

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

Advertise Here!
Subscribe to our website
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES
of **The New Dawn**
TRULY INDEPENDENT
AT YOUR DOORSTEPS
0886484201 / 0777007529
WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY
From **MONDAY TO FRIDAY**
Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription at the end of the month.
Hurry and book now!

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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023	L\$185.2324/US\$1.00	L\$187.1323/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

Vote #4
FIXING LIBERIA FOR ALL LIBERIANS



2023 CUMMINGS FOR PRESIDENT

VOL. 13 NO. 158 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00



Pres. Weah

"I remain the Best President"

-Weah tells supporters, as party officially launches campaign

Motorcyclists set road block



-burn tire in protest of 18-year-old's death

MoMo Waysay-Wasa 3
Da your time to win!

MoMo | Lonestar Cell | MTN

Join over 10,000 winners over the last 2 years!

Dial *156*2#

To buy a **50LRD** bundle and above to enter the draw!





Continental News

HIV drugs given to pigs and chickens in Uganda

Uganda's National Drug Authority has admitted it knew HIV medicine was being used to fatten up animals in 2014 but did not warn the public. The

of pork it tested contained traces of anti-retroviral drugs. The meat was sourced from markets in the capital, Kampala, and the northern city of Lira. Appearing before Uganda's House Committee

cause serious problems for humans who ate the meat and became infected with HIV. "You are likely to develop resistance to these ARVs," he said. "In the future if you need them, then you'll find this ARV is not working for some."

Around 1.4 million people in Uganda are living with HIV/Aids, according to the United Nations.

The NDA's report back in 2014, found that anti-retrovirals were mainly used to treat African swine fever which is also known as Pig Ebola and currently has no cure. It also verified claims that ARVs were being used to treat Newcastle disease in chicken. Following Mr Atumanya's remarks, however, a spokesman for the NDA defended its decision to not publicise its findings.

"The NDA is mandated to regulate the drugs, not food or animal feeds," he said.

"If there was any public health threat concerning the drugs under the use, NDA will be the first one to come out and warn the public as we always do." The NDA remains vigilant and committed to ensuring that Ugandans have access to safe, efficacious and quality medicines. "He added that the regulator had launched several actions to stop the misuse of drugs, which led to several arrests and prosecution. BBC



The ARVs were used to treat African swine fever

regulator's senior drugs inspector Amos Atumanya told parliament it became aware anti-retrovirals were being given to pigs and chickens to treat them. Mr Atumanya said that for humans, consuming small quantities of the drugs in food could be dangerous.

But the NDA has since tried to downplay his comments.

A spokesman said that if there was a health risk it would have warned the public, while the NDA's job was to regulate drugs not food or animal feed.

A recent report by the prestigious Makerere University found that more than a third of chicken and 50%

on HIV/Aids, Mr Atumanya said the National Drug Authority had carried out an investigation in 2014 into the use of anti-retrovirals (ARVs) in animal farming. However, while a report was published, it did not issue a public warning for fear of hurting the country's food exports "if we blow it out of proportion".

"So we were trying to find other means in which we could manage that situation," he said.

One respondent to the study by Makerere University's College of Health Sciences, said pigs that were given anti-retroviral drugs "grow faster and fatter and are sold off quickly".

But Mr Atumanya said this could

Tigray protesters brutally beaten and arrested

Hundreds of people have been detained in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region as a banned demonstration was brutally dispersed by the security forces. Four political parties had called for the protest in Mekelle, the region's main city, to highlight the continued suffering in Tigray following the end of a two-year civil war last November. They have been angered by the interim leadership's handling of affairs since the African Union-brokered agreement to end the conflict was signed. The protesters were calling for more to be done to help the return of the thousands of people who fled during the war and to deal with the alleged fraud that has hampered the distribution of humanitarian aid - among other issues. But the interim authorities banned the protest, saying the timing was inappropriate and aimed at causing chaos. Individuals who

gathered at Romanat Square in Mekelle to join the rally were promptly arrested. Subsequent attempts to regroup and demonstrate were dispersed by security forces. One of the co-ordinators told the BBC: "We arrived at the peaceful demonstration site in the morning, but a significant deployment of soldiers was in place, apprehending anyone who approached and sending them to prison." Several armed groups have been patrolling the city on foot and in vehicles, meaning normal

business activities have closed. Witnesses have told the BBC how people were beaten by the security forces, sending photos of backs marked by whip lashes. Some of them allege that they have been denied access to hospitals for treatment. The whereabouts of some of those arrested was not known, sources said. Those detained include journalists, university lecturers, activists, members and leaders of the opposition parties. BBC



The BBC has been sent photos showing the injuries of those beaten by the security forces

Gabon coup leaders say ousted president now free

Gabon's military leaders say they have freed deposed President Ali Bongo from house arrest, where he has been since they seized power last week. This includes permission to travel abroad for medical check-ups.

He suffered a stroke in 2018 and his health was a major source of concern for many in the build-up to the 2023 presidential election. The army seized power shortly after he had been declared the winner of that election, disputed by the opposition.

The announcement to free Mr Bongo follows pressure from regional bloc Eccas and neighbouring countries.

In a communique read on state TV on Wednesday evening, military spokesperson Col Ulrich Manfoumbi said the decision to free Mr Bongo was due to "his state of health". "He may,

denied all the allegations.

"Ali Bongo must face justice," Bouloungui Mouanda Ulrich told the BBC in the capital, Libreville.

Another resident, Koumbi Anold, said he didn't have a problem that the ousted president was being freed but agreed he should face justice. "We are waiting, we are now a free people, we want work," he said.

Shortly after the coup, several allies of the ousted president were arrested, including Mr Bongo's 31-year-old son Nouredin Bongo Valentin, who has been accused of high treason and corruption. National TV has shown images of him and other close Bongo allies in front of suitcases of cash it said had been seized from their homes. They have not commented on the allegations. It's unclear where Mr Bongo will go but a likely destination would be Morocco where he had previously received treatment for his stroke.

He enjoys close ties with Morocco's King Mohammed VI and



Ali Bongo managed to release a video from house arrest, calling for help

if he wishes, travel abroad for medical check-ups," he added.

Mr Bongo had been in power in the oil-rich country since 2009, when he succeeded his father who had ruled the country for 41 years. The coup has been widely condemned in Africa and the West, including by France, the former colonial power which had close ties to the Bongo family. Gabon has been suspended from the African Union.

However, the removal of the Bongo family after almost 56 years in power was welcomed by many Gabonese.

Since the junta's announcement that it was freeing Mr Bongo, there have been calls for him to face justice over allegations of corruption.

A seven-year corruption investigation by French police into the Bongo family, which revealed assets including 39 properties in France and nine luxury cars, was dropped in 2017. The family strongly

also reportedly owns a villa in the palm grove of Marrakesh.

Coup leader Gen Brice Oligui Nguema was sworn in as transitional president on Monday. He vowed to return the country to civilian rule after free and fair elections but did not give a timetable for the transfer of power.

Subsequently, Raymond Ndong Sima, a prominent opponent of the ousted president, was sworn in as the country's interim prime minister on Thursday.

Mr Ndong Sima, a 68-year-old economist, previously held the role under Mr Bongo from 2012 until 2014, before becoming a critic and standing against him in the country's 2016 and 2023 elections.

Prior to Mr Bongo's release, Gabon's junta had released other political prisoners earlier this week, including pro-democracy activist and leader of the most powerful trade union confederation, Jean Rémi Yama. BBC

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Jaynisha Patel

Heeding early advice from ECOWAS and UN

What Yevgeny Prigozhin's Death Means for Africa

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.

LONDON - The recent deaths of Wagner Group leader Yevgeny Prigozhin and several of his top lieutenants in an airplane crash north of Moscow will likely have far-reaching implications for Africa, where the private military company has established a significant presence in recent years. After all, if Russian President Vladimir Putin is responsible for Prigozhin's death, as many suspect, African leaders who have tied their political fortunes to Wagner must wonder how credible Prigozhin's promises to them now are.

Prigozhin trusted his commanders, delegating decision-making power to them for on-the-ground operations, a practice the Kremlin has traditionally frowned upon. Already wary of Wagner's independence, the MoD is unlikely to adopt Prigozhin's decentralized model, which has been a key factor in the group's ruthless effectiveness in Africa.

"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 military ties between the Kremlin, Wagner, and African governments have always been shrouded in uncertainty. But the death of Prigozhin and Wagner co-founder Dmitry Utkin, presumably orchestrated by Putin as punishment for Prigozhin's short-lived June rebellion, has increased the risks facing those African leaders who have relied on Wagner's mercenary army to strengthen their hold on power.

Many commanders have been with Prigozhin since Wagner's inception. For example, the group's top commander in Mali, Ivan Maslov, operates almost like an independent CEO, exemplifying Wagner's operational approach across the region. It remains to be seen whether the MoD can secure the loyalty of these experienced officers, without whom Wagner is likely to lose its competitive edge.

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.

Sudanese warlord Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, commonly known as Hemedti, is a case in point. Hemedti, the commander of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group, spent years cultivating a relationship with Prigozhin. But with Prigozhin dead and Wagner's future uncertain, the supply of weapons to RSF will likely be disrupted, potentially shifting the balance of power between the RSF and the Sudanese Armed Forces.

Given the deep distrust between Wagner and the Russian military establishment, many mercenaries might quit the group altogether. Some may join other non-state militias, private military companies, or criminal organizations, while others may directly serve African leaders with whom they have built relationships, as some have already done in the Central African Republic. Such shifts could further destabilize some of the world's most fragile countries, heightening the risk of regional turmoil.

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.

This shift comes at a precarious time for Hemedti, whose bid to lead the country seems to be faltering.

The imminent classification of Wagner as a terrorist group by the United States and the United Kingdom, together with Putin's divide-and-rule strategy, could also cause the group to splinter. The mercenary company Redut, headed by Prigozhin's arch-nemesis, Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu, will likely vie for control over some of Wagner's operations on the continent.

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.

Partnering with Wagner, always a risky proposition, is now fraught with even greater peril. With coups erupting from Niger to Gabon, African governments or rebel groups considering an alliance with Wagner cannot count on business as usual.

But Redut lacks the necessary cultural understanding, established relationships, and on-the-ground experience. So, even if Shoigu manages to take over some or all of Wagner's African positions, Redut might struggle to hold on to them.

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.

Without Prigozhin's access to Kremlin resources, Wagner is almost certain to become a mere shadow of its former self.

African leaders who have relied on Wagner and similar mercenary groups (and those contemplating such partnerships) must use this moment to reassess their strategy.

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.

Prigozhin, who was reportedly in Africa days before his death, was the driving force behind Wagner's African activities. His unique character, rapport with African leaders, and control of commercial channels were crucial to his paramilitaries' growing clout. Finding a successor who can deliver the same results would be a daunting (perhaps impossible) challenge, potentially impeding Wagner's operations across the continent.

Aligning with groups like Wagner, characterized by internal strife, egregious human-rights records, and uncertain futures, is a perilous choice at best.

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.

To the extent that Wagner's troops believe that Putin ordered their leader's assassination, he would be unwise to expect their continued allegiance, particularly from Wagner units far from the Kremlin's reach. And if Wagner comes under the command of Russia's Ministry of Defense (MoD), which appears to be Putin's goal, its transformation from a private militia into a state actor would likely limit its operational flexibility and tactics.

To counter private militias like Wagner, Western countries must do more to fill the security vacuum that such groups exploit.

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, maintaining the discipline, merit-based hierarchy, and mission-driven reward system that Prigozhin instituted could prove challenging. While Prigozhin was known to share the spoils of Wagner's African ventures with his men, such largesse is not typically associated with Russia's MoD.

But while military measures are necessary to combat the Islamist insurgencies that are ravaging the Sahel, lasting peace can be achieved only by promoting human development and strengthening community resilience.

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.

Championing economic and social progress will be key to driving out Wagner and its ilk.

Prigozhin's death provides Western countries with a unique opportunity to forge stronger security ties with African governments.

As Wagner's influence wanes, Africa and the West must capitalize on this chance to build a future characterized by security and sustainable peace.

Then there is the critical issue of operational



Lord, Uncle Sam Paa-da eat and worry lol

By Othello B. Garblah

Dear Father:

Hmm, Uncle Sam Paa, they just leh to spoil people party too oo. Weh play they na come from again with sanction bisnay again?

People here enjoying all the vibes coming from all over the place. You see somer the partisans themsef, you want join, then they come bring sanction bisnay inside again-ay lor.

Da this one they can call putting sand in people gari oo. Da only putting sand in gari, dis is what they called eat and worry. So leh all lor them just be there.

Father, da small thing, you na hear the Footballer and him people say they will win first round, the Oldman and him owner people say they will win first round, then Taxi Driver say, yor say whatin-I will win first round too.

Can you imagine? Da weh play all lor them will win first round eh?

Hmm, Father, you asking me? No wonder Uncle Sam coming to put sand in their gari to spoil the party.

So, my son oh, the way Uncle Sam na talk na, I wonder if all lor them will still be passing around here with chopping one round.

Uh, Father, Uncle Sam na stopping them from saying they will win first round oo. Uncle Sam just saying, they mon make sure da no cheating wahala come inside it. Wen they put cheating bisnay inside na, da the time Uncle Sam say, they will release the dragon in the room.

Hmm, I know dis one will scare them small.

Ayaka, Father da it you talking slow leh da? Da one can't stop the sun from shining oo. The Old man and him people say they na joking oo, they will eat the thing one round. Taxi Driver say loka this Oldman ay, da me chopping first round.

You joking! I wonder where they coming from with their one round bisnay?

But Father, you na hear the Footballer and him people too? They were the first people to bring dis chopping first round bisnay, so the orlor people na joined them.

Um, this one da na small wahala oo. No wonder Uncle Sam na put mouth inside.

Yes, oo Father, because the way people who want to chop president are running around with dis first round bisnay in dis highly forested village with plenty people fighting to chop president, I wonder how somebody will chop one round-aah my name oo.

Bor da it you talking slow leh da so. Hmm, but leh talk so and talk so oo, ay look leh Uncle Sam smelling something ooh. Father, da it you talking slow leh da so.

Bor wait oo, so you want to tell me all the noise people making around here, they sitting on town bomb? Da Fire! No bush shaking.

You na know da somer the noise people causing that so, so vlah. Ley people say, yor na hear it before, yor will hear it, hear it, till it stick. You na copy code, I tire ya.

OPINION

By Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Simon Zadek

A New Playbook for Preserving Nature

GENEVA - The global economy is addicted to the relentless - and unsustainable - extraction of natural resources. Yet despite our complete dependence on nature, its contribution - for example, the water used to make your clothes or the soil in which your food is grown - is implicit and largely invisible.

Building an equitable, nature-positive future thus requires a new generation of principles-based and well-governed markets for ecosystem assets and services.

Nature and climate stability are two sides of the same coin, and their fates are intertwined. Conserving and restoring biodiversity is essential for limiting greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions, while uncontrolled global warming will destroy the planet's natural wealth.

But efforts to decarbonize the global economy are not enough to prevent the exploitation of ecosystems. Today's climate playbook can be learned and leveraged, but not copied and pasted.

A new playbook is needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, and the Taskforce on Nature Markets was established in March 2022 to help write it. The taskforce's findings and recommendations on how best to shape a new generation of markets that conserve, rather than destroy, nature, will be released at the regional summit for the Amazon rainforest alliance held in Belém, Brazil.

The need for such a taskforce reflects a historic pivot toward putting a price on nature. There is a big push, for example, to quantify nature-related risks and to require nature-related corporate disclosures. Regenerative agriculture is attracting growing interest, sharing the benefits of genetic resources has sparked vigorous debate, and biodiversity-credit markets are beginning to take shape.

Advocates of market-based solutions claim that these developments, coupled with policy signals, will eventually align the global economy with nature-positive outcomes. The planet's ecosystems will be saved, they argue, by rewarding businesses and governments that offer nature-related financial products and services and channel investment into restoring biodiversity.

Policymakers and corporate leaders have relied on the same approach to mitigate global warming, with mixed results.

But climate change is more amenable to a market-based paradigm for two reasons: GHG emissions are easily quantifiable and verifiable, and green technology continues to attract huge amounts of investment. The natural world, on the other hand, has neither an equivalent to GHG emissions, which makes it difficult to price, nor an investable technological landscape, aside from an emerging cluster of nature-saving commodity-production technologies such as lab-grown meat and vertical farming.

Another fundamental difference concerns the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in preserving nature. Despite comprising less than 5% of the world's population, indigenous peoples protect 80% of the planet's biodiversity. Even well-intentioned market-based policies and instruments could undermine these stewards of nature, dimming the outlook for conservation efforts (and thus climate mitigation).

To be sure, market mechanisms can and must be harnessed to save nature. But, given these unique challenges, they will succeed only if their governance principles and operating methods are designed to promote equity and sustainable prosperity. The taskforce makes seven practical recommendations that could steer the global economy to a nature-positive pathway.

At the top of the list is a need for finance and economy ministers and central bankers to align economic and financial rules more closely with the goals of preserving biodiversity and supporting nature's stewards. When amending trade and investment agreements, international policy coordination through the G20 and other international fora must ensure that nature-rich low-income countries do not bear the brunt of transition costs.

Central banks and supervisors must also ensure that financial markets are aligned with nature and climate commitments. Those governing global finance need to be more proactive - addressing the intermediate goals of financial stability and market integrity is not enough.

Governance of soft commodities markets, especially for agricultural products, must be revamped, given their outside effects on biodiversity, the climate, and society. Such targeted actions should include measures to increase transparency, including full traceability, and to overcome the current regulatory disinterest in nature.

Anti-money-laundering rules need to focus more on environmental crimes such as illegal deforestation, mining, fishing, and wildlife trafficking.

Legal investments in the agricultural sector, particularly in soft commodity producers, can unintentionally finance these crimes, which destroy nature and often fuel violence.

Given the unique challenges of halting and reversing biodiversity loss, and humanity's total dependence on thriving ecosystems, we need a new playbook for preserving nature. It can draw on current climate strategies while also pushing for more ambitious measures that are fit for purpose.

This is especially important when designing nature markets to deliver equitable, nature-positive outcomes for people and the planet.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

LIBERIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2023: OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

BY DAGBAYONOH KIAH NYANFORE II

2017 I gave preliminary observations and advice on the Liberian 2017 presidential election. I have updated the observations and maintained most of the suggestions for this 2023 election.

When I listen to Liberian radios or read in the papers on this year's Liberian presidential election, I observe that some supporters of the candidates focus on discussing the opposing candidate or candidates negatively and not talking about their candidates.

By only speaking negatively of the other candidate, you are saying that the opposing candidate is the one to beat, meaning that the candidate has the best chance of winning and, therefore, must be attacked. Attack communication or campaigning has a role in electoral politics but can backfire in many respects.

Specifically, in the campaigns in developed countries, the opposing camp can implement 24/7 anti-media blasts in responding to negative campaigns or remarks. Such endeavor may include rapid response to any damaging statement from the opposite camp, affecting your platform and making your message difficult. Do not start a fight that you cannot continue.

If you have a candidate in the media, talk about the candidate. Discuss the issue. Say why your candidate is the right person for the presidency. Talk about your candidate's character, record, vision, and how the candidate is different. Talk about the candidate's platform and what he or she will do when elected. It would help if you dwell on something other than the candidate's education, speaking or oratory ability, and wealth, for they do not concretely tell about the candidate. Let your discussion be issue-driven.

If you are involved in managing a campaign, it is helpful to have a "war room," not to fight or attack, but to plan and manage effectively. Like the war room of Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign in the US, the room should be a discussing arena for the frank deliberation of campaign issues and strategizing. Clinton was an underdog at the beginning of the election. Proper use of the room helped his camp win the election.

You should have a political map of the country and crack the numbers. An internal and external professional polling group should be weekly informing of public opinions regarding the campaign. The campaign team should manage expectations and honestly discuss matters with and advise the candidate.

Further, in addition to media appearances, your campaign should advertise in the 15 counties of Liberia. Let your candidate personally tell his story and platform mainly on the radios in simple Liberian English.

You should simplify your case and answer these questions: Is your candidate different? Does your candidate have a heart, feelings, and care for the Liberian people? Did your candidate demonstrate this care before entering politics? Is your candidate honest and has integrity? Did the candidate treat people fairly in business or private life before entering politics? Does the candidate have a story, a background that the ordinary Liberians can relate to? If so, tell it. Do not discuss the opponent. Tell the candidate's story and vision in local languages to be broadcast in villages or rural areas. We are human and like to know that the

person who wants to lead us is one of us.

Many candidates see politics as a business; they want to be elected to make money, receive high income, complimentary gas slips and calling cards, and drive expensive and change cars every three years. Sadly, when elected, they care less about their constituents.

If you do not believe in a candidate, do not speak or write about him or her. Do not degradingly address the candidate's opponent either. Politics is dynamic. It is moving and changing, and you do not know where you will be tomorrow.

ROLE OF JOURNALISTS, PRESS/MEDIA

Journalists should play a vital role in this



presidential or any other election. They must carry and report the news fairly, balancing both sides. Accordingly, they are the society's "watchdogs". They must verify information and accurately report without sentiments and personal feelings. In the past, some journalists have taken sides in an election, reporting erroneous information.

For instance, in the 2005 election, the press reported that candidate George Weah had married Mammy Doe, daughter of the late President Samuel Doe and that Weah told the people of Grand Gedeh, Doe's home county, that he would wipe off their tears, referring to their cry and sorrow for Doe's death. This information was inaccurate. Had the press checked the report, it would have discovered that Mammy Doe, known as Veronica Doe, was married and living with her husband in Europe.

Moreover, there was no fact to the alleged statement by Weah. This misinformation intended to inflame the tension between Grand Gedeh and Nimba during the civil war. As known, Prince Johnson's forces killed Doe during the civil war. Johnson was a rebel general from Nimba. The reportage sought to drive Nimba votes away from Weah to benefit UP's candidate, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Here, journalists used bad journalism to recreate regional division and national disunity for selfish political benefit.

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

The gathering turned violent, the Inquirer, a newspaper, reported, adding that the protesters threw stones at the police, and the police, in turn, used teargas and wasted water at the

demonstrators. The violence led to "the closing many businesses and homes at the hospital", the paper ended. But the information was false. The hospital never arrested or stopped the patient.

The incident shows the strength of the media and how they can misinform and mobilize people into violence. It brings to mind Radio Kigakali of Rwandan. This station promoted hit and negative messages and propaganda during the Rwandan crisis.

In a political campaign, some candidates and their supporters make erroneous statements. Journalists must fact-check the information, uphold the codes of journalism, and cease from misinformation and from what I call "prostitution journalism." I was glad for the partnership recently entered between the OK FM and Local Voices for fact-checking. The agreement shows the station's commitment to truth-telling. It will help stop misinformation.

In the US, press or reporters covering a campaign report only the event; they ask questions, seek answers, and report. Sentimental reporting is discouraged. A journalist, however, can be a hired gun to promote a candidate but not to report the news partially.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

House ends extended special session

The House of Representatives has climaxed its extended special session with the passage of Bea Mountain Mining Corporation's restated mineral development agreement, which seeks to extend the Turkish company's operations in Liberia to the year 2051.



highlighted their remarkable achievements, collaborative spirit, and the positive impact they have had on the legislative process.

Speaking at the close of the special session House speaker Bhofal Chambers extended warm and heartfelt commendations to his colleagues and fellow lawmakers today for their unwavering dedication and dutiful service to the people of Liberia.

The speaker expressed his deep appreciation for the

He said though everything did not go as planned, they were always ready to adopt. The speaker also commended the other two branches of Gov't (Executive and Judiciary) for coordinating well with the 54th Legislature.

Speaker Chambers at the sametime lavished praises on President George Manneh Weah for what he describes as dynamisms style of leadership brought to the function of Government and Governance.

On a sad note, the speaker announced that during the period under review the 54th legislature lost three of its members, Hon. Munah Pelham Youngblood of Montserrado County Electoral District 9, Rep. Jaybloh Nagbe Sloh Sr, of Sinoe County Electoral District 2, and Hon. Hans M. Barchue of Grand Bassa County Electoral District 1.

"It is truly an honor to work alongside such dedicated and principled individuals who have consistently put the needs and aspirations of our constituents first. The work that my colleagues have accomplished in this legislative term is a testament to their unwavering commitment to serving the people of our state." Speaker Chambers asserts.

He said though everything did not go as planned, they were always ready to adopt.

The speaker also commended the other two branches of Gov't (Executive and Judiciary) for coordinating well with the 54th Legislature.

Speaker Chambers at the sametime lavished praises on President George Manneh Weah for what he describes as dynamisms style of leadership brought to the function of Government and Governance.

On a sad note, the speaker announced that during the period under review the 54th legislature lost three of its members, Hon. Munah Pelham Youngblood of Montserrado County Electoral District 9, Rep. Jaybloh Nagbe Sloh Sr, of Sinoe County Electoral District 2, and Hon. Hans M. Barchue of Grand Bassa County Electoral District 1.

As the upcoming elections draw near, Speaker Chambers extended his best wishes to all his colleagues who are seeking re-election and those who are pursuing other opportunities to continue their public service. He emphasized the importance of a robust democracy and

▶ CONT'D page 7

CDCians assure Weah of victory

Partisans and supporters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) have assured incumbent President George Manneh Weah of their support to give him a resounding one-round victory.

The CDCians said based on their huge turnout during CDC's official campaign launch Thursday, 7 September 2023, they were optimistic of a one-round victory for President Weah during the polls this October.

Mr. Weah faces his archrivals Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, and 17 other presidential candidates in the presidential and legislative elections due 10 October 2023. After nearly six years in power, this year's presidential polls will test Mr. Weah's popularity among grass rooters who helped him to win the presidency against former Liberian vice president Amb. Boakai in a 2017 run-off.

Voters might support candidates for various reasons, but some of the triggers might be tied to how the CDC-led government approached the country's economic issues, infrastructure, security, corruption, and citizens'

general welfare. With thirty-three days to the presidential polls, Mr. Weah and his CDC executives and partisans assembled at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium (ATS) down Lynch Street in central Monrovia Thursday to officially launch the party's campaign.

Supporters of Mr. Weah noted that the turnout was not just intended to justify President Weah's quest for a one-round victory, but it also allegedly defeated the opposition's argument that the incumbent and the CDC have lost relevance and popularity in the country. The CDC supporters vowed to transmit their huge turnout into votes,



something they believe would lead to an overwhelming and resounding one-round victory for President Weah and the CDC government.

During the CDC campaign launch on Thursday, thousands of CDCians from the Bushrod Island, particularly Montserrado County Electoral Districts 14, 15, 16 and 17, turned out in their numbers.

Business activities were brought to a standstill in the commercial hub of Duala as thousands of CDC zonal heads, partisans and

▶ CONT'D page 7

Political parties' youth leagues to march for peace

By Kruah Thompson

Youth leagues of various political parties in Liberia are gearing up to make a historic peace declaration on fostering harmony in the lead-up to the October 10th Presidential and Legislative Elections.

They made the disclosure here during a press conference held on Wednesday, September 6, in Monrovia along with the group, 'Most Beautiful Girls in Liberia 2023' in collaboration with Center for African Policy, leading the charge.

At the event, Ms. Monetta Yhap of 'The Most Beautiful Girl in Liberia 2023' said the plan is a symbol of hope, signifying a dedication to reducing tension and promoting unity among the youth, thereby establishing a positive atmosphere for the upcoming election.

Electoral violence has been a recurring issue in Liberia, stemming from a complex

and Krahn tribes, who were strong supporters of Doe going into bush only to return with fresh attacks against Taylor that eventually faced him to resign in August 2003 and seek refuge in Calibar, Nigeria from where he was returned to face trial before the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone and subsequently convicted and sentenced for 50 years for aiding and abetting RUF rebels in Sa Leone.

Following end of the civil war in 2003 and subsequent installation of a transitional government, Liberia held elections in 2005 that led to the election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, as the first woman President in Africa. While these elections were relatively peaceful, tensions still simmered beneath the surface.

Subsequent elections in the country have seen allegations of irregularities and tensions, though Liberia has largely moved away from widespread violence. The 2017 elections, which saw the election of George Weah, were



history of political turmoil and ethnic tensions.

Liberia's history of electoral violence dates back to the early years of the Republic. The True Whig Party (TWP) which dominated politics for much of Liberia's early history, faced accusations of electoral fraud and manipulation, leading to social unrest.

Also in 1980, Master Sergeant Samuel Kanyon Doe seized power in a military coup, ending the True Whig Party's century-long rule.

Despite his initial promise of stability, Doe's regime faced opposition right after the 1985 Elections, leading to violent electoral disputes that culminated in a bloody civil war.

Additionally, the 1997 elections that brought rebel leader-turned-politician Charles Taylor to the Presidency did very little if any, to unite the country with members of the Mandingo

peaceful, but there were disputes over the results.

Liberia's history of electoral violence is deeply intertwined with its broader history of political instability, civil conflict, and ethnic divisions. Efforts have been made to address these issues, but challenges remain in ensuring peaceful and transparent elections in the country.

Unfortunately, recent campaigns have witnessed instances of violence, with political pundits making threatening remarks that have the potential to undermine the much-anticipated October poll.

In recognition of the history of violence and the scars left by the Liberian Civil War, Ms. Monetta Yhap emphasized that this initiative aims to prevent the ongoing manipulation, exploitation, and coercion of young people during elections.

Advertise with us!

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

House Concurs with Senate

-Grants Bea Mountain Mining Company another 25 years

The House of Representatives has concurred with the Liberian Senate on the ratification of the Restated and Amended Mineral Development Agreement between the Liberian

favor of the Amended Mineral Development Agreement giving Bea Mountain additional 25 years of operations in Liberia.

The Committee's findings indicate that the First Amendment to the Restated

Liberians will see a significant increase, growing from the current 3,500 in the Restated and Amended MDA to 4,000 in the First Amendment to the Restated MDA.

As part of the first restated Amendment, the company will expand its operational area from 485 sq/km to 537 sq/km, leading to an increase in surface rental fees.

The House's Joint Committee resolved that the company should contribute an additional One Hundred Thousand United States Dollars to each of the four clans, namely Mana, Darblo, Seimavula, and Menmassa clans, for clan development purposes through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) within six months after ratification.

The Restated and Amended MDA between the Government of Liberia and Bea Mountain Mining Corporation is of great national importance, as it governs the terms and conditions of mineral exploration and exploitation in the country. It also outlines the responsibilities of the parties involved, including the sharing of benefits, environmental safeguards, and social development commitments. Under the new 25-year agreement, the company is expected to make an additional investment of five Hundred Twenty Million United States Dollars (\$520M). The instrument has been forwarded to the Executive Branch for further constitutional actions.

Mineral Development Agreement includes an accumulative basic Community Development Fund (CDF), Clan Development Fund, 50 percent surface rental fees, five percent ownership of equity, as well as increased financial benefits to the affected communities.

The committee further stated in its recommendations to plenary that considering all the taxes and levies outlined in the First Amendment to the Restated Agreement, it is clear that the country will accrue substantial financial benefits compared to the Restated and Amended MDA of 2013.

The Joint Committee also noted that the employment of



Government and Be a Mountain Mining Corporation-BMMC.

It followed, an earlier ratification of the agreement by the Liberian Senate.

The House of Representatives immediately mandated its Joint Committee on Mines, Energy & Natural Resources, Investment and Concessions, Agriculture and Judiciary to review the instrument.

According to the House Press and Public Affairs, following the joint committee report on Thursday, 6 September, members of the Honorable House of Representatives voted in

Starts from page 6

House ends extended special session

encouraged the voters to carefully consider the qualifications and dedication of their candidates before casting their votes.

Meanwhile the House will resume for its third quarter on 13

October in keeping with an amended Act Setting the calendar of Adjournment of the Liberia which provides at Section 2 Second Adjournment (Second Constituency visit/break),

that the Second Constituency visit/break of the Legislature shall commence not later than the third Friday of July of each year and end on the second Friday of October of each year.

Starts from page 6

CDCians assure Weah of victory

supporters and well-wisher trekked through the principal streets on Bushrod Island to central Monrovia.

They dressed in dominant blue shirts and caps bearing photos of CDC standard-bearer Mr. Weah and his running mate, Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor.

Some CDC supporters were conveyed to the campaign launch in buses and other vehicles while others walked long distances due to traffic congestion. En route to the ATS, CDC supporters from Bushrod Island chanted "2 million march, secure one-round victory." Our reporter conducted an exclusive interview with James

Tweah, a resident of New Kru Town, Montserrado Electoral District #16. Tweah said their huge turnout is a wakeup call to the opposition who think and believe that President Weah and the CDC have lost relevance and aspiration of the Liberian people.

According to him, they came out in their numbers to justify their quest for a resounding one-round victory in the October 10 presidential and legislative elections.

"We have justified our one-round victory here

today. Not just that we, we have also brought to bear the saying from the opposition that President Weah and CDC have lost relevance and the aspiration of the Liberian people," said Mr. Tweah.

"What you see here today will be transmitted to votes which will give the CDC a resounding one-round victory," he added.

For her part, Grace Mulbah, stated that the opposition are afraid because what they saw is far more than any crowd or political gathering they have had since the opening of campaign activities.

Police Chief rubbishes US\$9,000.00 claims

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberian Police Inspector General Col. Patrick T. Sudue has termed as completely erroneous and misleading, allegations that he squandered US\$9,000 intended for officers who are providing security in Grand Cape Mount County. Col. Sudue's statement came against a claim made by a panelist on Spoon Network on Wednesday, 6 September 2023 during the broadcast house's night-time talk show.

The panelist read document allegedly addressed to the Ministry of Justice from the Liberia National Police (LNP) through Col. Sudue, requesting US\$9,000 to be disbursed to security officers in Grand Cape Mount County.

The money was intended for members of the Joint Security and LNP officers who are on a peace mission in Grand Cape Mount County to mitigate electoral violence.

However, it was reported that Col. Sudue received the money

reputation, adding that at no time did he sign for officers' money.

Col. Sudue admitted writing a communication to the Ministry of Justice requesting money to be disbursed to security officers in Grand Cape Mount County who are providing service.

But he denied ever receiving the money and diverting it to his personal use or benefits.

The police chief explained that he can't be wicked in such manner to people who are serving their country with dignity and pride.

"It's true that I wrote the Minister of Justice requesting nine thousand for officers dispatched in Grand Cape Mount County, but I didn't receive any money and eat it," said Mr. Sudue.

"Moreover, the money was sent to individual officers' mobile money accounts because whenever they want to give money, we put [it in] their bank accounts and mobile money accounts," he stated.

Mr. Sudue noted that officers in the county have received the



Police Inspector General Col. Patrick T. Sudue

and diverted it to his personal use, and left the security officers in the dark.

However, responding to the allegations at an elaborate press conference, on Thursday, 7 September 2023 at the LNP headquarters in Monrovia, Col. Sudue described the allegation as false and misleading.

Mr. Sudue urged journalists, especially Spoon Talk talk show panelists to reach out to relevant authorities whenever there is an allegation surrounding the institution or individuals to avoid making the station lose trust.

He maintained that the information released by Spoon was erroneous and only intended to tarnish his high-earned

money because the money was released by the Comptroller of the Ministry of Justice, Mr. Newton Gay, to individual officers for their upkeep and stay in the county.

"I want everyone to know that at the LNP, I can't sign for money. The money [is] given and signed for by the Comptroller," Col. Sudue explained.

He added that since this election, he has not signed for any money, noting that recently, the Ministry of Justice provided a cheque which is to be matured in three days.

"The money on that cheque is for officers at Central who will be providing service for political activities," he noted.

Advertise with us!

Français

Washington exige des élections libres, équitables et pacifiques et des sanctions à l'encontre des faiseurs de troubles

Le gouvernement américain a réitéré son appel à l'organisation des élections justes, libres et pacifiques

de presse mercredi 6 septembre 2023, la Chargée d'Affaires à l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis près de Monrovia Catherine Rodriguez a déclaré que les responsables

Libéria, ainsi que la communauté internationale, ont travaillé en étroite collaboration avec la NEC (Commission électorale nationale) pour s'assurer que tous les observateurs électoraux ont pleinement accès aux bureaux de vote le jour du scrutin, ainsi qu'au décompte des voix", ajoute-t-elle.

Mme Rodriguez a révélé que l'ambassade des États-Unis, par l'intermédiaire de l'USAID, soutient directement les missions d'observation électorale internationales et nationales ici, ainsi que sa propre mission d'observation du processus électoral à travers le Libéria.

"Les États-Unis sont également prêts à contribuer aux efforts visant à faire de ces élections, des élections libres, équitables et pacifiques en tenant pour responsables toute personne responsable de d'activités visant à saper le processus démocratique au Libéria par le biais de mesures supplémentaires telles que des sanctions", a-t-elle mis en garde.

Parallèlement, elle a annoncé le retour de 12 volontaires du Peace Corps au

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

et à demander des comptes à ceux qui tenteraient de perturber le scrutin au Libéria.

Les États-Unis se disent prêts à contribuer aux efforts visant à organiser des élections libres, équitables et pacifiques en tenant pour responsables quiconque voudrait saper le processus démocratique au Libéria par des sanctions supplémentaires.

doivent également s'assurer que le gouvernement du Libéria investit suffisamment d'argent, de personnel et de ressources organisationnelles pour protéger ses citoyens, ses candidats, ses bureaux de vote et ses travailleurs électoraux contre l'intimidation ou les préjudices.

Mme Rodriguez a dit que les yeux du monde sont tournés vers les élections à venir et la manière dont elles sont gérées.

« Les États-Unis, en tant que partenaire de longue date du

Mali : les autorités de transition entre réaction et déni sur le blocus imposé par des djihadistes à Tombouctou

L'armée malienne indique avoir mené des frappes aériennes ce 6 septembre 2023 près de Tombouctou, contre « des groupes terroristes ». Cela fait un mois que cette ville est l'objet d'un blocus imposé par les djihadistes du Jnim, liés à al-Qaïda. Les autorités maliennes de transition procèdent également à des distributions alimentaires dans la région. Pour autant, Bamako refuse toujours de reconnaître l'existence de ce blocus.

Au Mali, les frappes aériennes ont ciblé des « groupes terroristes », à 35 kilomètres au nord de Tombouctou, selon le communiqué de l'armée malienne diffusé ce 6 septembre 2023. Communiqué qui ne précise pas le lieu. De nombreuses sources locales indiquent que c'est le village d'Agouni qui a été visé. L'armée malienne affirme avoir détruit du matériel servant à fabriquer des bombes artisanales et récupéré des munitions.

Distributions

La semaine précédente, le commandant militaire de la zone de Tombouctou annonçait un renforcement des actions sur la ville et sur les axes d'approvisionnement. Outre la réponse militaire, l'État procède actuellement, et comme chaque année, à des distributions alimentaires dans la région de Tombouctou.

Sollicités par RFI, ni le gouvernorat, ni le ministère de la Santé et du développement social, en charge de l'action humanitaire, n'ont apporté de précisions. De sources locales, on

parle de plusieurs centaines de tonnes de céréales.

Une aide qui sera précieuse pour les habitants de Tombouctou et des localités environnantes, alors que le blocus imposé par le Jnim sur les marchandises pose des difficultés d'approvisionnement et une hausse des prix de certaines denrées.

Les autorités ne parlent pas de blocus mais d'une « exacerbation des incidents »

Pour autant, les autorités maliennes de transition

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



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.

Par conséquent, nous avons l'occasion, en tant que Libériens, de sauvegarder jalousement notre paix et notre démocratie et de servir d'inspiration pour l'Afrique et le reste du monde en répondant à l'appel des partenaires internationaux pour éradiquer la violence de nos élections.

Français

Starts from page 8 Washington exige des élections libres

Libéria pour travailler dans les secteurs de l'éducation et de la santé, en tant que premiers volontaires à revenir après l'évacuation mondiale des volontaires en raison de la pandémie de COVID-19.

Madame Rodriquez a ajouté qu'elle a également eu l'occasion de visiter la centrale hydroélectrique de Mount Coffee, ce qui témoigne, selon elle, de la relation durable entre les deux gouvernements.

Le gouvernement des États-Unis a récemment annoncé des restrictions de visa pour des Sierra-Léonais qui ont tenté de compromettre l'élection présidentielle de juin 2023 en Sierra Leone.

Le secrétaire d'État Antony J. Blinken, qui a fait cette annonce, a expliqué que la nouvelle politique de restriction des visas relève de l'article 212(a)(3) C de la loi sur l'immigration et la nationalité, ciblant les personnes impliquées dans l'atteinte au processus démocratique de juin 2023 en Sierra Leone.

« Dans le cadre de cette politique, les États-Unis imposeront des restrictions de visa à ceux qui sont soupçonnés d'être responsables ou complices d'atteinte à la démocratie en Sierra Leone, notamment par la manipulation ou le trucage du processus électoral ; l'intimidation d'électeurs, d'observateurs électoraux ou d'organisations de la société civile par des menaces ou des actes de violence physique ; ou l'abus ou la violation des droits de l'homme connexes en Sierra Leone », a-t-il annoncé dans un communiqué publié jeudi 31 août.

Selon le secrétaire d'État Blinken, la politique de restriction des visas s'appliquera à des individus spécifiques et ne s'adresse pas aux Sierra Léonais en général, notant que cette décision reflète l'engagement

des États-Unis à soutenir les aspirations des Sierra Léonais à avoir des élections libres et équitables qui démontrent la volonté du peuple et renforcer la démocratie et l'État de droit.

Il a ajouté que les membres de la famille de ces personnes peuvent également être soumis à ces restrictions, et que les personnes qui sapent le processus démocratique en Sierra Leone, y compris avant, pendant et après les élections de juin 2023, pourraient être jugées inéligibles aux visas américains dans le cadre de cette politique.

La semaine dernière, les partenaires internationaux du Libéria, dont la CEDEAO et les Nations Unies, ont publié une déclaration commune, exprimant leur inquiétude face aux récents rapports faisant état de violences électorales, exhortant les autorités libériennes à enquêter et à demander des comptes aux responsables. Ils ont aussi appelé tous les Libériens à sauvegarder les acquis du Libéria en terme de paix qui a été gagnée au prix du sang des milliers de libériens.

« Nous attirons l'attention sur les discours incendiaires susceptibles d'inciter à la violence. Nous exhortons donc les dirigeants politiques à transmettre des messages 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 de la politique, et à résoudre tout grief par le biais des mécanismes juridiques établis. Nous mettons en outre en garde contre l'instrumentalisation des jeunes », a indiqué la déclaration commune publiée le 31 août.

Alors que le Libéria commémore 20 ans de paix ininterrompue, la communauté internationale au Libéria souhaite que les signataires de la Déclaration de Farmington River 2023 respectent leur engagement et favorisent les conditions d'élections pacifiques, transparentes et crédibles, avant, pendant et après les élections.

Starts from page 8 Mali : les autorités de

continuent de nier l'existence de ce blocus. Le commandant militaire, qui a promis la semaine dernière de renforcer les actions à Tombouctou, dénonçait au cours d'une conférence de presse une « campagne médiatique » et des « intoxications ».

Le 4 septembre, le Premier ministre de transition Choguel Maïga a reçu une délégation de

ressortissants de la région de Tombouctou. Dans le communiqué publié à l'issue de cette rencontre, le mot « blocus » n'apparaît pas. La Primature reconnaît simplement « l'exacerbation des incidents » sécuritaires qui ont provoqué « des restrictions de l'acheminement de marchandises et la flambée des prix des denrées de première nécessité, voire leur rareté sur les marchés ».

Deux faux candidats à la présidentielle ont été arrêtés



Le magistrat électoral du comté de Haut Nimba, Milton Paye, a demandé à la police de la ville de Sanniquillie d'arrêter et de traduire en justice deux individus qui se font passer pour des candidats du Parti des Pauvres (PPP) à la présidentielle, qui ont collé partout dans le comté leurs photos et font campagne.

Selon le Magistrat Paye, la Commission électorale nationale n'a qualifié que 20 candidats à la présidentielle, et non 21, comme le PPP veut le faire croire au public.

Dans une lettre de la Commission électorale nationale, il est écrit :

« Comme vous en êtes peut-être informés, le processus de mise en candidature pour les élections générales et présidentielle de 2023 est terminé. Un total de vingt (20) personnes ont été retenues comme candidats à la présidentielle.

Mais il y a des gens qui circulent et distribuent des dépliant et demandent aux gens de voter pour eux. A ce que la commission électorale sache, ces personnes n'ont aucune autorisation. Elles n'ont jamais été retenues comme candidats à la prochaine présidentielle. Cela semble être une grave atteinte à notre processus de paix.

Ils confondent également l'électorat en leur disant qu'ils sont au numéro 21 sur le bulletin de vote pour la présidentielle de 2023. Il s'agit d'Eric B. Nuahn et Eric Tiawuah.

Sur la base de ce qui précède, nous vous écrivons pour demander à vos bons offices de les arrêter et de les porter à l'attention du public pour des messages de campagne trompeurs et tout ce qu'ils ont fait de manière criminelle pour remettre en question la crédibilité de la Commission électorale nationale. »

La NEC s'est dite prête à organiser des élections libres et crédibles le 10 octobre.

Pendant ce temps, la police de Nimba a arrêté et inculpé deux adolescents dans le cadre des violences récentes qui ont fait un mort.

Le commandant de la police du comté de Nimba, Dixon P. Kemokai, a déclaré que le récent incident survenu dans la ville de Soe Vanyenglay n'était pas motivé par des considérations politiques ou une question électorale, mais plutôt une confusion parmi les habitants qui a entraîné la mort d'une personne. Auparavant, la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir avait accusé le Parti de l'Unité de l'opposition d'être impliqué dans des violences, mais la police a déclaré qu'aucun parti politique n'était impliqué et que l'incident s'était produit à 12h00 du matin.

Les adolescents inculpés et renvoyés devant le tribunal sont Anthony Saye et Parlay Flahn, âgés respectivement de 14 et 17 ans.

Burkina Faso : 53 soldats et supplétifs de l'armée tués dans une attaque de djihadistes présumés

Le retour des populations déplacées. « Aucune possibilité d'en sortir ni d'y rentrer, confirme un ressortissant de la région, ils empêchent mes parents de rejoindre Ouahigouy. »

L'attaque n'a pas été revendiquée par les assaillants ni attribuée à un groupe précis pour l'heure. Mais selon

Le Burkina Faso, l'état-major des armées annonce que 53 combattants, dont 17 militaires et 36 VDP, ont perdu la vie lors d'une attaque de djihadistes présumés dans la région du nord lundi matin à l'aube. L'unité attaquée fait partie du 12e régiment d'infanterie commando, dont le camp se situe à Ouahigouya, dans la province du Yatenga. C'est à une vingtaine de kilomètres au nord de leur base, dans la localité de Koumbri précisément, que les soldats ont été attaqués. Ils ont été pris entre des « tirs de harcèlement » et « d'intenses combats » racontent les autorités burkinabè. En plus des 53 morts, il y a eu une trentaine de blessés dans les rangs de l'armée. Ils ont été évacués et pris en charge.

L'opération dans laquelle les soldats étaient engagés à Koumbri a été décrite comme une offensive « audacieuse ». Une action de « reconquête » ajoute l'état-major général des armées. Il s'agissait en fait de sécuriser la localité et ses environs, une zone sous contrôle des groupes terroristes. Et de permettre



l'armée, « plusieurs dizaines de terroristes » en fuite ont été neutralisés, leur matériel détruit. Et des opérations de riposte sont toujours en cours dans la zone.

Read the
NewDawn everyday
Advertise with us!

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Hello Fellow: Hate Speech is not Freedom of Speech



Peter Quaqua, the author

Speech is an inalienable right guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In spite of its global approval, freedom of speech is intermittently inhabited, abused and selectively applied in civilizations around the world. In democratic societies, for instance, people have the right to freely express dissimilar opinions and make free choices without reprisal.

Free expression thus, makes election an intriguing democratic value. Naturally, the media and journalists are understood to be enablers of democracy as they present the platform for healthy political debates that allow the electorates to make informed choices. But these debates sometimes turned belligerent and inflammatory as we have already seen in the Liberian elections. That's why conflict practitioners have designated elections as one of the triggers of conflict. Election speeches can easily degenerate into conflict if actors have no self-awareness. There is ample evidence far and near to corroborate the devastating effects of election-related violence. Even established democracies have had their share of election violence, let alone fragile democracies.

More often than not, media and journalists are accused of complicity in fueling and escalating election disputes, rightly or wrongly. Yes, we are all too familiar with the susceptibility of journalists to manipulations by various players. So, a careful scrutiny of the concept of speech should help media practitioners separate free speech from hate speech. Journalists are not politicians (and I mean those who dare to be professional) and can't afford to be guilty of any abuse regardless of your disposition on the vexing issues of the moment.

This piece is therefore intended to help safeguard journalists from litigation and attacks, but also to create awareness and protect the public from any kind of violence resulting from the abuse of freedom of expression.

Drawing the line

Understanding the difference between free speech and hate speech is of the essence in journalism practice. While both theories involve the freedom to express oneself, they differ greatly in their intent and effect.

Free speech is a fundamental right that allows individuals to express their opinions, ideas, and beliefs without censorship or punishment from the government or other authorities. It is central to democratic societies, in promoting open dialogue, diverse viewpoints, and the exchange of information. Free speech covers a broad range of expressions, including political speech, artistic expression, and even offensive or controversial viewpoints. It is protected by laws and constitutions in many countries including Liberia.

On the other hand, hate speech refers to expressions that incite violence, discrimination, or hostility towards individuals or groups based on characteristics such as race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or

disability. Hate speech often propagates harmful tagging of people, promotes division, and can have severe emotional and bodily consequences for its targets. Unlike free speech, hate speech is not protected under most legal systems, as it poses a threat to public safety, social harmony, and the well-being of marginalized communities.

One main difference between free speech and hate speech lies in their impact on others. Free speech, even if it may offend or challenge prevailing norms, generally does not directly harm people or incite violence. In contrast, hate speech is intrinsically destructive, as it seeks to humiliate, disgrace, or marginalize individuals or groups. It targets people based on their inherited characteristics or identities, promoting discrimination and prejudice.

Another difference is the intent behind the speech. Free speech is normally driven by the desire to express one's thoughts, share information, or engage in constructive debates. It often aims to challenge the status quo, promote social change, or express dissenting opinions. Whereas, hate speech, is inspired by hatred, prejudice, or a desire to subdue or harm others. Its primary purpose is to spread hatred, fear, and division among people.

The Arguments

It is important to note that the margins between free speech and hate speech can sometimes be obscure, and different societies may have different interpretations of what constitutes hate speech. Some argue that any form of speech that promotes discrimination or violence should be curtailed, while others believe in the importance of protecting even offensive or controversial expressions to preserve the principle of free speech.

However, and wherever you stand, free speech and hate speech represent two distinct notions with contrasting impacts, intent, and legal protections. While free speech is a crucial pillar of democratic societies, hate speech poses a threat to societal cohesion, individual well-being, and fairness. Understanding the difference between the two helps foster a more informed and responsible approach to information sharing and expression.

Intolerance

It is excusable for politicians and their supporters to say whatever comes to mind in the context of free speech. They could even choose to lie, insult, and be intolerant of other views. But while facilitating the dissemination of speech, journalists must take responsibility for what they say/write and what they allow in their media outlets. In times of heightened election tension, journalists must reinforce their gatekeeping responsibilities. You don't want to be held liable for any wrongdoing.

Allow me to also say that journalists are not careless or reckless talkers. Journalists don't speak anyhow. You don't use your platforms to express your personal grief or vent your anger. Your speech should be measured in the context of ethics and that speech does not include hate speech. The onus is on you journalists, to protect the civic space and prevent the misuse of your platforms.

This is Peter Quaqua, your fellow comrade.

I remain the Best president

By Lewis S. Teh & Emmanuel Jipoh

Incumbent President George Manneh Weah has bragged of being the best president in the history of Liberia while addressing

Antoinette Tubman Stadium (ATS) down Lynch Street in central Monrovia Thursday to officially launch the party's campaign. During the campaign launch, Mr. Weah bragged that he is the best

Madam Jewel Howard-Taylor for a better Liberia. "To our first-time voters, you have made the right choice to vote the CDC as the real party that understands Liberia's problem," Mr. Weah continued.

He questioned the opposition Unity Party's camping which is named the 'Rescue Mission,' pondering what exactly the party is rescuing when it lost every opportunity it was afforded during its 12 years rule.

"To those that [are] claiming to be rescuer, ask them what they have rescued since the foundation of Liberia?" Weah told his supporters. He said the Unity Party did not rescue the bad road, the unemployment, the lack of tuition, and the poor healthcare system. "No, if they failed to rescue all that, how can they rescue you?" Weah wondered.

He suggested that the former ruling Unity Party squandered all its opportunities. But under his rule, Mr. Weah argued that parents do not have to struggle to pay fees for their children's West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

"They no longer have to send their children to private universities because I have provided free school across this country," he noted. President Weah vowed to reactivate the cadet program to give young people the opportunity to gain work experience while they are in school. Weah said it's time to work together to move the country forward. He thanked the people for their resilience, love for country, adding that he will never make them shame.



Pres. Weah

thousands of supporters on his re-election campaign launch.

"My work in the past five years has made me the best president since the foundation of Liberia," President Weah said during his official campaign launch on Thursday, 7 September 2023 in Monrovia.

Mr. Weah faces his archrivals Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Alexander B. Cummings, and 17 other presidential candidates in the presidential and legislative elections due 10 October 2023.

After nearly six years in power, this year's presidential polls will test Mr. Weah's popularity among grass rooters who helped him to win the presidency against former Liberian vice president Amb. Boakai in a 2017 run-off.

Voters might support candidates for various reasons, but some of the triggers might be tied to how the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)-led government approached the country's economic issues, infrastructure, security, corruption, and citizens' general welfare. With thirty-two days to the presidential polls, Mr. Weah and his CDC executives and partisans assembled at the

president since the founding of Liberia.

"I George M. Weah ... remain the best president in the history of Liberia," he said. According to him, the CDC under his leadership has done a lot in the history of Liberia. Mr. Weah named the construction of roads, hospital, and provision of free tuition as things that have made him the best president in the history of the country. President Weah thanked the chairman and political leaders of the CDC for organizing the campaign launch. "Fellow partisans, we gather here today to show to the world that we are the people's party. We did it before and we can do it again," said President Weah.

"There is no political prisoner in this country. As we speak, we have gender equality and women empowerment, youth empowerment and participation in government," Weah continued.

We said a lot has been achieved together, pleading with his supporters to vote for him and his running mate

Starts from back page Cummings takes campaign to Grand Cape Mount

Counsellor Charlyne Brumskine addressing the crowd, made passionate pleas to Liberians not to allow the selfish interest of any to stay in the current politicians including President George Weah to supersede their strong desires for a better life. Counsellor Brumskine traced her ties to Grand Cape Mount County through her fiancé and said her election as Vice President of Liberia, will bring immense benefits to the County. She made passionate pleas to Liberians, especially women and girls of voting age to consider her as one of their kind who will advocate and stand for the cause of women in Liberia.

restoring basic infrastructures including good roads, electricity, pipe-born water, and improve the health care educational and systems. In Lofa Bridge, Cummings held town hall meetings with hundreds of citizens including elders, women, youth, religious and motorcycle groups, who also spoke of the economic challenges and lack of basic social services in rural Liberia. They pledged their unflinching support and solidarity for the CPP Presidential bid and hope a Cummings leadership will not disappoint and neglect them as other past and present administrations have done.

Motorcyclists set road block

By Naneka Hoffman

Several angry motorcyclists have erected roadblocks and burnt tires in Johnsonville Township, Montserrado County, demanding justice for the death of a motorcyclist, who reportedly collided with a 12-tier truck transporting sand.

The accident occurred adjacent Geebah Reliable Services INC, in Johnsonville Township late Wednesday.

Speaking to the NEW DAWN on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, protesting motorcyclists narrated that the roadblock is intended to seek justice for the late Emmanuel Kollie, Jr., who was making his way home from church on his private bike and was knocked down and killed by a sand truck that was trying to overtake him in a curve along the Johnsonville road.

According to them, it is also to show how motorcyclists are being allegedly killed daily in an unfortunate manner by truck drivers.

A senior brother of the deceased, Daniel D. Momo, further explained that they were all at the church on Wednesday evening in Barnesville and after a while his little brother got

his private bike that he usually used for his daily activities when he was alive.

Momo revealed in tears that the late Emmanuel was 18 years old, adding that he did have a child or children.

Quoting an eyewitness, he said his brother was riding in the right direction and the truck driver, while overtaking the bike, ran into him and instantly killed him.

He said after the accident, the truck driver was not immediately available but Police informed him that they were going to close all checkpoints in Johnsonville and launch a hunt for the driver.

Some residents of the township explained that truck drivers plying that route usually are on speed even when they are approaching a curve.

However, they call on the Ministry of Public Works to erect speed brakes along the Johnson route, adding that if this were done, drivers would take time whenever they approach a speed brake.

Meanwhile, latest report received late Thursday, September 7, revealed that a



on the bike and decided to make his way home when he unfortunately met his demise in an accident.

Mr. Momo continued that the late Emmanuel Kollie was his junior brother from the same mother, adding that the deceased was a son of Pastor Emmanuel B. Kollie, Sr.

According to him, the late Emmanue Kollie, Jr. was not a commercial motorcyclist, but he knew how to ride, adding that he had

person believed to be a supporter of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) died and several others were wounded yesterday while they going to attend the CDC rally held at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium when a motorbike and a tricycle they riding in simultaneously collided with a bus along Japan Freeway in Gardnersville, outside Monrovia.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

**Read the
NewDawn everyday
&
Advertise with us!**

Cummings takes campaign to Grand Cape Mount

-Gets rousing welcome

Citizens of Sinje, Kinjor, Lofa Bridge and Gold Camp in hundreds of citizens in attendance and lamented the deplorable living conditions of rural dwellers, due to lack of



Cummings received the traditional welcome with white chicken and kola nuts from citizens of Kinjor

said changing the inept and corrupt administration of President George Weah is necessary for Liberians to reap and equally benefit from the country's resources.

Earlier Cummings expressed gratitude for the massive turnouts and warm receptions accorded him in the towns visited, and reaffirmed his commitment upon his election, to restoring good governance and ensuring that the country's resources are used for the greater good of society.

In Kinjor, Cummings and entourage were met upon arrival by hundreds of citizens, accorded the usual traditional welcome with white chicken and kola nuts, and entertained by mask dancers.

Elders, youth and women groups including market women, and Southerners from Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Sinoe, Rivercess, Rivergee and Maryland Counties, pledged their unwavering support and solidarity for the Presidential bid of the CPP come October 10.

CPP Vice Standard Bearer,

Grand Cape Mount County, turned out in mass on Thursday, September 7, and accorded rousing welcome to the Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander B. Cummings and entourage.

Cummings accompanied by his Vice Standard Bearer, Counsellor Charlyne Brumskine held town hall meetings in the respective towns with

basic essential social services. Elders, youth and women groups said with huge extraction of gold, diamond, and other natural resources, citizens are lingering in abject poverty and accused companies operating in the country of unfair labor practices, with no remedial action taken by government.

Cummings empathized with the plight of the citizens and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

MoMo Waysay-Wasa 3

Da your time to win!

Dial *156*2#

To buy a **50LRD bundle** and above to enter the draw!

HOPE

You Can Count On

Vote #18

WEAH 2023
TAYLOR

@dahmetakeit

The New Dawn

TRULY INDEPENDENT

PRESS

WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:

- * Newspapers * Magazines * Flyers * Posters
- * Calendars * Brochures * Letterhead
- * Receipts * Invoices * Souvenirs etc...

☎ 0886484201 ✉ Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

☎ 0777007529 🌐 Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com

P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street
Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia

DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing