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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023	L\$185.8101/US\$1.00	L\$187.6940/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.

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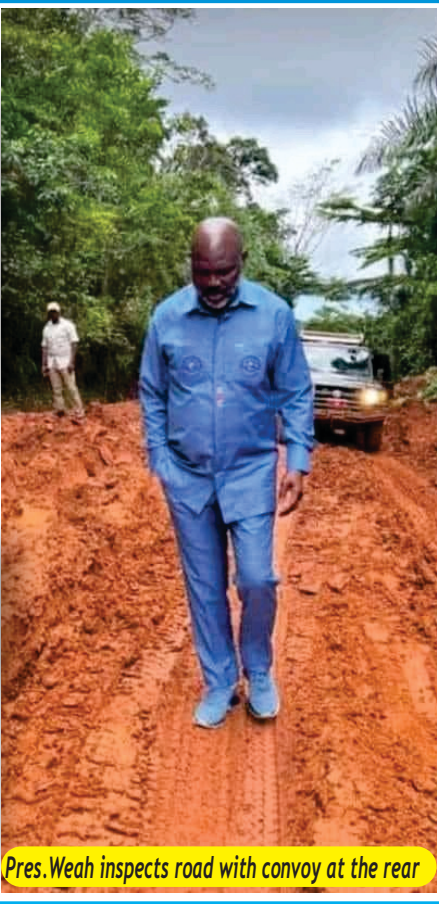
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Weah rubbishes use of helicopter

P11



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-Pres. Weah describes Speaker Chambers

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Continental News

Kenyan baby stealer jailed for 25 years after BBC expose

A Kenyan hospital employee who was caught by the BBC selling a baby on the black market has been sentenced to 25 years in jail.

Fred Leparan, who worked following a BBC Africa Eye investigation and found guilty last month of child trafficking, child neglect and conspiracy to commit crime.

An Africa Eye reporter had initially approached Leparan

hospital.

Leparan asked the undercover reporter, who said she and her husband had struggled to conceive, only cursory questions about their situation before agreeing to sell the baby boy.

On the day the baby boy and two other children were supposed to be transferred from the hospital to a state-run children's home, Leparan was filmed falsifying the transfer paperwork so that the home would expect two children, rather than three.

The BBC team ensured that all three children were delivered directly to the children's home, but filmed Leparan amending the paperwork and informing them that the child was theirs to take away.

A Kenyan court on Wednesday said Leparan will serve 25 years in prison, then spend 10 years on probation.

BBC



Fred Leparan (left) was convicted after attempting to sell a baby boy to an undercover reporter

at Nairobi's Mama Lucy Kibaki hospital, was filmed accepting \$2,500 (£2,000) to sell a baby boy under the hospital's care. He was arrested in 2020

posing as a potential buyer, after hearing from a source that the senior clinical social worker was involved in illegal child trafficking from the government-run

Naira Marley: Afrobeats star taken into police custody over MohBad's death

Nigerian police have detained Afrobeats star Naira Marley for questioning over the death of a fellow singer. MohBad's mysterious death led to a huge outpouring of grief among his fans, who demanded a thorough investigation.

Outrage was directed at Marley, with whom he had feuded after he split from the musician's label, Marlian Records. Marley, who previously denied involvement in MohBad's death, said he had returned from abroad to assist with the investigation. "It's important I do my part for Imole," Marley said, referring to another name by which MohBad was known. "I'll be meeting with the police with hopes for the truth to be uncovered and for justice to prevail," he added on X on Tuesday MohBad, 27, died at a hospital in the Nigerian city of Lagos last month but the cause of his death is unclear.

Last week, police said they had taken music promoter Sam Larry into their custody, and he was assisting their investigations. No further details were given. MohBad, whose real name was Ilerioluwa Aloba, was hurriedly buried by his family a day after his death, triggering concerns among his fans. MohBad's father Joseph Aloba told local media that the hasty burial was guided by the culture of the family's Yoruba ethnic group. He added that

deceased person with living parents has to be buried quickly. Police have exhumed MohBad's body for an autopsy, but the results have not yet been released. A coroner's inquest is due to resume on 13 October. Lagos state police spokesman Benjamin Hundeyin on Tuesday said that Marley had been taken into custody "for interrogation and other investigation activities".

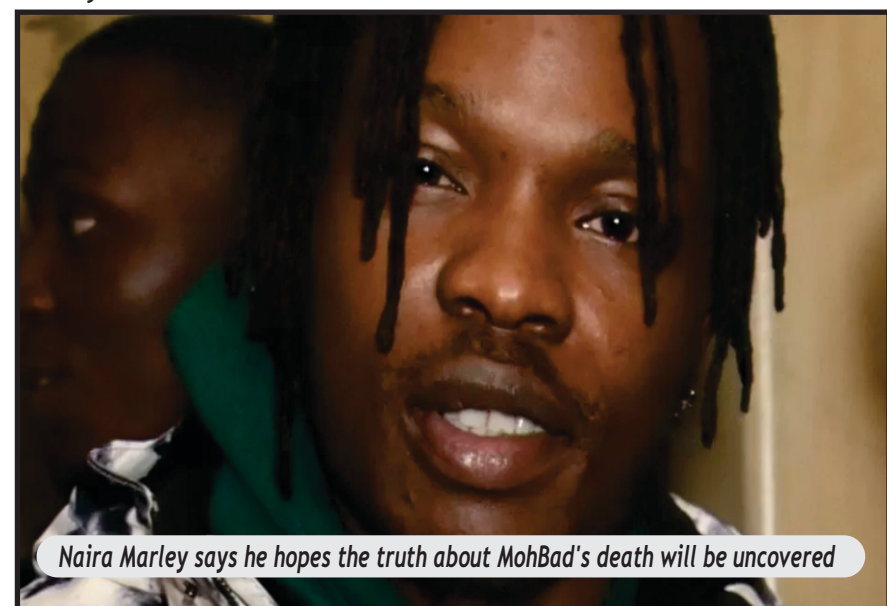
Marley is a highly popular Afrobeats star in Nigeria. Last year, Apple Music described him as "an unmissable fixture in Nigerian pop music". But he is also a controversial figure who has had previous brushes with the law. In 2020, he reached an out-of-court settlement with a man who accused him and his associates of assaulting him and stealing his car. Marley denied the charges.

Marley and MohBad had a bitter fallout last year after MohBad left Marley's Marlian Records music

label, where he had been signed for three years.

Since his death, several videos have surfaced, in which MohBad complained that people from the label had harassed and cheated him out of his royalties.

Marley described the claims as "lies" and said that he did not "have a hand in the death of MohBad, either directly or indirectly". A concert to pay tribute to MohBad was held in a park on Lagos's Victoria Island two weeks ago, after which fans marched towards Lekki toll gate to continue their vigil. Many of the mourners wore white T-shirts and held candles or their mobile phone torches aloft as they danced to the songs of the late artist, loved for his streetwise, sometimes lewd, lyrics and distinctive baritone voice. The hashtag #justiceformohbad has been trending on social media. BBC



Naira Marley says he hopes the truth about MohBad's death will be uncovered

Ghana Opposition Tries to Oust Bank of Ghana Governor

Members of Ghana's major opposition National Democratic Congress took to the streets in the capital, Accra, on Tuesday to protest what they allege is mismanagement by the governor of the central bank, the high cost of living, and high inflation.

It follows last week's three-day protest over the lingering economic crisis in the West African country.

Clad in red and black — colors that signify a state of sorrow in Ghanaian culture — hundreds of protesters chanted revolutionary songs and carried placards bearing inscriptions such as "President Akufo-Addo is wicked," "We cannot buy medicine," "We are dying," "Save Ghana now" and "Fix the country."

Dubbed "OccupyBoGProtest," the protesters demanded the

difficult to survive. Some are struggling to eat three times in a day. We want this government out."

Ghana, a major exporter of gold and cocoa, is steadily recovering from its worst economic crisis after agreeing to \$3 billion in IMF relief support. Inflation has been on a decline, hitting a 10-month low in August at 40.1% from 43.1% in July.

Protesters, however, say the cost of living is still too high. Reverend Sebastian Akpaloo of Christ Kingdom Worldwide Ministries was one of the

protesters. "The president is not listening to us," said Akpaloo. "There is no money in the system. There is hardship and I give money to people every day to get food to eat. I pay people's school fees. So, what again? We cannot carry guns and cutlasses. A leader must listen to the people."

Government officials declined VOA's request for an interview on the issue.



Thousands participate in a protest in Accra, Ghana, demanding the resignation of the Bank of Ghana's governor, Ernest Addison

resignation of Ernest Addison — who serves as the governor of the central bank known as the Bank of Ghana or BoG — over hyperinflation in the West African country.

Heavily guarded by riot police, the demonstrators accused the head of the treasury of overprinting money to fund the government's alleged profligacy that has led to economic hardship.

"This Akufo-Addo government, together with the governor, haven't been fair to Ghanaians," said Cassiel Ato Forson, the minority leader in parliament.

"In fact, Governor Addison printed for Akufo-Addo for them to live a champagne lifestyle. We can't continue this way. Ghanaians are struggling and finding it

Daniel Amateye Anim, an economist with the Accra-based Policy Initiative of Economic Development Africa, said the government must reduce expenditures and focus on policies that will create jobs to alleviate the plight of ordinary Ghanaians.

"We must ensure that we mobilize domestic revenue and minimize expenditure and cut down the size of the government," said Anim. "Let's focus and have a coordinated policy that will ensure that we anchor the economy ... if that is done, jobs will be created and also the economy will bounce back."

In July, the World Bank projected that Ghana's economy would grow by 1.5% this year, adding that growth would expand by 2.8% in 2024. The projections fall short of the 3.1% growth reported in 2022.

EDITORIAL

Sporadic violence threatens democratic elections

LAST WEEK'S (SEPTEMBER 29, 2023) violence in Lofa County that reportedly left two persons dead is not only unfortunate but poses serious threat to next Tuesday's October 10th polls.

ACCORDING TO REPORTS, violence erupted between rival supporters of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and the opposition Unity Party (UP) on Friday, leaving at least two dead, and several others injured.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS INCLUDING ECOWAS and the United States are calling on the Government of Liberia to investigate the violence to bring perpetrators to book, particularly as Liberians go to elections just days away.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS failed to investigate previous political violence that left several persons wounded when rival supporters of the CDC and the UP clashed in Monrovia, and similarly in Nimba County.

IT IS IMPORTANT that the authorities exercise political will by taking immediate action in bringing to book, those who instigated the violence in Lofa that caused the death of two persons which will serve as a deterrence.

WE CALL ON leaders of both parties to demonstrate leadership by prevailing on their supporters to refrain from violence, and instead, engage in peaceful campaign for the remaining days before the elections.

VIOLENCE HAS NEVER benefited the people of Liberia in the past and will not do in these electioneering periods.

The elections will come and past, but Liberia will remain and we must do everything as citizens to keep the Motherland safe, not only for the current generation, but posterity.

THE UNITED STATES Government recently sounded a caveat that it will impose visa restrictions on those who will undermine Liberia's democracy, including their family members.

IT IS VERY important that all Liberians pay heed to statement coming from the U.S. Government, Liberia's traditional partner in keeping our dear country on the path of peace, democracy, justice and economic stability.

U.S. DEPUTY ASSISTANT Secretary of State for West Africa in the Bureau of African Affairs, Michael Heath, who visited Liberia last and sounded the caveat, lauded President George Manneh Weah for his promise before world leaders at the recent UN General Assembly that his government will ensure free, fair, transparent, peaceful, inclusive and credible elections.

CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL parties in the race, with support of our international partners should do everything to hold him to his words and avoid acts that could jeopardize the polls and revert this country to chaos that no patriotic Liberian want following 14 years of bloody civil war.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne

www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

COMMENTARY

By Ulrich Volz, Marina Zucker-Marques

Multilateral Development Banks Must Participate in Debt Relief

LONDON - The urgency of tackling the developing world's sovereign-debt crisis continues to grow. As global temperatures rise and the threat of irreversible damage to the planet looms, onerous debt burdens are preventing many low-income countries (LICs) in Africa and elsewhere from investing in climate action. Progress on debt relief under the G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatment has been stymied by creditor disputes, foreclosing any possibility of a timely and meaningful resolution.

The question of whether multilateral development banks (MDBs) will take losses alongside other creditors has been particularly contentious. While the G20 has asked MDBs to develop options for burden sharing, no systematic plan has emerged. China, in contrast to the Paris Club of sovereign creditors, insisted that MDBs take a haircut, before softening its stance during this year's Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund. Yet the demand for MDB involvement was reiterated at the recent BRICS summit.

Rightly so. As we show in a new report, the participation of MDBs in sovereign-debt restructurings is not only feasible but also necessary to break the current deadlock. For starters, at least half of the total external sovereign debt stock in 27 debt-distressed countries - many of which are LICs or small island developing states (SIDS) - is owed to multilateral creditors. Thus, even if all bilateral and private debt were canceled, exempting MDBs from debt restructuring would prevent some of the world's most vulnerable countries from achieving a full recovery.

Second, perception matters. The participation of all external creditors, including MDBs, in debt restructuring would remove any impression of unfairness or free riding, in turn making bilateral and private creditors more amenable to negotiation.

Third, the debt relief generated through burden sharing would align with the MDBs' core mandate of supporting sustainable economic development and eliminating extreme poverty.

If the crisis remains unresolved, debt-distressed countries will be unable to make progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, let alone achieve them by 2030. Only with more fiscal space can governments invest in high-priority areas.

Finally, a protracted debt crisis would result in significant costs for the MDBs' concessionary lending arms: as LICs' debt-distress indicators rise, so, too, must the grant element of MDB assistance.

Consider the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's lending arm for the poorest countries.

According to our estimates, IDA grants based on debt-sustainability criteria rose from \$600 million in 2012 to \$4.9 billion in 2021 - that is, from 8% to 36% of its commitments. Accelerating progress on debt relief would therefore be in MDBs' best interest.

To be sure, MDBs lend on more favorable terms than other creditors. As such, fair rules for comparability of treatment (CoT) that account for lending costs are required to achieve an equitable distribution of losses.

Using fair rules, we estimate that a debt write-off of \$55 billion - a 39% haircut - for 41 IDA-eligible countries and SIDS facing debt distress would result in a loss of \$8 billion for MDBs, compared to \$27 billion for private creditors. This scenario would cost the IDA \$2 billion, significantly less than what it is spending on grants tied to debt-distress indicators. If these debtor countries received a more generous reduction of 64% - similar to the relief provided during the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative - overall MDB losses would amount to \$25 billion.

And if MDBs participated in debt relief for a larger group of 61 countries facing severe debt problems - including middle-income countries like Egypt, Nigeria, and Pakistan - a 39% haircut would cost them \$37 billion using fair rules for CoT.

This is hardly a trivial sum. But by accepting this loss, MDBs could unlock \$305 billion in overall debt relief - including \$209 billion from private creditors. In other words, each dollar contributed by donors through MDBs could translate into a whopping \$7 of total debt relief.

Sharing the burden of debt relief need not threaten MDBs' high credit ratings nor their privileged access to low-cost capital. Based on past sovereign-debt restructurings, MDBs could rely on donor contributions and internal resources to back up losses from debt relief.

Moreover, MDBs could revive institutional arrangements such as the World Bank's Debt Relief Trust Fund and tap their precautionary balances once they receive fresh capital injections.

If we are serious about addressing the mounting debt crisis in the Global South, MDBs must be willing to take a haircut. It is the only way to make progress toward debt restructuring.

But, to ensure equitable burden sharing, losses must be determined using fair rules for CoT that incorporate the cost of lending and concessionary elements.

Debt relief comes with a price, but it is a price worth paying to put vulnerable countries, and the world more generally, on a path to climate resilience and sustainable development.

OP-ED

By Bernard Haykel

Saudi Arabia's New Nationalism

RIYADH - Saudi Arabia is undergoing a nationalist transformation. During this year's Saudi National Day, on September 23, people across the Kingdom - especially the young people who constitute a majority of the population - turned out in droves to wave flags, dance, and marvel at military flyovers. Promoted by Saudi Arabia's de facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (widely known as MBS), the surge in patriotic displays sheds light on the motivations behind the country's recent political and economic reforms.

Begin with the foreign-policy front, where Saudi Arabia has agreed to a détente with Iran, facilitated by China; entered into talks with Israel, brokered by the United States, to normalize the diplomatic relationship; gained entry into the BRICS group of major emerging economies; and embarked on efforts to end the war in Yemen.

Domestically, the Kingdom has pursued a major transition that includes centralization and consolidation of power under MBS; suppression of dissent, especially from Islamists advocating an alternative political model; and a revision of Saudi history and school curricula to align with the regime's narratives. Meanwhile, the Kingdom has made massive investments in international sports (particularly golf and soccer) and adopted an oil-production policy more aligned with its long-term fiscal needs.

The core purpose of MBS's reforms is to transform the Kingdom from a rentier state that is predominantly reliant on oil revenues to a diversified economy that can generate income unrelated to the hydrocarbon sector. To this end, the government has launched several so-called "giga projects." Neom, a carbon-neutral city being developed near the Red Sea at a staggering cost (even by the standards of a rich petrostate), is a prime example.

To understand these developments, one must pay close attention to what MBS has said about past Saudi policies, both publicly and in private, since 2016. He argues that his predecessors pursued failed policies and governed in ways that were detrimental to the country's national interests. For example, he regards the Kingdom's earlier endorsement of Islamism - partly a response to domestic religious opposition and to the threat posed by the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran - as a grave mistake.

Instead of fostering stability, it created enemies, with radical Islamists such as the Muslim Brotherhood, al-Qaeda, and the Islamic State all eventually seeking to end the Al Saud dynasty's rule. MBS believes the regime should have relied on nationalism, rather than religion, as a means of ensuring its survival.

Moreover, MBS contends that rampant corruption and bureaucratic inefficiency significantly undermined Saudi Arabia's stability. And, most importantly, he views previous Saudi governments' reluctance to diversify the economy away from oil - an effort that officially began in the 1960s - as inexcusable. The Kingdom must address these historical mistakes urgently, he believes, before it is too late.

Saudi Arabia's domestic reforms and foreign-policy agenda are inextricably linked, since the success of the Kingdom's economic project hinges on its ability to secure peace and stability throughout the Middle East. MBS envisions the Kingdom as a leading geopolitical force and a nexus of trade, transportation, logistics, and communication between East and West.

This objective is the driving force behind the normalization talks with Israel. The conflict between Israel and the Arab world has long been a source of regional instability. Moreover, Israel provides a gateway to the Mediterranean, positioning it as a critical strategic link in a vast transglobal network that extends from India to Europe.

In a recent interview, MBS said he wants Saudi Arabia to become one of the world's ten largest economies, noting that the Kingdom, already a member of the G20, recently became the 15th largest.

While MBS had previously sought an invitation to join the G7, he made little headway and then jumped at the chance to join the BRICS, insisting that this was not a move against the West, but rather a way to position his country for future growth and maintain cordial relations with all of the world's major powers.

MBS is data-driven and frequently compares his country to others. When he talks, he sounds more like the CEO of a company aiming for market dominance than a traditional political leader. Even as the US and China move toward economic decoupling and try to establish new supply chains, he advocates a global liberal economic order. He has made efforts to foster strong trade ties with each of the three countries that will likely shape the twenty-first century: the US, China, and India.

When it comes to national security and strategic alliances, however, MBS remains firmly pro-American. Given that the Saudi military is largely equipped and trained by the US, ending this relationship would be immensely costly.

Saudi Arabia under MBS can be viewed as an emerging power that aspires to use its available assets to develop and diversify its economy. At the same time, the Kingdom aims to leverage its resources and diplomatic ties to enhance its influence in a world increasingly divided among major powers like the US, China, Russia, and, to a lesser extent, Europe.

Judging by MBS's recent foreign-policy moves - such as getting the Chinese to mediate his dispute with Iran and the US to do the same with Israel - he certainly appears adept at navigating an exceptionally challenging geopolitical landscape.

OPINION

By Simon Johnson,
Catherine Wolfgram

Ratcheting Up the Pressure on Russia's Oil Revenues

WASHINGTON, DC/CAMBRIDGE - Wars are won and lost on battlefields. But public finance plays a critical role in determining what the combatants can afford. This is particularly true for a long war, which is what Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has already become.

By declining to include funding for Ukraine as part of the recent deal to avert a government shutdown, the US Congress sent a signal of encouragement to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Meanwhile, the increase in global oil prices (now above \$90 per barrel) since July is providing new revenues for Russia's war effort and a further psychological boost for the Kremlin.

To turn the tide back in favor of Ukraine, Congress needs to restore funding, a move supported by the Senate's Democratic and Republican leaders, Chuck Schumer and Mitch McConnell, respectively. In addition, and just as important, the US must take further steps to reduce Russia's oil revenues.

John McCain, the late US Senator and 2008 Republican presidential nominee, famously quipped that Russia is a gas station masquerading as a country. Even before February 2022, when Russia had full access to international markets, nearly half of government revenues came from energy taxes and energy exports. Now almost all foreign-exchange revenues come from oil exports.

The price cap on Russian oil, pioneered by US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and introduced by a G7-led coalition in late 2022, was designed to reduce those revenues while keeping Russian oil on the market to hold world prices in check.

An initial price cap of \$60 per barrel was introduced in December 2022, with reports suggesting that countries were using the coming cap ahead of time to negotiate lower prices for Russian oil. Through the first half of 2023, the cap helped reduce the Kremlin's revenues by 45% year on year. Many market participants hailed it as a success.

The price cap applies to shipments of Russian oil that use services from price cap coalition countries. For example, shipments that travel on Greek-owned ships, or are insured by UK insurers or re-insurers, must comply with the price cap. In the normal course of business, insurers and shippers do not always see the price for the oil they are insuring or carrying, so the G7 coalition devised a system to require a party to the transaction to provide an attestation that the price is below the cap.

Two things have happened in the past ten months to make the price cap less binding. First, Russia acquired its own fleet of tankers, primarily older and in some cases damaged ships that were not seaworthy by international standards and thus not participating in the market. These tankers not only help Russia subvert the price cap; they also are more at risk of causing a catastrophic spill or other environmental disaster. Second, Russia is allegedly offering (or arranging) false attestations, dishonestly attesting to prices below the cap.

In response, some commentators have thrown up their hands and claimed that the price cap policy must be abandoned - a response that the Kremlin would greet with derision and delight. Just as markets adapt to new circumstances, so must policymakers. Three steps should be taken to increase the pressure on Russia's oil revenues.

The first step is to tighten enforcement of the price cap and lean on shippers, insurers, and other service providers to screen for false attestations. If that is not enough, the US should work with its partners and allies to impose transit fees to reduce the revenue going to Russia.

The G7 coalition, for example, could set up a sort of tollbooth at crucial chokepoints - such as the Danish straits - that Russian oil tankers must traverse to reach global markets. The maritime tollbooth could then charge all Russian oil shipments the difference between the price cap and the current world market price.

The shipper could then apply for a rebate of that amount, if all their paperwork is in order. For example, if the world oil price was \$90 per barrel with the cap still at \$60, the tax would be \$30 per barrel - reimbursed only if the shipper can prove, beyond any reasonable doubt, that they only paid \$60.

Economic logic suggests that, in this case, the tax would come out of Russia's war chest and would not result in higher prices for buyers, because buyers can always switch to another supplier who is selling at world prices.

The tollbooth revenue could be used to fund Ukraine, help low-income countries bear the costs of higher oil prices, finance clean-energy investments in the developing world (reducing their need for fossil fuels), or help finance a cleanup fund in case Russia's rusty oil tankers cause a spill (or all of the above).

This approach would essentially use the toll to ensure that Russia takes home no more than the price cap for its oil shipments.

And in case this does not stop Russian oil sales at high prices, the US could use secondary sanctions to target any transaction involving Russian oil above the price cap, regardless of whether it is carried on Russian, Cameroonian, or Greek ships and insured by British or Russian companies.

Secondary sanctions would mean that any entity tied to a Russian oil shipment above the current \$60 per barrel cap would risk losing the ability to engage with the US financial system if caught.

Russia is earning fistfuls of money from its oil sales, and using the revenues to buy tanks, pay soldiers, and keep the war out of the minds of ordinary Russian citizens. High oil prices enable Putin to test Western democracies' resolve, and the dysfunction on Capitol Hill plays into his hands.

That makes the price cap, and the extensions we have proposed, all the more important for reducing Putin's ability to continue fighting. The G7 and its allies have the tools needed to undermine Russia's war effort in a way that does not destabilize the world economy. It is time to use them.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

CDC And UP Ruined Liberia, Don't Vote Them Again

S.karweaye

In October 2023, as they prepared to cast their votes in a landmark presidential election, Liberians found themselves facing a choice between the new rogues and the old rogues: Coalition For Democratic Change (CDC) and the Unity Party (UP): George Weah, the then-incumbent whose administration is corrupt and largely inept; and Joseph Boakai, an erstwhile vice president [1].

In 2017, the voters decided on Mr. Weah - who had branded himself a "Country Giant" and made no promises to the voters; not even attending any presidential debate- the voters chose him [2] as their next president. After the election, Mr. Boakai willingly conceded his defeat to Mr. Weah [3], becoming the first sitting vice president in Liberia to do so. This peaceful transfer of power convinced many Liberians that they had made the right choice. For a short while, many Liberians believed that they may not be forced to choose "the lesser of the two evils" in future elections. However, only six short years later, Liberians are preparing to head to the polls on October 10 and once again found themselves between a rock and a hard place. This time the choices are over 20 presidential, but some individuals and organizations are trying to make the elections between Weah, whose time in power has only served to embellish his unsavory reputation, and Mr. Joseph Boakai, a former vice president who was part of the UP administration which made Liberia the most corrupt country in 2013. A man who headed and presided over the most corrupt senate in Liberia from 2006 to 2017.

If Liberians mean business, they should dump the two parties because of their bad antecedents over the last 18 years. Looking at their inability to change the economic fortunes of Liberia for 18 years now, it is now apparently clear that they would not do anything even if Liberians voted for any of the two parties again. The bad things these parties committed in those past years, Liberia should never give their trust to them again. It is now very clear that these parties will never change, even if they are given another chance. The UP and CDC have formed governments; we were all witnesses. They did not come with good intentions to make amends. If you look at the fight against corruption, all these corrupt people who were supposed to be prosecuted sneaked into the CDC and UP.

How Liberians disappointed Liberians George Weah's election five years ago as Liberian president was greeted with great enthusiasm and expectation [4]. Many Liberians saw Mr. Weah as a messiah rescuing them from years of economic disempowerment, institutionalized corruption, and insecurity under the Unity Party-led government. However, Mr. Weah's term as president started on a low note. He failed to manage the expectations of Liberians who voted for him. Most prominently, two scandals rocked his administration: Revelations last year that 15.5bn Liberian dollars (\$104m, £82m) of freshly minted currency had disappeared from Liberia's ports. The mismanagement of a 25m US dollar cash injection into the economy in 2019. Mr. Weah ordered a cash injection of US\$25m (£19.6m) into the economy to mop up Liberian dollars and control inflation. In July 2019, Weah said US\$8m of it had not been used and he was trying to find out where it had gone. He announced the retirement of the central bank's governor and the resignation of the governor's deputy, saying there was "a major lack of systems and controls" at the institution. As soon as these things started to unravel, the Liberian public was pessimistic about the new president's potential to fix things and started to protest. The "Save the State" June 2019 nationwide protests [5] brought thousands of Liberians onto the streets of the capital, Monrovia to protest against the corruption and economic decline that many blame on their once hugely popular president, former football star George Weah. Since Mr. Weah came to power, Liberia's unemployment rate has increased [6] from 3% in 2017 to 4.1%. According to the International Monetary Fund and the World Economic Outlook April 2023 data, Liberia is the tenth poorest country in the world [7]. An estimated 64 percent of Liberians live below the poverty line, of whom 1.3 million live in extreme poverty [8] Mr. Weah had promised much but delivered little. The economy is on a cliff, afflicted on all fronts, complete with Liberia's staple food and fuel shortages. Food is still very expensive. The 2022 Global Hunger Index classifies Liberia's hunger level as 'serious'. Liberia ranked 113 of 121 countries on hunger conditions. 38.9% of the population is undernourished and 45% of deaths under the age of five are linked to malnutrition. The World Bank says Liberia requires between US\$350 million and US\$600 million annually to fund roads and electricity. Borrowing, which is Mr. Weah's favored funding

source is unwise. According to the IMF 2022 Article IV Consultation and Fourth Review of the Extended Credit Facility Arrangement [9], total debt service in 2022 amounted to US\$151 million which was more than the health sector (US\$ 78.4 million), agriculture sector (US\$ 7.3 million), infrastructure and basic sector (\$70.5 million), social development service sector (US\$ 24.3 million), security and rule of law (US\$ 102 million), energy, and environmental sector (US\$ 35.6 million), transparency and accountability sector (US\$ 42.1 million), industry and commerce sector (US\$ 9.2 million) and municipal government sector (US\$27.2 million). Analysis of the budget from 2018 to 2023 showed Liberia has spent more than US\$327 million on servicing debts. This is to show the harmful effect of debt service. The money that ought to be spent on the development of crucial sectors is spent on servicing debt. A World Bank (WB) study shows that debt begins to hurt an economy, especially economic growth when the debt-GDP ratio exceeds 77% [10]. In pairwise, Liberia's debt-GDP ratio is moderate at its

Like the worryingly drab and uninspiring Mr. Weah - Mr. Joseph Boakai of the Unity Party is not an engaging and inspiring politician. His public utterances usually offer some interesting propositions, like referring to himself as "A race car parked in the garage" and We squandered opportunities after being Vice President, head, and presiding officer of the Senate for twelve consecutive years raised eyebrows. His affiliation with notorious ex-warlord and current senator Prince Johnson who was sanctioned by the US government for corruption under the Global Magnitsky Act [21] and selection of Senator Jeremiah Koung as his running mate in the pending 2023 despite the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) 2021 State of Corruption Report that directly linked Senator Koung and several members of the National Legislature to massive corruption also raises eyebrow. Ahead of the 2023 presidential elections the former Vice President, Joseph N. Boakai has reinforced his stance on his earlier comment that former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf squandered a lot of opportunities during the Unity Party's (UP) twelve years of leadership.

Enough of this! For the records, Mr. Boakai as the vice president of Liberia, had within his powers to do more! The vice president is part of the executive branch. The constitutionally defined role of the Vice President is to serve as President of the Senate as well as Presiding Officer of the Senate. "Article 51 of the Liberian constitution also says the Vice-President "Shall assist the President in the discharge of his functions. "According to Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute Shall in Law, Shall is an imperative command, usually indicating that certain actions are mandatory, and not permissive. [22] Let us face this, between 2006--and 2017, while Madam Ellen Johnson

Sirleaf was globe-trotted and gallivanted, Boakai was the de facto President He assisted Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in her discharge of her functions as per the constitution mandated. Mr. Boakai was the most important liaison between the administration and the Senate and benefited tremendously. All the bogus concession agreements and loan agreements approved through the Liberian Senate were presided over by Mr. Boakai in his capacity as presiding officer and president of the Senate as mandated constitutionally. Did he realize the opportunities were being squandered when these bogus concession and loan agreements were being signed? If Liberia has failed in the past twelve years

when the Unity Party was in power, then the Vice President is responsible for this failure as well. As a race car parked in the garage, Mr. Boakai neglected his duties to assist the president in the discharge of her duties as mandated constitutionally. Not only Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Mr. Boakai should explain to Liberians why the Sirleaf/Boakai administration shattered our dreams of a great Liberia.



current rate and far less than the stipulated 77% benchmark. South Africa's debt to GDP currently stands at 73.2% [11] while Algeria's 52.2% [12] and Angola's 63.3% [13] respectively. Egypt, another regional economic power, has also seen its debt-to-GDP ratio move to [14] 92.9% [15] in 2023. Ghana's debt to GDP has crossed the dreaded 77% to 98.7% [16] in 2022. The country is at high risk of debt distress and has agreed on a debt management strategy with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Another indicator of debt sustainability is the Debt-Service Ratio debt. This is the proportion of export earnings that is used to service a debt - that is, to pay back the principal and the interest. A healthy ratio is below 18% [17]. Liberia had a Debt-Service Ratio of 6.4% [18] in 2021. Liberia's debt-to-GDP ratio is considered low, but the revenue that went into debt servicing is still on the high side. Yet, Mr. Weah is still borrowing. The country's inflation was 12% in 2017 but rose to 23.6% in 2018, 27 percent in 2019, and 17% in 2020 followed by a rebound to about 6.9% in 2022. But the IMF projects [19] that growth "should reach 5-6 percent in the medium term if Liberia taps its clear potential through persistent structural reforms and prudent policies." Weah's scorecard in fighting corruption has been bad. He has failed to prosecute high-profile politicians, and civil servants for corruption and secured convictions in a handful of cases. Transparency International's 2022 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) [20] has ranked Liberia among the poor-performing countries in the fight against corruption. Out of 180 countries captured, Liberia ranked 142. Under Weah, the United States sanctioned [21] three senior Liberian government officials including Weah's Chief of Staff, Nathaniel McGill; solicitor general and chief prosecutor of Liberian, Sayma Syrenius Cephus, and the managing director of the National Port Authority, Bill Twehway for their involvement in ongoing public corruption in Liberia. Academically, President Weah's leadership should be a case study on how not to misplace priority and an excellent opportunity for success in a contentious society. President Weah's incapacitation to meet

people's expectations is the bane of his administration. How Joseph Boaka Failed Liberia

▶ TO BE CONT'D NEXT EDITION

JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA)
MONTSERRADO COUNTY)

BEFORE HIS HONOR..... J. KENNEDY PEABODY.....ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE PETITION OF JACKSON DRAPER PETITIONER BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME IN FAVOR OF PETITIONER TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND REFERRED TO AS "ERIC ROBERTS".

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME

THE PETITIONER BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL FILED A PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT REQUESTING THIS HONORABLE COURT TO ORDER THE CHANGE OF NAME FROM JACKSON DRAPER TO ERIC ROBERTS".

During the hearing the petitioner testified that he had changed his name requesting this honorable court to be known as ERIC ROBERTS. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of name proposed by him.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on 16th day of July, A.D. 1980 in Zwedra, Grand Gedeh County, Republic of Liberia, and that he was born unto the union of Zarkpa Roberts and Joanna Zarkpa of Grand Gedeh County, Republic of Liberia; and that the change of his name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and more firmly and he has met all legal requirements for the change of his name in this jurisdiction.

The Petition having been heard, said is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name JACKSON DRAPER be changed to ERIC ROBERTS" beginning this 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, A.D. 2023. That all documents signed by the petitioner herein prior to this decree.

This decree shall be registered in the office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other official documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS HONORABLE COURT, THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D. 2023

J. Kennedy Peabody
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CITY LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF DEEDS, MONROVIA, LIBERIA, ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2023. PAGE (S) 324037

REGISTRATION, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CDC tops campaign finance violations

-Integrity Watch data reveals

By Lewis S. Teh

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) leads the list of political parties that are

campaign financing regulations monitoring exercise in all 15 counties of Liberia, Mr. Aidoo details that the second preliminary findings encompass

emerged as a frequent violator, raising concerns about the equitable use of state resources during campaigns.

He adds that Independent Candidates and other political parties were also implicated in various violations, which highlights the need for consistent monitoring and enforcement of campaign finance regulations throughout the electoral process.

On contributions and expenditure restrictions, findings reveal a complex web of campaign finance practices, with multiple political parties and Independent Candidates involved in flagrant violations.

Montserrado County stands out with a high number of reported violations in this category. Mr. Aidoo emphasizes the urgency of robust oversight and enforcement mechanisms.

"These violations point to a potential lack of adherence to campaign finance regulations, which can undermine the fairness and integrity of the electoral process", he points out. As it relates to public disclosure indicators, Harold narrates that there are alarming numbers of candidates across several counties who have refused to disclose their financial activities to the public, noting that this reluctance to provide transparency and accountability in campaign finance practices raises significant concerns.



Executive Director Harold Aidoo

allegedly involved in three key areas, including consistent violations of campaign finance regulations, findings on abuse of incumbency, findings on contributions and expenditure restrictions, and public disclosure indicators.

He explains that his team of monitors in the counties found the abuse of incumbency to be pervasive across Liberia's political landscape with violations such as misuse of state resources, unfair advantages for incumbent candidates, and breaches of campaign finance regulations across multiple counties.

Executive director Aidoo points out that the ruling CDC

Executive Director Harold Aidoo, in a news conference Wednesday at its data center at UN House in Monrovia noted that the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change tops the list of political parties that are engaged in constant violation of campaign financing regulations. Releasing outcome of the second edition of its political parties

CBL to withdraw old banknotes

All old banknotes printed before 2021 are to be terminated from circulation as of March 31, 2024, the Central Bank of Liberia discloses here. The Central Bank says this is in compliance with Section 25 of the 2020 Amended and Restated Act of the CBL. The Banker's Bank in a circulation Tuesday, 3 October said, this will allow only the new family of Liberian dollar currency in the amount of L\$48.734 billion authorized by the 54th National Legislature in its Joint Resolution of May 2021 that is being gradually infused into the economy, as the only valid legal tender after the March 31, 2024 deadline. According to the CBL, this means that the old currency will not be used for economic and financial transactions any longer. Banknotes to be terminated and withdrawn include Liberia Series One (LS1) banknotes or earliest banknotes that were printed between 2003 and 2009 and are in denominations of L\$5, L\$10, L\$20, L\$50, and L\$100. Others

are Liberia Series Two (LS2) banknotes or banknotes that were printed in 2016 and 2017 in denominations of L\$5, L\$10, L\$20, L\$50, L\$100 and L\$500 with three men in traditional clothes on the front side. The Bank explains that the decision to phase out the old currency as valid legal tender after March 31, 2024 comes after a 12-month period of the exchange of old currency for the new family of currency. However, it says people who will still be in possession of the aforementioned banknotes after the March 31, 2024, deadline will be able to exchange them with the same value at the nearest Central Bank facilities, commercial bank offices, branches and agents, as well as rural community

finance institutions (RCFIs). The CBL assures that it will continue to work with commercial banks in the country to ensure a seamless transition, taking into consideration the needs of the rural population and hard-to-reach locations across the country by ensuring adequate supply of the new banknotes and coins at its cash hubs across the country. Press Release



World Bank predicts bleak economic outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa's economic outlook remains bleak amid an elusive growth recovery. According to the latest World Bank Africa's Pulse report, rising instability, weak growth in the region's largest economies, and lingering uncertainty in the global economy are dragging down growth prospects in the region.

Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is forecast to decelerate to 2.5% in 2023, from 3.6% in 2022. South Africa's GDP is expected to only grow by 0.5% in 2023 as energy and transportation bottlenecks continue to bite. Nigeria and Angola are projected to grow at 2.9% and 1.3% respectively, due to lower international prices and currency pressures affecting oil and non-oil activity. Increased conflict and violence in the region weigh on economic activity, and this rising fragility may be exacerbated by climatic shocks. In Sudan, economic activity is expected to contract by 12% because of the internal conflict which is halting

Inflation is expected to decline from 9.3% in 2022 to 7.3% in 2023 and fiscal balances are improving in African countries that are pursuing prudent and coordinated macroeconomic policies. In 2023, the Eastern African community (EAC) is expected to grow by 4.9% while the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) is set to grow by 5.1%. However, debt distress remains widespread with 21 countries at high risk of external debt distress or in debt distress as of June 2023.

Overall, current growth rates in the region are inadequate to create enough high-quality jobs to meet increases in the working-age population. Current growth patterns generate only 3 million formal jobs annually, thus leaving many young people underemployed and engaged in casual, piecemeal, and unstable work that does not make full use of their skills. Creating job opportunities for the youth will drive inclusive growth and turn the continent's demographic wealth into an economic dividend.

"The urgency of the jobs challenge in Sub-Saharan Africa is



production, destroying human capital, and crippling state capacity. In per capita terms, growth in Sub-Saharan Africa has not increased since 2015. In fact, the region is projected to contract at an annual average rate per capita of 0.1% over 2015-2025, thus potentially marking a lost decade of growth in the aftermath of the 2014-15 plunge in commodity prices. "The region's poorest and most vulnerable people continue to bear the economic brunt of this slowdown, as weak growth translates into slow poverty reduction and poor job growth," said Andrew Dabalen, World Bank Chief Economist for Africa. "With up to 12 million young Africans entering the labor market across the region each year, it has never been more urgent for policymakers to transform their economies and deliver growth to people through better jobs."

Despite the gloomy outlook, there are a few bright spots.

underscored by the huge opportunity from demographic transitions that we have seen in other regions," said Nicholas Woolley, World Bank Economist and contributor to the report. "This will require an ecosystem that facilitates private-sector development and firm growth, as well as skill development that matches business demand."

The development of labor-intensive manufacturing seems to be missing in Africa, limiting further effects for the indirect job creation in support services and international trade. This may be partly due to a lack of capital, which continues to hamper the structural transformation required for good quality jobs. While the region contributes 12% of the global working age population, Sub-Saharan Africa owns only 2% of the global capital stock. This means people have fewer assets with which to be productive in Sub-Saharan Africa, compared to other regions. -Press release

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Catholic Lawyers urges Liberians to vote

The Catholic Lawyers Association of Liberia urges Catholics across Liberia and the Liberian populace in general that are registered voters to turn out in their numbers on Tuesday, 10

“It rather allows a handful of individuals to decide the destiny of the country and regrettably, the entire country will have to live with their choice whether good or bad for the next six (6) years for President and Representatives

would do nothing to diminish the trust which have been reposed in them, calling on political actors and the general public to refrain from any actions and statements including threats or jabs that would create tension, uneasiness or impede the peace of the nation.

Most importantly, the Catholic Lawyers Association of Liberia denounces in the strongest term any form of violence which has begun to creep its way in the elections, adding that recent violence in Foya, Lofa County on Friday, September 29, that reportedly left two persons dead and several injured is extremely alarming, and all measures need to be put in place, not just to prevent a recurrence, but also to ensure those responsible for this mayhem be made to face the full weight of the law.

“Certainly, all Liberians know the consequences of electoral violence and as such everyone must standup against hate-speeches, threats and all acts that would derail the peace and plunge the country into another round of conflict”, the Association underscores.

The Catholic Lawyers Association of Liberia therefore calls on all eligible Catholic voters and candidates, as well as those playing key roles in political parties to utilize the legal processes to handle electoral disputes. We call on all Liberians to jealously protect the peace, refrain from all forms of violence and respect the rule of law during these elections processes. Press Release



October to vote.

In a press release, the Association underscores that participation in Tuesday's elections is not only a civic duty but also in adherence and respect for constitutional provisions, as provided in Articles 1, 77 and 83 of the Constitution of Liberia (1986).

The release, signed by Cllr. Darryl Ambrose Nmah, Sr., National Coordinator, notes that regardless of how each individual citizen feels regarding the performances of past and current leadership, to boycott or stay away from the forthcoming elections does not help the situation in any way.

and nine (9) years for Senators”, the release reads.

At the same time, the Association says it is greatly concerned about recent developments that have the propensity to threaten the over two (2) decades of peace being enjoyed by Liberians. It draws particular attention to what it calls advertent or inadvertent actions and/or inactions of the National Elections Commission in the execution of its statutory responsibility that could raise unnecessary suspicion and distrust in certain quarters.

The Association believes those in charge of the electoral process are individuals with high moral standard and they

CDC writes International Community

-on Lofa violence

By Ethel A Tweh

The Coalition for Democratic Change has written an official complaint to four international bodies against the opposition Unity Party in relation to the September 29 violence in Foya, Lofa County between rival supporters of the two parties in which two was reported.

CDC Chairperson Mulbah Morlu, termed what happened in Lofa as electoral violence and killing of innocent citizens, drawing the attention of the international community. Morlu indicated in the complaint that the CDC remains very committed to participating in a free, fair, transparent, democratic and peaceful election on October 10, 2023, recalling previous violence that he says the CDC suffered in Lofa.

The ruling Coalition

addressed its communication to the European Union, ECOWAS, United Nations, and the Human Right Commission.

Those specifically written include President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who is Chairman of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, and James P. McGovern and Christopher H. Smith, Co-Chairs of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Others are Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, and Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General

of the United Nations in New York, United States. Lofa County turned a battle ground last Friday when rival supporters of both the Coalition for Democratic Change and the Unity Party clashed, leading to the death of two persons. The Ministry of Justice has dispatched team of investigators to the county to probe the incident amid several arrests by the Liberia National Police.



Chairman Mulbah K. Morlu

UNDP ends stakeholder agreement workshop

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has conducted a three-day stakeholder engagement workshop in Gbarnga City, Bong County, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and co-creation in the context of Human Security Interventions.

A UNDP release says the workshop targeted stakeholders from project counties aimed at enhancing their capacity to co-create projects aligned with the Human Security Protection floor while promoting the smart village concept which aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Speaking during the opening ceremony, Railey G. Myers, Development Superintendent of Nimba County, expressed gratitude for the training workshops, which have provided participants with a deeper understanding of the 17 SDGs and how development initiatives can address human insecurity needs while advancing sustainability.

He urged participants to take the training seriously, disseminate the knowledge gained among their communities,

progress made toward achieving the 2030 global SDGs targets.

Kamara noted that only 12% of the SDGs have been achieved globally, quoting the UN Secretary-General as saying that there is an urgent need for member countries to establish acceleration and transformation plans to catch up.

In terms of Liberia's performance, Mr. Kamara informed participants that the country is on track for SDG goal 13 (Climate Action) and is making moderate improvements in goal 17 (Partnership), while encountering challenges in goals 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 15, 16, and a decline in goal 4 (Quality Education).

“The United Nations’ implementation of the Human Security Project in collaboration with the Government of Liberia is strategically aligned to complement the government's ongoing efforts in achieving a substantial proportion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the remaining seven years of the SDGs implementation period” he noted.

The Youth Coordinator of UNDP Liberia Lovett Weah emphasized the importance of inclusivity, particularly for people with special



and become agents of change and advocates for the SDGs.

UNDP Human Security Country Program Manager, Robert Dorliae, explained the training's purpose, emphasizing the importance of building the capacity of relevant stakeholders in designing project proposals for human security interventions at the community level through collaboration and co-creation.

Dorliae defined co-creation as the process of involving community members, leaders, and experts in designing local solutions to local problems, stressing that “community collaboration and placing the people at the center of development processes and decisions are vital for achieving project deliverables”.

Stanley Kamara, National Economist of UNDP in Liberia, delivered an overview of the SDGs' background, its adoption by the United Nations, and the

needs. Weah highlighted the tendency to overlook the needs of these individuals in project planning and design.

He further noted that by mainstreaming issues related to people with special needs from the project's inception, their interests can be better addressed.

The training marked the fourth in a series of awareness workshops organized by UNDP under the Human Security Trust Fund Project to deepen participants' knowledge of human security concepts and SDGs-related issues and goals.

The workshop was attended by 63 participants from Salayea in Lofa County, Bahn, Gbanquoi, and Zuluyee in Nimba County, Botota and Forquelleh in Bong County.

Participants included Development Superintendents, District Commissioners, City Mayors, Women leaders, District health and agriculture officers, school principals, and leaders of people with special needs.

Français

Rivergee promet une victoire écrasante à Weah

Le comté de Rivergee, situé au Sud-Est du Libéria et considéré comme un des fiefs du président George Weah, a promis une victoire écrasante au président

est. S'exprimant lors d'un rassemblement électoral à la mairie de Fish Town, le surintendant du comté de Rivergee, Philip Q. Nyenuh, a promis au président Weah une

massifs jamais vus dans l'histoire de Rivergee. Je sais que M. le Président a déjà gagné les élections parce que son travail parle pour lui », a déclaré le surintendant.

Le jeune Solomon Dweh qui votera pour la première fois a remercié le président d'avoir payé les frais d'examen pour les élèves en fin de cycle au secondaire. « M. le Président, nos votes sont pour vous et la Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC). Nous qui voterons pour la première fois à Rivergee, allons vous donner 99 % de nos voix, ce qui nous permettra de continuer à aller à l'école », a promis Dweh.

Selon lui, le président a fait preuve d'une grande capacité de leadership au cours des cinq dernières années et ils sont résolus à donner à M. Weah un mandat supplémentaire de six ans.

Mary Geplay, surintendante de l'association des commerçantes de Fish Town, a félicité le président Weah pour avoir toujours été là chaque fois qu'il est appelé à intervenir en leur nom. Elle a salué le président Weah pour avoir aidé les commerçantes en leur fournissant des ressources financières pour améliorer leurs activités.

« Nous, commerçantes de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Pres. Weah

sortant aux élections présidentielle et générales prévues pour le mardi 10 octobre.

Des centaines de citoyens du comté de Rivergee, parmi lesquels des jeunes qui voteront pour la première fois, des hommes, des femmes et des personnes âgées, ont pris d'assaut Fish Town, la capitale du comté, pour recevoir le président Weah qui est actuellement en campagne dans le sud-

victoire massive le mardi 10 octobre prochain.

Le surintendant Nyenuh a déclaré que le président Weah peut être rassuré que Rivergee fera preuve de fermeté pour assurer sa réélection.

« Je pense que nous sommes réunis uniquement pour remercier notre président pour les nombreux développements à travers le pays. Il est également approprié que nous venions réaffirmer notre soutien et que nous allons lui donner des votes

Des copies de la liste électorale définitive remises aux candidats et aux partis politiques

La présidente de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC), Mme Davidetta Browne Lansanah, a déclaré que des copies de la liste électorale définitive pour les élections du 10 octobre sont remises aux partis politiques depuis le 29 septembre 2023.

En croire la Commission électorale, la distribution de la liste électorale définitive a commencé. Les candidats et les partis politiques continuent de recevoir leur copie sur clé USB.

La (NEC) précise qu'il y a 2.471.617 inscrits sur la liste électorale définitive pour les élections présidentielles et législatives du 10 octobre 2023 et que, contrairement à ce qui se dit dans les quartiers, il n'y a pas eu d'ajout.

La Commission a présenté une copie de la liste électorale définitive à la Cour suprême du Libéria lors des audiences nées d'une plainte déposée par

deux partis politiques d'opposition, dont le Parti de l'unité et le Parti populaire libérien.

Les deux partis ont récemment demandé à la Haute Cour de demander à la NEC pourquoi elle n'avait pas publié la liste électorale 30 jours avant les élections, comme l'exige le code électoral, évoquant ainsi des soupçons de manipulation.

Mais la présidente Davidetta Lansanah, lors d'un point de presse hebdomadaire mardi 3 octobre, a assuré que les préparatifs pour le scrutin du 10 octobre progressent bien,

réitérant son engagement à garantir que les élections se déroulent de manière transparente et crédible.

Elle a révélé également que pour améliorer la transparence, la NEC a acheté 61 ordinateurs portables et 59 projecteurs pour le comptage des voix des élections générales de 2023. « Ces 2 matériels sont en cours de déploiement dans les 19 zones magistrales et dans les 15 comtés », a-t-elle dit.

La Commission a révélé

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Les violences sporadiques menacent les élections démocratiques

Les violences qui auraient fait deux morts la semaine dernière (29 septembre 2023) dans le comté de Lofa sont pour le moins regrettables. Elles constituent une menace sérieuse pour les élections du 10 octobre.

Selon certaines informations, des violences ont éclaté vendredi entre des partisans rivaux de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir et du Parti de l'unité (UP), un parti d'opposition, faisant au moins deux morts et plusieurs autres blessés.

Les partenaires internationaux, dont la CEDEAO et les États-Unis, appellent le gouvernement du Libéria à enquêter sur les violences afin de contraindre les auteurs à rendre des comptes, d'autant plus que les Libériens se rendront aux élections dans quelques jours.

Le gouvernement n'a pas enquêté sur les violences politiques antérieures qui ont fait plusieurs blessés lors d'affrontements entre partisans rivaux de la CDC et de l'UP à Monrovia, ainsi que dans le comté de Nimba.

Il est important que les autorités fassent preuve de volonté politique en prenant des mesures immédiates pour traduire en justice les auteurs des violences de Lofa qui ont causé la mort de deux personnes. Cela aura certainement un effet dissuasif.

Nous appelons les dirigeants des deux partis à faire preuve de leadership en incitant leurs partisans à s'abstenir de toute violence et à s'engager plutôt dans une campagne pacifique pendant les jours restants avant les élections.

La violence n'a jamais profité au peuple libérien dans le passé et ne profitera pas en ces périodes de campagne électorale. Les élections viendront et auront lieu, mais le Libéria restera et nous devons tout faire en tant que citoyens pour assurer la sécurité de la patrie, non seulement pour la génération actuelle, mais aussi pour la postérité.

Le gouvernement américain a récemment menacé d'imposer des restrictions de visa à ceux qui porteraient atteinte à la démocratie au Libéria. Il est très important que tous les Libériens prêtent attention à la déclaration du gouvernement américain, le partenaire traditionnel du Libéria pour maintenir notre cher pays sur la voie de la paix, de la démocratie, de la justice et de la stabilité économique.

Le sous-secrétaire d'État américain pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest au Bureau des affaires africaines, Michael Heath, qui s'est rendu au Libéria pour la dernière fois et a lancé un avertissement, a félicité le président George Manneh Weah pour sa promesse devant les dirigeants du monde lors de la récente Assemblée générale des Nations Unies que son gouvernement veillerait à ce que des élections libres, équitables, transparentes, pacifiques, inclusives et crédibles.

Les candidats et les partis politiques en lice, avec le soutien de nos partenaires internationaux, devraient tout faire pour faire respecter ses paroles et éviter des actes qui pourraient compromettre les élections et plonger ce pays dans un chaos dont aucun Libérien patriote ne veut après 14 années de guerre civile sanglante.

Français

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Rivergee promet une

Rivergee, sommes avec vous. Nous vous remercions, Monsieur le président, d'avoir maintenu la paix au Libéria et d'avoir projeté l'image du pays de manière positive", a-t-elle dit.

Les femmes ont été soutenues par les hommes, qui ont déclaré que du moment où leurs épouses, mères, sœurs et filles ont accepté à l'unanimité de se tenir aux côtés du président, eux aussi ils décident de voter pour lui. « Du moment où nos femmes ont accepté, les hommes et les jeunes voteront également pour vous, Monsieur le Président », a déclaré le porte-parole des aînés de Rivergee.

Ils ont dit au président qu'il n'était pas nécessaire de se promener à travers les bois pour atteindre Rivergee car ils ont déjà décidé de le

réélire.

« M. Monsieur le Président, merci d'avoir rendu la campagne si facile pour nous, car le travail que vous avez accompli au fil des années fait campagne pour vous », ont-ils dit.

En réponse, le président Weah a promis aux habitants de Rivergee davantage de développements et s'est vanté des progrès réalisés par son administration, en soulignant la connectivité routière, le développement des infrastructures et l'électricité.

"La construction de routes, les infrastructures de santé et d'éducation, les ponts, l'approvisionnement en électricité des populations rurales et urbaines, l'autonomisation des femmes et des jeunes et bien d'autres", a déclaré M. Weah, qui se fait appeler "le roi du développement".

Starts from page 8

Des copies de la liste

également qu'elle a déployé du matériel de vote dans 11 des 15 comtés du Libéria, dont Sinoe, Maryland, Grand Kru, River Gee, River Cess et Grand Gedeh. Le déploiement a également eu lieu dans le Lower Lofa, le Upper Lofa, le Lower Nimba, le Upper Nimba, Gbarpolu, le Grand Capemount, le Lower Bong et le Upper Bong.

"Le matériel destiné aux quatre comtés restants, dont Montserrado, Bomi, Grand Bassa et Margibi, est en cours de conditionnement et le déploiement commence cette semaine", a ajouté Madame Browne Lansanah.

Elle a affirmé que la Commission a ordonné la réimpression des bulletins de vote pour la circonscription électorale 1 du comté de Margibi en raison d'une erreur dans laquelle les initiales d'un parti politique ont été placées sous le logo d'un candidat indépendant, M. Jomah Samuels.

"L'erreur a été corrigée et les bulletins de vote réimprimés au Ghana sont arrivés hier et devraient être livrés à l'entrepôt central de la NEC aujourd'hui."

La NEC a affirmé avoir formé 79 coordonnateurs de circonscription électorale, 382 superviseurs électoraux, 5 890 présidents de séance et 5 890 agents d'identification des électeurs, tandis que la formation d'autres membres du personnel temporaire commencera bientôt.

L'Union européenne et l'organisation régionale CEDEAO ont déployé des observateurs à travers le pays pour observer les

élections de mardi.

« Je crois qu'il est important que l'Union européenne accompagne le peuple libérien dans ce processus », a déclaré l'observateur en chef, M. Andreas Schieder, lors d'une récente conférence de presse.

M. Schieder a révélé que 40 observateurs à court terme supplémentaires viendront renforcer ceux qui sont déjà sur le terrain pour porter à environ 100 observateurs, dont des membres du Parlement européen et des diplomates de l'UE accrédités au Libéria en provenance des États membres, ainsi que du Canada et de la Norvège.

La représentante résidente du président de la Commission de la CEDEAO au Libéria, Josephine Kkrumah, a souligné récemment à Monrovia que le monde se tourne vers le Libéria qui doit montrer sa démocratie croissante lors des élections prochaines.

Madame Nkrumah a averti que la désinformation et les fake news constituent de graves menaces pour la démocratie, car elles sont devenues des instruments pouvant être utilisés pour manipuler l'opinion publique, semer la discorde et saper le processus électoral.

« L'impact débilant de la désinformation sur les élections est visible dans un certain nombre d'élections récentes à travers le monde, en particulier dans notre région, où des vies ont été perdues, des propriétés détruites et la crédibilité des élections compromise. Nous avons connu quatre coups d'État suite à des conflits post-électoraux dans la sous-région et le Libéria doit endiguer la marée », a-t-elle déclaré.

Campagne électorale : L'opposant Dr Whapoe tient en haleine Bahn City



Dr Whapoe

Le porte-étendard de la Vision pour la transformation du Libéria (VOLT), le Dr Emmanuel Z. Whapoe, a tenu en haleine le comté de Nimba, en particulier Bahn City, la circonscription électorale n°7, lors du lancement officiel de sa campagne électorale pour la présidentielle dans cette partie du pays.

Le programme, organisé pendant le week-end en plein air, a attiré des milliers de partisans et de sympathisants de la VOLT, dont des jeunes et des aînés, venus de diverses villes et communautés.

On les a entendu chanter : « Ceci est le nôtre et nous le soutiendrons. Whapoe, nous croyons que vous aiderez le Libéria et que vous ferez de la grandeur au comté de Nimba. »

Le Dr Whapoe est l'un des 19 candidats en lice contre le président sortant George Weah, qui brigue un

second mandat. Il occupe la 19e place à côté du président Weah sur le bulletin de vote.

Il a réaffirmé son désir de libérer le Libéria en misant sur le développement de l'agriculture et des ressources humaines. Il s'est engagé à éliminer la pauvreté et les difficultés s'il est élu.

« Laissez-moi vous dire ceci : nous sommes venus sortir le Libéria de la pauvreté et des difficultés. Sous notre administration, nous veillerons à ce que la pauvreté et les difficultés n'aient pas leur place dans notre société. Nous combattons la pauvreté et les difficultés dans notre société par l'agriculture, en particulier l'agriculture mécanisée. Si nous pouvons cultiver ce que nous mangeons dans ce pays, aucun argent ne quittera jamais notre économie et nous pourrions avoir de l'argent ici et avoir des emplois », a-t-il dit.

Le porte-étendard de la VOLT a déclaré que son gouvernement renforcerait les capacités de la jeunesse libérienne conformément aux normes du marché du travail, ce qui leur permettra d'être compétitifs aux niveaux régional et mondial.

Il a ajouté que s'il était élu président, son administration veillerait également à ce que son comté natal de Nimba et l'ensemble du Libéria soient unis, sans appartenance ethnique ni tribalisme, affirmant qu'il n'y aurait pas de tribu Gio, Mano ou Mandingue en dehors de Nimba.

"L'unité est la marque du développement national. Nous veillerons à ce que le Libéria et Nimba expérimentent cette véritable unité. Le Libéria est en retard depuis trop longtemps parce que les dirigeants n'ont pas réussi à réconcilier et à unir le pays", a-t-il déploré.

Le conseil exécutif de l'Union africaine réuni pour établir les priorités de l'Agenda 2063

À Kigali s'est terminé, ce mardi 3 octobre, une retraite de trois jours du conseil exécutif de l'Union africaine sur l'implémentation de l'Agenda 2063, programme de développement du continent sur 50 ans. L'objectif est de déterminer les priorités pour la planification de la deuxième décennie de cet agenda pour la période 2024-2033.

La deuxième décennie de l'Agenda 2063 sera celle de l'accélération, ont affirmé à Kigali les représentants de l'Union africaine. Une décennie notamment tournée vers le panafricanisme. « Maintenant que nous progressons, premièrement, nous voulons une Afrique intégrée, sous la zone de libre échange continentale africaine. Nous avons besoin d'une Afrique en paix, nous avons besoin d'une Afrique qui parle d'une seule voix sur la scène mondiale maintenant que l'UA est membre du G20 et nous avons besoin d'une Afrique qui réduit la pauvreté. », pointe Albert Muchanga, commissaire au commerce et à l'industrie.

« Faire bouger les lignes » Selon Minata Samaté Cessouma, la commissaire à la Santé, aux Affaires humanitaires et au Développement social, les autres sujets prioritaires

sont l'accès aux services de soin et la résolution des conflits et des déplacements forcés, notamment climatiques. Des sujets qui doivent être embrassés par les différents membres de l'organisation. « Nos États membres doivent s'en approprier, internaliser les différentes priorités, les mettre dans leur propre plan de développement, avec nos communautés économiques régionales qui sont les piliers de notre union. Nous devons nous donner les moyens financiers et aussi la volonté politique de faire bouger les lignes. C'est à ce prix que nous aurons cette Afrique que nous voulons au terme de l'Agenda 2063. »

Prochaine étape : le comité ministériel de l'UA sur l'Agenda 2063, présidé par le Ghana, doit désormais présenter un rapport préliminaire dans des réunions statutaires de l'organisation au mois de novembre 2023.



LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: Voter's Roll Delay

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Ordinary Liberians, candidates and political parties are restless over delay by the National Elections Commission to publish the final voter's roll for the Presidential and Legislative Elections before Election Day next Tuesday, October 10th.

The law requires that the final roll must be published 30 days before elections, which has not happened. Read below comments of some ordinary Liberians on this matter that has been taken before the Supreme Court by the opposition Unity Party. The High Court has heard both sides and reserved ruling amid countdown to October 10th.



Titus Siakor

be satisfied with it before the elections are conducted. But looking at the short period of time and up to now, voters roll has not yet been printed, it raises a lot of eyebrows for the credibility of these elections. It could also mean that makeup numbers or bought voting cards will be entering the system because there is a possibility as long there is not a specific number the National Elections Commission will bring out. It will cause serious problem. It is the National Elections Commission's responsibility to conduct credible and peaceful elections."

"The delay of the voter roll has a very negative impact and it is very surprising, because according to the law, it supposed to be printed

in 30 days before elections. And should have sufficient time to be verified through validation. And all the political parties should

"The first thing is that the voters roll is very much important because the voters roll tells us the total amount of voters qualified to vote. National Elections Commission should make us to understand after the cleaning up and in that particular cleaning up, we don't want anything to be added; we only want subtraction or it should be stable so, for the publication of the voters roll to be delayed by NEC Chairman Davidetta Browne Lansanah and her colleagues, I think in my mind, it is just to bring fear and chaos to these elections to be credible, because you can't do anything without the publication of the voters roll. The roll should be published 30 days prior to

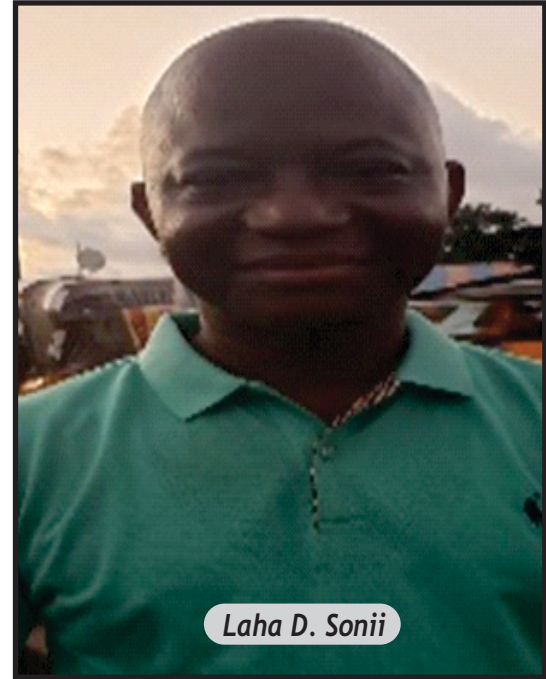


Henry Gray

elections. They should publish the voters roll and every candidate should have copy. She said she will send it through email, Madam

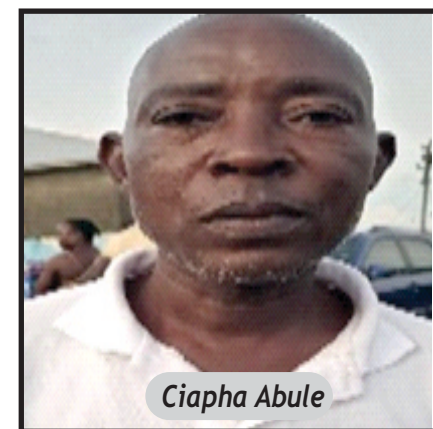
Lansanah, are you killing me? The law says it should be printed out and shared among the candidates."

"The delay of the voters roll from National Elections Commission is a problem because last elections, we all recalled in this country, the voters roll was published long before political parties and leaders started requesting for it. Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah, who is pretty seated to conduct these elections and political parties and leaders begin to make request that they even visited NEC office on 9th Street, that is bad for the upcoming October 10th presidential and general elections. So I want for this NEC Boss, and the entire team at the Commission to be proactive, in that they will print out voter



Laha D. Sonii

registration roll and distribute copies to political parties and their leaders, because if this is not done, the signal are we getting is that people will start going on the rampage. This is what we're trying to avoid. We want peaceful, free and fair elections."



Ciapha Abule

"The delay of the voter's roll in these elections, as for me, I see it as a dangerous for the elections because all political parties will want to know the total number of voters, so the final voters roll has an important part to play in the elections."

"The delay of the voters roll has a major impact on these elections because people will have to verify if their names are on the roll at the various polling centers so political parties will know definitely how many persons supposed to be at the center. So if the voters roll is delaying definitely, it is sometime that can cause problem. Let us observe that few days ago, Senator Darius Dillon and the rest of the other senators were making claims that the voters roll should be published. If it is not publishing, they will sue them to the Supreme Court. I can tell you that if the NEC



Morris S. Saryon

Boss can't come out to say anything concerning that then they are looking for violence from political parties because it is must that the voters roll be published and people should be able to have access to it so that we can have free, fair and transparent elections."

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Weah rubbishes use of helicopter

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

President George Weah, currently on campaign trail in the southeast, dispels rumors that he is being airlifted from county to county

when the roads are very bad", he notes. The President continues: "The least I could do and I have done is to get in car and use the roads, knowing anywhere I get stocked my Pekin them

we were wasting money."

He says his critics have even gone as far as saying he (President Weah) does not have sense, but when same people travel abroad they see parks for recreation. "My peoples, I want to challenge you to give us additional six years in order for you to compare our government's 12 years with that of the former ruling Unity Party's 12 years." President Weah and entourage arrived in Maryland County Tuesday to a rousing welcome from citizens, who have gathered at the entrance of the county to receive him. He was earlier in River Gee County, where he rallied citizens' support for his 2nd term bid, telling them that his development record in the first six years is unmatched to his predecessors. In response, Pleebo Mayor Wellington Kyen, assures President Weah of a massive victory next Tuesday, Election Day.

Mayor Kyen informs the President that the people of Pleebo Sodoken district, and the entire Maryland county are resolved in having him reelected, saying "I think we've only gathered to tell our President thank you for the many developments across the country." First-time voter Justina Weah, (no relations to the President) lauds President Weah for the payment of WASSCE fees, and providing them educational opportunities. "Mr. President, our votes are for you and the CDC, we the first-time-voters of Maryland County are going to give you our votes, that will enable us continuing our free education and WASSCE fees across the country", she pledges. Student Weah continues that the President has shown great leadership ability over the last five years and that they are resolved to give him another six years, mandate at the polls.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Most devoted, outstanding CDCian

President George Weah, has described House Speaker, Dr. Bhofal Chambers, as a dedicated, devoted and outstanding partisan of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change - CDC, who has ably supported the party in achieving and realizing visible and impactful developments across Liberia.

Speaking in a political rally in Pleebo, Maryland County, President Weah praised Speaker Chambers for his unwavering commitment to maintaining party cohesion and discipline, stating that Chambers has played an integral role in upholding the values and principles of the CDC.

The CDC Standard Bearer added that Speaker Chambers is trustworthy and reliable to Pleebo Sodoken District in Maryland County, the CDC and the Legislature.

President Weah's remarks were met with enthusiastic applause from the crowd, which included members of the CDC and residents.

welcomed the President with open arms, expressing gratitude for the government's continued support and commitment to development projects in the county.

The President pleaded with Marylanders to re-elect the current team of Legislators on the ticket of the CDC including Speaker Chambers, Senator J. Gble-bo Brown, Representatives P. Mike Jury and Isaac Roland respectively.

Mr. Weah maintained that the current team of Maryland County Legislators will continue to uphold the confidence reposed in them.

Commenting further, he urged Marylanders not to be misled by detractors, who he noted miserably failed the country and have no remorse but are opting to provide representation in the midst of rapid development under the Coalition regime.

Amidst the praises showered upon the Speaker, by President Weah, the citizens of Pleebo Sodoken District have unanimously pleaded with Mr. Weah to ensure that he retains the Speakership.

They also pledged to support the



via helicopter because of deplorable roads to reach citizens.

President Weah says such an argument from his opponents is untrue and only intended to tarnish his record and put him against the electorate.

He made the reaction while addressing scores of citizens including youth, women, men, elders and students, including first-time voters in the St. Francis sport pitch in Pleebo Sodoken district, on Tuesday, October 3. President Weah's Campaign Manager, Lenn Eugene Nagbe, confirmed on OK FM early this week that the President did acquire a helicopter to enhance his campaign trail in the southeast. But the President notes that it's unfortunate that his opponents will continue to spread false information to the public about him being transported in a helicopter when his official vehicles are pliable. He says thought some parts of the roads to the southeast are a challenge, but expresses delight to have used the route to experience its actual condition. Mr. Weah recalls that in 1975, roads in the southeast were even worse, but he plied it those days to visit the late President Doe family.

"This is our place, our home so I can't ride helicopter to come to my own people even

will push me from the mud because we should show that love to our people.

So how can I George Manneh Weah, use helicopter when my people are using the roads; remember, I used these same roads in 2017 and doing our counties tour so, we wanted to see because what they are giving me is on paper and I want to see how far our government has reached in terms of roads connectivity." Mr. Weah says he doesn't anybody telling him otherwise about the roads condition in the southeast, which is why he using his official motorcade instead of helicopter, to campaign. He argues that so far his government has done extremely well and people should appreciate this.

He promises that the roads will not be the same in his 2nd term, assuring the people of Maryland and other counties in the southeast that he would not make them shame if they elect him for another six-year term.

"Let me tell you my people, everything you're seeing happening in this country, opposition are not happy; when we started building the invisible Park, which is good for the young children, they were angry and they have criticized that

must never be an option - reference to former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai. Cummings promised to build a wholesome functioning governance system inclusive of all Liberians, irrespective of political, religious affiliation or ethnicity. He restated his promise to provide micro-finance loans for Liberian businesses and added that he will support farmers in making the

country food sufficient through food production. Cummings said all that he has promised he will do and made reference to other countries that are making significant advancements, not because they are smarter, but with visionary leaders. Liberia, he said, can even achieve greater. Clergymen of the Philadelphia Church

later offered special prayers for Mr. Cummings and God's divine intervention to help Liberians make better choice at the October polls.

The CPP Standard Bearer later joined hundreds of citizens in Bellemue, District #4, to participate in the campaign launch of its Legislative Aspirant Mr. Jonah Nulee Togbah.



Speaker Bhofal Chambers

He noted that prior to Dr. Chambers becoming Speaker of the 54th Legislature, and even under his gavel, he continued to support the CDC in achieving its deliverables to the Liberian people. President Weah made the comments Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at a campaign rally in Pleebo Sodoken District, when thousands of supporters lined the streets, waving flags and cheering as the Presidential motorcade passed through the city.

Local leaders and dignitaries

re-election bids of President George Weah, Speaker Bhofal Chambers, Senator J. Gble-bo Brown, Representatives P. Mike Jury and Isaac Roland, respectively while commending the government for its development deliverables.

Speaking earlier, Speaker Chambers, among other things, recommitted the people of Pleebo Sodoken District to re-electing the Coalition government based upon its deliverables, including maintenance of peace and good governance, among others. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Cummings wraps up

Starts from back page

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Cummings wraps up campaign

-As he vows to transform Liberia

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings has concluded a visit to Bong County

Center in 2017. The Alexander Cummings Resources center has an auditorium, three rooms and baths, with computer and a television.

entourage at the Philadelphia Gbarnga Solutions Center, which was attended by hundreds of citizens in Bong County.

Cummings said he was happy to round up his campaign in the House of God, with a request for special prayers for Liberia to hold a peaceful election.

Cummings said his quest for the Presidency was not to steal public resources, but rather to build a prosperous nation, governed under the rule of law.

He vowed to tackle the issues of corruption and blamed the deteriorating economic conditions on repeated past mistakes of electing weak and incompetent leaders like President George Weah.

He pleaded with citizens of Bong County to grant him the opportunity to serve Liberia in the highest capacity as President, and that he will not disappoint or dash the hopes of Liberians for real change.

The CPP Standard Bearer said returning to the past



CPP Standard Bearer Mr. Alexander Cummings

and is currently in Nimba County on the last leg of his campaign trail ahead of the October poll.

Cummings, accompanied by CPP stalwarts and Independent Legislative Aspirants, stopped in several towns along the way, including Salayea and Totota and Belefani, Zota District, where a special program was held for him in appreciations of the construction of a Resource

The program was attended by hundreds of citizens including Chiefs, elders, women, youth, and inter-religious groups, as well as CPP partisans and supporters, who reaffirmed their support for Cummings Presidential bid on October 10. In Gbarnga, a special thanksgiving service was held for the safe arrival of the CPP Standard Bearer and

▶ CONT'D page 11

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