinese electric vehicles on European roads, the UK and the EU should seek to exploit opportunities in "last-mile" solutions. Full decarbonization of the UK power sector, for example, will have a relatively minor impact on emissions, but developing innovative ways to use renewables would enable other countries to do the same more easily and cheaply. The challenges of materials science, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors such as cement, should excite researchers and young entrepreneurs.

This shift in focus would contribute to the development of new tools to combat climate change worldwide. It would also move domestic debates away from personal sacrifices toward the potential of climate action to nurture internal sources of innovation, drive economic growth, and create jobs, while benefiting from greater influence on the global stage.

Despite the challenges of addressing climate change, technology and innovation are accelerating the net-zero transition. But the UK and European governments must focus on contributing to these solutions, which means emphasizing growth over sacrifice and cultivating widespread buy-in rather than casting blame. The current approach of downplaying the importance of global emissions-reduction efforts and exaggerating the impact of domestic climate action, taken in isolation, puts us all on the wrong path.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with *Othello B. Garblah*

Bomi has sent a message to the rest of Liberia

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



MANO RIVER UNION
UNION DU FLEUVE MANO



**PUBLICATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR CONSULTING SERVICES
FOR PROJECTS FINANCED BY THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

INFORMATION NOTICE

Publication date: **4 September 2023**

Country: **Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia**

Executing Agency: **Mano River Union**

Name of Project/Study: **Build Inclusive Business Ecosystems for Stabilization and Transformation in the Mano River Union (BI-BEST) – Technical assistance and capacity development**

Loan/Grant Number: **P-Z1-ID0-009**

Name of Request for Proposals (RFP): **N/A**

Selection Method: **Quality-Based Selection (QBS)/Individual Consultant**

Date of publication of EOI: **28 May 2023**

Date of publication of RFP: **N/A**

Technical Proposals opening date: **N/A**

Financial Proposals opening date: **N/A**

Date of approval by the Bank of the draft negotiated Contract: **22 August 2023**

Name of Selected Consultant: **Kingsley Ensah**

Nationality: **Sierra Leonean**

Address: **1 Campbell Lane Rokel, Freetown**

Contract Award Price: **USD30,000 (for a duration of 12 months)**

Contract Start date: **11 September 2023**

Contract Duration: **1-year renewable, based on satisfactory performance and availability of project funds**

Summary of Scope of Contract Awarded: Consultancy Service of a Procurement Specialist to provide procurement advice and manage procurement activities for both BI-BEST and MRU Road Development and Transport Facilitation Programmer Phase 3 Project.

Total Number of Proposals Received: Five (5)
For each Consultant:

Name: **Agnes P. Togba Massaquoi**
Nationality: **Liberian**
Address: **11 Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia**
Technical Points: **58**
Evaluated Price: **Not submitted**
Final Points: **58**
Ranking: **3**

Name: **J. Antoine Dayrell**
Nationality: **Liberian**
Address: **Red Hill Community, Virginia, Monrovia, Liberia**
Technical Points: **65**
Evaluated Price: **\$7.000/Month**
Final Points: **65**
Ranking: **2**

Name: **Kingsley Ensah**
Nationality: **Sierra Leonean**
Address: **1 Campbell Lane Rokel, Freetown**
Technical Points: **73**
Evaluated Price: **\$2.500/Month**
Final Points: **73**
Ranking: **1**

Name: **Maude Alberta Saye**
Nationality: **Liberian**
Address: **Neezoe Community, Montserrado- Liberia**
Technical Points: **54**
Evaluated Price: **Not submitted**
Final Points: **54**
Ranking: **5**

Name: **Tiffany J King**
Nationality: **Liberian**
Address: **North Brunswick, NJ 08902**
Technical Points: **58**
Evaluated Price: **Not submitted**
Final Points: **58**
Ranking: **4**

N.B.: Any consultant who wishes to ascertain the grounds on which its proposal was not selected, should request an explanation from the Executing Agency. In any event, the Bank reserves the right to review any complaint of a bidder at any time following the award.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MRU urges member states to recommit to gender equality

By Naneka Hoffman

The subregional organization, Mano River Union, is calling on all four member states of the MRU to reaffirm their commitment towards gender equality and foster an enabling environment for gender-equal governance space, workplaces, and equality in health and wealth.

Speaking over the weekend at the Providence Baptist Church in Monrovia, the Resident Coordinator of the MRU in Liberia, Christian Jallah, said the union is sincerely praying that the upcoming presidential and legislative elections in the country will be void of violence and transparent as Liberians go to the polls to vote.

Mr. Jallah says they should work for the generation of quality, saying "with each one considered as equal to the other because the MRU

will continue to advocate support the Mano River Women Peace Network for more women in the sub-region to have and all women's



Christian Jallah, MRU Resident Coordinator; Ophelia Hoff-Saytumah, MARWOPNET Focal Chapter

positions in governance and to provide the enabling environment for entrepreneur growth so as to break the barrel of backwardness."

According to him, more actions are needed to have more women participate in decision-making process especially, in politics, public service, and private sector development.

Mr. Jallah assures that the MRU will continue to

organizations in the call for positive actions and urges governments of member-states to continue to support women's programs that promote gender equality in national development issues.

"We have come a long way, but much still needs to be done because our women are still in the minority in decision-making positions as the

▶ **CONT'D page 10**

IN THE CIVIL LAW COURT, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR MONTSERRADO COUNTY, IN ITS JUNE TERM, A.D. 2023.

LANCH LIBERIA

BEFORE HIS HONORABLE... **NELSON B. CHINEH**... ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

IN RE: THE PETITION OF **TIMOTHY JOE MASSEH**, PETITIONER, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE REGARDED, CALLED AND KNOWN AS "**EZEKIEL MASSEH**".

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME 00011540

WHEREAS, **TIMOTHY JOE MASSEH** filed a Petition before this Court, requesting this Honorable Court to order the change of his name from **TIMOTHY JOE MASSEH** to **EZEKIEL MASSEH**.

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the request for Change of his name by this Honorable Court is intended to reflect his truth family name and to render his identity more explicitly and absolutely.

After conducting the necessary interrogations required by Law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of name proposed by him.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on **May 4, 1998**, in the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia and that he was born unto **Mr. Joe Masseh** and **Mrs. Nancy Masseh**, both of whom are from the Republic of Liberia, and that the change of his name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish just identity more firmly, and being satisfied that he has met all legal requirements for the Change of his name in this jurisdiction, it is therefore **DECREE** as follows:

That the Petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name **TIMOTHY JOE MASSEH** be changed to "**EZEKIEL MASSEH**" beginning this 29th Day of August, A.D. 2023.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other official documentations within ten (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. **AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.**

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT, THIS **29th DAY OF AUGUST, A.D. 2023.**

COURT'S SEAL

HIS HONOR **NELSON B. CHINEH** ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME **D9-012** PAGES(S) **00011540**

REGISTRAR NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO. R.L.

PALM COMMUNITY RESIDENCE ASSOCIATION (PCK)
Kpelleh Town, Barnesville Township, Montserrado County, Liberia.
E-Mail Address: palmcommunity2019@gmail.com
t: +231-0886-530-166/0777-530-166/0777-986-256/0778-335-818

23

REF: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasing duty to present Compliments and to as well recommend to you the bearer of this instrument, in person of **Mother, Massa Cocoo Tappeh**, in support of her Application for Police Clearance, to facilitate the legal process of changing her name from: **Mother, Massa Cocoo Tappeh** to **Mother, Massa Walker Bondo**.

Mother, Massa Cocoo Tappeh is a Permanent Resident of Palm Community, Kpelleh Town, Barnesville Township. She has been an intimate acquaintance for a Protracted Period, and has always proven to be **Respectful, Intelligent, Hardworking, Discipline, Corporative, Supportive, Proactive, Dedicated, Committed, Honest and a Dutiful Worker** driven by precision and accuracy. Accordingly, I have no reservation if given said **Police Clearance**; she will justify the confidence reposed in her.

In view of the above mentioned, it is my considerate expectation that you will afford **Mother, Massa Cocoo Tappeh**, the opportunity to obtain said **Police Clearance** to facilitate the processing of her legal documents. I can be contacted on the below Cell #'s: **0777530166/0886530166** if you need further information.

Please accept, **Sir/Madam**, the renewed assurance of my highest esteem and consideration.

Best Regards,
Sincerely Yours,
Africanus B Freeman, Sr.
CHAIRMAN, Palm Community, Kpelleh Town
Cell#: 0777530166/0886530166

bcx vbn, Motto: "Together we can unite and develop our Community".

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Weah receives more endorsements

Cummings gets more endorsements in District # 4

By Lewis S Teh

The headquarters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC of incumbent President George Weah continues to be a place of attraction as scores of opposition members cross over to the ruling Coalition to join ranks ahead of the October 10th Presidential and Legislative Elections. The latest to join the CDC is Liberia's 176th National Flag Day Orator Wantoe T. Wantoe, from the Movement for Progressive Change (MPC) of businessman-turned-politician Simeon Freeman and a stalwart of the Unity Party

During a colorful endorsement program on Friday, September 1, 2023, at the CDC national headquarters in Oldest Congo Town, the youthful orator said his decision to join the ruling establishment is based upon President Weah's numerous achievements within a period of six years. "Today, under this administration, we have seen affordable healthcare, our mortality rate is far lower than the previous government", Wantoe explains.

support the reelection bid of the President. Also speaking, a stalwart of the UP, Haji Kromah, who works in the office of Montserrado County Electoral District #10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah, pledged his unwavering support to the reelection of President Weah.

Mr. Kromah notes that moving forward, President Weah has demonstrated so well to the convenience of even the visually impaired and the entire citizenry that the President has also given young people opportunities. At the same time, Kromah frowned at Representative Kolubah for consistently insulting the President, noting that the lawmaker's verbal attacks and his refusal to take advice are contributing factors for his decision. He outlines many achievements of President Weah in areas of health, education, infrastructure, road connectivity and improvement of citizens' lives across the country, among others. According to the former UP partisan, he remains unapologetic for his decision, terming President Weah as

According to him, President Weah has demonstrated astute leadership since coming to power in 2018, something he says, drives his decision to

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attraction as scores of opposition members cross over to the ruling Coalition to join ranks ahead of the October 10th Presidential and Legislative Elections. The latest to join the CDC is Liberia's 176th National Flag Day Orator Wantoe T. Wantoe, from the Movement for Progressive Change (MPC) of businessman-turned-politician Simeon Freeman and a stalwart of the Unity Party

First-time voters want peaceful Liberia

By Lincoln G. Peters

A group of first-time voters has charged political actors in Gardnerville as well as national political leaders to ensure that Liberia remains peaceful during and after the elections. The group called Gardnerville First-Time Voters, held a program on Saturday, 2 September 2023, urging political actors not to use the youth to instigate violence against one another. Instead, the young people called on political actors to use them to propagate messages of peace and stability. The gathering brought together approximately one thousand first-time voters from across the district. Included in the program were recreational activities. The first-timer voters chanted, "I was 16 years I promised Weah that when I reach 18-years, I will vote for him." The gathering of first-time voters demonstrated a high level of political civility within the district. Supporters of the opposition Unity Party, Alternative National Congress, and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change all assembled under one banner to chant "Peace First, Peace Last." Ms. Peggy Soumawolo, chairperson of the Montserrado

County Electoral District #13 First-Time Voters, gave the overview of the program. Ms. Soumawolo stated that a signing of the peace accord signifies the common purpose of bringing an end to political violence in the country and setting out the code of conduct for political actors within the district and the nation at large.

Ms. Soumawolo charged participants in the political process in Liberia including political parties, organizations, and government officials to condemn the scourge of political violence that has afflicted the country.

She called on political actors to commit themselves and their parties, organizations, and the



government to the national peace accord. Ms. Soumawolo added that the prevalence of political violence in the country has already caused

untold hardship, disruption, and loss of lives and properties across the country. To achieve some measures of stability and consolidate the peace process, she said the priority shall be the introduction of reconstruction to address only the worst effects of political violence at a local level. Ms. Soumawolo stated that the peace accord of the district signifies that the young people of Liberia are tired of violence and looking forward to peace as the best way to achieve their dreams. "This accord is intended to promote peace and prosperity in violence-stricken communities. The

right [for] all people to live in peace and harmony will be promoted by the implementation of this accord," she said.

An estimated 10,000 citizens, predominantly women turned out, Sunday, September 3, at the Soul Clinic F-Sham field, of District #4, Montserrado County, to welcome and endorse the Presidential bid of Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP).

The program organized by a group of women, under the banner of W-Force Women for Cummings, attracted hundreds of women, girls, and first-time voters from the 17 districts of Montserrado.

The W-Force Women for Cummings is an independent women's movement that cut across various women, organizations, communities, schools, professionals, civic society, and interest groups, committed to mobilizing women, girls, and men, nationwide to support and vote

He extended special thanks to the organizers, the W-Force Women for Cummings for the massive mobilization of women, girls, men, and first-time voters, with pledged that he will not disappoint them or dash their hopes for better Liberia.

A lady, identified as Ma Musu Gibson, 49, said she led a group of 200 women from her community in District # 4, to attend the program, because of her admiration and respect for Cummings and his agenda for real change in Liberia.

A group of girls in t-shirts, with banners of Cummings and Brumskine, who claimed to be first-time voters, expressed their admiration for the CPP choice of a young woman, reference to Counsellor Brumskine, for which they promised to mobilize youths in support of the CPP Presidency come October 10.

Cummings promised to accord women their rightful place as equal partners in decision-making



Cummings as the next President of Liberia.

A spokesperson for the Women For Cummings, expressed confidence in the professional integrity, qualifications and competence of Mr. Cummings, as the best to effect the needed changes in Liberia, and vowed to support him. Wearing the Cummings and Brumskine t-shirts, with banners from their various districts, the huge crowd jam-packed the Soul Clinic F-Sham field, and dance. The podium from which Cummings addressed the multitude of supporters from a podium mounted on a 40-foot container carrying truck.

Cummings expressed gratitude at the multitude of citizens, who he said left their busy schedule to attend his endorsement and pledged their support to his Presidential bid come October 10.

and will share equally in the wealth and resources of the country.

He said upon his election as President, the CPP's primary focus will be to revive the ailing economy and establish a strong private sector for massive job creation for the thousands of unemployed Liberians.

Cummings vowed that within the first one hundred days in office, he will launch a U\$20 million loan scheme for Liberian entrepreneurs including market women to grow and expand their businesses.

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District 11 residents threaten to boycott election

Hundreds of eligible voters in Montserrado County Electoral District #11 have threatened to boycott the ensuing October 10 presidential and legislative elections due to the disqualification of their

down by supporters of his political archrivals.

Hundreds of Mr. Tweh's supporters staged a peaceful protest over the weekend and gathered at the headquarters of the Liberia National Police (LNP) on the Capitol Bye Pass in Monrovia when he was invited by the police for questioning. Speaking in an interview with Reporters over the weekend, the Spokesman of the aggrieved women, Theresa Davies disclosed that citizens of the district are disenchanted over the manner and form in which their "choice" was denied from exercising his political right to represent his people.

"Mr. Tweh is our choice; if you look at the way people went to his house that night after the court ruling, you will know that people really love and want him to represent them." "We will not vote for this government or support any of their candidates in this district or county because of the decision from the court," Theresa Davies, 32 noted. "Mr. Tweh is the only one now that can tell us to vote or rethink our decision to vote for this person as President, Senator or Representative because the court says he should not contest. We see him as our political leader, the same way Nimba County people see Prince Johnson."

Tandanpollie contended that Mr. Tweh does not reside in district # 11, but in Louisiana, district # 1 in Montserrado County. Mr. Tweh is currently a resident of the God Grace Community in Louisiana.

The Supreme Court requested the NEC to remove



Representative Candidate Thomas Tweh by the Supreme Court of Liberia. Last week, the Supreme Court mandated the National Elections Commission (NEC) to nullify the candidacy of Mr. Tweh, who is commonly known as Original Country Man (OCM).

The court said Mr. Tweh was ineligible to contest following a domicile case filed against him by his political opponent Siah Tandanpollie of the New Liberia Party (NLP).

the name of Mr. Tweh from the official list of qualified candidates vying for the representative seat of District 11, Montserrado County. The court's ruling was in keeping with Article 30 (b) of the 1986 Liberian Constitution. The constitution is the organic law of the land. Following the Supreme Court's ruling, supporters of Mr. Tweh were subjected to provocations and humiliation from their political archrivals. His campaign flyers and banners were being taken

Weah receives more

Starts from page 6

the best leader and as such, his reelection is unstoppable. While making his endorsement statement, Kromah reveals that he began receiving threatening messages against his life from Representative Yekeh Kolubah. He further discloses that his life and the lives of his family are under attack by the opposition lawmaker, stressing that it is his democratic right to decide his political destination. Kromah says he is prepared for any step Representative Yekeh Kolubah will take against him for joining the CDC, and will not relent in responding in similar manner. In response, the National Chair for the CDC Youth League and Assistant Youth and Sports Minister, Emmanuel Mulbah Johnson, describes the decision taken by Haji Kromah and others to join the CDC as a complete liberation for themselves.

Mr. Johnson, who wholeheartedly welcomes the new converts says the CDC and its executives, including President Weah have opened their arms to working with him and the others. According to him, the Weah-Taylor

Administration has performed and liberated thousands of Liberians from abject poverty over the last five years. The CDC National Youth then party berets and T-shirts with the image of President Weah to the new converts. For his part, the Secretary General of the Coalition for Democratic Change, Jefferson Tamba Koijee, welcomes the new converts to the CDC, adding that the party is a grassroots movement that belongs to everyone, who has been rejected. He says Mr. Haji Kromah only recounted reasons for the re-election of President Weah, noting that during such declaration, he did not use invectives. Koijee continues that some of the reasons behind Kromah's resignation from Representative Kolubah's office are due to the lawmaker's continuous insults on the Presidency, including Liberian girls and women.

The Mayor of Monrovia

says he is inspired by the message of Haji Kromah, despite he (Koijee) being a Christian by faith.

He notes that if it causes any citizen to reject the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change to protect and defend women's pride, such decision will be welcoming. According to him, one government official cannot claim to be a patriot and promoter of peace and societal sanity, but always uses invectives against women in flagrant disregard to the pride and services rendered by ladies.

"This is not politics; you cannot insult our women and mothers. The insult of our mother is not about party," he adds.

The Mayor is at the same time urging Liberian men to stand up in defense of women, noting women fought to bring peace and stability to the Republic of Liberia, so their silence should not be overlooked. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Education CSO Coalition Advocates for Public Schools to Manage Registration Fees

A coalition of nine civil society organizations advocating for policy reforms in the education sector under the USAID Liberia funded, Civil Society Activity (CSA), wants public school administrators to manage the registration fees they collect from parents during the school year.

Under the current structure, public schools send the registration fees they collect to the Ministry of Education (MOE), and the MOE later remits the money to schools to cover operational expenses.

But the CSA Education CSO Coalition said parents, teachers, students, and local education officials complained about that the funds do not arrive on time to enable schools to prepare for the opening of schools—paint, repair desks and

peaceful elections.

CSA facilitated the training in collaboration with the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) at the Sinkor Palace in Congo Town, August 28-29, 2023.

The coalition is targeting seventy-eight schools in Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Bong and Lofa. The CSOs are working on three projects: Monitoring and Research/Investigation in Public School Registration Fees; Advocacy for PTA Guidelines for School Monitoring and Oversight; and Advocacy for the Establishment of Regional CSOs Legal Clinics/Assistance Centers.

Since its formation in July, the coalition is meeting with citizens, the private sector and education stakeholders to inform them about the projects and solicit



chairs, fix leaky roofs and buy school supplies. The money sometimes arrives during the third period or at the end of the school year.

"The money needs to remain in the communities because the process of remitting money to MOE and MOE remitting to schools is too long," said James Kollie, program director at the Institute for Policy Evaluation and Research (IPER), one of the CSOs working on the school registration fees project. "Sometimes there are a lot of bureaucratic bottlenecks."

As public-school students prepare to head to the classroom on Monday, Sept. 4, IPER and other coalition members are concerned that most schools will be inadequate for learning when students show up this week.

The CSA Education CSO Coalition comprising nine CSOs made the recommendation at the end of a five-day training where they learned tips on research and communication strategies to support advocacy campaigns for education sector reforms and advocate for

support for implementation.

In the next three weeks, the coalition will visit schools, interview parents, local education officials, and MOE officials about the school registration process. They will request data on school enrollment, amount of money collected in registration fees in the last school year, amount disbursed to schools and the period for disbursement.

The monitoring of the school registration fees seeks to promote transparency and accountability. Under the project, CSOs will use the Freedom of Information Law to access information on the school registration process, funds collected and distributed to schools and how the money was spent.

McArthur Marshall, assistant program lead at Integrity Watch Liberia (IWL), one of the coalition members, said delay in disbursing the money to schools makes it difficult for schools to operate. The MOE and local school officials need to develop a system to account for the school registration fees.

Français

Campagnes électorales : Cummings

séduit de plus en plus d'électeurs

Le porte-étendard de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), M. Alexander Cummings, est de nouveau descendu dans la rue le jeudi 31 août, dans son infatigable marathon de porte-à-porte. Cette fois, il a pris d'assaut le district n°8 à Sinkor et le district n°17 à Brewerville,

rues jusqu'au marché Nancy B. Doe, Plumkor, Saye et Jallah Town, derrière le campus de l'Université du Libéria, à Camp Johnson Road, Clay Street et au Rally Time Market sur UN Drive, Monrovia.

La campagne électorale de Cummings a pris de l'ampleur, les partisans et sympathisants des différentes communautés se

reunissent, d'entreprise à entreprise, à distribuer des affiches, à rencontrer et à saluer les citoyens, a accru la popularité de Cummings et a également accru les inquiétudes du public quant à l'état de santé mentale et physique des citoyens. Le prochain président du Libéria devrait être », a déclaré M. Momo Johnson, un habitant de la communauté.

Des centaines d'habitants des différentes communautés se sont précipités pour apercevoir Cummings, lui serrer la main et interagir avec lui. Ils se sont émerveillés devant les nombreuses discussions autour du politicien qui a juré de changer le système. Son engagement à rompre avec les méthodes séculaires qui ont retardé le progrès national et soumis la grande majorité à des souffrances extrêmes et à la pauvreté est sans précédent. A 176 ans, le Libéria est sans eau potable, sans électricité fiable, avec un service de santé médiocre, un système éducatif en désordre et est classé au 10e rang des pays les plus pauvres du monde, malgré ses vastes ressources naturelles, notamment l'or, le diamant, le minerai de fer, le caoutchouc et la bauxite.

L'adhésion au projet de Cummings était très évidente sur les marchés, où il a été

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Alexander B. Cummings

dans le comté de Montserrado.

Cummings, accompagné de M. Rufus Neufville (candidat aux législatives dans le district n°8), et de plusieurs centaines de partisans et sympathisants, est passé par la 12e rue à Sinkor, marchant dans les

son point de provoquer de sérieux embouteillages à leur passage, dans un tonnerre de klaxons accompagnés par les chants comme "Cummings is the man we want."

« La stratégie de campagne de la CPP, qui consiste à faire le porte à porte, aller de rue en

Elections locales en Côte d'Ivoire : après le vote, l'attente des résultats

En Côte d'Ivoire, près de 8 millions d'électeurs étaient appelés à voter hier (samedi) pour élire les maires et les présidents de Conseil régionaux. C'est la dernière élection avant la présidentielle de 2025. Ce vote est très suivi. Il s'est déroulé dans le calme. Cependant, plusieurs incidents ont été signalés dans la nuit.

La journée de vote de samedi a été globalement qualifiée d'apaisée. Samedi soir, le chef d'état-major de l'armée a affirmé qu'aucun incident majeur n'a été signalé mais, dans la nuit, plusieurs dysfonctionnements ont été relevés par les observateurs. Selon le Conseil national des droits de l'Homme, dans le Moronou par exemple, à M'batto, le président d'un bureau de vote a mis fin au dépouillement et est rentré chez lui vers 4h56 du matin. À Mankono, quatre urnes ont été saccagées et dans le

Marahoué, il y a eu des destructions de biens publics. Le bureau local de la Commission électorale indépendante (CEI) aurait été placé sous protection de l'armée. Voilà pour les dernières informations de la matinée de ce dimanche 3 septembre.

Quelque 4.400 gendarmes et policiers ont été déployés pour sécuriser les centres de vote. Ils sont aussi présents au moment de la compilation et du convoyage du matériel électoral, précise notre correspondante à Abidjan, Bineta

Diagne.

Le Conseil national des Droits de l'Homme a relevé près de 250 cas d'incidents liés à l'arrivée tardive du matériel électoral, à l'ouverture différée de certains bureaux de vote. Mis à part des échauffourées localisées dans les communes du Plateau et de Marcory, aucun acte de violence majeur n'avait été signalé samedi après-midi.

Jour de vote à Yopugon

À Yopougon, commune la plus peuplée du district

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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 **Campagnes électorales**

accueilli par des centaines de commerçants, en majorité des femmes, qui l'ont accueilli et ont réaffirmé leur soutien à sa candidature à la présidentielle du 10 octobre 2023. Ils ont également remercié M. Cummings pour sa promesse de 20 millions de dollars au programme d'autonomisation des commerçantes, des jeunes et des petites entreprises.

Le porte-étendard de la CPP s'est ensuite rendu dans d'autres bidonvilles derrière le stade Antionette Tubman où il a conclu sa visite et a exprimé ses remerciements et son appréciation aux partisans, et sympathisants qui l'ont accompagné lors de la visite de quatre heures du district n°8 dans le comté de Montserrado. Cummings a promis d'améliorer les infrastructures routières, de réorganiser l'économie en difficulté, de réformer le système judiciaire faible du pays pour attirer les investissements directs étrangers pour une création massive d'emplois et de restaurer les services sociaux de base, visant à réduire la pauvreté et les souffrances

extrêmes.

Il a également promis de mettre en place un micro-crédit de 20 millions de dollars au cours des cent premiers jours de son mandat pour les entrepreneurs libériens, y compris les commerçantes, dans le but de créer un secteur privé solide détenu et contrôlé par des Libériens. Après la tournée du district n°8, le porte-étendard de la CPP a déménagé dans le district n°17 à Brewerville, une localité à prédominance des descendants des esclaves affranchies appelés les Congos, dont la démographie a changé et qui est désormais densément peuplée de jeunes.

Cummings a été accueilli avec enthousiasme dans chacune des communautés visitées, et les jeunes ont scandé des slogans de soutien et de solidarité pour la Collaboration les partis politiques.

Il s'apprête à visiter les 17 districts politiques du comté de Montserrado avant le scrutin du 10 octobre. Le comté de Montserrado compte le plus grand nombre d'électeurs inscrits, suivi des comtés de Nimba, Bong, Lofa et Grand Bassa, selon la Commission électorale nationale.

Présidentielle 2023 : Le président Weah se présente comme l'artisan du développement



Pres. Weah

Se présentant comme le seul et vrai artisan du développement, le président George Weah a exhorté les électeurs à ne pas commettre l'erreur de voter pour ceux qu'il considère comme des politiciens ratés. M. Weah a exhorté les habitants d'Unification Town, dans le comté inférieur de Margibi, à rejeter « ceux qui viennent avec les mensonges pour tromper les électeurs ».

« À l'approche de ces élections, il est essentiel que nous rejetions ces politiciens défaillants qui ont fait échouer ce pays au fil des années », a déclaré M. Weah.

Il a exhorté ses partisans à ouvrir les yeux et à ne pas

confier leur pays à des « politiciens inutiles » qui ont laissé tomber le pays au fil des années et qui ne font que parler. Il leur a aussi suppliés de maintenir la confiance qu'ils ont placée dans la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir et lui accorder un second mandat.

Selon Weah, la CDC a mis le pays sur la bonne trajectoire de développement et fait beaucoup mieux que ceux qui ont dirigé le pays pendant 12 et 27 ans. Il a invité les électeurs à faire preuve de critique et à voter en toute conscience plutôt que de se laisser bernier en votant pour des politiciens défaillants.

Selon le président Weah, voter « pour des politiciens ratés » mettra le pays en danger et entraînera une pauvreté extrême.

« Maintenant, ils viennent vers vous pour vous demander de voter pour eux. Que viennent-ils faire ? Nous avons construit vos routes, nous vous offrons des cours gratuits, construisons davantage d'hôpitaux et améliorons vos moyens de subsistance et vous voyez jusqu'où nous sommes allés en cinq ans en matière de développement. Alors ne vous laissez pas emporter et rejetez ces politiques et ces évolutions électorales défaillantes », a soutenu Weah.

Il a réaffirmé l'engagement de son gouvernement à améliorer les moyens de subsistance de la nation et de sa population.

En réponse, les habitants du comté de Margibi ont promis leur soutien massif à la réélection du président Weah.

Starts from page 8 **Elections locales en**

d'Abidjan, considérée comme une commune déterminante pour les partis politiques, le vote s'est déroulé dans le calme. RFI a rencontré des électeurs de cette commune, comme Anastasie qui a voté pour la deuxième fois de sa vie.

Jour de vote calme à Adzopé

Pendant toute la nuit, les résultats dans les 31 régions et les 201 communes ont été compilés par la Commission électorale indépendante. À Adzopé, dans le sud-est du pays à une centaine de kilomètres d'Abidjan, le scrutin s'est tenu dans le calme, rapporte notre envoyé spécial, François Hume-Ferkatadji

Avec son marché animé, ses commerces ouverts et ses taxis blancs multipliant les courses dans les artères de la

ville, Adzopé a vécu un samedi comme un autre en ce jour d'élection. Dès le matin, les électeurs se sont rendus dans les bureaux de vote avec l'espoir de connaître un scrutin apaisé. Les dysfonctionnements des tablettes électroniques et le vote de ceux qui n'avaient pas encore leur carte d'électeur ont retardé considérablement le travail des assesseurs mais les électeurs comme Sanogo, 22 ans, gardent le sourire.

Les tendances concernant la participation n'ont pas encore été rendues publiques. Mais hier, le président a encouragé les Ivoiriens à se mobiliser : le taux de participation des précédents scrutins locaux n'est pas très élevé, il oscille entre 35 et 40% a déploré Alassane Ouattara.

Les résultats de ces élections locales sont attendus dans le cours de la journée de ce dimanche 3 septembre.

Mme Sirleaf encourage les femmes à prendre part aux élections

L'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf exhorte les Libériens, en particulier les femmes, à exercer leurs droits et responsabilités constitutionnels en votant aux élections présidentielles et législatives d'octobre 2023.

"Notre vote, c'est quand chaque citoyen exerce son droit constitutionnel de voter. Cela dépend de vous et de votre conscience ou de votre Dieu", a insisté l'ancienne présidente le mardi 29 août lors du lancement de la Women's Situation Room pour promouvoir la paix et des élections démocratiques.

Elle a décrit l'organisation comme un lieu de solution, de maintien de la paix et de négociation, notant qu'elle réussissait bien en Afrique dans la promotion et le maintien de la paix. Madame Sirleaf a expliqué que la Women's Situation Room est contrôlée et influencée par des femmes dévouées et fortes dont l'intérêt, selon elle, est la paix et la stabilité en Afrique et dans le village mondial.

La Women's Situation Room est le fruit des efforts du Angie Brooks International Center, un groupe de réflexion qui milite en faveur de la paix et d'une société saine et fonctionnelle.

"Je veux que les Libériens félicitent l'ABIC et ses partenaires pour avoir ouvert la Women's Situation Room au Libéria. Elles sont partout en Afrique pour enseigner aux gens le processus politique et parler également de la manière dont les gens peuvent

exercer leurs droits constitutionnels de vote. Mais, plus important encore, La concentration et le thème central de WSR au Libéria portent sur la paix », a-t-elle noté.

Elle a souligné que tous les Libériens doivent travailler collectivement à la préservation de la paix au Libéria.

"Notre concentration, alors que nous nous dirigeons vers cette saison politique majeure, nous voulons nous assurer qu'il n'y a pas de violence, de discrimination et que chacun fasse ce qu'il est censé faire comme l'exige la loi. Et veiller à ce qu'il vote dans un environnement paisible."

Elle a félicité le Centre international Angie Brooks pour l'autonomisation des femmes, le développement du leadership, la paix et la sécurité internationales pour avoir ouvert la Women's Situation Room au Libéria.

Pendant ce temps, Madame Sirleaf a nié soutenir un quelcon

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w accordée mardi à la mairie de Monrovia après le lancement de l'élection, lorsqu'on lui a demandé de nommer son candidat préféré, l'ancienne présidente a rejeté cette question comme étant hors de propos, affirmant qu'elle n'était plus une politicienne.

"Je ne suis plus une politicienne, alors ne me demandez pas cela. J'exerce mon vote en silence comme l'exige la Constitution", a-t-elle répondu.



Madame Sirleaf

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ECOWAS, UN want violence investigated

-urges Liberians to safeguard peace

Liberia's international partners, including ECOWAS and the United Nations, have issued a joint statement here, raising concern over recent reports of

especially violence against women in elections and politics and, to resolve any grievance through established legal mechanisms. We further caution against the instrumentalization of the

process, saying "We are mindful that the presidential and legislative elections will be the first to be primarily organized and administered by Liberia, since the drawdown of the United Nations Mission in Liberia in 2018. It is therefore a pivotal moment for Liberia to safeguard its peace and democracy and serve as an inspiration for Africa and the rest of the world." It also commends the National Elections Commission for the conduct of a generally well-administered and transparent biometric voter registration and candidate nomination process and for its continuing efforts to demonstrate its independence and impartiality, which is crucial for public confidence in the institution and the electoral process. The International Community in Liberia reaffirms its unwavering support to the Government and people of Liberia in their efforts to consolidate peace and inclusive democracy. The Joint Statement comes barely a month and few days to the 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections in which 20 candidates, including incumbent President George Weah and a female, are vying for the Presidency. Joint Statement



Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), United Nations (UN)

election violence, urges Liberian authorities to investigate and hold those responsible to account, while appealing to all Liberians to safeguard gains of the hard-won peace. "We bring attention to inflammatory rhetoric which has the potential to instigate violence. We therefore urge political leaders to be active peace messengers promote issue-based campaigns and refrain from incitement of followers toward violent action,

youth", the joint statement issued on 31 August reads.

It says as Liberia commemorates 20 years of unbroken peace, the International Community in Liberia calls on the signatories of the Farmington River Declaration 2023 to abide by their commitment and promote the conditions for peaceful, transparent, and credible elections, prior to, during, and after the polls. At the same time, the International Community in Liberia

MRU urges member states

Starts from page 5

30 percent requirement in legislative and other positions of decision-making has not been achieved."

He observes that female politicians and entrepreneurs are still marginalized and discriminated against hence, as Liberians commemorate 20 years of peace, they must be able to reveal through their historical lenses and actions about women's role in the peace process that the nation currently enjoys. Meanwhile, the people of Grand Cape Mount County have reportedly donated 750,000 Liberian Dollars as their contribution for the reconstruction of Radio MARWOPNET. Radio MAWOPNET got burnt as a result of lightning that struck the building, destroying the entire station and equipment.

In remarks, the national focal point of MARWOPNET Liberia Chapter, Ophelia Hoff-Saytumah, discloses that the United Nations Development Program based in Sierra Leone has also donated large sum of money which has helped in

purchasing transmitter for the radio station.

"That has been main focus and it is almost finished thanks for our partnership with the Mano River Union because its Secretariat has been instrumental in securing equipment through the UNDP Sierra Leone for Radio MARWOPNET Liberia Chapter", Madam Saytumah reveals. She commended the people of Tienne, Grand Cape Mount County because they have been undertaking the rebuilding of the structure free of charge. The Executive Director of the Liberia Crusaders for Peace, Juli Andy, underscores the need for Liberians to respect one another's views in order to maintain the peace.

She says the impending elections will go and leaders will come and go, but Liberia will remain, and this is the only country Liberians have because political differences do not necessarily mean enmity.

"The warning signs are on the wall my people; if you

know what we all went through, we will not forget the role played by people like Comany Weeseh, George Weah, and others."

Delivering a sermon at the service, the Director of Women and Children Department at the Providence Baptist Church, Reverend Charlotte Kaicora, notes that as the country goes through the current heated campaign season, many Liberians are praying to God for a particular leader.

According to her, promotion comes neither from the East, nor the West, but from God in heaven regardless of political affiliation. "We need to give thanks to God because He knows what is best for us and no one can unturn or overturn God's decision. God is his own interpreter, and he will make plain when the time comes because, as we gather to pray, this should be our prayer, Lord, not our will but let your will be done." The President of the Inter-Religious Council of Liberia, Sheik Fumba Sheriff, paid homage to the founding fathers of the Council.

Nimbaians rise for Gongloe

By Thomas Domah / Nimba County

Presidential Candidate Cllr. Tiawan Say Gongloe of the Liberian People's Party (LPP) has received huge endorsement from his kinsmen in Nimba County. Citizens of Zahn Chiefdom, Lao and Meinpea-Mah Administrative District in Nimba County, including women and youth groups, chiefs, elders, traditional council and religious groups converged in Zahn Duo Town, Electoral District#8 recently and endorsed the Presidential bid of Cllr. Gongloe, who they believe is the best person to replace President George Weah on October 10th. Addressing the gathering, Head Elder of the chiefdom Stephen Nya Glay, said their decision to support Cllr.

Wehyee, recounted her brother's past public service records, urging Nimbaians to continue to support him. Madam Wehyee said it's about time that Nimba makes history by producing the next President of Liberia. She notes that the county produced two vice presidents in the past, but there was no impact. "Vice President Position, according to former Vice President Joseph Boakai, is a position that does not allow you to have your own way of doing things, only the President can carry out development activities and other work so vote-rich Nimba County doesn't need such position but rather the Presidency", she explains. Madam Gongloe-Wehyee urges Nimbaians not to support people from the county who are seeking to become vice president but rather to rally behind Cllr. Gongloe for the Presidency. At the ceremony, the



Gongloe, a son of Nimba County is not a mistake, as it's rather based on his past records in public service as a corruption-free personality. "This man, not to say because he is from Nimba County that why we Nimbaians are supporting him but what he has done and continues to do for Liberians is what matters, so our gathering here today is not because of money, but to tell the world that Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe is a possible replacement for President George Weah", they said. Mr. Glay notes that out of 20 Presidential Candidates in the race, Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe is the only person who can deliver Liberians from their current poor living condition.

He recalls that during Cllr. Gongloe's services in government and the private sector, Liberians, including the international community felt his impact on society. At the forum, the citizens provided cash to Gongloe as financial support to enable him to achieve his dream of becoming President of the country. The event was graced by former district#2 (Saclepea) education officer, Clifford Konah, and local organizations in the county and the district, among others. Also speaking, former Nimba County superintendent and a sister of Cllr. Gongloe, Edith Gongloe-

county chairman for Team Gongloe Atty. Lawrence Tomah expressed joy to have seen huge turnout of Nimbaians in one place without being transported. He says it's about time the people of Nimba stand up to support one of their sons, who is educated and well-equipped to lead Liberia. "If a man and a woman from smaller counties son can be president then Nimba County can also produce president. Don't be allowing smaller counties to be producing leaders, while Nimba County with huge population can't make an impact by producing president this time around." In response, Cllr. Gongloe thanks Nimbaians for gathering in huge number to endorse him. He said his leadership will combat insecurity the citizenry are going through while promising to support public and private schools across the country to help government in educating citizens if elected President. He also pledges to provide vocational schools, good road network, women empowerment, and job opportunities for Liberians, amongst others. Cllr. Tiawan says his government will cut off graduation fees being collected from parents, and students from 7th to 12th grades will be able to teach others through a home school program. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

“I’m not that greedy”

President George Weah has told voters in the Bassa town of St. Johns that he is not that greedy to seek a third term.

President Weah who spoke to citizens on Saturday, September 2, during a campaign stopover, in his appeal for a second term mandate comes October 10, stated that he had no plans

their footsteps. Hence the significance of his pronouncement over the weekend.

Meanwhile, Mr. Weah says, a second term mandate will enable him to complete ongoing projects and leave a legacy for voters to compare his twelve years of performance with the

Buchanan defied torrential rainfall to attend the President’s rally at the county’s fairground.

They stood in the rain from the morning to 8 pm holding their plastic chairs over their heads as they waited for Mr. Weah who arrived late evening hours to address a rally that lasted for two hours.

Overwhelmed by seeing such a huge crowd standing in the heavy downpour of rain, Mr. Weah took a swipe at the opposition community, inviting them to come and witness what was unfolding.

He described his supporters as true members of his party, seeing them standing in the rain to listen to him. “I want to thank you,” he said, adding “I will not let you down.”

Like speaker after speaker in other counties and cities toured already, citizens were vocal in their pledge to support the re-election bid of President Weah.

Speakers at the Buchanan rally included former Defense Minister under disgraced former President Charles Taylor’s regime Daniel Chea and former Information Minister under the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf regime Rev. Dr. Larry K. Bropleh who is the CDC’s Campaign Chair for Grand Bassa County.

Other speakers included Chief Edward Garman-Supreme Grand Zor of Grand Bassa County and first-time voters who all pledged their support to President Weah’s re-election bid.

Grand Bassa is the sixth County so far toured by President Weah since the National Elections Commission announced the opening of the campaign on August 5. He has toured Montserrado, Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Capemount and Margibi Counties.

His main challengers are yet to complete their tours of Montserrado County as the date of the elections draws near. -Writes **Othello B. Garblah**

Lofians fume over PYJ’s leaked audio

A group of prominent citizens of Lofa county are troubled by a leaked audio circulating on social media in which Senator Prince Yormie Johnson is heard rallying Liberians that it is time for Nimba to get to the Presidency thus, begging them to elect the Boakai-Koung Ticket come October because the Unity Party’s vice standard bearer Senator Jeremiah Kpan Koung, is a son of Nimba.

In the said audio, Senator Johnson is heard saying, “We’re fighting for Nimba County to take the lead and Nimba will win in the name of Jesus. Bassa is with us, Gbarpolu with us, Bomi with us, Lofa with us, Bong County with us; what is your problem and you’re on the radio on me?” PYJ: “My brother, what have I done? you got to change. “We’re fighting for you. When y’all turn to this man [Weah] against our prayer for Nimba to produce Vice President - this old man is old; he took Koung to be his Vice President; when he wins, isn’t it Koung that

it is a son of Nimba who wants to use the people of Nimba to assassinate the UP Presidential Candidate, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, a son of Lofa County. “We the citizens of Lofa despite our political differences, are deeply concerned and worried about such devilish and dangerous plan by a former warlord who is on record for killing the late Samuel Kanyon Doe, a democratically-elected President”, the group notes.

It says while it is true that there has been serious question raised about the declining health of the former Vice President, evidenced by recent minor stroke he suffered and was admitted at the ELWA hospital and subsequently flown abroad, “we strongly believe that Boakai’s inner circle is aware that he is unfit to steer the affairs of the country beyond 2023 but are bent on using him for their selfish gains.”

The group of Lofa citizens continues that now that it is clear



coming back to ask them for a third term mandate if re-elected because he believes in democratic tenants.

“... I believe in democratic tenants. So, I am not going to ask you for a third term (because) I am not that greedy,” Mr. Weah said, adding “I want to serve my second term so, I can finish my work and when I complete my work, you will decide who you want to bring.”

The current Liberian constitution gives room for Presidents to serve two terms. Mr. Weah is seeking his second and final six-year term in the pending October 10, 2023, Presidential election. His main challengers are former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai of the former ruling Unity Party of Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former Coca-Cola Executive Mr. Alexander B. Cummings of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) in addition to 17 other competitors.

With unfolding events in the West African sub-region where Ivory Coast’s Alassane Ouattara and Senegal’s President Macky Sall have already altered their countries’ constitutions to seek third terms, there are fears that President Weah may follow in

performances of presidents before him.

“I don’t want a third term, but I want to leave a legacy in my second term,” Mr. Weah said amid cheers and shouts of one-round victory from supporters who trekked from surrounding villages to attend the President’s rally.

Liberia is one of the least developed countries on the African continent and is listed among the 10 poorest countries globally despite its rich natural resources.

At 176, the country lacks basic social services, with recent studies putting the intelligence level of children born in Liberia at 30%.

President Weah addressing the country’s poor infrastructure blamed past leaders for their failures. “I understand how you feel,” speaking to the citizens of St. John who are enduring the difficulty posed by bad road network. “Our country is 176 years old, and you can see that those who came before us have left so much to be done,” he added.

Earlier on Friday, citizens in the commercial capital of Grand Bassa County,



would be doing the job for him? Can he go everywhere? No!”

But in a statement issued in Monrovia, a group of prominent citizens of Lofa County headed by one Jarwoli Jimmy, former Chair Lady of Friends of JNB in Lofa County, including elders, chiefs, zoes, and youth says its attention has been drawn to the leaked audio which reveals plans by the Nimba County Senator to eliminate the UP Standard Bearer, Joseph Boakai if the Rescue Ticket wins the October 2023 Election. According to the group, this statement from PYJ shows that instead of Nimba supporting Lofa for the Presidency,

that the JNB-JKK ticket is not democratic and Lofa-driven but rather a coup de tat in the making, they now redirect the county’s full support to the 2nd term bid of President George Manneh Weah, whose presidency, they observe, has made Lofians to know that power should only be given to those who think about improving the lives of the people and not to selfish politicians who ride on tradition. “This support we will go at any length to make a success by giving President Weah One Round Victory come October 10, 2023”, the statement reads. **By Jonathan Browne**

Boakai attracts Muslim

competence, and astute leadership ability to lead Liberia to sustainable growth and development through his platform named and styled “AREST,” which stands for Agriculture, Roads, Education, Sanitation, and Tourism.

“Not only did we look at competence, we equally assessed his cultural sensitivity, which represents the best interest of our community,” Mr. Sheriff explained. “NAMHFO says it is convinced

beyond all doubt that if overwhelmingly voted for, he is going to turn things around for Liberia and Liberians.” He said his organization believes that with Rescue One and Rescue Two, Liberia is bound to change for the better and it is not going to be business as usual. For his part, Amb. Boakai said the endorsement was timely and worthy. Amb. Boakai extolled the leadership of the group and the members for the

endorsement, promising to ensure that the criteria for selection would never be disappointed. “I want to thank you for this great step. It’s time that we join forces to rescue Liberia. We need to arrest everything that is child-play,” he said. Boakai said he has a platform and agenda to lift Liberians out of poverty and ensure that every Liberian contributes to nation-building.

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Boakai attracts Muslim Heritage

By Lincoln G. Peters

The presidential bid of opposition Unity Party (UP) standard-bearer Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai has gained more momentum as it attracts the support of National Muslim Heritage Over the weekend in Johnsonville, Montserrado County Electoral

Heritage Foundation, read the endorsement statement.

He said that after years of evaluation, they deemed it necessary to publicly and openly endorse Amb. Boakai's presidential because he is best suited for Liberia's rescue and redemption. "Today, we have all gathered here to witness an event

Rather, he said the membership of NAMHFO in consultation with key stakeholders, developed comprehensive selection criteria that suits Amb. Boakai.

"Before choosing you, we look at competence, attitude, experience, and qualification. We also look at honesty, wisdom,



District #2, hundreds of supporters of the Unity Party gathered at the Muyan Mineral Water Football Field. The gathering brought together officials of the Islamic Community, as well as other religious leaders, youth and student groupings, and women and men. The National Muslim Heritage Foundation (NAMHFO) endorsed Amb. Boakai's presidential bid.

that will go down in the history of our country. It is always better to be recorded in history for doing great things that create positive impacts on the lives of others," said Mr. Sheriff. "On this note, the NAMHFO would like to go on record for endorsing Amb. Joseph N. Boakai for the office of President, Republic of Liberia," he stated.

According to Mr. Sheriff, they did not make this decision to support Amb. Boakai out of any self-seeking motives.

culture, past and present public records, and political legitimacy," he added. Having carefully scrutinized all presidential candidates using their selection criteria, Mr. Sheriff said Amb. Boakai, the Rescue Father, proved to be the best option for Liberia. Mr. Sheriff disclosed that Amb. Boakai is the best simply because of his outstanding moral character, public service

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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