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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 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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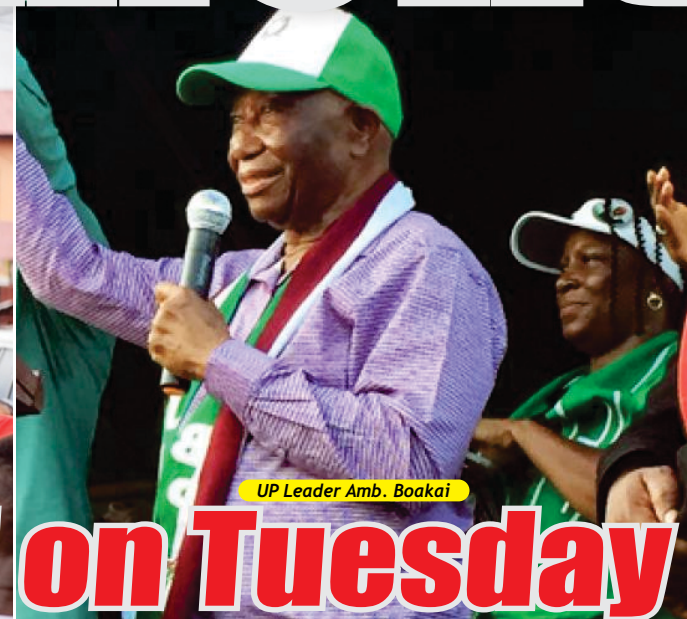
2023 CUMMINGS FOR PRESIDENT

VOL. 13 NO. 178

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023

PRICE LD\$40.00

Final argument



-as Liberians go to the poll on Tuesday

Be guided by God and conscience



-Ellen tells electorate

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Continental News

Voice cloning tech emerges in Sudan civil war

A campaign using artificial intelligence to impersonate Omar al-Bashir, the former leader of Sudan, has received hundreds of thousands of views on

The mystery surrounding his whereabouts adds a layer of uncertainty to a country in crisis after fighting broke out in April between the military, currently in charge, and the rival Rapid

person with little to no technical expertise can quickly and easily create fake content. "The recordings are posted on a channel called The Voice of Sudan. The posts appear to be a mixture of old clips from press conferences during coups attempts, news reports and several "leaked recordings" attributed to Bashir. The posts often pretend to be taken from a meeting or phone conversation, and sound grainy as you might expect from a bad telephone line. To check their authenticity, we first consulted a team of Sudan experts at BBC Monitoring. Ibrahim Haithar told us they weren't likely to be recent: "The voice sounds like Bashir but he has been very ill for the past few years and doubt he would be able to speak so clearly." This doesn't mean it's not him. We also checked other possible explanations, but this is not an old clip resurfacing and is unlikely to be the work of an impressionist. The most conclusive piece of evidence came from a user on X, formerly Twitter.

They recognised the very first of the Bashir recordings posted in August 2023. It apparently features the leader criticising the commander of the Sudanese army, General Abdel Fattah Burhan. BBC

South Africa moves to tighten its porous borders

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa has officially launched a new border force in a bid to tighten the country's porous borders. The inauguration took place in the town of Musina, home to the busy Beitbridge border post with Zimbabwe.

Mr Ramaphosa said increasing numbers of undocumented foreign nationals had "exacerbated many of the country's social and economic problems". Immigration is one of South Africa's most pressing political issues.

Managing its borders has become disorganised, with pressure on the government to do more to reduce the numbers of people coming into sub-Saharan Africa's most developed country from its neighbours.

At the same time, xenophobia by political parties is fanning flames ahead of the 2024 elections,

Mnangagwa, who had talks with Mr Ramaphosa beforehand.

The South African leader said the two men had agreed that "our countries want to live in harmony as neighbours". Mr Ramaphosa said the Border Management Authority was a vital link in harnessing the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area, as well as curbing illegal migration and human trafficking. Other problems have added to South Africa's border control woes in recent times.

A multi-million-dollar fence which was erected between South Africa and Zimbabwe collapsed, making it difficult to stop illegal immigration. And over the years, a large number of law enforcement officers have been arrested for corruption after demanding bribes. South Africa conducted a census in 2022, with the results expected to be released on 10 October.

Data released following the 2011 census revealed that 3.96 million foreign-born people lived in South Africa, including



Omar al-Bashir governed Sudan for three decades but hasn't been seen since the war started

TikTok, adding online confusion to a country torn apart by civil war. An anonymous account has been posting what it says are "leaked recordings" of the ex-president since late August. The channel has posted dozens of clips - but the voice is fake. Bashir, who has been accused of organising war crimes and was toppled by the military in 2019, hasn't been seen in public for a year and is believed to be seriously ill. He denies the war crimes accusations.

Support Forces militia group.

Campaigns like this are significant as they show how new tools can distribute fake content quickly and cheaply through social media, experts say. "It is the democratisation of access to sophisticated audio and video manipulation technology that has me most worried," says Hany Farid, who researches digital forensics at the University of California, Berkeley, in the US.

"Sophisticated actors have been able to distort reality for decades, but now the average

Bobi Wine 'under house arrest' after Uganda return

Ugandan opposition leader Bobi Wine has said he was "grabbed" by "goons" and put under house arrest on his return from South Africa. The singer-turned-politician is the strongest challenger to President Yoweri Museveni, who has held office for almost 40 years. The 41-year-old has been arrested numerous times and has faced several charges, including treason.

Police denied arresting Bobi Wine, saying he was merely "escorted" home. "Disregard rumours of his arrest by propagandists," the police said in a statement.

Bobi Wine, a former pop star whose real name is Robert Kyagulanyi, made a failed bid for the presidency in 2021 in a tense election against President Museveni, 79.

The election campaign was marked by a crackdown on the opposition and at least 54 people were killed during anti-government demonstrations. Bobi Wine arrived on Thursday, via the Rwandan capital, Kigali, following a series of

international engagements. His supporters had planned to welcome him at Entebbe International Airport and accompany him to his home about 50 km (30 miles) away in a huge march, but the police said this was illegal.

Bobi Wine said that as soon as he landed, even before he had gone through immigration, "goons grabbed me and dragged me, twisted my hands and bundled me into a waiting private car". He later said from his home that he was under house arrest. A video posted by his National Unity Platform

(NUP) on X, formerly Twitter, showed the leader being led away after disembarking from a plane in Entebbe. One of his associates was heard on the video saying "Where are you taking him?"

"The cowardly regime has arrested our president upon arrival at Entebbe Airport. We set out to receive him today, but the panicky regime security could not even allow him into immigration," said Mathias Mpuuga, the NUP leader in parliament. BBC



Bobi Wine has been arrested several times



Hundreds of border guards have been recruited by the new agency

to mobilise support from dissatisfied South Africans. Until now, the task of policing the borders was shared by four different government departments. They were also subject to 58 acts of parliament. But now the Border Management Authority, which cost millions of dollars to set up, is South Africa's third law enforcement agency after the police and army. The establishment of the agency means South Africa now has an integrated border policing bureau with a single command and control. Hundreds of border guards have been recruited and will be working together with the defence force. They will be manning South Africa's ports of entry which include eight seaports, 52 land borders and eleven international airports.

The launch was also attended by Zimbabwe's President Emmerson

undocumented migrants. Statistics South Africa said this translates to about 6% of the country's population.

Many believe the number of illegal immigrants could be much higher, as the government is often accused of not taking bolder steps to tackle the influx of undocumented foreigners.

Other organisations, such as anti-migrant street movement Operation Dudula, have accused illegal migrants of contributing to the high levels of crime. The immigration debate is often marred by bouts of violence, xenophobia and misinformation, as unemployed South Africans have been made to believe that their jobs are being taken by undocumented migrants from other African countries.

Earlier this week, Operation Dudula forced the closure of shops owned and run by non-South Africans in Soweto. This comes after two children died after consuming biscuits bought from one of the local shops. BBC

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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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

RYADH - 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

People's expectations is the bane of his administration. How Joseph Boakai Failed Liberia 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.

> Truth be told, Mr. Boakai was one of the custodians of the machinery

> for national development for 12 years, how did he utilize that? How

> was it channeled? It was under the Unity Party-led government that

> Liberia was rated the most corrupt country in the world in 2013 by the

> Transparency International Corruption Perception Index [23]. Where

> was Mr. Boakai when more than 20 government ministers were accused of

> corruption by the country's independent corruption watchdog, the

> General Auditing Commission, but not one of them was prosecuted during

> the Unity Party's first term?

>

> Where was Mr. Boakai when the corruption watchdog Global Witness

> investigation Hold the Line [24] report found that 20 of the

> country's largest logging contracts were entered into illegally

> (most had been marred by graft)? Where was Mr. Boakai when the

> succession of scandals rocked the UP-led administration including the

Demobilization Resettlement and Reintegration (NCDDRR).

Truth be told, Mr. Boakai has failed woefully and today turns around to declare his so-called rescue mission. Rescue mission from what? The damages the UP and CDC incurred on us for eighteen years? If at all Liberian desires to be rescued, you should be the first to be rescued from Prince Johnson and Jeremiah Koung's entanglement. Boakai's health problems also raised some questions about his fitness for office. The only septuagenarian in the race, Mr. Boakai's impromptu travel in the ECOWAS region on 28 August and his former staunch supporter Henry Costa's recent revelation on Bokai's poor health have raised serious concerns about his poor health and fitness to run as President. These concerns could have been excused and forgotten as an extraordinary misfortune, but the 79-year-old continues to be betrayed by his frailty and senility to this day. His apparent tendency to fall asleep during official functions has led to Liberians calling him "Sleepy Joe". Mr. Boakai was right when he said the UP-led government "squandered opportunities" because with all the international goodwill pouring into Liberia

at the time, the UP-led government didn't link the 15 counties of the country in terms of good roads, electricity, security of life and property, job creation etc. For eighteen consecutive years, UP and CDC have been in power and championing the reforms of the nation since after the civil war, yet they cry for a change. How long shall they continue to lead us in a forward-backward match? We are tired of failed people! We want change, but certainly not the UP and CDC kind of change Ready for fresh faces, new ideas Clearly, neither Weah nor Boakai offers any transformation change for the long-suffering Liberian masses as evidenced by 18 years of stewardship of the Liberians. However, despite the availability of some credible alternatives - including human activist Tiawan Saye Gongloe - the only real contender that has a comprehensive roadmap for tackling corruption and transforming the country.

Liberian voters' inexplicable reluctance to give a chance to fresh faces and new ideas is the main reason behind this hopeless dilemma; however, less

experienced candidates who failed to enter the presidential race in time and convince the masses that they could stand up to seasoned politicians like Weah and Boakai also share some of the blame.

Nevertheless, it is now clear that Liberia's democracy will be the main loser of 10 October's presidential election. Whoever wins the race will be scoring a victory not for the Liberian people, but for their army of political and personal hangers-on.

The Liberian people can expect to "win" in a presidential election only if they refuse to choose the old tongues (UP) and the new rogues (CDC) and commence the process of voting for a virile alternative political force.



> one involving Varney Sherman, a lawyer who used to be the ruling Unity

> Party president's political party, who went on trial [25] for allegedly paying more than \$950,000 in bribes on behalf of her client, the British extractive firm Sable Mining, in order to secure an iron ore concession? Mr. Boakai's son Joseph Boakai Jr. was the Principal Director for Corporate Affairs at the Liberia Maritime Authority while Madam Sirleaf appointed three of her sons and one of her sisters to key government posts including the most important of those posts at the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL), which was headed by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's son, Robert Sirleaf, until 2013. Robert Sirleaf presided over record exploration deals with the super majors Chevron and ExxonMobil that netted more than \$120 million for the Liberian government, but a cloud of suspicion settled over him when NOCAL collapsed in 2015, two years after he had departed. It was Joseph Boakai who presided over those exploration deals in the Senate. Did Mr. Boakai remember then they were squandering opportunities or did he deliberately remain silent waiting for when he becomes the President? Mr. Boakai headed the senate and presided over its functions which made him the second most influential person in Liberia. He was so powerful as the president of the senate that nineteen Liberian senators supported his 2017 presidential bid. Mr. Boakai also performed supervisory functions over a number of institutions and agencies including the Liberia National Lotteries (LOTTO), the Liberia Marketing Association (LIMA), the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE), and the National Commission on Disarmament

SURVEY NOTICE

September 23, 2023

The General public is hereby informed that having being granted the permission by Mr. Tom Wesley Korkpor the undersigned registered license surveyor will conduct a survey of two town lots (2town lots) of land situated, lying and being in Ben Town, Schiefflin, Margibi County, Liberia, on Saturday, the 7th Day of October AD 2023 at the hour of 10:00AM, in favour of the Mickie Yamah Howard Esther Krubo Moniba.

Therefore all adjoining property owners are requested to be present with their Deed (s), diagram (s). Technical representatives or any other title document (s) to verified their claims.

Let this notice therefore claim the attention of the following property owners.

1. Community Chairman
2. Nearest Police Station
3. Toga Gayawea McIntosh
4. Dalmeida Clara McIntosh
5. Wynston S. Doe
6. Janet M. Freeman
7. Osbert W. Kun and Lydia T. W. Kun
8. Rufus Welemonger Williams
9. Maemella Reeves Mensah
10. Lindsay M. Haines & Rebecca Q. Haines

Approved:

Kempson S. Murray, Sr.

Registered Licensed Surveyor

Contact: 0777750002/0886514399

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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My visitation was to caution the security

-SG explains in jury interference case

By Lincoln G. Peters
Liberia's Solicitor General Cllr. Nyanti Tuan has told a special investigation that his unauthorized visit to the jury



Solicitor General Cllr. Nyanti Tuan

and suspended Cllr. Tuan for allegedly tempering with the jurors in the case involving Cllr. Gloria Musa-Scott and three of her family members who on trial for alleged murder.

The chamber Justice however mandated Judge Willie to order a full scale investigation in the unauthorized visitation of Solicitor General Cllr. Tuan and establish the fact and circumstances and report back.

Releasing the ruling on Wednesday, 4 October 2023 in the special hearing regarding the alleged jury tempering, Judge Willie said that during the investigation, Cllr. Tuan admitted that he went at the jury quarter and interacted with state security.

"Guys, be vigilant and dutiful because we don't want what happened in the US\$100 million drug burst where the government lost the case ... to happen in this case," Judge Willie quoted Cllr. Tuan as saying.

He said that all the nine witnessed while on the stand testified and confirmed that the Solicitor General entered the ground of the Temper of Justice forcefully and went at the jury quarter.

They noted that he interacted with state security assigned at the jury quarter and later left.

The investigation said that

quarter was intended to caution states security officers assigned there to be vigilant.

He said he went there to caution the officers to be dutiful to avoid the reoccurrence of what happened in the US\$100m drug burst case. On 14 September 2023, the Judicial Security Service informed the court about the unauthorized and forceful visitation of Cllr. Tuan at the Jury Quarters on the grounds of the Temple Justice.

He is accused of interacting with the state security assigned there. According to the Judicial Security Service, he visited the facility on 13 September 2023. Based on the complaint, Judge Willie fined

Judge Willie fined the Solicitor General two hundred and fifty United States Dollars and denied him participation in the ongoing trial. But the prosecution filed a writ of certiorari (asking a high court to order a lower court to send a case record up for review) against the judge to the Justice in Chambers.

The prosecution argued that Judge Willie did not have the legal authority to ban the Solicitor General from practicing, except the Supreme Court. They also argued that the judge's decision was harsh and he didn't conduct any hearing. The prosecution then pleaded for a full scale investigation into the

MOE provides bikes for DEOs and CEOs

By Ethel A Tweh

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Education has donated a consignment of 100 motorbikes valued over US\$300,000 to County and District Education Officers within all 15 counties.

Speaking to reporters in Monrovia on Wednesday, Education Minister Ansu Sonii said the government's move is to ensure efficiency and an enabling environment for all CEOs and DEOs in the country.

According to Professor Sonii, it took the Coalition for Democratic Change led-government two years to raise the cash aimed at making quality and affordable education more accessible to Liberian students. The Education Minister noted that CEOs in hard-to-reach counties like Lofa, Gbarpolu, Rivercess, Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, River Gee, Grand Kru and Maryland, will be prioritized in the distribution of the motorbikes.

He urged beneficiaries to

seize this opportunity to improve the educational system in reaching hard-to-reach areas, adding that in the absence of proper supervision, the learning environment will experience decline.

The Minister frowned on some CEOs and DEOs, for being delinquent in their responsibilities to reach out to schools amid complaints from parents. At the same time, Minister Ansu Sonii cautioned his team at the Ministry to



remain robust and continue to support and contribute to the Pro-poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity, ahead of the October 10, 2023 polls.

In separate remarks, both the heads of CEOs and DEOs in the southeast and other counties thanked the government through the Ministry Education for the intervention and promised to use the bikes for their intended purpose.

Teachers are the heart of any nation

-NTAL President Mary Nyumah

By Lewis S Teh

The President of the National Teachers Association of Liberia (NTAL) Madam Mary W.M. Nyumah says teachers around the world are regarded as the heart of any nation due to their involvement in building and impacting knowledge to citizens.

She says the teaching profession is also critical to meeting global and national challenges, from eradicating poverty and achieving social justice to fighting climate change.

"Teachers are central to this vision of the future. Teachers are the heart of education. Yet in many countries, teachers are leaving the profession they love, and fewer young people aspire to become teachers", she notes.

Madam Numah spoke yesterday, October 5, 2023 at the NTAL headquarters in Sinkor, Monrovia during celebration of World Teachers Day. She revealed that UNESCO estimates that the

NTAL president, are one of the most influential forces for quality education and development, noting that teachers are a source of awareness and enlightenment.

"Teachers nourish their students with wisdom. Moreover, a teacher teaches children the real skills of a successful life."

"This Day is a golden opportunity to shower them for their services. In the present age of the early 21st-century, teaching is not an easy profession. While once teachers were highly respected, valued, and role models for young people.

According to her, a decline in the respect of teachers is being noticed in certain western countries, and that more generally, families no longer support the teacher's authority over their students in the classroom, adding that teachers can face threats of violence from their students and family members.

"As we celebrate World Teachers' Day, we must look at the future of the profession and



National Teachers Association of Liberia (NTAL)

world needs over 69 million new teachers by 2030, but teachers' shortage only continues to grow. The celebration was held under the theme, "The teachers we need for the education we want: the global imperative to reserve teachers' shortage."

She said urgent action is needed to "ensuring teachers everywhere are well-trained, well-supported, and well-paid as the only way to reverse the teacher shortage and start building the education workforce we need for the future we want"

According to her, teachers in Liberia joined global mobilization in calling on governments everywhere to invest in teachers and in quality public education. Madam Nyumah indicated that students can't learn without teachers, but teachers can't work without professional pay, respect, and trust.

Teachers, according to the

prepare the young dedicated teachers for the 21st-century challenges of 'teaching in diversity' and 'diversity in teaching.' Attracting bright-minded young teachers to the teaching profession is becoming challenging across the world."

The celebration began with a grand parade from Vamoma House at Airfield Junction in Monrovia involving officials of NTAL, educational stakeholders, and various public school students through the principal streets toward NTAL headquarters on 12th Street for indoor program.

World Teachers' Day is an international day held annually on 5 October to celebrate the work of teachers. Established in 1994, it commemorates the signing of recommendation by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Be guided by God and conscience

As Liberians go to elections on Tuesday, 10 October, former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf urges voters to be guided by God and conscience, as they examine performance records and potentials of those who seek their votes.



She says all Liberians now have the opportunity to ensure through their votes that growth and inclusive development can be

sustained in the country by electing candidates that have the capacity to ensure a better Liberia and Africa.

In a statement released here Thursday, October 5, midway to Election Day, the former, who led Liberia for 12 years as the first elected female President on the Continent, said as Liberians approach another historic event in exercising their Constitutional right of choice, she considers it a duty to join others in adding her voice for a

smooth electoral process.

"I pray that you choose those who can and will ensure a Better Liberia and the Africa That We Want", she says.

Mrs. Sirleaf notes that Liberia has been blessed by God with an endowment which provides the means for development.

"We have made progress in the achievement of development goals, but some have, from time-to-time, undermined progress in that achievement", she adds.

However, she notes that through it all, Peace Has Been the Enabler, reciting in the Vai vernacular, "Komu-moi lor nei awa mu k nyain". "I, therefore, thank all citizens, individuals and groups, for the contribution made to National peace that has made us proud of the 20 consecutive years of peace. I also thank the large number of continental, international and local organizations that will serve as Elections Observer ensuring that our electoral processes meet international standards."

Read full statement inside by the former President.

27 additional arrests in Lofa

-Joint Security denies biased response

By Lincoln G. Peters
Liberia's Joint Security says it has arrested over twenty-seven suspects following election violence in Foya, Lofa County, but denies it was biased in carrying out the arrests.

At least two persons were reported dead, 19 others were wounded, and several properties were destroyed during political violence on Friday, 29 September 2023 in Foya.

Supporters of Liberia's two main rival political parties - the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and the opposition Unity Party (UP) were said to have engaged in the violence. The Joint Security says those arrested are all from diverse political institutions, rejecting claims that the opposition was targeted in the arrest.

The Spokesman of the Liberia National Police, H. Moses Carter provided an update to the public on behalf of the Joint Security on

team is only arresting individuals of one political institution, we like to clarify to you that our arrest being made in the incident on Foya, Lofa County covers every actor that participated in the violence that left two persons dead," said Mr. Carter.

"Our arrest is not being made on which party you are from, but the commission or participation [in] the crime," Mr. Carter stated. At the same time, he noted that they were fortunate to have obtained video footage with which they will ensure that the families of those who lost their lives in the Foya incident get justice.

He pointed out that they had arrested a man identified as Abraham Yanyanko who was seen with a single barrow pistol in his hands during the Foya violence.

"We are also pleased to inform you that a total of twenty-seven persons have been arrested. In one of the video footages on social media and various platforms, a young man was seen with a single



Wednesday evening, 4 October 2023.

Carter said allegations linking the Joint Security to arresting only opposition partisans in the Lofa violence are false and misleading. Carter explained that those arrested were from all of the political parties and were participants in the Lofa County political violence. "That the Joint Security special investigative

barrow pistol."

"And we want to inform you that the young man has been arrested. This man was arrested at the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone," Mr. Carter added. He noted that the Joint Security remains resolute that anybody who makes threatening statements or engages in violence will be dealt with by the Joint Security.

Starts from back page

Women seek robust awareness

Constitution of Liberia.

Participants in response said they have a collective sense of the prevalent rate of violence against women in their district and community, and how it affects the ability of women to equally participate in the national and local community elections. The women said they continue to come under a series of verbal and physiological violence by male counterparts and sometimes women who support male candidates.

The conversation also stressed the growing wave of cyberbullying of women candidates and calls for measures or interventions to ensure the safety of women participating in elections either as candidates, partisans of political parties, and or individual candidates. At the end of the dialogue, the participants recommended that

there should be equal women and men in government so all issues can be addressed, especially women-related issues. They stated that "in that way, we will have a balanced society.

Speaking on the issue of civic and voter education, it was the opinion of the group of women, men, and young people, that more was needed to help prepare the voters to participate in the vote processing.

They thanked the organizers of the dialogue for bringing such important awareness to their community, noting that the information gathered makes them more informed and prepared to help counter acts of violence against women in elections and promote women's

leadership. The first-time voters attending the dialogue said they felt more connected, confident, and relevant to the election process, following the open and safe conversations held and information provided by the facilitators.

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is providing the funding for the Young Women Empowerment, Protection and Participation in Elections Project. Meridian International Center serves as the implementing partner. The group continues to create awareness on the prevention of violence against women in elections and creating public, peer to peer awareness on women political participation and voters' education to women and young people.--Press release

Starts from back page

Arrest everyone of interest

As part of its petition, the youth league is recommending that the Standard Bearer of the Unity Party, Joseph N. Boakai be held responsible for any violence that may come out of the electoral process.

Chairman Johnson also calls on the U.S. government to deny entry to America, all individuals instigating violence.

Chairmann Mulbah Morlu, termed what happened in Lofa as electoral violence and killing of innocent citizens, drawing the attention of the international community for intervention.

Morlu indicated 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 Ministry of Justice has dispatched team of investigators to the county to probe the incident amid several arrests by the Liberia National Police.

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Français

Au Liberia, des jeunes s'engagent pour des élections non violentes

Dans ce pays meurtri par des guerres civiles qui ont fait 250 000 morts entre 1989 et 2003, le déroulement pacifique du scrutin du 10

qu'ils craignent par-dessus tout : le retour de la violence.

Au Liberia, pays meurtri par des guerres civiles qui ont fait 250 000 morts entre 1989 et 2003, le déroulement pacifique

de bois. « La violence, c'est quand on force quelqu'un à faire quelque chose », répond l'un d'eux. « C'est lorsqu'on cherche à faire du mal », relève un autre. Les uns et les autres s'interrogent sur l'attitude à adopter en cas de triche pendant le vote. Malgré les klaxons des voitures sur la route voisine, les cris d'un nouveau-né dans les bras de sa maman et un orchestre qui passe à côté pour un enterrement, les jeunes se passionnent pour la discussion.

« Les jeunes doivent rester en dehors de toute forme de violence. Lorsque la violence s'intensifie, des habitations sont détruites, des innocents sont tués, explique Nehemiah Jallah. Je ne sais pas quel parti vous soutenez, mais votez pacifiquement, ne soyez pas violents. Trop d'élections dans le monde se terminent dans la violence. Gardons notre pays en paix. » Les organisateurs ont collé dans la pièce des affiches prêchant la non-violence : « Vote pour la paix au Liberia. Dis non à la violence », « Respecter la règle de droit sauvera notre démocratie ».

Un ancien chef de guerre devenu sénateur

Plus de 60 % de la population libérienne a moins de 25 ans. « Les hommes politiques cherchent à vous utiliser parce qu'ils savent que vous êtes plus

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Élection présidentielle au Liberia: un débat public mais sans les principaux candidats

Au Liberia, la campagne pour les élections générales du mardi 10 octobre se poursuit. Au-delà des meetings et des campagnes de proximité, un débat public a été organisé hier, mardi 3 octobre, à Monrovia. Le but de cet exercice est de vulgariser les programmes de chacun des vingt candidats à l'élection présidentielle.

Le débat se déroule dans un amphithéâtre du centre de conférence Ellen-Johnson-Sirleaf. Sept

candidats sur dix ont répondu présent. Adama Dempster, un militant de la société civile, regrette l'absence des trois favoris de cette élection : « Je suis déçu par l'absence des principaux candidats. J'aurais aimé que le président et les leaders de l'opposition soient présents. Cela nous aiderait à avoir une vision claire de l'avenir du pays. »

Deux minutes

Chaque candidat a deux minutes pour résumer son programme. Puis le public pose des questions : infrastructures,

santé, éducation, crimes de guerre. Lawrence Yealme, le directeur de l'ONG Accountability Lab Liberia, déplore le manque de préparation des candidats : « Un seul candidat a abordé la question des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques, or, c'est un sujet qui nous concerne vraiment, parce qu'on a besoin de réponses sur les crimes du passé. Aucun de ces candidats n'est parvenu à expliquer correctement comment il

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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.



Pres. Weah



Français

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Au Liberia, des jeunes

vulnérables », explique Lawrence Sergbou, qui se présente comme militant pour la jeunesse. L'histoire du Liberia est jalonnée de violences. Pendant la guerre civile, les milices utilisaient des enfants soldats, rappelle-t-il. Les violences détruisent tout espoir de développement, juge-t-il. « Quand on regarde les réseaux sociaux, écoute la radio, voit l'histoire du pays... Oui, j'ai peur, confie-t-il. Cela fait vingt ans que nous vivons en paix et on ne veut pas que ça s'arrête. »

Malgré les atrocités de la guerre civile, avec ses massacres, ses mutilations, ses viols et ses actes de cannibalisme, aucun procès ne s'est à ce jour tenu au Liberia. Certains anciens chefs de guerre jouent encore un rôle influent en politique. L'un d'eux est Prince Johnson, qu'une vidéo

montra en train de siroter une bière pendant que ses hommes torturaient à mort le président Samuel Doe en 1990. Il est toujours sénateur. A 71 ans, il a noué une alliance avec Joseph Boakai, ancien vice-président (2006-2018) et l'un des favoris du scrutin présidentiel. Il a menacé d'une révolte populaire si le parti au pouvoir manipulait les élections. Peu après, le candidat Boakai a laissé entendre que ce serait « la fin de ce pays » si l'élection était volée.

L'ancien footballeur star George Weah, président depuis 2018 et en quête d'un deuxième mandat, a promis des élections « pacifiques, justes et crédibles ». En avril, tous les partis en lice ont signé, sous l'égide de l'ONU et de la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cedeao), un engagement à s'abstenir de la violence et à recourir aux institutions judiciaires pour résoudre les conflits électoraux.

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Élection présidentielle au Liberia: un débat

compte diriger le pays. Certains se sont contenté de dissenter sur les problèmes, au lieu de dire concrètement quelle serait leur politique. C'est n'est que de la comédie. »

Peu de personnes sur place

Peu de personnes ont fait le déplacement. Les organisateurs relativisent cette faible participation. Lien Bach est la responsable

du programme Média à l'USAID : « Ce débat est retransmis en direct dans les radios communautaires, les chaînes nationales de radio et de télévision, et sur internet. Cela nous permet d'atteindre tous les citoyens à l'intérieur du pays ». Le prochain débat public est prévu vendredi. Les dix autres candidats à la présidentielle ont été invités à y présenter leur programme.

Présidentielle au Liberia: les candidats indépendants misent sur la lutte contre la corruption

Au Liberia, 20 tickets présidentiels sont en lice en vue du scrutin du mardi 10 octobre. Parmi les têtes d'affiches, figure le président sortant Georges Weah et l'ancien vice-président Joseph Boakai. Mais certains ont aussi des profils atypiques, avec des personnalités qui ont viré d'une carrière internationale vers la politique. Alexander Cummings a d'abord fait ses armes au sein de la firme internationale Coca-Cola, dont il a dirigé la branche Afrique. Cet homme de 66 ans, espère mettre l'accent sur le secteur privé, pour créer des emplois. Il veut aussi assainir l'environnement des affaires en mettant un terme à la corruption.

« Je suis déterminé à faire traduire en justice toute personne soupçonnée d'avoir volé de l'argent

public. Peu importe son statut, il ou elle sera puni.e par la loi. Par ailleurs, il faut augmenter les salaires, car on voit actuellement que les fonctionnaires, les professeurs ou les policiers ont épuisé leur paie au milieu du mois et ils n'arrivent pas à satisfaire leurs besoins. » Sur cette lancée, Alexander Cummings veut créer une Cour pour juger les crimes économiques et les crimes de guerre. Sarah Nyanti, la candidate de la Ligue pour la libération africaine, développe un projet similaire. Car pour cette ancienne haut-fonctionnaire des Nations unies, les séquelles des guerres civiles sont encore visibles : « J'entends les rhétoriques tribales. J'entends aussi des gens dire que s'ils n'obtiennent pas quelque chose en leur faveur, il y aura à nouveau la guerre. Les Libériens ont des blessures profondes. C'est pourquoi je propose de créer une Commission historique.

Un ancien militaire libérien placé en détention provisoire en France



D'après Civitas Maxima, l'accusé s'appelle Saturday. Il serait l'un des commandants du NPFL dirigé par l'ex-président Charles Taylor alors que ce dernier était encore chef rebelle durant la première guerre du Liberia. Selon les enquêtes de la commission « Vérité et réconciliation » du Liberia, la milice de Taylor est responsable de près de 64 000 violations des droits humains. L'accusé Saturday est mis en cause pour sa responsabilité dans plusieurs crimes contre l'humanité commis durant le conflit qui aurait fait entre 150 000 et 250 000 morts. « Les actes qui lui sont reprochés sont des actes de cruauté, de torture, des exécutions massives... Si l'enquête confirme les faits, je pense que ce sera l'un des cas les plus abominables que la justice française aura eu à connaître », relève Me Simon Foreman, avocat de Civitas.

C'est la onzième affaire que Civitas porte devant des tribunaux à l'étranger, alors qu'aucun procès ne s'est tenu au Liberia.

Un ancien militaire libérien a été placé en détention provisoire ce mardi 25 septembre par la cour d'appel de Paris. Il est accusé de crimes contre l'humanité durant la guerre civile du Liberia dans les années 1990.

L'accusé, qui vit en France depuis 20 ans, avait déjà été mis en examen le 13 septembre dernier, avant d'être placé sous contrôle judiciaire. Cette décision de justice avait été prise contre l'avis du parquet national antiterroriste qui a donc fait appel et a finalement obtenu la détention provisoire du militaire. Ces actions en justice font suite à une plainte déposée par Civitas Maxima. Depuis 2012, cette ONG documente avec l'organisation libérienne Global Justice and Research Project (GJRP) les crimes commis pendant les deux guerres civiles, qui ont secoué le Liberia, de 1989 à 1997, puis de 1999 à 2003.

Les chefs d'État successifs, jusqu'à l'actuel George Weah avaient promis d'organiser des procès. Ca n'a jamais eu lieu, probablement pour des raisons de politique interne : tous les protagonistes de cette guerre civile sont encore aujourd'hui présents au Liberia, un certain nombre d'entre eux en tout cas, à des rangs parfois élevés. Ca semble complètement bloqué à l'intérieur du Liberia », poursuit Me Simon Foreman. L'avocat reconnaît toutefois que l'État libérien a activement coopéré avec la justice française dans les affaires jugées hors du pays.

L'an dernier, c'est l'ancien commandant rebelle Kunti Kamara qui était condamné en France à la prison à perpétuité pour complicité de crimes contre l'humanité.

Liberia : à l'université, les étudiants dressent le bilan de George Weah dans l'enseignement

Au Liberia, dans tout juste une semaine, près de cinq millions d'électeurs seront appelés à voter pour un nouveau président. L'occasion de faire un point sur le chef de l'État sortant, George Weah, qui achève un mandat de six ans. A-t-il tenu ses promesses ? Comment les Libériens perçoivent-ils les actions menées par l'ancienne star du football ? Exemple avec le secteur de l'éducation, à l'université du Liberia. À l'université, les étudiants retiennent une mesure phare de George Weah : la gratuité des frais d'inscription. Cette mesure a permis d'attirer plus de jeunes. Mais Mohammed Bah, étudiant en master, relativise l'intérêt de cette réforme. « Théoriquement, les frais d'inscription ont été supprimés. Mais en réalité, les étudiants doivent payer 5% de leur scolarité. On doit payer certains frais, plus les fournitures. Donc ce n'est pas totalement gratuit. »

Manque de moyens pour le supérieur Plusieurs étudiants patientent près d'une salle de classe. Parmi eux, Ahmed Sesay, étudiant en sociologie, déplore le manque de moyens alloués à l'enseignement supérieur. « Il n'y a pas d'amélioration. On est obligé de venir bien avant chaque cours : si vous arrivez après le professeur, vous

devrez vous assoir au fond de la salle de classe et rester debout pendant toute la durée du cours. Il y a beaucoup trop d'étudiants par rapport aux capacités d'accueil de cette université. » Encourager les jeunes

Abednego Klamah espère un jour être fonctionnaire pour servir son pays. Pour cet étudiant de 21 ans, il faut aussi encourager les jeunes qui sortent du circuit scolaire bien avant le bac. « Il faut investir dans le système éducatif, en créant par exemple des contrats courts, à durée limitée, pour les élèves qui quittent l'enseignement secondaire très tôt. Ça leur permet d'avoir une expérience professionnelle. C'est une manière de créer des opportunités aux jeunes. »

George Weah promet d'investir dans la construction de nouvelles écoles, dans la formation des enseignants et le développement des filières scientifiques.



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Liberia's Civil War Tragedy: A Desperate Plea for US Congressional Intervention

By: Austin S. Fallah
Minnesota, USA.

Introduction: Liberia remains deeply scarred by the horrors of its civil war, a nation shattered by violence, instability, and the urgent need for humanitarian relief.

The recent testimony of Alan White before the US Congress has illuminated the direness of the situation, urging the United States to take resolute action to protect the lives of the remaining Liberians, particularly vulnerable women, children, and men, and to safeguard the nation's invaluable resources.

In this article, I will delve into the intricate web of Liberia's civil war tragedy, highlighting the pressing issues of corruption, human rights abuses, and the senseless killings of innocent Liberian citizens, emphasizing why the US Congress must promptly address this crisis.

A Prolonged Tragedy: Spanning from 1989 to 2003, Liberia's civil war was a brutal conflict marked by widespread atrocities, power struggles, foreign interference, and the rampant abuse of human rights.

The conflict claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands, leaving countless more displaced and traumatized. Despite post-war efforts to establish peace and rebuild the nation, Liberia remains mired in the aftermath of this devastating conflict.

Alan White's Alarming Testimony: Alan White, a seasoned humanitarian worker with extensive experience in Liberia, delivered a chilling account of the current state of affairs in the country before the US Congress.

He shed light on the dire humanitarian crisis, with many Liberians enduring abject poverty, devoid of access to clean water, education, and healthcare.

Moreover, the lingering presence of armed groups continues to terrorize vulnerable communities, exacerbating the population's suffering.

Resource Exploitation and Corruption: Liberia boasts abundant natural resources, including iron ore, diamonds, and timber.

However, the exploitation of these resources has been marred by corruption and conflict, fueling illicit trade and siphoning away revenue that could have been invested in the nation's development.

The absence of proper oversight and regulation has transformed these resources into a source of instability and funding conflict rather than progress.

The Urgency of US Congressional Action:

Humanitarian Aid:

The plight of the Liberian people remains dire, with many struggling to survive in abject poverty and

enduring severely limited access to essential services.

The US Congress must lead in providing humanitarian assistance to ensure access to clean water, healthcare, and education for the most vulnerable populations, especially women, children, and men.

Peacekeeping and Security:

Addressing the ongoing security challenges posed by armed groups is paramount.

The US Congress can support peacekeeping efforts by providing resources to help stabilize the country.



This may involve training and equipping local security forces and promoting disarmament and demobilization initiatives.

Resource Management: Liberia's vast natural resources hold the potential for prosperity rather than conflict.

The US Congress should advocate for transparency and accountability in resource management, backing initiatives to combat corruption and promote responsible resource extraction.

Diplomatic Engagement:

Given the historical ties between the United States and Liberia, diplomatic efforts can catalyze dialogue and reconciliation among various factions within the country.

The US Congress should actively encourage diplomatic initiatives aimed at achieving lasting peace and stability.

Conclusion:

Alan White's testimony to the US Congress has thrust Liberia's civil war tragedy into the spotlight, underscoring the urgent need for decisive action.

The suffering of the Liberian people, coupled with the pervasive corruption, human rights abuses, and the senseless killings of innocent

citizens, demands immediate attention.

The United States, owing to its historical involvement in Liberia, is morally obligated to assist in resolving these multifaceted challenges.

By providing humanitarian aid, bolstering security efforts, championing responsible resource management, and engaging in diplomacy, the US Congress can play a pivotal role in guiding Liberia toward lasting peace and development.

The time for resolute action to save lives and protect Liberia's invaluable resources is now.

Final arguments

By Jonathan Browne

All 20 candidates vying for the Presidency on Tuesday, 10 October have been crisscrossing Liberia, including the incumbent, President George Manneh Weah, campaigning and asking electorate for votes and making promises. But whether those promises are genuine or mere rhetoric is totally something else, judging from the public record of each candidate.

As the campaign comes to a close in just two days before Election Day Tuesday, the NEW DAWN takes a closer look at messages of the three main contenders in the race namely; the incumbent, President Weah, former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai of the Unity Party, and Mr. Alexander Benedict Cummings of the Collaborating Political Parties, aimed at giving voters food for thought as they go to the poll.

President Weah and his ruling Coalition government are seeking a second term to complete ongoing developments, mainly roads that remain a major challenge, particularly outside Monrovia, the capital.

Mr. Weah says one term is inadequate to enable him achieve his dreams for Liberia, as he wants to leave a legacy before stepping down. He left a legacy on the global stage in football, winning Africa, European and World Best title all in one year.

His unmatched successes in soccer has drawn the nation's youth to him dearly for obvious reasons since entering politics in 2005. Young people constitute more than 50 percent of the population of Liberia and they see themselves in President Weah, not only as a beacon of hope, but a pride for the country.

The President recently cautioned youth of Liberia most of them first time voters, during a campaign rally in Grand Bassa County, not to allow rhetoric from failed politicians to hijack their future. Rather, he rallied them to seize opportunities of transformation and development that will enable them to have a prosperous future under his administration.

He urged the youth to stick with the ruling CDC that has already begun work and is on the right path of transforming their lives thru capacity building to make them good leaders for tomorrow.

"Don't allow these failed politicians, who are only coming to fool you and allow your good and favorable future to wear away; deny those who have failed you for 12 years and now they're coming to you again asking you to vote them, and deny the opportunity, through education, empowerment, my administration has given you", he said.

President Weah: "Remember I'm no different from you; seeing me here today as your President,

you too can be President one day, so don't let them fool you; don't mind them, they have nothing to give you; only lies and rhetoric."

His message resonated do well among the young people, moving them to cheer, as he urged them to seize opportunities his government has created for the youth, noting that gone are those days when the Presidency was a taboo for young people and the downtrodden, reserved exclusively for the upper class or the elites.

According to him, under his watch, the narrative has changed, as every Liberian is equal under the law, equal in opportunities, and capable of being a leader in every capacity, even as President of Liberia.

The President revealed that he has launched a "people's struggle" to change such demeaning and segregating

fees for 12th graders both in public and private schools across the country, among others.

But two main critics of the government, Ambassador Boakai and Mr. Cummings think President Weah has performed dismally and dragged Liberia into socio-economic shackle, with poverty devastating ordinary citizens, many of whom can highly afford to send their children to school, enjoy better health or to put food on the table for the family.

Former corporate executive and Standard Bearer of the CPP Mr. Alexander Cummings, argues that due to ineptitude and gross misrule by the government, Mr. Weah has lost relevance and popularity with Liberian people, so he has no standing to request for another term, let alone to speak of winning in the first

win any one-round victory now, with 19 candidates going against him.

He vows to tackle corruption that has remained systemic in the governance of the state and blames the deteriorating economic conditions on repeated past mistakes of electing weak and incompetent leaders like President George Weah.

Cummings says his quest for the Presidency is not to steal public resources, but rather to build a prosperous nation, governed under the rule of law. He also promises to build a wholesome functioning governance system inclusive of all Liberians, irrespective of political, religious affiliation or ethnicity. He wants to provide micro-finance loans for Liberian businesses and support farmers in making the country food sufficient.

Cummings assures that all that he has promised he will do and references countries that are making significant advancements, not because they are smarter, but with

for growth, noting that together, he and his running mate Senator Jeremiah Koung, will confront these challenges head-on, with compassion and determination.

He assures that the UP will work tirelessly to create an inclusive society, where no one is left behind, where opportunities are abundant, and where the future is brighter for each generation.

"In tandem, we will improve agriculture production, improve our infrastructure, including roads, ensure law and order in our society, invest in the education of young people, improve health and sanitation, prevent the degradation of our environment, and develop its potential for tourism to arrest the dire political, economic and social challenges we face as a country", he pledges. He also promises that if elected President, transformation will be driven by the people, and therefore, education will be a major part of his agenda.

The UP Standard Bearer believes that a well-educated society is a thriving society, vowing to invest in schools, teachers, and students to ensure the quality of education under his government is accessible to all.

He believes that by equipping minds of the youth with knowledge and skills they need, it will unlock their potentials, drive innovation, enhance their dignity and secure a prosperous future for Liberia.

"We will not allow the resources of this country to be mortgaged by a few people for their selfish interests. The people of this country and their government under our stewardship will be equal partners in the judicious exploitation of national resources for the good of the people. If there must be economic growth from the exploitation of our resources, that growth must be equal for our people and must come with development", he concludes.

Registered Liberian voters, totaling 2,471,617, according to statistic from the National Elections Commission, have listened to these three candidates and others in the race from time to time. It is now their moment to make a choice at the ballot box, void of intimidation and threats to keep the country in peace in order to forge ahead with development and prosperity.

narrative so that every Liberian, no matter where they are or who their parents are, can harness their future.

"Young people, don't allow this glorious opportunity to slip out of your hands because the future belongs to you. This is our moment." In Rivergee County, Mr. Weah promised more developments, and boasted of gains made by his administration, pointing to road connectivity, infrastructure development and electricity, while emphasizing that his government has done much in the last five years in making his impact felt throughout Liberia.

"Road construction, health and educational infrastructures, bridges, electricity supply to both rural and urban populations, women and youth empowerment and many others", he said, while describing himself as "Development Kingon."

The CDC-led government has campaigned on tuition-free public universities and colleges, payment of WASSCE

round of the poll.

"I know and hear President George Weah and CDC talking about one round victory for them. That is completely nonsense and it's will not happen. You know why? Because the President and his entire CDC government has failed the Liberian people. Therefore, no Liberian, and none of our international partners and community believe that nonsense about one-round victory from them", he adds. Instead, Cummings, who brands himself as "Fixer", maintains that he is ready to return Liberia on the right trajectory, arguing that the only Presidential ticket for the 2023 Election that leads to a resoundingly successful one-round victory is the Cummings-Charlyne Brumskine Ticket that heads.

He argues that when the opposition didn't had more candidates then, Mr. Weah only obtained 38 percent in the first round of the election in 2017 therefore, he can't

visionary leaders. Liberia, he says, can even achieve greater under a CPP-led government. On the other hand, Amb. Joseph Boakai cautions that if Weah is elected for another six years, then Liberia is doom, so the electorate should elect him comes Tuesday, to rescue the country from total collapse.

Mr. Boakai recognizes that there are challenges ahead, saying that the Liberian society faces many foundational challenges, including political marginalization of citizens in decision-making process, economic inequalities, social injustice, corruption, hunger, disease, ignorance, insecurity, poor infrastructure, environmental degradation, youth unemployment, a drug epidemic, among others. However, the 80 years old candidate, who prides himself as the most experience in the race, having served two terms as Vice President under Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, firmly believes that within every challenge lies an opportunity

Women seek robust awareness to prevent electoral violence

Women and Young People in Totota, Bong County have expressed the need for a more robust awareness to prevention violence against women in Elections. They believe that it's a cardinal approach to

Impact Award 2023 Young Women Empowerment, Protection and Participation in Elections Project. Its is to contribute to effective public awareness of the causes and prevention of violence against women in elections and

Its purpose of ensuring all stakeholders are informed and contributing to preventing violence against women in elections with a call for accountability and an end to impunity. The convener of the one-day dialogue, Facia Harris presented on the topic: Understanding the causes, forms, and prevention of violence against women in elections. She explained to the participants that women should be allowed to fully participate in the election activities without feeling threatened and or attacked. She stated that it is the responsibility of the community to denounce all forms of violence against women and girls, even in elections. Atty. Harris said under the law, no woman should be insulted for supporting a particular candidate of her choice or for running for any public office. Instead, she said everyone should have the free will to choose and to support whoever they want to support as enshrined in Article 5 of the 1986



promoting women's political participation and leadership. According to a press release, the women made the call recently during a one-day dialogue at the Lutheran Compound in Totota. The dialogue was organized by Liberian women's rights and feminist activist Facia Harris. The dialogue was of several organized under the IVLP

promoting women's political participation, leadership, and representation, especially in Liberia's 2023 presidential and legislative elections. The dialogue also discussed the protocol between the National Elections Commission (NEC) and registered political parties to address violence against women in elections and politics in Liberia (VAWiE/P).

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-CDC Youth League urges Joint Security

The youth league of Ministry of Justice, the Coalition for ECOWAS and the United Democratic Change States Embassy near Monrovia, calling for full-scale investigation to bring perpetrators of the violence to book. Mr. Johnson, who is also an Assistant Minister at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, says the youth league is disappointed with the

mutated bare minimum response coming from state investigators, civil society actors and the international community most especially, what he terms as "vague and indistinct statement" from U.S. Embassy in Monrovia. International partners, including ECOWAS, EU and the United States have condemned the recent violence in Lofa and called on the Government of Liberia to investigate the incident and bring those responsible to justice. But according to Johnson, there is a pronounced reluctance to name, shame and publically reprimand the perpetrators, to serve as sufficient deterrence against future violence.



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