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Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

# The New Dawn

**French Version Inside**

TRULY INDEPENDENT

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**2023 CUMMINGS FOR PRESIDENT**

VOL. 13 NO. 171      WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023      PRICE LD\$40.00

# Weah in Lofa trenches for votes



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# Continental News

## Nelson Mandela's granddaughter Zoleka dies at 43

Zoleka Mandela, granddaughter of South Africa's first democratically elected

candidly about her struggles with depression and the fact that she had been sexually abused as a child.

an outpatient but was admitted to hospital just over a week ago. "What do I tell my children? How do I tell them that this time around I may not get to live my life as a survivor? How do I tell them everything will be OK when it's not? I'm dying... I don't want to die," she posted on Instagram in August 2022.

In an interview with Kaya FM in April, Ms Mandela said: "I'm learning to be okay with my eventuality."

Her frank disclosures gained her a following on social media, which is where people on Tuesday have been leaving tributes.

"Utterly tragic loss of a human being in her grandfather's footsteps. A decent, honest human being in a dishonest, hypocritical world," one person on X, formerly Twitter, said.

"You were one of the bravest people I know and you inspired many people on your life's journey of hope," another person wrote on Instagram below the Mandela family's announcement.

Ms Mandela was only 10 when her grandfather was released from prison in 1990 after 27 years in detention.

She had only ever known him as an incarcerated man, so when he was released she was just excited he was coming home.

Mr Mandela died in 2013 at the age of 95. BBC

## 'France takes us for idiots' - Inside coup-hit Niger

The West African country of Niger is among the world's most deadly for attacks by jihadists. Following a military coup in July, there are fears a decision to order 1,500 French troops in the country to leave may further embolden insurgents. The BBC's Mayeni Jones gained rare access to Niger and spoke to the regime, its supporters and those opposed to it. Adama Zourkaleini Maiga is soft-spoken, but her eyes suggest steely determination.

The single mother-of-two lives in a quiet, middle-class part of Niger's capital Niamey, but is originally from Tillabéry, one of the regions worst-hit by violence. "My mother's cousin was chief of a village called Téra," she tells me over lunch. "He was assassinated just seven months ago." The terrorists were looking for him and when they found out he'd rented a car to flee, they caught up with him and killed

France has had privileged access to the country's political elite and natural resources for too long. They see the coup as a chance for a clean slate, a way to get sovereignty back and be rid of French influence. "The army has never stayed in power long in Niger," Adama says, referring to the five coups that have rocked the country since its independence from France in 1960. "The military will eventually return to their bases and hand over to a better civilian government that will lead Niger to its destiny," she adds. The popular anger that followed France's refusal to accept Niger's new leadership escalated when the junta asked its troops and ambassador to leave the country.

French President Emmanuel Macron initially refused to comply, but now says he's decided to agree to the junta's demands because the Nigerien authorities are "no longer interested in fighting terrorism". Outside a military base in Niamey housing French troops, hundreds of protesters have been



Zoleka Mandela was interviewed as part of the BBC's 100 Women series in 2016

President Nelson Mandela, has died of cancer at the age of 43. She passed away on Monday evening surrounded by friends and family, a spokesperson said. In recent years, Ms Mandela had become well known for detailing her cancer treatment. She was also open about her history of drug addiction. The Nelson Mandela Foundation said her work was inspirational.

It said that she raised "awareness about cancer prevention" as well as "breaking down the stigma surrounding the disease".

Ms Mandela also spoke

In addition, she campaigned for better road safety after her 13-year-old daughter was killed in a car accident in 2010. She later lost a son who was born prematurely. She is survived by four children.

Ms Mandela, who was the granddaughter of Nelson Mandela's second wife, Winnie, documented her story in her autobiography When Hope Whispers. Diagnosed with breast cancer at age of 32, she received treatment and was in remission but the illness later returned.

Last year, she confirmed that she had cancer in her liver and lungs, it then spread to other organs. She was being treated as

## Tigrayans mourn fighters killed in Ethiopia war

Residents in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region are mourning the death of fighters killed during the two year-long brutal war that ended last year. It comes as residents are now being told about their family members who were killed during the fighting against Ethiopian troops and their allies, sources from the regional capital, Mekelle, told the BBC.

The war began in November 2020 after the federal government accused militias allied to the regional party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), of attacking its northern command. Soon after forces from neighbouring Eritrea and regional militias joined the Ethiopian government and fought against Tigrayan forces until a peace deal was signed in Pretoria last year. "Many people in Mekelle have been told of the death of family members. I have participated in a traditional

mourning ceremony and a spiritual service in one of the churches. It was heart-breaking," said one resident. The resident said they were worried about youths from the area who had joined the army and were not back yet, adding that they will know about their fate next week.

Another resident who travelled to the east and central parts of Tigray said he had seen villagers

mourning the death of family members in many places. The president of the interim Tigray administration, Getachew Reda, told reporters last week that families of deceased soldiers would soon be given information about their kin.

However, the authorities are being blamed for not formally telling families about the death of their loved ones.



The two-year war in Tigray ended in 2022



him. They slit his throat. It was a real shock for our whole family. "Adama blames France - which has had 1,500 troops in the region to fight Islamist militants - for the failure to contain the violence. "They can't tell us that the French army was successful," she says. "I don't understand how they can say they're here to help people fight terrorism, and every year the situation gets worse. "Niger was seen as the last Western ally in the Sahel, this semi-arid region which has become the epicentre of jihadi violence. France and the US each station troops in Niger, which is also home to the US's biggest drone base. But when France refused to recognise the new military government here, simmering resentment at perceived French interference in Niger's internal affairs boiled over. Many Nigeriens believe

camped out for weeks, stopping supplies from reaching the personnel there. On Fridays the protesters hold a prayer sit-in. In the scorching midday heat, Imam Abdoulaziz Abdoulaye Amadou advises the crowd to be patient. "Just as a divorce between a man and a woman takes time, so too will Niger's divorce from France," he tells the crowd. After his sermon, I ask him why, after years of close cooperation, the people of Niger are so angry at the French. "In the whole of the Sahel, Niger is France's best partner," he says. "But it's France that is now refusing to accept what we want and that's why there's tension. "France could have left quietly after the coup and come back to negotiate with the putschists. Why is Emmanuel Macron now saying he doesn't recognise our authorities, when he's accepted coups in other countries like in Gabon and in Chad? BBC

# 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 Joshua Castellino

## The Roots of the Global Water Crisis

LONDON - In March 1977, representatives from 116 countries gathered in Mar del Plata, Argentina, for the inaugural United Nations Water Conference. At the time, the event received very little attention. Global politics was dominated by a handful of powerful countries, most of them in temperate regions where water scarcity, severe pollution, and flooding were not considered major issues.

The atmosphere at this year's UN Water Conference, which took place in New York in March, was markedly different. Instead of apathy, there was a palpable sense that the water crisis is a global problem. Today, every country in the world faces water-related challenges, underscoring our collective vulnerability as the planet's most vital natural resource is increasingly threatened. The robust engagement of the scientific community and civil society was also instrumental in shedding light on the far-reaching consequences of this crisis.

Unsurprisingly, the countries that were most at risk in 1977 are even more vulnerable today. The reckless exploitation of the planet has accelerated humanity's breach of planetary boundaries. The long-anticipated sea-level rise is now submerging vast areas, while deserts are expanding at an alarming rate as water sources diminish and aquifers become depleted. Meanwhile, pollutants from human waste, along with the byproducts of industrial activities, contaminate our rivers, lakes, and oceans. At a time of growing scarcity, our seemingly insatiable thirst for consumption has aggravated these trends.

The fact that some remain unaffected by this crisis attests to their privilege. While many experience environmental degradation on a spiritual level, some of the world's poorest populations face immediate and tangible consequences as they try to adapt to rapidly changing conditions.

Much like the response to the climate crisis, the response to the water crisis suffers from a lack of global coordination and opposition from entrenched interests seeking to prevent crucial reforms. As the Indian environmental activist Vandana Shrivastava writes, "When the rich, powerful, and dominant economic forces of society exceed their fair share of Earth's resources, 'indigenous communities and minority groups are deprived of their share of water for life and livelihoods.'" This, she writes, forces entire communities "to carry the heavy burden of water poverty."

A recent petition proposed by prominent water-rights activist Rajendra Singh offers a potential path forward. Singh, chairman of the People's World Commission on Drought and Flood, outlines ten critical transformations required to restore water harmony. By transcending anthropocentrism, his proposed pledge aims to rejuvenate the global water cycle and harness its immense power to promote the well-being of all living things.

At the heart of Singh's pledge lies the bedrock principle of climate-oriented

thinking: a complete system overhaul. This perspective views humanity as part of a much larger whole that encompasses the diverse species with which we share our planet. Instead of commodifying natural resources for profit and relentless consumption, this ethos encourages people to be mindful of the potential consequences of their actions and commit to repairing any damage they cause.

This raises three fundamental questions. First, what actions are required to address the global water crisis? Second, which key stakeholders must step up? Third, how can we ensure that these stakeholders implement vital systemic changes?

For too long, policymakers have emphasized minor changes in household consumption habits, thereby unfairly shifting the burden to families and communities whose contributions to the water crisis have been negligible. The root causes of water scarcity are large-scale industrial production, lack of attention to quality, and the failure to address rampant pollution. At the macro level, extractive industries and an economic system centered on profit maximization drive the increase in global temperatures, further disrupting water cycles.

While reducing household consumption is important, it pales in comparison to the potential impact of forcing corporations to adopt sustainable practices. But the increasingly symbiotic relationship between politics and big-business interests complicates this task. Instead of pursuing systemic changes, the world's most powerful governments have opted for incremental reforms to create the appearance of commitment.

The recent UN Water Conference underscored the urgency of today's crisis. If governments are unwilling or unable to pursue the necessary structural reforms, they must be replaced by political leaders with the vision and determination to overhaul the systems that jeopardize the natural resource sustaining all life on Earth.

Growing up in India, I observed the country's relentless drive to catch up with wealthier economies. By investing in higher education, building roads and hospitals, and boosting economic growth through consumption and increased production, the thinking went, India could become richer and eliminate poverty. The mainstream education system frequently championed the commodification of nature, anthropocentric dominance, and extractivism. It revered the architects of our flawed economic system, treating their words as sacrosanct.

Indigenous communities have long warned that such "progress" was misguided, but they were dismissed as hidebound and out of touch with reality. As climate change disrupts water and food systems around the world, many now recognize the prescience of these warnings. Given that we might be the last generation capable of mitigating the worst effects of the water crisis, it is our responsibility to hold accountable those who are exploiting the planet for personal gain.

# OP-ED

By Marit Kitaw

## Making the Most of Africa's Strategic Green Minerals

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

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

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

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

The AMDC's forthcoming African Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS) can guide African countries as they consider how to exploit their raw materials - critical to the global energy transition - in a strategic and sustainable manner. In the African context, "strategic" or "green" minerals are those that are used in clean-energy technologies and green industries, and those that are feedstocks into the mining supply chain, according to two main criteria in the AGMS. Built on four pillars - advancing mineral development, investing in human capital and technological capacity, building value chains, and promoting resource stewardship - the AGMS provides a framework for supporting green industry and establishing a larger presence in clean-tech supply chains.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# OPINION

By Joyita Roy Chowdhury,  
Prarthna Agarwal Goel

## Why India's Women Are More Vulnerable to Disasters

**P**UNE/NEW DELHI - Of the many natural disasters that afflict India each year, floods are by far the most prevalent. This is no surprise, given that around 40 million hectares of land in the country are prone to flooding, and nearly 75% of the annual rainfall comes in the space of a few months.

But as rising temperatures increase the frequency and severity of natural disasters, floods in India have become deadlier and more destructive (relatedly, cyclones have grown more intense). The country has the highest number of flood-related fatalities in Asia, and the economic damage caused by flooding has swelled from nearly \$1.4 billion in 2013 to \$11.5 billion in 2020. While this escalation has upended the lives of many rural Indians, who account for 65% of the population, women have borne the brunt of its impact.

There are many reasons why natural disasters disproportionately affect women in India. For starters, they comprise a significant share of the agricultural sector's workforce. In 2021-22, 57.3% of working-age women in India were employed in agriculture, compared to 34.4% of men. Despite a structural employment shift to non-agricultural sectors, many rural women have been unable to take advantage of these opportunities, owing to limited resources and mobility restrictions. Working on family farms or as agricultural wage laborers, they are exposed to the economic volatility caused by floods and other extreme weather. Moreover, since only 14% of women in India own land, very few have the ability to adapt and respond to climate change.

Family responsibilities, as well as other constraints imposed by traditional cultural practices and patriarchal social norms, reinforce this dynamic by preventing women from participating in activities - including non-agricultural employment - outside the household. This, in turn, makes women more vulnerable to flooding than men: they have higher mortality rates and less access to relief measures.

Besides the immediate threat to their lives and livelihoods, women are more susceptible to violence in the wake of a natural disaster: a global systematic review has found an increase in rape, sexual assault, and human trafficking in such situations around the world. In the months following 2005's Hurricane Katrina, for example, the percentage of women in southern Mississippi reporting intimate partner violence (IPV) increased from 33.6% to 45.2%, and low-income mothers were relocated to temporary mass shelters that many viewed as unsafe for themselves and their children.

Likewise, research based on National Family Health Surveys has shown a rise in IPV in four Indian states after the 2004 tsunami, with physical and sexual violence increasing by 61% and 232%, respectively, in Tamil Nadu and emotional violence increasing by 122% in Karnataka. Moreover, between 2010 and 2019, floods in the Indian state of Bihar damaged more than half a million houses, forcing residents to move to temporary refugee camps where women faced verbal and sexual harassment.

Violence against women is deeply rooted in social and structural problems, such as their lower socioeconomic status, gender-based disparities in resource distribution, unsafe environments, and limited access to support services, all of which can be exacerbated by natural disasters. For example, loss of employment from such catastrophes can weaken households' bargaining power and cause psychological and financial stress for men, often leading to an increase in alcohol and drug use - typical triggers of IPV. Women are even more constrained than before, and yet the same social and cultural barriers that prevent their shift to non-agricultural employment remain intact, precluding them from engaging in economic decision-making.

Disasters not only increase IPV but also make communities unsafe. Adolescent girls are at high risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, mainly because of their dependence on others. Makeshift camps that serve displaced people are often rife with crime. Men seek sexual favors in exchange for basic needs such as food, water, and shelter, and women are often raped and sexually assaulted. Moreover, traveling long distances to collect firewood and drinking water, as well as unreliable street lighting, only leads to higher rates of victimization.

The long-term effects of floods and other natural catastrophes are equally devastating. The economic shock caused by such a disaster can create an environment of negative growth for women who have been socially and economically deprived. For example, flood damage usually precipitates a dramatic and sustained fall in agricultural employment, severely constraining women's future opportunities outside the home.

To prevent natural disasters from disproportionately harming Indian women, the government must enact laws that curb gender-based violence, such as liquor bans, as well as policies that improve police responsiveness, such as staffing stations with female officers. Securing greater economic independence will also be essential, and policymakers must work with other stakeholders to ensure that women have access to alternative employment opportunities, including in the dairy industry and other agriculture-adjacent sectors. Moreover, officials should hire women to help run evacuation shelters and include them in disaster planning.

The International Rescue Committee should collaborate with local government, NGOs, and individuals - particularly women - to develop strategies that rein in gender-based discrimination and violence during natural-disaster recovery. Through a direct transfer of relief funds to affected women, governments and international organizations can empower them to leave abusive relationships and focus on developing their own skills.

The recent catastrophic floods in Libya, which have taken thousands of lives and forced thousands more to leave their homes, illustrate the urgent and ongoing global threat posed by extreme weather. In India and elsewhere, the focus must be on addressing pre-existing gender inequalities and violence to limit the initial damage of such disasters and reduce the subsequent risks of displacement and migration. As women become resilient, societies become more resilient, too.

This commentary is published in collaboration with the International Economic Association's Amplifying Women's Voices Project.

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**LIBERIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY PLATFORM**  
**A BETTER LIBERIA IS POSSIBLE**  
**WITH HONEST LEADERSHIP AND GOOD GOVERNANCE**

**September 12, 2023**  
**Preamble**

The Liberian People's Party (LPP) is one of the oldest contemporary political institutions in Liberia today. It was birthed in the mid-80's as a forward-looking political party seeking state power with a vision of transforming the outmoded political institutions of governance that have existed for more than a century and a half without significant improvements in the material conditions and human capacities of our people. With the country poised to enter into its fourth general and presidential electoral cycle—since the cessation of war and the restoration of peace in 2003, Liberia requires a progressive-oriented leadership that can take her into the future with the total involvement of every citizen in building a new society based on national unity, economic and political inclusion and a new vision that will enable all citizens to benefit from the abundant natural resources and also make every effort to consolidate the fragile democratic process which is still in its infancy stage.

As a reinvigorated political party with decades of struggles and an enviable history and track records, the party understands the daunting challenges of poverty, illiteracy, environmental degradation, poor governance, insecurity, high youth unemployment, and breakdown in the rule of law that face the nation. Based on our experience, understanding of these challenges, and our commitment to transform the lives of our people; and guided by its principles of unity and honesty to ensure good governance, the party has resolved to take the bold step to embark on this journey to reconstruct a new, better, and prosperous Liberian society.

The Liberian People's Party, having the profound belief and conviction that amidst the challenges faced by the nation, a better Liberia is possible; has further resolved to fight for a well-functioning and responsive

government that acts based on the needs of the Liberian people. Together, we will work every day and tirelessly to overhaul the old, existing institutional order that has failed our people, and establish a new economic and social order that allows all Liberians to thrive and prosper.

To bring about this transformation and the establishment of a new Liberian society, we intend to focus on twenty two (22) core areas of Liberia's reconstruction and development. These core areas are:

- Rule of Law
- Corruption
- Education
- Health
- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Economic Revitalization
- Public Infrastructure
- Executive Bureaucracy and Governance
- Women and Gender Equity
- Housing and Urban Reconstruction
- Tourism
- Energy and The Environment
- Labor and Liberian Workers
- Sports and Youth Development
- International Relations and Foreign Policy
- National Defense, Military and National Security
- Transportation
- Family and Social Welfare
- Social Justice
- The Elderly and Liberians with Disabilities
- Arts and Culture
- Participatory Democracy and Civic Involvement

These twenty two core areas have been summarized by the ten point agenda for a better Liberia introduced by the current stand bearer of the Liberian People's Party. It reads: **The Agenda for a Better Liberia under Cllr. Hawan Saye Gongloe as President of Liberia**

Upon his election as President of the Republic of Liberia, Cllr. Gongloe intends to transform Liberia into a better functioning country by pursuing the following ten objectives in his quest to build a better Liberia:

There will be zero tolerance for corruption under a Gongloe Government. Within the first 100 days a thorough review of all audit reports done by the GAC will be carried out. That review will be the basis for prosecution or other actions consistent with due process. The administration will commission routine audits including lifestyle audits of all public servants. Because corruption is the major obstacle to the creation of a better Liberia, Cllr. Gongloe has developed a detailed 12 count prescription for combating corruption with the caption **GONGLOE'S 12 COUNT PRESCRIPTION FOR COMBATING CORRUPTION** as an integral part of the Better Liberia Agenda.

Corruption has been at the foundation of Liberia's underdevelopment. Liberia, which is the oldest independent Republic in Africa is currently much more underdeveloped than most African countries. Countries like Mauritius, Lesotho, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, The Gambia, Botswana and even Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ivory Coast, next door to Liberia are more developed than Liberia. Although most African countries are affected by corruption, Liberia seems to be in the top bracket of corrupt countries on the continent. Botswana, for example, at independence in 1966, 119 years after Liberia's independence, had a budget of US\$3,000,000. However, because its first President Sir Seretse Khama was an honest leader and left a legacy of honesty that all succeeding presidents of Botswana have followed, by 2005, Botswana's budget had grown to US\$4,000,000,000.

The main sources of Botswana's wealth are diamonds and meat. Liberia could do better because it has diamond, gold, iron ore, uranium, amongst other minerals, a rich soil, a vast and beautiful coastal land and 43% of the remaining tropical forest in West Africa. Even if Liberia discovers petroleum in addition to the current natural resources that it has, the country is likely to remain underdeveloped if theft of public resources is not stopped. Under a Gongloe's administration the stealing will be curtailed in the following manner:  
 Asset declaration will be strictly implemented, with the President declaring and publishing his asset before being sworn into office. In addition to the requirements laid out in Section 10.1 of the Code of Conduct of 2014, Ministers and all commissioned appointees shall declare their assets before their names are submitted to the Liberian Senate for confirmation and at the beginning of each year as well as upon leaving office.

All asset declarations shall be published by the government for the citizens to be informed about their government functionaries, consistent with Article 15(c) of the Constitution of Liberia.

That the salaries and benefits of the President and all officials of government in the three branches of government shall be published online, and in the leading newspapers of Liberia.

That there shall be quarterly lifestyle audits of the President, all commissioned officers of government, and others as defined by Section 10.1 of the Code of Conduct of 2014.

Any official of government that interferes with the functions of the police or any law enforcement officer shall, upon summary fact-finding, be immediately dismissed;

Any official of government that undermines the independence of the Judiciary by influencing or obstructing its orders, decisions or judgments, upon summary fact-finding, shall be dismissed immediately.

Any judicial official or legislator who engages in any act for which an executive branch employee may be dismissed shall be complained to the legislature for impeachment or expulsion.

That upon the discovery of any unexplained or unjustified expenditure; the president shall, upon summary fact-finding, forthwith dismiss the official involved and turn such official over to the LACC for further investigation and possible prosecution.

That conflict of interest, as defined by the Code of Conduct of 2014, other statutes, and best practices shall not be tolerated at all.

That any government official dismissed for corruption shall not be reappointed to any position in the Gongloe government.

That there shall be no pardon for officials of government convicted for corrupt acts. Government is a place to serve and not to steal.

The Gongloe administration shall ensure absolute non-interference with the functions of the judiciary and the police. Without an independent judiciary, peace will not be sustained, local and foreign investors will be reluctant to invest because their investment will not be protected by the courts. The police must enforce the laws of the country without fear or favor. There will be no selective application of the laws both by the police and the court. In the first 100 days of a Gongloe administration a bill will be submitted to the legislature to make interference with the judiciary and police by government officials a felony.

Reconciliation, national healing, and unity will be the cornerstone for the promotion and maintenance of national cohesion in Liberia. We shall pursue the principle that all Liberians have equal shares in the company called Liberia. Not even the president's

share is greater than any other Liberian. No tribal, social, or religious identity shall be a cause for discrimination or unfair advantage in gaining access to government services and opportunities.

The Gongloe administration shall foster the building of an equitable, fair, sustainable, transparent, accountable, and merit-based society on the foundation of rule of law and respect for human rights. Employment and the provision of social services and opportunities for economic empowerment will affirmatively include women, the physically challenged, drug-affected youth and other marginalized groups. Deliberate effort shall be made to appoint women to at least fifty percent of all ministerial positions and as heads of fifty percent of all the autonomous government agencies, commissions, and public corporations as well as other presidential appointments. A Gongloe-led government shall ensure that Section 10.2 of the Executive Law is fully implemented with every part of this country being represented in the president's cabinet. Income and wage inequality in government will be addressed by increasing the salaries of employees at the lower echelons of the civil service, members of the security forces, teachers, and health workers to reduce the huge income disparity between the lowest paid civil servants and ministers and heads of public corporations. The salaries and other emoluments paid to the President and other senior officials of government shall be published annually.

The Gongloe government will take deliberate actions to empower Liberian businesses by ensuring that businesses that have been set aside by law for exclusive Liberian ownership are done by only Liberians. The government will also guarantee soft loans for Liberian businesses. In the first 100 days, the government will commission a study to determine eligibility criteria for the soft loan. To prepare Liberians to fully participate in these and other economic activities, emphasis will be placed on education and vocational training, with the opening of free vocational training centers in every county. The provision of the Decent Work Act that provides for not issuing work permits to non-Liberians for jobs for which Liberians are qualified will be rigorously enforced to increase the employment of Liberians. In fulfillment of its legal obligation, the Ministry of Labor will be required to retain an up-to-date database of all Liberian professionals. Employment in the public service will be based on merit and not politicized. The policy of import substitution and export promotion will be pursued to change the balance of trade in a positive direction, expand the economy, broaden the revenue base, and increase employment. Towards this end tax incentive will be given to manufacturing companies for placing their plants every fifty miles away from Monrovia. This will increase rural formal employment and reduce the current level of rural urban migration.

Gongloe's government shall take deliberate actions aimed at increasing food production and food sufficiency in Liberia to reduce the current high level of dependency on food imports. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), "Rice for human consumption accounts for over 80 percent of imports" in Liberia. (FAO GIEWS Country Brief on Liberia, 2020). This means Liberia is seriously food insecure. This situation must be reversed. Food insecurity in Liberia means that whenever the price of rice goes up, Liberians get poorer. Most countries that have made economic progress have laid great emphasis on the production of their staple food. Even Egypt, a desert country, is listed among the rice producers of the world. This is shameful for Liberia, to say the least. The government shall make capital investments in the agriculture sector to ensure self-sufficiency in food production. The mechanization of rice farming by assisting farmers with rice producing machines through the farmers' cooperatives will be a top priority. The military will be used in this process as the shortage of food is a major national security matter. Toward this end, the administration will prioritize the construction of all-weather roads as a major part of its food security agenda. The maintenance of existing roads and the building of farm to market roads throughout Liberia will be done through the establishment of Public Works stations throughout the country as was done in the past.

The school system under a Gongloe administration shall be geared towards producing highly skilled professional Liberians equipped to lead Liberia and capable of functioning in any work environment anywhere in the world. Also, our schools should build a vibrant student community that will, again, serve as research-based critics and the conscience of our society and a place for academic freedom, and excellence, as well as an avenue for promoting accountability, unity, reconciliation, social justice, sustainable peace, economic growth, development, and prosperity. The aim is to provide quality free and compulsory primary and secondary education for all Liberians, as well as develop a sustainable program for promoting high quality tertiary education. We will ensure the mainstreaming of science and technology in Liberian schools to get Liberia's educational system to be on par with its neighbors. The educational system will be the main engine for promoting sustained peace, progress, and prosperity in Liberia.

Under Gongloe's government, the people of Liberia on the merits of effective and meaningful participation in national decision-making as a means of nurturing a compelling atmosphere for the devolution of power. This would entail support for decentralization; free, fair, and regular elections; and freedom of information, expression, and assembly. Promoting integrity in government from the office of the president to the lowest local government official through decentralized governance will be highly pursued for the building of public confidence in government. Public trust and confidence are the sustainable means to secure the tenure of any government. Freedom of expression must never be curtailed or compromised in any manner, shape or form, because government must be by the will and consent of the people. Fundamental freedoms shall not be compromised under a Gongloe administration.

Promoting a healthy population by focusing on preventive health services and strengthening curative medical programs at the community level, throughout Liberia with a strong monitoring mechanism is a must to ensure that medical services reach the population with a strong focus of governance during the administration of Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe. The government will take deliberate action to increase the number of medical doctors in Liberia and introduce a National Health Service system that will ensure that every Liberian has access to a family doctor and where necessary specialist care at little or no cost to the individual. Being poor shall no longer be the cause of death from preventable ailments. In order this achieve this goal, pregnant women, children under the age of five and all Liberian citizens who are sixty five years old and above will have free access to government clinics and hospitals.

The Gongloe government will invest in sports and athletics programs that cover all types of sports and athletics for the youth to promote entertainment, competition, physical fitness, good health, and crime prevention. This policy will focus on providing financial support for a scaled-up version of sports and athletics programs in schools and communities throughout the country. Promotion of music and the performing arts, including cultural entertainment programs, comedy, and other creative arts will also receive government funding. There is a need for building theaters and cultural centers for performing and creative arts for entertainment, preservation of positive Liberian culture and the promotion of tourism.

In a better Liberia, the citizens will experience sustained peace, progress, and prosperity through respect for the rule of law and human rights.

**A BETTER LIBERIA IS POSSIBLE**

**Liberian People's Party**

**Principles of The Liberian People's Party**

Democratic government exists to achieve for its community, state, and nation what people cannot achieve as individuals- it must serve its entire people. The Liberian People's Party shall commit itself to the following fundamental principles:

The promotion of national unity and reconciliation, genuine representative democracy, social justice and civil liberties, including freedom of association, of speech and of the press, of religion and conscience;

The provision of equal access to opportunities for education, medical care, employment, and social and cultural advancement;

The promotions of balanced economic development within the framework of the free enterprise system with special emphasis on the development of Liberian entrepreneurship and the encouragement of employment-generating foreign investment (promotion of factories).

The encouragement of individual initiatives and creativity and the protection of private and public properties.

The ensuring of respect for the rule of law and protection against arbitrary arrest, imprisonment, and other forms of injustices. The promotion of equality of the sexes, ensuring that both sexes enjoy equal rights, opportunities, and privileges without discrimination.

The ensuring of honesty and efficiency in public service, especially in the management of public funds and the efficient management of the economy, adopt the merit approach to employment.

The promotion of free and fair elections under the principles of universal adult suffrage.

Respect for and promotion of our national customs and culture.

The promotion of regional cooperation and African Unity, non-alignment, international peace, and cooperation.

**Rule of Law**

Strong respect for rule of law provides the atmosphere for sustained peace and the required environment for increased economic activities for social and economic development. When the law enforcement officers conduct themselves professionally and without interference and when the courts decide cases impartially, fairly and independently without any interference, peace, progress and prosperity is guaranteed. The Liberian People's Party will not in any manner, shape or form compromise the professionalism of law enforcement and the independence of the judiciary in any shape, form or manner. Also, all ministries and agencies of government will be required to operate within the confines of the statute establishing them and to fully implement the laws that fall under their jurisdictions, without discrimination.

**Corruption**

Corruption is a very serious impediment to Liberia's development. Under the Unity Party Government, corruption became a Vampire and under the CDC government, corruption has made Liberia the tenth poorest country in the world and the number one dirtiest country in Africa. With this level of corruption, Liberia cannot make progress in education, health, food security and road construction and maintenance, amongst other basic needs of the citizens. The Liberian People's Party, consistent with its motto: Honesty and Unity for Peace and Progress has no tolerance for corruption. Accordingly, the LPP will take serious steps in combating corruption beginning with making the salary of the president and all officials of government known to the public through the internet, newspapers and the electronic media as well as introduce quarterly lifestyle audits. Officials of government whose personal spending are reported to be higher than

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Red Cross Donates to Floods Victims in Gbarnga

By: Joseph Titus Yekeryan

in Gbarnga early in September. symbol of its solidarity and unwavering support for the affected families. "The Red Cross is here to help those

The Liberian National Red Cross, with compassion and



solidarity, has delivered critical relief packages to flood victims in the central Liberian town of Gbarnga, Bong County. The beneficiaries were impacted by recent devastating floods.

The assistance, comprising essential items such as rice, vegetable oil, soap, sleep mats, tarpaulins, buckets, blankets amongst others, has brought solace and hope to the affected communities during their time of need.

According to a survey conducted by the entity, about 781 people from 110 families were affected by flooding in Civil Compound, Brooklyn and Rubber Factory communities

headed by women. Heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding have caused significant damage to homes in communities, contaminating drinking water sources, destroying livelihood and leaving them in urgent need of support.

Making the presentation on Monday, the Field Officer of the Red Cross Bong Chapter, Daniel Dorbor said the Red Cross understands the magnitude of the distress that the flood has brought to the people of Gbarnga, and it is the duty and mandate of the entity to stand with those affected.

According to Mr. Dorbor, the Red Cross relief packages are a

affected to rebuild their lives and provide a sense of hope in the face of the challenges". After receiving their supplies, some beneficiaries expressed their profound gratitude for the timely intervention of the Liberian Red Cross. In a collective response, one beneficiary Marry Kwenah shared that they are deeply thankful to the Liberian Red Cross adding that the assistance was not only timely but extremely helpful.

"We are really grateful to the Red Cross; I am glad that they came to make us smile. We hope another organization will follow the good examples of the Red Cross" Marry said.

## You will have us to contend with

### -Police Chief on troublemakers

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Inspector General of the Liberian National Police (LNP) Col. Patrick Sudue warns here that anybody who threatens the peace and security of Liberia during these electioneering periods will have the Joint Security to contend with.

Col. Sudue vowed to go after any individual that will disturb the peace and security of Liberia, adding that they will not go unpunished.

Speaking in an interview recently at the 74th Celebration of the Founding of the People's Republic of China held at the Chinese Embassy in Congo Town, the Police IG said the Joint Security is prepared and ready to ensure adherence to law and order during and after the elections.

"We want to assure the



that peace should be first and last, as Liberians go about during these elections.

Meanwhile, Col. Sudue has extolled the People's Republic of China through its Embassy in Liberia for the support provided the LNP and the government in general. -Edited by Winston W. Parley

## Liberians urged to embrace peace

The Special Representative of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to Liberia Ambassador Josephine Nkrumah, said the electoral processes and the day of voting should be a celebration for Liberians in fostering national cohesion, where citizens will exercise their right to vote and choose whom they delegate to lead them.

Ambassador Nkrumah said Liberians should exercise those rights peacefully in an atmosphere of hope for progress and development.

Speaking recently at the Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation (KAICT) at the University of Liberia in commemoration of International Day of Peace, Amb. Nkrumah noted that Liberia has stayed the course of peace, and that should be proven to the world this year.

Representing the President of the University of Liberia, Dr. Julius Julukon Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., the Vice President for UL

However, Gen. Johnson reassured Liberians that he often reminds his military commanders that the new AFL respects democratic principles and human rights, and it is no longer used to target people against the Constitution.

He said in the past, the AFL was used to come on the University campus to quiet down demonstrations, arrest political leaders, and take them to military barracks for detention in violation of the Constitution.

"I say these things to mean that as we go to the election ... because of our experience, we've decided [that the] NEC [National Elections Commission] should not bring any precinct center in any of our installations because we don't want to get involved."

The Chief of Staff underscored the mission of the new AFL is to provide support to joint security, explaining that AFL personnel will remain in their barracks on Election Day, October 10, 2023.

He indicated that the AFL will only come outside if there is an



Relations, Cllr. Norris L. Tweah said the University has been at the epicentre for the sustenance of peace and democracy even before Liberia transitioned to democracy. "Many of our forebearers - students, faculty, and staff - lost their lives for the peace in this country. So it is fitting that we are here in this very iconic, historic ... place to talk about how do we [protect] the peace especially as our country goes to another election," said Cllr. Tweah.

He expressed confidence that the pending elections will go ahead peacefully, stating that everyone just needs to be reminded that they now live in a democracy and citizens have to elect their leaders.

During a panel discussion, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) who is a product of the KAICT, Maj. Gen. Prince Charles Johnson, III, said due to the role of the AFL during the civil war, it was dissolved after the war.

incident that the police cannot handle. Earlier making remarks, UL Acting Vice President for Graduate School, Dr. Anthony A. Kanneh, said it was no mistake to observe the International Day of Peace at the University of Liberia, considering that UL is the premier university of the nation. He said the credibility of the elections is important, adding that the fairness of the elections is the foundation of any democratic institution and society.

Panelists at the program were Bishop M. Wolo Belleh of the Harvest International Ministries; Imam Ali Krayee, National Chief Imam, Republic of Liberia; Liberia Immigration Service Deputy Commissioner for Naturalization, Col. Asatu Bah Kenneh; Gen. Johnson; and students Julian Nelson and Salome Tulay.

In their different presentations, they called on Liberians, especially young people, to exercise their rights peacefully during and after the elections in order to protect the country's peace.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Temporary workers protest for pay outside LBS

By Bridgett Milton

Employees of the Temporary Employment for

Wilson, President George Manneh Weah was concerned about the vulnerable people, especially those that are living

effectively, saying Minister Tweah sees them every morning Minster Tweah when he passes by.

However, Jah said he doesn't know why the Minister has allegedly refused to pay them.

Asked if the Minister of Finance is responsible for the payment, Jah responded in the affirmative, arguing that it is the government's project under the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

"So many times, we have had meetings with the Minister of Youth and Sports, but we are not getting good answers from him. He can only tell us that he will meet the Finance [Minister] and get back to us," Jah alleged.

He said when they heard that the Minister of Finance was about to appear on ELBC, they also assembled there to ask him when they will get their pay.

But Jah lamented that Mr. Tweah didn't stop to even listen to them.

"If the President of the Republic of Liberia can get down and talk to us, who is Samuel Tweah?" Jah pondered.

Also speaking, Sarah Harmon from the 12th Street Community said since school opened, her children have not been able to go to school because she has been unable to pay their school fees.

According to her, she has not paid her children's school fees because she depends on her pay to address the school fees problem.

## WSR climaxes engagement on peaceful elections

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Women's Situation Room (WSR) through its coined program the "Talking Bus" on Tuesday, 26 September 2023, climaxed a day-long stakeholders engagement meeting with authority of the Government of Liberia and citizens in the Township of West Point. The objective of the meeting was to dialogue with stakeholders and community leaders as well as youths and women about the promotion and maintenance of peace during and after the election.

The program was held at the West Point Town Hall and graced by the Commissioner of the Township Mr. Williams C. Wea, officials of the Liberia Immigration Service, Liberia National Police, Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency, Elder Council, Youth, Women as well

that the essence of the stakeholders engagement round table meeting was for all citizens to be aware of their roles and responsibilities during these elections.

"We have to ensure collectively that we maintain this peace that we are enjoying. It's now time that we reject ... being used as an instrument of destruction to tear our country apart. There are more that unite us than that which will divide us," she noted.

For their part, the participants committed to spreading the messages of peace to their various communities and homes.

The Commissioner of West Point, Mr. Williams C. Wea extolled ABIC through the Women Situation Room for the education provided.

The Civil and Voter Education and Community Engagement of the WSR aimed at promoting peaceful electoral environment



Community Youth (TECY) staged a protest at the Liberia Broadcasting System 9LBS) in Paynesville early Tuesday morning, 26 June 2023.

in the slum communities.

The program was expected to benefit over 1,100 vulnerable young people.

However, the protesters said from June this year, they have not received their salaries, making it difficult to support their families.

TECY Supervisor for R2 Community on the Roberts International Airport (RIA) highway Albert Jah said he has 81 people under his supervision. He alleged that for the past three months, they have not been given their salaries.

Jah stated further that they have been doing their job

The protesters sought to speak with Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah after hearing that he had gone to the station to appear on the Super Morning Show.

On 28 April 2022, the Ministry of Youth and Sports officially launched the Temporary Employment for Community Youth project in the Township of West Point, Montserrado County.

According to Youth and Sports Minister D. Zeogar

## CPP "Victory Rally" kicks off with women's parade today

Thousands of women partisans and supporters are expected to converge on Wednesday, September 27, at the headquarters of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) on 19th Street Sinkor, in a massive mobilization effort ahead of the CPP "Victory Rally" on Sunday, October 1, at the Antionette Tubman Stadium in Monrovia.

support groups of the CPP are expected to join in the Women Solidarity Parade today.

The CPP Standard Bearer, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, and Vice Standard Bearer Counsellor Charlyne M. Brumskine are also expected to address the women's group.

A female political activist and head of a special women brigade, Madam Maria Kun expressed great excitement about the women Solidarity

parade and the subsequent "CPP Victory Rally" slated for Sunday, October 1, at the ATS in Monrovia. The CPP, comprising the Alternative National Congress (ANC) and the Liberty Party (LP) of the late Counsellor Charles Brumskine, is said to be the biggest opposition political bloc that intends to wrestle state power from the inept administration of President George Weah. -Press release

Dubbed as the "Women's Solidarity Parade", it will begin from Old Road through the main streets to the CPP 19th Street headquarters on Payne Avenue.

They are expected to discuss mobilization strategies, greater women participation in the "Victory Rally", transportation and other factors too, and after the "Victory Rally" leading to the elections on October 10.

Women auxiliaries, including market and businesswomen, mobilization committees and extended



as the Religious Community.

Speaking at the indoor program, Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh, Establishment Coordinator of the Angie Brooks International Center for Women's Empowerment, urged the stakeholders not to be used as instrument of destruction during these elections.

According to her, it's now time that Liberians embrace peace by taking the message of peace to their communities, homes and to their children.

Cllr. Chesson-Wureh added

and community security in Liberia.

The initiative is also aimed at providing information and education to residents about how to vote and what to wear during voting period. It further tells them about adherence to security protocols and order during voting.

It seeks to help electorate learn from experts and ask questions about their rights and responsibilities during the 10 October 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

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# Français

## Weah demande aux électeurs du comté de Lofa de voter pour lui car il est toujours leur fils

Le président George Manneh Weah a commencé sa campagne électorale dans le comté de Lofa en disant aux habitants qu'il demeure que 13,9 % des voix, tandis que le Parti de l'unité (UP) de Boakai a obtenu 71 %. Aux élections de 2017, M. Weah et sa Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) ont encore

supérieur.

Il les a assurés de nouveaux développements s'il était réélu. « En 2017, ils ont annoncé les résultats des élections et ont déclaré que le comté de Lofa n'avait pas voté pour moi. Nous avons gagné 14 comtés et le comté de Lofa n'a pas voté pour moi. Et j'ai demandé pourquoi, mais personne n'a pu répondre. Pour moi, dans le comté de Lofa, le pourcentage que vous me donnez n'a pas d'importance. Que ça soit 10 %, 15 % ou 25 %, ce que je sais, c'est que je suis toujours votre fils », a dit le président Weah.

Selon lui, c'est parce qu'il est fils de Lofa que la région a bénéficié de plusieurs infrastructures de développements inégalées sous son régime.

Le Président Weah a par ailleurs accusé son principal opposant Joseph Nyumah Boakai de n'avoir rien fait pour les habitants du comté de Lofa. Weah estime que seul son gouvernement peut sauver les Libériens.

« Comté de Lofa, c'est notre heure. Saisissons l'occasion et croyons en ce gouvernement. C'est le seul gouvernement qui peut vous sauver », a-t-il poursuivi.

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toujours leur fils et leur demande de le soutenir à l'élection présidentielle pour sa réélection.

Lors des élections présidentielles précédentes, M. Weah a reçu un faible soutien de la part du peuple de Lofa par rapport à son principal rival Joseph Nyumah Boakai, originaire du comté. En 2011, le Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC) de M. Weah n'a obtenu

obtenu 15,80 %, et l'UP de Boakai 84,20 % des voix au Lofa.

Ainsi lors d'un meeting dans la ville de Zorzor, dans le comté de Lofa, le président Weah a imploré les électeurs de le soutenir tout en leur promettant d'y construire des infrastructures de développements. Il s'est vanté des progrès réalisés par son administration au cours de ses six ans de règne. Il a notamment parlé de routes, d'hôpitaux et de la gratuité de l'enseignement

## Le Mali annonce le report de la présidentielle et accuse une entreprise française

À Mali, les autorités de transition ont annoncé le report de l'élection présidentielle à une date inconnue et accusent une entreprise française de « prise d'otage ». Prévue pour février 2024, cette élection est censée marquer la fin de la période de transition et le retour à l'ordre constitutionnel, après le coup d'État militaire d'août 2020.

Le communiqué diffusé ce lundi parle d'un « léger report » dont la future échéance sera précisée « ultérieurement ». Pour justifier son report, alors que le calendrier avait donné lieu à d'âpres discussions avec la Cédéao, les autorités maliennes de transition invoquent la nécessité de prendre en compte la nouvelle Constitution dans la loi électorale et de prendre en compte également la prochaine révision annuelle des listes électorales qui doit commencer le mois prochain.

Surtout, Bamako accuse une entreprise française d'avoir « pris en otage » une base de données nécessaires

à l'organisation de cette élection. Le Ravec, le recensement administratif à vocation d'État civil, a été réalisé à partir de 2018 par l'entreprise française Idemia, nommément citée dans le communiqué.

Refus de « transfert de propriété du système »

Le Mali indique que cette société française refuserait de permettre le « transfert de propriété du système ». Concrètement, elle refuserait de communiquer le mot de passe nécessaire. Le communiqué des autorités maliennes précise même la raison : Bamako aurait encore une dette de plus de 5 milliards de

FCFA auprès de cette entreprise qui attendrait donc d'être réglée avant de finaliser le transfert. « Raison pour laquelle la base de donnée Ravec est arrêtée depuis mars 2023 », précise Bamako.

On notera que le referendum constitutionnel voulu par les autorités de transition a été réalisé après cette date, en juin dernier. On notera aussi que cette entreprise, Idemia, anciennement Oberthur, avait déjà été visée par les autorités de transition. Jean-Yves le Drian, ancien ministre de la

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## Éditorial

### Notre position collective sur les élections de 2023

En tant que membres du Quatrième Pouvoir, nous, les médias, avons le devoir de défendre le caractère sacré de l'État, sa paix, son unité, sa sécurité et son pluralisme démocratique basé sur des élections libres, équitables, crédibles et participatives pour la viabilité et la croissance économiques. Nous nous engageons également à mettre nos différentes plateformes à disposition, comme nous l'avons toujours fait, pour permettre à tous les citoyens du pays de se faire entendre et de lutter pour les droits des opprimés, des handicapés physiques et des faibles.

C'est pour faire avancer ces devoirs sacrés, et bien d'autres, que nous, les médias du Libéria, avons décidé, entre autres, de veiller à ce que les électeurs des élections de 2023 soient correctement informés grâce à une solide campagne de sensibilisation des électeurs et à la diffusion de messages qui permettront aux citoyens de comprendre les programmes des candidats et des partis politiques, la nécessité de campagnes et de procédures sans violence avant, pendant et après le jour des élections du 10 octobre 2023.

Ce faisant, nous nous engageons à maintenir un professionnalisme de haut niveau, d'objectivité et d'impartialité dans notre couverture et nos reportages, en particulier pendant et après la période électorale, en diffusant et en publiant des informations de manière à ne pas porter atteinte aux principes fondamentaux des droits des citoyens ordinaires et de ne pas s'impliquer dans la propagation de fausses nouvelles, de déclarations incendiaires et de pratiques médiatiques haineuses.

Nous acceptons également de travailler en permanence pour éviter de devenir des canaux et des voies de publication ou de diffusion des propos qui attisent les passions, incitent à la violence, encouragent la haine ou menacent la liberté d'autrui de participer pacifiquement et librement au processus électoral.

Nous surveillerons avec diligence et professionnalisme tous les aspects des élections à travers le pays en vue de nous assurer que tous les acteurs impliqués dans ces exercices agissent conformément aux lois, réglementations et meilleures pratiques internationales en matière d'élections.

En outre, nous servirons à atténuer les conflits potentiels en diffusant des messages de paix et en mettant en place des mécanismes pour lutter contre les fausses nouvelles, la désinformation et la mal-information au Libéria, car en tant que gardien de la société, comment pouvons-nous abandonner notre rôle de sentinelle dans la société ou rejoindre ceux qui sont déterminés à alimenter la haine et la violence dans notre espace démocratique simplement pour ramener notre cher pays aux flammes et au carnage uniquement parce qu'ils veulent gagner les élections ? Nous refusons de prendre part à tout ce qui voudrait mettre en péril notre séjour démocratique, surtout après que nous, en tant que nation, avons connu 14 années de guerre civile sanglante au cours de laquelle beaucoup de nos compatriotes, dont notamment des femmes, des enfants et des personnes âgées, sont morts.

Par conséquent, de temps en temps, pendant les jours restants de la campagne, jusqu'au jour du scrutin, et même après le jour du scrutin, nous nous engageons à rédiger, publier et diffuser des éditoriaux communs dans nos médias respectifs sur des questions cruciales pour des élections libres, équitables et équilibrées et pacifiques. Qu'il s'agisse du manque de financement permettant à la Commission électorale nationale d'organiser le second tour des élections, ou de les organiser à nouveau dans n'importe quelle partie du pays en raison de différends ou de toute autre raison pouvant constituer un obstacle, nous nous engageons à rallier la nation sur un front commun pour trouver un terrain d'entente sans recourir à la violence.

Cette résolution commune est issue récemment d'une rencontre de deux jours (18 et 19 septembre 2023) avec des professionnels des médias pour promouvoir la démocratie participative au Libéria. La rencontre fut organisée par la Commission de la CEDEAO à Monrovia par l'intermédiaire du Bureau du Représentant résident du Président de la Commission de la CEDEAO sous les auspices de la GIZ/EPASO et facilité par des collègues des médias de la région. Nous nous engageons sincèrement à maintenir la paix et la stabilité de notre cher Libéria.



# Français

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## Weah demande aux

Weah a soutenu que les électeurs peuvent constater avec des preuves le développement sans précédent dont son régime a été l'auteur.

Dans une brève déclaration, le candidat de la CDC à l'élection sénatoriale dans le comté de Lofa, Moses Kollie, a souligné que les habitants de Lofa ont désormais vu la lumière du développement et soutiendront ceux qui croient au développement.

Il a déclaré que cette fois, le récit du faible pourcentage

de voix dans le comté de Lofa allait changer.

Il a réaffirmé l'engagement des Lofaians à voter pour les dirigeants qui développeront leur pays, affirmant qu'ils voteront massivement pour le président Weah.

« Il ne s'agit pas d'une affaire de comté ou d'être originaire d'un comté spécifique, il faut le soutenir cette fois-ci car nous sommes dans un développement total. Eh oui, je le confirme M. le Président, le comté de Lofa a décidé de vous voter », a déclaré M. Kollie.

Starts from page 8

## Le Mali annonce le

Défense, avait même été officiellement convoqué par la justice malienne en mai 2022. Il était alors accusé d'avoir profité de sa situation pour obtenir l'attribution d'un marché de fabrication de passeports. L'affaire n'a jamais connu de suites.

Bamako affirme en tout cas que ce nouveau problème avec Idemia a des « conséquences lourdes », comme l'impossibilité d'inscrire de nouveaux majeurs sur les listes électorales ou le ralentissement de la production des cartes d'identité nationales biométriques. Et justifie ainsi un report de la présidentielle que de nombreux observateurs prédisaient depuis longtemps, mais pas forcément pour les raisons aujourd'hui avancées.

Plusieurs hypothèses à ce report

Plusieurs interlocuteurs relèvent que cela n'a pas empêché les autorités maliennes de transition d'organiser et de valider le referendum constitutionnel de juin dernier.

Certains affirment que la France sert une nouvelle fois de « bouc émissaire » et que son image dégradée dans tout le Sahel est instrumentalisée pour faire accepter ce report par la population malienne.

Beaucoup estiment que les militaires au pouvoir, depuis août 2020, n'avaient de toute façon pas l'intention de rendre le pouvoir aussi facilement. D'autres, enfin, pensent que ce sont les difficultés financières actuelles du régime de transition qui expliquent en réalité ce report et notent, au passage, que l'argument sécuritaire n'a cette fois pas été invoqué, alors que les combats ont repris avec la plupart des groupes armés du Nord signataires de l'accord de paix de 2015 et que les jihadistes du Jnim ont récemment revendiqué des

attaques particulièrement meurtrières.

La Cédéao, qui avait âprement négocié le calendrier électoral de transition et avait accepté de lever ses sanctions économiques après le compromis trouvé avec Bamako sur cette date de février 2024, n'a pas encore réagi.

Sollicitées par RFI, ni l'entreprise française Idemia, ni l'ambassade de France à Bamako n'ont apporté de commentaire à ce stade. « Le gouvernement manque de liquidités et a trouvé un bouc émissaire »

Joint par RFI, Oumar Berté, avocat et politologue malien, chercheur associé à l'Université de Rouen, estime que l'annonce de ce report de la présidentielle ne l'a pas surpris, mais il doute des arguments officiellement invoqués par les autorités maliennes de transition.

« La réalité est toute autre. Le gouvernement de transition du Mali manque de liquidités pour organiser les élections et les partenaires du Mali ont tourné le dos au gouvernement de transition ou ne lui font plus confiance pour accorder des prêts. Vous aurez noté, ce weekend, que le ministre des Affaires étrangères Abdoulaye Diop, lors de son allocution à la tribune des Nations unies, a accusé la France de faire pression sur les institutions financières régionales et internationales afin qu'elles n'accordent pas de prêt ou ne financent pas de projet au Mali. Donc clairement, le gouvernement manque de liquidités pour organiser les élections, et cela est corroboré par le fait que le gouvernement de transition renonce à organiser les autres élections. Il ne s'engage qu'à organiser l'élection présidentielle. Ce n'est pas ce qui était pré-établi dans le chronogramme transmis par la Cédéao et qui avait été soutenu jusque-là », explique-t-il.

À la question de savoir pourquoi, dans ce cas, aller jusqu'à attribuer la responsabilité de ce report à une entreprise française, Oumar Berté ajoute qu'« il faut trouver des motifs et surtout un bouc émissaire. Le

## 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.

what they are officially worth will be dismissed, thoroughly investigated and prosecuted. The broom, the symbol of LPP represents honesty, cleanliness and unity. Therefore, LPP will do everything to rid the government of corruption by scrupulously implementing the 12 count prescription for combating corruption contained in the ten point agenda for a better Liberia.

**Education**

**A world-class education is a moral imperative and an economic necessity. We must ensure that every child receives the best education in the country from pre-K through post-secondary, including arts career and technical programs. We do not accept the inadequate investment in public education that has created an unsustainable working environment for teachers and educational workers and a persistent achievement gap for economically disadvantaged students including students with mental and physical disabilities. Our educational system must value highly skilled teachers and encourage critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity. The system will instill in our students a practice of ethics and a desire to seek the truth, and enable them to analyze and assess the validity and the importance of the information from diverse sources.**

The Liberian People's Party supports policies and programs that:

Provide free, quality and compulsory education for all students in government schools and heavily subsidize private schools for lower tuition in order for no Liberian child to be left behind from K-12 grade;

Establish the goal of eliminating illiteracy by launching a Mass Literacy Campaign, using formal and informal institutional structures in collaboration with private and development partners with the objective of making Liberian to learn basic reading and writing in two years by giving stipends to students from 7- grade to teach at least ten illiterate persons in their communities every day after school;

Invest heavily in pre-school and elementary education by committing substantial amount of money annually to reform the sector;

Dramatically improve K-12 education by establishing rigorous standards and a National Curriculum in Core subjects to bridge the achievement between public and private schools, low-performing and high-performing schools, and urban and rural schools;

Establish a feeding program up to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade that will be paid for by the state;

Create National Service Corps with an incentive package that would require all Liberian youth upon completion of high school to give 1-2 years to providing service in depressed communities, including conducting Adult Literacy programs;

Create Theme Schools that emphasize rigorous learning in Math, Science, Engineering, & Technology (STEM), to prepare the next generation of Liberian scientists, doctors, engineers, among others;

Initiate an aggressive Teachers' Training Program by setting a goal of training adequate teachers at various levels to respond to curriculum innovations and prioritize investing in Teacher's Teacher Training Institutes such as KRITI, ZRTTI, and WTII including the higher education levels.

Recognize the critical role teachers play in the educational system and their various communities by paying them adequate salaries and providing benefits which will encourage many young people and promote retention.

Construct houses for teachers in the rural areas;

Establish Boarding Schools for Girls and Boys in all of the counties to allow for the easy movement of students;

Establish libraries or resource centers in each county with internet access for all students and teachers to enhance academic performance

Make Technical and vocational Training (TVET) a core objective of LPP's educational vision. Replicate the "BWI model" commencing with a regional approach. There should be One major technical and vocational school in Western, Central, Northern, and Southeastern Liberia to create a reservoir of intermediate technicians, i.e., plumbers, electricians, welders, mechanics, carpenters, and other trade programs, with the view of establishing free skills-training centers in all the counties for high school graduates and dropouts;

Revisit the current "Community College" model being constructed in each political subdivision. Develop a "Regional University" system that would incorporate the community colleges to make them more efficient;

Make teaching Liberian indigenous languages a major curricular requirement for all levels of the educational system, with the view of gradually adopting one local language for the country.

**Health**

Healthcare is a fundamental human right. We support affordable, high-quality, universal healthcare for all Liberians. With majority Liberians lacking access to healthcare, the Ebola Virus in the Mano River Region and COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated this crisis, which the global health community continues to struggle with. We will fight for a healthcare system focused on preventive care and public policy that improves the quality of health for all Liberians. An LPP government will focus on ending disparities for marginalized and underserved communities, and addressing issues including reducing high maternal mortality, infant mortality, and mental illness, and increased funding for medical research.

The Liberian People's Party supports policies and programs that:

Develop a national health policy that will make healthcare available to all Liberians, with emphasis on providing free medical services to pregnant women, children under the age of five and all Liberians 65 years old and above;

Emphasize preventive health by constructing or revitalizing health clinics throughout the country and the provision of clean drinking water for all a priory

Strive to reduce infant mortality rate by launching a massive nationwide immunization program, prenatal and postnatal; Increase financial support to the Liberian Institute for Research and Disease Control;

Improve preventive and primary care by heavily investing in health services yearly, on an incremental basis; Establish two (2) specialized hospitals for Women and Children;

Implement a mass-based AIDS and COVID Awareness program nationwide. Guarantee Older Liberians better healthcare by having nurses visit the homes of Seniors who are 70 years old and above; Construct houses to host doctors and nurses in the counties; Invest in training specialists' doctors to enhance the healthcare and delivery system; Encourage a fundamental paradigm shift in healthcare delivery by moving from "sick care" to a "well care" model.

**Agriculture and Rural Development**

We recognize that Liberia is predominantly an agricultural-based economy. Most of our people who live in rural Liberia make their living from farming the land. The agricultural sector is mostly traditional and underdeveloped and has not received the kind of robust support to make it viable and an essential part of the national economy. The sector needs to be revitalized to restore economic prosperity to the small towns and rural areas of our country.

The Liberian People's Party supports policies and programs that:

Promote food security through mechanized farming and other appropriate technologies for the production of food, especially rice in order to make Liberia self-sufficient and gradually make a food exporter by providing farming machines to all farmers in the fifteen counties through the farmers' cooperatives on long-term interest free basis for a period of fifteen years.

Increase investment in agricultural research and development to the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) and other similar institutions as well as enhance their capacities to establish demonstration farms and assist the Ministry of Agriculture to provide extension services to farmers.

Reactivate the Agricultural Cooperative and Development Bank to give farmers access to credit and loans needed to improve farming and lift the rural people out of poverty;

Reverse the continuing decline in rural population by funding new public infrastructure that fosters economic development, including farm-to market roads, irrigation projects, and safe drinking water facilities;

Address the scarcity of healthcare resources by providing incentives, including public grants and housing to health workers to locate in rural towns and open facilities designed to provide services needed in rural areas;

Development" to emphasize a new mission and focus on food security and rural development. Support the effective management of Liberia's forestry sector.

**Economic Revitalization**

The current state of the Liberian economy leaves much to be desired. A country that relies heavily on foreign aid as a focus of its economic development strategy cannot sustain itself and transform the lives of its people in the long run. Liberia needs a revitalized economy that can provide a living wage and full employment to support families during times of both prosperity and episodes of economic distress.

The Liberian People's Party supports policies and programs that:

Emphasize four macroeconomic policy goals: Maintaining an environment that supports sustained economic growth, spurring employment and creating jobs through export promotion and import substitution, promoting price stability, and developing human resource capacity;

Foster and promote balanced economic development within the framework of a Free Enterprise system with special attention given to providing social protection and alleviating poverty;

Diversify the economy away from foreign domination, overwhelming reliance on primary products and the extractive industry, by placing emphasis on agricultural development;

Prioritize domestic and foreign investment that support value-added production and increasing Liberia's capacity to export more and import less;

Make human resources development and capacity building a centerpiece strategy for economic development;

Enforce sound fiscal policies aimed at achieving a balanced budget and push for the passage of legislation for a "Balanced Budget Act" to ensure that government revenues are aligned with its expenses or spending programs;

Support a functioning Monetary and Financial system by reforming the Central Bank in order to improve its capacity to control the supply of money; Make developing a Liberian Entrepreneurial Class a core component in a broad economic strategy by supporting small and medium enterprises;

Encourage businesses that affect a significant number Liberia's population (for example; Internet and communication entities, State-owned entities, or Liberian-subsidary of concessionary corporations) to publish audited financial statements as part of the prerequisites to establish a Stock Exchange to allow Liberians to buy shares in all listed companies and corporations in the country;

Establish an Economic Security Council (ESC) on par with the National Security Council (NSC). This council should comprise some of Liberia's best economic thinkers, financial experts, and development planners, to be given the mandate to address Liberia's economic challenges.

Decentralize the economy by giving incentives, including the reduction of corporate tax for companies that establish their factories fifty miles away from Monrovia, on a graduated basis, in order to increase employment and expand government's revenue base, in addition to reducing massive rural urban migration and high urban unemployment and crime rate;

Revisit the agreements with Liberian registered vessels to increase employment for Liberians and determine if the correct amount of payroll taxes of employees who are residents and non-residents of Liberia are emitted to Liberia bank accounts;

Create a diaspora bureau which will encourage and facilitate investment in the economy;

Give preference to Liberian entrepreneurs in the awarding of all contracts by government for goods and services;

**Public Infrastructure**

There is a need to replace our aging infrastructure, as well as construct new ones to facilitate an economy that benefits all Liberians. We support capital and government investment in infrastructure such as roads, bridges, utilities, internet services, safe drinking water supply and flood control, schools, ports, parks, and public buildings.

The Liberian People's Party supports policies and programs that:

Establish Public Works stations at strategic locations in the fifteen counties with in enough yellow machines, in order to constantly maintain all existing roads and build more farm to market roads, while government paves more roads;

Fully fund new paved roads and transportation policies and programs to alleviate congestion and improve the safety of our roadways; construct new roads and maintain existing road network;

Support transportation policies and programs to encourage public safety and effective traffic control.

Revisit the contractual agreements of all roads now under construction and determine how to complete them within the first three years;

Support the construction of more public buildings throughout the country to house government agencies. This will eliminate the payment of high rental fees and create savings for other services; Support the construction of Sports Complexes around the country;

Create a National Information Network to link every home, business, lab, classroom and library, Put public records, databases, libraries, and educational materials online; Provide high-speed internet and cell phone service, along with Wi-Fi capabilities throughout the country; Construct public parks and playgrounds throughout the country; Improve the ports of Greenville, Harper and Buchanan and establish Sea Transportation for Coastal Liberia;

Establish effective communication between and among government ministries and agencies through high speed internet/landlines; Construct more public buildings to house government ministries, agencies, schools and health facilities and make all buildings easily accessible to the physically challenged;

**Executive Bureaucracy, Public Administration, & Governance**

The government bureaucracy is archaic and needs to be reformed to better enhance governance and improve the administration of programs, delivery of services, and the effective implementation of policies.

The Liberian People's Party supports policies and programs that:

Change the practice of having multiple Deputy Ministers in each ministry to a new arrangement under which each ministry will have a fewer deputy ministers and relevant assistant ministers with strong technical skills; Similarly, the number of deputy directors and deputy commissioners should be streamlined based on

# Weah in Lofa trenches for votes

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Lofa County was established in 1964, and it has always been confronted with one major challenge - a bad road network.

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 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.

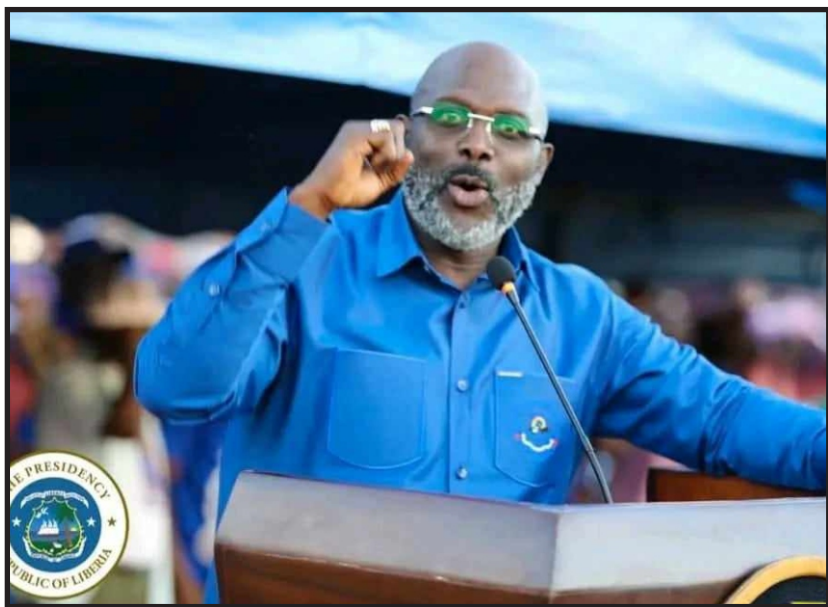
He referred to Boakai's campaign as a "Resting Team," instead of Rescue Team. Weah believes that it is only his government that can rescue Liberians.

"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 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.

Incumbent President George Manneh Weah on Tuesday, 26 September 2023 continued his re-election



campaign in the trenches of Lofa County, the stronghold of his main rival Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

Mr. Weah and his entourage challenged the bad road conditions from Zorzor District to reach the county capital Voinjama. During his campaign in Lofa, Mr. Weah continued to boast of unprecedented developments and his quest for Liberia. As President Weah pleaded for the citizens' support for his re-election, some residents of Voinjama City also pleaded with him to address their bad road conditions. Women, men, and young spoke to our reporter, appealing to the incumbent to address their bad road condition.

They said during rainy seasons over the years, the bad roads pose serious threats to the movement of vehicles.

According to them, it also halts business, and commuters' movements, and causes nightmares for travelers from Gbarnga City, Bong County to Voinjama City.

In 2021, the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Public Works, commenced the Gbarnga to Voinjama road connections. According to Public Works Minister Ruth Coker-Collins, the road at the time could have been upgraded from Gbarnga to Salayea, Zorzor, Konia, Voinjama, Kolahun, Foya, and Vahun.

Unfortunately, the project stalled from Gbarnga to Salayea District.

Lofa County Superintendent William Tamba Kamba, in an interview with the New Dawn Newspaper Tuesday, pleaded with President Weah to address the bad road challenge. He stressed that Lofa County solely relies on the president to solve the age-old problem.

Meanwhile, President Weah has reminded residents of Lofa 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 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

# VP Taylor on drugs influx in Liberia

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

Liberia's Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor says President George Manneh Weah and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change can't be blamed for the unprecedented importation of dangerous drugs in the country.

VP Taylor argues that the Weah administration met influx of drugs when he entered the Liberian presidency so he should not be blamed for the current drugs prevalence.

"During our youth days before entering politics, the influx of drugs was going on prior to the civil war", she notes.

The Vice President made the defense in Ganta, Nimba County over the weekend, while attending a fundraising rally organized by Nimba Progressive Women.

Ms. Taylor said this was first of its kind for rural women of Nimba

She described the women as nation builders because of their initiative and donated 1.5 Million Liberians dollars to the rally.

Vice President Taylor urged Nimbaians and Liberians generally not to shift blame on the current administration but on past governments.

She said the CDC-led government has been combating drug importation evidenced by President Weah signing into law the amended drug law that makes trafficking of narcotics capital offense.

According to her, if the government were directly involved in smuggling, the President would have intervened to put a stop to it immediately.

For her part, the president of the Nimba County Progressive Women, Madam Nohn Tappia Dekpah thanked Vice President Taylor for encouraging women of Liberia to consider themselves as nation builders and people who aim for the



VP Taylor

to raise money to support the campaign of the ruling CDC for the reelection of President Weah.

"Liberian women, including rural women in Nimba County, they're productive and as such they should not be overlooked", she added.

best to happen in their respectful communities.

She disclosed that rural women in Nimba, including her organization had targeted to raise 2.8 million Liberian dollars to empower the CDC campaign team in its work. -Edited by Jonathan Browne

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# UP drags NEC to court

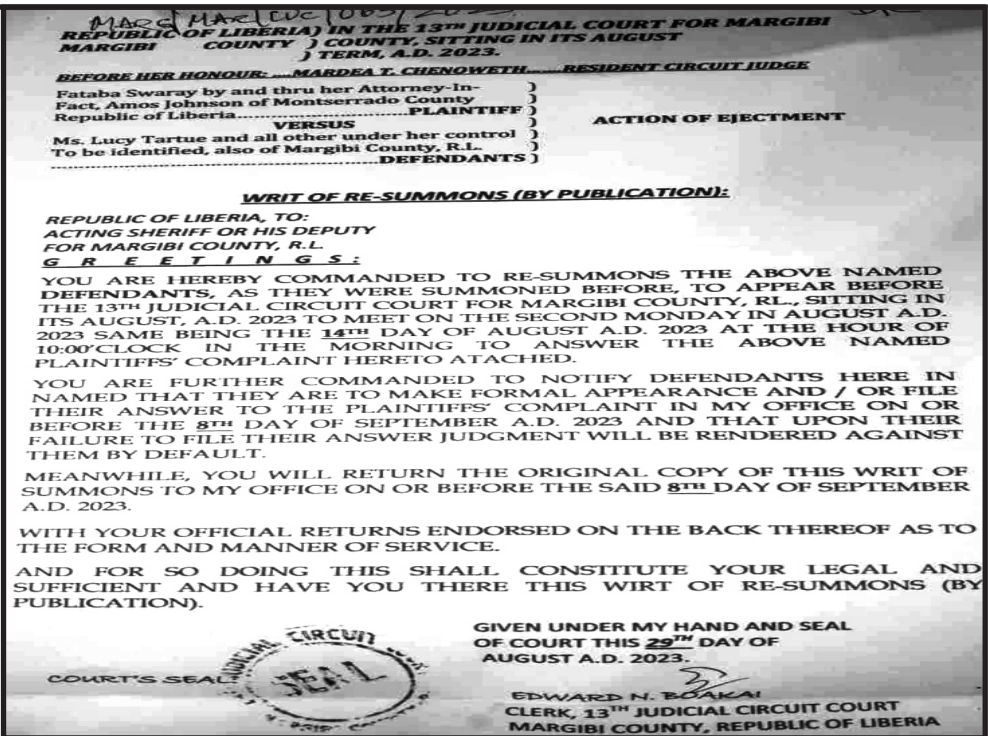
live up to its statutory responsibility for which they are under oath," the opposition party complained.

The UP noted that the FRR is the only electoral document that speaks to the eligibility of

voters. It contended that the NEC is prohibited from permitting anyone whose name is not found on the FRR to vote.

Further, the opposition

party stated in its writ that pool watchers who are not registered at their places of assignment and whose names are not on the FRR should not be allowed to vote. -Edited by Winston



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# UP drags NEC to court

## -Demands publication of final voter roll

Liberia's main opposition Unity Party (UP) has dragged the National



UP Amb. Boakai | NEC Boss Davidetta-Browne-Lansanah

Elections Commission (NEC) to the Supreme Court, demanding publication of the final registration roll (FRR) ahead of the 10 October 2023 elections.

Through a petition for a writ of mandamus, the former ruling party headed by former vice president Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, wants the Court to order the NEC to publish and distribute the FRR.

lamented that the NEC has failed to publish the FRR as the law requires. UP wants the

district in the country. The UP argued that consistent with the 2023 Voter Registration Regulations, FRR means a list of registered voters who are qualified to vote that is produced following exhibition and decision on voter appeals, claims, challenges, and required changes to the provisional registration roll. The opposition party therefore asked the Supreme Court to issue the alternative writ of mandamus against the NEC ordering it to appeal and show cause why the mandatory writ of mandamus should not be issued against it to publish and issue the FRR. The UP requested the court to issue a peremptory writ requesting the NEC to produce, publish, and distribute or issue the FRR in keeping with the law. "On August 29, 2023, the NEC chairperson appeared at the House of Senate under oath and faithfully promised to provide the FRR on the 18 of September 2023," the UP

court to order the NEC to show cause why it has failed to publish the FRR in keeping with the law. The opposition party noted that consistent with the duty devoted to the NEC by the New Elections Law and the Supreme Court's opinion, the NEC is mandated to publish and submit to political parties and independent candidates copies

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