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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023	L\$185.1000/US\$1.00	L\$187.0104/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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Continental News

Niger junta re-opens skies to civilian flights

The leader of Gabon's military junta has vowed to return power to civilians after "free,

a referendum on a new constitution.

Gen Nguema also said he had instructed the new government "to think without delay" about freeing all political prisoners.

The ceremony was broadcast live on Gabonese TV and across online platforms. Former ministers from the ousted government showed up, but were booed by a crowd of junta sympathisers.

The opposition has said it welcomes the removal of Mr Bongo from power but has called for a speedy return to civilian rule.

The defeated presidential candidate Albert Ondo Ossa told the Associated Press that the coup was a "palace revolution", engineered by the Bongo family to retain their power.

Gen Nguema is the latest in a series of military takeovers across West and Central Africa. Gabon is the sixth Francophone country to fall under military rule in the last three years as former colonial power France struggles to maintain its influence on the continent. Gabon was suspended from the African Union following the coup, which has been condemned by the UN and France. In his inauguration address on Monday, Gen Nguema said he was "surprised" at foreign criticism of the takeover. BBC



General Nguema laid out his vision for Gabon after being sworn in as interim president

transparent" elections.

However, in a speech after being sworn in as interim president, he did not give a date for military rule to end.

Gen Brice Nguema led last Wednesday's coup against Ali Bongo, toppling the president shortly after he was named winner of a disputed election. Crowds of cheering civilians turned up at the inauguration - the coup was welcomed by many eager for change. However, some say Gen Nguema's rule will be a continuation of the 55-year Bongo dynasty.

Ali Bongo's father, Omar,

most his career in the Bongo's inner circle and is even thought to be Ali Bongo's cousin. At Monday's inauguration, Gen Nguema gave a defiant speech, referencing the likes of South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, French statesman Charles Fe Gaulle and former Ghanaian leader Jerry Rawlings.

"This patriotic action will be a lesson learnt that will be taught in the books of our schools," said the new president, dressed in the red ceremonial costume of the Republican Guard. He added that a fresh government would be formed "in a few days" and recommended new electoral legislation, a new penal code and

Zimbabwe's Mnangagwa Sworn In for New Five-Year Term

Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa was inaugurated Monday for his second full term after a disputed national election in which he defeated challenger Nelson Chamisa. The main opposition says Mnangagwa's re-election means another five years of economic stagnation and what they see as presidential illegitimacy.

An estimated 40,000 people saluted President Emmerson Mnangagwa as he arrived at National Sports Stadium in Harare Monday. In his speech, Mnangagwa thanked Zimbabweans for what he called a "peaceful" and "transparent" elections.

He promised to exploit Zimbabwe's natural resources to establish a manufacturing base and turn around the economy.

"The numerous mineral resources in our country must be sustainably exploited to leap-frog our industrialization and development," Mnangagwa said. "The lives of our citizens

and the fortunes of our country as a whole must be improved... Riding on our abundant resources as well as skilled and hardworking people, Zimbabwe is poised to take its place as a competitive manufacturing jurisdiction." Mnangagwa appears to have a heavy task ahead of him, with his country suffering one of the highest inflation rates in the world, and possessing an almost worthless currency.

Unemployed 23-year-old Martin Chibezwa says he had to drop

out of school as his parents could not afford the fees. He wants the president to spark the economy and create jobs.

"He must re-open industries which are yet to reopen such as automotive and entrepreneurship that would be helpful for us," Chibezwa said. "Some of us do not have education, so if some industries open, we will get employed. VOA

, even when you did not finish school."



People walk past a ruling Zanu PF poster thanking Zimbabweans for voting for President Emmerson Mnangagwa

Lagos traffic jams disappear But this isn't good news

Lagos feels different, the boisterous - often chaotic - energy that drives Nigeria's commercial centre has been subdued by the removal of a fuel subsidy that had kept the price of petrol low for decades in Africa's largest economy.

Since June, fuel costs have tripled, leading transport fares to shoot up and forcing many employees to return to the pandemic era by working from home. Many private cars are off the roads. And with fewer passengers to tussle over, some of the yellow, fume-belching buses, pride of the city's eternal hustle spirit, now idle at motor parks. The notorious miles-long traffic jams have drastically reduced.

This bustling city of an estimated 20 million people is quieter, but for once that is not a good thing.

What Lagos has gained in tranquillity it has lost economically since President Bola Tinubu abruptly ended

districts on Lagos Island have stopped going to work.

"I was spending 600 naira a day on transport, it jumped to 1,000 naira. By the end of the month I was spending all my salary on transport," a cleaner said, adding that she had been forced to resign from her job. She lives in Ikorodu, a congested part of Lagos state, which is popular with low-income earners. Previously, the 41km (25 miles) between Ikorodu and upmarket Victoria Island took two-three hours during rush hour. Now, it can be done in 45-50 minutes.

Recent data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed that when compared to the second quarter of 2022, the contribution of road transport to the economy within the same period this year fell by around 47%.

As that data only captured one month since the policy changed, things could be even worse now.

That economic hit would have been mostly felt in Lagos, home of Nigeria's busiest port and the city that the Nigerian president prides himself on building. "He was right



Many of Lagos's famous yellow buses now lie idle without passengers

the supply of cheap fuel in his first day in office at the end of May. Oil-rich Nigeria, he said, could no longer afford to subsidise petrol which was costing billions of dollars a year. Mr Tinubu also ended currency restrictions that had been put in place by the previous government, and while many experts agree that it was the right thing to do, it has led to a weakening of the local currency.

The double whammy of rising fuel costs and a weak currency has sent the economy into a tailspin, and nowhere is the biting hardship more apparent than in Lagos - a commercial behemoth that is often a snapshot of the rest of the country.

Many small businesses have packed up, and some low-income earners who live in the suburbs of the mainland and commute to the business

to remove [the] subsidy but not at this time, not without fixing the refineries," said professor of Economics Uchechi Ogbuagu. Because Nigeria's oil refineries are not functioning, most fuel is actually imported. "An essential commodity like energy - if you tamper with the price, there will be a multiplier effect," he said.

What to do with the expensive fuel subsidy was one of the major talking-points before elections earlier this year, with almost all economists and politicians agreeing that it had to go.

Nigeria was spending money it did not have to keep fuel prices low and it was no longer sustainable, the arguments went.

Previous investigations found that the system was riddled with corruption, and as was evident after it was stopped, a large portion of the subsidised fuel was smuggled to neighbouring countries where it was sold at higher rates. BBC

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Shang-Jin Wei

Heeding early advice from ECOWAS and UN

China Must Avoid a Debt-Deflation Spiral

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.

NEW YORK - The Chinese economy is underperforming relative to its growth potential. Not only are investment and consumption demand weaker than hoped, but the country is facing the challenge of two Ds: deflation and debt. While consumer-price inflation is close to negative territory, producer-price inflation has already been negative for a year. At the same time, the private and public sectors have accumulated massive debts, owing to higher spending during the pandemic and the broader response to the easy-money conditions of previous years.

government bonds giving commercial banks more liquidity for lending. If the goal is to achieve higher inflation - as is the case in China today - there is no mechanical limit on the additional stimulus that can be applied to the economy through this channel.

“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.

The two Ds are a toxic combination. By increasing the real (inflation-adjusted) value of existing debt, deflation makes it harder for firms to secure additional financing, thereby raising the prospect of bankruptcies - a trend that is already discernible in China. Moreover, once the combination of debt and deflation becomes entrenched, it can generate a vicious cycle whereby lower demand leads to lower investment, lower output, lower income, and thus even lower demand.

Some might doubt that monetary-policy easing will succeed in boosting aggregate demand, considering that the economy's performance remained weak after previous cuts in the prime lending rate from 3.65% to 3.45%. But an insufficient increase in aggregate demand following a timid monetary stimulus is not proof that more aggressive easing would fail.

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.

This dangerous spiral has two implications for policymaking. To prevent deflationary expectations from becoming entrenched, increasing the inflation rate through aggregate-demand stimulus becomes an urgent necessity. But relying solely on more public or private borrowing is best avoided in favor of aggressive monetary easing - including the monetization of debt (meaning the central bank purchases and holds government bonds).

China needs the “whatever it takes” approach that the European Central Bank pursued a decade ago when it, too, was facing a debt-deflation spiral. The PBOC should publicly declare a strategy to monetize a big portion of government debt and to incentivize more private-equity investment.

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.

To induce a general and coordinated increase in nominal wages, policymakers should consider a three-pronged approach featuring a reduction in employer contributions to the social-security fund in exchange for pay hikes; a fiscal transfer from the Ministry of Finance to the social-security fund, financed by long-term government bonds, to compensate for the lost contributions from firms; and monetization of that fiscal transfer by the PBOC (by buying and holding the government bonds). These measures can be reversed in the future, as needed, to combat inflation. For now, though, fighting the two Ds is much more important.

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.

To be sure, Chinese authorities have pursued a variety of policies to boost the economy, including reducing mortgage interest rates, rescinding restrictions on real-estate firms' access to funding, and implementing measures aimed at boosting domestic stock prices (with the hope that this will raise consumer spending). But these responses, so far, have not achieved the desired outcome.

Finally, proposals for aggressive monetary easing tend to raise concerns about exchange-rate depreciation. The Chinese currency has lost about 5% of its value relative to the US dollar over the last 12 months, owing to asymmetric interest-rate changes in the US and China. The fear, now, is that additional renminbi depreciation could increase the expectation of further depreciation, triggering capital flight - a concern that has probably played some role in limiting the PBOC's appetite for aggressive monetary easing.

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.

Curiously, monetary-policy action - massive injection of more liquidity by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) - has not taken place. This restraint seems to reflect four considerations: a fear of triggering high inflation; perceived limited space for further monetary easing; a belief that monetary stimulus will have only a limited effect; and concerns about further renminbi depreciation against the US dollar and other key currencies.

But if the price of saving the economy from entrenched deflation is a weaker renminbi, it is a price worth paying - and could even serve as a useful adjustment mechanism by boosting foreign demand for Chinese products. Rather than trying to manage the exchange rate, which would artificially justify an expectation of depreciation, Chinese authorities should leave such adjustments to market forces. After all, a sufficiently sizable one-time depreciation would leave little room for further depreciation expectations.

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.

But all four concerns are misplaced, given the current state of the Chinese economy. China should not be worried about inflation when it is already facing the opposite problem: a decline in prices and nominal wages across many sectors. If consumers and firms expect prices to fall in the future, they will delay purchases, further suppressing demand. Preempting the debt-deflation spiral must take priority.

China urgently needs to avoid entrenched deflationary expectations akin to what happened in Japan after the 1980s. It also urgently needs to restore business and household confidence, which is impossible without boosting aggregate demand. There is a strong case for immediate, aggressive monetary stimulus and a public commitment to halt the debt-deflation spiral.

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.

Similarly, those who believe the scope for monetary easing was limited by already-low interest rates have it wrong. As Chinese financial authorities have now acknowledged, they can further reduce banks' required reserve ratios, currently at 10.75% for large state-owned commercial banks and at 6% for other banks. Even though the required ratio for Chinese non-state-owned banks will fall to 4% starting on September 15, that is still high compared to the reserve ratios of 0% and 0.8% in the United States and Japan, respectively.

Once China's growth returns to the path of its growth potential, monetary policy can be normalized and the renminbi will naturally appreciate again.

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.

Moreover, like central banks in high-income countries after the 2008 financial crisis, the PBOC could still avail itself of quantitative easing, with large-scale purchases of

Shang-Jin Wei, a former chief economist at the Asian Development Bank, is Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School and Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

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.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,

UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.

Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /

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OP-ED

By Mahmoud Mohieldin, Bogolo Kenewendo, Reuben Wambui

How to Close Africa's Climate-Finance Gap

CAIRO/GABORONE - Climate finance is inefficient, insufficient, and unfair. With debt levels and borrowing costs soaring, climate action must be funded through more equity investments and concessional financing. That means focusing on the needs of African countries, which are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change, despite contributing the least to creating the problem, in the creation and implementation of green-finance tools.

The sooner that leaders of advanced economies and international organizations understand what Africa needs to achieve a just energy transition and provide the required financing and technology transfers, the greater the chance that the world will reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

This week, Kenya is hosting the inaugural Africa Climate Summit, as well as Africa Climate Week, with the goal of increasing commitments and pledges to support climate-adaptation efforts and scale up renewable energy on the continent. That makes this an opportune time for governments, the private sector, and multilateral lenders to begin removing the systemic barriers to investment and development in African countries.

To meet the emissions targets set by the Paris climate agreement, Africa will need \$2.8 trillion by 2030 - roughly equal to 93% of the continent's GDP. But, with the continent's combined public debt reaching \$1.8 trillion in 2022, many African countries lack the fiscal space to mobilize domestic resources.

International investors should fill this gap by providing financing and technology transfers that will help build capacity and develop local industry, rather than merely continuing to exploit the continent's natural resources. To that end, starting in Kenya this week and leading up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai in November and December, governments and financiers must begin implementing five critical reforms to ensure that Africa's funding needs are met.

First, lenders must offer more concessional finance to emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs). The World Bank and regional multilateral development banks (MDBs), supported by the climate-finance contributions of advanced economies, should provide loans to low- and low-middle-income countries at an interest rate of 1% and with a ten-year grace period and a 20-year repayment term for initiatives that boost climate resilience. Moreover, lending mechanisms such as the World Bank's International Development Association, traditionally available only to low-income countries, should be extended to low-middle-income countries, and adopted by various multilateral institutions.

Interested in learning more about the sustainable development challenges faced by the Global South? Check out our latest virtual event, Africa's Climate Agenda.

Governments and development agencies should also establish large and flexible pools of concessional capital earmarked for climate projects. And they should explore new avenues for international taxation to provide grants, rather than loans, when traditional private or public funding falls short.

Second, MDBs can implement credit-enhancement and credit-guarantee schemes to incentivize private-sector participation. Such assurances would mitigate project risks and bolster investor confidence, attracting much-needed private capital to Africa.

Third, creditors, including in the G20, must provide debt relief to low- and middle-income countries. Given that around 60% of low-income countries are in or at high risk of debt distress, suspending debt payments or, even better, canceling debts would greatly improve their ability to respond to the damaging effects of global warming. MDBs need to implement Climate Resilient Debt Clauses in loan contracts for poorer countries, which the World Bank announced this year. Moreover, debt-for-nature and debt-for-climate swaps could enable recipient countries to repay their debts by investing in biodiversity protection and climate action.

Building on its recent efforts to provide \$100 billion in special drawing rights (SDRs) to climate-vulnerable countries, the International Monetary Fund should allocate an additional \$100 billion in paid-in capital and redirect SDRs to MDBs, starting with the African Development Bank this month. This would be in line with the Marrakech Declaration, an initiative to reform the global financial architecture which is being developed at the request of African finance ministers.

Fourth, a multi-partner fund must be established to help mitigate foreign-exchange risks for private investors by providing cost-effective currency and country hedges for climate investments in Africa. Such a fund would significantly reduce the perceived risks of investing in EMDEs, even in the face of currency fluctuations.

OPINION

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.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Intermediate Bible School graduates 34

By Naneka Hoffman

The Apostolic Grace Mission INC. (Grace Churches Worldwide) at the intersection of Perry Street and Camp Johnson

holiness, how to read the Bible infinitely with various subjects.

He says the Church has been having a lot of training programs, and the

adding that people in that range are Intermediate.

At the time he calls on parents to support their children in and outside of the



Road, Monrovia has graduated 34 students from its Intermediate Bible Training School.

Speaking Sunday, 3rd September during the graduation ceremony, the Apostolic Shepherd, Grace Churches Worldwide, Bishop Sam B. Oroge, said the three services of the Apostolic Grace Mission featured the graduation of 34 students from the Intermediate Bible School, adding that some of them are in colleges and most them are high school graduates.

He says the graduates are mainly young adults, who have taken time out to attend an intensive Bible training.

Bishop Oroge explains that it's a one-month intensive program that covers both Old and New Testaments survey, adding that it covers righteousness, spiritual life,

Intermediate Bible School graduation is first of its kind. At the same time he assures that the program will continue, adding that it is a planned program and activities that God has given them as an assignment.

The Bishop observes that the enemy (devil) is attacking young people and once there are opportunities with some of them on vacation, while others are not in school, they become targets for the devil so the Church comes in to direct their minds toward God. He says in terms of social activities, drugs addiction and prostitution, they want to see the best out of the young people, noting that the Intermediate is a status in the lives of people.

He explains that basically, it begins with a child, young people, youngster, youth, older youth and younger adults,

Church, because it is often said that they are the future of the country.

He underscores that the youth are also future of the Church, so all parents must see it fit to do the best for them, and advises the youth to be youth and be the best they can become.

Presenting a topic on worship comprehension, one of the graduates, Faith T. Carley, defines worship comprehension as to give something or someone high esteem. She explains that the only way worship is not accepted is if you are worshiping what you don't know, adding "We worship what we know and it became a worship that God accepted."

She reminds that the Bible teaches believers to worship God in truth and in spirit.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Gabanja International receives huge donations at 6th anniversary

By Lewis S. Teh

A nongovernmental organization, under the banner Gabanja Volunteer program has secured huge donations from well-meaning Liberians and businesses to support the education of underprivileged children across Montserrado and its environs.

At its 6th Anniversary celebration recently, Representative Edward P. Flomo of Montserrado Electoral District#13, pledged cash totaling US\$500 while business corporations provided educational materials, including support from the board directors of the organization. The event was marked by inspiring speeches from invited guests, CEO Emmanuel Charles Balo and Advisor Charles Carpenter,

based in the United States of America. Gabanja Chief Executive Officer Balo described the event as a milestone celebration not only intended to highlight the achievements of the organization but also to showcase the collaborative efforts to further its mission of

providing quality education and opportunities for students.

"Since its inception six years ago, Gabanja has been dedicated to transforming the lives of young learners through

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LRP preaches human resource capacity

By Naneka Hoffman

Liberia Restoration Party (LRP) Presidential Candidate, Rev. Allen Brown, says the LRP has a mandate to restore Liberia to God. Speaking in a youth awareness program at his campaign headquarters in 6th Street, Sinkor, Rev. Brown underscores that the greatest resource of Liberia are her people, not the minerals, noting that there where everybody misses it. He calls for the rebuilding Liberia's resource human resource capacity to bring about rapid development. He says this is where the LRP is fundamentally different from every other political party in the race. He observes that the youth are the best part of the people, and they have to offer what they should offer, adding that it is about engaging the youth and explaining to them about his platform. The Liberian clergy says this would enable the youth to understand how he intends to impact their lives if elected President of Liberia. He says under his administration,

will become a melting pot, boasting of an array of different nationalities.

However, he points that this starts with ensuring that the people can eat, and he has seen an example of a government that fed its people, citing as an example, former US President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who during the Great Depression, opened soup kitchens as one of the solutions to problems that the United States faced at the time. "We must explore joint ventures with international companies that are engaged in businesses that we need," the LRP candidate emphasizes and adds, "We are a nation of around five million people, and in a robust economy; we will easily absorb our citizens. This means that we will eventually need to import people, an attractive economy will do that." He points that there is a correlation between accessibility to clean drinking water, accessibility to affordable electricity, and poverty, noting that the more inaccessible clean drinking water and affordable electricity are to the citizens, the poorer they will become. "It's that



Presidential Candidate Rev. Allen Brown rallies young people

greater emphasis will be placed on well-being of children, saying "Let them be children again, growing up in an environment that fosters love, innocence, discipline, integrity, and responsibility. Broken children, become broken adults, and broken adults create a broken nation." The LRP Presidential Candidate reveals that he has a practical knowledge on feeding program. "I want you to know that your interest is my interest. I have been part of a feeding ministry for years, Feeding Peter's Kids, headed by Pinky Bemah. We have fed over ninety thousand children (90,000) and even adults over the years."

He continues that regarding other respects of the economy, a LRP-led government will encourage manufacturing, service industry, technology and climate in building a vibrant and booming economy so that Liberia, with a small population,

simple. I will make sure that clean drinking water is accessible. I will make sure that affordable electricity is accessible. I support BOT (Build, Operate, and Transfer) as ways to build national roads, thereby helping our farmers [to] transport their produce. Moreover, roads and infrastructure encourage other areas of development."

Mr. Brown further promises without detailing how, that a LRP-led government will create a strong and truly independent judiciary that will greatly enhance security, and ultimately deter crimes. "We must resource our youths, providing opportunities in education, sports, the arts, and fine arts, understanding that a nation's children and youths are truly its future. If we build our children, if we build our youth, if we build men and women, collectively, they will build Liberia", he sums up. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Mastercard and GT Bank announce strategic collaboration

The collaboration introduces secured, accessible digital payments that empower individuals and businesses. According to a release dated

(MPGS) will play a pivotal role in empowering customers with a wide range of payment options, including card payments, mobile wallets, and QR code-based transactions.

This multifaceted approach ensures swift and secured transactions for goods and services, both online and in-store, while enjoying the benefits of Mastercard's global acceptance network. "We are excited about our partnership with Guaranty Trust Bank Liberia. Through strategic collaborations like this, we can harness the power of technology to drive financial inclusion and empower communities across Liberia," Said Ebehijie Momoh, Country Manager and Area Business Head for West Africa at Mastercard.

"We're dedicated to not just following trends, but creating them. This partnership is a testament to our passion for shaping a better, more accessible financial future for everyone in the country." The collaboration with GTCO Liberia marks a significant milestone in the efforts to



Mastercard and Guaranty Trust Bank Liberia have united to redefine Liberia's digital payments.

31 August, Mastercard is partnering with Guaranty Trust Bank Liberia (GTCO Liberia), one of Liberia's leading financial institutions known for its commitment to innovation and customer-centric approach.

The strategic collaboration is set to introduce an innovative payment gateway service to Liberia, catalyzing a monumental shift in the

digital payments in the country.

The partnership between Mastercard and GTCO Liberia signifies a monumental leap towards advancing the digital payments economy in Liberia that will empower individuals and businesses, helping them unlock new opportunities and drive economic growth. To achieve this, the Mastercard Payment Gateway Service

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Can Taylor's daughter become voters' choice?

-As she takes door to door campaigning

By Emmanuel wise Jipo

Ms. Charlyne Taylor, the youngest daughter of jailed former Liberian President Charles Ghankay Taylor, has launched a door-to-door political campaign to represent Montserrado County Electoral District #5 in the Legislature.

She is also on a mission which seeks to support her father Mr. Taylor's legacy. But the question that erupts is whether Charlyne can become the voters' favorite in the October polls in District 5? Mr. Taylor, a Liberian politician, was convicted of war aiding and abetting war crimes while serving as Liberia's from 1997 until his resignation on 11 August 2003 during the second Liberian civil war.

Meanwhile, Mr. Taylor's daughter Charlyne has been persuading voters, riding on her father's vision to serve as their representative. If elected as Representative in District #5, it would be the first step to Charlyne's goal toward acquiring political power in her father's footsteps.

Ms. Taylor has put up humanitarian aid and welfare, prioritizing human capital investment, modernizing the district, creating well-meaning laws and programs, as top of her

agenda for the representative seat.

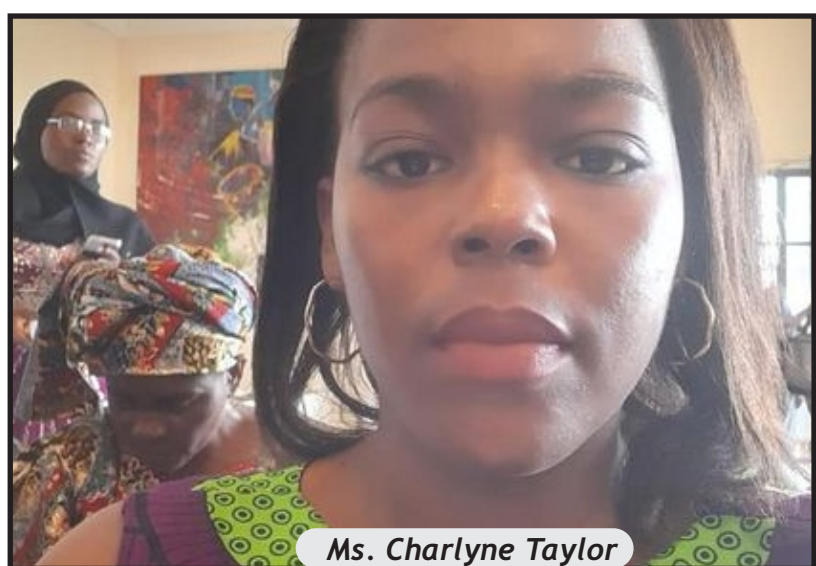
Meanwhile, she faces a tough race against about 12 other candidates.

Among her rivals is a candidate of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), Eric Vaye; opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) candidate Alexander Suah Sr.; and opposition Unity Party (UP) candidate Prescilla Abram Cooper, among others. In an interview with the NewDawn on Monday, 4 September 2023, Charlyne Taylor vowed to redeem Montserrado County Electoral District #5 and transform the lives of her people.

On Monday, she led her supporters under the banner "Team Taylor," in various communities within the district on a door-to-door campaign to convince electorate about why she is be-suited for the job.

Ms. Taylor said she will be doing "whatever it takes" to bring developments to the district, address the years of challenges of lack of empowerment for the youth, investing in human, among others.

She promised to create a safe environment for her people, empower women, advocate for improved education and healthcare in the district.



Ms. Charlyne Taylor

Dr. Moniba vows to raise US\$150m in 90 days

By Lewis S. Teh

Liberia's Presidential Candidate, Dr. Clarence K. Moniba, promises here to source US\$150 million for Jackson Fiah Doe Referral Hospital in Tappita, Nimba County and the John F. Kennedy Hospital in his first 90 days in office, if elected President.

Speaking in a news conference at his residence in Paynesville outside Monrovia over the weekend, Dr. Monibah, Standard Bearer of the Liberian National Union, underscored a need to improve the country's health sector.

According to him, this milestone will be achieved under the Moniba-Kpan Administration in making Liberia accessible to the rest of the world, and projecting the many challenges faced by the health sector.

He said Liberians do not have to travel to neighboring Ghana or developed countries with a

poor health sector.

The youth Presidential Candidate laments that it's unfair and disgusting for Liberia to be struggling with simple things after so many years since the founding of the country. "We can't continue to be like too often we give power to people who don't deserve it, but this election should be a turning point for us, as a people and country."

Dr. Monibah, who is contesting for the Presidency on the ticket of the Liberia National Union (LINU), cautions potential voters to cross-examine all of the candidates in the race, adding "If you don't change your voting style then you will continue to be in that situation." He warns electorate that if they desire to see changes in their lives, the decision is theirs to make a rightful decision at the ballot box, noting that Liberia is at a crossroads, as it neighbors in the region are progressing while the country continues to witness decline in every sector.



Dr. Clarence K. Moniba

better healthcare delivery system to seek medications. One key strategy he also promised to employ, if elected, is to open up Liberia to foreign direct investment, adding that an individual with a valid passport will be issued a visa on arrival.

This, he believes will boost the country's struggling economy, as the thousands of people from all walks of life will troop here to take maximum advantage of the access to explore. "We want in the first 90 days, to identify and ensure that we can source One Hundred and Fifty Million Dollars for JFK and Tappita Hospitals; we have to change our healthcare system in Liberia," he stressed. He also indicated that for too long Liberians have cried for an improved healthcare system, and many have met their untimely demise to just ordinary and curable illnesses under a

Let's rethink and go to the polls with a sense of direction for the growth of our country", he rallies citizens.

Dr. Clarence K. Monibah is son of the late Vice President Dr. Harry Fumba Monibah during the regime of slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe from 1985 to the December 25, 1989 rebel invasion of Liberia. He is vying for the country's highest office with a female, Grace Kpan as his running mate. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Don't allow failed politicians to hijack your future

-Weah cautions young electorate

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh
President George Weah is cautioning the youth of Liberia not to allow rhetoric from failed

the weekend, especially young people, President Weah rallied them not to thrash the opportunities his administration has created for

the opportunities his government has created for them.

He says gone are those days when being President was a taboo for the youth and the downtrodden, but reserved exclusively for the upper class. President Weah notes that under his watch, the narrative has changed, as every Liberian is equal under the law, equal in opportunities, and capable of being a leader, in every capacity, even as President of Liberia.

The President reveals that he has launched a people's struggle' to change such demeaning and segregating narrative so that every Liberian, no matter where they are or who their parents are, can harness their future.

"Young people don't allow this glorious opportunity to slip out of your hands because the future belongs to you. This is our moment."

He notes that his opponents want him out of power based on jealousy because of the opportunities he has provided the youth of Liberia.

President Weah rallies the people of Waka's Town, Buchanan City, and Compound #3, Grand Bassa County to join the army of CDCians, and Liberians in general to give him a second-term mandate at the poll so that he would continue developing the country. He reaffirms his commitment to developing Grand Bassa County while promising pavement of roads, electricity, and other essential needs. Bassonians in return have pledged their commitment to ensuring that President Weah is reelected in an overwhelming one-round victory come October. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Pres. Weah

politicians to hijack their future, as they prepare to vote in the 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections on October 10th.

Mr. Weah urged young people not to be carried away by rhetoric but to seize opportunities for transformation and development that will enable them to have a prosperous future under his administration.

He told the young voters to stay with the ruling CDC which has already begun work and is on the right path of transforming their lives and building their capacities to make them good leaders for tomorrow. Speaking to electorates in campaign rallies and town hall meetings in Grand Bassa County over

them to have a good and prosperous future.

"Don't allow these failed politicians, who are only coming to fool you and allow your good and favorable future to wear away; deny those, who have failed you for 12 years and now they're coming to you again asking you to vote them, and deny the opportunity, through education, empowerment, my administration has given you", the President notes.

President Weah: "Remember I'm no different from you; seeing me here today as your President, you too can be President one day, so don't let them fool you; don't mind them, they have nothing to give you; only lies and rhetoric." His message resonated with the young people, moving them to cheer, as he urged them to seize

Govt. fires Head Chief for accepting job from ANC

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

The Government of Liberia has fired the chairperson of the traditional council of Maryland County, Chief Nelson Neal for accepting a post in the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) as county campaign manager.

Speaking on a local radio talk show over the weekend, Maryland Superintendent George A. Prowd, disclosed that the dismissal of Chief Neal will serve as a deterrence to other local government officials especially, members of traditional chief council of the county.

He said chiefs are not politicians and they should never serve as campaign managers for political parties.

According to him, they are appointed to local government offices to buttress central government in handling conflicts, not to become politicians.

from his position as General Town Chief, but as Chairperson of the Traditional Council, and the vehicle that was given to him by President Weah has been turned over to the Acting Chairperson of the Council.

He warns traditional chiefs and other local government officials to desist from such attitude because it's not good for the body politics of the country.

At the same time, he cautions citizens against acts of violence during the pending Presidential and Legislative Elections.

He says the election is an event so it shouldn't be the reason why citizens will go against one another.

The Superintendent discloses that despite awareness and education, there are still supporters of other political parties that are allegedly tearing fliers of candidates, which he notes, is wrong.

He calls on those involved to immediately desist and underscores that the best way to



Chief Nelson Neal, now campaign manager for ANC-Maryland

"Let me say this, what will happen if a chief who should be a neutral person now becomes a politician, who will handle those issues if there are conflicts between political parties and the party he/she is supporting is involved?" Superintendent Prowd asked.

"So it's wrong for any chief to do so because as local authorities, specifically members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, we will not allow that to happen during our time."

He said the dismissal of Chief Nelson Neal was never politically motivated because he was invited to a meeting following his recent appointment by the ANC but allegedly refused to listen.

The Superintendent clarified that Nelson wasn't removed

maintaining peace in Liberia is by accepting one another's views and concerns despite political differences.

Prowd calls on citizens, political parties and candidates to uphold the rule of respect, tolerance, and constructive dialogue, adding that it's not forced for everyone to be with one political party, but campaign messages should be void of violence. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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Mastercard and GT Bank announce

promote financial inclusion and crafting a future where drive economic growth in Liberia. everyone in Liberia can The innovative payment gateway flourish, supported by will provide individuals, accessible and businesses, and government transformative digital entities with a secure, payment experiences," the convenient, and seamless digital Bank continued. payment solution.

"Teaming up with Mastercard gateway service offers on this remarkable journey enhanced security underscores our unwavering features, including commitment to shaping tokenization and multi-meaningful solutions. Here at factor authentication, to Guaranty Trust Bank Liberia, protect customers' people are the essence of our financial data and provide work," said GT Bank Liberia. peace of mind during transactions.

The Bank added that this partnership is a living testament to its belief that banking is more than transactions. Moreover, the partnership will enable GTCO Liberia to leverage Mastercard's vast network of merchants, empowering

local businesses to accept digital payments and expand their customer base.

By combining our expertise and resources, we aim to accelerate the adoption of digital payments, making it easier and more secure for customers to transact. This partnership aligns with our commitment to providing innovative financial solutions and driving economic progress in Liberia. The Mastercard payment gateway service will be rolled out in phases, starting with selected merchants, and gradually expanding to cover a wide range of businesses across Liberia. --Press release

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Français

Le président weah promet de ne pas briguer un troisième mandat s'il est élu

Le président George Weah, lors d'un meeting à St. Johns dans le comté de Gand Bassa, a promis de ne pas

», a déclaré M. Weah, ajoutant : « Je veux remplir mon deuxième mandat pour pouvoir terminer mon travail et quand j'aurai terminé mon travail, vous

Cummings de la Collaboration des Partis politiques (CPP), et 17 autres concurrents.

Avec les événements qui se déroulent dans la sous-région de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, où Alassane Ouattara de Côte d'Ivoire et le président sénégalais Macky Sall ont déjà modifié la constitution de leur pays pour briguer un troisième mandat, on craint que le président Weah ne suive leurs traces. D'où l'importance de sa déclaration le week-end dernier.

Entre-temps, a dit M. Weah, un second mandat lui permettra de mener à bien les projets en cours et de laisser un héritage aux électeurs qui pourront comparer ses douze années de performance avec celles des présidents qui l'ont précédé.

« Je ne veux pas d'un troisième mandat, mais je veux laisser un héritage lors de mon deuxième mandat », a déclaré M. Weah au milieu des acclamations et des cris de victoire au premier tour des partisans qui ont marché depuis les villages environnants pour assister au rassemblement.

Le Libéria est l'un des pays les moins développés du continent africain et figure parmi les 10 pays les plus pauvres au monde malgré ses riches ressources naturelles.

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Pres. Weah

briguer un troisième mandat présidentiel s'il est élu cette année, car il n'est pas si avide du pouvoir.

Le chef de l'Etat a fait savoir qu'il n'avait pas l'intention de revenir vers le peuple pour lui demander de lui accorder un troisième mandat. « Je crois aux principes démocratiques. Donc, je ne vais pas vous demander un troisième mandat (parce que) je ne suis pas si avide du pouvoir

décidez de qui vous souhaitez vous diriger ».

La constitution libérienne actuelle autorise les présidents à exercer deux mandats. M. Weah brigue son deuxième et dernier mandat de six ans lors de l'élection présidentielle du 10 octobre 2023. Ses principaux challengers sont l'ancien vice-président Joseph N. Boakai du Parti de l'unité, (ancien parti au pouvoir de Mme Ellen Johnson Sirleaf) et l'ancien dirigeant de Coca-Cola, M. Alexander B.

Élections ivoiriennes : plusieurs ministres du RHDP confirmés, premières contestations

En Côte d'Ivoire, au lendemain du double scrutin municipal et régional pour lequel près de 8 millions d'électeurs étaient appelés à voter, la Commission électorale indépendante a proclamé une partie des résultats hier dimanche. Et pour l'instant, le RHDP, le Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix, obtient une grande partie des mairies et conseils régionaux. Des personnalités politiques remettent en question la sincérité du vote.

Les résultats partiels donnent une large avance au parti au pouvoir, le RHDP. Plusieurs cadres ont remporté les élections municipales, à l'image du président de l'Assemblée nationale, Adama Bictogo, qui s'impose dans la commune de Yopougon. La ministre de l'Éducation Mariatou Koné l'emporte à Boundiali. Le ministre des Transports, Amadou Koné remporte Bouaké, la seconde ville du pays. Le ministre de l'Agriculture,

Kobénan Kouassi Adjoumani, remporte la région de Gontougo et Ibrahim Cissé Bacongo, la commune de Koumassi...

Dans l'opposition, le PDCI remporte 7 communes dont celle de Cocody et celle de Daoukro, le fief de l'ex-président défunt Henri Konan Bédié. Il se maintient à Yamoussoukro ou encore dans la région de l'Iffou. L'alliance avec le PPA-CI lui permet de gagner la ville de Toulepleu dans l'ouest du pays.

Les candidats indépendants parviennent aussi s'imposer dans

certaines localités. Comme le député Antoine Tiémoko Assalé, qui brigait la commune de Tiassalé.

Alors que les résultats partiels sont proclamés au compte-gouttes, certains candidats dénoncent des irrégularités. C'est le cas par exemple à Yopougon où Augustin Dia Houphouët, dit avoir constaté des « fraudes massives » et des « irrégularités graves » dans plusieurs centres de vote.

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Amb. Boakai

Senator Koung

Senator Johnson

Éditorial

Il faut tenir compte des conseils de la CEDEAO et de l'ONU

Les partenaires internationaux, en particulier la CEDEAO et les Nations Unies, appellent le gouvernement du Libéria à enquêter sur les récentes violences préélectorales dans le pays et à demander des comptes aux responsables.

« Nous attirons l'attention sur les discours incendiaires susceptibles d'inciter à la violence. Nous exhortons donc les dirigeants politiques à être des messagers actifs de la paix, à promouvoir des campagnes thématiques et à s'abstenir d'inciter leurs partisans à des actions violentes, en particulier la violence contre les femmes lors des élections, et à résoudre tout grief par le biais des mécanismes juridiques établis. Nous mettons en outre en garde contre l'instrumentalisation des jeunes », peut-on lire dans une déclaration commune publiée à Monrovia le 31 août.

Dans le même temps, les partenaires internationaux appellent les signataires de la Déclaration de Farmington River 2023, en particulier les partis politiques et leurs dirigeants, à respecter leur engagement et à promouvoir les conditions d'élections pacifiques, transparentes et crédibles, avant, pendant et après les élections.

Nous nous associons à la CEDEAO et aux Nations Unies pour exhorter tous les Libériens, y compris le gouvernement, à prêter une attention particulière à cet appel précoce contre la violence lors des élections présidentielles et législatives de 2023. Nous pouvons le faire avec l'aide du gouvernement en traduisant immédiatement en justice ceux qui incitent à la violence pour perturber le processus démocratique.

Qu'ils appartiennent à la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir ou au bloc d'opposition, ceux qui sont impliqués dans de tels comportements doivent être clairement informés que la violence n'a pas sa place lors des élections présidentielles et législatives de 2023 et qu'il ne devrait donc y avoir aucune place pour les personnes déterminées à inciter à la violence lors de la campagne en cours à travers le pays.

Nous croyons fermement que pour éradiquer la violence, il faut agir rapidement plutôt que de simplement rester les bras croisés et condamner. Tant que quelqu'un n'est pas arrêté, traduit devant la loi et, s'il est reconnu coupable, puni pour dissuader les auteurs potentiels, le massacre continuera, ce qui est dangereux pour la paix et la stabilité de l'État.

Tous les signataires de la Déclaration de Farmington River 2023 devraient faire preuve du leadership dont ils rêvent en respectant leur engagement à promouvoir les conditions d'élections pacifiques, transparentes et crédibles avant, pendant et après les élections.

Il y a eu une vague de violence à travers le pays depuis le début de la campagne officielle pour les élections d'octobre, faisant des blessés et des morts. Ces crimes ne doivent pas rester impunis. Quelqu'un doit être tenu responsable devant la loi. Nous ne pouvons pas organiser des élections émaillées de violence et espérer que le résultat soit pacifique.

Sauvegarder la paix par tous les moyens permettra d'éviter beaucoup de choses à ce pays, face à la vague d'insécurité précipitée par les coups d'État militaires dans la région. Les partisans zélés des partis ne devraient pas être aveuglés par leur passion et se livrer à des activités grossières comme s'il n'y avait pas de lendemain.

Français

Starts from page 8 **Le président weah promet**

Créé il y a 176 ans, le pays manque de services sociaux de base, des études récentes évaluant le niveau d'intelligence des enfants nés au Libéria à 30%.

Le président Weah, abordant la médiocrité des infrastructures du pays, a imputé la responsabilité aux anciens dirigeants. « Je comprends ce que vous ressentez », s'adressant aux citoyens de St. John qui subissent les difficultés posées par le mauvais réseau routier. « Notre pays a 176 ans et vous pouvez voir que ceux qui nous ont précédés ont laissé beaucoup à faire », a-t-il ajouté.

Plus tôt vendredi, les citoyens de la capitale commerciale du comté de Grand Bassa, Buchanan, ont bravé les pluies torrentielles pour assister au rassemblement présidentiel au parc des expositions du comté.

Ils sont restés debout sous la pluie du matin jusqu'à 20 heures, tenant leurs chaises en plastique au-dessus de leur tête en attendant M. Weah qui est arrivé tard dans la soirée pour prendre la parole lors d'un rassemblement qui a duré deux heures.

Accablé de voir une foule aussi nombreuse debout sous une forte averse, M. Weah s'en est pris à la communauté de l'opposition, les invitant à venir voir ce qui se déroulait.

Il a décrit ses partisans comme de véritables membres de son parti, les voyant debout sous la pluie pour l'écouter. "Je tiens à vous remercier", a-t-il déclaré, ajoutant "Je ne vous laisserai pas tomber".

Comme les orateurs dans d'autres comtés et villes déjà en visite, les citoyens ont exprimé haut et fort leur engagement à soutenir la candidature du président Weah.

Parmi les orateurs de Buchanan figuraient Daniel Chea, ancien ministre de la Défense sous le régime de l'ancien président en disgrâce Charles Taylor, et l'ancien ministre de l'Information sous le régime d'Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, le révérend Dr Larry K. Bropleh, qui est le président de campagne du CDC pour le comté de Grand Bassa.

Parmi les autres intervenants figuraient le chef Edward Garman-Grand Zor suprême du comté de Grand Bassa et des nouveaux électeurs qui ont tous promis leur soutien au président Weah.

Grand Bassa est le sixième comté visité par le président Weah depuis que la Commission électorale nationale a annoncé l'ouverture de la campagne le 5 août. Il a visité les comtés de Montserrado, Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Capemount et Margibi.

Ses principaux challengers n'ont pas encore terminé leur tournée dans le comté de Montserrado à l'approche de la date des élections.

Starts from page 8 **Élections ivoiriennes :**

Dans un communiqué, ce candidat du PDCI, qui obtenu 19% des voix, évoque notamment des ouvertures tardives de bureaux de vote, des difficultés de fonctionnement des tablettes permettant de vérifier l'identité des électeurs... Pour lui, ces « irrégularités » entachent la « sincérité du scrutin ».

La CEI reconnaît l'existence de quelques dysfonctionnements, mais ces derniers n'ont pas d'incidence sur les résultats, assure Ibrahim Kuibiart Coulibaly, le président de la CEI. « Ces irrégularités ne sont pas de nature à entacher

la sincérité du scrutin », assure-t-il.

Trois jours pour d'éventuelles requêtes

Concernant le scrutin lui-même, le président de la Commission électorale indépendante affirme que le taux de participation s'élève à 40% pour les élections municipales, et Ibrahim Kuibiart Coulibaly estime que ces élections se sont déroulées dans un « environnement apaisé ».

Le reste des résultats doivent encore être proclamés ce lundi dans la journée. Les candidats ont trois jours pour faire une éventuelle requête écrite adressée au Conseil d'Etat.

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.

Gabon : le général Oligui Nguema a prêté serment en tant que président de la transition

À Gabon, cinq jours après le coup d'État du 30 août 2023 contre le président Ali Bongo Ondimba, le général Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, qui dirige le Comité pour la transition et la restauration des institutions (CTRI), a prêté serment sur une « charte de la transition » en tant que « président de la transition » du pays, ce 4 septembre 2023 à Libreville. « Je jure devant Dieu et le peuple gabonais de préserver en toute fidélité le régime républicain, de respecter et de faire respecter la charte de la transition et la loi », a déclaré le nouvel homme fort du pays, qui a également affirmé qu'il préservera « les acquis de la démocratie ».

Ce 4 septembre 2023 à Libreville, le général Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema a prêté serment, serment de préserver le régime républicain, de respecter la charte de transition, au Gabon. Cette prestation s'est faite sur ce texte qui n'a pas été publié jusque-là. Un serment applaudi chaleureusement dans la salle et par plusieurs coups de canon à l'extérieur.

Finalement, les juges de la Cour constitutionnelle ont présidé à la cérémonie, à l'exception de sa présidente qui a été écartée. Dans la salle, également, il y avait des autorités administratives, militaires, diplomates, l'ancien gouvernement dissous récemment, le Premier ministre Alain-Claude Bilie-By-Nze et la vice-présidente Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda qui venaient d'être

écartés par le putsch militaire. Une manière de marquer leur acceptation de la transition qui débute.

Même chose pour les leaders de la plateforme d'opposition Alternance 2023, à l'exception du candidat Albert Ondo Ossa. Des leaders qui ont marqué hier leur ralliement à la transition, pour « le bien supérieur de la nation », ont-ils dit. La prestation de serment a été suivie d'un discours. Dans sa tenue rouge de commandant de la garde républicaine, le général Oligui Nguema est revenu sur les raisons du coup d'État du 30 août. « Le processus électoral était inique, l'armée a pris ses responsabilités et le peuple a adhéré. Les militaires n'ont fait que respecter leur serment », a dit le nouveau chef de la transition.

Il a promis un nouveau gouvernement dans les prochains jours, avec de l'expérience et des compétences, et une transition devant déboucher sur un référendum sur une nouvelle



Madame Sirleaf

e constitution. « Le peuple demande que sa voix soit garantie à travers des institutions fonctionnelles », a-t-il déclaré, sans donner d'indication sur la durée de la transition.

Le nouveau président de transition Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema doit désormais présider un défilé militaire, devant une foule assez nombreuse rassemblée devant le palais présidentiel.

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LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Violence-free Campaign

By Naneka A. Hoffman

A cross section of Liberians provide suggestions on how they think political parties and their followers should campaign cross the country to avoid violence, as you will read below.



Imam Amer Musa Kiazem

can do for the people. This is what we expect them to do or how to behave. You must always be there to tell us what your candidates is able to do for the people. Tell the people my candidate will be able to change condition of your livelihood or this community fine; my candidate is able to do this and that, but don't go for another person's candidate with negativism because we all are Liberians. Campaign period is short, so we shouldn't say bad words to other candidates because come tomorrow, we will not be free to work with them.

'We all are the parties whosoever Liberians, and candidate you will be campaign is political campaigning for, you franchise, so we are must be able to tell the expecting them to public your ability; exercise it. We expect what you think they

I think people should campaign in good "manner because Liberia is all we have. Politicians today are friends tomorrow, so you will get one person supporting his side, while other person will support his side, but you as a common man, you will not mind because of the person's grief, a person stands on issues you go and fight your fellow man. I think it makes no sense to go after those that are supporting President George M. Weah, because at the end of the day, Liberia is above everyone. And one thing I will like for everyone to take into consideration is that regardless of who becomes President, the fact of the matter is we need peace. It may be George Weah tomorrow

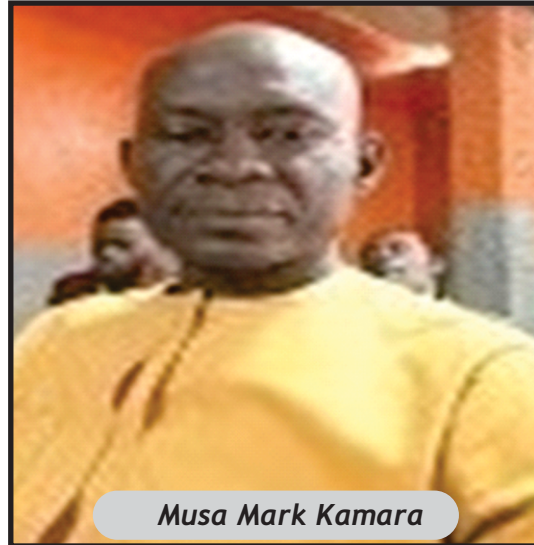


Sekou Mohhamed Sannoh

ok, presently, what we are seeing, other people are not seeing it. You make George Weah President today and then the same thing we're going through years to years we will go through it the other years to come, you understand but if at some point in time we can only maintain the

peace and elect George Weah and I will elect Joseph Boakia, no problem but let us maintain the common peace at least for the fact we need to wake up and find our daily bread that is much more better than for us to be running to another person's country."

"Well, you can do your origin in our community, like what we are doing talking to our people, marketing our platform why our candidate should be elected for, moving around organizations and sending our people to the counties like what is happening. We have all our leaders in all of the counties doing the origin from now until next week before they get to town then we do our official launch, so let's respect each other to



Musa Mark Kamara

avoid violence. Let your friend say his or her own and pass, your shake hands and huge one another, it is all about Liberia."



Sekou Massalay

"Supporters should campaign for their candidates in a respectful

manner, respect each other's views no matter the differences. We should all be one; whoever wins, let us work with that person and maintain the peace in our country because I believe that Liberia is all we have and the Love of Liberty Brought Us Here."

"As we are approaching the October 10 elections, we have the full responsibility to convince our people, to talk to them about our candidate, to tell them why our candidate is the more favourite among the others. The new course of politics in my mind is that we should engage the issues and stop attacking personality, because if you continue to attack John Brown, Peter and Paul supporters of those people might get angry and they will want to react to those issues that you have been raising against their candidates. So as this point in time, I am asking every Liberian especially, young people that this time around, we shouldn't be used as scapegoat. People shouldn't influence our decision by giving us money and telling us to go in the street and protest, because October 10 is just a single day that will come and pass but Liberia remains our common



Morris S. Siryon

denominator. This is a country that you and myself can never and ever be deported from, so maintaining and sustaining the peace of the country remain our full responsibility. How to go about in maintaining the peace is to avoid violence. It is not by taking stones and sticks but discussing the issues that concern the Liberian people. The issues that confront the Liberian people you should be able to discuss it and tell them how are you going to find solutions to those problems. So in my mind, we don't want to go back to the dark days. We don't want Liberia as a country when it comes to people running back in the bushes. If we as Liberians want to achieve the kind of Liberia that we all hope for can only be achievable by sustaining the peace."

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Cummings attracts 10,000 in District#4

An estimated 10,000 citizens, predominantly women in Soul Clinic F-Sham community, Electoral District #4, Montserrado County, have



CPP Political Leader Mr. Cummings

endorsed the Presidential bid of Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP).

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

The 'W-Force Women for Cummings' is an independent movement that cuts across various women's organizations, communities, schools, professionals, civic society, and interest groups, committed to mobilizing women, girls and men, nationwide to vote Cummings as the next President of Liberia.

A spokesperson for the movement is upbeat about the professional integrity,

qualifications, and competence of the CPP Candidate, who he describes as the best contestant to effect changes in Liberia. Smartly attired in

that he will not disappoint them or dash their hopes for a better Liberia.

A female resident 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 Mr. Cummings and his agenda for real change in Liberia.

A group of girls dressed party T-shirts, who identified themselves as first-time voters, expressed admiration for the CPP's choice of a young woman, Cllr. Charlyne Brumskine, as running mate of Mr. Cummings, promising to mobilize youth, especially girls to support the CPP candidate come October.

At the same time, Cummings promised to accord women their rightful place as equal partners in decision-making with opportunity to share equally in the wealth and resources of the country.

He says upon his election as President, the CPP's primary focus will be to revive Liberia's ailing economy by establishing a strong private sector for massive job creation that will benefit thousands of unemployed Liberians.

Cummings vows that within the first one hundred days in office as President, he will launch a U\$20 million loan scheme for Liberian entrepreneurs, including market women to enable them to grow and expand their businesses. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Senate probes NTA over US\$2.1m

By Ethel A. Tweh

The National Transit Authority (NTA) is under a Senate probe for US\$2.1m approved in the 2022 National Budget for the entity, and for the whereabouts of 45 buses donated by India, among others.

The Senate Standing Committee on Transport has mandated NTA Managing Director Herbie Tekonblah McCauley to submit in one week a comprehensive report for the entity.

As per the Senate's mandate, the report must include the budget performance, and the contract signed with the University of Liberia (UL). The NTA is further mandated to include in the report an analysis of finances received from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning in the current budget, among others.

The Senate Committee's decision was due to the failure of Mr. McCauley to confirm whether his entity received US\$2.1m from Finance Ministry following the budget's approval. The Fiscal Outturn Report indicates that NTA has received the amount.

Director McCauley has informed the Committee that the NTA has not received any money from MFDP

Jonathan Boye-Charles Sogbie.

Senator Sogbie, in his complaint, contended that 45 buses were donated by the Government of India, but those buses are not seen running in traffic. Responding to the Senator's complaint, Mr. McCauley informed the Senate Committee on Transport that out of the 45 buses donated, the NTA received 39 buses. He added that only 15 of the 39 buses are currently operational, while 24 have broken down.

Addressing the Committee, Mr. McCauley attributed the breakdown of the buses to lack of spare parts within the country.

He complained that spare parts have to be imported from India, but the MFDP has failed to give money to the entity to address such problem. According to the Managing Director, upon donation of the buses, the India Government laid down guidelines for the maintenance of the buses.

Part of the guidelines, he said, requires that after three years, the buses must be overhauled to extend their durability.

At the close of the hearing,



Sen. Pro Tempore Abort Chea

NTA Boss Herbie Tekonblah McCauley

allotted to the entity within the 2023 National Budget. He made the statement on Monday, while appearing before the Senate Transport Committee to respond to an inquest regarding the unavailability of NTA Buses in Monrovia and its environs.

The appearance of the Managing Director and his team was triggered by a complaint filed before Plenary by River Gee County Senator

the Acting Chairman of the Transport Committee, Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon indicated to Mr. McCauley and his team that they will remain under oath.

Dillon added that a subsequent hearing will be arranged to give the witnesses time to better address several queries that they have failed to address before the Committee.

Liberia recalls Ambassadors

By Kruah Thompson

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Dean of the Cabinet, Ambassador Dee Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., has officially recalled Liberian ambassadors stationed in various countries following expiration of their diplomatic tenures. While full detail of this decision remains undisclosed, Minister Kemayah recognizes a need to share certain aspects with the public. "We didn't initially intend to publicize this information as we typically manage ministry affairs privately, but circumstances have compelled us to implement these regulations," he said

accompanied by other staff, who purposely came to testify whether their recent decision was in line with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' administrative policies, that the Liberian Embassy in the United Kingdom recently underwent a change in leadership, where Ambassador Doris Dickson has been replaced by the Deputy Minister for Administrative Affairs. While he did not mention the Deputy Minister by name, the Dean of the Cabinet however did reveal that some of these ambassadors have served for extended period, up to 20 years, and the UK government had requested for them to either renew their status or depart the country.

the briefing, the Foreign Minister told this publication that some of the diplomats have refused to return home, and have resorted to using social media to spread false information, while seeking political asylum.

"Some of their social media posts describe me as someone targeting them individually, but I want to emphasize, targeting who and for what?" He asked.

Continuing on the Facebook posts, he further clarified that the Government of Liberia is not targeting anyone, as it is guided by the core values and principles of diplomacy.

Making his rounds during

Starts from page 5 Gabanja International receives

education", Balo added He said the organization has striven to bridge the educational gap and empower underprivileged students.

He said over the years, Gabanja has made significant progress in delivering quality education through its tutorial classes, fostering personal development, and nurturing talents.

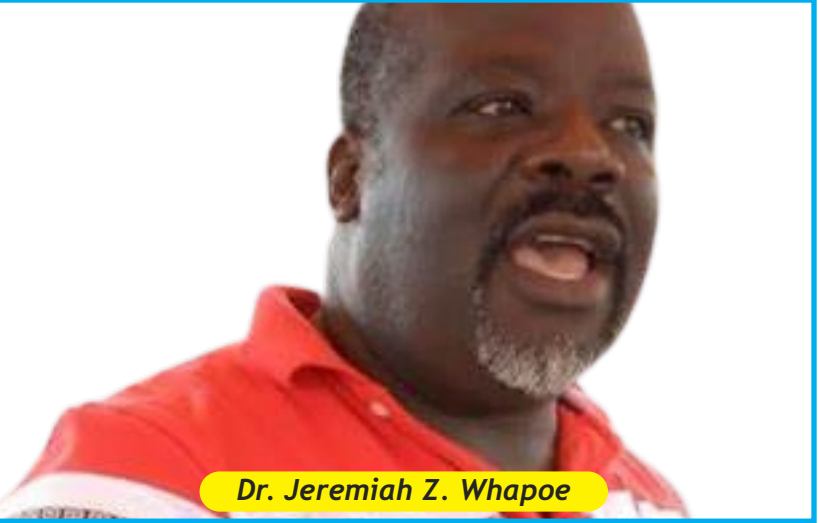
The 6th Anniversary celebration brought together students, staff,

district lawmaker, and other guests. The event showcased the positive impact of the organization and its commitment to empowering the youth. Students actively participated in various activities, demonstrating their skills and talents through performances, art exhibitions and academic presentations. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Don't vote for cosmetic development!

-Dr. Whapoe warns Liberian electorate

By Lincoln G. Peters
Presidential Candidate Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe, is warning something for your country and community; please don't vote them. Don't vote any cosmetics development because it has



Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe

Liberians not to vote for cosmetics development, adding it is the cause for Liberia's long-standing economic, agriculture and poverty challenges. Speaking to citizens in Harrisburg, Montserrado County, District One on Sunday, September 3, he urged Liberian electorate to instead, elect what he calls a goal-oriented leader that has the platform to sustainable development. "You will see people coming to you and requesting for your votes on grounds that they have done the propensity to allow our country to continue to suffer", Dr. Whapoe further cautions. The Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) candidate describes the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change government a failed administration that has done nothing sustainable for the people of Liberia. "Vote for policy, not flashing things. Don't vote cosmetic development. You have to look at those policies that are achievable, and reachable before you vote. You have to prioritize that policy and vision

that has the paramount responsibility of giving you economic growth, jobs opportunity, better education, healthcare and international respectability." Over the weekend, a group under the banner, Nimba Kwado based in Harrisburg community, officially welcomed Dr. Whapoe to the community in continuation of his engagement with residents explaining his goal for a better and transformed Liberia, if elected President in October. The gathering was graced by hundreds of residents, including community leaders, youth, women and children, among others. Dr. Whapoe promised that under his leadership after the October 10th polls, Liberia will become food sufficient and agriculturally productive. "Under my leadership, we will ensure that Liberians contribute to nation building. We will do that by ensuring that Liberians become part of the agriculture revolution that we intent to launch. We will make sure that there will be no agricultural product in the country that we can't produce", he vows. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*