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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023	L\$185.6517/US\$1.00	L\$187.5271/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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2023 CUMMINGS FOR PRESIDENT

VOL. 13 NO. 172 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00



Weah gets Lofa's commitment

Setback for possible runoff looms

-As ECOWAS, EU LTO Teams identified key issue

CUMMINGS BRUMSKINE

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Continental News

Nigeria's Labor Unions Call for Indefinite Strike Over Cost of Living

Nigeria's two biggest workers' unions plan to start an indefinite strike next week to protest a

businesses and households rely on petrol generators for electricity.

The Nigeria Labour Congress and Trade Union Nigeria, the

which has unleashed massive suffering on Nigeria workers and masses."

The government had urged unions to continue negotiations instead of resorting to strikes, saying this



cost-of-living crisis after the government scrapped a popular but costly petrol subsidy, union leaders said on Tuesday.

Unions have been pushing President Bola Tinubu to reverse his May decision to scrap the decades-old subsidy that had kept fuel prices low but was draining government finances.

Prices have risen sharply, including the cost of food, transport and power as most

biggest unions, said they would begin the strike on October 3.

"It's going to be a total shutdown ... until government meets the demand of Nigerian workers, and in fact Nigerian masses," the union leaders said in a joint statement.

"The Federal Government has refused to meaningfully engage and reach agreements with organized labor on critical issues of the consequences of the unfortunate hike in price of petrol

would hurt an economy grappling with double-digit inflation, foreign currency shortages and low oil production.

Tinubu has defended his two biggest reforms — removal of the subsidy and foreign exchange controls — saying although this would lead to hardships in the short term, they were necessary to attract investment and boost government finances.

French Ambassador to Niger Leaves as Relations Nosedive After Coup

France's ambassador to Niger left the country early on Wednesday morning, around one month after the military government ordered his expulsion and days after President Emmanuel Macron said the diplomat would be pulled out and French troops withdrawn.

Relations between Niger and France, its former colonial ruler which maintained a military presence in the country to help fight Islamist insurgents, have broken down since army officers seized power in Niamey in July.

The junta had ordered French ambassador Sylvain Itte to leave the country within 48 hours at the end of August in response to what they described as actions by France that were "contrary to the interests of Niger." France at first ignored the order, sticking to its stance that the military government was illegitimate and calling for the reinstatement of elected President Mohamed Bazoum,

who was toppled in the July coup.

But Macron announced on Sunday that the ambassador would return to Paris and French troops would leave.

Two security sources in Niger said Itte had flown out of the country. The news was later confirmed by the president's office in Paris. There have been almost daily protests against France in Niamey since the military took power. Crowds of junta supporters have spent days camping outside a French military base to demand the troops' departure. Macron had said Itte and his staff were effectively

being held hostage at the embassy. Niger is just one of France's former colonies in West Africa where there has been growing anti-French sentiment both among the population and the authorities, especially in countries where military rulers have seized power. Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger are now all run by army officers following a spate of coups over the past three years, and anti-French rhetoric has been a recurring feature of their public pronouncements. VOA



Sylvain Itte, French Ambassador to Niger, greets French journalist Olivier Dubois, center, at the airport in Niamey, Niger, March 20, 2023. Itte left Niger on Wednesday, about a month after the military government ordered his expulsion

Tourism Is Another Casualty of Morocco's Earthquake

Just weeks ago, Abdessamad Elgzouli earned a living introducing tourists to the rugged beauty of Morocco's High Atlas Mountains and the ethnic Amazigh, or Berbers, who live here.

Today, Elgzouli has a new vocation: organizing a tent camp in the town of Amizmiz, for hundreds left homeless by this month's earthquake.

"For me, the past is gone," Elgzouli said as he surveyed his home, deeply fissured but still standing. "I live for today."

The 6.8 magnitude quake on September 8 killed nearly 3,000 people, flattened mountain villages and demolished schools, hospitals and homes in the five provinces hardest hit. In a matter of seconds, it also wiped out a flourishing tourist economy that amounted to a windfall for this poor and underdeveloped slice of

Critics suggest authorities were slow to respond.

Morocco's king, Mohammed VI, was in Paris when the quake struck. Only a few days later did he visit a hospital in the nearby city of Marrakech, which was damaged by the quake.

Authorities rebut the criticism, and Moroccans interviewed expressed pride in the king and their country's response. They point to the mountains of clothes, blankets, food and medications donated by citizens across the country, and in the diaspora.

"This is the way Moroccans have always been," said Anis Beri, an economics student from the northern city of Meknes, who came to the High Atlas region to join the earthquake response.

Nearby, half a dozen men tossed donated rugs and mattresses from a large truck into a barbed-wire enclosure. The bedding would later be transported up narrow mountain roads to quake-affected villages,



Moroccan volunteers hand out socks to children in one of the area's impacted by the earthquake that hit the country on Sept. 8, killing nearly 3,000 people and destroying homes, hospitals and schools

Morocco.

Now, the region faces the difficult job of rebuilding as winter looms, and harsh weather promises to complicate recovery — and intensify hardship for thousands of Moroccans living in tents perched high in the mountains. While the government has pledged \$11.7 billion to help more than 4 million earthquake-affected people rebuild, experts suggest the fallout could be steep. Earlier this month, the U.S. Geological Survey estimated the quake — exacerbating a broader economic contraction — could cost Morocco up to 8% of its GDP this year. The quake also has taken on a political edge, as the Moroccan government accepted aid from only a few countries, declining offers from regional rival Algeria and former colonial power France.

where many homes are now rubble. "This is the way Moroccans have always been," said Anis Beri, an economics student from the northern city of Meknes, who came to the High Atlas region to join the earthquake response.

Nearby, half a dozen men tossed donated rugs and mattresses from a large truck into a barbed-wire enclosure. The bedding would later be transported up narrow mountain roads to quake-affected villages, where many homes are now rubble. Fruit and vegetable seller Abdeslam Stuti flashed a peace sign at a picture of the king, plastered on one side of a truck.

"We came with eight trucks full of everything people need," he said, describing a 900-kilometer journey from Morocco's northern coast to support earthquake survivors. He praised the police and gendarmes for providing logistics and escorts along the way.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OPINION

By Joyita Roy Chowdhury,
Prarthna Agarwal Goel

Why India's Women Are More Vulnerable to Disasters

PUNE/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.

the same formula. Savings from this restructuring exercise can be invested in social services, such as health and education;

Make all positions below an Assistant Minister a merit-based civil service position; Eliminate unnecessary, nonfunctional positions in the state bureaucracy to save government much needed funds, thereby promoting a result-focused government; Ensure political considerations have no bearing on contract procurement or the use of public funds;

Empower government employees and government agencies to do their jobs free of partisan influences; Reform the National Elections Commission to make it independent and non-partisan;

Move towards transparent public financing of campaigns and elections; Recalibrate the judiciary by making it more independent and specialized, and consider expanding the number of justices on the Supreme Court to equalize and reflect the diversity and political makeup of the country, and work to elect lawmakers to the legislature who support this expansion;

Protect civil service from partisan abuses and safeguard whistleblowers in government agencies;

Provide funding to all the integrity institutions, including GAC, LACC, NEC, and Audit Bureau, and empower them to fulfill their statutory missions with efficiency;

Establish an Independent Commission of experts and citizens' participants, tasked to review all audit reports conducted over the last 25 years, and make recommendations based on their findings, to determine the legal and appropriate courses of action needed to take in order to retrieve all state monies illegally converted to inappropriate use.

Cut down waste in government such as unnecessary frequent travels and huge presidential delegations as well as budget in a manner that provides more money for the provision of good education, good health services, more local food production, better pay and conditions of work for civil servants, law enforcement officers, health workers and teachers very well-maintained roads and reduce salaries and benefits of the top officials of government in the three branches of government.

Women and Gender Equity

The Party believes that Liberia must continue to be a strong advocate for the rights and opportunities of women and girls around the world. When women and girls are healthy, educated, and able to participate economically, their families and communities prosper, poverty decreases and economies grow. The Liberian People's party is committed to ending the scourge of violence against women and girls wherever it occurs-whether in our homes, streets, schools, offices, or elsewhere. We will continue to push for more laws and support the Violence against Women Act to provide law enforcement with the tools it needs to combat this epidemic that is threatening the social fabric and families.

The Liberian People's Party will fight to bring an end to sexual assault and rape-wherever it occurs-because everyone deserves a safe environment where they can learn and thrive, not live in fear.

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

Crack down on violence against women-in the workplace and in their homes;

Protect women's rights in the workplace;

Enforce tough Sexual Harassment guidelines in all government agencies;

Hire and appoint more women at all levels of government, with a minimum appointment of women to fifty percent of cabinet ministerial positions and top positions in agencies of government and public corporations, including the physically challenged;

Ban gender-based discrimination in hiring, promotion, and contracts;

Support efforts to ensure fair wages for all regardless of gender;

Housing and Urban Reconstruction

Housing is a basic need and a fundamental human right. We must make sure every Liberian has a fair shot at homeownership. There is an affordable housing crisis and skyrocketing rents in many parts of the country, which is making homeownership for families an impossible dream to achieve. We will build more affordable housing and put more Liberians in the financial position to become sustainable homeowners. Additionally, we will work on improving existing cities such that they are organized and well planned to become economic hubs and communities that provide job opportunities for Liberians. We will work towards constructing a new and modern capital city to replace Monrovia that has become an overpopulated and environmentally challenged city.

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

Emphasize a comprehensive national housing policy focused on constructing more low income and affordable housing;

Make homeownership possible for all Liberians;

Construct 500 low-income housing units on a yearly basis to increase the available housing stock and supply;

Assist to Rebuild the SLUM communities in Monrovia and its environs with an aggressive resettlement and urban renewal program;

Construct thoroughfares to be designated in certain areas of the Capital to allow pedestrians to move freely;

Construct more parks for recreation and leisure;

Liaise with the Ministry of Public works, the Environmental Protection Agency and the city Corporation enforce zonal regulations regarding the quality of houses to be built in certain environments.

Construct new road networks in Monrovia by the building of bridges and the construction of overhead passes to ease traffic congestion and facilitate safety for pedestrians;

Develop an organized and systematic approach to Town and City planning;

Develop a National City system Model for urban development;

Create a nationwide network of Community Development Banks to provide small loans to low-income homeowners and entrepreneurs in deprived urban communities.

Tourism

Liberia is endowed with a natural topographic landscape with a very pristine coastline that includes rivers, waterfalls, lakes, the oceans, uncultivated rainforest, and a rich history and culture that have not been fully developed to generate economic benefits to the nation. The Liberian People's Party is committed to developing this sector of our national life so that the country can become a tourist destination.

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

Provide funding to improve the coastline in order to attract investment that would lead to the creation of job opportunities in coastal communities;

Ensure public and private partnership to build hotels, motels and other tourist attractions along the coastlines to promote tourism which will eventually provide jobs and increase revenue.;

Support the development of the hospitality industry through public and private funding;

Highlight our rich cultural heritage of our traditional dances, songs and artistic creation to tourists and interested scholars.

Energy and the Environment

The Liberian People's Party is committed to preserving, protecting, and defending our environment. We recognize that clean air and clean water are basic rights of all Liberians. The Liberian People's Party also recognizes that climate change is real and threatens all that we value, from the health of our loved ones to the strength of our economy to the safety and security of all humankind.

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

Push for legislation on the passage of a "Clean Water Act" to prevent and reduce pollution of Liberian waters;

Create a "Solid Waste Reduction Program, which gives credits to companies that recover a portion of their waste they generate and penalizes companies that fail to do so;

Empower the Liberian Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to crack down on environmental crimes by holding companies and polluters responsible for their behavior;

Develop and fully enforce occupational safety and health guidelines in the workplace;

Maintain clean and available water for all Liberians;

Fund public education programs that promote the benefits of energy conservation;

Recognize that access to clean water and dependable water supplies is a basic human right; Implement aggressive water conservation and reuse practices;

Labor and Liberian Workers

Liberians need a living wage and full employment that support their families during times of both prosperity and economic downturns. The Liberian People's Party believes we must break down all the barriers holding Liberians back to build a middle-class country where each and every Liberian will have the opportunity to own a home, have access to affordable and quality childcare, and have access to affordable health and quality education. The Liberian People's Party believes that supporting workers through higher wages, workplace protections, and policies to balance work and family, and other investments will help to lead to building a strong Liberian middle class for the 21-century. Additionally, the Liberian People's party will make it easier for workers, public and private, to exercise their right to organize to join unions.

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

Promote jobs with good wages, benefits and safe working conditions;

Protect employees' rights and dignity at work;

Create more Liberian jobs by engaging in public works program, renovating our aging infrastructure- roads, bridges, railroads, modernizing our schools and public buildings;

Provide safety net for the most vulnerable workers, while establishing the infrastructure for businesses to prosper;

Mandate the right for employees to form or join a union in order to negotiate collectively with their employer without fear of union-busting attacks;

Enact legislation on the passage of a Workplace Fairness Act to ban permanent replacement of striking workers and preserve the collective bargaining process;

Provide Lifetime training by requiring every employer to spend 2.0 percent of payroll for continuing education and training of all workers;

Offer Apprenticeship Readiness Program for high-skill building trades to workers, high school students, and college students;

Rename the Ministry of Labor to the "Ministry of Labor & Manpower Training" with a new focus and mission dedicated to developing the next generation of the Liberian workforce.

Youth Development and Sports

The majority of the developing world is under the age of 30. These countries will be more prosperous and stable if young people have access to education and employment opportunities. The Liberian People's Party will promote the rights of young people and nurture young leaders. We will prioritize youth development so that the youth are well prepared and empowered to become the leaders of the future. The Liberian People's Party will work with people around the world who seek greater opportunities for young people, including by promoting job creation, and expanding opportunities for education and sports development.

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

Establish a National Youth Service Corps with an incentive package, that would require all Liberian youth upon completion of high school to give one(1) year to participate in Youth Services programs various communities in Liberia; Establish a Youth Opportunity Corps to give teenagers who drop out of high school a Second chance;

Support the construction of modern camps and the provision of sporting facilities for the national teams in soccer, basketball, boxing and all other sports as well as athletics; Support the construction of five(5) sporting academies across the country;

Create Special Credit facilities for college graduates who want to go into business after the first two(2) years of government service; Fund special tax credits or interest-free student loans for college tuition, fees, books, and reduce instructional material costs; Offer equitable paid internships, vacation jobs, and skilled apprenticeship programs leading to certification.

International Relations and Foreign Policy

Liberia's foreign policy should be based on Liberia's geo-political and economic interests, guided by the principles of good neighborliness, strategic partnerships, friendship, mutual respect, and just economic relations. The Liberian People's Party believes that peace, prosperity, and national security are best achieved by maintaining a strong national defense, promoting democracy, and supporting and engaging with the United Nations to enhance better international relations.

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

Strengthen Liberia's role in sub-regional bodies such as the ECOWAS, AU, MRU, etc.;

Develop strategic alliance and participate in international networks of political parties and social movements that share similar aspirations;

Seek to build upon and continue to honor all conventions, protocols and treaties signed by Liberia within the spirit of the United Nations, ECOWAS, Mano River Union and other regional and international institutions.

Strategically strengthen international and bilateral relations with existing development partners for better cooperation.

Restructure Liberia's Foreign Missions by reducing the number of embassies and creating a system based on regions or several adjacent countries, and assigning an embassy to each of such groupings;

Build a vibrant relationship with Liberians in the Diaspora and the African-American community by establishing an initiative or Office to work directly with these two communities.

National Defense, Military, and National Security

Liberia's national security infrastructure is still very fragile, and it is inadequate to deal with domestic and foreign threats. The police, military, and immigration institutions are weak and poorly funded. The Liberian People's Party recognizes that these institutions need to be upgraded and strengthened to protect our citizens and secure our homeland.

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

Support a robust national defense strategy that protects our territorial boundaries and homeland;

Reform the Ministry of National Defense to give it a more civilian-oriented direction during this period of peace and tranquility;

Revisit the mission of all of our INTEL- intelligence agencies, including NSA, NBI, CID, LDEA, and others- to determine their relevance, continuity, and sustainability;

Increase the funding of the police, immigration, fire, and military services to enhance the training of all security personnel;

Provide low-cost houses across the country for security personnel;

Create opportunities for security personnel to pursue higher education;

Strengthen port security by inspecting unchecked containers;

Implement nationally standardized information security protocols to protect our communications networks and critical national security infrastructure from all enemies foreign and domestic.

Transportation

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ECOWAS provides \$440,465 to Red Cross to aid flood victims in Liberia

ECOWAS prepares for Joint Border Post construction at Bo Waterside

In a show of humanitarian commitment, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has pledged over \$440,000 in

Commission in Liberia, Amb. Josephine Nkrumah emphasized that flooding has emerged as a pressing humanitarian issue within the

designated the Liberia National Red Cross Society as the implementing partner for this crucial project.

The Resident Representative of ECOWAS expressed unwavering confidence in the Liberian Red Cross' ability to effectively implement the project and address the devastating aftermath of the flood disaster in vulnerable communities.

"We are confident that we will reach the target and meet the project objectives," she affirmed.

The project will primarily focus on providing humanitarian assistance in the areas of water, sanitation, hygiene, and shelter.

Under the project, the Liberian Red Cross will rehabilitate 40 damaged hand pumps in the flood-affected communities, construct 10 new hand pumps, and establish and train a water management committee to ensure sustainability and resilience building.

Furthermore, the project will provide a range of support to affected households.

This support includes the provision of shelter rehabilitation materials, and essential household items including both food and non-food items to affected families.

Amb. Nkrumah emphasized that ECOWAS is not solely focused on elections and political stability but is also committed to social interventions that address the impact of natural disasters and other pressing social issues affecting its member states.

ECOWAS's Post-Disaster Humanitarian Assistance Project in Liberia aims to promote recovery and enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable individuals who suffered from the 2022 flood disaster.

The National Disaster Management Agency has

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission is due to construct a modern and elaborate Joint Border Post between Liberia and neighbouring Sierra Leone.

According to a press release, the ECOWAS Bilateral Joint Border Technical Committee during the week of 10 September to 16 September 2023 demolished over 130 structures/houses in the Bo Water Side area for the project.

The joint border post (JBP) when completed is expected to facilitate free trade, and support the free movement of the countries' population, goods, and services, especially in the border region.

It will remove, reduce, or eliminate trade barriers, facilitate the creation of jobs, mainly for border residents and youths, and increase economic activities, especially the local content (acquisition of sand, rocks, and locally manufactured goods), among others.

Supplementary Act/SA/SA1/10/13 approved the establishment of the Joint Border post in Member States including one between Liberia and Sierra Leone at Bo-waterside/Jendema in 2013.

At the request of the ECOWAS Commission, the ECOWAS Bilateral Joint Border Post Technical Committee was established in 2019.

It comprises the Ministry of Public Works (MPW), the Liberia Land Authority, (LLA), the Ministry of Internal Affairs, (MIA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), the ECOWAS Special Representative Office, the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), Ministry of Transport (MoT), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) and chair by the ECOWAS National Office.

The committee was charged primarily to oversee the construction of the project beginning with field visitations and consultation with major stakeholders.



support of the Liberian Red Cross's flood response efforts.

The support is intended for Liberians who were badly affected by devastating flooding in 2022.

According to a press release, this funding will assist 9,680 individuals representing 1,841 families or households in vulnerable communities, in Liberia.

The flood crisis left Liberia among the hardest-hit member states within the ECOWAS region.

During a press briefing on Wednesday, 27 September 2023, the Resident Representative of the President of the ECOWAS



Demolition of houses

The JBP will reduce the time for border crossing between countries, give socio-economic benefits for trade growth, and improve the economic status of the border settlements.

The Joint border post serves as a mitigating mechanism for seamless checks, which supports the ECOWAS protocol for the Free Movement of persons, goods, and services in the region.

The release detailed that the JBP has the advantage of serving as a platform for the implementation of measures aimed at simplifying customs procedures while increasing cooperation and coordination of border controls and the fight against harassment, extortion, and bad trade practices along the corridor. The JBP will facilitate the effective implementation of regional policies, backed up by strong regional institutions and the birth of adequate regional infrastructure. The release disclosed that in 2008, the ECOWAS Transport Ministers met and agreed on the functionality study of the development and establishment of the Joint Border in the region. The ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government thru a

It is also charged to coordinate the selection and donation of construction sites to ECOWAS by the local authorities; and to ensure the determination of resettlement payments and packages for affected residents and community citizens and confirm that affected homeowners are duly paid.

The committee is charged to solicit uncontested commitment for residents' relocation after receipt of their resettlement payments and; and to solicit full commitment and support from the Government of Liberia thru the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, and present findings of these key responsibilities for approval and appropriate action. The committee is charged with facilitating Member States' efforts to ensure the availability of the necessary sites (17.5 Acres of Land) for the development of the Joint Border Posts, among others.

In 2020, the Joint Border Committee along with local County Authorities identified and selected the 17.5 acres of land containing 135 structures. The land was surveyed and the cadastral plan (site plan) was forwarded to the ECOWAS Commission as requested in 2021.

Liberia's opposition political parties stress need for transparent elections

-calls out NEC & government to act swiftly

The Opposition Political Parties that have agreed to cooperate to protect and safeguard the votes of the Liberian people and to ensure the integrity of the electoral process hereby issue this press release on the upcoming general elections scheduled for October 10, 2023.

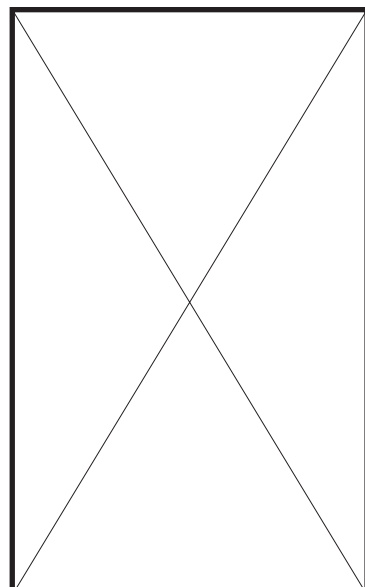
The Opposition Parties collectively call upon the National Elections Commission (NEC) to immediately release the Final Registration Roll (FRR) of certified voters, categorized by location, and to ensure its timely distribution to all political parties and independent candidates. Delays in releasing the FRR not only undermine transparency but also threaten the credibility of the electoral process. Timely access to the FRR is essential for all political parties and stakeholders to prepare adequately for the elections and to ensure the integrity of the process.

Excerpts: "We call upon all Liberian

citizens to remain peaceful as we renew our commitments to a violent-free election as well as to ensure the integrity of the votes of Liberians. Consequential as these elections are for our country, they must be seen by Liberians to be free, fair, and credible. We are committed to this shared duty because we understand that Liberia's democracy thrives only when citizens actively participate and their government acts to uphold their rights and democratic values. Peaceful civic engagement is the cornerstone of our democracy, and we will continue to collectively work to achieve that goal.

We remind the Weah-led government of its significant responsibility for conducting a free, fair, and credible election. It is, therefore, imperative that the government ensures the electoral systems function efficiently and that all necessary resources are adequately provided to

facilitate a smooth and credible election. Ultimately, the responsibility for the success of the elections rest with the Weah-led government." The parties further called upon all stakeholders, including NEC and the government, to meet their responsibilities and work together to ensure that the upcoming elections are a true reflection of the will of the Liberian people.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

GoL empowers Rural Women Farmers, 27 SMEs

The Liberian Government has disbursed over LRD\$8m to 27s Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Grand Bassa and Margibi

A release from the ministry says the disbursement of the checks, in the tune of LRD3, 000.000.00 (Three Million Liberian Dollars) to each of the 27 SMEs is in fulfillment of President George Manneh

The Superintendent of the Harbel Market, Esther Karnsuah and, LMA Superintendent for Margibi County, Elizabeth Kokolu, also joined the recipients to commend President Weah for the gesture.

The two LMA officials also reiterated their determination to push the message and need for President Weah's re-election, considering his tireless efforts to see the lives of rural Liberian women improved through empowerment programs.

Grand Bassa County Superintendent, Eddie Williams, described President Weah as a leader who is noted for keeping promises to his people. Mr. Williams however admonished the recipients to ensure that the assistance received is properly utilized for their own betterment, which will serve as an encouragement for future opportunities.

The President's Empowerment Program for Rural Liberian Women was also extended to Bomi County on the same day, when the amount of LRD\$1m was presented to Rural Women Farmers in that part of Liberia. The cash was presented on behalf of the Government by Deputy Commerce Minister for Administration, Wilfred J.S. Bangura, who said the gesture was part of the President's intervention for quick impact in the women's cassava project.

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Women march to show support for Cummings

An estimated 6,000 women jam packed the headquarters of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), on Wednesday, September 27, to showcase their strength ahead of the "Victory Rally" slated October 1, at the Antionette Tubman Stadium (ATS) in Monrovia.

The women, under the banner of the Women Solidarity Parade, led by prominent Liberian women including Mrs. Teresa Cummings, marched from the 'Fish Market' in Sinkor to the CPP 19th Street headquarters on Payne Avenue.

The women chanted slogans of support and solidarity for the Presidential bid of Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, Standard Bearer of the CPP.

At the CPP Headquarters, youth groups joined the women Solidarity parade with "battle cries" and revolutionary songs and pledged support to the

wore the CPP t-shirts and danced to campaign songs, saying, "Cummings is the man we want."

In remarks, Cummings expressed gratitude to the organizer of the "Women Solidarity Parade" and noted the huge turnout, which he said is a prelude and indicative of the women's commitment to the CPP "Victory Rally" on Sunday, October 1.

He said Liberia desperately needs change and redemption from the inept administration of President George Weah and emphasized that change will only come about when Liberians turnout en masse to vote for the CPP, which has genuinely committed to lifting Liberians out of extreme poverty.

Cummings said as Liberians are expected to turnout en masse on October 1st to signal the world the dire need for change, so must Liberians turnout, "rain or shine", to cast their votes and give



Some of the recipients and MoCI staffs pose for photo

Counties, as a practical demonstration of its commitment to empowering rural women farmers, owners of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and members of the Liberia Marketing Association selling on tables across the country.

Checks for the 27 Liberian-owned SMEs, 21 of whom are from Grand Bassa County and six (6) from Margibi, were presented to the beneficiaries by the Government through the Communications Director at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Jacob N.B. Parley, at the Grand Bassa County Service Center, Buchanan City on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 during a brief program.

Weah's pledge to provide empowerment opportunities for rural Liberian women as a means of sustaining their respective livelihoods. Speaking during the ceremony, the beneficiaries of the empowerment assistance thanked President George Weah for keeping his promise to empower rural women across the country and assured him that they will use the amounts received to improve their businesses for the all over sustenance of their families.

The jubilant owners of the 27 Liberian-owned SMEs whose faces kept beaming with smiles said they would ensure the re-election of President Weah for always identifying with them.

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 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 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.



election of the CPP as the best alternative to the inept ruling CDC.

CPP Vice Standard Bearer, Counsellor Charlyne Brumskine, amid thunderous applause and affirmation, rallied women to the dire need for change of the current failed system to a responsible leadership that will be sensitive and adequately cater to needs of women for the provision of better health care, education and opportunities.

Counsellor Brumskine made a passionate plea to women not to give up hope or relent in the political struggle for better life and opportunities for their families.

She assured women that with their support and election of Mr. Cummings as President, and she as Vice President of Liberia, they will not dash their hopes of a better life and improved social services.

The CPP Standard Bearer Mr. Cummings who later mounted the podium watched the great excitement and jubilation among the thousands of women, who

President Weah a "red card" on October 10.

The CPP Standard Bearer reaffirmed his commitment to restoring good governance and ensuring real change that will better the lives of the vast suffering masses.

"With your support and election of me as President and Counsellor Charlyne Brumskine as Vice President, we will not disappoint or betray the strong desires of Liberians for real change which will better the lives of all," the CPP Standard Bearer said.

The Women Solidarity Parade program was attended by thousands of CPP Partisans, supporters, sympathizers and well-wishers including senior party officials and National Chairman, Musa Bility.

The CPP, comprising the Alternative National Congress (ANC) and the Liberty Party (LP), is viewed as the largest opposition collaboration.

The CPP has declared Sunday, October 1 as Pre-celebration of victory in the October 10, poll. - Press release

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.

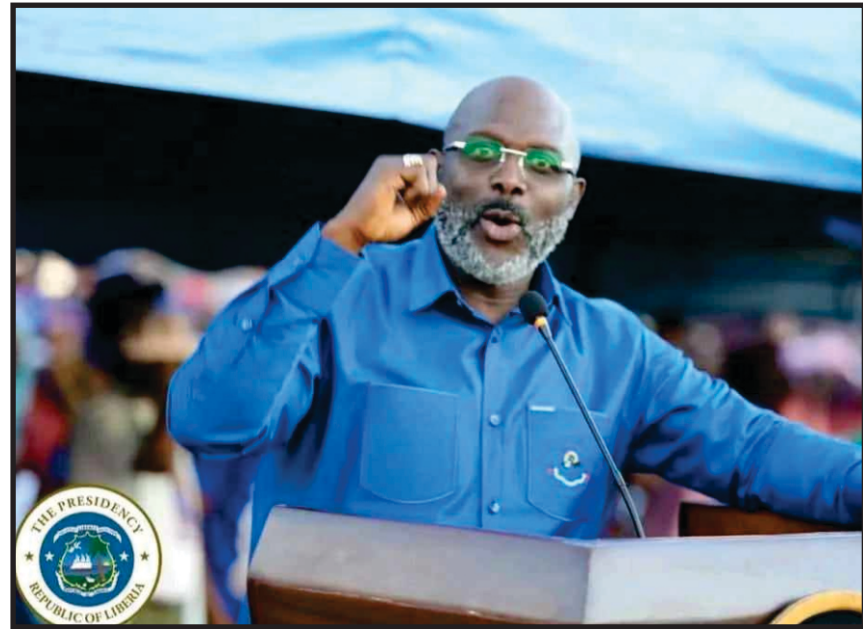
Il les a assurés de nouveaux développements s'il était réélu. « En 2017, ils ont annoncé les résultats des élections et ont déclaré que le comté de Lofa n'avait pas voté pour moi. Nous avons gagné 14 comtés et le comté de Lofa n'a pas voté pour moi. Et j'ai demandé pourquoi, mais personne n'a pu répondre. 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.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



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

Mali : les arguments des autorités pour justifier le report de la présidentielle tiennent-ils ?

Le gouvernement de transition a annoncé lundi que la présidentielle prévue en février prochain était repoussée, à une date qui n'a pas été fixée. Ce qui veut dire que la période de transition est prolongée, on ne sait pas encore jusqu'à quand. Pour justifier ce report, les autorités de transition n'ont parlé ni sécurité ni politique mais ont avancé des arguments très techniques, liés à l'organisation du scrutin.

Les autorités maliennes de transition veulent intégrer à la loi électorale les dispositions de la nouvelle Constitution, promulguée en juillet. Ibrahima Sangho préside l'Observatoire pour les élections et la bonne gouvernance au Mali. Il reconnaît cette nécessité, mais ne voit pas ce qui empêche de le faire d'ici février, date initialement fixée pour la présidentielle :

« Les autorités ont eu tout le mois d'août, de septembre, et elles auront même le mois d'octobre. Dans l'ancienne Constitution, il était écrit que l'entre-deux

tours était de deux semaines. Dans la nouvelle Constitution, il est dit que le deuxième tour aura lieu trois semaines après la proclamation des résultats définitifs du premier tout par la Cour constitutionnelle. C'est la seule modification qu'il faut mettre dans la loi électorale pour être en conformité avec la Constitution. »

Le Conseil national de transition, organe législatif de la Transition, a justement une session prévue le mois prochain, en octobre. Par le passé, certains textes ont également été adoptés lors de sessions extraordinaires.

Le collège électoral devant être

convoqué trois mois avant la présidentielle, les autorités de transition ont donc toute latitude de mettre la loi électorale en conformité avec la nouvelle Constitution.

Le fichier Ravec a connu d'autres dysfonctionnements

Pour justifier l'allongement de la transition, les autorités de Bamako indiquent également vouloir prendre en compte la prochaine révision des listes électorales, prévue en octobre-décembre. Elles accusent surtout une entreprise française de faire de la rétention autour du

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



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

Starts from page 8

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

fichier Ravec, le recensement administratif à vocation d'État civil, qui serait arrêté depuis mars dernier.

Sans entrer dans le débat sur la responsabilité de la situation - Bamako reconnaît devoir plus de cinq milliards de FCFA à cette entreprise - Ibrahima Sangho relève que ce fichier Ravec a connu par le passé de nombreux dysfonctionnements, et qu'ils n'ont pas empêché d'organiser divers scrutins. En 2016, 2018, 2020... ou plus récemment, en juin dernier, pour le référendum constitutionnel, voulu par les autorités de transition.

« Le gouvernement actuel dit que le fichier Ravec a posé problème à partir de mars 2023. Alors que le fichier électoral a été extrait de ce même fichier Ravec pour le scrutin référendaire. Et le consensus avait été posé avec les partis politiques pour dire que le fichier Ravec avait des imperfections mais qu'on pouvait aller avec lui au scrutin. Aujourd'hui, dire qu'il faut une nouvelle base de données, cela n'a pas été posé par consensus politique. »

Ibrahima Sangho prône en revanche une véritable révision du fichier d'État civil. Un travail qui, selon cet expert électoral, nécessite plusieurs années.

Le « Rassemblement de la victoire » de la CPP démarre avec un défilé de femmes

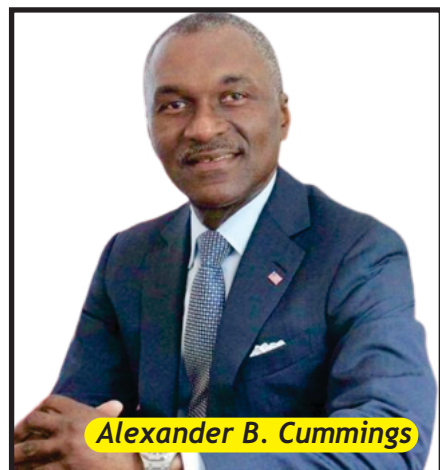
Des milliers de femmes partisans et sympathisantes devraient converger le mercredi 27 septembre au siège de la Collaboration des Partis politiques (CPP), à la Rue 19 à Sinkor, dans le cadre de la mobilisation massive en prélude au « Rassemblement de la victoire » de la CPP prévu le dimanche 1er octobre, au Stade Antionette Tubman de Monrovia.

Surnommé « Défilé de solidarité des femmes », il débutera sur Oldroad en passant par les rues principales jusqu'au siège social de la CPP à la Rue 19, sur l'avenue Payne.

Les femmes devraient discuter des stratégies de mobilisation, d'une plus grande participation des femmes au « Rassemblement de la Victoire », des transports et d'autres facteurs avant et après le « Rassemblement de la Victoire » menant aux élections du 10 octobre.

Les femmes auxiliaires, dont des commerçantes et des femmes d'affaires, les comités de mobilisation et les groupes de soutien élargis de la CPP devraient se joindre aujourd'hui au défilé de solidarité des femmes.

Le leader politique de la



Alexander B. Cummings

CPP, M. Alexander B. Cummings, et sa colistière Charlyne M. Brumskine devraient également s'adresser au groupe de femmes.

Militante politique et chef d'une brigade spéciale des femmes, Madame Maria Kun a exprimé son grand enthousiasme à propos du défilé de solidarité des femmes et du « Rassemblement de la victoire de la CPP » prévu le dimanche 1er octobre au Stade Antionette Tubman de Monrovia.

La CPP, composée de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC) et du Liberty Party (LP) de feu Maître Charles Brumskine, est considérée comme étant la plus grande coalition politique d'opposition qui entend lutter pour le pouvoir d'Etat face à l'administration incompétente du président George Weah.

Nigeria : embrouilles politico-judiciaires autour d'un diplôme



Une histoire de diplôme au Nigeria : celui que le président Bola Ahmed Tinubu a soumis dans son dossier auprès de la commission électorale serait un faux, selon son rival, Atiku Abubakar. L'ancien vice-président nigérian, candidat malheureux du PDP à la présidentielle de février 2023, conteste toujours la victoire de Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Et parmi ses arguments : le diplôme que le chef de l'État dit avoir obtenu dans une université américaine ne serait pas authentique. Ce qui intéresse l'équipe d'Atiku Abubakar, c'est un document présenté comme étant un diplôme de l'université d'État de Chicago, dans l'Illinois. Frappé

en lettres gothiques, il est daté de 1979 et remis à l'élève Bola A. Tinubu. Atiku Abubakar affirme que le document soumis à la commission électorale nigérienne (Inec), est un faux. Et que par conséquent, le candidat de l'APC déclaré vainqueur à la présidentielle doit être disqualifié.

Justice américaine saisie

Les conseils de Atiku Abubakar ont saisi la justice américaine pour que l'Université de Chicago fournisse une copie certifiée conforme du diplôme mis en cause et un exemple de diplôme délivré à l'époque, rédigés dans les mêmes termes et la même police de caractère. Le 19 septembre, un juge de district de l'Illinois donne 48 heures à l'université pour répondre.

Dans la foulée, un autre juge américain, saisi en urgence par l'équipe de Bola Ahmed Tinubu, suspend l'ordonnance. Et demande aux avocats des deux parties de déposer des arguments supplémentaires. Ils ont jusqu'à demain, jeudi 28 septembre. Selon la chaîne américaine CBS News, l'université de Chicago affirme pouvoir confirmer que Bola Ahmed Tinubu fait bien partie de ses anciens étudiants diplômés, mais dit ne pas pouvoir authentifier le diplôme en lui-même car il s'agit d'un document de cérémonie qui ne fait pas partie du dossier officiel. Ce lundi 25 septembre, et ce via un avocat basé à New York, le président du Nigeria a déposé une objection plus détaillée. Ses arguments : son dossier universitaire américain n'a pas d'utilité devant la justice de son pays et la demande de son adversaire est intrusive et conspirationniste.

Présidentielle 2023 : L'opposition traîne la commission électorale en justice

Le principal parti d'opposition du Libéria, le Parti de l'unité (UP), a traîné la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) devant la Cour suprême, exigeant la publication de la liste électorale définitive en vue des élections présidentielle et générales du 10 octobre 2023.

Dans une pétition qu'il a déposée le mardi 26 septembre 2023, l'ancien parti au pouvoir dirigé par l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai a prié la Cour Suprême d'ordonner à la commission électorale de publier et de distribuer la liste électorale définitive. L'UP déplore que la NEC n'ait pas publié la liste électorale définitive comme l'exige la loi. Il souhaite que le tribunal ordonne à la NEC de justifier pourquoi elle n'a pas publié la liste électorale définitive conformément au code électoral.

Le parti d'opposition a fait valoir que conformément au devoir confié à la NEC par la nouvelle loi électorale et l'avis de la Cour suprême, la NEC est tenue de publier et soumettre aux partis politiques et aux candidats indépendants des copies de la liste électorale définitive qui contient tous les électeurs inscrits selon leur localité dans chaque circonscription électorale du pays.

L'ancien parti au pouvoir a fait valoir que, conformément au Règlement sur l'inscription des électeurs de 2023, la liste électorale finale désigne une liste d'électeurs inscrits qui sont qualifiés pour voter, produite à la suite d'une présentation

et d'une décision sur les appels, les réclamations, les contestations et les modifications requises de la liste électorale provisoire.

Le parti d'opposition demande donc à la Cour suprême d'émettre une assignation péremptoire demandant à la Commission Électorale Nationale de produire, publier et distribuer ou émettre la liste électorale définitive



NEC Boss Davidetta-Browne-Lansanah

conformément à la loi.

"Le 29 août 2023, la présidente de la NEC a comparu sous serment devant la Chambre du Sénat et a solennellement promis de fournir la liste électorale finale relative aux élections générales le 18 septembre 2023. Nous constatons aujourd'hui que la NEC n'a pas été à la hauteur de ses responsabilités statutaires pour lesquelles elle a prêté serment", a déploré le parti d'opposition.

Le Parti de l'Unité a martelé que la liste électorale finale est le seul document électoral qui parle de l'éligibilité des électeurs. « Il est interdit à la commission électorale nationale de permettre à des gens dont les noms ne figurent pas sur la liste électorale nationale de voter », a-t-il mis en garde.

LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: First Round Victory

By Naneka A. Hoffman

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

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

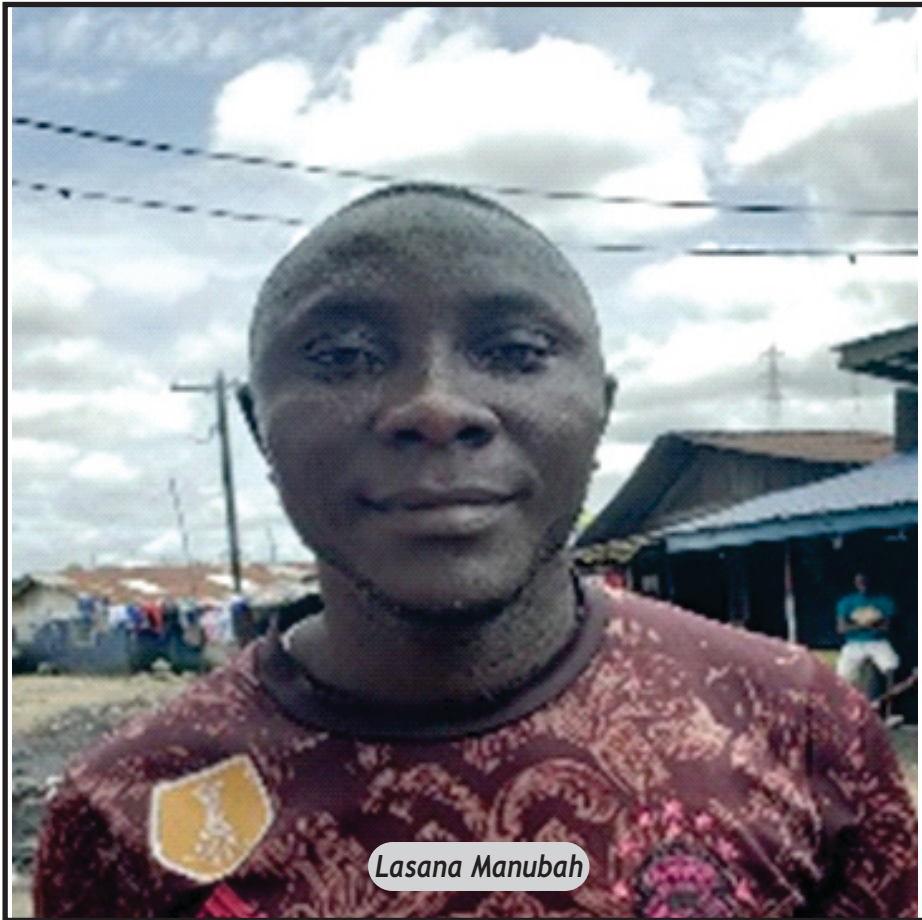


Abraham K. Gibson

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

"Anybody that says people winning one that their party will win round victory in the one round victory in the elections has gone out election are speaking in error. The days of Charles Taylor, who won overwarming one round of style. It was only one round victory in Liberia."

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



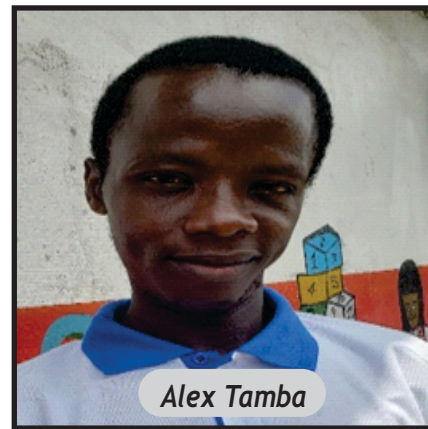
Lasana Manubah

killers in the country. If they carry such thing around and at the end of the day, their expectation falls short, it will be like problem for us."

"No party can we one round victory in Liberia because Liberia doesn't have the population of registered voters for one person to just win that one round. My advice to the two parties CDC and UP, and the both parties are getting it wrong. No one party can win one round victory in Liberia because we see the both parties pulling crowds in the street. So they should avoid one round victory; let's go through the elections."



Sekou Dukuly



Alex Tamba

"Yes! This particular election can be one round victory because if you look at 2017

elections, CDC came first; Unity Party came 2nd and then Liberty Party came 3rd; Prince Johnson came 4th and Alexander Cummings came 5th. In this particular elections the 3rd and 4th placers are not in the current race and if you look at the support of NDR, they are behind Unity Party and the person that can 3rd behind Unity Party is no more. So based on that, I believe that Unity Party can win a one round victory."



Morris S. Saryon

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

parties in this election that are contesting. 20 presidential candidates; now, with these presidential candidates everyone has his or her vote. So if you are coming out saying that you will have one round victory, it is false and misleading information."

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Weah gets Lofa commitment

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC continues to show strength in Lofa, regarded as the opposition Unity Party stronghold as they shake up things flooding the streets of

In previous presidential elections, Mr. Weah received low support from Lofa compared to his main rival Amb. Boakai who hails from the county.

In 2011, Mr. Weah's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) obtained just

Moses Kollie has expressed confidence that Lofaians will change the narratives in this year's elections.

He believes that Mr. Weah will get massive support.

Speaking in Voinjama City, Lofa County Superintendent William Tamba Kamba said the people of Lofa have seen the magnificent works that President Weah has done over the years and they will not let him down this time.

Also speaking, Montserrado County Representative Thomas Fallah, also a son of Lofa County, said Lofaians will vote for President Weah.

According to him, the people of Foya and Lofa County now understand and have seen President Weah's genuine commitment and good plans for the development of the county.

Meanwhile, President Weah has renewed the hope of the people of Lofa, committing his government to adequately develop the county in his second term. "I have heard various speakers, all assuring me. You've now decided to vote for me. You did not vote [for me] in 2017, but I still give you free education, electricity, building hospitals and connecting your roads," said Mr. Weah.

"Now you Lofaians have promised me that you will build the future of your country by voting for a CDC government, the only government that can rescue you," President Weah added.



Mr. Weah

Voinjama with Blue T-Shirts and Red Barrettes.

The showing of CDC has left many pledges of loyalty to the ruling party ahead of the October 10 polls, as incumbent President George Weah wrapped up his campaign tour.

Lofa County is the stronghold of opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, the main rival to incumbent President George Manneh Weah. Mr. Weah and his ruling CDC have been in the county pleading with potential voters to support their re-election bid.

During President Weah's campaign tour in Salayea, Zorzor, Voinjama, Kolahun, Massabolahun, and Foya Districts, the electorate committed promised massive support for the ruling party's victory in the October polls.

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 President Weah has pleaded with voters to back him in this year's elections for more developments.

Various speakers in separate town hall meetings in various districts assured Mr. Weah of a massive victory on 10 October.

First-time voters, women, traditional chiefs, and elders across the county assured maximum support for the incumbent.

For his part, CDC's Lofa County senatorial candidate

Setback for possible runoff looms

ECOWAS and EU Long-term Observer Teams have identified the non-release of the National Elections Commission's (NEC) approved budget for the October 10 Elections by government as a setback to the commission's ability to prepare for a possible runoff and execute an effective civic and voter education.

Of the total budget of US\$53 million approved for the conduct of the October 10 polls, the government had provided a little over US\$49M to the Commission representing 80 percent. With less than two weeks to the polls, NEC has maintained that the remaining US\$3M plus is needed to conduct possible run-off elections.

In their press release issued Wednesday, September 27, ECOWAS and EU LTO Teams reminded the government saying, "As noted by the NEC Chairperson, the non-release of

challenge to NEC, partly due to the insufficient funds made to it from the government, although international partners (ECOWAS, EU, UNDP etc.) partly closed the gaps by providing some funding to support NEC's civic and voter education.

Hate Speeches

ECOWAS, EU, and other observer missions continue to observe increasing levels of incendiary and divisive speeches from some political actors that can heat up the political environment and threaten peace and security.

ECOWAS assured that there is a conscious effort to counter any incendiary and divisive speech by political actors and constantly calls the candidates and parties to their commitment to peaceful elections.

Another concern is the absence of issue-based campaigns and citizen engagement as well as the lack of commitment by the major political parties to participate in the debates scheduled for the first



the balance of the funds will affect the planning for a second round of the election and this may become a controversial issue."

The two groups have, therefore, pledged to follow up with NEC on the issue and also engage in backchannel advocacy with the government to release the required funds.

This, the release stated was the outcome of a meeting when the ECOWAS Long-Term Elections Observers (LTO) Monrovia team received the EU Long-Term observer mission to Liberia on 22 September 2023 at the ECOWAS LTOs Observation Technical Centre in Mamba Point Hotel.

The ECOWAS team was led by Mr Serigne Ka, the Coordinator of the ECOWAS LTOs, while the EU team had Jarek M. Domanski, the Deputy Chief Observer, as its leader. Issues discussed include mission deployment methodology and major findings from the joint ECOWAS-AU Fact-finding mission.

Civic and Voter Education

On the issue of civic and voter education, the two teams noted that it remains a critical

week of October.

Timely Communication

To address and mitigate the impact of the worrisome levels of disinformation, misinformation and hate speech, ECOWAS and EU teams call on all partners to speak up and call political actors to order when they share fake news or spread hate speech.

In addition, ECOWAS informed the EU that it had trained some media practitioners and the goal is to constantly reach out to media houses to be responsible in their reportage of the elections.

The ECOWAS and EU agreed to continually provide NEC with the needed support for it to adopt a more rigorous communication strategy which is an important communication tool that can dispel disinformation and misinformation ahead of the elections.

Deployment

Regarding the deployment of both sensitive and non-sensitive electoral materials to hard-to-reach counties during this rainy season which is one of the utmost challenges to NEC, both ECOWAS

Starts from back page S/Court hears arguments

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.

Accordingly, the Supreme

Court in its seven-day special session will also entertain arguments in several cases including the one involving Montserrado County representative candidate Madam Sia Tandapolie and

the NEC.

The Supreme Court will look at the case involving Dr. Thomas Nimene Tweah Ali's Original Country Man, versus Madam Sia Jamie Tandapolie.

GoL empowers Rural

Deputy Minister Bangura said the President's vision for women empowerment is unmatched, adding "If you are not a market woman, you are a farmer, if you are not making farm then you are a member of the village savings, if you are not member of the village saving loan then you are a member of SMEs." He also told the group of rural women farmers that there will be LRD3, 000.000.00 each, for Rural Women Farmers, the Liberia Marketing Association (LMA), Village Saving Loan

Associations (VSLAs) and for SMEs, bringing the total to LRD\$12m for the four groups in Bomi County. He emphasized that the empowerment program by the President is not new, but an initiative that has been running since President Weah was elected. Responding on behalf of the beneficiaries, the Acting Secretary General of the Bomi County branch of the Rural Women Farmers, Bendu S. Johnson, lauded the Liberian Government, especially President Weah,

for a promise kept.

"We want to thank the President for coming to our rescue," Madam Johnson said. She also hailed Liberian First Lady, Clar Marie Weah for providing the land being used by the Rural Women Farmers of Bomi County. The recent disbursement of checks to the four groups being earmarked under the President's Empowerment Program of Rural Women has reached all of the 73 electoral districts of Liberia's 15 counties.

S/Court hears arguments in election case

By Lincoln G. Peters

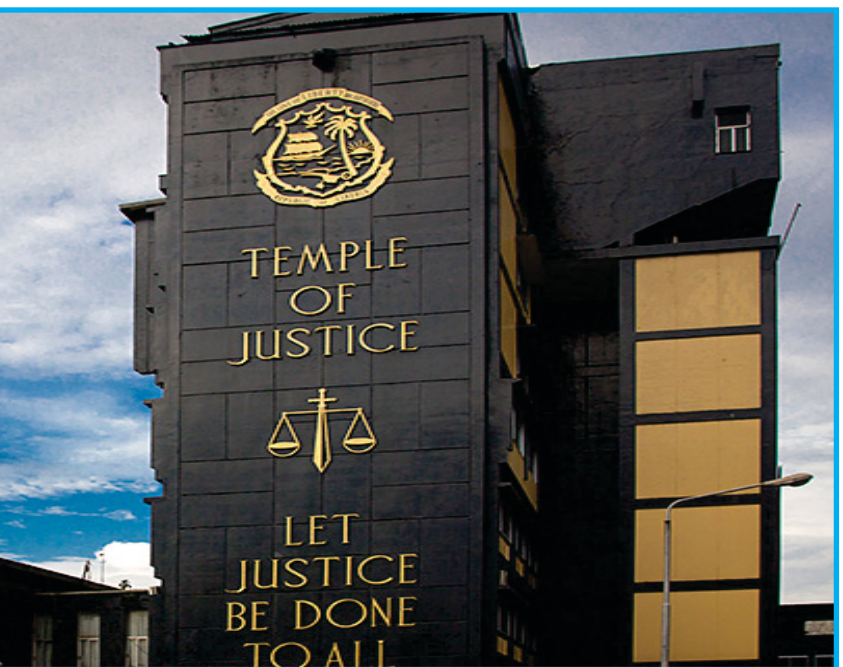
Liberia's Supreme Court will entertain arguments today, Thursday, 28 September 2023 after the opposition Unity Party

The main opposition party is concerned that the electoral house has failed to publish the FRR 30 days before the 10 October 2023 presidential and legislative elections are held.

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 of the FRR of all registered voters disaggregated by location in every electoral 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



(UP) demanded the National Elections Commission (NEC) to publish the final registration roll (FRR).

On Tuesday, the former ruling party petitioned the nation's highest court for a writ of mandamus to order the NEC to publish the FRR and share it with political parties as the law requires.

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.

UP wants the court to order the NEC to show cause why it has failed to publish the FRR in keeping with the law.

▶ CONT'D page 11

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