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# The New Dawn

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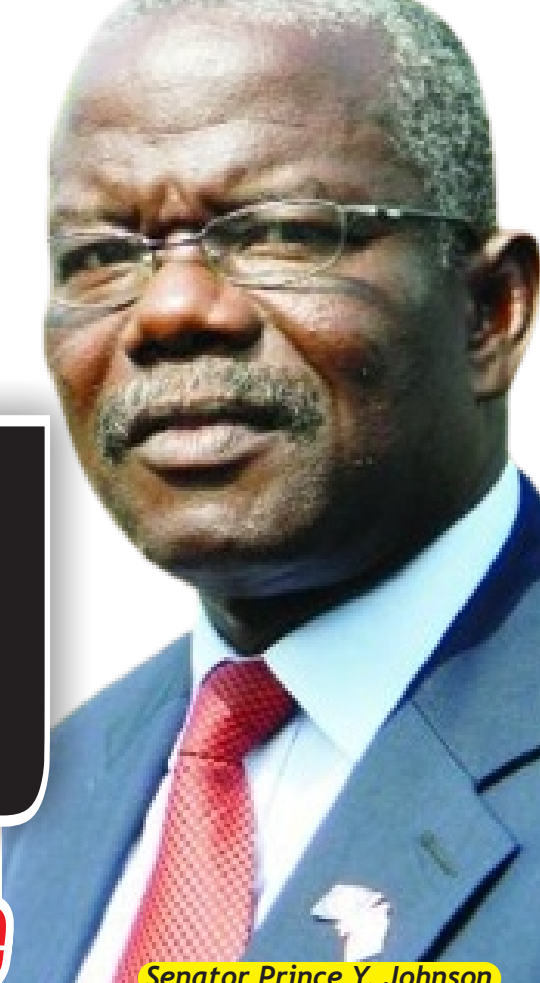
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**P11**

# weah replies PY

**-Liberians shall run no more**



President Weah      Senator Prince Y. Johnson



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# Continental News

## Ethiopia's Assefa Smashes Women's Marathon World Record in Berlin

Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa shattered the women's marathon world record in Berlin on Sunday, lopping off more than two minutes from the previous best to clock an official time of two hours 11 minutes and 53 seconds. Assefa, who had set a course record with a personal best last year, set a blistering early pace, gradually shaking off any competition to pulverize Kenyan Brigid Kosgei's record of two hours 14 minutes and four seconds set in 2019. Remarkably, her splits were faster after the halfway mark. "I knew I wanted to go for the world record but I never thought I would do this time,"



Gold medalist Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa poses next to a time board after winning the women's Berlin Marathon

Assefa, who had set a course record with a personal best last year, set a blistering early pace, gradually shaking off any competition to pulverize Kenyan Brigid Kosgei's record of two hours 14 minutes and four seconds set in 2019. Remarkably, her splits were faster after the halfway mark. "I knew I wanted to go for the world record but I never thought I would do this time,"

said the 26-year-old, a former 800-metre runner. "It was the result of hard work. With her time she set a marker for next year's

Paris Olympics while also certainly nailing down a spot on the Ethiopian Olympic team for 2024 "I have set a mark now. The decision does not lie with me but with officials. It is up to the National Committee to select me for the team. Her remarkable victory overshadowed men's world record holder Eliud Kipchoge's record fifth victory on Berlin's quick and flat inner-city course.

The 38-year-old Kenyan, who is aiming to win his third Olympic marathon medal next year in Paris, did not come close to the record he set in Berlin last year,

finishing with a time of two hours two minutes 42 seconds.

"I always learn from every race and every victory," Kipchoge said. "I'm very happy to win for the fifth time in Berlin and I shall use these lessons in my preparation for the Olympics."

Compatriot Vincent Kipkemoi was second, with a time of two hours three minutes 13 seconds and Ethiopia's Tadese Takele third.

Climate activists, who had threatened to disrupt the event, tried to run onto the course with buckets of orange paint but were quickly stopped and taken away by police just minutes before the start.

Assefa, who only started racing marathons in April last year, made her intentions clear from the start with a lightning-quick pace of her own.

Along with compatriot Workenesh Edesa they carved out a gap from the chasing pack but Edesa could not keep up and was dropped by the 17th kilometer. She clocked an hour six minutes 20 seconds at the halfway mark and was one of six women to be on world record time at that stage as the Berlin marathon lived up to its reputation as one of the world's fastest. VOA

## Pentagon Chief on Africa Tour Focusing on Defense Issues

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with Djiboutian leaders and the president of Somalia in Djibouti on Sunday, marking his first trip to Africa as Secretary of Defense amid continued violence in the region. Later in the week, he will travel to Kenya and Angola.

Djibouti is home to the U.S. military's major base on the continent, and Austin said Camp Lemonnier was "critical" to "countering violent extremism and supporting security throughout the region."

He added that the U.S. is proud to partner with Djiboutian forces and African Union forces in support of neighboring Somalia, where al-Shabab militants are increasingly resistant amid ongoing military operations against the group.

Al-Shabab is the main branch of al-Qaida on the continent.

Somalia faced recent setbacks in its fight against al-Shabab after a deadly attack on the town of Cowsweyne on August 26. The incident left dozens of government soldiers dead and resulted in a hasty retreat from front lines and

towns previously captured from the militant group.

The setback was one of the reasons Somalia cited in requesting a "technical pause" to the military drawdown of African Union forces from Somalia. The drawdown, which started last week, is scheduled to see 3,000 AU soldiers transferring their forward operating bases to Somali soldiers by the end of this month.

"Unfortunately, on August 26, 2023 we have suffered several significant setbacks after the attack on our forces in Cowsweyne area, Galgudud region and the subsequent retreats by the forces from several towns that were

recently liberated," read the letter written by National Security Adviser Hussein Sheikh-Ali. "This unforeseen turn of events has stretched our military forces thin, exposed our vulnerabilities in our front lines."

A U.S. defense official described al-Shabab as a "difficult challenge" and "not one that is going to stop overnight." "It's one that's going to continue to require consistent, sustained cooperation between us and our east African partners on this, including Kenya," the official said. VOA



President of Djibouti Ismail Omar Guelleh welcomes U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin in Djibouti City

## As World's Problems Grow More Challenging, UN Chief Gets Bleaker

At the annual meeting of world leaders last year, the U.N. chief sounded a global alarm about the survival of humanity and the planet. This year, the alarm rang louder and more ominously, and the message was even more pressing: Wake up and take action — right now. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' assessment, delivered in his no-nonsense style, aimed to shock. We are becoming "unhinged," he said. We are inching closer to "a great fracture." Conflicts, coups and chaos are surging. The climate crisis is growing. Divides are deepening between military and economic powers, the richer North and poorer South, East and West. "A new Rubicon" has been crossed in artificial intelligence.

Guterres has spoken often on all these issues. But this year, which he called "a time of chaotic transition," his

peril and paralyzed," Guterres said. "We are gridlocked in colossal global dysfunction."

This year, his message to the presidents and prime ministers, monarchs and ministers gathered in the vast General Assembly hall was unambiguous and stark.

"We seem incapable," Guterres said, "of coming together to respond. At the heart of Guterres' many speeches this week is the very future of the United Nations, an institution formed immediately after World War II to bring nations together and save future generations from war. But in a 21st-century world that is far more interconnected and also more bitterly divided, can it remain relevant For Guterres, the answer is clear: It must The Cold War featured two superpowers — the capitalist United States and the communist Soviet Union. When it ended, there was a brief period of U.S.-dominated unipolarity after the breakup of the Soviet Union and its dissolution into a dominant Russia and smaller former



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addresses the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters

address to leaders was tougher and even more urgent. And looking at his previous state-of-the-world speeches, it seems clear he has been headed in this direction for quite some time.

In his first address to world leaders in 2017 after taking the helm of the 193-member United Nations, Guterres cited "nuclear peril" as the leading global threat. Two years later, he was warning of the world splitting in two, with the United States and China creating rival internets, currency, trade, financial rules "and their own zero-sum geopolitical and military strategies." He urged vigorous action "to avert the great fracture." Then came the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. The global response Guterres called for never happened; richer countries got vaccines and poorer ones were left waiting. At last year's leaders' gathering, his message was almost as dire as this week's: "Our world is in

republics. Now it is moving to a more chaotic "multipolar world" — and creating, Guterres says, new opportunities for different countries to lead.

But Guterres' key argument is rooted in history. He says it teaches that a world with many power centers and small groups of nations can't solve the challenges that affect all countries. That's why strong global institutions are needed, he told leaders on Thursday, and "the United Nations is the only forum where this can happen." The big question, upon which Guterres is now laser-focused, is whether an institution born in 1945 — a time when the tools to address chaos and fragmentation were more rudimentary — can be retooled and updated to tackle today's challenges "I have no illusions," he said. "Reforms are a question of power. I know there are many competing interests and agendas. But the alternative to reform is not the status quo. The alternative to reform is further fragmentation. It's reform or rupture." VOA

# EDITORIAL

## Heeding early advice from ECOWAS and UN

(A repeat by public demand)

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS, SPECIFICALLY ECOWAS and the United Nations are calling on the Government of Liberia to investigate reports of recent electoral violence in the country and hold those responsible to account.

**“WE BRING ATTENTION** to inflammatory rhetoric which has the potential to instigate violence. We therefore urge political leaders to be active peace messengers, promote issue-based campaigns, and refrain from incitement of followers toward violent action, especially violence against women in elections and politics and, to resolve any grievance through established legal mechanisms. We further caution against the instrumentalization of the youth”, a joint statement issued in Monrovia on 31 August read.

**AT THE SAME** time, the International Partners are calling on signatories of the Farmington River Declaration 2023, particularly political parties and their leaders to abide by their commitment and promote the conditions for peaceful, transparent, and credible elections, prior to, during, and after the polls.

**WE JOIN ECOWAS** and the United Nations in urging all Liberians, including the government to pay keen attention to this early warning call against violence in the 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections. We can do so with the help of the government by immediately bringing to book, those involved in instigating violence to disrupt the democratic process.

**WHETHER THEY ARE** from the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or the opposition bloc, those involved in such behavior need to be told in clear terms that violence has no place in the 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections, so there should be no place for people bent on instigating violence in the ongoing campaign activities across the country.

**WE BELIEVE STRONGLY** that one way to stamp out violence is by promptly taking action rather than just sitting back and condemning. Unless someone is arrested, brought before the law and if found guilty, punish to deter would-be perpetrators, the beat will go on as usual, which is dangerous for peace and stability of the state.

**ALL SIGNATORIES OF** the Farmington River Declaration 2023 should demonstrate leadership they are craving for by abiding by their commitment to promote conditions for peaceful, transparent, and credible elections prior to, during, and after the polls.

**THERE HAVE BEEN** spates of violence across the country since official campaign for the October elections started, marred by injuries and deaths. These should not go with impunity. Someone has to be held responsible before the law. We cannot go to violence-driven elections and expect the outcome to be peaceful.

**IT WOULD SAVE** this country a lot, given the wave of insecurity precipitated by military coups in the region by doing everything to keep the peace. Zealous party partisans should not be blinded by loyalty to engage in uncouth activities as if there is no tomorrow.

**THEREFORE, WE HAVE** an opportunity as Liberians to jealously safeguard our peace and democracy and serve as an inspiration for Africa and the rest of the world by heeding the call from international partners to stamp out violence from our elections.

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# COMMENTARY

By Richard Haass

## The New World Disorder

**N**EW YORK - There is an old Soviet joke in which a journalist asks the General Secretary of the Communist Party to assess the country's economy. "Good" is the short answer. The journalist implores the leader to elaborate so he can complete his story. "In that case," the General Secretary responds, "not good."

Much the same could be said of the state of the world today. As many global leaders gather in New York for the 78th annual session of the United Nations General Assembly, with the notable exceptions of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and French President Emmanuel Macron, there are reasons to be concerned.

The US-China relationship, arguably the most important of this era, is in poor shape despite a recent increase in the pace of diplomatic exchanges. The US goal is for the two major powers to establish a floor for bilateral ties. At best, however, the two governments will be able to avoid a crisis. But that is made more difficult by China's refusal to resume military-to-military communications and establish a crisis communication channel. Even optimists do not foresee a path for the two to cooperate meaningfully on pressing regional or global challenges in the near future.

Meanwhile, China faces significant economic challenges, largely due to its own policy shortcomings. But even if the problems are homegrown, it does not mean the consequences will remain confined to China. At a minimum, what happens there will impede global economic growth. At worst, there is the possibility that China's leadership will be tempted to act more aggressively abroad to distract from its domestic economic woes.

Elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific, North Korea continues to expand both the size and quality of its nuclear arsenal. The Pyongyang regime continues to test increasingly advanced ballistic missiles and has unveiled a nuclear-armed submarine, which would increase the survivability of its nuclear capabilities. There are no indications that North Korea is prepared to discuss, much less compromise on, its nuclear or missile programs.

Another concern is that Ukraine's counteroffensive, which was launched roughly three and a half months ago, has made limited progress. Well-fortified Russian forces still control large swaths of Ukraine's east and south. This reality, along with Russia's ability to boost its wartime weapons production - despite the US-led sanctions - and import arms from Iran and North Korea, suggests that the war, now well into its second year, will continue for some time.

Ukraine is understandably disinclined to compromise on its goal of reclaiming its territory. It continues to believe that the military tide will turn in its favor as more advanced arms arrive from the West. Putin, for his part, believes he will be able to ride out the costs of the war and that waning

American and European support for Ukraine is a matter of "when," not "if." None of this gives would-be peacemakers much to work with.

In Afghanistan, it is increasingly clear that the new Taliban resembles nothing so much as the old Taliban. The real question is to what degree they will again allow their country to become a launchpad for terrorism. Then there is the question of how much the Taliban will contribute to the instability that has exacerbated Pakistan's vulnerabilities. Speaking of weak states suffering from poor governance, weak institutions, and limited capacity, their number is growing in Africa and Latin America.

From a global perspective, the world is not doing much better. Following a worldwide pandemic that claimed roughly 15 million lives, the past summer was the hottest on record.

With just over two months remaining until officials from across the world convene for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in the United Arab Emirates, there is little reason to believe that governments are prepared to prioritize climate concerns over near-term economic priorities.

Finally, as artificial- and augmented-intelligence technologies rapidly evolve, there are no signs of an emerging international consensus on how to take advantage of their constructive dimensions and rein in their potentially destructive applications.

There is some good news. The strong Western response to Russian aggression and, more broadly, the renewed vitality of American-led partnerships and alliances in the Indo-Pacific aimed at deterring Chinese adventurism are prime examples.

In the Middle East, Iran recently released five American prisoners in exchange for Washington giving Tehran access to \$6 billion in frozen assets, on the condition that the funds be used only for food and medicine. The two countries also appear to be working on an arrangement - albeit not a formal pact - whereby Iran would accept some limits on its nuclear activities in return for sanctions relief.

Similarly, negotiations appear to be making some headway on a US-brokered deal that would normalize relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia. If signed, this agreement has the potential to strengthen Saudi Arabia's defenses against Iranian aggression and provide Israeli-Palestinian diplomacy with some much-needed momentum.

There is no getting around the reality that the bad news outweighs the good. International development goals are not being met. The recent G20 summit in India accomplished little, and the UN General Assembly meeting appears to be following in its footsteps. The UN's most important component, the Security Council, is sidelined and will remain so, given that one of its veto-holding members is waging a war that violates the UN Charter's most fundamental principle. At a time when the demand is high for effective international cooperation, it seems to be in woefully short supply.

# OP-ED

By James Monibah Head of Governance and  
Stanley Kamara National Economist -UNDP Liberia

## Accelerating implementation of the SDGs through Peace and Democracy

Monrovia, Liberia; September 21, 2023: The world celebrates International Day of Peace on the 21st of September 2023 under the theme: Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals. A recent assessment of the progress made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) revealed significant delays and challenges that put most countries off track. The SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

Liberia is no exception to the challenges including the devastating impact of COVID-19, global shocks, and tight fiscal space which have impeded the progress toward achieving the SDGs. While these challenges continue to persist and impede progress, this year's theme gives the world hope and makes a clarion call for action that engenders our individual and collective responsibility to forge and foster peace. Fostering peace is not only imperative to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but will create just societies and a culture of peace for all.

However, in the past two decades, the world has seen a dramatic increase in the number of conflicts, which is undermining concerted efforts that have been made towards creating more peaceful and just societies and achieving the SDGs. There is no doubt that there is a strong correlation between peacebuilding and achieving SDGs.

A recognition of this relationship has been amplified by national and international policymakers and advocates including the UN SG, Mr. Guterres who in 2017 highlighted the importance of recognizing the links between sustainable development and sustaining peace amid such intertwined global challenges as rising inequality, protracted conflicts, and climate change. The SG wrote: "We need a global response that addresses the root causes of conflict, and integrates peace, sustainable development, and human rights in a holistic way - from conception to execution."

Liberia is amongst countries that have submitted a National SDGs acceleration and transformation roadmap presented as part of the global SDGs rescue efforts focusing on peace and integral areas for SDGs transformation and acceleration. This entails investing in human security so that people live a prosperous life, have freedoms from fear, want, and indignity, and have impacts on people, the planet, peace, partnership, and prosperity.

Liberians can relate to how the loss of peace could undermine all development gains and stray the country from the path of inclusive and sustainable development for the shared prosperity that all Liberians yearn for. Against this backdrop, it is therefore imperative to continue to invest in the consolidation of peace, strengthening social cohesion, and addressing binding constraints and root causes of social vices that can undermine peace.

Why this matters most for Liberia.

This year, Liberia celebrated twenty years of peace since the Accra Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) was signed in 2003 and has since conducted three successful and peaceful presidential and legislative elections. This is highly remarkable and commendable that every Liberian must celebrate and be proud of. It is therefore a common logic that the progress that Liberia has made towards achieving some of the SDG's targets has only been possible due to the sustained peace grounded with hard work and best efforts. The year's International Day of Peace comes at another defining moment for Liberians as they go to the polls on 10 October 2023.

Liberia's upcoming election is a national process managed and owned by the government and Liberians under the leadership of the National Elections Commission and with technical support from development partners. This is again very commendable and in addition, it is very refreshing to note that the partisans of the political parties through their standard bearers have signed the Farmington River Declaration, a demonstrable commitment to championing peaceful and violence-free elections.

SDG 16 is the embodiment of peace, justice, and strong institutions and as such, this year's elections should continue to engender the key tenets of Democracy- equal participation in free, fair, transparent, inclusive, and credible elections. Free, in a democratic process requires an opportunity for every citizen of the required age as prescribed by law to participate in a process that accommodates all, particularly the most marginalized including women and people living with disabilities.

Special efforts should be made through the deployment of needed resources. Like in many countries, women have historically been marginalized politically, consequently, their representation in elected and appointed positions in Liberia remains very marginal. At the same time, they have been the kingpins in the substance of peace in Liberia.

Transparency must be demonstrated through individual and collective actions-information about the process must be proactively made available, and accessible to all. The lack of information usually breeds a fertile ground for mis and dis information which may result in tensions.

A Call to Action

As the theme for this year's International Day of Peace depicts, accelerating the achievement of the SDGs largely depends on a peaceful environment that allows progress and achievement of global targets. Liberia's SDGs 'Rescue Plan for People and Planet' can only be implemented when peace is guaranteed, and the SDG transformation process is inclusive and sustainable.

In the absence of peace, achieving any of the SDGs becomes impossible, and will derail the progress the country has made and impede investments in infrastructure, roads, energy, access to good health care, access to justice, empowerment of women, addressing climate change and the associated environmental challenges, access to basic social services including safe drinking water, quality education, and others.

10 October is another national process to consolidate democracy and sustain peace. Democracy spurs peace, and a peaceful environment provides an opportunity to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainability Development Goals. On this day the UNDP in Liberia wishes everyone a happy International Peace Day.

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# ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

## Liberia's 2023 Presidential Election: The Three Horse Race

By all accounts, Liberia's 2023 Presidential Election is a three-horse race. This is undebatable. Yes, on a crowded presidential field of 20 candidates vying for the nation's highest seat, incumbent President George M. Weah, former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai, and former Coca-Cola Executive Alexander B. Cummings remain the frontrunners, the rest are expected to make insignificant impacts.

The three men were listed among the top 5 earners in 2017, with Mr. Weah clinching the first round by 38.37%, figures which were not enough to see him over the finishing line. Liberia's electoral law requires that a candidate obtain 50 plus 1 percent of the votes to be declared winner.

The number acquired could only catapult Mr. Weah into a runoff against former Vice President Boakai who came second in 2017 accumulating 28.76%. Mr. Cummings settled for 5th place as a newcomer just months before the 2017 presidential race acquiring just 7.21% of the votes behind Nimba County Senator Prince Y. Johnson who came fourth garnering 8.22%.

The race in 2017 was more competitive compared to 2023. Though President Weah, most popular then and now was considered one of the favorites to win in 2017, Liberty Party Standard Bearer late Cllr. Charles W. Brumskine, father of Collaborating Political Party (CPP) vice Standard Bearer Charlyne Brumskine was the candidate to watch.

Former Vice President Boakai and his campaign team were at this time at loggerheads with outgoing President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf thereby weakening the former ruling party and rendering it incapacitated to produce a united front. Boakai's refusal to collaborate with Liberty Party Brumskine in 2017 was also a factor.

Hence, Ambassador Boakai was considered by many as a third choice. But he pulled a surprise over Cllr. Brumskine. The latter will file a lawsuit against the National Elections Commission at the Supreme Court for vote rigging and irregularities. The rest is history.

However, unlike 2017, this year's election appears less competitive in terms of the popularity of candidates in the race and their abilities to win voters over. This has placed Mr. Weah, Amb. Boakai and Mr. Cummings are far ahead of the rest.

Chances and challenges of the presumed frontrunners

Incumbent President Weah

Incumbent President Weah arguably remains a popular candidate in the race. His connection with young people, especially most first-time voters put him in a league all by himself. His Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) ability to organize rallies and publicize events has been exceptional compared to its two immediate competitors.

Mr. Weah and his CDC's slogan of "Change you can depend on", alongside WEAC fee payments and free tuition for public schools and universities, have resonated well with young people.

However, Mr. Weah faces a daunting task not just in securing a first-round victory but with the huge margins secured in 2017. President Weah's critics will acknowledge that he came into the 2017 race without any record to defend and therefore, his popularity was the only vehicle that drove him to the Executive Mansion.

In 2023, the variables have changed. President Weah now has a record to defend: a crippled economy, corruption and failed promises. These are holes that have crept into the President's popularity, and he must now ably defend against a raging opposition that continues to feast on his administration's failure.

But the President would boast in addition to WAEC and free public schools and universities the construction of hospitals, roads, and rural housing units, etc. These could well sweep him into his third runoff but with whom?

Amb. Boakai

Amb. Boakai stands a much better chance than he did in 2017. Now, that President Weah has a record to defend, and the former Vice President being seen as the most experienced Statesman puts him in a much better position to wrestle power from President Weah. Supported by a host of former government officials and surrounded by his kinsmen, Amb. Boakai looks the most likely alternative.

However, the former vice president comes into 2023 with too much excess baggage. The former vice President's alignment with US designee Sen. Johnson, a former warlord, has caused many of his supporters both local and international to rethink. Added to this is his inability to be decisive. Many blamed him for his failed leadership role which saw the CPP, Liberia's strongest opposition collaboration in recent history disintegrating right under his watchful eyes.

The former vice president's age is also a factor, particularly speculations surrounding his health, which has caused many to fear that electing him in office will be equated to electing Se. Johnson. Sen. Johnson has not even made it any easier for Amb. Boakai with his campaign pronouncements.

Mr. Cummings

Mr. Alexander Cummings looks the candidate rightfully suited to wrestle power from President Weah. His wealth of experience as an international business tycoon and ideas on how to fix Liberia's broken economy and get the private sector working is beyond measure. Cummings appears to be more connected with market women, youth groups, and businesspeople. Cummings also has a silent majority of supporters under his belt.

However, he has an excess baggage. His not taking no for an answer to contest as president has been viewed as arrogant and someone who is drunk with presidential ambition. His alignment with dozens of failed politicians from previous regimes to head his campaign team is negative. Many see his choices in terms of his political associates as errors of judgment that could affect his chances.

However, with less than 30 days to election, who knows anything can happen.

# 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 Koung, 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 Koung to become Boakai's VP running-mate. Koung 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: Koung 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 Moyer, 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.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## UP clarifies Boakai's 'end of country' statement

By Lincoln G. Peters

The opposition Unity Party (UP) has clarified its standard bearer Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai's statement warning

Boakai said if the elections are rigged, there would be no country, he is NOT saying that he and his supporters will wipe out the country.

Over the weekend, Amb.

ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) would now focus more on taking out of context, statements made by its standard bearer and others, aimed at preventing elections rigging.

The party narrated that it's so shocking that CDC seems to place less significance on what rigging of elections has done or could do to the country.

UP said those who orchestrate the stealing of elections essentially waged war against the people and the Constitution of Liberia.

"Elements who maybe planning to steal elections are those who really want to plunge Liberia into chaos," the party said.

"Those who warn against the stealing of elections and urge their supporters to protect their votes are those who want peace and tranquillity to prevail in Liberia," UP disclosed.

However, Amb. Boakai and the Unity Party Alliance call on President Weah and all Liberians and interested stakeholders to commit to free, fair, transparent, and peaceful elections in line with the expectations of the Constitution and laws of Liberia.

"As a Party, we remain fully committed to the Farmington

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## MTN MoMo Touching Lives: A Week of Compassion and Generosity

Lonestar Cell MTN, Liberia's pioneering telecommunications company and leading mobile financial services provider, has included its inspiring MoMo Charity Week, a five-day event filled with love, laughter, and acts of kindness that have left an indelible mark on the hearts of many.

On Monday, September 18, the Lonestar Cell MTN family embarked on a remarkable journey of compassion, dedicating themselves to making a difference in the lives of orphans and differently abled individuals.

The week-long endeavour reached its climax with the heartfelt donations of rice, detergents, and school essentials (book bags, crayons, calculators) and \$500 United States dollars each to the 5

Therefore, we are here today to donate 15 bags of rice, detergents, toiletries, and \$500 United States dollars. We had fun today and hope these items are sufficient to take care of your needs."

Day 2 saw the team visiting the Antoinette Tubman Home on 9th Street, transforming it into a day of colors and conversations. Staff members engaged in heartwarming discussions with the residents and indulged in coloring activities, creating lasting bonds and cherished memories.

On Day 3, the journey extended to the Peter W. Saylor Orphanage in Bong Mines, Kakata, emphasizing the charity week's commitment to reaching out to the less fortunate beyond Monrovia. The team was greeted with songs from 67 children, some playing drums, salsa, and more.



organizations visited, a testament to the company's unwavering commitment to the community.

Day 1 set the tone with a visit to the Group of 77 on Newport Street where the staff of Lonestar Cell MTN spent the day with differently abled individuals, bonding over activities like braiding and barbing their kids' hair and sharing heartwarming meals. Mr. Manju Konneh, the project lead, conveyed a heartwarming message on behalf of the CEO of Lonestar Cell MTN, Mr. Rahul De, and the General Manager of Lonestar Cell MTN Mobile Money Incorporated, Mr. Christopher Ssali: "MoMo Waysay Wasa is not complete until every Liberian has benefited from this campaign. At Lonestar Cell MTN, we believe in equal opportunities for all.

The day was filled with games, including Freetown ball, kickball, and running races, accompanied by captivating recitations and songs from the kids.

Day 4 brought the team to the Frances Gaskin Orphanage in GSA Road, where dancing, playing ball, and sharing a delightful meal created an atmosphere of pure joy.

The grand finale took place on Day 5 at the Phebe Gray Orphanage on the Marshall highway, where 117 children eagerly awaited the MTN team's arrival. Joining the team was Lonestar Cell MTN MoMo Hero of Change, Mr. Francis Varney, CEO of 4Life Zoe Company, a vocational training institute that equips young people in Liberia with essential life skills.

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Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai

against election rigging.

Amb. Boakai recently told a political gathering that if the election is stolen, "that's the end of this country."

"If they think they will steal this election, it will not hide because if they will do it, that's the end of this country," said Boakai.

Boakai's statement has sparked criticisms, pushing the Unity Party to issue an impromptu statement on Sunday, 24 September 2023 under the signature of its Secretary General Mr. Amos Tweh.

The UP statement said when

Boakai while on a campaign rally in Montserrado, particularly district #2 Nimba United Football Field said if the elections are rigged in favor of the ruling party, that's the end of the country.

The UP said that Amb. Boakai's statement meant no harm, explaining that what he is saying in effect is against the backdrop of the terrible performance of the Weah government over the past years.

The opposition party further indicated that it's paradoxically appalling that partisans, supporters and apologists of the

## China commits to poverty alleviation in Liberia

By Lincoln G. Peters

The People's Republic of China through its Embassy near Monrovia has committed to poverty alleviation and infrastructure development in Liberia.

Mr. FAN Erwei, Charge d' Affairs of the Chinese Embassy made the commitment on 22 September 2023 at the program marking the celebration of the 74th anniversary of the Peoples Republic in Liberia.

Mr. Fan said although China and Africa are distant, the great friendship between them has a long history.

"We firmly believe that the new achievements of China's development will surely bring more new opportunities for the development of Liberia," said Mr. Fan.

"We are ready to join hands with our Liberian brothers to further deepen cooperation and carry out more cooperative projects to improve people's

livelihood and well-being," he said.

He pointed out that his government is prepared to jointly assist the Liberian government in its poverty alleviation and infrastructure strategies.

At the end of his remarks, Mr. Fan proposed a toast, to celebrate the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, and to the

long-lasting friendship between the peoples of China and Liberia.

"This year marks the 10th anniversary of President Xi's putting forth the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, and of pursuing the greater good and shared interests for China's

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At program marking the celebration of the 74th anniversary of the Peoples Republic in Liberia

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Weah's takes Campaign to "opposition stronghold"

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Incumbent President George Manneh Weah will on Monday, September 24, 2023, take his presidential campaign activities to Northwest campaigning activities.

Incumbent Weah, who has enjoyed, six years in power presiding over majority of the regions, in Liberia, including the South, West, Central, and

stewart, being sons and daughters of Lofa County, counting on the new dimension of the political horse race, the CDC might still struggle to win widespread support in Lofa County, largely belonging to the opposition Unity Party (UP). The Weah-Taylor Administration is heading to the Northwest at a numerical disadvantage, despite roughly relying their hopes on Vice-President Chief Dr. Jewel Howard Taylor who has a root, in the county from Salayea District, the Party's National Campaign Chairman Lenn Eugene Nagbe, Executive Mansion Chief of Protocol Amb. Nora Finda Bundoo, Montserrado County Senator Saah Joseph, Representative Thomas Fallah, other executives, and partisans, Lofa could still remain an uncomfortable zone for them in terms of votes.

Despite series of tangibles, including the pavement of roads in the County, among other developmental initiative, Mr. Weah, will also count on his reputation as President and most popular candidate in the race to woo voters. Meanwhile, hundreds of his supporters, of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), are expected to await their Standard bearer Mr. Weah, and his entourage, who are expected to storm the County from Salayea, District, Lofa County the original home of Vice - Standard bearer Jewel-Howard- Taylor, and then to Zorzor, Lofa County, for the first Townhall meeting, among series of other engagements.

some parts of northern Liberia, considered, Amb. Boakai, his main rival as serious threat to his re-election, especially considering the fact his main Challenger Amb. Boakai of the Opposition Unity Party (UP) comes from that part of Liberia, the Northwest, which analysts as the opposition Stronghold, surely judging from past election results.

Political Pundits' views of Lofa County as it relates to previous elections have been a disadvantage to the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), the ruling establishment has struggled to pull votes in that region, despite vigorously campaigning.

Though the CDC, might celebrate, hundreds of their



President Weah

Liberia, in what is being described as a key test, to his re-election bid.

Mr. Weah will continue a try of luck in that part of Liberia, a Vote-rich region, as he looks to woo" support, while galvanizing votes from outside some of his main territories, in an area established as opposition stronghold.

President Weah faces 19 other contenders in highly anticipated competitive elections, which come in 16 days.

His main challenger, Unity Party Standard Bearer Amb. Joseph Nyumah looks to hold a strong tie with his Kingsman, to where Mr. Weah, is now taking his political

## Speaker Chambers wants Chinese facilitate modernization of Liberia's transport network

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr. Bhofal Chambers has congratulated the People's Republic of China on the occasion commemorating their 74th Anniversary.

Chinese National Day is celebrated on October 1st every year to commemorate the founding of People's Republic of China. On that day, lots of large-scaled activities are held nationwide. The 7-day holiday from Oct. 1st to 7th is called 'Golden Week', during which a large number of Chinese people go traveling around the country.

But this year, the National Day holiday spans from September 29 to October 6, overlapping with the Mid-Autumn Festival. To partially offset the seven consecutive days of the National Day holiday, October 7 and

Sunday, October 8, have been designated as official workdays, resulting in a 7-day working week.

Speaker Chambers said the world has witnessed, under the leadership of President Xi, the protection of individual rights and liberties, religious freedoms and minority rights, amongst others; something he said is indeed laudable and it is the right step in the right direction.

In a speech delivered Friday, the Speaker averred that both Countries- Liberia and China should continue to unrelentingly demand and expect a full measure of commitment, devotion, hard work and dedication from all global stakeholders. Stating that it is now than ever before that both Countries, as friends and citizens of the world,

render more productive service for the assurance of a sustained world peace, mutual respect, and collective development.

He said the Global Sustainable Transport Forum of 2023, cannot in any way, be overemphasized as it is of global existential necessity.

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Dr. Bhofal Chambers

## UNOCT and ECOWAS sign agreement to strengthen cooperation on preventing and countering terrorism

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today to strengthen their partnership in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism.

The MoU establishes a framework for cooperation between both entities over the next five years on a range of security and counter-terrorism initiatives, including preventative efforts to counter terrorist travel, financing, access to weapons and misuse of information and communications technologies; border security and management; prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration (PRR), and the delivery of counter-terrorism training

causes such as youth empowerment, the fight against human rights violations and other governance deficits.

Following the signing, ECOWAS and UNOCT will develop a joint plan of action to put the agreement into practice, building on existing coordination platforms, such as the AU-UN Technical Working Group on Counterterrorism and PCVE. They will also explore opportunities to develop and undertake joint or collaborative activities with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. Moreover, jointly organize workshops, conferences, or other meetings and activities on topics and issues related to CT/PCVE, bringing together the relevant stakeholders at the global, regional, or national levels.

Yesterday (21 Sept.), ECOWAS participated in the Ministerial-



programmes in Africa. The agreement also makes provisions for UNOCT support to ECOWAS and its Member States in the implementation of the ECOWAS 2020-2024 Action Plan on Eradicating Terrorism.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, President of the ECOWAS Commission, and Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counterterrorism, during a bilateral meeting on the margins of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov welcomed the signing noting that it marks a pivotal moment, as it establishes a comprehensive cooperation framework for the next 5 years.

Dr. Touray expressed ECOWAS commitment to the collaboration with the UN through UNOCT to address the multifaceted dimensions of terrorism, including the root

Level meeting of African Member States on "Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Institution Building to Address the Evolving Threat of Terrorism in Africa" co-organized by Nigeria and UNOCT. The meeting provided African Member States and regional organizations an opportunity to share their views on the prevailing terrorism threat scenarios in Africa and propose actionable and outcome-oriented recommendations for the African Counter-Terrorism Summit ("Abuja Summit") co-organized by UNOCT and Nigeria, which will be held in Abuja on 23-24 April. The Summit will seek to enhance multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation and reshape the international community's collective response to terrorism in Africa.

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# Français

## La CEDEAO condamne les propos qui incitent à la violence

La Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) a signalé une tendance rampante qui risque de susciter de la

Libéria.

« La CEDEAO condamne sans équivoque ces déclarations incendiaires qui ont tendance à déclencher des affrontements violents », indique le

campagne du parti de l'Unité (UP), le 17 septembre 2023, est une indication de la détermination du peuple à destituer le président George Manneh Weah du pouvoir.

« Avant les élections d'octobre, les Libériens se manifestent sous la bannière « N'essayez pas » : toute tentative, le pouvoir populaire s'exercerait comme le Printemps arabe », a déclaré le sénateur Johnson.

« Soit vous nous tirez dessus et vous nous tuez, ou c'est vous qui mourez. Plus de peur, les Libériens n'ont plus peur », a déclaré le sénateur Johnson.

L'ancien chef de guerre libérien est un allié politique clé de Joseph Nyumah Boakai, le candidat du Parti de l'Unité à la prochaine élection présidentielle. Il s'est dit préoccupé par les allégations d'ingérence potentielle de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir dans les élections. Il menace donc de riposter par les armes pour la cause du peuple. Ce qu'a condamné la sécurité conjointe du Libéria.

Dans le même temps, la CEDEAO a exhorté les acteurs politiques à recourir au dialogue et à la médiation pour traiter les griefs et aux voies juridiques

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violence à l'approche des élections prévues au 10 octobre au Libéria.

Dans un communiqué publié jeudi 21 septembre 2023, la CEDEAO a exprimé son inquiétude face au fait que certains dirigeants politiques et militants ont tendance à recourir à une rhétorique incendiaire qui pourrait susciter des émotions violentes, inciter à des troubles et mettre en péril la paix et la stabilité du

communiqué.

Le bloc régional n'a pas nommé de dirigeant politique ou de militant en particulier, mais sa déclaration intervient au moment où le sénateur de Nimba, Prince Y. Johnson, est sévèrement critiqué pour avoir récemment proféré des menaces contre la fraude électorale.

Le sénateur Johnson a déclaré lundi lors d'une conférence de presse que le taux de participation impressionnant affiché lors du lancement de la

## Cummings est accueilli par une foule enthousiaste à Margibi

Le leader politique de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), M. Alexander Cummings, a promis aux habitants du comté de Lower Margibi un avenir meilleur et de prospérité économique s'il est accède à la présidence du Libéria.

Cummings, accompagné de sa colistière Charlyne Brumskine, de son épouse Teresa et des piliers de son parti, a été chaleureusement accueilli jeudi après-midi par une immense foule jubilante à Ma Zoe Town, Kporkporcken Town, Henry Town et dans les zones situées le long de l'autoroute de l'aéroport international Roberts dans le Comté de Margibi.

Les citoyens de Ma Zoe Town se disent confrontés à des défis économiques difficiles et l'état désastreux des routes. Ils ont exprimé leur gratitude à M. Cummings en tant que premier candidat à la présidentielle à leur avoir rendu visite.

Ils ont dénoncé des années de négligence de la part du gouvernement et du manque d'écoles et

d'établissements de santé. Ils ont lancé un appel spécial à Cummings et se sont engagés à soutenir sa candidature à l'élection présidentielle d'octobre.

Le porte-drapeau de la CPP a réaffirmé son engagement à réparer l'état déplorable des routes, à construire des centres de santé et des écoles et à relancer l'économie en difficulté grâce à la création massive d'emplois.

Il s'est engagé à mettre fin à l'afflux de drogues dangereuses dans le pays et à engager des poursuites judiciaires appropriées contre les trafiquants de drogue, tout en empêchant l'abus généralisé parmi les jeunes.

À Kporkporcken Town, le numéro deux de la CPP, Mlle Brumskine, a mis en garde les citoyens contre l'élection de mauvais dirigeants pour des avantages personnels ou d'une gratification immédiate.

Elle a déclaré que le 10 octobre, chaque électeur sera laissé seul pour voter et c'est donc une exigence de chacun de choisir consciemment le candidat le plus compétent, capable de transformer le Libéria pour le bien de tous les Libériens.

Elle a déploré la détérioration des conditions

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Alexander Cummings

## Éditorial

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Français

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## La CEDEAO condamne les

pour obtenir réparation à ces préoccupations.

« Nous continuons de réitérer l'importance de favoriser une campagne axée sur les programmes politiques et dépourvue de langage injurieux », a déclaré la CEDEAO. Le bloc régional a appelé toutes les institutions étatiques ayant un rôle à jouer dans le processus électoral à continuer d'exécuter leur mandat en toute neutralité.

Il les a en outre exhortés à assurer des conditions de concurrence équitables pour que toutes les parties prenantes puissent exercer

leurs droits constitutionnels en matière d'état de droit.

« La CEDEAO rappelle à tous les acteurs que les dispositions de la Déclaration de Farmington River sont en vigueur et essentielles à la conduite de tous les acteurs politiques pour sauvegarder le processus électoral. » Le communiqué indique que la Commission de la CEDEAO et ses observateurs à long terme actuellement au Libéria restent vigilants dans l'évaluation de l'écosystème politique à l'approche des élections et affirment leur soutien continu à des élections présidentielles et générales pacifiques et réussies.

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## Cummings est accueilli

économiques et la situation déplorable et a averti les Libériens de se concentrer sur une vision plus large, c'est-à-dire l'avenir du Libéria, et de ne pas voter sur la base de gains financiers temporaires offerts par des politiciens égoïstes.

L'avocate Brumskine a fait cette mise en garde le jeudi 21 septembre lors d'une tournée avec Mme Teresa Cummings à Marshall, dans le comté de Lower Margibi.

Le numéro deux de la CPP et son entourage ont visité le marché de Boys Town, Kporkporken et Henry Towns au milieu d'une grande liesse de la part des centaines de

citoyens.

Elle a averti les Libériens des conséquences futures de l'élection de dirigeants incompetents et non qualifiés, incapables de relever les défis socio-économiques épineux auxquels est confrontée la grande majorité des citoyens.

Elle a déclaré que l'élection de M. Cummings comme prochain président le 10 octobre marquera un tournant et l'émergence d'un nouveau Libéria avec une prospérité économique pour tous les Libériens.

Le comté de Margibi compte cinq circonscriptions électorales avec environ 184 425 000 électeurs, selon la Commission électorale nationale.

## Niger: après l'imbroglio à l'ONU, la junte dénonce les « agissements perfides » d'Antonio Guterres

Alors que l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU reprendra pour une dernière journée mardi 26 septembre, le Niger n'est plus prévu au programme des orateurs de l'assemblée. Si le nouveau ministre des Affaires étrangères du gouvernement putschiste a pu entrer dans l'enceinte des Nations Unies lundi, il a ensuite été interdit d'accès. Le régime militaire du Niger a dénoncé des « agissements perfides » du chef de l'ONU. Ambassadeur du Niger à l'ONU avant le coup d'État du 26 juillet, Yaou Sangaré Bakary est devenu chef de la diplomatie du régime militaire. C'est grâce à son badge d'ambassadeur qu'il a pu entrer lundi 18 septembre pour la conférence préambule de la semaine de haut niveau de l'Assemblée générale. Il a d'ailleurs diffusé des images sur X (ex-Twitter), qui ont circulé sur la télévision d'État.

Mais selon l'ONU, dès mardi, son badge a été désactivé - et il n'a plus pu rentrer dans le bâtiment. Et selon des informations de RFI, un autre ministre du régime militaire, celui de la Santé, était annoncé pour des conférences sur ce

thème - mais les Nations Unies confirment qu'il n'a pas reçu d'accréditation et n'a pu entrer.

La junte a alors dénoncé vendredi des « agissements perfides » du chef de l'ONU. Pour elle, Antonio Guterres fait de l'obstruction, en agissant avec la « complicité de la France et de deux chefs d'États de la Cédéao » - visant certainement le Gabon et le Ghana qui siègent tous deux au Conseil de sécurité.

Mais voilà, le secrétariat des Nations Unies a des règles strictes à suivre : en cas de putsch, il ne reconnaît la légitimité d'un gouvernement que sur avis du Conseil. Or, le 28 juillet dernier, celui-ci lui a indiqué par lettre que le gouvernement de Bazoum était seul légitime. Il a donc obéi à son chef de la diplomatie lui demandant de mettre fin aux créances de l'ambassadeur Bakary, il y a quelques jours. Enfin, en cas de contestation sur les accréditations, l'ONU s'en remet à l'avis d'une commission, qui siègera en octobre 2023.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

# Le protectionnisme a allumé le feu géopolitique

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

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

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

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

Au début, beaucoup critiquèrent ce récit, jugé démagogue et populiste. Mais il gagna progressivement en influence, et lorsque frappa le Covid-19, les arguments en faveur du protectionnisme et contre la Chine s'inscrivirent dans le discours général. Tout à coup, tout le monde tombait d'accord pour dire que les problèmes liés à la pandémie qui se posaient aux chaînes d'approvisionnement étaient une conséquence du commerce international. Peu importait que nombre de 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.

# OPINION

By Mariana Mazzucato  
and Damon Silvers

## Auto Strikes and Climate Change

**N**EW YORK - The United Auto Workers' first-ever strike against the so-called "Big Three" (General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler-owner Stellantis) underscores the need to bring climate action, economic growth, and workers' rights into alignment. Public policies aimed at increasing the production and sales of electric vehicles (EVs) have the power to catalyze innovation and private-sector investment in ways that benefit workers. But realizing that potential requires a new understanding of the role that both government and workers play in driving positive economic change at scale.

While the UAW has made clear that it is not opposed to the transition to a low-carbon economy, it insists that this shift should encompass the creation or preservation of good jobs. The broader implication is that if the "green transition" does not fully bring about workplace and economic justice, it will lack the political support needed to get out of the starting blocks. And make no mistake: Only governments have the power both to drive this economic transformation and to ensure that it improves the lives of working people. Here is what they must do.

First, states can and should do more to set a general direction for investment, innovation, and growth. By establishing bold climate goals or "missions" with ambitious, measurable targets, they can crowd in public and private investment and spark cross-sectoral innovation.

By their nature, climate-related missions - such as phasing out internal combustion engines, decarbonizing the energy grid, or reducing the material content of steel (as Germany has done) - will advance the fight against climate change and create massive opportunities for businesses that are aligned with the same goals. But for this approach to work in the timeframe that climate scientists have given us, it will need the focus and urgency of a wartime mobilization.

Such occasions have often sparked innovation and helped crowd in private investment at scale before. Indeed, at key moments in history, they have fostered a wider appreciation of ordinary hard-working people.

One resonant example is the contribution made by Walter Reuther of the UAW (the same union on strike today) during World War II. Reuther both abhorred fascism and saw an opportunity for workers. In 1940, under his leadership, the UAW successfully demanded that American auto companies convert to wartime production on a much faster timeline than management was proposing. Had the union not embraced this proactive position, US war mobilization probably would have taken much longer - or failed altogether.

Second, governments can set the terms of access to public funding to require recipient businesses to implement fair labor policies, limit shareholder buybacks, align their operations with climate goals, and reinvest profits in workers and research and development. This can include repurposing existing subsidies to incentivize the auto sector and related sectors to transform in line with a just green transition. Conditions on public grants, debt or equity investments, tax benefits, and other incentives are all powerful levers for maximizing public value-creation.

For example, the CHIPS and Science Act and the Inflation Reduction Act in the United States include some "guardrail" provisions limiting shareholder buybacks and setting requirements regarding profit sharing, job conditions, wages, and worker training and apprenticeships. But as important as these steps are, the current US industrial strategy has not yet done enough to ensure that workers have sufficient economic power. Doing so will be essential to building the broad support that is needed to navigate the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Finally, governments must break their habit of outsourcing to consulting firms, and instead invest in building up their own capacities. Otherwise, they will not be able to muster the leadership necessary to bring growth, climate, and labor goals into alignment.

Returning to the example of the US, recent industrial-strategy legislation reflects an understanding of this issue but has offered rather uneven provisions for labor. This gap has been particularly stark in the auto sector. Though workers were counted as "essential" and asked to work in high-risk environments during the COVID-19 pandemic, automakers' corporate profits have not been shared fairly with the workforce - despite significant government support for the industry following the 2008 financial crisis.

Now, these gaps in worker protections are threatening the political viability of the entire green transition. Earlier this year, UAW President Shawn Fain voiced concerns that, because the shift to EVs was not prioritizing labor standards for production-line workers, public money mobilized by the Biden administration may end up unwittingly subsidizing the destruction of the auto industry's middle-class workforce.

How? Go to a place like Lordstown, Ohio, and you will find unionized General Motors auto-assembly plants paying \$32 per hour, and newly built battery plants (partly owned by the same company) opening with starting pay of only \$16.50 per hour. No wonder the UAW has mounted a successful organizing drive there.

If governments want to fight climate change effectively, they must set a clear direction for growth, with a sustainable and inclusive economy as the ultimate goal. Public funding and partnerships with business all must be structured to share the rewards - rather than just the risks - of the transition with both workers and the public more widely.

What we are proposing is not far off from the policy goals that political leaders like US President Joe Biden and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz have articulated. But they still need to go further. When UAW picketers in Toledo, Ohio, chant "No justice, no Jeeps," policymakers should recognize the critical subtext of that message: "No justice, no transition."

To drive innovation at the scale and speed required to avoid a climate catastrophe, governments must establish a new social contract with businesses and labor. As long as good jobs and workers' rights are seen as optional add-ons in the fight against climate change, we will be waging a losing battle.

Mariana Mazzucato, Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, is Chair of the World Health Organization's Council on the Economics of Health for All and the author of *The Entrepreneurial State: Debunking Public vs. Private Sector Myths* (Penguin, 2023). Damon Silvers is Visiting Professor of Practice in Labor Markets and Innovation at the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose.

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## Starts from page 6 China commits to poverty

relations with Africa. Over the past decade, China has been steadfastly practicing this principle," he noted.

Mr. Fan stated that China-Liberia relations have made great strides under the joint leadership of the presidents of the two countries and the support and promotion of friendly people from all walks of life.

He noted that cooperation between the two countries has also achieved fruitful results in the areas of economy and trade, medical and health care, infrastructural construction and human resource development, which have benefited the peoples of the two countries.

He disclosed that presently, China is embarking on a new journey towards fully building a modern socialist country and is striding forward to promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation through a Chinese path to modernization.

On Friday, 22 September 2023,

the People's Republic of China through its Embassy in Monrovia celebrated the 74th anniversary of the founding of China.

74 years ago, the Communist Party of China (CPC) led the Chinese people to win national independence and liberation by fighting with no fear of sacrifice, no fear of fatigue, and eventually established a new China.

The program was graced by several heads of diplomatic missions in Liberia as well as official and members of the Coalition for Democratic Change government and other stakeholders.

In attendance at the cool evening dinner program were Mr. Bhofal Chamber, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Cllr. Deweh E. Gray, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweh, Jr, Dr. Julius Nelson, President of the University of Liberia, and Prof. D. Ansu Sonii, Minister of Education, among others.

## Starts from page 6 MTN MoMo Touching Lives:

The day was filled with excitement and joy as the children and staff welcomed their guests with open hearts. Sis Rose, the caretaker at Phebe Gray Orphanage, touched the hearts of all present by mentioning that since the school year had begun, no one had come to the aid of the children. The 117 book bags, calculators, and crayons donated by MTN represent more than just school supplies; they are tools to empower these children as future leaders.

The day ended with laughter, games of musical chairs, an exhilarating freeze game, and a kickball match where the MTN team emerged victorious. Sensitivity: MTN Group - Internal In total, Lonestar Cell MTN's unwavering efforts resulted in the generous donation of \$2,500 United States dollars, 75 bags of rice, and 295 book bags, complete with crayons, calculators, and notebooks. These contributions have not only met immediate needs but have also sown the seeds of hope and promise in the hearts of those touched by this

remarkable initiative.

Lonestar Cell MTN remains dedicated to touching lives, nurturing dreams, and creating a brighter future for all. The MoMo Charity Week stands as a shining example of the company's commitment to making a positive impact on the communities it serves.

For more information about Lonestar Cell MTN's corporate social responsibility initiatives, please visit [www.lonestarcell.com](http://www.lonestarcell.com). About the Lonestar Cell MTN Launched in 2001, Lonestar Cell MTN is Liberia's trusted mobile phone and mobile money operator. Our singular focus is to lead the delivery of a bold, new digital world for our customers. With our reliable country-wide network, partnerships with Liberia's major banks and over nine thousand Mobile Money agents, Lonestar Cell MTN subscribers can deposit and withdraw cash, pay bills, and pay for services seamlessly. We believe everyone deserves the benefits of a modern and connected life.

## Starts from page 6 UP clarifies Boakai's 'end

Declaration on nonviolent elections in Liberia."

UP assured.

We are very confident that H. E Joseph Nyuma Boakia will be elected President of Liberia based on his record of service and vision for the transformation of Liberia through Agriculture, Roads, Rule of Law, Education, Sanitation/Health and Tourism,"

According to the UP, in essence, rigging elections will place the country in the hands of incompetent, wicked, corrupt, and visionless President George Weah for 6 more years, and the downside and retrogression that are tantamount to not having a country. -Edited by Winston W. Parley

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# There will be no more war

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The former Liberian warlord threatened to fight back for the cause of the people if the elections were rigged.

“Before the October elections, Liberians are

Joseph Nyumah Boakai is seen pulling the crowd to mount a political resistance against the incumbent’s return to the Executive Mansion.

Amb. Boakai and Mr. Weah battled at the runoff in 2017 and Weah emerged victorious.

In a related development, President Weah has attended a special thanksgiving and intercessory prayer service held at the Dominion Christian Fellowship Center in Oldest Congo Town.

During the service, he assured Liberians of a lasting peace.

The incumbent acknowledged the difficulties the nation has faced over the years while rallying them to remain patient as his administration takes drastic steps to mitigate some of those challenges.

He said under his administration, the nation is on the right path of prosperity. Mr. Weah echoed his administration’s commitment to uphold the tendency of democracy and belief in peace. Weah noted that going forward, the country will remain peaceful, adding that a stable government will come and the government will go without any sound of guns, war, torture, and erecting of rebel checkpoints. “There’ll be no more rebel checkpoint in the Republic of Liberia. We are on the path of prosperity, Liberia has been through a difficulty, and we believe in the tendency of democracy,” said President Weah, adding, “And we believe in peace and there will be a lasting peace in this nation.”

President George Manneh Weah has assured Liberians that there will be no more war in the country. “I will say to you, to God be



the glory and in God, we are confident that our country there will be no more war and rebel checkpoints,” Mr. Weah said upon his return from the UN General Assembly last week.

Mr. Weah’s statement comes amidst growing apprehension among opposition actors that the ruling establishment could rig the October presidential elections and stir conflict.

President Weah told citizens that gone are the days when rebel checkpoints were erected across Liberia and tons of guns were fired in their ears. Last week, Nimba County Senator Prince Y. Johnson told a press conference 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 Weah from power. But Mr. Johnson, a political ally of UP standard bearer Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai raised a concern about alleged potential election interference by the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

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. However, President Weah described the statement from the opposition as reckless, urging citizens not to panic.

Mr. Weah faces a tremendous headache for a second term bid against 19 opposition presidential candidates. His administration faces criticisms for insecurity, the rising importation of illegal drugs by individuals, and economic hardship, among others. His critics have alleged that he does not deserve a second term because his lack of leadership has allegedly led the country to face tough conditions.

President Weah’s main challenger and former Liberian Vice President Amb.

# Speaker Chambers wants

Starts from page 7

The Liberian lawmaker said considering the principal focus, “Sustainable Transportation Cooperation”, it is an indispensable factor to enhancing rapid growth and development. He then echoed for all the Nations of the world to take this as a priority.

“We must all realize that nowhere is safe without a well-structured transportation architecture”. Speaker stressed. China has been an important partner in Liberia’s development journey, and Speaker Chambers applauds the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the two countries. As Liberia continues its efforts to enhance its infrastructure and promote economic growth, Speaker Chambers sees an opportunity

for even stronger collaboration between Liberia and China.

Meanwhile the Speaker of the Liberian Legislature, has respectfully requested of the Chinese Government to facilitate the process of modernizing the Liberian transportation network to include land, air and sea transport.

Speaker Chambers believes that with China’s expertise in infrastructure development and its successful track record in various countries, there is great potential for transformative projects in Liberia. This includes the construction and rehabilitation of roads, bridges, ports, and airports, which will facilitate the movement of goods and

people, boost trade, and drive economic growth in Liberia. The Speaker of the House of Representatives envisions a partnership that is mutually beneficial, focusing on sustainable development and the well-being of both nations. He looks forward to continued cooperation and discussions with Chinese counterparts to explore opportunities for collaboration in advancing Liberia’s transportation sector. He stated that it is his fervent hope that the flood tide of optimism regarding sustainable global transportation system, based on cooperation and development, will be a reality in sight.

# Speaker rehabilitates community roads

Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Speaker Bhofal Chambers, who is seeking a fourth term in Maryland County Electoral District#2, has embarked on rehabilitating community roads in his district, barely two weeks to the 2023 Presidential and General Elections.

Speaking in Pleebo, Maryland County recently, Representative Chambers’ campaign head, Miss Arimity Tubman, revealed that the Speaker has put in place all that is needed to rehabilitate deplorable roads leading to several communities in the district.

She names Zone Seven to Gebio Community Road, Zone One to New Pleebo, which is Zone 11 Road, and Big Market to Gbolobo Road, respectively.

She says the exercise is aimed at providing citizens easy access doing this rainy season.

Miss Tubman notes that for too long the people of District#2 have suffered from bad roads, especially during the rainy season, so their

an estimated cost of 20 thousand United States dollars each.

So far, this is the first time both towns are benefiting from modern concrete structures flush latrines, and offices.

He also reconstructed a damaged bridge linking several communities in Pleebo City, Maryland at the cost of US\$40,000.

Flood damaged the bridge following a heavy downpour that swept away about 10 homes in Diabehville, Scottville and Zone#4 communities in July, rendering several families homeless.

On Friday, August 6, 2021, he turned over to the Liberia Marketing Association, Maryland Branch, a newly constructed market building estimated valued at US\$20,000 for his people.

Speaker Chambers had initially contributed One Million Liberian Dollars to marketers in Pleebo, as a revolving fund prior to the Special Senatorial Election in 2020 besides LRD 2,000,000 scholarship grant to both grade school and university



Representative and Speak of the House, has deemed it expedient to implement the project as part of his campaign promises.

She underscores that under the leadership of Speaker Chambers, much will be achieved for the district developmentally.

According to her, it’s time for the district to be on par with other districts across the country, adding that with this latest campaign, the constituency is going to be opened to several opportunities.

The Speaker’s campaign manager continues that the community roads rehabilitation project that kicked off since Friday, September 22, 2023, will last for 10 days, disclosing that funds have already been disbursed to contractors in the district.

She calls on all citizens of the district to work together for the growth and development of the area, stressing that the lawmaker alone cannot do all without their support.

Speaker Bhofal Chambers is seeking a fourth six-year term in the House, having already served 18 years in the First Branch of Government, representing the people of Pleebo Sodokan District.

During this period, he dedicated two modern town halls in Kwidoken and Seleken towns, respectively at

students.

He has added an annex to the new Pleebo Community School in Zone 11 and is constructing a modern library in Zone 3.

However, despite these initiatives, Representative Chambers has been strongly criticized by citizens for seeking a fourth six-year term in office.

A resident of the district, Williams Johnson, describes the current road rehabilitation as untimely, saying Representative Chambers should stop putting himself under the illusion that he can fool the people of Pleebo all the time.

He notes that with just weeks to election, the Speaker has begun distributing millions of Liberian Dollars in baskets to manipulate the people for another six consecutive years, but such strategy will yield no return. “As if he hasn’t seen the signals that our people are resolved to move into a different and prosperous trajectory in these elections for their betterment and the future of their children, he began grilling roads in Pleebo this morning with just few days to election something, he didn’t do when China Railway had all the best road equipment in Maryland. The attitude of Mr. Chambers towards our people isn’t only a deception but a draconian wickedness”, Mr. Johnson adds. - Editing by Jonathan Browne

## CPP to lockdown ATS October 1

### -As Mr. Cummings requests Liberians to turnout

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) has announced its official Montserrado campaign slated for

because I know that there has been a lot of excitement building concerning our rally scheduled for October 6, 2023," said Mr. Cummings. "We were informed by the National Elections Commissions

we have therefore switched our rally to October 1, 2023. I am excited about the fact that we know all Liberians will come out on the first to support real change," Cummings said.

He stated that he knows that Liberians are tired, and suffering and they want something different, and an alternative.

"And therefore, I believe that we will lockdown ATS and lockdown Monrovia," he stated.

Mr. Cummings further encouraged Liberians to turnout in their numbers and support real change in their red, green, and white to support their quest for real and fundamental change.

"And so, I am excited and looking forward to seeing you on the first and looking to seeing you telling friends and well-wishers to come and join us."

"This gathering will send a message to the world that we are ready to fundamentally change Liberia so that all Liberians can benefit. I look forward to seeing you on October 1," he concluded. -Edited by Winston W. Parley



1 October 2023 to lockdown the Antoinette Tubman Stadium (ATS) and its surrounding county. Over the weekend, CPP standard bearer Mr. Alexander B. Cummings said that on 1 October, the CPP will be coming out to lockdown Monrovia and its environs. "Hello to everyone, especially to Liberians, our partisans, sympathizers, and well-wishers. I want to use this time to give you [an] update

that three other political parties are having a rally on that same day. Therefore, we have decided to change the date," Mr. Cummings stated. Mr. Cummings pointed out that as an opposition leader and somebody who wants to do things differently, they have decided not to compete or overpower the other political parties who want to use October 6. "However, based upon that,

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