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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023	L\$185.5516/US\$1.00	L\$187.4216/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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2023 CUMMINGS FOR PRESIDENT

VOL. 13 NO. 168

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

PRICE LD\$40.00



EC publishes voter roll

A composite photo of Chairperson Daviedetta Browne Lansanah electoral materials



ECOWAS condemns inciting statements



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Continental News

Student cycles 4,000km to go to dream university

A student has cycled 4,000km (2,500 miles) across West Africa, enduring arrests and blazing heat, for a spot at reputation spurred him to take his chances on the epic trek through Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, Niger and Chad. Al-Azhar is one of



Mamadou Safayou Barry with the bike that transported him across six countries

his dream university. Mamadou Safayou Barry set off from Guinea for Egypt's prestigious Al-Azhar in May, hoping he would be accepted.

The 25-year-old cycled for four months through countries wracked by Islamist militants and coups. He told the BBC he was "very, very" happy to have been given a scholarship when he finally reached Cairo.

The married father of one said although he could not afford the Islamic Studies course at Al-Azhar, or flights to Egypt, the university's

the most influential centres for Sunni Islamic learning in the world. It's also one of the oldest, having been founded in the year AD670.

Mr Barry set off from his home "seeking Islamic knowledge" but experienced suspicion and adversity in some of the countries he biked through. In Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, attacks by Islamist militants on civilians are frequent and recent coups have led to political instability. "To travel through these countries is very hard because they don't have security at this time," he said.

"They have so many problems and people there are very scared - in Mali and Burkina Faso people were looking at me like I am a bad man. All over I was seeing the military with their big guns and cars," Mr Barry said.

He said that he was arrested and detained three times for no good reason - twice in Burkina Faso and once in Togo. However, Mr Barry's luck took a turn when he reached Chad. A journalist interviewed Mr Barry and posted his story online, prompting some good Samaritans to fund a flight to Egypt for him.

This meant he avoided cycling through Sudan, parts of which are currently war-zones. On 5 September, he finally arrived in Cairo. His determination earned him a meeting with the Dean of Islamic studies, Dr Nahla Elseidy. After speaking to Mr Barry, Dr Elseidy offered him a place on Al-Azhar's Islamic Studies course, with a full scholarship. The dean said on her social media channels that the university was keen to offer its knowledge to students worldwide and that this philosophy "not only covers international students in Egypt but also extends abroad."

Killer who hid bodies in kitchen pleads guilty

A Rwandan man has pleaded guilty to multiple charges, including the murder of 12 women and two men, in a high-profile case that shocked the country. Denis Kazungu, 34, is alleged to have buried his victims in his kitchen.

Police discovered the crime earlier this month after he was evicted from his rented accommodation in Kicukiro, a suburb of the capital, Kigali. In a packed courtroom, after hearing the guilty plea, a woman cried out for her child who she said was a victim. This hearing was called to determine whether Mr Kazungu should remain in detention. The judge will deliver a decision on 26 September. Mr Kazungu, who did not have legal representation, looked calm and composed at the hearing and when asked to plea, said in a firm voice that he was "guilty". He tried to justify his crimes by alleging that his victims "deliberately infected him with Aids" but not offer any proof of this. The state of Mr Kazungu's mental health is unclear, but he appeared sound when he requested the court to

put proceedings behind closed doors, a request that the court denied. "I have done extreme crimes and do not want to be reported in the media," he said.

Mr Kazungu was arrested after his landlord had reported him to police for defaulting on rent payments for seven months.

A police official told Rwanda's private newspaper The New Times that he put up a fight when they evicted him.

"He apologised and cried excessively, which raised our suspicions," the official said.

"We detained him and I personally took him to the police.

It is at the police station where he confessed to having killed some people, prompting Rib [Rwanda Investigation Bureau] to investigate his residence."

An Rib spokesperson said he lured his victims, mostly sex workers, to his home and would then rob them. He then "strangled them to death and buried them in a hole dug in the kitchen of his rented house".

Investigators are yet to reveal the names of all of Mr Kazungu's suspected victims. BBC



Denis Kazungu is said to have lured his victims to his home

Kenya Marks 10 Years Since Westgate Mall Attack, Reflecting on Security Progress

Kenya is marking 10 years since a group of Somali al-Shabab militants attacked a major shopping mall in Nairobi, killing more than 60 people. While terror threats in the capital have since decreased, the group continues to perpetrate attacks along Kenya's coast and in the country's northeastern region. One Saturday in 2013, four armed men from the al-Shabab terror group stormed Westgate Mall, attacking shoppers and killing anyone on sight.

The attack was followed by a siege, wherein the attackers engaged security forces in a gun battle for days. In the end, 67 people were killed and more than 150 were injured. Thirty-six-year-old John Wangombe worked as an IT expert and was among the hundreds trapped in the mall that day.

before and after, a lot has changed. Secondly, now we have a well-trained, well-equipped, well-structured anti-terror police unit that is fused with the intelligence component within it, unlike before," he said.

In October 2020, a Kenyan court found two men guilty for their roles in the deadly 2013 mall attack. Convicted of conspiring with and aiding the attackers, the men were sentenced to prison. But the security improvements and some courtroom convictions have yet to heal the hundreds who survived and lost family and friends. In 2015, the mall reopened for shopping. Wangombe has since visited the mall, but bad memories prevent him from returning.

"I would say the security was a bit better. You could see the security guys looked experienced. But even with that security, there is that fear that you have: It can happen again. I



Private security guards place roses outside the Westgate shopping mall, on the 10th commemoration since the Somali militant group

The father of three said he is happy to be alive.

"Now things have changed. At that time, I was single and now I am married. I would say thank God he gave me another chance to live. I would say the country is a bit secure. We don't have an al-Shabab attack at the moment in our city. The security is now better compared to that time," he said. Kenyan security forces were criticized for how they handled the attack and for lack of coordination in dealing with the militants. Richard Tuta, a Nairobi-based security analyst, said the mall attack has changed how Kenyan security forces deal with terror threats and attacks.

"It has even shaped how our security agencies are structured currently. If you look at how our security agencies were structured

remember where we were hiding. I remember that building where I used to work. If I go there, it will bring bad memories," he said. A heightened security presence in the capital has reduced the number of attacks, but al-Shabab continues to carry out frequent attacks in northeastern and coastal regions.

Tuta said eradicating terrorism is no easy task. "Terrorism is something that is there to stay. It's there to stay. It's not something that one country can boast of that it has done away with it. Actually, what it can do is to transform itself in terms of operations and in terms of selections of targets and in terms of how they undertake it. But it will be there for a while - because, remember, this is an ideology," he said. Al-Shabab has vowed to wage war against Kenya until Kenyan troops are withdrawn from the country, where they were deployed in 2011. 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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COMMENTARY

By Marit Kitaw

Making the Most of Africa's Strategic Green Minerals

ADDIS ABABA - With the global transition to cleaner technologies underway, Africa has the natural resources to race ahead. The continent is a major producer of the raw materials that will fuel the green revolution - including, for example, 70% of the world's cobalt, which is essential for electric-vehicle batteries. According to the United States Geological Survey, Africa also has some of the world's largest untapped mineral reserves. If harnessed sustainably and strategically, these resources could foster green industrialization and increase electrification, while building a better future for all Africans.

At the moment, African countries are mainly involved in mineral exploration and extraction, and the few with processing facilities often generate low-value products. Meanwhile, countries outside of Africa are scrambling to develop their own critical-minerals strategies. In an effort to secure the resources needed for sustainable economic growth and national defense, they are eyeing the continent's supply of rare earths.

To ensure that African countries secure the greatest returns from extractive industries and that the continent's strategic interests are not given short shrift, the African Union established the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC). In addition to ensuring that the global rush for so-called "critical" minerals translates into a prosperous future, limiting environmental damage is at the top of the agenda, especially because nearly a quarter of Africa's GDP is dependent on nature. It doesn't help that the continent is staring down the barrel of climate change.

On the heels of the Africa Climate Summit, which highlighted the importance of green minerals, the AU's member states must ratify the AMDC statute. Any delay could prove costly to the continent's management of its mineral wealth.

The AMDC's forthcoming African Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS) can guide African countries as they consider how to exploit their raw materials - critical to the global energy transition - in a strategic and sustainable manner. In the African context, "strategic" or "green" minerals are those that are used in clean-energy technologies and green industries, and those that are feedstocks into the mining supply chain, according to two main criteria in the AGMS.

Built on four pillars - advancing mineral development, investing in human capital and technological capacity, building value chains, and promoting resource stewardship - the AGMS provides a framework for supporting green industry and establishing a larger presence in clean-tech supply chains.

Encouragingly, nascent green industries -

including electric-vehicle assembly plants - are starting to sprout up in several African countries. This demonstrates that the continent's technical and manufacturing capabilities can be scaled up with supportive policies, skill-building programs, infrastructure development, and a favorable investment climate. The benefits of developing local industry and shifting output to value-added components are many: job creation, better technological capabilities, and a reduced reliance on imports, which together strengthen Africa's economic sovereignty.

The AGMS's first objective is to accelerate local manufacturing of inputs for mining and processing strategic green minerals. Investing in local capabilities would create a more inclusive economy: as domestic industries thrive, communities would benefit directly from employment opportunities and skills development, which in turn contribute to shared prosperity.

The next aim is to build more processing facilities on the continent, which would enable African countries to capture a greater share of the value chain, diversify their economies, and reduce their dependence on raw-material exports. Without this shift to higher value-added production, the continent will struggle to achieve economic resilience in an ever-changing global market.

Lastly, the AGMS intends to expand Africa's technical expertise and to increase resources for research, development, and innovation. Such an outcome would spur the growth of cutting-edge green technologies and position Africa as a hub for scientific progress, attracting talent and investment from around the globe.

Of course, achieving these objectives requires a coordinated approach, including the establishment of common external tariffs on extraction inputs, processed minerals, and manufactured products. This would facilitate trade and collaboration among African countries, while also incentivizing environmentally responsible practices.

Global demand for batteries, electric vehicles, and renewable energy equipment is surging, and Africa stands to claim a greater share of the clean-tech windfall. Contributing to these value chains should also improve African countries' access to affordable and reliable energy and enhance mobility options on the continent. The AGMS framework can thus address problems unique to Africa, such as its energy deficit and transport challenges, while supporting broader global efforts to combat climate change.



Lord, this crowd thing da challenge oo

By Othello B. Garblah

Dear Father:

Hmm, in our village paa we can do everything outside down. It look leh our new message na, da crowd bisnay oo.
Da it you talking slow leh da my son!

I tell you oo Father. For us to be listening to our brabee them who want chop president to hear whatin they will do for our village when they go back in power or come to power, de only thin we talkin around here da crowd bisnay.

Bor who tell them da de crowd will develop our village?

Ehn, Father, da de whole thin there oo. De people na even listening sef. All de big, big our brabee them talkin about building road, building human being garage and all da one there. Nobody asking them how they will do it oo but everyday da who put plenty people outside da the one they on so.

Wait na, da crowd will build school, human being garage, roads, etc.

Father da de one me mysef can't geh over. De crowd sef they making all de noise for da borrow crowd. I wonder they na know da they geh some hustler them who can use election time to get plenty T-shirt since they na get money to buy cloths.

Da, de whole thin sef my son.

You mind them every day, they jus disturbing us with dis crowd bisnay here and there. Today, you see de person in Brabee Footballer T-shirt, de next day da Brabee Taxi Driver. Tomorrow da Brabee, Oldman, which one na-you chameleon?

Oh, my son bor you na know they geh orlor people who can jus follow de crowd.

Aah, bor da na small thin oo. So, we jus how we geh some of our chiefs from de Traditional Council who belong to APP (Any Party in Power) da how we geh people who can BITC (Be In The Crowd).

You know, Father, we are joking in this village. And jus how we are carrying ourselves around da how de politicians them wil use us, abuse us and dump us.

Ay my son this one too harsh oo.

Father, da true I talkin so oo. You see people walkin on streets embarrassing orlor people movement saying the go for party launch and when they come back sick from soaking rain, then they come begging for you to buy them medicine.

Bor wait oo, de person they go under de heavy rain for or walk up and down for can't buy them medicine?

Bor ehn da de stupidity I talkin about there. You nag eh five cent to eat. De person sef you going up and down for na even know yor name and da de one you killing yourself for-nonsense!

You know de orlor day, I was sitting with some of our friend them from our neighboring villages and they ask me to name de parties town criers in our village here supporting.

I said kpo, in our village here our politics na based on ideas and traditions oo. It based on de person who geh plenty money and de person who popular oo. Da wah de person who bringing de Uncle Sam's money 10 dollar and de T-Shirt can geh plenty crowd leh da oo. So, wen you see de crow check de person pocket too oo.

Anyway, we will see, October 10 jus round de corner, leh see who really geh de crowd.

OPINION

By Gary Yohe,
Roger Kuhns

America Must Join Europe's Climate Club

MIDDLETOWN/MYSTIC - In 2005, the European Union established the Emissions Trading System, the world's first, and largest, market for carbon allowances. Following a cap-and-trade approach, the ETS functions as an open market for trading emissions permits; the current price hovers around €86 (\$92) per metric ton of carbon dioxide emissions.

With an eye toward reducing global emissions, the EU designed a "carbon border adjustment mechanism" to complement the ETS. Effectively a tax on imports from countries that do not have an equivalent carbon price, the CBAM aims to prevent EU-based companies from moving emissions-intensive production to third countries with less stringent climate policies.

Implementation will start in October, at which point importers of select goods - iron and steel, cement, aluminum, fertilizers, electricity, and hydrogen - must begin to report data on embedded emissions. From 2026 onward, these importers will have to purchase permits that cover their products' carbon content at the EU market price. The transitional period, during which the CBAM's functionality and product scope are set to be reviewed, will continue until 2034.

Given that the United States does not currently have its own carbon-pricing mechanism, the CBAM will apply to the country's exports to the EU, which totaled more than €350 billion in 2022. A significant share of these exports are carbon-intensive products like airplanes and spare parts (roughly 13% of the total), mineral fuels (11%), optical and medical instruments (10%), pharmaceuticals (10%), and agricultural products owing to extensive fertilizer use (4%).

Even a small exporting state like Connecticut will likely feel the pinch: sales of airplanes and spare parts (\$2.7 billion) and nuclear technology (\$2.3 billion) accounted for nearly 30% of its roughly \$17 billion in exports in 2021 (the latest year for which data are available).

In early June, Citizens' Climate Lobby representatives met with more than 450 members of the US Senate and House of Representatives and their staffs to discuss the CBAM. Some politicians were completely unaware of the tax. Others, believing for some misguided reason that it would create an "energy-supply crunch," proposed expanding production of natural gas and nuclear energy, even though lags between investment and production in those supply alternatives would extend well beyond 2026.

But the response of a third group was more worrisome. Unperturbed by the EU action, these politicians suggested strong-arming the Europeans into granting the US an exemption from the CBAM by slapping tariffs on EU imports, regardless of carbon content.

It would be unwise to start a trade war with the EU, mainly because the bloc would retain the upper hand. The CBAM tariff on US exports would increase member states' comparative advantage in selling low-emissions versions of American goods and stimulate the EU-wide development of carbon-saving production technologies - complicated processes in which the US already lags behind current and future competitors like China. Moreover, American exporters, not European importers, would pay the tax, raising business costs and consumer prices in the US. And this is to say nothing of the missed opportunity to provide economic incentives to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions by changing the relative prices of carbon-intensive goods.

There is a better way to respond. Why not admit that the EU is setting global climate policy and effectively forming a global "climate club"? The US has abdicated its leadership role in this regard, so why not follow the bloc's lead? Over the next three years, US policymakers could create a carbon-pricing mechanism in line with the EU's program and thus be granted an exception for the right reason - because it joined the club. Both the US economy and the planet would benefit.

The CBAM is an early and promising approximation of the proposal that William D. Nordhaus, a Nobel laureate in economics, advocated in "Climate Club: Overcoming Free-riding in International Climate Policy," his 2015 paper in the American Economic Review. Acknowledging countries' tendency - manifest in the defunct Kyoto Protocol - to free-ride when international climate agreements lack consequences for non-compliance, Nordhaus argues that a climate club, with small trade penalties on non-participants, "can induce a large stable coalition with high levels of abatement."

Nordhaus had imagined that China and the US would be the first members of such a club, but that is not a necessary condition. The EU has the economic and political clout to produce "high levels of abatement" while keeping penalties as low as possible. For US policymakers, joining, rather than repudiating, the EU's approach to carbon pricing is the most sensible way forward for both the domestic economy and the international climate agenda.


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

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

EPA releases report on Kpatawee's Disaster

On September 2, 2023, the Kpatawee wetland, which is home to a resort, "the Jalk Enterprise, and several other towns and villages, was hit by

St. Paul River via its tributaries resulted in overflow and subsequently elevated levels of the Kpatawee waterfall and creek beyond normal flow patterns," the EPA said in a final investigative report posted on its website.

Continuing, the EPA said, "This was further exacerbated because of the limitation of free flow downstream of Kpatawee as the result of obstruction caused by inter-grown trees and a narrow channel, and hence the deposition of detrital materials."

Another factor that caused the flooding was the damage to the irrigation pipe constructed for water supply and control.

The Agency said that there is a lack of real-time online hydro-meteorological monitoring of the St. Paul River to serve as an alert for early warning and detection, which could have helped minimize the impact of the flood situation and avert future flood occurrences. The EPA has asked the management of Jalk Enterprise to develop an environmental management plan for this riparian ecosystem by hiring a third-party independent environmental consultant.

The management plan

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia has released a comprehensive investigative report on recent flooding at Kpatawee Waterfall in Bong County, Central Liberia.

flood events.

The unfortunate event attracted the EPA following notification as well as calls for the government to probe the situation.

While consolidating a response effort, the agency dispatched a team of environmental inspectors to the affected area on September 5, 2023, to conduct a preliminary assessment of the situation.

The findings of the initial report, which was mostly observational and based on random interviews with affected parties, further

Against this backdrop, the EPA dispatched a team of environmental technicians from Monrovia who joined their counterparts on September 8, 2023, to undertake a detailed investigation of the flood disaster.

Following the investigation, the team concluded that torrential rains in several parts of Liberia continue to result in different waves of flooding impacts, as observed between August and September.

"This has also been the case of the Kpatawee wetland, where inundated waters of the

Boakai commits to deal with major challenges

By Lincoln G. Peters

Presidential candidate Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai has diagnosed Liberia's major foundational challenges that confront the country's prosperity and progress. The former ruling Unity Party (UP) presidential candidate has named political marginalization, economic inequalities, and social injustice as some of the major challenges.

Boakai also named corruption, insecurity, drug epidemic, poor infrastructure, youth unemployment, hunger, disease and ignorance as major foundational challenges confronting Liberia's prosperity and progress.

Speaking recently in Monrovia, Amb. Boakai assured Liberians that if elected, his administration will arrest those foundational challenges and provide inclusive economic and educational opportunities for all Liberians.

"Secondly, we recognize the challenges that lie ahead. Our society faces many foundational challenges; challenges of political marginalization of citizens in the decision-making process, economic inequalities, social injustice, [and] corruption," he said.

In the face of these challenges, the opposition politician said that together,

they will confront these challenges head-on, with compassion and determination.

The Ex-Liberian Vice President stated that they will work tirelessly to create an inclusive society, where no one is left behind.

Vowed to create a

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



UP Leader Joseph N. Boakai

Moniba demands final voter roll

Presidential candidate Dr. Clarence Moniba says the National Elections Commission's (NEC's) failure to publish the final voter roll 30 days before election day is a recipe for chaos and undermines Liberia's democratic principles.

"The NEC must explain to the Liberian people why they have failed to meet this fundamental legal requirement. We demand answers, and we demand them now," Dr. Moniba said Thursday, 21 September 2023 in a statement.

"The truth is that the National Election Commission's action is a recipe for chaos and undermines our democratic principles," he added. He condemned the electoral house for the "Grave Violation of Liberia's Electoral Laws."

Moniba reminded the

He added that its timely publication is not a mere formality but a fundamental requirement that guarantees the integrity of the electoral process. He indicated that it provides candidates, political parties, and the electorate sufficient time to scrutinize the voter roll and identify irregularities. "It is for this reason that Section 16.7 of the 2023 Voter Regulations clearly states that the final voters' role cannot be altered by the National Election Commission within 30 days prior to an election, except when the Supreme Court orders."

He argued that the unnecessary delay by the National Elections Commission is inexcusable and is a deliberate attempt to undermine the transparency, credibility, and fairness of the October 10 polls.

"The people of Liberia deserve an electoral process that is



Presidential Candidate Dr. Clarence Moniba

commission that it is entrusted with ensuring a fair, free, and transparent electoral process.

On the contrary, Dr. Moniba complained that the NEC has begun directly assaulting the democratic principles upon which the nation's peace and prosperity are built.

"As of today, with less than 19 days remaining until the elections, the National Elections Commission has not yet released the final voter roll," he noted. Dr. Moniba argued that this is not an oversight but a flagrant disregard for the Voter Registration Regulations that the NEC is expected to uphold. According to Moniba, the NEC's Voter Regulations for 2023 explicitly mandate that the final voter roll must be published at least 30 days before the scheduled elections. He explained that the final voter roll plays a pivotal role in ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections.

beyond reproach, upholds the highest standards of transparency and accountability, and ensures the accurate reflection of the people's will in the results," said Moniba.

He called on the NEC to immediately rectify this situation by publishing the final voter roll in accordance with the law.

"The Liberian people have the right to know who is eligible to vote in these elections, and they deserve to have confidence in the accuracy of the voter roll," he said.

The consequences of this negligence, as it stands, are far-reaching and deeply troubling. We believe it is an attempt to create room for electoral malpractice, fraud, and manipulation in favor of President Weah, who stands a limited chance for reelection. He warned the NEC that he will not sit idly by and watch the electoral process be used as a pawn to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LNBA provides capacity support to NEC

The Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) says it has begun rolling out activities under the LNBA/National

on Thursday, 21 September 2023 that the implementation of the project began on Tuesday, 19 September 2023.

by members of the Bar, the Supreme Court, and the public given the sacred role of the Bar over the years.

The objective of the project is to ensure the peaceful conduct of a free, fair, transparent, credible, and democratic election.

Making remarks at the event, LNBA president Cllr. Sylvester Rennie; Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Jamesetta Howard Wolokolie, ECOWAS Ambassador Josephine Nkrumah, NEC Commissioner Boakai Dukuly, and the Legal Analyst of the EU Observer Mission underscored the need for the conduct of a peaceful and transparent election.

They praised the effort of the LNBA, NEC, and the UNDP for such a wonderful initiative.

In continuation of the activities, the LNBA will today, 22 September 2023 hold a major public dialogue in Tubmanburg, Bomi County, to train election stakeholders in the western region, which includes Bomi, Gbarpolu, and Grand Cape Mount Counties.

The event is expected to be attended by over 100 participants. On Tuesday, September 26, 2023, the LNBA will hold another public dialogue and awareness event in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, with participants drawn from Margibi, Rivercess, and Grand Bassa Counties. The LNBA recently received US\$150,000 from the UNDP Electoral Support Program to roll out activities under the project. - *Edited by Winston Parley*



Elections Commission (NEC) collaboration project.

It said the project is intended to build the capacities of the NEC, civil society organizations, security sector actors, religious communities, and the media. The project is being funded by the Electoral Support Program of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and will last for five months. According to a press release, the implementation of the project activities has been disaggregated on a regional basis in the fifteen political subdivisions of the country. The LNBA statement under the signature of its National Secretary General Cllr. Bornor M. Varmah noted

It said the project began with the holding of a public dialogue on electoral dispute resolution, with emphasis on the distinction between courtroom litigation and administrative hearings conducted at NEC, and public awareness of the election timetable and pre-election activities.

The event was held at the Paynesville Town Hall, Montserrado County, and was attended by over 100 participants drawn from various sectors of the Liberian society, including members of the bar, civil society organizations, the security sector, and the media. The project, which is the first of its kind, has been widely praised

EPA warns against unauthorized carbon credit deal with US firm

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is unequivocally warning residents of Ziadue Clan, Rivercess County, and other forest communities against engaging in discussions with Blue Earth Capital, an American firm, regarding the potential sale of carbon credits. The EPA's involvement and approval are non-negotiable prerequisites in carbon credit deals in Liberia. The EPA, acting as the National Designated Authority under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement for the sale of carbon credits, expresses its profound dismay over the ongoing negotiations between Blue Earth Capital and the residents of Ziadue Clan. The agency views these discussions with severe disapproval, emphasizing that they have neither received nor granted

consent, approval, or any involvement in this matter.

The EPA was blindsided by the reports of these discussions, which surfaced through local media outlets. 'The DayLight,' an online publication in Liberia, recently disclosed that Blue Earth Capital had submitted a carbon credits contract proposal to

the residents of Ziadue Clan. In an exposé titled 'Inside a Problematic Carbon Deal in Rivercess,' the media outlet revealed the American firm's audacious ambition to target 55,000 hectares of forest, exceeding the uncontracted forest area in Ziadue. Their

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 11**



Boakai commits to deal

society where opportunities are abundant, and the future is brighter for each generation.

"In tandem, we will improve agriculture production, improve our infrastructure including roads, [and] ensure law and order in our society," he noted.

Mr. Boakai promised to invest in the education of young people, improve health and sanitation, prevent the degradation of the environment, and develop its potential for tourism to AREST the dire political, economic and social challenges faced as a country. Amb. Boakai emphasized that transformation will be driven by the people, and therefore education will be a major part of his government's agenda.

"A well-educated society is a thriving society. We will invest in our schools, teachers, and students, ensuring that quality education is accessible to all." "By equipping our young minds with the knowledge and skills they need, we will unlock their potentials, drive innovation, enhance their dignity and secure a prosperous future for our nation," Amb. Boakai disclosed.

According to the UP presidential candidate, his government will not allow the resources of Liberia to be mortgaged by a few people for their selfish interests. He further narrated that the people of Liberia and their government under his stewardship will be equal partners in the judicious exploitation of national resources for the good of the people.

He stated that if there must be economic growth from the exploitation of the resources, that growth must be equal for the people and must come with development. "Thirdly, I assure you that the transformation we seek will have transparency and accountability as the cornerstones of our administration, when given the mandate on October 10."

"Gone are the days when only a few people decided the fate of the country through their hidden agendas. Gone are the days when Government is seen as a center for exploitation and ill-gotten wealth," he said. - *Edited by Winston Parley*

Moniba demands final voter roll

manipulate the outcome of an election and force an incompetent administration on the Liberian people.

"We will not be silenced, and we will not waver in our pursuit of a fair and just election," Dr. Moniba noted.

He said he will continue to press for the immediate release of the final voter roll and for the National Elections Commission to fulfill its duty to the Liberian people.

If the National Elections Commission fails to heed this call and continues down the path of illegality and opacity, Moniba warned that he will be left with no choice but to explore all available legal avenues to ensure that the electoral laws of Liberia are upheld. "Our commitment to a free and fair election is unwavering, and we will not stand idly by while our democracy is undermined." - *Edited by Winston W. Parley*

EPA releases report on

should also include separate studies for the widening of the channel to ensure the free flow of water downstream, the EPA mandated.

Jalk Enterprise is a service firm that entered into a caretaker agreement with the local government to manage Kpatawee as tourist site for picnicking, hosting meetings, workshops, retreats, among other.

The Agency also recommended that Jalk Enterprise works in collaboration with the county administration, the Ministry of Agriculture, and community dwellers to ensure timely repair of the damaged irrigation pipe

and open the water channel to the rice field.

According to the EPA, the repair of the pipe will assist in redirecting the future occurrence of flood water from accumulating at Kpatawee to other low-lying land, as was usually done in the past.

The EPA is also recommending that the Ministry of Mines and Energy Hydrological Services Division construct a real-time water monitoring station at Kpatawee, considering its potential as a tourist designation and a major RAMSAR site of international importance. - *Press release*

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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

Starts from page 8

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

NEW 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 goulots 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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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Liberian Presidential Election 2023: Observations and suggestions

By: *Dagbayonoh Kiah Nyanfore II*

Indeed, FrontPage gave a negative image of the campaign that the paper opposed. Voters reading the story may form a wrong and one-sided opinion that could influence their votes. Biased or fake news reporting does not help society. It misinforms and mis-educates the society, which it should protect.

The Daily Observer, a family newspaper to FrontPage Africa, appears to be pro-opposition but less pronounced than FrontPage Africa's stance. Spoon FM, a media financed by Stanton Whitterspoon in the US, speaks negatively of the administration. Meanwhile, Freedom FM and King FM tend to be pro-government, promoting the administration activities and candidates. To them, the CDC's government is succeeding and should be re-elected. They feature CDC candidates and guests in their programs. By giving only one side, they, too, mis-educate and provide a positive impression about the conditions in Liberia.

SKY Radio's 50-50 with T-Max Jleteh mostly features opposition guests, giving them the platform to express their views. One frequent guest is Representative Yekeh Kolubah, who regularly insults the president. There are neutral media such as the New Dawn newspaper, Prime FM, OK FM, Joy FM, and Bana FM Tough Talk.

On the first day of the start of the campaign, some CDC members paraded a casket bearing a photo of Boakai. Some UP partisans verbally attacked CPP official Musa Bility in the following days. Yekeh Kolubah, a former rebel commander running for re-election, threatened to take redress in the bush if he felt cheated. On August 24, 2023, a young man died of campaign violence in Nimba. While others condemned these behaviors, many institutions, including media outlets, failed to speak against these actions.

Media biases, prejudices, and silence have led to the misinformation of events and have also contributed to electoral violence in Liberia.

POLITICS

Politics is non-static, and nothing is permanent. President Weah will not be president forever, nor will the other candidates still be in politics. When elected, the best they can do is to honorably serve the people and allow others to serve. A political election will have a winner and loser(s). Losing is not the end of the world. If you lose, accept the defeat gracefully. That would show your honesty, dignity, and patriotism. Do not give up. President Sirleaf lost in 1997 but won in 2005 and 2011. President Weah lost in 2005 and 2011 but won in 2017. Politicians and their supporters must be civil and non-violent in an election.

All electoral politics and campaigns, either in the West or Africa, have one common goal, which is to win. The way you tailor your message and how you get it across matters. In America, most electorates are literate and have TV and radio. In Africa, the majority of the population is illiterate. Most cannot afford TV or personal radio, so you must gear your campaign to that reality. Use the radio and a Jehovah's Witness campaign style involving door-to-door canvassing. However, all electorates are not stupid; they know and see their objective condition and want change. They want improvement in their lives. They want to be able to feed their families and be able to send their children to school. Sometimes, the need for change may take a while, but it will come; it will happen sooner when they put good and caring people in power. It would help if you talk about the bread-and-butter issues in your campaign.

RULING PARTY

The ruling CDC party says that it is running on its record. The party must accurately discuss its record and tangibles or achievements. It must also tell the Liberian people what it will do in the next six years. An incumbent enjoys the office of the presidency, which gives the leader an added advantage. It is challenging to defeat an incumbent if the person is performing well and popular. But the president must be active and take the re-election campaign seriously. Like former President Sirleaf in her 2011 re-election bid, the incumbent must campaign hard, canvassing in the rains, mud, and villages, asking the people for their votes.

In this election, George Weah is the most experienced candidate as a president. He has occupied the seat for over 5 years. Again, his record or achievements will

be his greatest asset. His camp must articulate them well. Opponent candidates must run on their records and what they will do when given the thrust to lead. The Unity Party (UP) and the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) are the major opposition parties in this contest. UP must tell what good it did during its 12 years in power and why the Liberian people should entrust power back to UP. Can Boakai do better than Sirleaf? Can he do better or more than Weah? Some voters may consider his age and health. Is he well enough to undergo a vigorous campaign and fit to govern for the next 6 years? Only he can answer. But New Dawn reported that his running-mate Jeremiah Koug, in an interview with OK FM on September 15, 2021, said that he opposed the former Vice President's 2023 presidential bid, citing possible mental and physical decline." In an interview with a radio station, Boakai incorrectly said that Liberia is 196 years old, though he should have said 176.

CPP must tell the voters that, though its standard bearer has no government experience, he can do better than Weah and Boakai. As a relative newcomer without a political stronghold, he must campaign harder. Besides his corporate expertise, what human and social services background or record does he bring? Can he relate to the ordinary Liberians?

OPPOSITION PARTIES

The task of the opposition is to show that the ruling party has failed and can do better. On the other hand, the opposition needs to be united. There is strength in unity. As an opposition, the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) won in 2017 because of its coalition with two other parties. CPP won the 2020 mid-term senatorial election due to the collaboration of UP, LP, ANC, and ALP.

MAJOR STRONGHOLDS

Politically, a stronghold is an area where a party historically and consistently receives significant votes in a presidential election. In Liberia, youth constitute over 60% of the population. Monserrado County, the largest populated county in the country, is a CDC stronghold. Though an opposition won a senatorial seat for the county in the 2019 and 2020 elections, Montserrado has gone CDC in the first rounds of the past three presidential elections.

Nimba, the second largest county, has favored Senator Prince Johnson in the first round of the 2011 and 2017 presidential elections. He was re-elected as a senator in the 2014 election for the county. His support to UP in 2011 and support to CDC in 2017 helped win the presidency for the parties, respectively. As expressed before, though he is not running for president in this election, he is backing UP by recommending Senator Jeremiah Koug to become Boakai's VP running-mate. Koug is from Nimba. However, observers credit the CDC administration for bringing more developments to Nimba than the Sirleaf-Boakai regime did in 12 years.

Nimba is a traditional and cultural society. Several months ago this year, information says that Nimba's elders told Johnson that they would support Weah. Moreover, some analysts believe Nimba would divide its votes among Boakai, Weah, Cummings, and Tiawan Gongloe. Thus, the county appears not to be a stronghold for any party.

An expert from Nimba says that the division of the votes results from the county's culture: Koug is considered a nephew of Nimba because his mother was born in the county. Weah is also a nephew; his mother was a Nimba's woman. Gongloe is a son because his parents were Nimbains. However, the expert projects that Weah would get the most votes due to the administration's development tangibles and campaign organization in the county.

Bong is the third largest county. It is the home of Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor. As said prior, she was a two-term senator of Bong County. Her party, the National Patriotic Party (NPP), joined the CDC coalition. But it is hard to tell which party has the stronghold in Bong. While Senator Prince Moye, Boakai's campaign manager, is from Bong County, Ambassador Jeremiah Sulunteh, Cummings' 2017 running mate and Bong native son, supports Weah and is active in the election. The county could be a battleground, meaning it could go to either party. In America, a battleground state swings to a Republican or Democratic in a presidential election. Therefore, all parties put their weights in a battleground state for victory.



EC publishes voter roll

By Naneka Hoffman

The National Elections Commission (NEC) says individual voters that the Commission will commence weekly press briefing on the status of the electoral process beginning

and same will be made available to all stakeholders as soon as possible.

She further said the Commission has a team of personnel working 24 hours on three shifts to ensure the Final Registration Roll is printed and pasted at each of the 2,080 Voting Precincts prior to Election Day.

For his part, the Deputy Director for the Data Center at NEC, Philip I. Toe, said the Final Registration Roll (FRR) process has already started.

He said that when the roll is printed it is sent to the first check for quality control, where all pricing are listed, and once the pricing is printed, the number of polling places are indicated.

Mr. Toe added that they print it double with duplex printing and single size, and the single is posted in polling centers on Election Day so voters can verify their information and where to cast their ballots.

For her part, NEC Deputy Director for Operations, Emma K. Togba said the National Elections Commission has received election materials from the Freeport of Monrovia for with barely 18 days to the polls. Editing by Jonathan Browne

ECOWAS condemns inciting statements

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has flagged a creeping tendency for some political leaders and activists to stir violent emotions here in the run up to Liberia's October elections.

In a statement released Thursday, 21 September 2023, ECOWAS expressed concern against the creeping tendency for some political leaders and activists to use incendiary rhetoric that could stir violent emotions, incite disturbances and jeopardize the peace and stability of Liberia.

"ECOWAS condemns in no uncertain terms such inflammatory statements that have the propensity to trigger violent confrontations," the statement said. The regional bloc did not name a particular political leader or an activist, but its statement comes at a time Nimba Senator Prince Y. Johnson faces condemnation for recently issuing a threat against election rigging.

Senator Johnson told a press

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

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.

Liberia's Joint Security has condemned Senator Johnson's threat of an "Arab Spring" rebellion should the government rig the October 2023 presidential and legislative elections. Meanwhile, ECOWAS has urged political actors to use dialogue and mediation to address grievances and legal channels to seek redress to such concerns.

"We continue to reiterate the importance of fostering an issues-based campaign devoid of vituperative language," said ECOWAS. The regional bloc called on all state institutions with roles to play in the electoral process to continue to execute their mandates in neutrality. It further urged them to



desiring to check their personal voting information may do so via the NEC website. Addressing a press briefing inside the James M. Fromayan Conference Hall at the Commission in Monrovia on Thursday, September 21, NEC Chairperson Daviedetta Browne Lansanah said registered voters wanting to access their information are encouraged to visit the platform by entering their Voter ID number and year of birth access personal information.

She says NEC will continue to keep the public abreast of preparatory activities leading to the 2023 Presidential and General Elections. She adds that

Tuesday, 26 September 2023 at 11:00 am at its headquarters in Sinkor, Monrovia.

She indicated that as has been with past elections when NEC made available electronic copies of the Final Registration Roll (FRR) to political parties, independent candidates and other stakeholders, the Final Registration for the 2023 Elections will be made available to all concerned.

Madam Lansanah explained that the Technical Team of NEC is working to have the Biometric Voter Roll placed in a secured format,

Starts from back page Cummings returns home

seperate campaign tour with Mrs. Teresa Cummings in Marshall, Lower Margibi County. The CPP Vice Standard Bearer and entourage visited the Boys Town market, Kporkporken and Henry Towns amid great jubilation and warm reception by hundreds of citizens. She admonished Liberians about the future

consequences of electing incompetent and unqualified leader's incapable of addressing the vexing socio-economic challenges facing the vast majority of citizens. Counsellor Brumskine said with the election of Mr. Cummings as the next President, October 10, will

be a turning point and the emergence of a new Liberia with economic prosperity for all Liberians. Margibi County has five electoral Districts with an estimated 184, 425,000 eligible voters, according to the National Elections Commission.



Josephine Nkrumah

conference on Monday that the impressive turnout exhibited during the opposition Unity Party's (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.

provide a level playing field for all stakeholders to exercise their constitutional rights with respect to the rule of law. "ECOWAS reminds all actors that the provisions of the Farmington River Declaration are in force and cardinal to the conduct of all political actors to safeguard the electoral process."

The statement said the ECOWAS Commission and its long-term observers currently in Liberia remain vigilant in assessing the political ecosystem in the run up to elections and affirms its continued support to a peaceful and successful presidential and general election.

Starts from page 7 EPA warns against unauthorized

intent is to exploit these forests for carbon harvesting and subsequent trading of carbon credits on the international market. Shockingly, the publication further exposed that Blue Earth Capital had enticed community members with incentives such as food and transportation expenses to participate in the review of the proposed carbon agreement. The review meeting purportedly took place between the company and a faction operating under the banner 'Ziadue's Community Land Development and

Management Committee.'

In a sternly worded release, the EPA asserted its complete lack of awareness regarding Blue Earth Capital's intentions to extract carbon resources in Liberia. They have thus issued an immediate and resolute call to all communities involved in discussions with the company to cease all engagement without delay or risk drastic actions.

Article 6 of the United Nations Climate Change Paris Agreement underscores the importance

of governments achieving their nationally determined contributions through cooperative approaches, international transactions in carbon reduction credits, and the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. In this regard, the EPA's uncompromising stance serves as a stark reminder that adherence to international environmental agreements is non-negotiable, and unauthorized dealings will not be tolerated. -Press release

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Cummings returns home to a rousing welcome

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings has assured hundreds of citizens in



lower Margibi County of a brighter future of economic prosperity on his ascendancy as President of Liberia.

Cummings, accompanied by his Vice Standard Bearer Cllr Charlyne Brumskine, wife Teresa and party stalwarts, was accorded a rousing welcome Thursday afternoon amid huge jubilation by citizens in Ma Zoe Town, Kporkporcken Town, Henry Town and areas along the Roberts International Airport highway in Margibi County.

Citizens of Ma Zoe Town

lamented the difficult economic challenges and the disastrous road condition and expressed appreciation to Mr. Cummings as the first

Presidential candidate to visit them.

They spoke of years of government neglect and the lack of school, and health facilities, and made a special appeal and pledge to support Mr. Cummings' Presidential bid in October.

The CPP Standard Bearer reaffirmed his commitment to fix the deplorable road condition, improve the health care and educational systems and revive the ailing economy through massive job creation.

He vowed to stop the influx of dangerous drugs into the country and take appropriate legal action against drugs traffickers, while at the same time, prevent the widespread abuse among youths.

In Kporkporcken Town, the CPP Vice Standard Bearer Cllr. Brumskine cautioned citizens against electing the wrong leaders because of personal benefits or instant gratification.

She said on October 10, every eligible voter will be left alone to vote and it is therefore a demand of each to consciously choose the most competent candidate capable of transforming Liberia for the betterment of all Liberians.

She lamented the worsening economic conditions and the deplorable state of affairs and warned Liberians to focus on the bigger picture - the future of Liberia and not vote based on temporary financial gains offered by selfish politicians.

Counsellor Brumskine gave the warning, Thursday, September 21, while on a

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