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

The New Dawn

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2023 CUMMINGS FOR PRESIDENT


VOL. 13 NO. 170 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00



CPP victory rally gains momentum

P11

CPP Leader Mr. Cummings



Beysolow seeks to reduce poverty in Liberia

P11

Madam Sara Beysolow Nyanti

CUMMINGS BRUMSKINE

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Continental News

Zambia ex-leader banned from 'political' jogging

Zambia's former President Edgar Lungu has been warned against jogging in public, as a breach of the law. This is to ensure public safety." It added that a "procession of a former head of state should be



Ex-President Edgar Lungu's weekly jogs have been attracting the attention of curious onlookers

police describe his weekly workouts as "political activism". His Saturday runs with ordinary members of the public and supporters of his Patriotic Front (PF) party have been attracting a lot of attention. Mr Lungu has been told to seek police approval for future jogging events. The police order comes amid speculation that he will make a bid for the presidency in 2026. A police statement said that the PF's failure to alert them of "public gatherings or demonstrations... amounts to

done with his security detail and devoid of political activism". But the former president's lawyer Makebu Zulu told the BBC that he would continue with his jogging without notifying the police. Mr Zulu threatened to take legal action against the government if the former president, 66, was blocked from working out on Saturdays. "Mr Lungu has been jogging since time immemorial and his motivation has never been to contravene the law," Mr Zulu said. This is the latest apparent restriction on the former leader's activities, who served as

president from 2015 to 2021. Some commentators have said the government of President Hakainde Hichilema is using the heavy-handed tactics that he criticised during his many years in opposition. Mr Lungu recently took the government to court after he was allegedly blocked from travelling to South Korea for a conference. He later withdrew the case. The PF also said the former president had been stopped from travelling for a medical trip despite seeking permission from the cabinet office. The BBC has contacted Home Affairs Minister Jacob Mwiimbu for comment but has not yet received a response. Despite saying he would retire from politics after losing the 2021 election, Mr Lungu has been reviving his public profile in recent months. He is widely believed to be planning to contest the elections in three years' time, hoping to capitalise on growing anger over rising fuel and food prices. Mr Hichilema won in 2021 by a large majority on the hope that he would tackle the country's economic problems. He had previously unsuccessfully run for elections five times. BBC

Pentagon Chief in Kenya for Defense Talks

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin traveled Monday to Kenya for talks with defense officials about security and counterterrorism. Before departing for Nairobi, Austin thanked U.S. troops at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, highlighting what he called their "very impressive" role in evacuating U.S. diplomats from Sudan in April. "This facility is really important. We stood up a capability here following the 9/11 attacks as we were working our efforts against violent extremist organizations," Austin said. "Since that time, not only has this location helped us to do that, but we've also expanded the kinds of things that we can do from this location to include some of the things that you recently helped us with like evacuating our diplomats from Sudan."

continue to strike at Somali forces, with a truck bombing near a security checkpoint in the central Somali town of Beledweyne killing 21 people and wounding 52 others Saturday. Security forces had been tipped off about the truck and were inspecting it when it detonated, Beledweyne District Omar Osman Alasow told VOA. The meeting between Austin and Mohamud came two days after a small arms fire attack on a military barracks in Kulbiyow, Somalia, left one U.S. contractor and a partner force member injured, a senior defense official told VOA. A pro-al-Shabab outlet claimed the attack injured four U.S. forces and nine members of Kenya's forces. The senior defense official told VOA that was "overblown," adding that no U.S. service member was injured, and the contractor's injuries did not require medivac. Recent violence has led Somali officials to seek a 90-day delay in the scheduled drawdown of African Union

Austin on Sunday praised



U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, center left, his Kenyan counterpart Aden Duale, center right

Libya mayor arrested over floods that killed thousands

The mayor of Derna, a Libyan city devastated by intense flooding, has been arrested in connection with the disaster, officials say. Abdulmenam al-Ghaithi was among numerous officials charged in connection with the disaster that killed thousands in eastern Libya earlier this month. Last week, angry Derna residents burned the mayor's house in protest. The office of the attorney general, based in the capital Tripoli, said on Monday that the officials were "responsible for managing the country's dam facilities" and therefore it had launched a criminal case against them. Some of the officials, including Mr al-Ghaithi, have already been detained prior to the trial. In a statement on Monday, the attorney general's office accused the officials of numerous failings, such as mismanaging funds meant to maintain the dams that burst and caused the floods in Derna.

His office also said that the officials had showed neglect by failing to take precautions, leading to flood-related deaths and economic losses for Libya. Mr al-Ghaithi has further been accused of abusing his authority. Libya is divided into two, rival administrations - one in the east and one in the west. As the attorney general is based in Tripoli, in the west, it is not clear

to what extent he can order arrests in the east. On Sunday, the eastern government said that the number of confirmed deaths from the floods had reached 3,868. The attorney general's office said that investigations into other officials were ongoing and there could be more arrests. BBC



Last week, residents in Derna held protests demanding for accountability from local leaders over the floods

Somali forces for making "impressive progress" in the fight against al-Shabab but cautioned that the terror group still can "export terror from ungoverned spaces." Austin met with Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in Djibouti Sunday as part of his first visit to the African continent as defense secretary. Earlier, Austin met with the Djiboutian president and defense minister, thanking them for hosting the United States' primary base in Africa and for supporting Somalia in its fight against extremist groups. Somalia's army and allied clan militias have continued to drive al-Shabab fighters out of central Somalia as part of the country's military offensive since the president declared "total war" against the militants in August 2022. But terrorists

peacekeepers to account for what the Somali government calls "several significant setbacks." "He (President Mohamud) wants to do everything that he can to maintain momentum," Austin said in response to VOA, without commenting further on the Somali request to the African Union. Three thousand African Union forces are expected to withdraw from Somalia by the end of this month, with all African Union forces set to withdraw by the end of next year. Pulling support for Somalia too early, or not devoting enough resources to countering Islamic extremists in Africa, could allow terror groups to overrun the country much like the Taliban did while the U.S. was withdrawing its military forces there, says Bill Roggio, a former soldier and editor of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies' Long War Journal, which publishes reporting and analysis of global counterterrorism efforts. VOA

EDITORIAL

Our resolution for the 2023 Elections

AS MEMBERS OF the Fourth Estate, we in the media have a duty to uphold the sanctity of the state, its peace and unity, security and democratic pluralism thru free, fair credible and participatory elections for economic viability and growth. We're also committed to availing our various platforms, as we have always done, to citizens across the length and breadth of the country to be heard, and to fight for rights of the oppressed, physically-challenged and weak.

IT IS IN ADVANCEMENT of these sacred duties, and many others that we, the media in Liberia have resolved to, among others, ensuring that electorate for the 2023 Elections are adequately informed thru robust voter education and dissemination of messages that would enable citizens to understand candidates and political parties' manifestoes, a need for violence-free campaigns and procedures prior, during and after Elections Day on October 10, 2023.

IN GOING ABOUT this, we commit to maintaining a high level of professionalism, objectivity, and impartiality in both our coverage and reportage especially, during and after electioneering period, by broadcasting and publishing news stories in such a manner that will not undermine the fundamental rights of ordinary citizens or not to involve in propagation of fake news, inflammatory statements and hate media practices.

WE ALSO AGREE to continuously work against becoming channels and conduits for publication or broadcasting of materials that inflame passions, incite violence, promote hate or threaten the freedom of others to participate peacefully and freely, in the electoral process.

WE SHALL DILIGENTLY and professionally monitor all aspects of the elections across the country with a view of making sure that all actors involved in these exercises, act in accordance with established laws, regulations and international best practices regarding elections.

BESIDES, WE WILL serve as mitigators of potential conflict by disseminating peace messages, and putting in place mechanism to counter fake news, misinformation, disinformation and mal-information in Liberia, for as watchdog, how can we abandon our sentry role in society or join those bent on fueling hate and violence in our democratic space just to revert our dear country to flames and carnage only because they want to win election? We refuse to be a party to anything that will want to jeopardize our democratic sojourn especially, after we, as a nation, have experienced 14 years of bloody civil war during which many of our compatriots died, including women, children and the elderly.

THEREFORE, FROM TIME to time, during the remaining days of campaigns, leading to Election Day, and even after polling day, we commit to writing, publishing and broadcasting common editorials in our respective media outlets on matters that are critical for free, fair and peaceful elections. Whether it is lack of funding for the National Elections Commission to conduct runoff election, or rerun in any part of the country because of dispute or anything else that may serve as a hindrance, we commit to rallying the nation on a common front in finding common remedy without resorting to violence.

THIS JOINT RESOLUTION was derived recently from a two-day's (September 18- 19, 2023) Encounter with Media Professionals to Promote Participatory Democracy in Liberia held by ECOWAS Commission in Monrovia thru the Office of the Resident Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission under the auspices of GIZ/EPASO and facilitated by media colleagues from the region. This we sincerely pledge to upkeep for the peace and stability of our dear Liberia and posterity to come.

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COMMENTARY

By Richard Haass

The New World Disorder

NEW 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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OPINION

By Mariana Mazzucato
and Damon Silvers

Auto Strikes and Climate Change

NEW 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

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Crowd-Pulling Rallies in 2023: The New Phenomenon of Liberian Electioneering

By S.Karweaye

The theatricals for winning the hearts and minds of the Liberian voters are all around us. The perceptual game of showing strength in the number of supporters is an age-long effective game plan of the parties, and it is one strategy that cuts across mainly the ruling Coalition For Democratic Change (CDC) and the former ruling Unity Party (UP).

These two political parties are outdoing themselves in winning the popularity contests typified by pulling crowds with the most outrageous noises and boisterous displays in rallies on the streets, roads, stadiums, and other venues that can contain crowds. If pulling crowds is the determinant of election outcomes, the 2023 general elections would have been won and lost.

Politics all over the world feeds on numbers- crowds.



Liberia is no exception, and with what we have seen so far in the 2023 electoral campaigns, Liberian politicians are taking this to another level. Liberian politics feeds on a crowd fuelled by a panoply of factors, most importantly Money.

The crowd that congregates whenever there is a rally has more to do with economic reasons than belief in a cause or loyalty to a party.

The availability of young men and women for political rallies is due to the high level of unemployment, hunger, and abject poverty in the country. Although the crowd is an old phenomenon associated with politics, unemployment in Liberia has complicated the matter.



Unemployed youth is a fertile ground for political mobilization and they are ready to be hired; with their energies channelled to political causes that do not serve them any purpose or represent their views.

Another factor responsible for large crowds at political rallies in Liberia is the acute poverty pervading the land. Many Liberians who should ordinarily be engaged in productive activities are hired for between US\$2 to US\$10 to attend campaign rallies. These amounts depend on which region of the country the rallies are held in and whether the party involved is in power or not.

With 2.7 million (52.3%) Liberians being multidimensional poor, every dollar available for the next meal or to help pay school fees and the house rent is important and worth sacrificing time for. Most persons attending campaign rallies under the current dispensation are going for the day-paid job, and it has nothing to do with passion for any political ideal or candidate or even the hope of a better tomorrow, which ordinarily politicians trade in.

The next factor contributing to the growing crowd pulling at political party rallies is the significant erosion of our value system. Honesty, integrity, and self-respect are vanishing traits in Liberian society. Most participants in these rallies know the candidates and the parties are incompetent and the opposite of what they believe in and know, yet they openly identify with them in rallies when paid, even though many still vote otherwise.

Truth be told, most of our dominant political parties have no known ideologies, and attraction to them is often based on tribal, regional, parochial or mundane sentiments. This anomaly is counterproductive during electioneering campaigns when people see all political activities as making money, consolidating political capital, and gaining political patronage.

Some in the crowd want to have fun, love the atmosphere and fun activities during rallies, and want to participate. Although in the rally, out of curiosity or just having fun, this group will collect money or other provisions if provided.

Hunger has been weaponized in Liberia, and any political campaign rally that provides food will experience more crowd-pulling.

For a country blessed with so many food production endowments, the 2022 Global Hunger Index (GHI) scored Liberia at 32.4 indicating a 'serious' hunger problem in the country. Social media are awash with real-life videos of the fights for food and provisions in various rallies across the nation. It is embarrassing that hunger is linked with political campaigns in Liberia.

People are struggling to survive and live in the moment. Sadly, Liberians avoid rallies where candidates will elucidate policies to alleviate hunger. They want rallies where they are fed for the day and given money.

In the case of CDC, the party claimed to have hosted a one million men rally on September 7, 2023, as their core argument for a one-round victory in the 2023 presidential election even though at the height of George Weah's popularity in 2005, the CDC received 275,265 (28.27%) in the first round of the presidential election while in the second round, he lost with 327,046 (40.60%). Fast forward to the 2017 presidential election, CDC received 596,037(38%) of the popular votes in the first round while 732,185 (61.54%) of the popular vote despite boasting of another one million men campaign launched.

This one-round victory perception is crucial as portrayed by the CDC, especially for winning the election and managing the post-election conflicts that are often inevitable in Liberia politics, especially at the Supreme Court. However, it is evident that such crowd-pulling, no matter the visual power they portray, does not translate to voter loyalty or electoral victory.

Liberia has a history of voter apathy, where a significant number of registered voters fail to show up on election day. During the 2017 general elections, the country had approximately 2.1 million registered voters, however, turnout in the presidential election was 1,641,922 (75.19%) despite massive crowds pulling at political rallies during the campaigning period. In the 2014 Special Senatorial Election, it was 25.2% while in the 2020 election for the Liberian senate, out of 2.4 million registered voters, the turnout was 36% which means 64.42% of



registered voters never voted so large crowds at political campaign rallies usually do not translate to high voter turnout either.

In reality or by all sorts of axioms large crowds may not actually translate into an election victory in the elections. This is because the political leaves are already changing color and the wind feels different with the political quotient amongst the Liberia electorates. Therefore you cannot judge the popularity of any candidate by the large crowds around him or her. On October 10, 2023, Liberians will see whether those who have been attending rallies are true supporters of candidates or not. I rest my case.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LNBA takes election peace message to Grand Bassa

The Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) has taken elections peace message to Grand Bassa County as part of its capacity support to the

Montserrado County, with the holding of a public dialogue on electoral dispute resolution.

The dialogue emphasized the distinction between

security sector, and the media.

The LNBA release explained that the unprecedented project is geared toward ensuring the peaceful conduct of a free, fair, transparent, credible, and democratic election. While in Grand Bassa, the LNBA will conduct a public dialogue, training, and awareness event with participants drawn from Margibi, River Cess, and Grand Bassa Counties.

“Presenters at the event will include former Associate Justice, Philip A.Z. Banks, III; former Minister of Justice, Cllr. Benedict F. Sannoh and former National President of the LNBA, Cllr. G. Moses Paegar,” the release said.

The release disclosed that the three presenters will present on different aspects of “Electoral Dispute Resolution, with emphasis on courtroom litigation and administrative hearings conducted at NEC.”

It revealed that the training session will be moderated by Cllr. Frederick L.M. Gbemie, a member of the National Executive Council of the Bar. “The LNBA says it remains grateful to the Irish and Swedish Governments, and the European Union (EU) for providing support to enable the LNBA to achieve such unparalleled initiative,” the release indicated.

courtroom litigation and administrative hearings conducted at NEC and public awareness of the election timetable and pre-election activities.

“The project was extended to Tubmanburg, Bomi County, on Friday, 22 September 2023, and the event was attended by over 100 participants drawn from Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, and Bomi Counties, representing various sectors of the Liberian society. The participants included members of the bar, civil society organizations (CSOs), the



National Elections Commission (NEC).

Through a release dated 25 September 2023, the LNBA said it has been rolling out activities under the LNBA/NEC Collaboration Project. It is intended to build the capacities of the NEC, civil society organizations, security sector actors, religious communities, and the media with funding from the UNDP Electoral Support Program. According to the release, the implementation of the project began on Tuesday, 19 September 2023 in

I'm still your son

-President Weah persuades voters in Lofa County

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

President George Manneh Weah has commenced his campaign rally in vote-rich Lofa County, telling residents that he is still their son and they should support his re-election bid. In previous presidential elections, Mr. Weah received low support from Lofa compared to his main rival Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai who hails from the county.

In 2011, Mr. Weah's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) obtained just 13.9% of the votes count, while Amb. Boakai's Unity Party (UP) obtained 71%.

In the 2017 elections, Mr. Weah and his Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) also obtained 15.80%, and Boakai's UP obtained 84.20 % of the vote in Lofa.

But speaking during his presidential campaign rally in

doesn't matter the percentage you give me. The whole idea of voting for me, whether it's 10%, 15%, or 25%, but I'm still your son,” Weah pleaded.

He noted that this is why Lofaians have seen unprecedented developments. Meanwhile, Mr. Weah has accused his main rival Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai of doing nothing for the people of Lofa County. He referred to Boakai's campaign as a “Resting Team,” instead of Rescue Team. Weah believes that it is only his government that can rescue Liberians.

“Lofa County this is our time. Let us seize the moment, and believe in this government. This is the only government that can rescue you,” he continued. Weah argued that voters can see with evidence unprecedented developments. In a brief statement, CDC senatorial



Zorzor City, Lofa County, President Weah pleaded with voters to back him for more developments.

He boasted of gains made in his administration in nearly six years of rule, including connecting roads, building more hospitals, and providing free education. He assured them of more developments if he is re-elected. “In 2017, they announced the election results and they said Lofa County did not vote for me. We won 14 counties, and Lofa County did not vote for me,” Weah explained. “And I asked why, but nobody could answer,” he continued.

“For me Lofa County, it

candidate in Lofa County, Moses Kollie stressed that the people of Lofa have now seen the light of development and will support those who believe in development. He said this time, the narrative of the low percentage of votes in Lofa County will change.

He reaffirmed Lofaians' commitment to vote for leaders who will develop their county, saying they will overwhelmingly vote for President Weah. “This is not about county meet where if you are from a specific county you must support it, but this time around, we are in for total development and Lofa County has resolved to vote you Mr. President,” said Mr. Kollie.

USAID's Conservation Works train environmental professionals on One Health in impact assessment

Liberia Conservation Works (CW), funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), hosted a One Health in Impact Assessment Training for members of the Union of Certified Environmental Professionals of Liberia (UCEL) from September 13-14, 2023 in Monrovia.

According to a press release, members of UCEL were trained on integrating the principles and science of One Health into the design, planning, and execution of major projects for which an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is required.

The CW team, along with several participants and members of Liberia's National One Health Coordination Platform, made presentations which spearheaded fruitful discussions on topics including: human, animal and environmental health threats and their exposure pathways;

sources of health information and tools to support ESIA; regional approaches and requirements for One Health in major investment projects; and One Health strategies for risk mitigation and offsets in development sector planning. In his remarks, USAID Agreement Officer Representative, Mr. Conrado Garcia, expressed his gratitude for the work that CW and UCEL are doing and thanked the group for promoting the

integration of One Health in impact assessment.

Conservation Works Chief of Party, Dr. Jim Desmond, also noted that “if the environment is protected, it will protect us.”

UCEL President Mr. Solomon P. Wright reinforced this sentiment, stating, “In the next training [for certifying

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Daintowon Domah Pay-Baye receives prestigious award

By Naneka Hoffman

Daintowon Domah Pay-Bayee over the weekend was one of

best in me and appointed me as an official of government”, she added.

She continued, “I present

Founding President of PAPA, Author Ralph Antwi remarked that the PAPA is an annual honorary awards hosted in various continents under the Appreciation Project, to celebrate predecessors from various walks of life who have left their footprints in the sands of time. “What makes this honor unique is that it goes beyond the plaque which is only a token of appreciation.”

“ We have a whole richly packaged item for all the awardees, including the writing, publishing and launching of books for all of them....we encourage each of them to pick one project and the team helps them to facilitate that..”, Mr. Antwi added.

This year’s edition is being held under the theme “Legacy: Impart Before You Depart”. The Accra Event was the Africa-Edition. The Europe-Edition was held in July, 2023 in Strasbourg, France while the America-Edition is slated for November, 2023 in Florida, the United States of America. The PAPA Worldwide was conceived ten years ago and initiated in 2022, a maiden edition that was held in Ghana with 25 honorees. She was honored in the ‘Leadership Category’ for her contributions to youthful leadership, including in the areas of persons with disability.



Daintowon Domah Pay-Baye

32 Africans drawn from across the continent who were honored by an acclaimed Ghanaian non-governmental organization, Relevant Achievers Impacting Nations (RAIN).

Speaking at the ceremony over the weekend Miss Pay-Bayee, Executive Director of Liberia’s National Commission on Disabilities, said she was presenting the award to his mother, took care of her in spite of her disability from age 5.

“I also want to present this award to the President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency, Dr. George Manneh Weah, who saw the

this to persons with disabilities across the world. Disability is not inability once you give us the support. We don’t want to be by the roadside and begging, but because there is lack of empowerment and lack of accessibility, that’s the reason why we become liability to society.”

She also dedicated the award to Liberians in the Diaspora and everywhere, saying: “This has given me strength and a strength to people with disabilities that in our conditions we can definitely make the difference.”

Speaking earlier, the

Confucius Institute ends Chinese songs competition

By Lincoln G. Peters

As part of the cultural exchange between Liberia and China, the Confucius Institute of the Amos Sawyer College at the University of Liberia has concluded its annual “Voice of Liberia” Chinese song compilation.

This final stage of the Chinese language song competition, which was contested by twelve Liberian students was held under the theme, “Together for Brighter Future” on Saturday, September 23, 2023.

During the tense competition, Student Jusu N. Dawolo walked away with the grand prize.

The 2023 “Voice of Liberia” song competition organized by the Confucius Institute is one of several programs organized in commemoration of the annual “Chinese Language Day” in Liberia. The colorful enculturation

event saw every participating student being called with Chinese names as they sung beautiful Chinese songs that were stripped on a live stream.

The Co-director of the Confucius Institute at the university noted that over the years, the Institute has been the backbone of cultural exchange between Liberia and China, promoting diplomacy

and development.

“This event marks a significant impact of the cultural exchange between Liberia and China.

The Confucius Institute has been the backbone of this cultural exchange between the two countries and it has been promoting and strengthening the diplomacy between Liberia and China.”



Dr. Bhofal Chambers

Our resolution for the 2023 Elections

As members of the Fourth Estate, we in the media have a duty to uphold the sanctity of the state, its peace and unity, security and democratic pluralism thru free, fair credible and participatory elections for economic viability and growth. We’re also committed to availing our various platforms, as we have always done, to citizens across the length and breadth of the country to be heard, and to fight for rights of the oppressed, physically-challenged and weak.

It is in advancement of these sacred duties, and many others that we, the media in Liberia have resolved to, among others, ensuring that electorate for the 2023 Elections are adequately informed thru robust voter education and dissemination of messages that would enable citizens to understand candidates and political parties’ manifestoes, a need for violence-free campaigns and procedures

accordance with established laws, regulations and international best practices regarding elections. Besides, we will serve as mitigators of potential conflict by disseminating peace messages, and putting in place mechanism to counter fake news, misinformation, disinformation and mal-information in Liberia, for as watchdog, how can we abandon our sentry role in society or join those bent on fueling hate and violence in our democratic space just to revert our dear country to flames and carnage only because they want to win election? We refuse to be a party to anything that will want to jeopardize our democratic sojourn especially, after we, as a nation, have experienced 14 years of bloody civil war during which many of our compatriots died, including women, children and the elderly.

Therefore, from time to time, during the remaining days of campaigns, leading to Election Day, and even after polling day, we



Cllr. Musu_Scott

prior, during and after Elections Day on October 10, 2023.

In going about this, we commit to maintaining a high level of professionalism, objectivity, and impartiality in both our coverage and reportage especially, during and after electioneering period, by broadcasting and publishing news stories in such a manner that will not undermine the fundamental rights of ordinary citizens or not to involve in propagation of fake news, inflammatory statements and hate media practices.

We also agree to continuously work against becoming channels and conduits for publication or broadcasting of materials that inflame passions, incite violence, promote hate or threaten the freedom of others to participate peacefully and freely, in the electoral process.

We shall diligently and professionally monitor all aspects of the elections across the country with a view of making sure that all actors involved in these exercises, act in

commit to writing, publishing and broadcasting common editorials in our respective media outlets on matters that are critical for free, fair and peaceful elections. Whether it is lack of funding for the National Elections Commission to conduct runoff election, or rerun in any part of the country because of dispute or anything else that may serve as a hindrance, we commit to rallying the nation on a common front in finding common remedy without resorting to violence. This Joint Resolution was derived recently from a two-day’s (September 18- 19, 2023) Encounter with Media Professionals to Promote Participatory Democracy in Liberia held by ECOWAS Commission in Monrovia thru the Office of the Resident Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission under the auspices of GIZ/EPASAO and facilitated by media colleagues from the region. This we sincerely pledge to upkeep for the peace and stability of our dear Liberia and posterity to come.

Français

Le président Weah se dit confiant qu'il n'y aura plus jamais de guerre au Libéria

Le président George Manneh Weah se veut optimiste et tente de rassurer les Libériens qu'il n'y aura plus de guerre dans le pays.

d'octobre par le pouvoir en place et redoutent des troubles post-électorales.

Mais pour le président Weah, il n'y aura plus de crise armée dans le pays. La semaine

la 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.

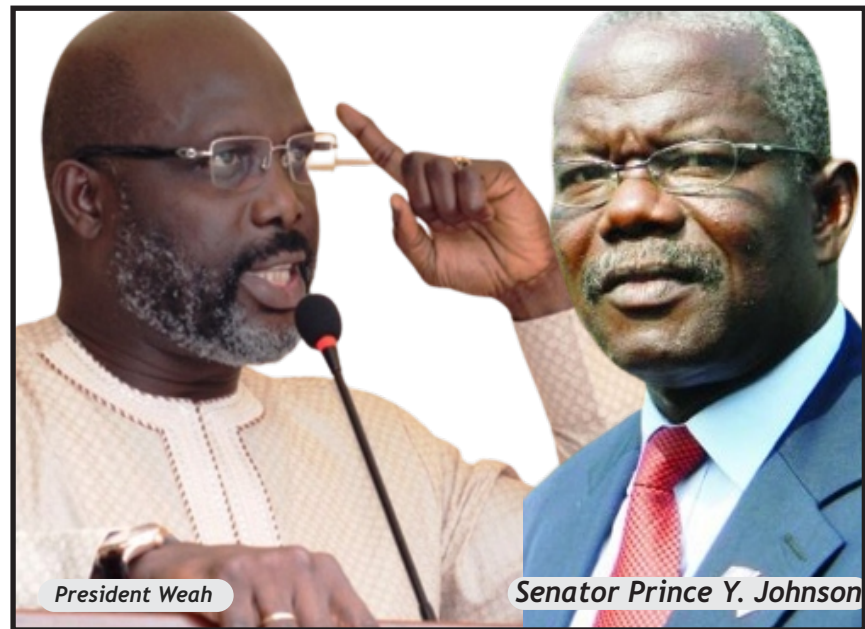
« Avant les élections d'octobre, les Libériens se manifestent sous la bannière « N'essayez pas » : toute tentative, le pouvoir populaire s'exercerait comme le Printemps arabe », a déclaré le sénateur Johnson.

« 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.

Cependant, le président Weah a qualifié la déclaration de l'opposition d'imprudente,

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President Weah

Senator Prince Y. Johnson

« Je vous le dis, à Dieu soit la gloire et en Dieu, nous sommes convaincus que notre pays ne connaîtra plus de guerre. Il n'y aura pas de rébellion dans notre pays », a déclaré M. Weah à son retour des Etats-Unis où il a pris part à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies la semaine dernière.

Les acteurs de l'opposition disent craindre une tentative de truquage des élections présidentielles

dernière, le sénateur du comté de Nimba, Prince Y. Johnson, a déclaré lors d'une conférence de presse que la foule qui est sortie lors du lancement de la campagne du Parti de l'Unité (UP), le 17 septembre 2023, était une indication de la détermination du peuple à destituer le président Weah du pouvoir.

Le sénateur Johnson a déclaré lundi lors d'une conférence de presse que la foule qui s'est mobilisée lors du lancement de

Niger : Emmanuel Macron annonce le retour « dans les prochaines heures » de l'ambassadeur français

Le président français Emmanuel Macron a annoncé ce dimanche soir sur TF1 et France 2 le retour « dans les prochaines heures » de l'ambassadeur français à Niamey, et le départ des troupes françaises d'ici la fin de l'année.

« La France a décidé de ramener son ambassadeur », a annoncé ce dimanche soir Emmanuel Macron dans un entretien conjoint à TF1 et France 2. « Dans les prochaines heures, notre ambassadeur avec plusieurs diplomates rentrera en France », a-t-il précisé.

Après avoir refusé pendant plusieurs semaines de rappeler Sylvain Itté, son diplomate en chef au Niger, dont la junte réclamait le départ, le président français a fini par mettre fin à une situation intenable, de l'aveu de bons connaisseurs du dossier, pour l'ambassadeur et le personnel diplomatique. En effet, suite au retrait de son immunité le 29 août dernier, le premier représentant de la France au Niger était de fait retranché dans

l'enceinte de l'ambassade, les forces de sécurité nigériennes opérant un quasi-blocus du bâtiment. La nourriture entrant difficilement, les véhicules systématiquement fouillés, l'internet coupé, les ambassadeurs des autres pays également interdits d'accès. La pression exercée par les autorités nigériennes est montée d'un cran, lorsque plusieurs pick-up équipés d'armes automatiques se sont installés plusieurs minutes devant l'ambassade.

« Nous mettons fin à notre coopération militaire avec les autorités de fait du Niger, car elles

ne veulent plus lutter contre le terrorisme », a également déclaré Emmanuel Macron, indiquant que les 1 500 militaires français partiraient « dans les semaines et les mois qui viennent » et que le retrait serait totalement achevé « d'ici la fin de l'année ». Ce retrait des soldats français basés au Niger, qui était avant le coup d'État du 26 juillet l'un des derniers alliés de Paris au Sahel, intervient après ceux du Mali et du Burkina Faso, où la France a déjà été poussée vers la sortie par des juntes hostiles.

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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

COMMENTAIRE

Par Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

Le protectionnisme a allumé le feu géopolitique

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Traduit de l'anglais par François Boisivon

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

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Le président Weah

appelant les citoyens à ne pas paniquer.

M. Weah brigue un second mandat contre 19 candidats de l'opposition à la présidentielle. Son administration est critiquée, entre autres, pour l'insécurité, l'importation croissante de drogues illégales par des particuliers et les difficultés économiques. Ses détracteurs disent qu'il ne mérite pas un second mandat parce que son manque de leadership aurait conduit le pays à faire face à des conditions difficiles.

Le principal challenger du président Weah et ancien vice-président libérien, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, attire de plus en plus de foule et cela montre qu'ils en ont marre du président sortant.

Boakai et M. Weah s'étaient affrontés en 2017 au second tour de l'élection présidentielle que Weah a remportée.

Le président Weah a assisté à un culte spécial de prière et d'action de grâce et d'intercession organisé au Dominion Christian

Fellowship Center, à Oldest Congo Town.

Le président sortant a reconnu les difficultés auxquelles la nation a été confrontée au fil des années, tout en les incitant à rester patients car son administration prend des mesures drastiques pour atténuer certains de ces défis.

Cependant, il est convaincu que sous son administration, la nation s'est mise sur la bonne voie de la prospérité. Il a réitéré l'engagement de son administration à maintenir la tendance de la démocratie et de la croyance en la paix.

Weah a dit que prochainement le pays ne connaîtra que la paix. « Un gouvernement stable viendra et s'en ira, sans qu'il y ait des bruits d'armes, de guerre, de torture et d'érection de points de contrôle des rebelles », a-t-il dit.

« Il n'y aura plus de poste de contrôle rebelle en République du Libéria. Nous sommes sur la voie de la prospérité, le Libéria a traversé une difficulté et nous croyons en la démocratie », a déclaré le président Weah, ajoutant : « Et nous croyons en la paix et il y aura une paix durable dans cette nation. »

Starts from page 8

Niger : Emmanuel Macron annonce

La junte salue un « moment historique »

« Nous nous concerterons avec les putschistes parce que nous voulons que ça se fasse dans le calme », a cependant précisé le président français. Après dix années d'opération militaire antiterroriste dans le Sahel, la France ne dispose désormais que d'une présence au Tchad (1 000 soldats) dans cette région. « Ce dimanche, nous célébrons la nouvelle étape vers la souveraineté du Niger, ont réagi les militaires par un communiqué lu à la télévision. Les troupes françaises ainsi que l'ambassadeur de France quitteront le sol nigérien d'ici la fin de l'année. C'est un moment historique qui témoigne de la détermination et de la volonté du peuple nigérien. »

Jusqu'à ce dimanche soir, Paris et Niamey campaient sur leurs positions depuis le coup d'État du 26 juillet et les relations sont au plus bas entre les deux capitales. La France refuse de reconnaître la légitimité du régime militaire et avait jusque-là fait la sourde oreille à ses demandes, martelant que le président déchu Bazoum était son seul interlocuteur.

Les généraux de Niamey ont eux placé la France dans leur collimateur, dès leur arrivée au pouvoir. Ils ont

d'abord dénoncé début août des accords de coopération militaire avec Paris et ont qualifié d'« illégale » la présence des quelque 1 500 soldats déployés dans la lutte antijihadiste. De nombreuses manifestations soutenant leur demande de retrait des troupes françaises ont eu lieu ces dernières semaines à Niamey. Ils ont ensuite exigé, fin août, l'expulsion de l'ambassadeur français Sylvain Itté. Deux demandes auxquelles Paris a donc finalement accédé, dimanche soir.

En France, l'opposition politique française a réagi à l'annonce du chef de l'État. « La voix de la France en Afrique est en train de s'éteindre, a déploré Eric Ciotti, patron des Républicains. C'est un danger parce que beaucoup de l'avenir de l'Europe se joue en Afrique. C'est une faute que nous payons et qui est le fruit d'une politique en place depuis déjà 2012. »

« On voit bien que la France a fait des choses depuis des années sur ce continent qui ne nous ont pas menés - ni nous, ni eux - au bon endroit et qu'aujourd'hui, on est en train de gérer comme on peut la suite de ça, mais il n'y a pas beaucoup de lumière au bout du tunnel. En tout cas, on est extrêmement préoccupés : quand vous en venez à rompre des relations diplomatiques, c'est forcément un constat d'échec », a observé pour sa part la secrétaire d'Europe Écologie-Les Verts, Marine Tondelier.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: First Round Victory

By Naneka Hoffman

Barely days to the October 10th Presidential Election some candidates and parties, particularly the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) of President Weah and the opposition Unity Party (UP) of former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai are calling for First Round Victory at the ballot box. This has never happened in the past three elections, and now even seems impossible given the crowdedness of the race.

In a random sampling, The NEW DAWN asked some Monrovia residents whether there is a possibility of any of the candidates vying for the Presidency obtaining 50% plus 1 of the total votes as constitutionally required to win in the first round. Read their responses, as compiled below.



Abraham K. Gibson

at (20 registered) political parties that are contesting in the race. Disregard the fact that each of these people will not attain the 50 percent plus one of the total votes as required by the Constitution to obtain victory, so it is something that we can't tell. I am urging candidates, who are saying that they will win one round victory to erase that from their minds because it is very difficult to see a political party to win one round victory in Liberia."

"Anybody that says elections has gone out of style. It was only Charles Taylor, in the election are who won speaking in error. The overwarming one days of people round victory in winning one round Liberia, but this time victory in the around, we're looking

"It will be very much impossible indeed because we have many candidates in the race. If they were only ten or less the ten candidates in the race, we could see a possibility of someone winning one round but out of (20) candidates, the possibility of win one round victory is very difficult. I will like to advise them, that they should stop carrying misleading information around, because they want to try to bring killers in end of the day, their expectation falls short, it will be like problem for us."



Lasana Manubah

try to bring killers in end of the day, their expectation falls short, it will be like problem for us."

"No party can we one round victory in Liberia because Liberia doesn't have the population of registered voters for one person to just win that one round. My advice to the two parties CDC and UP, and the both parties are getting it wrong. No one party can win one round victory in Liberia because we



Sekou Dukuly

see the both parties pulling crowds in the street. So they should avoid one round victory; let's go through the round victory in elections."



Alex Tamba

"Yes! This particular election can be one round victory because if you look at 2017 elections, CDC came first; Unity Party came 2nd and then

Liberty Party came 3rd; Prince Johnson came 4th and Alexander Cummings came 5th. In this particular elections the 3rd and 4th placers are not in the current race and if you look at the support of NDR, they are behind Unity Party and the person that can 3rd behind Unity Party is no more. So based on that, I believe that Unity Party can win a one round victory."

"Per my analysis and holding all facts constant, the previous elections' records in Liberia, I want to say it is not possible that a political party can win first round or one round victory alone. Holding all facts constant as it stands, we have around 20 political parties in this election that are contesting. 20 presidential candidates; now,

with these presidential candidates everyone has his or her vote. So if you are coming up saying that you will have one round victory, it is false and misleading information."

Morris S. Saryon

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CPP victory rally gains momentum

A planned victory rally for opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) is building momentum across Montserrado

appear to be engaged in a game of crowd politics with less than two weeks to the 10 October 2023 elections. CPP stalwarts said a record crowd of tens of thousands of

daughter of the late Cllr. Brumskine is Mr. Cummings' running mate. The CPP seeks to wrestle state power from President Weah and his CDC regime, amidst claims that his six years of rule has been dubbed as the "worst in Liberian history."

Massive preparation is underway by the various CPP campaign committees, auxiliaries, and support groups including women and student groups, market women, and civil servants who feel abandoned and disgruntled over Mr. Weah's government harmonization of their salaries. The CPP is rallying thousands of others to join in support of the 1 October political assembly.

Several CPP partisans and supporters have expressed great excitement and optimism about the expected turnout for the pre-victory rally taking place nine days ahead of the 10 October presidential and legislative elections.

The CPP victory rally will be led by Mr. Cummings and his Vice Standard Bearer, Cllr. Brumskine, who is also excited about the expected successful outcome of the rally, is set to propel the ticket to power this October.



County ahead of its scheduled date, 1 October 2023. The CPP victory rally is intended to bring together the biggest convergence of Liberians at the Antionette Tubman Stadium (ATS) down Lynch Street in central Monrovia. CPP's presidential candidate Mr. Alexander B. Cummings is one of two major rivals two incumbent President George Manneh Weah of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

partisans, supporters, sympathizers, and well-wishers are expected to jam-pack and overflow the ATS in support and solidarity with Mr. Cummings.

The CPP is comprised of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) of Mr. Cummings, and a faction of the opposition Liberty Party (LP) loyal to embattled chairman Musa Bility.

Founded by the late Counsellor Charles Brumskine, LP is now split between Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karngalawrence and Mr. Bility. Nyonblee is a key supporter of Amb. Boakai's presidential bid, while Charlyne Brumskine,

Earlier this month, Mr. Weah and his main rival Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai of the former ruling Unity Party (UP) launched their campaigns at ATS on separate dates and locked down Monrovia. Some members of the public think that the presidential candidates here

Beysolow seeks to reduce poverty in Liberia

Liberian female presidential candidate Sara Beysolow Nyanti has pledged to establish robust systems that will significantly reduce poverty and elevate the living standards of every Liberian. Madam Nyanti is seeking the presidency on the African Liberation League (ALL) ticket.

Her promise to establish effective systems and improve the quality of life reflects her unwavering dedication to a Liberia where every citizen can thrive. The Jubilee marked a historic moment, heralding the potential for a brighter future under Nyanti's leadership.

She made the pledge to the people of Liberia during the historic ALL Liberian Jubilee and the official launch of her party's campaign for the 10 October 2023 elections. Nyanti unveiled her vision for a brighter future when she addressed thousands of dedicated Liberians who stood steadfast under a rain-soaked sky at the Jacob Town sports pitch recently.

Nyanti has cautioned against the divisive tactics often employed by politicians, urging Liberians to resist being torn apart by religious, tribal, or political affiliations. She emphasized the need for unity to forge a brighter future.

Under her leadership, she envisions a Liberia where citizens find meaningful employment opportunities, where children receive quality education, and where healthcare services are of the highest standard.

With unshakeable determination, Nyanti promised a Liberia that was not only prosperous but reconciled and healed.

According to a statement issued in Monrovia, her vision includes the establishment of functional systems that work across all sectors and serve the interests of every Liberian. As Liberia approaches the pivotal election, the statement said Nyanti's commitment to a united, prosperous, and equitable nation stands as a beacon of hope. The



The commitment to reducing poverty and enhancing the overall quality of life is at the core of Nyanti's campaign.

statement noted that Madam Nyanti's words echo in the hearts of those who gathered on that rain-soaked day, offering a vision of a Liberia where divisions are healed, and systems empower all. It said further that Madam Nyanti's message is a call to action, an invitation for Liberians to come together, vote for unity, and embrace the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

Her message resonated strongly with the crowd, symbolizing hope for a Liberia where prosperity is accessible to all.

As Liberia approaches the 10 October elections, Madam Nyanti's vision is a rallying call for transformation and progress.

Starts from back page Boakai's stronghold Lofa

years in office.

Despite the seeming odds, Mr. Weah is determined in making a difference in Lofa counting, on sons and daughters from Lofa in his government, including Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, whose original root, is from Salayea District, Lofa County; Executive Mansion Chief of Protocol, Amb. Nora Finda Bundoo; Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Tamba Koijee; Assistant Minister for Budget at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Jesse Koboi; Montserrado County District #5 Representative Thomas Fallah, former Liberia Aviation Authority- Managing Director Moses Y. Kollie, now CDC Senatorial Candidate in Lofa, among several executives of the CDC, who have been galvanizing support via series of mobilizations to change the narrative comes polling day.

his main rival, Mr. Weah. He is poised to triumph with the highest votes in Lofa, given his strong solidarity with his kinsmen. Boakai is regarded as a godfather for the county.

Speaking during a campaign rally, CDC campaign spokesman, Kanio Bai Gbala, said the ruling party's aimed is to change the narrative by collecting at least 50% of the votes from Lofa.

He is upbeat that the CDC will accumulate nothing less than this amount of votes evidenced by its performance during the 2022 Senatorial by-election won by Senator Cllr. Joseph K. Jallah.

Mr. Gbala said Lofians of this generation are looking beyond just voting by traditions of kinsmen, but are resolved to elect a leader that can deliver rather than just traditional loyalty, arguing that President Weah has done exceptionally well in his

first term for the Lofa people. "They're not looking at uncle, son, brother, who comes from their towns, but what has been done for the country", Cllr. Gbala said. CDC Lofa County campaign chair, who is also Assistant Minister for Budget at the Ministry of Finance Development Planning, Jesse Koboi, assureds President Weah, of a resounding one-round victory on October 10th.

Meanwhile, a huge number of Lofa citizens stormed the northwest region, including Salayea and Zorzor districts on Monday, September 25, to overwhelmingly receive President Weah and entourage in the county in the CDC's quest to turn the table in its favor. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Starts from page 6 USAID's Conservation Works

environmental and social impact assessors], we need to make One Health one of the most important things to talk about - especially for concessioners and developers." This training is part of a series of capacity building initiatives designed to promote One Health in different environmental processes and practices, to better understand the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health.

supported by USAID through its CW activity, a five-year program that supports conservation efforts in Liberia. The program is being implemented by EcoHealthAlliance, in partnership with Fauna & Flora International, Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue & Protection, Partners in Development, and Solimar International. CW is also implemented in close partnership with the National One Health Coordination Platform of Liberia, which is a strong leader in operationalizing the One Health approach. —Press release

The two-day event was

Boakai's stronghold Lofa turns battleground

-as CDC aims at 50% in tight election

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

In what is becoming a tight race for the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and the opposition Unity Party in the

days away. Lofa had been regarded as opposition stronghold in previous elections, back from the 2011 Presidential election, where the former ruling UP secured 71% percent of votes

county, proved supremacy as he rallied 79,258 votes tallied, accumulating 84.20% ahead of Mr. Weah, who took home just 15.80% or 14,860 vote during the runoff though he triumph with support from the southeast of Liberia.

Judging from perspectives of previous election results, Lofa County is established as the opposition stronghold, but this year's pol, might seem relatively different as the CDC has been vigorously campaigning in the region with sons and daughters.

Despite the percentage of low vote count for the CDC in Lofa, dynamics could change as the ruling establishment, (CDC) led by President George Weah can boast of tangibles, regarding developments there, including pavement of roads, electricity and an ongoing mini- hydro-project that is near completion. Mr. Weah could also rely on his strong reputation as President, having enjoyed nearly six



Presidential election slated for Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, President George Weah has entered Lofa County, Northern Liberia in continuation of his campaign trail. Northwest Liberia, precisely Lofa County, one of the vote-rich counties here has become a battleground between the CDC and the UP ahead of the highly election that is less than 15

from the county, accumulating 64, 223, far better than its main opponent, the CDC that received 13.9% of the votes, representing 12,650 of the total votes from there in 2017.

Lofa again proved as an opposition stronghold when UP's standard bearer former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, who hails from the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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