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**LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR**

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023	L\$185.5417/US\$1.00	L\$187.4090/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.

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VOL. 13 NO. 167

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

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# Weah dispels election rigging fears at UN

# rigging fears at UN



# Joint Security

# condemns PYJ's threat



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# Continental News

## Rwandan President to Run for 4th Term, Doesn't Care What the West Thinks

Rwanda's president declared he will run for a fourth term next year, saying that "what the West thinks is not my problem," after the United States and others criticized the earlier

prolonged their rule by pursuing changes to term limits. In a 2015 referendum, Rwandans voted to lift a two-term limit. Kagame could stay in power until 2034 if he wins a five-year term next year and then another.

When asked what he thought the West would think of him running again, he replied, "I'm sorry for the West, but what the West thinks is not my problem."

Kagame was reelected as chair of the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front party earlier this year for another five-year term. The U.S.-based watchdog Freedom House described Rwanda as "not free" in its latest report and said the party has been "banning and repressing any opposition group that could mount a serious challenge to its leadership."

Political analyst Gonzaga Muganwa, a former executive secretary of the Rwanda Journalists Association, said that Kagame's control over the party is total and that "all the legal political parties in the country are subservient to his authority."

Rwandans expect Kagame to be in power "until at least 2034 unless a major upheaval happens," Muganwa said. "In the leadup to the polls, his biggest challenge is managing the cost-of-living crisis as food inflation is wiping away any rise in incomes" since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kagame and his government have received praise for stabilizing the country and developing public health and the economy since the genocide in

which more than 800,000 people were killed. But human rights groups and other critics have long accused the government of harshly targeting opponents, including with extrajudicial killings even far outside the country's borders.

The government has rejected such allegations. But earlier this year, under diplomatic pressure, Rwanda released Paul Rusesabagina, who had inspired the film "Hotel Rwanda," after tricking him onto a plane to the country and convicting him of terror offenses in a widely criticized trial.

The other candidate who has declared he will run for president next year is lawmaker Frank Habineza with the Green Democratic party, who received 0.45% of the votes in 2017.

Habineza told The Associated Press his party was not surprised by Kagame's announcement and will continue to fight for democracy.

"As we speak now, there is a high level of poverty and people have no food and youth have no jobs. This is what bothers Rwandans," he said.

Some Kagame supporters believe he needs more time. William Harerimana, a 53-year-old businessman, said, "We need to be patient a bit more and under him. The country will register more economic growth and benefit all Rwandans." VOA

## Cameroon Sees More Attacks on Schools, Civilians After Rebel Leader Killed

Cameroon officials say separatists resumed attacks on civilians and schools after a notorious insurgent leader and four of his collaborators were killed during a raid this week.

The military said the slain rebel leader, known as Bitter Kola, was behind many atrocities, including the October 2020 murder of seven students at Mother Teresa College in Kumba.

Military officials reported on Tuesday that Kola was among five rebels killed in a raid on their hideout in Mofako Butu, a village near Kumba in the South West region.

Chamberlin Ntou'ou Ndong, the most senior Cameroon government official in the Meme district, where Kumba is located, said Kola and his fighters had torched several dozen schools, killed an unknown number of civilians and government troops, and abducted scores of

Officials said that after the lockdown was imposed, separatists started attacking and killing civilians who defied the order. The government said that separatists killed several dozen civilians within the past three weeks. Among them were four people shot dead in the state-run agriculture company PAMOL's camp at Lobe, in the South West region.

Gabriel Mbene Vefonge, president of the Cameroon Agricultural and Allied Workers Trade Union, said fighters should stop attacking civilians who go to work to make money, take care of their families and contribute to the growth of Cameroon.

"It is inhuman, barbaric and horrific," he said. "It is inadmissible and unacceptable. We call on all the authorities of this country and all other partners ... to support our opinion that this is a terrorist act and it must stop."

Cameroon's military said it is attempting to assure civilians in the volatile South West and North



In this image taken from video, people observe the aftermath of an attack by armed militants in Cameroon's South West region on Sept. 9, 2023. The militants stopped cars, shot at passengers and set vehicles ablaze in the village of Muea, killing at least two people.

lifting of term limits to extend his rule.

President Paul Kagame made the announcement in an interview with the French-language publication Jeune Afrique published Tuesday.

The 65-year-old Kagame has been president since 2000 and was declared the winner of the previous election in 2017 with more than 98% of the vote. He has been the de facto leader since Rwanda's 1994 genocide.

Next year's election will be the first in which people born during Kagame's presidency and knowing no other leader will be old enough to vote.

Kagame is one of a number of African leaders who have

## MCC Awards Kenya \$60 Million to Help Improve Urban Transport

Kenyan President William Ruto has signed a \$60 million dollar grant agreement with the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly session in New York. The grant will help improve urban transport in Nairobi by concentrating on four projects, making the Kenya program the largest of its kind within MCC's portfolio. Kenyan President William Ruto lauded the new agreement with the U.S. foreign aid agency MCC, at the signing in New York City Tuesday evening where he is also attending the 78th session of this year's U.N. General Assembly. "There is a whole one million people who come in and out of Nairobi every day; that poses a very significant challenge on the transport infrastructure. Apart from the Matatu transport system, the mass bus transport

system is a very important component," he said. Threshold grants help countries to reduce constraints to faster economic growth and increase transparency and accountability in the provision of public services. Millennium Challenge Corporation CEO Alice Albright says this grant — the second one to Kenya since 2003 — will be the largest and most ambitious threshold agreement that MCC has signed in its 20-year

history. "We like to measure with all of our work, and in this case we estimate to about 4.3 million people could be helped by this threshold agreement," she said. James Gerard, MCC's managing director for threshold programs, told VOA this program, which includes four projects, will help support the Kenyan government in improving transportation and land use planning in the capital, Nairobi. VOA



Kenyan public transport, known locally as matatu, queue to transport passengers in Nairobi

others for ransom.

Separatists acknowledged that Kola and four of his close collaborators were killed. They said on social media platforms that at least seven Cameroon government troops also died in the raid.

The government denied any troop casualties.

Capo Daniel, leader of the Ambazonia Peoples Rights Advocacy Platform, one of Cameroon's separatist groups, said he is unhappy with the Cameroon military for displaying Kola's body at a market square. "We want to condemn the current practice of desecrating the bodies of dead soldiers," Daniel said. "These are war crimes and are against the Geneva convention." The Cameroon government said Kola imposed a lockdown in the South West region to protest educational establishments reopening for the 2023-24 school year.

West regions of their safety. The military said it seized war weapons and hard drugs from fighters.

South West Governor Bernard Okalia Bilai said that troops have been stationed in all restive towns and villages and that they will rely on civilians to tell them about rebels' presence in their neighborhoods. "We are on permanent alert," he said. "It is an asymmetric war. That is why we are inviting the population to sustain the efforts of the forces of law and order and the administration by denouncing. If the population does not denounce, it will continue and they will be the first victims. Once we are informed, we will do the rest." Conflict sparked in Cameroon in 2016 when predominantly English-speaking western regions protested discrimination by the country's French-speaking majority. Cameroon's military responded with a crackdown, and rebels took up arms claiming to defend the English-speaking minority. VOA



# EDITORIAL

## Govt. must get to the bottom of the RIA drug bust

Ongoing investigation by the Ministry of Justice and the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency on the recent importation of several boxes of harmful drugs at the Roberts International Airport should not end up in another fiasco like separate consignments of cocaine valued at US\$100 million and \$45 million respectively that were imported in containers at the Freeport of Monrovia lately last year and early this year.

Methamphetamine is a powerful, highly addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system.

It takes the form of a white, odorless, bitter-tasting crystalline powder that easily dissolves in water or alcohol.

Despite earlier denial by airport authorities that the boxes didn't contain harmful drugs, the Government of Liberia subsequently confirmed during the week that the consignment of boxes intercepted by a contingent of the Armed Forces of Liberia assigned at the airport actually contained illicit drug called Methamphetamine, not Moringa leaves, as the airport management had said.

Accordingly, the chief of security at the RIA Samuel Freeman, who reportedly took delivery of the consignment, has been suspended, pending full investigation.

However, given separate experiences from the cocaine case in which jurors found three key defendants not guilty and subsequently released by the court only for the government to go after them the next day without any trace of their whereabouts in the country will not be repeated.

Government stated in its statement that the Minister of Justice has, with immediate effect, ordered the Joint Security of Liberia including the LDEA, LNP and the NSA, to expand their investigations on the importation of Methamphetamine that is banned by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes, UNODC.

The State wants all those involved with importation of the illegal drugs to be brought to justice, but given experiences of the past, we take this call with a pinch of salt, as there seems to be lack of political will to get to the root of the matter, which is not good for the image of our dear country. The youth of Liberia are drowning in addiction to dangerous drugs that are decimating their future.

**THE LATEST DRUGS**, and the previous consignments of cocaine were smuggled at the country's main seaport and airport separately. This is disgusting! There has been a collusion in making such illegal importation right before the eyes of relevant authorities.

**IT IS IN** this light that we call for a well-intentioned, thorough investigation to bring out the real culprits rather than a cosmetic exercise that will sweep the actual issues under the carpet, only to present to the public, meaningless and inconclusive findings.

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

www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

# COMMENTARY

By Sonali Johnson

## How to Achieve Universal Cancer Care

**G**ENEVA - At the upcoming second United Nations High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, the world's governments are expected to adopt a new set of commitments focused on accelerating implementation of UHC. No resolution will be complete without the explicit inclusion of comprehensive cancer services.

Cancer causes an estimated ten million deaths each year. Beyond the human suffering, the disease has profound - and growing - economic consequences: by 2030, spending on cancer care worldwide is projected to reach \$458 billion.

In many countries, patients have to pay for much of their cancer care out of pocket - a burden that often leads to financial catastrophe.

Given this, investing in cost-effective prevention and early-detection strategies is not only a moral imperative, but also an economic one. Prevention is far cheaper than treatment, and where cancer cannot be prevented, early detection makes successful treatment more likely, at a far lower cost.

When cancer does progress, the full range of quality therapies - including surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy - should be accessible and affordable to all. For noncommunicable diseases overall, every dollar invested in cost-effective interventions can generate a return of up to \$7 through reduced health-care costs and improved productivity.

While prevention and treatment are vital, so is palliative care, which alleviates unnecessary suffering for patients, their families, and caregivers, and provides survivorship plans for remaining healthy. In the wake of a pandemic that significantly disrupted palliative-care services, and with a rising number of cancer survivors worldwide, investments in both areas are urgently needed.

Comprehensive cancer care is essential to achieving social-development goals related to equality, social justice, and health. And, with sufficient political will, universal care can be achieved. In Pakistan, the Shaukat Khanum Cancer Hospital network offers world-class cancer care.

The King Hussein Cancer Center has significantly expanded cancer care and scientific research in Jordan, and collaborates with international partners such as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to deliver care to patients from Syria and Lebanon.

But countries face many challenges in incorporating cancer care into UHC schemes. In Kenya, for example, collaborative efforts by a range of cancer-control organizations have expanded access to services and removed financial barriers, but reaching rural populations remains difficult.

In Indonesia, a decentralized health system has improved health equity, but gaps remain in cancer prevention and early diagnosis. Even in Thailand, which has integrated six areas of cancer control - cancer informatics, primary prevention, early detection, treatment, palliative care, and cancer-control research - into its UHC scheme, improved public-awareness initiatives are needed to ensure that the relevant services are being used.

Nonetheless, the Thai model highlights the potential public-health benefits of UHC schemes that include comprehensive cancer care.

Recognizing that potential, the Union for International Cancer Control, which has more than 1,150 members in more than 170 countries and territories, works continuously with governments and other stakeholders around the world to develop and implement national cancer-control strategies and integrate them into national health-insurance plans.

Just as a goal without a plan is merely a wish, a plan without dedicated resources gathers dust. Unless essential cancer services are covered by basic health-insurance schemes, they will remain inaccessible or unaffordable to many who need them.

And where insurance exists, limits on out-of-pocket spending are crucial. Cancer patients often reach their deductible soon after diagnosis, owing to the large number of tests and procedures that are required. But treatment often lasts months or years and involves numerous visits to doctors, tests, surgeries, radiation treatments, drugs, and other services.

An effective national cancer-control strategy must reflect a nuanced understanding of cost-effectiveness that encompasses not just upfront costs, but also long-term savings, including through improved quality of life and increased productivity.

It must also include a commitment to addressing not only the illness itself, but each individual's holistic experience, and a firm resolve to break down financial and cultural barriers that prevent early diagnosis and treatment.

The UN High-Level Meeting provides a rare opportunity to elevate cancer care on the global UHC agenda. That is why it is welcome news that cancer has been referenced in the meeting's draft resolution.

But governments must not stop at lofty pledges and verbal commitments. Only concrete action to implement UHC that includes quality cancer services and accounts for the diverse needs of populations across economic strata and regions, can ensure that cancer care does not become a missing piece in the global health puzzle.



# OP-ED

By Jan-Werner Mueller

## The Siren Song of Climate Authoritarianism

**B**UDAPEST - This summer - with its record temperatures, deadly floods, and raging wildfires, which in Canada alone destroyed the equivalent of all the trees in Germany - might have felt like a final warning: without urgent and drastic action, the current climate emergency will become an inescapable climate disaster. Some might be tempted to think that we have reached a point when our only chance of mounting a sufficiently rapid and potent response to the threat is to embrace decisive state authority, even outright authoritarianism. But the notion that ecologically minded authoritarians will outperform democratic leaders on climate is a dangerous fantasy.

Concerns about democracies' capacity to act swiftly and efficiently are nothing new. Government that allows all to participate (in theory, if not always in practice) makes for an imperfect and slow-moving system. Influential players can often veto actions that the majority supports. On the other hand, the view that irrational masses wield too much power - long expressed *sotto voce* - has become entirely *salonfähig* in the age of Donald Trump. For example, voters tend to punish politicians for taking measures to prevent catastrophes, and reward them for appearing heroic during a disaster, even though disaster relief is far more expensive than prevention.

In addition to well-known prejudices - many as old as Plato's writings - one can argue that some of democracy's benefits do not count for much in the climate emergency. Democracies pride themselves on the fact that every decision can be revisited - that policies can be updated and improved, and that the losers in one election can become winners in the next (and thus have reason to keep playing the democratic game). But climate-related decisions have major, irreversible consequences, so even if bad choices - such as doing too little - are revisited later, serious damage will have been done.

Other contemporary criticisms are blunter. Democracies are based on compromise, but bargains often turn out to be incoherent, especially in multi-party systems, because too many different political players want to get their way. Germany's current governing coalition would appear to be a case in point. Correcting such incoherence takes time, which democracies might have under normal circumstances, but certainly do not have when the planet is becoming hotter and more apocalyptic practically by the day.

Another key concern stems from the *de facto* dominance of business interests in capitalist democracies. Given that climate action will inevitably harm at least some capitalists' interests, these interests seem likely to prevent the necessary steps from being taken in time - or perhaps ever.

Now, with the climate crisis escalating fast, unabashed calls for more authoritarian decision-making are increasing. Some advocate a more technocratic approach, and hold up China as a shining example. (The irony that China is the world's largest greenhouse-gas emitter is apparently lost on them.) Others - notably, the Swedish thinker Andreas Malm - envision a novel form of Leninism-cum-War Communism.

These proposals raise obvious questions, which their proponents never quite address. If, for the sake of climate action, power is concentrated in the hands of a state that does not answer to the people, what would prevent abuses of that power? Why, in the absence of any mechanisms of accountability, would an authoritarian regime actually tackle climate change at all? Does one really expect the powerful interests that are currently impeding climate action not to be just as powerful, if not more so, under a climate-autocracy?

Authoritarian regimes are notoriously corrupt. So, the notion that such a system would be free of "special interests," and run by neutral, rational technocrats, is implausible. In fact, far from bolstering climate action, a shift toward authoritarian-style decision-making would likely make things worse.

Climate authoritarianism might also backfire in less obvious ways. In a polity with any amount of freedom, opposition is inevitable. If the authorities deem new restrictions necessary to quell criticism or resistance, they may well end up eroding other basic freedoms, including the freedom to produce and exchange potentially transformative ideas.

Imagine this. A group of climate scientists decry the climate dictator's policies as insufficient and try to mobilize others to demand stronger action. In an attempt to restore "order," the dictator imposes measures that curtail academic freedom and freedom of association. Now, not only are experts less able to influence the state's climate response; they might not have opportunities to develop or share ideas and innovations that could enhance our collective ability to meet the climate challenge.

True, none of this necessarily means that democratic systems are particularly well-equipped to advance climate action. Instead, one might conclude that there are no good political instruments at all. But this neglects a key point: the obstacles to effective climate action in today's democracies are not inherent. On the contrary, they are inconsistent with democratic ideals, and in a well-functioning democracy, should be removed.

The fossil-fuel industry's disproportionate influence on the political process, for example, is not only damaging to the environment; it is also fundamentally undemocratic. Even without the urgent need to address the climate emergency, citizens would have good reason to demand change. The conclusion is clear: if we do not get serious about the climate emergency, we will not save democracy, and if we do not take democratic ideals seriously, we will not save the climate.

# OPINION

By Mahmoud Mohieldin,  
Vera Songwe

## Fully Replenishing the Green Climate Fund

**W**ASHINGTON, DC/CAIRO - When the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was established a little over a decade ago, it was considered a potentially useful tool to support developing countries in the shift to climate-resilient and low-emission development pathways. Today, it is the world's largest climate-dedicated fund, representing a significant share of the war chest for combating global warming. It must be adequately funded to succeed.

To continue financing ambitious climate action, the GCF will need traditional contributors to increase their pledges and new contributors to step forward during its second replenishment round, which is currently underway. It is no exaggeration to say that the GCF's replenishment campaign is a test of the world's commitment to fighting climate change; a successful outcome will help developed countries rebuild trust by showing that they understand the urgency of the crisis and that they can deliver on their commitments.

The two most recent United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COP26 and COP27) have shown that world leaders recognize the importance of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius. But the implementation challenge - highlighted at last year's COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris in June, and this month's Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi - is delivering the \$2.4 trillion that developing countries will need annually by 2030 to achieve this goal.

The developing world faces fierce headwinds in mitigating and adapting to climate change. During the past year, the United States and the European Union have announced massive subsidies to incentivize domestic clean-energy investments. These policies will likely lead to rapid advances in green technology. But, when coupled with rising interest rates and finance costs, they will also make it more difficult for the developing countries seeking to benefit from these innovations to attract capital.

Moreover, the total number of green bonds issued by developing countries fell between 2020 and 2022, while those issued in the West increased. And the widening renewables gap between developed and developing countries comes on top of a slowdown in clean-energy investments in 2022. Supply-chain disruptions are further harming emerging-market economies.

The war in Ukraine has also complicated the green transition by derailing some countries' plans to phase out coal power and fossil fuels. Many other countries have revised their net-zero timelines and commitments, while the corporate sector has also revised its targets downward. Perhaps more importantly, owing to record increases in food, fuel, and fertilizer prices (largely a byproduct of the war), interest-rate hikes, and unsustainable debt burdens, many developing countries have depleted their foreign-exchange reserves and lack the fiscal space to pursue their climate goals.

At the same time, climate change is driving ever more extreme and anomalous weather events, from cyclones in Southern Africa and Libya, to typhoons in East Asia and droughts in Latin America. If these events continue apace, an estimated 1.2 billion people could be displaced by 2050. Many developing countries are thus increasingly vulnerable to climate-related disasters through no fault of their own and have already started directing domestic resources to adaptation efforts.

The exponential increase in the scale and frequency of extreme weather, and the mounting costs associated with such events, stands in stark contrast to the slow pace of the global response. This incongruence, coupled with a severe lack of financial instruments that do not generate debt, has diminished developing countries' trust in the global financial architecture. While the developed world can spend billions on government subsidies and incentives to encourage the green transition at home, low- and middle-income countries suffer the most from delays in climate mitigation and adaptation globally. Even more unsettling is the flood of investment pouring into the fossil-fuel industry to expand operations globally.

Just Energy Transition Partnerships, launched at COP26, made headlines with the promise to funnel money from wealthy countries to the highest emitters in the developing world. Furthermore, COP27 had a similar impact with the establishment of a "loss and damage fund" for developing countries facing the effects of climate change, as well as official calls to reform international financial institutions and to scale up funding for the GCF. But they have yet to deliver, and the global climate financing gap continues to widen as a result. As costs increase exponentially, the developing world is losing hope.

This trend, however, is not irreversible. The developed world and institutions like the GCF can take the initiative in three key areas to restore developing countries' trust and shore up their climate resilience. For starters, developed countries must significantly increase funding for the GCF - the one international institution whose sole responsibility is to fight climate change. The GCF can do much more, especially by helping to build and implement country programs and adaptation plans, and by enabling the delivery of emissions-reduction projects.

To leapfrog climate technologies, for example, developing countries need financing to adopt scalable adaptation and mitigation strategies. Moreover, investment in technology transfers can transform other sectors and industries - such as agriculture - in addition to fighting climate change.

Likewise, with more capital, the GCF can offer and contribute to cheaper financing for developing countries. That way, they can bolster climate mitigation and adaptation without increasing their debt levels and thus attract more investment. As it becomes widely understood that climate finance is development finance, the GCF could play an important role in increasing the number of debt-for-nature swaps and developing other innovative tools. This includes working with philanthropists and private-sector actors to identify solutions, test them at low cost, and provide guidance on scale. Lastly, the GCF can, through its readiness program, help improve data collection for decision-making purposes.

When it comes to combating global warming, developed countries must fulfill their responsibilities to the rest of the world. The best way to do that is through showing progress in funding the GCF to support its project pipeline and programming capacity. As the past few years have demonstrated, climate change knows no borders, and responding to this existential threat requires mobilizing the world. Anything less would guarantee defeat.




**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-23-000026
- ISSUANCE DATE:** September 15, 2023
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** October 2, 2023
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
- POSITION TITLE:** Project Management Specialist (Agriculture).
- MARKET VALUE:** USD 35,104 to 56,160 [USD] equivalent to FSN- 10  
In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment.
- PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five (5) years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.
- ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility and computer access.
- STATEMENT OF DUTIES:**

**BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION -**

The Project Management Specialist (Agriculture) will be based in USAID/Liberia's Economic Growth Office (EGO). S/he will participate in the planning, design, and management of new and existing agriculture projects. S/he will provide technical expertise and project oversight; lead in project performance monitoring and documentation of project successes; and support the Feed the Future Coordinator on local agriculture development matters and policies. The Project Management Specialist (Agriculture) will be required to travel within Liberia to perform analysis to inform activity and project designs; conduct site visits to assess activity implementation and meet with beneficiaries and stakeholders to assure that activity objectives are being met. During field visits to activity implementation sites, the Project Management Specialist (Agriculture) often will be housed in modest accommodations and at times may have to walk to reach certain beneficiary communities.

The Project Management Specialist (Agriculture) will work under the supervision of the Senior Agriculture Development Specialist, or as designated by the United States Direct Hire (USDH) EGO Office Director.

**MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES -**

- Technical Guidance -30%**
  - Serve as a strategic advisor and coordinator amongst the U.S. Interagency working in Liberia; other donors; partners; the Government of Liberia; and other stakeholders.
  - Provide information and guidance on Liberian regulations and policies affecting agriculture and food security.
  - Undertake research or gather and report on the situation affecting Liberia's crops and commodities. This also includes leading or engaging in problem analyses of agricultural value chains.
  - Contribute to the development of EGO and Mission priorities, including the preparation of the Operational Plan (OP).
  - Assist in the preparation of relevant sections of the Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) (including helping to facilitate and/or implement recommendations from analyses), the mission's Global Food Security Strategy Country Plan, annual Program Performance Report (PPR) and semi-annual Portfolio Reviews, as well as other relevant project documents and reports as needed.
  - Support in the conceptualization, design, and drafting of EGO activities, as appropriate, by lending technical expertise that pertains to agriculture development, monitoring and evaluation protocols, localization, and sustainable livelihoods.
  - Support USAID technical offices in the creation and implementation of strategies, including cross-sectoral or Mission-specific agricultural development strategies. This also includes cross-cutting priorities such as gender, youth, energy and road infrastructure, natural resource management, nutrition, agriculture policy and agriculture-related private sector development.
  - Keep abreast of planned and ongoing projects of other donors and of the GOL, as well as coordination opportunities that will strengthen the impact of USG projects.
- Project Management - 30%**
  - Serve as the Contracting Officer Representative/Agreement Officer Representative (COR/AOR) and Activity Manager for one or more of EGO agriculture and food security activities.
  - Establish and maintain working files on agricultural development programs. Job duties include ensuring up-to-date maintenance of administrative files and records of relevant programmatic activities in collaboration with the EGO Program Assistant.
  - Advise Implementing Partners (IPs) on the preparation of annual work plans, evaluations, and program modifications, and encourage timely submissions. Ensure coordination with and between both Mission M&E and IPs' M&E contacts.
  - Schedule and coordinate visits to project implementation sites to assess project performance, including holding meetings with key programmatic partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries in the field. Provide written field trip reports, as required, to monitor progress and to ensure work is progressing in accordance with program plans, Mission priorities and U.S. Government compliance considerations.
  - Review financial invoices and/or vouchers, monitor pipeline, and calculate quarterly accruals.
  - Maintain frequent communication with implementing partners to ensure proper implementation and to inform USAID leadership of successes, challenges, and next steps for activities.
- Coordination - 20%**
  - Support in the coordination with stakeholders and act as the alternative point of contact for issues pertaining to agriculture in Liberia. Stakeholders include the USAID/Liberia Mission, the U.S. Embassy, USAID/Washington, and other regional West African countries, other parts of the U.S. government, international organizations, host country governmental ministries and agencies, NGOs, Community-Supported Organizations, and others in the country.
  - Work with other parts of USAID, across the U.S. government, and with other donors to promote collaboration around agricultural development to increase the effectiveness of the programs overall.
  - Represent and communicate with the U.S. Government activities, priorities, and strategies for agriculture development in coordination meetings with USAID staff, United Nations (UN), non-governmental organizations (NGO) partners and host country officials. Support in the coordination with all actors to address issues having an impact on agriculture in Liberia.
  - Prepare for USAID/Washington Bureau of Resilience and Food Security staff as well as other U.S. Interagency staff monitoring trips to Liberia. Liaise with other Mission staff as needed to ensure country clearance, transport, and lodging arrangements are completed.
  - Represent USAID/Liberia and EGO at required meetings, scheduled events, and conferences related to assigned program and project activities.
- Monitoring and Reporting - 10%**
  - Report on general agricultural development issues, to include pest infestations; droughts; changes in crop yields; commodity price changes; changes in GOL expenditures in the agriculture sector; new or existing GOL policies affecting agriculture development; GOL actions on subsidies, price controls, land (re)distribution; and issues affecting agriculture-based communities.
  - Monitor and report on implementation of agriculture development projects and programs, including progress and problems encountered. Carry out site visits to monitor project implementation, both in Monrovia and in the field. Prepare and distribute monitoring reports and follow up on any resulting recommendations.
  - Provide oversight to field activities, including field monitoring, coordinating, and organizing field coordination workshops/events to strengthen collaboration between USG and other donor-funded agriculture initiatives.
  - Track the performance indicators and results and coordinate the annual Operational Plan (OP) and Performance Plan and Report (PPR) preparation processes for the EGO.
  - Backstop other EGO technical staff in researching data and running reports, as requested, for evidence-based programming.
  - Perform a variety of research, reporting, briefing and analytical duties to provide programmatic and technical support for EGO's economic growth portfolio.
  - Support and ensure compliance with Feed the Future reporting requirements across the USAID/Liberia mission.

**5. Communication- 10%**

- Maintain close working relationships with the USAID/Liberia Front Office and other USAID support offices (Controller's, Program, Executive Office (EXO), Office of Acquisition and Assistance (OAA) and take initiative in making any recommended changes to programming or approach.
- Maintain productive contacts and working relationships with both public and private institutions. Maintain extensive contacts with the GOL, NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders to follow trends in agriculture development in the country.
- Liaise with international donors, USG, NGO cooperating agencies and partners, and USAID/Washington specialists, e.g., in the Bureau of Food Security.
- Coordinate closely across the Mission to support project synergies and accelerate development advances.
- Supervision controls:** The Project Management Specialist (Agriculture) will work under the direction of the Senior Agriculture Development Specialist, or as designated by the USDH EGO Office Director. The Project Management Specialist (Agriculture) will develop a personal annual performance plan, in coordination with his/her supervisor, and will be evaluated annually based on the performance plan. The employee handles the work according to governing policies.
- Supervisory Relationship:** None

**12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

**II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION**

- Education:** Minimum of University degree (BA/BSc) in a relevant technical discipline such as: agriculture, agricultural economics, soil science, food sciences, natural resource management, or horticulture is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** A minimum of three (3) years of progressively responsible, professional-level experience in developing and/or managing agriculture, agricultural economics, and/or natural resources. Must have experience in project design, Project, and program planning, and/or implementation work, development related work, for donor agencies, GOL organizations, or private-sector institutions which include performance monitoring, and/or the analysis and interpretation of large amounts of data is required. Demonstrated experience in establishing relationships with key public sector, donor, and private sector stakeholders is required.
- Work/Residency Permits:** For applicants who are not Liberian Citizens, valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia are required. This information should be clearly stated in the application package.
- Language Proficiency:** English proficiency requirements by level IV specialization (speak/read): Proficiency in speaking and writing English Level 4 is required.

**III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS**

The Evaluation Factors listed below will be the basis for evaluating and ranking applicants for the position. Applicants will be scored based on the documentation submitted within the application. Applicants must submit a supplemental document outlining their responses to the evaluation factor(s) in order to be considered.

**1. Selection Process**

After the closing date for receipt of applications, a committee will convene to review applications that meet the minimum requirements and evaluate them in accordance with the evaluation criteria. As part of the selection process, the most qualified candidates will be interviewed. Reference checks will be made only for applicants considered as finalists. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities.

**2. Evaluation Factors**

Those applicants who meet the minimum education and experience qualifications will be evaluated based on the content of their application as well as on the applicant's writing, presentation, and communication skills. Applicants should include their name and the announcement number at the top of each additional page. Failure to specifically address the Evaluation Factors will result in the applicant not receiving full credit for pertinent experience.

**FACTOR #1: Understanding of the Agriculture Sector of Liberia**

In 500 words or less, describe the critical challenges in the agriculture sector of Liberia. How do you think these challenges can be addressed and what roles the different key stakeholders should play to change the narrative in the sector?

**FACTOR #2: Technical Oversight and Project Management:**

In 500 words or less, describe your experience in management of agriculture projects or contract administration including start-up, work planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and close-out of activities.

**FACTOR #3: Knowledge Management and Relationship Development:**

In 500 words or less, describe your experience managing relationships and coordination with the Government of Liberia and other key donors, international financial institutions, non-government organizations and local stakeholders. Give specific examples of your experience with knowledge sharing, consensus building and the coordination of activities.

**3. Basis of Rating**

Applicants determined to be competitively ranked will also be evaluated on their interview performance and satisfactory professional reference checks. The Applicant Rating System is as follows:

Evaluation Factors	40 point
Factor #1	15 points
Factor #2	15 points
Factor #3	10 points

Interview Performance 40 points

Interview questions will revolve around the candidate's ability to:

- respond in a clear and concise manner to a series of questions about the applicant's experience, skills, and goals as they directly relate to the position duties and responsibilities described above.
- Assess their communication skills.

**Written Evaluation 20 points**

Candidates selected for an interview will be given a 30 minute written exercise. The purpose of the written exercise is to evaluate the candidate's writing ability and assess their analytical skills.

Total Possible Points 100 points

**IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER**

- Eligible Offerors are required to complete and submit the form AID 309-2 (**Offeror Information for Personal Services Contracts with Individuals**) (please copy and search on your browser); and a current resume that provides detailed information as contained in the AID 309-2 form.
- Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-23-000026 – Project Management Specialist (Agriculture)** to [LiberiaHR@usaid.gov](mailto:LiberiaHR@usaid.gov)

Applicants may apply prior to the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3 mentioned above unless revised.

Qualified applicants must submit the following documents or their applications will not be considered for this position:

- AID 309-2 Offeror Information for Personnel Services Contractors with Individuals form
- A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
- A minimum of three (3) professional references, who are not family members or relatives, with working telephone and email contacts. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities. At least one reference provided should be a current or former supervisor.
- A supplemental document with a written response to the Evaluation Factors.

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

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

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

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

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



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Liberian to launch ICT book

A young Liberian Information and Communication Technology (ICT) activist, Willie Bee Tingba, Jr., will on September 30, 2023, launch a book titled "ICT Tools for Liberia's Development."

pivotal role of ICT in advancing the nation's development. It offers insights, strategies, and real-world case studies that shed light on how technology can be harnessed for socio-economic growth and prosperity.

and organizations that have played pivotal roles in advancing the nation's technological landscape.

This will not only showcase Liberia's commitment to technological growth but will also inspire a new generation of tech enthusiasts.

Furthermore, the book launch will provide a unique opportunity for ICT stakeholders, including students, professionals, and policymakers to come together, network, and exchange ideas.

It promises to be an evening of knowledge-sharing and collaboration, setting the stage for a brighter, tech-driven future for Liberia.

Willie Bee Tingba, Jr., is a Liberian author, IT professional, Lecturer in Information Technology, and a leading Digital Rights Advocate in Liberia.

He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Information Technology Infrastructure Management Services from the United Methodist University (UMU) in Liberia. He is the founder and first President of both the Liberia Information Technology Student Union (LITSU) and the Liberia Computer Society (LCS). He formerly worked at the BlueCrest University College and the Internal Audit Agency (IAA), Republic of Liberia.

One of the most noteworthy aspects of the book launch is its philanthropic mission, where a portion of the funds raised from the event will be dedicated to the establishment of a digital research center in Liberia.

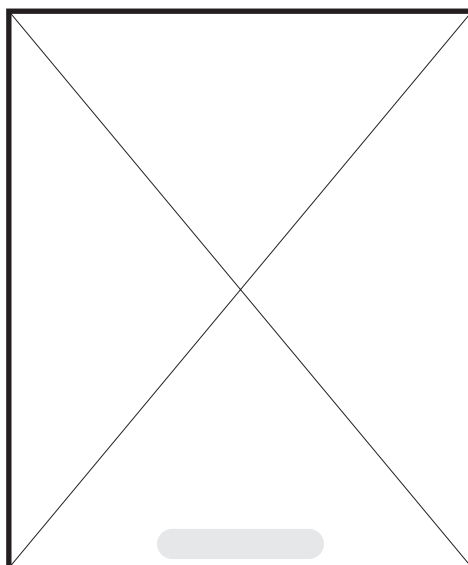
It would be a vital step towards bridging the digital divide and ensuring that technology reaches all corners of the nation.

Liberians are gearing up for a momentous occasion marking the first-ever National ICT Award event alongside the highly anticipated book launch.

The two events which are expected to be held on the same day are poised to not only commemorate technological achievements but also propel Liberia further into the digital age.

The book authored by Activist Tingba, promises to be a groundbreaking contribution to the world of Information and Communication Technology.

It recognizes the contributions of ICT students, professionals, policymakers,



The ceremony will include the first-ever national ICT award event at the Monrovia City Hall in Sinkor.

Activist Tingba is one of Liberia's brightest young ICT personalities pursuing a Master of Science in Information Systems Engineering at Cyprus International University.

He is also pursuing a Master's in Artificial Intelligence Engineering at Near East University.

The book, "ICT Tools for Liberia's Development," focuses on Liberia's unique context and explores the

# Simeon Freeman names digitalization & privatization as priority

By Lincoln G. Peters

Movement for Progressive Change Presidential Candidate, Someone Freeman says digitization and privatization will be his top priorities if elected President to stimulate the economy and governance.

He says for far too long governments after governments have failed to look in the areas of digitalization and privatization, something, he believes has caused Liberia to be poor and underdeveloped both in governance and economic growth.

Speaking Monday in Monrovia, the opposition politician promised that a MPC government will diversify the country's economy with particularly attention on privatization and digitalization.

"Liberia is poor with high poverty because we have

telecommunications sector under his administration will be privatized, but in a more different manner where private companies will not be the ones to construct towers, but rather another private company that will be paid fees to maintain such facility for effectiveness and efficiency.

"We will also give the health sector, education and road construction to the private sector, while we do little maintenance and supervisor role. These are things that will help us. We want to run a very small government but efficient and effective to meet the wants and demands of all citizens." Mr. Freeman explains.

He believes that privatization of the economy will create numerous job opportunities for Liberians because there will be factories and companies across the country.

According to him, when President George M. Weah came to power, the government cut down workers' salary after they employed over fifteen thousand individuals.

He argues that government should diverted its attention to private sector investment to enable Liberians gain employment in the private sector instead of putting the country in huge debt.

"Empowering the workforce of our country to have the capacity and knowledge to work in

factories and companies will be our objective. Liberia has one of the highest rainforest in the world and so when we diversify the economy to factories, instead of export, we will do more. Liberia has the solution to its poverty and unemployment issues because we have the land and rainforest. We just need to move to factories."

He says moving the economy to production will reduce prostitution and disadvantaged youth across the country, especially huge number of motorcyclists plying the streets.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Presidential Candidate Someone Freeman

refused to diversify. We will ensure that major sectors of the Liberian economy are privatized to speed economy growth and recovery. We will also look at digitalization to mitigate corruption because you will not need people to have transaction and also there is nothing about government that will be hidden", he says.

Mr. Freeman underscores that Liberia needs people of expertise to solve problems in order to prevent doing the same thing again and again, which he says is killing Liberia.

He indicates that

# Gray provides free medical treatment for District 8 Residents

By Lewis S. Teh

Incumbent Montserrado County Electoral District #8 Representative Moses Acarous Gray has provided free medical treatment for ailing residents in the district. Gray said the initiative intends to respond to the critical health needs of people across the district. The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) lawmaker is seeking a third term in the district. He said the health needs of his constituents are paramount to their growth and wellbeing. Mr. Gray told a team of journalists that the initiative was his way of identifying with residents across the district who are in desperate need of treatment but cannot afford the cost. Also speaking to reporters, registered nurse Ms. Rachel M. Reeves said the district lawmaker's initiative was aimed at boosting the health services in the area and the country at large. "This free medical exercise is being fully sponsored

by Representative Gray who thought it wise to meet the health needs of his people," said Ms. Reeves. According to her, the free medical exercise is expected to last for one month. She said residents are mainly battling malaria. The medical outreach held recently provided an opportunity for the people of Soniwein, Johnson Street, Wardwein Community, Capitol By-pass, Cam Johnson Road and other surrounding areas to do eye test. Pregnant women were checked, malaria patients provided free treatment.

The exercises, according to Ms. Reeves, were a part of the community's outreach and social contributions of Representative Gray.

The residents of District 8 and other surrounding communities were seen in queues for eye screening.

"This [is] so helpful and very good for some of us who often experience strange

feelings on our eyes," said Sarah Doe.

"For me, this is very useful to us in this district. Some of us are developing serious health problems but we don't have the money to seek proper treatment. Hearing about this free treatment is something that brings joy," said Emmanuel Kollie.



Rep. Moses Acarous Gray

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# UP supporter flogged in Nimba transferred to JFK Hospital

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

A supporter of the opposition Unity Party, who was recently flogged in Nimba



County by 11 men believed to be members of Dordeh Movement of former Representative Garrison Yealue, Jr. is currently receiving medication at the JFK Medical Center in Monrovia.

Former Representative Yealue is current chairman of the Governance Commission.

The victim, Daniel Marzar, is a citizen of Loelay Town in Gbeh-lay-Geh administrative district. Marzar was on his way to Karnplay City when just a few minutes' walk from the city, he was allegedly flogged by 11 men believed to be supporters of Yealue.

The victim told reporters that he had not been in conflict with his attackers prior to the incident, but their decision to allegedly flog him was based on his refusal to support the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change against the UP.

Following the attack, Daniel was rushed to a health facility in Karnplay City, but later transferred to Monrovia based on his critical condition.

Since the start of campaign, this is the second violence incident in Gbeh-lay-Gweh administrative district.

Addressing reporters, Nimba District#3 Representative Joseph Nya Somwarbi, condemned the attack on Daniel Marzar by the group, Dordeh Movement.

Representative Somwarbi explained that he gathered that there was confrontation between supporters of former Representative Garrison Yealue and Victim Daniel Marzar.

"Like us continue to remain peaceful, election will come and go, but the relationship is very much important - District#3 is the only home of the ruling CDC that remains a loyal party focused on peace so we regret the situation", he said.

According to him, his presence in the district will help to bring peace among his people.

Meanwhile, Representative Somwarbi has assured President George Weah of overwhelming victory in October, noting that President Weah will win in the first round of voting. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# Let your pen change the narratives

## -Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh cautions journalists

By Lewis S. Teh

The Establishment Coordinator of the Angie Brooks International Centre and Initiator of the Women's Situation Room (WSR), Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh has cautioned journalists to be factual and balanced in their reportage. She gave the caution Tuesday, 19 September 2023 at a one-day media training organized under the auspices of the Angie Brooks International Center, barely 21 days to the presidential and legislative elections.



"I'm excited to seeing all of you journalists, you play a vital role especially during these elections. But let me remind you that your pen should change the narratives," she said Cllr. Wureh urged journalists to change the narrative by reporting women in

politics impartially. She said the gender disparity in politics is worrisome, noting that journalists' reportage during these elections should be fair.

"One of the things that worry us is how do you cover women in politics, the gender disparity that we see in politics," said Cllr. Wureh. "We all know the power of the pen, but it will be great if that power is being used for good. It will be great if that power is being used to change the narrative of Liberia. It will be great if we be accountable," she added. She urged journalists to look at women in a gender lens, and report fairly on women The workshop was held under the theme: Responsible Reporting and Reporting with a Gender Lens organized by Angie Brooks International. It brought together scores of journalists from different media institutions including print, electronic, and television stations, among others.

Facilitators of the one-day training included Atty. Facia Harris, veteran media actor Eva Flomo, and publisher of the Women Voices Newspaper Ms. Hellene Nah Sammy Key issues raised by facilitators at the training included the role of journalists in an election reporting; facts gathering; and avoiding making hate speeches which have the propensity to cause chaos.

# Business Skills Training and Pitching for Youth Startup Businesses

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry in partnership with the Business Startup Center (BSC) Monrovia, with support from UNDP through its Livelihood & Employment Creation project, has conducted Business Skills Training and Pitching for 300 youth start-up businesses.

The 300 young people were selected to participate in the two-day exercises on 13-15 September 2023 for start-up grants of USD \$500 at the close of the application process for the Youth Startup Business Plan Competition 2023 cohort III. The participants were drawn from seven counties: Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Grand

Gedeh, Sinoe, Nimba, and Lofa counties after being selected from a total number of 1,739 young people who applied.

During the training, the youth were introduced to business and financial planning and presented their business ideas to a panel of judges in the hope of securing the USD \$500 grants.

They will also benefit from coaching and mentorship support when developing and refining their business ideas.

The ideas cut across all sectors including agriculture, information technology, transportation, food processing, manufacturing, etc. The BSC Start-up Competition aims to foster entrepreneurship among Liberia's youth, identifying

their needs and challenges, and developing innovative and creative solutions. This year's activity is the third in a row with last year attracting over 900 applications from youth who expressed their ideas for technical and financial support to expand their operations, create income and employment opportunities, and provide goods/services to their clients while contributing to economic growth and development. UNDP and the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Commerce and Industry are working to support the development of a strong and vibrant private sector through business development that is aimed at contributing to poverty reduction and the empowerment of young people and persons living with disabilities.

# Haven Care Clinic transitions to full hospital

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Thousands of residents of Montserrado County Electoral District#6 are to benefit from an approximately fifty (50) bedroom hospital in the district as the Haven Medical Care is now transformed into a full-time hospital Residents' quest in accessing basic health care has been restricted to the Christian-run ELWA Hospital in the district with many of them being transferred to the John F. Kennedy Medical hospital in Sinkor, Monrovia. But now relief has come as District #6 Representative, Rev. Samuel Enders, owner of the Haven Cares Medical Clinic has now transformed the facility to a hospital for the benefit of residents. Representative Enders said on Monday, September 18, that when renovation works are completed, the facility offer various kinds of surgeries, include an intensive care unit to serve residents.

During a brief ceremony, he put the estimated cost for the proposed Haven Care Medical

Hospital at US\$1.4 million. The facility is situated on one acre of land that contain seven gigantic buildings, opposite Calvary Chapel school in Rehab Community, Paynesville.

It will offer free medical care for children from 0-6 years and pregnant women. Rep. Enders adds that the facility, when completed, will also provide X-rays, CT scan, ultrasound, dentistry, eyes, OB, and gynecology services, among other major and minor services.

He describes the facility as a helpful adventure that will strive to meet the health needs of Liberians, especially residents of the district, who have been yearning for access to quality healthcare. Representative Enders, who is seeking reelection, says education, access to quality healthcare, women empowerment, youth empowerment, and improving livelihoods of his people are paramount that is why he wants to return to the House of Representatives. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**





# Français

## Les journalistes libériens s'engagent à promouvoir des élections pacifiques

Au terme d'une rencontre avec la CEDEAO, les journalistes et les media libériens ont signé une résolution commune en huit

respectives afin que les citoyens comprennent les programmes des candidats et des partis politiques, les campagnes et les procédures du jour du scrutin avant les élections.

déclarations incendiaires et des pratiques médiatiques haineuses.

"Nous acceptons consciemment de lutter contre le fait de devenir des canaux de publication et de diffusion de documents susceptibles d'attiser les passions, d'inciter à la violence, de promouvoir la haine ou de menacer la liberté d'autrui de participer pacifiquement au processus électoral", indique en outre la résolution commune.

Ils se sont engagés à surveiller avec diligence et professionnalisme tous les aspects du processus électoral, à travers le pays, en vue de faire en sorte que tous les acteurs des élections agissent conformément aux lois, réglementations et meilleures pratiques internationales en matière de processus électoraux.

Au total, 28 journalistes de diverses organisations médiatiques, dont la radio d'État et les médias privés, ont signé la résolution le mardi 19 septembre 2023 à Monrovia.

Plus tôt lundi, la Représentante résidente du Président de la Commission de la CEDEAO au Libéria, Madame Josephine Nkrumah, a déclaré

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points, s'engageant à rédiger, publier et diffuser des éditoriaux communs dans leurs médias respectifs sur des questions essentielles à des élections libres, équitables et pacifiques au Libéria.

Ils ont également convenu de veiller à ce que l'électorat libérien soit bien informé grâce à une solide éducation des électeurs et à la diffusion de messages via leurs plateformes

Les participants sont venus de diverses sections des médias du Libéria, y compris les plateformes imprimées, audiovisuelles et en ligne. Ils se sont engagés à faire preuve d'un professionnalisme de haut niveau, d'objectivité et d'impartialité dans leur couverture et leurs reportages, en particulier pendant et après la période électorale. Ils ont aussi pris l'engagement de ne pas encourager la propagation de fausses nouvelles, des

## Le parlement réclame justice à la suite de la tentative d'assassinat d'une libérienne par un ressortissant américain

Le président de la Chambre des représentants, le Dr Bhofal Chambers, réclame justice dans l'affaire de tentative de meurtre de la jeune Jessica Lloyd par un ressortissant américain.

Selon certaines informations, un ressortissant américain identifié comme Lucas Richard aurait récemment tenté d'assassiner Jessica Lloyd, en lui tranchant la gorge avec un couteau à Barnersville.

Le Président Chambers a laissé entendre que la violence domestique infligée à la jeune Libérienne Jessica viole les lois du Libéria, y compris les traités internationaux dont le pays est signataire.

Il s'est dit convaincu que poursuivre le suspect Richard servirait d'un moyen de dissuasion et empêcherait qu'un acte pareil se reproduise et protégerait par ricochet les droits de tous les Libériens.

Le Président a fait ces commentaires le mardi 19 septembre 2023, après avoir rendu visite et identifié la

victime Jessica Lloyd à l'hôpital médical John F. Kennedy.

Pendant ce temps, la Police nationale libérienne-LNP a lancé une enquête. La jeune Jessica Lloyd suit actuellement des traitements au centre médical John F. Kennedy de Monrovia. L'honorable Président de la Chambre des représentants lui a rendu visite et lui a apporté un soutien financier le mardi 19 septembre 2023.

Expliquant son calvaire, Jessica a révélé que Lucas était venu la chercher chez elle plus tôt pour ailler voir une eau située à Barnersville. Mais arrivés au bord de l'eau, des voyous leur ont

demandé de l'argent. Et il leur a dit qu'il avait raté la route menant à sa destination. Alors, les voyous lui ont montré la direction.

« Mais d'abord, avant que nous descendions de la voiture, il a sorti un couteau et a dit 'tu sais, j'ai peur des serpents ; donc, si nous voyons un serpent, nous pouvons le tuer. Alors, il est descendu de la voiture et a mis le couteau dans sa poche », a raconté Jessica.

Et elle et Lucas sont entrés dans un buisson. Il a dit qu'il voulait uriner et lui a demandé

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### L'Etat doit mener une enquête approfondie dans cette affaire de trafic de drogue

L'enquête que mène actuellement le ministère de la Justice et l'Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue pour faire la lumière sur l'importation récente de plusieurs cartons de drogues nocives à l'aéroport international Roberts ne devrait pas aboutir à un autre fiasco comme ce fut le cas dans les affaires des lots de cocaïne évalués respectivement à 100 millions et 45 millions de dollars américains importés dans des conteneurs au port franc de Monrovia l'année dernière et au début de cette année.

Les autorités aéroportuaires avaient initialement fait croire que les cartons ne contenaient pas de drogues nocives, mais des feuilles médicinales appelées Morigan. Mais elles se sont fait contredire par les autorités sécuritaires du Libéria qui ont confirmé que les cartons interceptés par un contingent des forces armées du Libéria affecté à l'aéroport contenaient bel et bien une drogue illicite appelée méthamphétamine.

La méthamphétamine est un stimulant puissant qui crée une forte dépendance et qui affecte le système nerveux central. Il se présente sous la forme d'une poudre cristalline blanche, inodore et au goût amer qui se dissout facilement dans l'eau ou l'alcool.

En conséquence, le chef de la sécurité de la RIA, Samuel Freeman, qui aurait pris livraison du lot, a été suspendu, dans l'attente d'une enquête approfondie.

Cependant, compte tenu des faits auxquels nous avons assisté dans une affaire de la cocaïne où trois accusés clés ont été jugés non coupables et ensuite libérés par le tribunal, puis poursuivis de nouveau par le gouvernement alors qu'ils étaient cette fois-ci déjà hors du pays, tout le monde est septique. On craint que cela ne se reproduise.

Les responsables de la Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA), par l'intermédiaire de son directeur général, Michael Zeyhou, ont déclaré que la drogue, évaluée à 37 millions de dollars, appartiendrait à un ressortissant kenyan non identifié.

En juillet de cette année, le gouvernement du Libéria a adopté une nouvelle loi sur les drogues, connue sous le nom de Control and Substance Act, afin de renforcer les lois existantes. En vertu de la nouvelle loi, la possession illégale de drogues ou le trafic de substances de contrebande constituent un délit ne pouvant donner lieu à une libération sous caution.

La nouvelle loi vise à restreindre, gérer, réduire ou éliminer l'importation ou l'exportation de drogues illicites. Il a cité les substances stupéfiantes et leur usage abusif et abus généralisé ainsi que la prolifération des substances de contrebande dans le pays. La loi indique en partie qu'un individu aurait commis une infraction s'il importait ou trafiquait intentionnellement ou sciemment des drogues ou des substances contrôlées au Libéria.

Il qualifie également de délit grave un crime au premier degré, passible d'une peine d'emprisonnement maximale de 10 à vingt ans pour les contrevenants graves.

Une enquête rapide et l'arrestation des coupables pourraient constituer un test décisif pour la détermination du gouvernement à lutter contre le trafic de drogues illicites.

C'est dans cette optique que nous appelons à une enquête approfondie et bien intentionnée pour identifier les véritables coupables. Nous ne voulons pas d'un exercice cosmétique qui balayerait les véritables problèmes sous le tapis, pour ensuite présenter au public des conclusions dénuées de sens et peu concluantes.



# Français

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## Les journalistes libériens s'

que le monde se tournerait vers le Libéria qui va mettre en valeur sa démocratie croissante lors des prochaines élections présidentielles et générales prévues le 10 octobre.

Madame Nkrumah a dit que la désinformation et l'intoxe constituent de graves menaces pour la démocratie, car elles sont devenues des instruments pouvant être utilisés pour manipuler l'opinion publique, semer la discorde et saper le processus électoral.

« L'impact débilant de la désinformation sur les élections est visible dans un

certain nombre d'élections récentes à travers le monde, en particulier dans notre région, où des vies ont été perdues, des propriétés détruites et la crédibilité des élections compromise. Nous avons connu quatre coups d'État suite à des conflits post-électorales dans la sous-région et le Libéria doit endiguer la marée », a-t-elle souligné.

Les Libériens se rendront dans les urnes en octobre pour la troisième fois depuis la fin des hostilités en 2023, mais c'est la première fois qu'il n'y aura pas de présence des soldats internationaux de maintien de la paix.

Starts from page 8

## Le parlement réclame justice

de tenir leur bouteille d'eau. Après avoir uriné, Lucas dit qu'il a vu quelque chose sous le buisson comme un animal et lui demande de s'approcher pour le voir. Peureuse, Jessica s'est tenue à une distance derrière lui voir ce qu'il y avait.

Ils se sont ensuite rendus en voiture sur la route menant à l'école Saint Michael à Barnesville pour prendre la route en direction de Duala.

« Ensuite, nous sommes tombés sur un cimetière. Il a dit que parfois, en Amérique, nous allons au cimetière pour voir les tombes, regarder les noms des personnes décédées et la date de leur mort. J'ai dit non ; Je ne veux pas y aller ; J'ai peur des tombes. C'est comme ça que nous sommes allés devant un petit buisson... Alors, il a dit que le pneu de la voiture avait un problème et qu'il voulait le changer. Je suis restée assise dans la voiture pendant que Lucas réparait le pneu, mais après, il m'a demandé de descendre pour l'aider ».

Il demande alors à Jessica de tourner les vis du pneu. « Alors, pendant que je déboulonnais le pneu, il a dit qu'il y avait de la saleté dans mes cheveux et a mis sa main dans mes cheveux et les a ouverts pour enlever la saleté. C'est alors qu'il m'a frappée à la tête. J'ai entendu booop... Je suis tombé par

terre et quand je me suis réveillée, il m'a repoussée au sol », a raconté Jessica.

A en croire la victime, quand elle est tombée par terre, Lucas a sorti le couteau de sa poche et a commencé à lui couper la gorge, mais elle ne ressentait pas de douleur. Elle avait, selon elle, apparemment été droguée quand elle était dans la voiture.

C'est alors qu'un jeune homme qui assistait à la scène suspecte s'est précipité vers Lucas avec un bâton. Ce dernier a pris la fuite pour se mettre en sécurité, car une foule en colère y accourait.

Mais, Lucas par contre, a dit à la police que ce n'était pas lui qui avait fait du mal à Jessica, dont le témoignage illustré révélait qu'il était traditionnellement marié.

Il a déclaré que, alors qu'il était en train de changer les pneus de sa voiture, une moto a percuté Jessica qui se tenait sur le trottoir. Et quand il a tenté d'aider la victime, le motocycliste s'est mis à crier et à interpeller la foule. Vendredi, des rumeurs éclatantes ont fait croire que Lucas aurait depuis été extradé vers les États-Unis d'Amérique puisque les citoyens américains ne sont pas jugés par d'autres pays. Mais la police nationale du Libéria a déclaré que l'enquête était toujours en cours et que le ressortissant américain faisait l'objet d'interrogations pour tentative criminelle de commettre un meurtre et des voies de fait graves.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

# Le protectionnisme a allumé le feu géopolitique

**N**EW HAVEN (CONN.) - Il est déconcertant de voir comment nombre d'économistes de premier plan ont décrié les barrières douanières mises en place par l'administration Trump - un protectionnisme qui portait atteinte à la prospérité - puis ont approuvé les initiatives plus drastiques encore de l'administration Biden visant à relocaliser, à rapatrier dans des pays amis ou à découpler les productions américaines des productions chinoises. En mars 2018, dans un sondage de l'université Chicago Booth réalisé auprès des économistes, la totalité des personnes interrogées déclaraient être opposées aux nouvelles barrières douanières des États-Unis ; puis, en janvier 2022, une majorité de sondés, chevauchant largement l'échantillon précédent, affirmait douter de l'efficacité des chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales. Seules deux personnes interrogées (dont je fais partie) ne partageaient pas l'analyse selon laquelle leur dépendance aux fournitures venues de l'étranger aurait rendu les industries des États-Unis vulnérables aux perturbations des marchés.

Dans ce tableau, Dani Rodrik, qui affirme dans une récente tribune que les conséquences de la géopolitique actuelle sont bien plus graves qu'un regain de protectionnisme, fait figure d'exception. L'argument est à considérer. Souvenons-nous néanmoins que le protectionnisme a été l'un des premiers catalyseurs de l'escalade des tensions géopolitiques que nous connaissons aujourd'hui.

Les barrières douanières de Trump ont inversé une tendance de long terme à la libéralisation des échanges et imposé à l'économie des États-Unis des coûts réels, puisqu'elles ont augmenté les prix pour les consommateurs et les entreprises des États-Unis qui utilisent des biens intermédiaires importés de Chine. Mais les mesures prises par Trump ont eu peu de conséquences globales sur le commerce mondial. Si, comme on pouvait le prévoir, les échanges entre les États-Unis et la Chine ont diminué, les exportations de nombreux autres pays - à la fois vers les États-Unis et vers le reste du monde - ont augmenté. Les flux commerciaux se sont réalloués, ils n'ont pas été réduits.

En revanche, la croyance dans les bénéfices du commerce international a pris un coup, et de plus en plus de gens le considèrent désormais comme un jeu à somme nulle. Selon le récit diffusé par l'administration Trump, un bon nombre des problèmes économiques qui handicapaient de longue date l'Amérique étaient dus aux échanges avec la Chine. Les inégalités s'étaient sévèrement creusées aux États-Unis, et les jeunes générations ne faisaient plus aussi bien que leurs parents. Et comme si ces déboires étaient insuffisants, les jeunes Chinois, semblait-il, réussissaient mieux, quant à eux, que la génération précédente. Les choses étaient sûrement liées. Si la Chine faisait si bien, l'Amérique devait alors rester à la traîne.

Au début, beaucoup critiquèrent ce récit, jugé démagogue et populiste. Mais il gagna progressivement en influence, et lorsque frappa le Covid-19, les arguments en faveur du protectionnisme et contre la Chine s'inscrivirent dans le discours général. Tout à coup, tout le monde tombait d'accord pour dire que les problèmes liés à la pandémie qui se posaient aux chaînes d'approvisionnement étaient une conséquence du commerce international. Peu importait que nombre de goulets d'étranglement eussent une origine intérieure et n'eussent rien à voir avec les chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales, ou que sans masques importés de Chine, les pénuries d'équipements de protection individuelle eussent été pires, ou encore que malgré le choc causé par la pandémie - le plus important, mondialement, depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale -, l'économie mondiale se fût avérée plutôt résiliente. Le récit rejetait toujours plus le blâme sur les échanges internationaux, particulièrement sur le commerce avec la Chine, quel que soit le problème de l'économie moderne.

Puis vint l'invasion brutale de l'Ukraine par la Russie - le coup de grâce. Bien que l'agresseur fût la Russie et non la Chine, il ne devenait que trop facile d'imaginer ce qui arriverait à l'économie mondiale si la Chine envahissait Taïwan. Les inquiétudes concernant les risques géopolitiques et la sécurité nationale occupèrent le premier plan, donnant d'autant plus de poids aux appels non seulement au protectionnisme mais à un plus grand découplage économique d'avec la Chine.

Une fois encore, il est aisé de rejeter sur l'invasion russe l'entrée dans une nouvelle guerre froide. Mais en serions-nous là sans la résurgence du protectionnisme et sans les appels à la résilience des chaînes d'approvisionnement entendus ces dernières années ? en sapant la croyance dans la coopération internationale et en donnant crédit au récit selon lequel les échanges commerciaux sont un jeu à somme nulle, ces politiques et ces objectifs stratégiques ont créé quelques-unes des conditions préalables à l'état de guerre économique que nous connaissons aujourd'hui.

Si les échanges commerciaux étaient présentés en 2015-2016, lorsque Trump fut élu, comme un jeu à somme nulle, c'est maintenant la prospérité nationale qui est dépeinte en ces termes. La question n'est plus seulement celle des barrières douanières et du commerce, éléments qui n'interviennent dans le débat que dans la mesure où ils peuvent empêcher la Chine de développer ses capacités technologiques. Les grandes questions, nous dit-on, sont aujourd'hui la réduction des risques (le de-risking) et la sécurité nationale, bien plus que le désir de l'Amérique de conserver sa domination économique.

Mais de telles justifications posent problème. Considérons la réduction des risques. L'initiative semble répondre aux exigences de la prudence, mais concerne-t-elle réellement la Chine ? La production mondiale des semi-conducteurs les plus avancés se concentre dans les mains d'une seule entreprise (TSMC), qui est taïwanaise, ce qui fait certainement courir un risque important de perturbation des chaînes d'approvisionnement si l'entreprise devait faire l'expérience de quelque choc. Mais un tel choc ne sera pas nécessairement une invasion chinoise, il peut aussi prendre la forme d'une crise sanitaire, d'une catastrophe naturelle, voire de difficultés personnelles. Le problème central n'est pas la Chine, mais la trop grande concentration du marché. Un risque de ce genre serait tout aussi préoccupant si l'entreprise avait son siège aux États-Unis.

S'il est parfaitement justifié qu'on s'inquiète de diversification optimale et de réduction des risques, tout traduire en termes géopolitiques ne l'est pas. Lorsque Trump, récemment, a promis, s'il était réélu, d'augmenter massivement les barrières douanières, la communauté internationale n'a pas tardé à condamner ce genre de mesures. Mais les barrières douanières n'ont plus aujourd'hui la même importance, le mal est déjà fait.

Nous vivons une nouvelle ère. Comme je l'avais noté dans une précédente tribune, m'appuyant sur le travail d'historiens de l'économie, l'évolution récente de la politique étrangère et commerciale des États-Unis évoque étrangement la période qui a conduit à la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Le protectionnisme est un problème, non seulement parce qu'il a des conséquences sur les échanges commerciaux, mais aussi parce qu'il retentit sur les relations internationales et sur la géopolitique.

Traduit de l'anglais par François Boisivon

Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg, ancienne cheffe économiste du groupe Banque mondiale et ancienne rédactrice en chef de l'American Economic Review, est professeure d'économie à l'université Yale.

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# LIBERIANS

# DEBATE

Topic: Crowd politics

By Naneka A. Hoffman

The opposition Unity Party's recent show of strength on Sunday when it pulled thousands of supporters in the streets for its campaign launch at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium is still being discussed at every corner with many saying the UP sent a strong signal to the ruling Coalition for Democratic of President George Weah that the pending elections will not an easy ride for his administration because Liberians are resolved for change. Read some of the comments as compiled below.



Charles David Folleh

meeting from all indications and from all angles, we are seeing the opposition block putting pressure coming together, a clear magnificent show this gone Sunday with that heavy downpour we saw the crowd on television and we listened to radio but all in all, anyone can win the election. And I really foresee Unity Party taken over because everybody is complaining about the hardship and it sends a clear message to the government that they shouldn't underestimate the opposition block and the opposition shouldn't underestimate the ruling party."

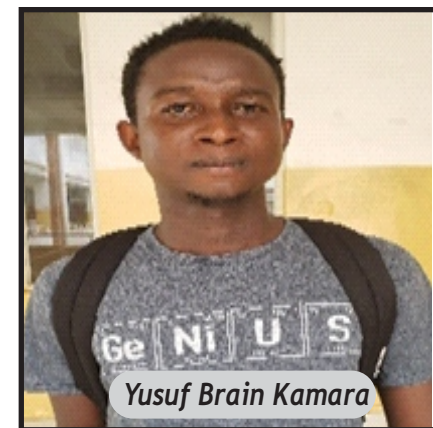
"I think the turn up from the Unity Party was good and shows that the people are tired with the current situations that they are faced with under this government - the maltreatment so they have decided now to retire President Weah and his cabinet; so the turn-up on Sunday was huge and overwhelming. I think it is a warning to the CDC that the people are making up their minds to take them from the Executive Mansion."



G. Aubrey Lormie, II

"Looking at the ruling party, the Congress for Democratic Change CDC and opposition Unity Party in the race, UP, they are the favorable parties in the race. And looking at their crowd

one would believe that anyone of them can win the election in Liberia comes October 10. We can never and we will never underestimate the opposition party because forces are all



Yusuf Brain Kamara

that the Liberian people are resolute, for the fact that the gathering was decentralized by UP partisan because I saw a video or photo of Unity Party partisans in Lofa and in other part of the country. It speaks volume. It sends a very strong message to the CDC government that the Liberian people are tired with the kind of leadership structure that the CDC in place for the past five years"

"I am not a Unity Party man, neither a CDC man, but the crowd the Unity Party pulled on Sunday, it speaks volume

"What I understand of JNB campaign launch is that a lot of people from Liberia are tired with the poverty rate in Liberia and they want a change by getting in the street in the raining season. A lot of people proved that JNB might be the best candidate to vote for; they want him to be the next President of Liberia. A lot of people left their homes, image it was raining and they came by themselves because of the love for the party; they decided to get under the rain for this man in their

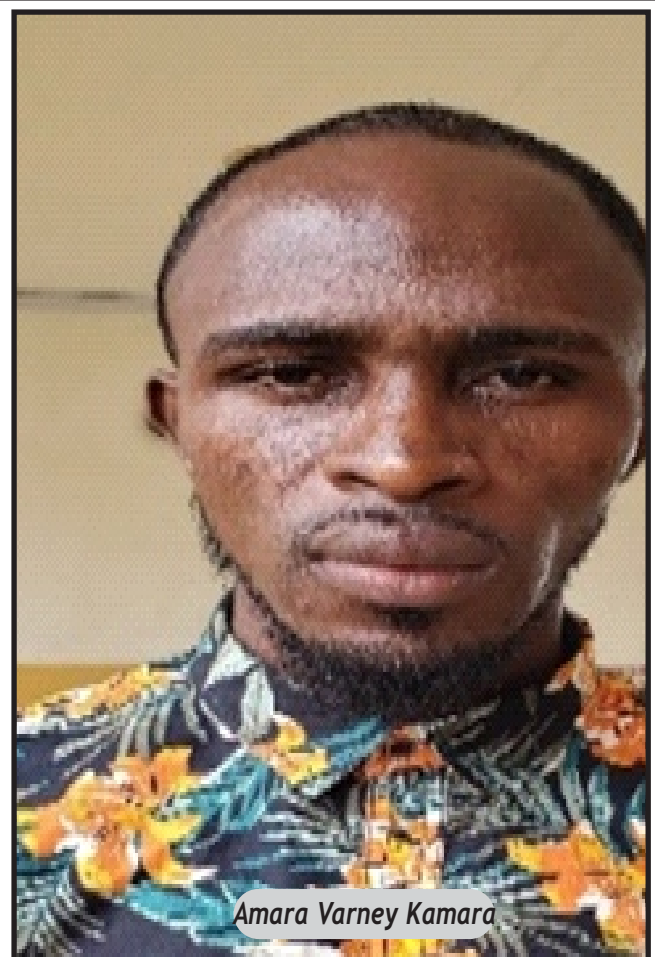


Lee P. Gibson

numbers to prove to the Liberian people that we're tire and we need change right now so, it

is important that you vote for JNB because when you vote for him, we will have a better Liberia."

"The issue of crowd has never been a means to winning election in Liberia. We are seeing it and we are seeing it time without numbers. CDC had large crowd in 2011 but at the end of the day, the election was in favor of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. And we also witnessed it in the 2020 Special Senatorial by-election when thousands of Liberians came out for Abraham Darius Dillon. The CDC put out a



Amara Varney Kamara

large crowd, Liberians came from diverse political backgrounds and friends of mine even attended the CDC launch and we also saw the ATS was crowded with people from the both parties but it was a little bit different from the Unity Party, because we saw

Liberians who never had that financial capacity; we saw people with disabilities and these are people that make up the electorate therefore, it sends out a very powerful threat to the ruling establishment and the ruling establishment also sends out to the opposition so the equation is balance."

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# Weah dispels election rigging fears at UN

President George Manneh Weah has told the 78th UN General Assembly that the Liberian Government has taken all necessary measures

Legislative elections. "The October polls will mark the fourth peaceful [presidential and legislative] elections in Liberia since the end of the civil war in 2003," said Weah.

Last week President Weah cut short his presidential campaign and traveled to New York to participate in the ongoing deliberations at the UN General Assembly.

He is seeking a second six-year term against 19 other opposition presidential candidates, among them former Liberian Vice President Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, and former Coca-Cola executive Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, among others.

President Weah told the UN General Assembly that with the support of the United Nations, and that of the support of Liberia's friends, the country has kept the democratic torch burning.

"We have maintained peace and security. We have protected human rights and the rights of the media to operate peacefully and freely," he said.

"The Liberian people have enjoyed the full exercise of their constitutional rights. The country is well on course of consolidating its democratic credentials."

President Weah indicated that the UN 78th session is taking place at a time when his country is preparing for the first elections since the withdrawal of the UN Peacekeeping mission from Liberia.

He noted that the October 10 elections are an opportunity to sustain the gains made in the reconstruction and development processes of Liberia. Earlier in his address, President Weah extended

sympathy to all nations experiencing loss of lives due to recent natural disasters. He said they have convened at a time when the world is faced with many challenges, including security, social, economic, political, and natural disasters. "We must exert our collective efforts to confront these challenges, with a view of resolving them in order to have a safer, secured and prosperous future," he said.

He suggested the need to continue to promote global solidarity and rebuild trust in accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He said the SDGs, by design, require bilateral and multilateral collaborations to achieve the results that are being sought.

President Weah indicated that there is a critical need to ensure that development assistance is aligned with SDG projects.

"That is why my delegation welcomes and supports the Secretary-General's agenda of action to accelerate the implementation of existing agreements; including the Sustainable Development Goals, and to re-embrace global solidarity, and find new ways to work together for the common good of mankind."

Touching on global security, President Weah noted that the world is also under threat from natural calamities, as seen with extreme climate conditions globally.

He said it is therefore a collective responsibility to urgently prioritize addressing the climate crisis as to reach a target of 64 percent reduction in carbon emissions.

# Joint Security condemns PYJ's threat

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's Joint Security has condemned Nimba Senator Prince Y. Johnson's threat of an "Arab Spring" rebellion should the government rig the October 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

The former Liberian warlord is a key political ally of opposition presidential candidate Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai and the former ruling Unity Party (UP) in this year's elections.

But through the Liberia National Police (LNP), the Joint Security has expressed serious concern about Sen. Johnson's statement.

The joint security noted with deep consternation and utmost concern that the statement attributed to Sen. Johnson threatening armed rebellion should the elections be rigged must be discouraged.

The Joint Security released a statement Wednesday, 20 September 2023 under the signature of Police Spokesperson Moses Carter. The statement emphasized that Liberia is



President Weah

to ensure free, fair, transparent, peaceful, inclusive, and credible elections.

Addressing the Assembly in New York on Tuesday, 20 September 2023, Mr. Weah said Liberia's National Elections Commission (NEC) has been strengthened to ensure that it operates without undue influence.

In addition, he said political parties have committed themselves to a nonviolent electoral process by signing the 2023 Farmington River Declaration, which obligates all actors in the elections to continue to promote peace.

"As a strong believer in democracy let me reiterate my call for the respect of constitutional governance and respect for the will of the people," Mr. Weah said.

"While addressing the issue of elections and democracy, permit me to congratulate all democratically elected leaders around the world," he continued.

He noted that in a few weeks, Liberians will go to the polls, in keeping with the Liberian Constitution, to vote in the scheduled Presidential and



Senator Prince Y. Johnson

Police Chief Col. Sudue

He told a press conference on Monday the impressive turnout exhibited during UP's campaign launch on 17 September 2023 is an indication of the people's resolve to remove President George Manneh Weah from power.

"Before the October elections, Liberians are coming out under the banner 'Don't Try It' - any attempt, the people's power would be exercised like the Arab Spring," said Sen. Johnson.

"You'll shoot your gun; you'll kill us or you'll die. No more fear, Liberians don't have fear anymore," Sen. Johnson said.

He raised a concern about alleged potential election interference by the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), and has threatened to fight back with arms in the cause of the people.

a country of law, and as such, aggrieved parties must continue to seek legal remedies to issues instead of resorting to violence.

"The concept of a single individual anointing himself as judge, jury, and executioner must be discouraged," the Joint Security warned.

Mr. Carter reminded Senator Johnson that Liberians have had enough of suffering during the most recent civil unrest and are no more interested in returning this country to its ugly past.

"Hence, well meaning Liberians including political actors, civil society groups and religious institutions are urged to continue promoting peace and stability in Liberia and desist from engaging in actions that undermine the peace and stability of the state," said Carter.

Starts from back page

## Cllr. Brumskine raps on

provisions of capital and better incentives for farmers to increase food production.

She said the CPP will pursue a vigorous decentralization policy, not only for government services but to create robust commercial hubs in major counties including Grand Bassa and Nimba.

According to Counsellor Brumskine, Liberia has an abundance of resources and wealth but lacks the managerial skills to create jobs and effectively manage the resources for the general good of all Liberians.

She said lack of international trust, widespread corruption, weak judicial system, and weak foreign national policy have rendered Liberia's governance system ineffective and the country unattractive for direct

foreign investments.

Counsellor said these are major challenges that a CPP Government will handle differently to restore the country's lost credibility and trust amongst the comity of nations.

She said the depth of poverty, suffering, desperation, and hopelessness amongst Liberians, especially in rural Liberia, is beyond alarm.

"Young girls, before reaching 14 years of age, are becoming wives, youths crave more for Jersey and football than education, elders have turned to begging for survival, while drug trafficking and addiction have reached alarming and dangerous proportions," Counsellor

Brumskine said in response to questions about her observations in rural Liberia.

She observed that the depth of poverty has increased astronomically, since 2017, with deep-seated anger among rural dwellers, and said the only relief is massive job creation and economic development, which she said can only be accomplished by well-seasoned and experienced economists and not politicians.

She spoke about the country's disastrous road condition, with specific reference to the Southeast, where the only access to counties in that region, is through the Ivory Coast.

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## Clr. Brumskine raps on CPP "Change" Agenda

The Vice Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Counsellor Charlyne Brumskine says the current economic predicament of Liberians will require



Charlyne Brumskine

She says Mr. Cummings' laudable achievements as Chief Executive Officer of Coca-Cola Global, where he managed a budget of over US\$ 1 billion and an estimated workforce of 100,000, set him apart as the best and most trusted alternative to President Weah to lead Liberia's economic recovery.

"Mr. Cummings has the international credibility as well as the economic expertise and experience to effectively manage the country's budget and develop the human resource capacity for rapid economic development and growth," Counsellor Brumskine said.

She said in the country's current disastrous economic state "We don't need politicians; they have left us in the worst economic conditions," making reference to the widespread suffering and poverty that has engulfed millions of Liberians, after 176 years of independence.

The CPP Vice Standard Bearer made the assertions on Tuesday, September 20, during a talk show on a local radio

station in Monrovia.

Counsellor Brumskine said within the first one hundred days of a CPP Government, Liberians will begin to experience gradual change in their lives as well as in the system and processes of governance in Liberia.

She said the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) of President George Weah has ravaged the country's economy, failed miserably, and lost international credibility and trust, evidenced by the government's inability to attract any significant foreign investments during his six years rule in Liberia.

Counsellor Brumskine said a CPP Government will reapportion the country's budget, with increased allocation to education to better train teachers, equip and enhance the technical vocational training to meet the job market needs for foreign investments.

She said the CPP Government will also prioritize the health care service as well as agriculture with the

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