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# The New Dawn

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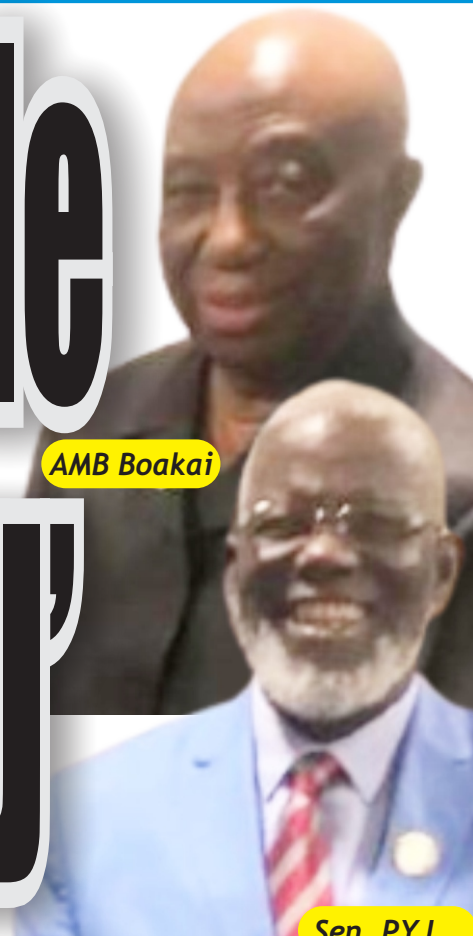
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# 'UP playing double standard with PYJ'



**-Weah tells voters as he takes jibes at Boakai**

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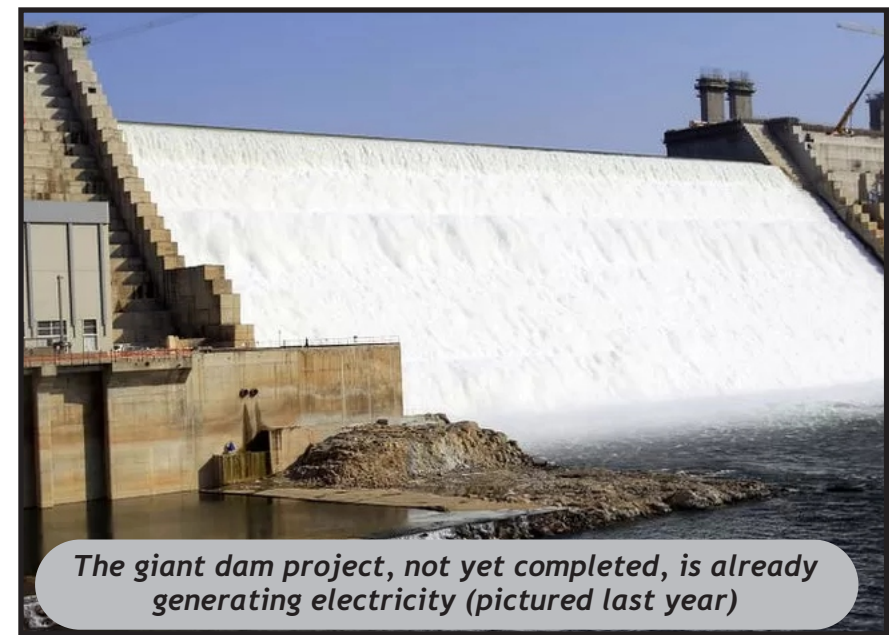
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# Continental News

## Egypt angry as Ethiopia fills Nile dam reservoir

Egypt has voiced anger after Ethiopia announced it had filled the reservoir at a highly controversial hydroelectric dam on the Blue Nile river. Ethiopia has been in dispute with Egypt and Sudan over the megaproject since its launch in 2011. Egypt relies on completion of the fourth and final filling of the Renaissance Dam," Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said on X, formerly Twitter. He admitted the project had faced "internal and external obstacles" but "we endured all that". The dam began generating electricity in February 2022. Ethiopia believes the Grand



The giant dam project, not yet completed, is already generating electricity (pictured last year)

the Nile for nearly all its water needs. Egypt's foreign ministry said Ethiopia was disregarding the interests of the downstream countries. Ethiopia says the \$4.2bn (£3.4bn) dam will not cut their share of Nile water. "It is with great pleasure that I announce the successful

Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (Gerd) will double the country's electricity output, providing a vital development boost, as currently half the 127-million population lacks electricity. The plan is to generate more than 6,000 MW at the dam, which is about 30km (19 miles) from Ethiopia's border with Sudan.

Egypt and Sudan argue that common rules for the operation of Gerd must be agreed, fearing that energy-hungry Ethiopia may exacerbate their existing water shortages.

Negotiations over the project resumed last month, having been suspended in 2021.

Sudan - currently mired in fighting between rival armies - did not immediately react to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's announcement on Sunday.

In a statement on Facebook the Egyptian foreign ministry said Ethiopia's "unilateral" filling of the reservoir violated a declaration of principles signed by the three countries in 2015, and branded Ethiopia's action "illegal".

"The declaration of principles stipulates the necessity of the three countries reaching an agreement on the rules for filling and operating the Gerd before commencing the filling process," the statement said.

"Ethiopia's unilateral measures are considered a disregard for the interests and rights of the downstream countries and their water security, as guaranteed by principles of international law." BBC

## Libya declares emergency as Storm Daniel kills 150

At least 150 people are known to have died after a powerful storm caused severe flooding in Libya.

However, the leader of the east Libya government, which is not recognised internationally, said deaths "exceed 2,000".

Storm Daniel made landfall in the North African nation on Sunday, prompting authorities to declare a state of extreme emergency. Seven Libyan army personnel have gone missing during ongoing rescue efforts.

Officials in eastern Libya have imposed a curfew, while schools and shops have been ordered to close.

The eastern cities of Benghazi, Sousse, Derna and Al-Marj have been impacted by Storm Daniel.

"At least 150 people were killed as a result of flooding

entire neighbourhoods in Derna have disappeared, along with their residents ... swept away by water." Mr Hamad did not give a source for his figures

Alongside areas in the east, the western city of Misrata was among those hit by the floods.

Unverified videos of the storm have been circulating online, including a clip showing torrents of floodwater sweeping a man away. Other footage shows drivers trapped on their car roofs.

Alongside schools and shops, four major oil ports closed because of the storm.

While the Benghazi-based administration has been dealing with matters in the east of the country, the rival, internationally recognised government in the capital, Tripoli, has also been involved.

Its Prime Minister, Abdulhamid Dbeiba, said on Sunday that he had directed all state agencies to "immediately deal" with the



The city of Misrata, in the west, was among those hit by heavy rains

## Weah consoles Morocco after earthquake

The first resident of international assistance, but fears Tafeghaghte we met pride may prevent that offered a blunt happening. On the other side of this assessment of the devastation tiny community, we see that caused by Morocco's everyone seems to be comforting one man in particular. We discover

"People in this village are either in hospital or dead," they said. As we clambered up to the top of the rubble we understood how no one could have escaped unscathed. The bricks and stones of their traditional houses were no match for the size of this quake.

Ninety of the 200 residents here are confirmed dead and many more are missing.

"They didn't have the chance to get away. They didn't have time to save themselves," says Hassan, who's also made his way up the rubble. Hassan says that his uncle is still buried beneath the rubble. There is no hope he will be dug out. No one here has the machinery to do it and outside expertise has not arrived. "Allah brought this and we thank Allah for everything. But now we need the help of our government. They are late, very late in coming to help people," he says.

Hassan adds that the Moroccan authorities should accept all offers of

him. "We buried them yesterday," he says.

"When we found them, they were all huddled together. The three boys were asleep. They went down with the earthquake." In a large tent just off the winding mountain road that connects the village to the outside world, dozens of families are sitting together. There is inconsolable crying coming from every direction. This latest wave of grief has been prompted by the body of a 10-year-old girl, Khalifa, being pulled from the debris. This is grief in its rawest form. One woman faints, and another slumps into her chair and wails. BBC



and torrential rains... in Derna, the Jabal al-Akhdar region and the suburbs of Al-Marj," Mohamed Massoud, a spokesman for the Benghazi-based administration in Libya, told French news agency AFP on Monday afternoon. The head of Benghazi's chapter of the Red Crescent humanitarian network said at least 150 deaths occurred in Derna alone, according to news agency Reuters.

Two dams in Derna - home to approximately 100,000 - have reportedly collapsed, submerging much of the area and drowning some residents. Authorities have consequently declared the port a "disaster city".

Hours after his government gave a death toll of more than 150, eastern Prime Minister Osama Hamad told a Libyan television channel: "The missing are in the thousands, and the dead exceed 2,000..."

damage and floods, while the United Nations in Libya said it was following the storm closely and would "provide urgent relief assistance in support of response efforts at local and national levels".

Libya has been divided between two rival administrations since 2014, following the killing of long-time leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. Both governments declared three days of mourning after Storm Daniel swept in.

Last week, it struck Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria, killing more than a dozen people.

Egypt was on Monday bracing itself for Storm Daniel and in the evening, the nation's meteorological organisation said rainclouds had multiplied over the northwest coast. Climate scientists have warned that global warming means more water evaporating during the summer, leading to more intense storms. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Welcoming the EU Election Observers Mission to Liberia

NEWS THAT THE European Union has deployed 20 Election Observers Mission across Liberia, ahead of the October 10th Presidential Legislative Elections, is both welcoming and encouraging.

THESE ELECTIONS MARK a significant milestone in the consolidation of Liberia's democracy, Deputy Chief Observer, Jarek Domanski, who has been in the country since the end of August, is quoted as saying.

ACCORDING TO A press release, the Mission's primary focus will be on monitoring electoral preparations and campaign activities in all of Liberia's 15 counties.

DEPUTY CHIEF OBSERVER Domanski said group of experts, including specialists in election procedures, politics, law, campaign finance, media, social media, and data analysis are in the country to carry out such mission.

THE NEWS SHOULD be welcomed by all Liberians that desire a peaceful election and peace for Liberia.

The presence of international observers to monitor the polls will also deter would-be troublemakers that are planning to disrupt the process and revert Liberia to chaos.

IT INDICATES THAT the people of Liberia are not alone in the quest to remain on the path of transparent elections and sustaining the democratic process.

AS FOREIGN OBSERVERS troop into the country, it behooves us as Liberians to set the right image for ourselves that we are ready to keep the nation peaceful and stable.

ELECTIONS ARE FOR just a day, but after the polls and results start trickling in, it will be the crucial time for all sides to exercise high degree of maturity and tolerance until a winner is declared by the National Elections Commission.

AS CHIEF OBSERVER Andreas Schieder revealed, the EU Election Observer Mission is here at the invitation of the Government of Liberia, which should indicate that the government is committed to conducting free, fair and transparent elections.

THEREFORE, THE ONUS is on all Liberians to work towards ensuring that polls are not just free, fair, and transparent, but violence-free for the benefit of both the current generation and generations to come. We believe strongly that doing so would leave behind a good footprint for posterity to come.

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

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# COMMENTARY

By Simon Johnson

## Great Power Competition Today

WASHINGTON, DC - The recent BRICS summit in South Africa marks the start of a new phase of Great Power competition. At the apparent urging of China, the BRICS group (which also includes Brazil, Russia, India, and South Africa) invited six other countries to join: Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. By some measures, the economic output of this expanded group will rival that of the G7 (the major developed countries: the United States, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy).

According to public statements by Russian President Vladimir Putin and, more importantly, by Chinese President Xi Jinping, the goal is to build a group that can stand up to Western influence and create the foundation for an alternative international order, with less reliance on the US dollar.

This effort will no doubt gain greater attention in the coming year, especially when the expanded membership meets for the first time in October 2024 (in Kazan, Russia). But BRICS+ is unlikely to reshape the world, for three reasons.

First, the extent of common interest among its members should not be exaggerated. India has plenty of reasons (based on a great deal of recent history) not to want China to become too powerful. And any group that includes oil and gas producers (Brazil, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE) and energy importers has a fundamental fault line. For example, South Africa, where energy shortages (and rolling power cuts) are having serious negative effects on the economy, has no interest in paying more for energy; but selling oil to the world is what keeps the oil and gas producers' public finances afloat.

Second, the idea of replacing the dollar with other currencies for trade and for financial transactions has been around for decades. The problem is that you cannot replace something with nothing. If the alternative involves the Chinese renminbi, it will require putting a great deal of faith in the Chinese economy, which currently looks more than a little shaky. When the going gets tough, would the Chinese authorities really allow foreigners to sell their renminbi holdings without restriction?

Third, any alliance with Russia is obviously fraught with dangers at this point. Russia's leadership looks unstable and unpredictable. Rather than backing down from his war of aggression against Ukraine, Putin seems determined to continue disrupting global energy markets (bad for energy importers) and grain markets (very bad for countries such as Egypt).

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has been a disaster for both countries, but Putin is the type of dictator who cannot admit a mistake. The current cascade of coups across Africa reminds us (and him) how such regimes end.

For centuries, Great Power competition was based on formal empire (ruling other countries) and exercising de facto control through military means, bribery, and

unequal trading relationships. From the early 1700s until the 1940s, the British Empire led the world with both types of machinations, but other European countries also had their spheres of influence.

The global system changed after World War II, because the United States took over as the leading Western industrial power, determined to replace formal empire with much more equal trading relationships. To be sure, there continue to be plenty of complaints about the fairness of that system. But Western Europe did well, and countries such as Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and (in recent decades) China prospered under a relatively open international trading system that encouraged exports of manufactured goods from lower-wage countries to high-income markets. The Soviet Union's alternative post-war bloc, based on military control over Eastern Europe, fell apart in 1989, two years before the demise of the Soviet Union itself.

The latest phase of Great Power competition, however, is much more about technology than it is about trade. In retrospect, this shift began during WWII, when the British shared key developments (particularly radar and early thinking about atomic weapons), and the Americans' Manhattan Project went further and faster than anyone could have imagined.

Digital computers, semiconductor chips, jet aircraft, life-saving drugs and vaccines, and the internet all came from the West (boosted significantly by US government investments).

In October 1957, the Soviet Union shocked the world by launching the first artificial satellite, Sputnik. But its rigid and repressive system could not sustain enough creativity or turn good ideas into products that people wanted (other than weapons).

Now China wants to challenge the West for leadership in new technology, with a view to tightening social control through a combination of artificial intelligence and surveillance. This, not the expanded BRICS, is the real potential threat to the West.

There is now an active bipartisan discussion in Washington, led by US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, regarding how much AI we want to develop and with what safeguards. This is healthy and will likely lead to better outcomes (although no doubt with imperfections in terms of consumer protection, alongside ongoing concerns about job losses).

In contrast, an open discussion about the technologies China wants to develop and how it directs innovation is not allowed in that country. As was true during the Cold War, a rigid and repressive system is bidding to lead the world in knowledge creation, application, and dissemination.

Will China succeed where the Soviet Union failed? As long as the West continues to nurture innovation - and manages that innovation responsibly - China is unlikely to win out. In this sense, the West controls its own destiny.

## OP-ED

By Daniel Gros

## The Real Problem with China's Economy

MILAN - China's ongoing economic slowdown has elicited a variety of explanations. But forecasts largely have one thing in common: while the short-term data are somewhat volatile - annual growth rates have been distorted by the legacy of the authorities' draconian zero-COVID policy - most observers expect Chinese GDP growth to continue trending downward. The International Monetary Fund, for example, expects growth to reach just 4.5% in 2024 and fall to 3% by the end of this decade - better than most advanced economies, but a far cry from the double-digit rates of a decade ago. Yet growth is only part of the story.

Of course, the focus on it is understandable. For decades, China has accounted for a significant share of global GDP growth. Moreover, the size of China's economy - a key determinant of its ability to continue expanding its military capabilities - will shape the evolution of the balance of power with its main rival, the United States. But growth is not the only - and probably not even the main - channel through which the Chinese economy affects the rest of the world. The balance of savings and investment also matters, perhaps even more.

One of the Chinese economy's distinguishing characteristics is its extraordinarily high investment and savings rates, which exceed 40% of GDP. This is double the level in the European Union and the US, and higher even than the rate in Asia's other high-savings countries, such as Japan and South Korea.

Investment - particularly in high-quality infrastructure - has been integral to maintaining China's rapid GDP growth. China built the world's largest high-speed rail network in record time. Today, even medium-size cities have metro lines, and China's numerous shiny new airports put the aging terminals seen in the US and Europe to shame.

But, as Harvard's Kenneth Rogoff has pointed out, such investment generates diminishing returns. This is best illustrated by the construction sector's woes. Over the last decade, so much housing has been built in China that about 40 square meters (430 square feet) per person already exists - about as much as in Germany or Japan. In other words, China has built the capital stock of a developed economy, effectively meeting housing demand - before reaching the associated income level.

This severely limits investment's potential to drive further increases in income. At this point, further housing construction would simply create more ghost cities - shiny, new, and empty. And because the additional housing stock - and infrastructure more broadly - has a long life span, this will not change significantly any time soon.

To be sure, China's government will probably be able to find new ways to support the construction sector, including by finding infrastructure projects that can at least be made to appear worthwhile - for example, in the poorer and rural inland provinces. But, overall, investment can be expected to decline gradually from now on.

Japan faced a similar problem a few decades ago. After its real-estate bubble burst in the late 1980s, the government attempted to lift the economy out of a severe downturn by channeling vast funds toward infrastructure investment. But most of the new roads led to nowhere, so after a few years of heavy spending, the government had to give up.

In China, the response to lower investment might seem simple: the Chinese could consume more. But recall that China's savings ratio is also extraordinarily high, and has remained so despite the authorities' efforts over the last decade to foster domestic consumption as a driver of growth. A significant rise is thus unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Beyond consumption, China could channel savings toward investment in renewable energy sources like solar and wind. But with such investment already approaching \$300 billion annually - far more than in the US or Europe - the ability of renewables to absorb Chinese savings is limited.

Amid declining investment, China's high savings spill out into the rest of world via current-account surpluses. In China, these surpluses are even larger than those of other countries with excess savings, like Germany or Japan, because of the magnitude of the potential excess and the sheer size of the economy.

If savings remain at their current level (over 40% of GDP), but investment falls to 30% of GDP - still a very high ratio - China would have to maintain a current-account surplus of ten percentage points of GDP to keep the economy in equilibrium. With China's GDP set to reach \$20 trillion soon, this would amount to nearly \$2 trillion. That is several times larger than the previous surpluses of Germany or Japan, and large enough to affect the global savings/investment balance.

One spillover effect of China's savings surplus - downward pressure on interest rates - would be relatively benign. But another, bigger dangers looms: large Chinese current-account surpluses would fuel an already-accelerating trend toward protecting domestic industries against Chinese competition.

This does not have to be the case. With their investments in technologies like batteries, solar panels, and electric vehicles, Chinese exporters are on track to gain an ever-greater advantage in capital-intensive green industries. Europe and the US could welcome cheap green imports as a means of reducing the costs of their own climate policies. But this seems unlikely in today's climate of geopolitical confrontation. Instead, we can look forward to more protectionist policies, which will increase costs and do nothing to reduce Chinese savings.

## OPINION

By Tse Yip Fai, Peter Singer

## Self-Driving Cars and AI Ethics

PRINCETON/HONG KONG - Last month, California regulators allowed two companies that operate self-driving cars to accept paying customers in San Francisco. The first week did not go well. One car drove itself onto freshly poured concrete in a road construction zone with traffic cones and workers with flags. The car got stuck in the wet concrete, and the company will be paying to repave the road.

In a more serious incident, a passenger in a driverless car was injured in a collision with a fire truck. As a result, the operator agreed to halve the number of driverless vehicles it operated in San Francisco.

The decision to permit self-driving cars may usher in a new era of transportation, or it may prove to be a false dawn. Either way, the issues surrounding self-driving cars illustrate many of the ethical questions raised by the impact of artificial intelligence on everyday life.

A world in which most vehicles were fully autonomous would have many advantages. Most private cars spend a great deal of time idle. If everyone could call up an autonomous vehicle whenever required, there would be no need to own one's own car, thus saving resources. Moreover, by keeping traffic flowing more smoothly, the widespread use of driverless cars may also save fuel and time.

But the most important reason for eliminating human drivers is that it could also eliminate the human errors that cause so many traffic accidents, injuries, and deaths. (The US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration puts the death toll on US roads last year at 42,795.)

Elon Musk has said that developing fully autonomous vehicles is a moral obligation because it can bring about a "virtually accident-free future." But that future is still some distance away: to date, the Teslas that Musk's company makes have been involved in more than 700 crashes, with 17 fatalities, when operating on Autopilot, their driver assistance mode.

Both companies operating driverless cars in San Francisco claim that their cars are involved in fewer collisions, and especially fewer collisions involving injuries, than human drivers in a comparable driving environment. But the validity of such claims is contested, owing to doubts about the driving environments being compared.

Still, even if the latest generation of driverless vehicles is less safe than the average human driver, it could be argued that putting them onto city streets now is justified because doing so will save so many more lives in the long run. Once autonomous vehicles are perfected, we may even restrict human drivers to lower speeds, or prohibit them altogether, because the risk that they pose to other road users, relative to the safer option provided by driverless cars, becomes unacceptable.

Not surprisingly, opposition to "robo-taxis" has come from taxi drivers - a response familiar from other areas where AI threatens to put people out of work. By enhancing productivity, advocates say, AI will allow us to achieve a better work/life balance. But "us" will not include anyone who loses their job to AI, unless they are retrained for other work, and unless companies are required to pay their employees a living wage for a shorter work week. Will there be the political will to do that?

Looking further into the future, what if AI becomes so successful that few humans have jobs at all? Will we be able to develop new purposes that will replace the role of work in giving our lives meaning and fulfillment?

AI programming is likely to be another area for regulation. To return to the example of driverless vehicles, consumers in an unregulated market will seek cars that minimize the risk to themselves or their passengers, even if that significantly increases the risk to pedestrians. Yet if all cars were programmed this way, the number of people killed or injured by cars would be higher than if cars were programmed to follow risk-minimization strategies that are impartial between those inside the car and those outside it. Only regulation that requires such impartiality can prevent an outcome resembling the well-known "tragedy of the commons."

A more surprising issue raised by driverless cars is that they appear to be less reliable in detecting pedestrians with darker skin than those with lighter skin, and thus may hit disproportionately more dark-skinned pedestrians. One study (published in 2019 and using technology that was state-of-the-art in 2018) suggests that this was because the software was developed and trained in regions with more light-skinned pedestrians than dark-skinned ones. If that is the case, then once we are aware of such problems, they can and should be fixed.

One important but often overlooked ethical issue raised by autonomous vehicles is whether they should be programmed to avoid hitting animals, and if so, which ones. All vertebrates, and some invertebrates, are sentient beings, liable to suffer if hit but not killed instantly. Moreover, in many species, the loss of a mate will cause distress, or may lead to dependent offspring starving to death. How we should value the lives and interests of all sentient beings is a question that AI ethics needs to address.

# Pleebo Citizens Celebrate Speaker Chambers' 62nd Anniversary...launch awareness Campaign



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**Dr. Bhofal Chambers**  
Speaker, House of Representatives



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## ECOWAS deploys 15 long-term election observers to Liberia

The President of the Serigne Mamadou KA, Ag. Head ECOWAS Commission, of the Electoral Assistance Division comprises experts in election administration, gender and civil society, Observers (LTOs) to monitor constitutional law, security, and the media.



process leading up to the country's general elections on 10th October 2023.

The deployment is consistent with provisions of Articles 12 to 14 of the 2001 ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance on assistance to Member States holding elections.

The Long-term Observation Mission (LTOM), headed by Mr.

Dr Omar Alieu Touray, has approved the deployment of 15 Long-term Election Observers (LTOs) to monitor key stages in the electoral



The LTO Mission will be in the country until 15th October 2023, to observe the electoral processes and also serve as an early warning mechanism for preventive diplomacy.

During their stay, the electoral experts will hold working sessions with various stakeholders, including the National Elections Commission (NEC), government, civil society organizations, the media, security agencies, as

well as political parties and candidates, toward ensuring a smooth electoral process.

Some 2,471,617 registered voters among Liberia's estimated population of 5.4 million, will elect Liberia's new President, thirty (30) Senators, and seventy-three (73) members of the House of Representatives.

Incumbent President George Weah of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) is seeking re-election for a second term.

He faces 19 other candidates, including former Vice-President Joseph Boakai of the Unity Party and Alexander Cummings of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP).

The ECOWAS LTOs will be reinforced on 3rd October by 80 of their Short-Term colleagues) drawn from the ECOWAS Council of the Wise, ECOWAS Parliament, and Community Court of Justice, member States' foreign ministries, electoral management bodies, as well as civil society organisations.

The combined observation

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## State Minister threatens to expose corrupt officials

By Franklin Doloquee, Nimba County

The Minister of State Wesseh Blamoh has threatened to expose government officials that he suspects are awarding contracts in Nimba County outside of policy prescribed by Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) of Liberia.

Minister Blamo disclosed that government awarded an electricity project to a Nimba lawmaker without following the PPCC process. He did not name the lawmaker involved, but notes that the individual has turned against President Weah and his CDC-led government. "I Will expose the document toward such decision, I don't want to explain more things here because I came for different program", he said.

The former Grand Kru Representative now Minister of State also expressed disappointment in more Liberians, including the people of Nimba, who he notes, are ungrateful to President Weah despite the fact that he continues to do more for Liberia compared to the former ruling Unity Party government that spent 12 years in power, but was unable to do so much in six years. "This boy was sent by God

to help Liberia to be developed, so don't fight him; you who are going against President George Weah will not feed your home; you have not been able to feed your wife in the home", he continues.

At the same time Mr. Blamoh calls on Liberians, including the people of Nimba to give President George Weah a 12-year leadership as was done to former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

This paper has obtained a text message sent to Pastors and Imams, including religious leaders in Ganta, inviting them to gather and pray for peaceful elections come October, but the forum was changed to a political gathering, where



Min. of State Wesseh Blamoh

Minister Blamoh instead, called on Liberians including Nimbaisns to give President Weah a second term.

Some of the Pastors left the scene detesting that the gathering was headed for a completely different direction, saying "We are God-fearing people and should not be taking a side."

The forum constrained several Muslim leaders, who were present to miss their prayer hours for the day.

However, regarding education and health,

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## UNFPA Regional boss meets with Liberia's Ambassador in New York

UNFPA West and Central Africa Regional Director Sennen Hounton urges countries in the region, including Liberia, to consider more domestic investments in sexual and reproductive health and rights-related programmes to achieve national development goals.

Speaking recently in New York when he paid a courtesy call on Liberia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Sarah Safyn Fyneah, the UNFPA West and Central Africa Regional Director underscored the need for Liberia to advance equal opportunities for adolescent girls by addressing the key barriers that perpetuate their marginalization, including teenage pregnancies.

A dispatch from UNFPA New York says Mr. Hounton commends the Government of Liberia for its renewed commitment to advancing the development needs of the country's youthful population, particularly the

During the meeting, Ambassador Fyneah and Mr. Hounton discuss the current UNFPA Country Programme of support and areas of mutual interest between the UNFPA and the Government of Liberia. They also share notes on the upcoming 2023 SDG Summit, which will occur on 18-19 September 2023 in New York.

The 2023 SDG Summit will begin a new phase of accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals with high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to 2030. Convened by the President of the General Assembly, the Summit will mark the halfway point to the deadline for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Liberia will participate in a Side Event to highlight the importance of adolescent well-being within the 2030 SDG Agenda and the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). The Side Event is organized by the current



current emergency programme to address the needs of young people who use drugs and harmful substances.

In response, Liberia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Sarah Safyn Fyneah, congratulates Mr. Hounton for his appointment as UNFPA West and Central Africa Regional Director, reaffirming Liberia's commitment to the Commission on Population and Development, in line with the African Common position as ascribed in the Addis Ababa Declaration.

"Sexual rights and sexual reproductive health are all part of the SDGs goals, and it should be embraced and supported if our shared goal is to leave no one behind," Ambassador Fyneah says.

Chair of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), the Government of Honduras, as part of the series of events commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development.

According to UNFPA, about 30 percent of girls in Liberia get pregnant by age 18 hence, Sexual and reproductive health is a lifetime concern for both women and men, from infancy to old age.

Te notes that evidence shows that reproductive health in any of these life stages profoundly affects one's health later in life. UNFPA supports programmes tailored to what people face at different times in their lives, including comprehensive sexuality education, family

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Police probe man for allegedly selling human parts

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

A 27-year-old man, Francis Sanpon, has been arrested and incarcerated by the Liberia National Police for allegedly

Mr. Bouty explains that he approached Suspect Francis Sanpon and asked him that he wanted some of the meat to buy.

He says when the suspect

"Let me say, we were all concerned and he was tortured since he admitted that it wasn't meat, but later informed us that on Friday he had visited the site of a three-year-old baby that was buried on Thursday and removed [exhumed] the body, took it on his farm. And when he got on his farm, it was when he allegedly chopped the dead body into pieces for sale and ate some parts, including the feet and head," he discloses.

He further alleges that the suspect also admitted to selling some of the body parts to others who left the town, including mother of the three years old deceased.

Mr. Bouty notes that the situation has left residents panicking because it's strange for such to have happened in the town and they hope the law will take its course.

Suspect Sanpon is currently undergoing police investigation in the county.

Sources also informed this paper that the suspect has been noted for such act, disclosing that he allegedly killed his colleague at a gold mine after he noticed that the victim had found a piece of gold and he was caught wearing underclothes of a female that died in 2022 in Maryland after visiting the grave site of the deceased. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Suspect Francis Sanpon displays contents of his bag

selling human parts in Boneken, the outskirts of Pleebo, Maryland County, Southeast Liberia.

opened the bag, he was very concerned what kind of meat because he hasn't seen such meat before.

He adds that with further observation and questions, Suspect Sanpon said that it wasn't meat but rather human parts he was carrying in the bag.

According to Bouty, Suspect Sanpon admitted that on Friday, September 8, 2023, he visited the burial site of a three-year-old baby, who had died at Karloken health center and was subsequently buried.

The situation occurred on Sunday, September 10, 2023, when residents of the town informed the Police.

Narrating the entire ordeal to reporters, Alex D. Bouty, a resident of the town said, while going on his farm on Sunday morning to spray, he saw the suspect coming from the bush with a bag that he said contains bush meat for sale.

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## State Minister threatens

including roads the Minister bragged that government has done so much that is helping to impact Liberians.

Speaking further, Minister Blamoh alleged that government has constructed a

modern hospital in Sanniquellie, Nimba County, but citizens quickly denied, clarifying that instead, government is expected to construct a hospital may cost US\$3.2

million in Sanniquellie.

Notwithstanding, some Pastors at the ceremony pledged their support for President Weah's second term bid. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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## UNFPA Regional boss meets with

planning, pre-conception care, antenatal and safe delivery care, post-natal care, services to prevent sexually

transmitted infections (including HIV), and services facilitating preventive screening, early

diagnosis and treatment of reproductive health illnesses including breast and cervical cancer.

## Be careful in managing the election

### -Unity Party elder council warns NEC

By Kruah Thompson

The Chairperson of the Unity Party National Elder Council, K. Geniton Walker, Sr., urges the National Elections Commission (NEC) to handle electoral matters with due care.

According to him, he perceives irregularities in NEC's recent decision and approach regarding Montserrado County District#11 Representative Candidate, Thomas Nemene Tweh, commonly known as "Original Countryman".

Recently, respondents and representative candidates in District#11, Sia Tandapollie, James Marwie, and Emmanuel Togba, filed a prohibition against the nomination of Mr. Nemene Tweh in the ensuing Legislative election.

The Court ruled against Mr. Nemene on August 31, 2023, after he failed to meet the eligibility clause of the Revised

He believes that based on their observations, the NEC is no longer as independent as it should be, and they are closely monitoring the situation.

"NEC's decision to deny countryman is a clear indication that they have taken sides," he notes, emphasizing that the Council will not sit idly if election results are manipulated.

Mr. Geniton pointedly warned the Commission that the party takes the pending election very seriously, and is prepared to take action to defend their votes. He cautions NEC to be mindful during the election, as the UP will not remain passive.

"All NEC plans are beginning to surface, and we are scrutinizing them one by one. We know this election is crucial, and we are treating it with utmost seriousness," he adds.

Besides, Mr. Geniton urges the international community to serve as observers in the pending



Council Chair K. Geniton Walker, Sr.

Election Laws of Liberia.

In the ruling, the Supreme Court affirmed that Mr. Nemene Tweh is not domiciled in Montserrado County District-Eleven, and is therefore, not eligible to contest.

However, in an exclusive interview during the weekend, Mr. Geniton emphasized that it was unjust to deny Candidate Tweh, while former Minister Nathaniel McGill, who had been sanctioned by the United States, is on the ballot for the October 10th elections.

Continuing to address the countryman's situation, he disclosed to that Senators Edwin Snowe and Thomas Fallah registered in different districts, but were still allowed to contest in other districts, something he argued, is against the principles of NEC.

elections to prevent possible manipulation. Having been a member of the Unity Party since 1997, he called on elders across the country to engage with citizens, emphasizing the need for change, starting with President Weah's leadership.

The Unity Party Elder Council Chair is of the conviction that only former Vice President Joseph Boakai can bring the necessary changes to Liberia, given his clean record in public service.

Therefore, he anticipates fair, free, and transparent election but notes they are resolved to secure every aspect of their votes and ballots. Meanwhile, he reveals there are plans to appoint trusted poll watchers to safeguard UP ballots and prevent potential fraud. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# Français

## L'UE déploie des observateurs à long terme avant les élections de 2023

L'Union européenne a annoncé avoir déployé une mission d'observation électorale (MOE UE), dirigée par l'observateur en chef

déclaré l'observateur en chef adjoint Jarek Domański qui est dans le pays depuis fin août. « La mission d'observation électorale de l'Union européenne surveillera le processus de

politiques, juridiques, du financement des campagnes électorales, des médias et des médias sociaux, ainsi que d'un analyste de données. Le 4 septembre, l'équipe a rencontré

## Éditorial

### La mission d'observation électorale de l'Union Européenne est la bienvenue au Libéria

C'est avec joie et allégresse que nous apprenons la nouvelle du déploiement d'une mission d'observation de l'Union Européenne à travers le Libéria en vue des élections législatives présidentielles du 10 octobre.

Ces élections marquent une étape importante dans la consolidation de la démocratie au Libéria, a déclaré l'observateur en chef adjoint Jarek Domanski, qui est dans le pays depuis fin août.

Selon un communiqué de presse, la mission principale se concentrera sur le suivi des préparatifs électoraux et des activités de campagne dans les 15 comtés du Libéria.

L'observateur en chef adjoint Domanski a déclaré qu'un groupe d'experts, comprenant des spécialistes des procédures électorales, de la politique, du droit, du financement des campagnes électorales, des médias, des médias sociaux et de l'analyse des données, était présent dans le pays pour mener à bien cette mission.

La nouvelle devrait être bien accueillie par tous les Libériens qui souhaitent des élections pacifiques et la paix pour le Libéria.

La présence d'observateurs internationaux pour surveiller le scrutin dissuadera également les fauteurs de troubles potentiels qui envisagent de perturber le processus et de plonger le Libéria dans le chaos.

Cela indique que le peuple libérien n'est pas seul dans la recherche des élections transparentes et d'un processus démocratique. Pendant que des observateurs étrangers posent leurs valises dans le pays, il nous incombe, en tant que Libériens, de nous donner une bonne image, de faire savoir que nous sommes prêts à maintenir la paix et la stabilité de la nation.

Les élections ne durent qu'une journée, mais une fois que les résultats commencent à tomber, c'est le moment crucial pour toutes les parties de faire preuve d'un haut degré de maturité et de tolérance jusqu'à ce qu'un vainqueur soit déclaré par la Commission électorale nationale.

Comme l'a révélé l'observateur en chef Andreas Schieder, la mission d'observation électorale de l'UE a répondu à l'invitation du gouvernement du Libéria, ce qui devrait indiquer que le gouvernement est déterminé à organiser des élections libres, équitables et transparentes.

Il incombe donc à tous les Libériens de veiller à ce que les élections soient non seulement libres, équitables et transparentes, mais également exemptes de violence, pour le bénéfice de la génération actuelle et des générations à venir. Nous sommes convaincus que cela laissera une bonne empreinte pour la postérité à venir.



Andreas Schieder, membre du Parlement européen (eurodéputé) autrichien, pour observer les élections générales du 10 octobre. L'UE a indiqué qu'elle avait déployé 20 observateurs à long terme dans tout le Libéria.

« Ces élections marquent une étape importante dans la consolidation de la démocratie libérienne », a

manière impartiale et indépendante. Je peux garantir que notre équipe d'analystes et d'observateurs fournira une évaluation objective du prochain processus électoral.

La MOE UE est arrivée à Monrovia le 27 août avec un observateur en chef adjoint et une équipe de base composée de 10 analystes. Le groupe d'experts se compose d'un spécialiste des élections, des affaires

la présidente et les commissaires de la Commission électorale nationale du Libéria (NEC). Depuis lors, la MOE UE a tenu plusieurs réunions avec les autorités libériennes, des partis politiques, des journalistes et des organisations de la société civile.

Un groupe de 20 observateurs à long terme a

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## La police arrête des manifestants suite à la disqualification du candidat Tweh

La Police nationale du Libéria (LNP) a arrêté des manifestants qui dénonçaient la disqualification par la commission électorale de leur candidat aux élections législatives.

La manifestation a eu lieu devant le siège de la Commission électorale nationale à Sinkor, Monrovia, le vendredi 8 septembre 2023. Des manifestants y avaient convergé pour demander à la Cour suprême du Libéria de reconsidérer sa décision de disqualifier leur candidat à l'élection législative du district n° 11 de Montserrado, Thomas Tweh, connu localement sous le nom de « Original Countryman ».

L'avis de la Haute Cour confirme la décision de la NEC selon laquelle le candidat Tweh ne réside pas dans la circonscription qu'il cherche à représenter, comme l'exige la loi électorale.

Certains manifestants, mécontents, menacent de

boycotter les prochaines élections du 10 octobre en raison de la disqualification de leur principal candidat Thomas Nimene Tweh par la Cour suprême du Libéria.

La semaine dernière, la Cour suprême a ordonné à la Commission électorale nationale d'invalider la candidature de Tweh au motif qu'il n'était pas éligible à la suite d'une affaire de domicile déposée contre lui par une candidate rivale, Siah Tandanpollie du New Liberia Party.

La candidate Tandanpollie a fait valoir que Tweh ne réside pas

dans le district n° 11 dont il brigue le siège, mais plutôt dans le district 1 de Montserrado.

À la suite de la décision de la Haute Cour, qui est conforme à l'article 30 (b) de la Constitution de 1986, les partisans de Tweh ont affirmé qu'ils sont confrontés à des provocations et à des humiliations de la part de leurs rivaux politiques. Des tracts et banderoles de campagne pour Tweh ont été

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# Français

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## L'UE déploie des

rejoint la MOE de l'UE le 5 septembre et se déploie aujourd'hui, après trois jours de briefing, pour suivre les préparatifs électoraux et la campagne dans les 15 comtés du Libéria. Une semaine avant le jour du scrutin, 40 observateurs à court terme seront également déployés dans tout le pays, aux côtés d'une délégation de membres du Parlement européen et d'une vingtaine de diplomates des États membres de l'UE accrédités au Libéria. Les observateurs électoraux de l'UE viennent des 27 États membres de l'UE, ainsi que du Canada et de la Norvège, ce qui porte le nombre d'observateurs de l'UE le jour du scrutin à environ 100.

« La MOE UE évaluera les élections sur la base des normes et engagements internationaux et régionaux auxquels le Libéria a adhéré, ainsi que de ses lois nationales. Il se concentrera sur l'ensemble du processus électoral, y compris une évaluation du cadre juridique, de l'administration électorale, de l'inscription des électeurs, de la nomination des candidats, de la campagne, du rôle des médias, du vote, du

dépouillement et de la compilation des résultats, ainsi que du processus de plainte et d'appel », a expliqué l'observateur en chef adjoint Jarek Domański.

Tous les observateurs de la MOE UE sont liés par un code de conduite qui exige une stricte neutralité et non-ingérence. La MOE UE entreprend son travail conformément à la Déclaration de principes pour l'observation internationale des élections. Elle publiera ses premières conclusions dans une déclaration préliminaire, qui sera présentée lors d'une conférence de presse peu après le jour du scrutin. Un rapport final contenant des recommandations concrètes pour améliorer les futurs processus électoraux sera présenté ultérieurement.

Note aux rédacteurs :

L'Union européenne (UE) a été invitée à déployer une mission d'observation par les autorités de la République du Libéria. La MOE UE est indépendante de toute institution de l'UE, de tout État membre ou institution gouvernementale et s'engage à rester neutre et à respecter la Déclaration de principes pour l'observation internationale des élections et le Code de conduite, ainsi que les lois de la République du Libéria.

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## La police arrête des

retirés par les partisans de ses opposants politiques.

S'adressant aux journalistes lors de la manifestation, Christopher Neymar Vonziah, porte-parole du groupe lésé, a révélé que les habitants du district étaient découragés par le fait qu'on ait empêché leur « choix » d'exercer son droit politique de les représenter.

Il a souligné que les ressources financières, l'énergie et les efforts investis par des centaines d'habitants pour soutenir la campagne et les élections de Tweh ont été gaspillés en raison de la décision de la Cour.

Il a soutenu que la Cour suprême contribue de manière significative aux problèmes du pays et que c'est une question qui mérite l'attention de tous.

Il a exhorté la communauté internationale, qui a investi des sommes considérables dans les élections, à intervenir immédiatement.

Selon lui, le district ne sera pas un lieu de paix et d'harmonie car Tweh et ses partisans sont actuellement provoqués et humiliés par les partisans d'autres candidats aux élections.

« Nous avons été mal représentés pendant si longtemps, et même si Tweh, ou Original Countryman, se présente comme candidat indépendant, vous pouvez voir les milliers de partisans qu'il a. S'il ne se présente pas, le gouvernement devrait nous considérer comme exclus des élections », a déclaré Christopher.

Au cours de la manifestation qui a débuté à l'hôtel de ville de Monrovia et s'est ensuite déplacée vers le siège de la Commission électorale nationale, sur la 9e rue Sinkor, la police est rapidement intervenue et a arrêté les manifestants et les a emmenés au quartier général de la police nationale à Capitol Hill.

La LNP n'a pas encore répondu, malgré de nombreuses tentatives pour contacter le porte-parole de la police, Moser Carter.

## Mali : autorités et CMA se contredisent sur le crash d'un avion de l'armée, les ex-rebelles haussent le ton



**A**u Mali, les ex-rebelles de la Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad (CMA) affirment avoir abattu un avion de l'armée malienne le week-end du 9-10 septembre 2023, près de Gao. L'armée dément et évoque des « problèmes techniques ». Les groupes armés signataires de l'accord de paix annoncent adopter dorénavant des mesures de « légitimes défense ». Un nouveau signe d'une reprise de la guerre ?

Les ex-rebelles de la Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad affirment avoir « abattu » le 9 septembre 2023 un avion de l'armée malienne et de ses supplétifs russes du groupe Wagner à Tinaouker, à quelques dizaines de kilomètres au nord de Gao, « suite à des bombardements sur ses positions ».

La veille, le Gatia, un autre groupe armés signataire de l'accord de paix de 2015, allié de la CMA, avait déjà dénoncé le bombardement de l'une de ses bases par un hélicoptère de l'armée malienne à Afawlawlaw,

près de Gao.

Techniquement, ce n'est pas une déclaration de guerre

Dans la foulée, le Cadre stratégique permanent pour la paix, la sécurité et le développement (CSP-PSD), qui rassemble la quasi-totalité des groupes armés du Nord signataires de l'accord de paix de 2015, a dénoncé le 10 septembre la « stratégie actuelle » des autorités maliennes de transition, en leur attribuant « de multiples ruptures du cessez-le-feu » au cours des dernières semaines.

Le CSP annonce prendre « toutes les mesures de légitimes défense contre les forces de la junte sur l'ensemble du territoire de l'Azawad », c'est-à-dire sur les régions du nord du Mali, et appelle même les populations civiles à s'éloigner au maximum des installations militaires maliennes.

Techniquement, ce n'est pas une déclaration de guerre, puisque la CMA invoque des mesures de légitime défense et non des dispositions offensives. Mais ces propos semblent pour le moins annonciateurs de nouvelles hostilités.

À noter que le MSA, groupe armé membre du CSP, s'est désolidarisé de cette déclaration et appelle à « privilégier le dialogue ». L'armée reconnaît le crash d'un avion mais évoque plutôt des « problèmes techniques ».

Les autorités maliennes de transition, elles, n'ont réagi qu'à une partie de ces déclarations. Le chef d'état-major de l'armée de l'air malienne s'est exprimé dimanche soir sur les ondes de l'ORTM, la télévision d'État. Le Général Alou Boi Diarra a reconnu que les forces maliennes avaient « perdu » un avion d'attaque Sukhoi SU 25 « qui était en mission de défense du territoire », sans préciser en quoi consistait cette mission et quels étaient ses objectifs.

Mais, selon le général malien, ce sont des «

## L'Union africaine membre du G20 : les responsables africains affichent leur satisfaction

**L**a question était évoquée depuis plusieurs années, c'est désormais chose faite. Le G20, réuni en sommet à New Delhi, a accueilli officiellement dans ses rangs l'Union africaine (UA) qui regroupe les 55 États du continent, totalisant trois mille milliards de dollars de PIB. Un signal fort pour l'Afrique et une victoire diplomatique pour l'Inde, hôte cette année du sommet, qui s'affiche comme leader des pays du Sud. Une entrée qui a fait réagir les dirigeants du continent. Si l'Afrique du Sud était déjà représentée au G20, comme unique État africain, ça n'a pas empêché son président de saluer l'entrée de l'Union africaine. Et Cyril Ramaphosa de souligner le besoin d'une « coopération multilatérale pour lutter contre l'insécurité alimentaire et énergétique ». Présent aussi en Inde, le Comorien Azali Assoumani, président en exercice de l'UA, s'est félicité de « l'aboutissement d'un combat de longue haleine ». « C'est un grand jour pour l'Afrique toute entière », a-t-il ajouté. Poids lourd du continent, le président du Nigeria, Bola Tinubu a fait part de son impatience pour « faire progresser nos aspirations sur la scène mondiale en utilisant la plateforme du G20 ». Celui du Kenya,

William Ruto a, pour sa part, évoqué un « Un siège qui permettra de façonner les décisions du G20 pour garantir la promotion des intérêts du continent ».

Enfin, le président de la Commission de l'Union africaine, le Tchadien Moussa Faki Mahamat estime que l'intégration de l'UA offre désormais « un cadre propice pour amplifier le plaidoyer en faveur du continent ».



L'Afrique à la table des puissants Pour Pape Ibrahima Kane, qui suit les questions relatives à l'Union africaine au sein de la fondation Open Society, c'est une énorme avancée pour le continent. Il est au micro de Paulina Zidi, de la rédaction Afrique. « Parce que l'Afrique va être autour de la table où se discutent les grandes questions économiques du monde. Vous savez, on a l'habitude de dire que si vous n'êtes pas autour de la table, vous êtes au niveau du menu. Deuxièmement, c'est une opportunité pour l'Afrique d'apporter une contribution à ces débats. Et troisièmement, ça place l'Afrique dans les relations internationales.

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# Inside Father Robert Tikpor's 96 Years on Earth Serving Liberia and the Holy Mother Church

The Catholic Church in Liberia is mourning the passing of the country's oldest Priest Rev. Father Robert Tikpor. Father Tikpor, as he was affectionately called, died on Thursday, August 31, at the age of 96 following a period of illness.

The prelate was the oldest Liberian Catholic priest and one of the longest serving. He twice served as National Orator at official programs marking the country's Independence Day celebration.

Father Tikpor was a vocal critic of vices in Liberian society.

But who really was this man who survived several challenging decades in the existence of the Church in Liberia and the country's traumatic years of wars and oppression.

## The Life sketch

Rev. Monsignor Dr. Robert Gbatiae Tikpor was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone on 12th September, 1926 unto the union of Mr. Giahwhaxwi Tikpor, and Madam Michen Gbatiae Flow, who were both from Grand Bassa County, Liberia.

He was sent to his mother's mother in Liberia, with whom he grew up. He got early education at the St. Peter Claver Catholic School in Lower Buchanan and the St. Patrick Catholic School in Monrovia.

In 1946, he told the Fathers on Ashmun Street that he wanted to be a priest. He was accepted and then sent to the St. Peter Claver's Teaching Training College in Lower Grand Bassa County where he completed a three-year course program in three semesters. After he graduated from the Teacher's Training College, he was sent to the St. Theresa Minor Seminary, Ibadan, Nigeria in 1948. There he spent five years and received his School Leaving Certificate 1953 that was administered by External Examination Council of the Cambridge University in England, UK.

He then went to the St. Paul's Regional Major Seminary in Benin City, Mid-Western Nigeria, present day Edo State where he studied Philosophy and the Humanities for three years. After three years in Benin State and at the completion of his Philosophy Studies, He was asked returned to Liberia in 1955 for what was term at the time a Probation year. He was given a pastoral assignment at the St. Peter Claver's Teacher Training College where he previously attended.

He spent the time there with an old Priest, the venerable Rev. Fr. P. McKenna (the elder), whom Fr. Tikpor referred to as a fatherly modeled priest that shaped his formation strongly. In 1956, Fr. Tikpor (still in formation) was appointed the Principal of the St. Peter Claver's Elementary School. His work was to teach and assist other teachers in the school to instill morals and disciplines in the students. He was also appointed as head Catechist to work and plan the program that would lead to the organization of the catechumenate.

At the end of his probation year, he wrote a playwright called Dr. Zeopugar. He had the villagers perform the drama in a wholesome and captivating manner.

After his Probation year ended he returned for his Seminary studies in theology. He went to Ghana instead to the St. Paul's Seminary in Pedu, which has been divided - St. Paul's Seminary in Sowoutoum for Philosophy and St. Peter's Regional Seminary in Pedu for Theology. It was at the Seminary in Pedu that he joined other Liberian Seminarians; Michael K. Francis (the Late Archbishop Michael Francis), Benedict D. Sekey (The Late Bishop Benedict Sekey of the Diocese of Gbarnga) and David Gbanya Ziegler.

There he studied theology as well as Sacred Scriptures, Canon Law and Patrology from 1957 to 1961 and returned home to be ordained Liberia's second indigenous Roman Catholic Priest. He was ordained Deacon at the St. Paul Regional Seminary in Pedu in 1960 and served as the Prefect of the Seminary. He also served as a staff writer and later Editor of Seminary's Periodical, Vox Petrina.

Msgr. Tikpor was ordained on a Roman Catholic Priest on December 17, 1961 at the Sacred Heart Cathedral by his former teacher and illustrious Mentor Archbishop Francis D. Carroll who was then the Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Monrovia. He became the second Liberian Indigenous Roman Catholic Priest after Bishop Patrick Kla Juwle (who was once his teacher at the St. Peter Claver Catholic School). The time lapse between the ordination of the First and Second Liberian Priests was

Fifteen years (1946-1961).

Following his ordination Msgr. Tikpor worked in many parishes - Voinjama, Foyah, Gbarnga, Tappita, and in Monrovia, until 1972. His first appointments included assistant Parish Priest of the Cathedral Parish, Principal of St. Patrick's Elementary School, now Cathedral School, Priest-in-charge of St. Mary's Church, New Kru Town with Catholic Mission Out-Station in Bomi Hills, and Choir Director at Sacred Heart Pro-Cathedral. In 1963, he took brief assignments in Voinjama, Lofa County and Gbarnga, Bong County to serve as Interim Pastor as Missionary Priests Fr. Fergus (Voinjama) and Fr. Martin O'Meara (Gbarnga) had to leave for their successive three months vacations respectively. In the same year, he was taken to Ireland by Archbishop Carroll to meet his aging benefactress Mrs.

Ann Gordon of Ballaghaderreen in County Mayo. The SMA Fathers also used this time to take him to Rome for the first time. Excited young Fr. Tikpor spent three weeks in Ireland with his benefactress, visited Lourdes in France and to the Vatican in Rome where he saw and listened to the addresses of Pope John XXIII the first time. On his return to Monrovia, he was assigned with Fr. Davis, SMA to visit Bomi Hills Catholic Community every weekend for Mass.

In 1964, Archbishop Francis Carroll asked him to accompany President William V. S. Tubman as his Extraordinary Catholic Chaplain for the Unification Conference held in Kolahun, Lofa County. At a special Unification Service at the Catholic Church, young Fr. Tikpor delivered a smart discourse focused on People and Leadership decisions. He gained the admiration of the President who after the conference invited Bishop Carroll and him to a meeting.

In 1965, he was assigned to Tappita in upper Nimba to establish a mission there. The mission grew largely after seven years of his pastoral duties there. When Fr. Tikpor arrived there, there were only five baptized Catholics; but by 1972, at his departure, St. Francis Catholic Church in Tappita had 300 adult Catholics on its baptismal register, a fully functional school from Kindergarten to 9th Grade and a reassuring catechumenate.

In the year 1972, he was sent to the United States of America where he did some studies at the Catholic University in Washington D.C. He returned to Liberia in 1974 with an M. A. degree, and together with the then Reverend Father Michael Francis, were told to open Liberia's own Major Seminary at Gbarnga, Bong County.

They worked together to build the Seminary. In 1976, Fr. Michael K. Francis was appointed to be Archbishop of Monrovia, and He was appointed to succeed him as Rector of the Seminary.

In 1979, he went to Rome, Italy to study at the University of St. Thomas Aquinas (The Angelicum). In June, 1980 he graduated with Licentiate Degree in Sacred Theology (Magna Cum Laude). In June 1981, he completed and defended his Doctoral Dissertation in Sacred Theology (S. T. D.) "Traditional Theism in African Creation Myths with the Bassa (Liberian) Djuankadju" as central theme.

Since his return in June 1981 he worked in the Archdiocese of Monrovia up to the time of his retirement from pastoral duties. In 2001, he reached the canonical age for retirement from active service. With that official age (75 years old) came the church's high honors for long and persevering services to Mother Church and the State. The title Monsignor (My Lord) is a title of honors reserved to the Holy Father, the Pope.

In addition, he had been blessed throughout his many years of priestly service by our country. He has served as National Orator twice, (1997 & 2010) the only National Orator in Liberia's 163 year history, and has received many distinctions, including the Grand Band of Africa - conferred by Her Excellency, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf on July 24, 2007.

He had remained in St. Kizito Parish as he did not want to retire to a place that he would have nothing to be doing. Furthermore, there were work that requires priests in every parish; hence with the consent of the Archbishop, he remained in St. Kizito Parish helping the new pastor in any way possible. Due to his waning strength, he moved to the Regina Caeli Manor on 8th Street - Sinkor at the close of the year 2013 where he remained until his demise.



*The late Priest Rev. Father Robert Tikpor*

# 'UP playing double standard with PYJ'

President George Weah has accused the former ruling Unity Party of engaging in a double standard play with Nimba County Senator Prince Y. Johnson, while describing

story did not change and is now coming back to say elect us we will bring medicine in the Government Hospital."

President Weah's jibes at former Vice President Boakai did not stop there and to the delights of his supporters too.

He continued: "You know something, when I listened to the opposition, especially our father (Joseph Boakai) I think he missed it, because for him to say that he will be the one to fix everything-Liberia is 176 years, he spent 50 years in government, he has done nothing for himself, there is no way he can fix anything in this country.

You know, they called him...You call yourself rescuer, I the one who rescued Joseph Boakai. I rescued him. Because he's not an honest man and you can see around him, because he is a dishonest man that is why everybody around him is angry with him. Look at Joseph Boakai history and look at my history, Joseph Boakai is from Lofa County. He has been in government for more than 40 to 50 years, Lofa County the development, who is doing it?" "George Mannah Weah," the crowd shouted.

President Weah is expected to stay four days in Bong County campaigning for his reelection bid. His main challengers are Amb. Boakai and former Cocola Executive Mr. Alexander B. Cummings.

However, most of his campaign messages have been directed at Boakai rather than Mr. Cummings. Cummings supporters claimed that the government has nothing on him to say.



former Vice President Joseph Boakai as a "dishonest man".

Addressing supporters in Totota, Bong County on Monday, September 11, President Weah told supporters that it was Amb. Boakai and his group of Unity Partisans who accused him of protecting Sen. Johnson from facing war crimes charges.

Mr. Weah explained that the accusation from Amb. Boakai and his group of UP supporters came about after he informed the United Nations General Assembly that he wanted his country to return to the Palaver Hut to sort out their differences rather than choosing the path of war crimes court, which seeks to bring war perpetrators to book.

He said the very Prince Johnson who he was accused of protecting is currently in the camp of the Unity Party and wonder why they can't put him forward to answer to war crimes charges now that he is with them.

"We went to the United Nations and said we wanted to go back to the Palaver Hut. Those people you see there-Boakai and his group, they said that Prince Johnson was being

narrative in simple Liberian English: "My people, I will talk dis one in simple English. De same Prince Johnson, he na with Jorweah, de same people who say Jorweah wor protecting Prince Johnson, da de same people weh Prince Johnson with why dey can't carry him to war crime court na." He said this was the deception of Amb. Boakai and his supporters, adding that the former Vice President is a dishonest man.

"Look, yesterday I was very flabbergasted. I listened to our father Joseph Boakai. I think Joseph Boakai has lost it, he lost something. For Joseph Boakai to be in government for 12 years and Redemption Hospital sat there in ruins no drugs...it's the same man that stayed 12 years now saying that your elect me, I will give Redemption Hospital...I will bring medicine and put it in there. Are you kidding me? Is this a joke? This is a joke; this is a joke." President Weah laughed out as he queried "How can a person that spent 12 years and New Kru Town

# Thousands celebrate Speaker's 62nd birthday in Pleebo City

In a spectacular display of unity and unwavering support, thousands of enthusiastic supporters descended upon Pleebo City to commemorate the 62nd birth anniversary of House Speaker Bhofal Chambers. The event, held on Sunday, 10 October, also marked the launch of a massive awareness campaign for Chambers' #2 spot on the ballot paper and President Weah's #18 spot in the upcoming Presidential and Legislative Elections scheduled for October 10.

The day was filled with an atmosphere of excitement and celebration, as supporters from across the region gathered to pay tribute to Speaker Chambers, a respected figure known for his dedication to public service and commitment to the betterment of his people and country.

The festivities included vibrant parades, cultural displays, musical performances, and speeches by community leaders, all echoing resounding support for Speaker Chambers. The event also served as an opportunity for the people of Pleebo City to connect with their leader on a personal level, as Team

#2 spot on the ballot paper and the President's #18 spot. Supporters proudly displayed campaign materials, including banners, placards, and campaign apparels, emphasizing their commitment to reelecting Chambers and President Weah come October 10.

The awareness campaign dubbed "We are #2" saw banners displaying the photo of speaker Chambers.

Addressing the crowd on behalf of the Speaker, district coordinator, Mr. Robert Weah, expressed heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming support and enthusiasm demonstrated by the people of Pleebo City and surrounding areas. He reiterated Speaker Chambers' dedication to working tirelessly for the betterment of the district, county and the nation as a whole.

The event showcased the unity and determination of the people of Pleebo City as they rallied behind their leader, Bhofal Chambers, and President George M. Weah, who holds the #18 spot on the ballot paper. It was a



Chambers interacted with attendees and expressed on his behalf gratitude for their continued support even in his absence.

The Speaker, who is away from the county, attending to some national duties in Monrovia, is grateful to his beloved people for showing such massive support and recommitment.

One of the highlights of the day was the launch of a massive awareness campaign for Chambers'

powerful testament to the democratic spirit and the desire for positive change within the nation.

As the Presidential and Legislative Elections on October 10 draw near, the momentum generated by this remarkable event is expected to continue, energizing voters and solidifying support for Speaker Bhofal Chambers and President Weah. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

## Starts from back page **Gbarpolu citizens reaffirm**

hundreds of citizens including Chiefs, elders, youth and women groups, Motorcyclists Association and inter-religious groups, the citizens reaffirmed their support and vowed to vote Mr. Cummings as the next President of Liberia.

The CPP Standard Bearer expressed gratitude to citizens of Gbarpolu for the warm reception and massive turnout in the towns visited, with assurance that upon his ascendancy as President, he will

allievate the suffering and extreme poverty in Liberia. Cummings vowed to fix the deplorable road condition, improve the health and educational systems, and establish a micro-loan scheme for Liberian entrepreneurs including market women to sustain and grow their businesses.

He said the CPP Government will revive the ailing economy,

transform the life of Liberians, and create massive job opportunities for the thousands of unemployed Liberians.

Cummings appealed to Gbarpolu County citizens to retrospect on the good work of their late Senator Naatehn and remain committed and steadfast in their support for the Presidential bid of the CPP.

Preliminary Declaration within 48 hours after the elections, to be followed by a detailed Final Report on its observations.

## Starts from page 6 **ECOWAS deploys 15 long-term**

Mission, led by Prof Attahiru Jega, former Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, Nigeria will be

deployed across Liberia's 15 Counties including the national capital, Monrovia.

The Mission will issue a

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## Gbarpolu citizens reaffirm support to cummings

**A**midst sorrow over the recent loss of their lawmaker, citizens of Gbarpolu County have reaffirmed their unflinching support to the Presidential bid

and traditional welcome in Sawmill, Gbarma and Bobolu cities, by hundreds of jubilant citizens and masked dancers. In the three districts, Gbarpolu citizens presented

treatment, following a brief illness. Mr. Cummings paid homage to the late Senator whom he described as a friend, brother and



of the Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties, (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings. They have passionately appealed to him to fix the disastrous road conditions and build a vocational school in their county. Cummings visited Gbarpolu County, Tuesday, September 11, and was accorded a rousing

white chicken and kola nuts to the CPP Standard Bearer, indicative of purity of heart and reaffirmation of their continuous support to the CPP of which the late Gbarpolu County Senator Daniel Naatehn served as Vice National Chairman. Senator Naatehn died August 8, in India, where he had gone for medical

colleague, and said he will long be remembered for his sacrificial services and significant contributions to the ANC/CPP, and Liberia including Gbarpolu. At separate indoor program organized by citizens in Gbarma and Bobolu, and attended by

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