

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT  
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

**Advertise Here!**  
Subscribe to our website  
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

WE NOW DELIVER DAILY COPIES  
**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT  
AT YOUR DOORSTEPS  
0886484201 / 0777007529  
WE WILL DELIVER YOUR DAILY COPY  
From MONDAY TO FRIDAY  
Don't worry, you can pay for your subscription at the end of the month.  
**Hurry and book now!**

**CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA**  
**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.

# The New Dawn

**French Version Inside**

TRULY INDEPENDENT

**Vote #4**  
**FIXING LIBERIA FOR ALL LIBERIANS**

**2023 CUMMINGS FOR PRESIDENT**

VOL. 13 NO. 179      MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2023      PRICE LD\$40.00

# CDC closes campaign with mammoth rally



CDCians walking from Sinkor to their party Hq



CDCians at party Hq

# Liberia closes borders

*--Says security paramount during elections*



LIS spokesman Abraham Dorley

**MoMo Waysay-Wasa 3**  
Da your time to win!

Join over 10,000 winners over the last 2 years!

**Dial \*156\*2#**

To buy a 50LRD bundle and above to enter the draw!





# Continental News

## Mali crisis: Life in Timbuktu and Gao under siege by Islamist fighters

People living in cities in Mali under siege by al-Qaeda-linked militants have told the BBC they are facing shortages of food, fuel and medicine, and

with food and goods used to arrive daily in the city, but now, after the siege, nothing comes," said Omar Sidi Muhammad, who lives in the city and works as a journalist. Most of the supplies used to



Tuareg rebel groups have released unverified footage of attacks on government Military bases

rapidly rising prices.

The blockades have come as fighting intensifies between the army, who are backed by Russian Wagner mercenaries, and both Islamist groups and ethnic Tuareg separatist fighters.

For nearly two months, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) has been trying to completely cut off the historic northern city of Timbuktu, preventing supplies from getting in. "Dozens of trucks loaded

come to Timbuktu from Mauritania and Algeria.

"The price of food that was arriving from neighbouring countries doubled," Muhammad said, adding that basic staples like sugar, flour, oil and baby formula had all been affected.

"There is a scarcity of fuel and its price has risen by 80%."

The city has also been hit by rocket attacks launched by the militants.

"People are afraid but started to get very afraid, terrified, after the latest developments," he

added. "Because of the danger, thousands of people had to leave."

The UN estimates that 33,000 people have fled.

Timbuktu was occupied by Tuareg rebels following an uprising by separatists in 2012, but they were quickly pushed side by al-Qaeda-linked Islamic groups who imposed a strict form of Sharia, or Islamic law, on the city - forcing women to wear full-face veils, banning music and amputating the limbs of criminals. One couple was stoned to death for adultery.

So many people fear a repeat if JNIM does succeed in taking the city.

After a year of Islamist rule, Malian government forces, backed by French troops, retook the city. But those French forces have left the country since the army seized power in 2021, and the UN's peacekeeping mission is also pulling out.

Gao, the largest city in northern Mali, some 320 km (200 miles) east of Timbuktu, is also being blockaded by JNIM.

The militant group tightened its control over the past week, with a local resident, who didn't want to be identified, telling the BBC that a lack of fuel was crippling the city's electricity supply. BBC

## Israel Officially Declares War on Hamas After Surprise Attack

The Israeli government formally declared war Sunday on Hamas militants in Gaza, setting the stage for a massive Israeli military response to the Islamist militant group's surprise attack on the Jewish state.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had already said Saturday his country was at war with Hamas as the militants' attack raged, but his assessment was rhetorical. The Cabinet decision was an official declaration of war.

Ahead of the Cabinet vote, Netanyahu declared that Israel would "take mighty vengeance" against Hamas, even as Israeli soldiers battled Hamas fighters Sunday in the streets of southern Israel and launched retaliatory airstrikes that leveled buildings in Gaza.

But it was not clear what form a new Israeli response would entail. Some Middle

elderly - and is holding them for a possible exchange for Hamas prisoners.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told CNN's "State of the Union" show that the United States is investigating reports that Americans are among those killed in the fighting. It erupted early Saturday with a barrage of hundreds of missiles launched by Hamas at Israeli targets and a significant Hamas breach of security barriers at the Israel-Gaza border.

Blinken called it "the worst attack on Israel since the Yom Kippur War in 1973."

The top American diplomat said the U.S. stands firmly behind Israel and the "first concern" of the U.S. is "to make sure Israel has what it needs" to combat the Hamas fighters. Blinken said the U.S. would announce further military assistance to Israel later Sunday.

The shock attack signaled a significant Israeli intelligence failure, but Blinken declined to

## UK Supreme Court to Decide on Britain Asylum-Seekers' Resettlement

The British government's contentious policy to stem the flow of migrants faces one of its toughest challenges this week as the U.K. Supreme Court weighs whether it's lawful to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda. The Conservative government is challenging a Court of Appeal ruling in June that said the policy intended to deter immigrants from risking their lives crossing the English Channel in small boats is unlawful because the East African country is not a safe place to send them. Three days of arguments are scheduled to begin Monday with the government arguing its policy is safe and lawyers for migrants from Vietnam, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Sudan contending it's unlawful and inhumane.

The hearing comes as much of Europe and the U.S. struggle with how best to cope with migrants seeking refuge from war, violence, oppression and a warming planet that has brought devastating drought and floods. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has vowed to "stop the boats" as a top priority to curb

unauthorized immigration. More than 25,000 people are estimated to have arrived in the U.K. by boat as of Oct. 2, which is down nearly 25% from the 33,000 that had made the crossing at the same time last year. The policy is intended to put a stop to the criminal gangs that ferry migrants across one of the world's busiest shipping lanes by making Britain an unattractive destination because of the likelihood of being given a one-way ticket to Rwanda. The consequences of the crossing have been deadly. In August, six migrants died and about 50 had to

be rescued when their boat capsized after leaving the northern coast of France. In November 2021, 27 people died after their boat sank. The government claims the policy is a fair way to deal with an influx of people who arrive on U.K. shores without authorization and that Rwanda is a safe "third country" - meaning it's not where they are seeking asylum from.

The U.K. and Rwandan governments reached a deal more than a year ago that would send asylum-seekers to the East African country and allow them to stay there if granted asylum. BBC



Fire and smoke rise following an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City

East analysts have suggested that Israel could mount a ground attack into Gaza, which would be a significant escalation of the conflict.

Whatever the response, Netanyahu warned, "This war will take time. It will be difficult."

Maj. Gen. Ghasan Alian, a key Israel Defense Forces official, said that Hamas had "opened the gates of hell" with its surprise attack and "will bear the responsibility and pay for its deeds." Israel said that at least 600 people have been killed in Israel, including 44 soldiers, and more than 1,500 injured, while officials in Gaza said 313 people had died in the territory, and nearly 2,000 others were wounded. An Israeli official said the military had killed 400 militants and captured dozens more.

But Hamas has also seized an untold number of Israelis - women, children and the

assess blame for the moment. "There will be plenty of time to see what anyone missed," once the military conflict is resolved, he said. Efraim Halevy, the former chief of Mossad, Israel's intelligence service, told CNN on Saturday that Israel "didn't have an inkling of what was going on."

"We had no warning of any kind, and it was a total surprise that the war broke out this morning," he said, adding that it was the first time the Palestinians had been able to "penetrate" so deeply into Israel. The militants launched more than 3,000 missiles in less than 24 hours, according to Halevy. "This is beyond imagination from our point of view," Halevy said. "We didn't know they had this quantity of missiles, and we certainly didn't expect that they would be as effective as they were today. ... As an operation, it was highly successful, unfortunately."

Hamas and Israel have fought four wars since Hamas took control of Gaza in 2007. VOA



# 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.

# COMMENTARY

By *Bertrand Badré,  
Immaculate Atuhamize*

## Gender Justice Is Climate Justice

KAMPALA/PARIS - The Paris Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, held this past June, rightly focused on promoting an inclusive climate action plan that leaves no one behind. As 13 world leaders stressed in a joint commentary published ahead of the gathering, we must ensure that climate initiatives do not overshadow other development efforts, including the global fight against poverty.

This is a daunting challenge, particularly at a time when centrifugal forces threaten the rules-based international order and many countries are grappling with rising interest rates and elevated debt levels. But if global leaders are serious about leaving no one behind, they must address the specific needs of vulnerable groups - especially women and girls, who comprise half of the world's population.

The United Nations' fifth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG5) - achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls - is inextricably linked to other SDGs, such as those covering health, education, and access to water. Climate change jeopardizes all these interconnected goals, potentially generating a cascading effect.

Women and girls in developing countries, particularly those living in rural areas, bear the brunt of the climate crisis. For starters, girls are often tasked with acquiring water and food for their families. Given that most indigenous families have at least five members, these responsibilities amount to a heavy burden - one that becomes heavier as the climate crisis escalates, forcing girls to travel increasingly long distances to fulfill their families' needs.

This contributes, for example, to girls arriving at school late. Moreover, without access to clean water, girls struggle to maintain their menstrual health and hygiene. Such challenges force some to drop out of school, thereby losing their chance to acquire quality basic education. Climate change also contributes to increases in child marriage, as desperate families trade their daughters for scarce resources.

Climate change exacerbates other societal problems affecting girls and women, such as gender-based violence. And, given that women carry out most of the unpaid domestic and care work, they face distinct challenges when disasters strike. This has been the case in Uganda, which has lately faced severe climate-related catastrophes, such as floods in the east and southwest and prolonged drought in the north. Since few women have training in disaster mitigation, they die at higher rates than men under such circumstances.

Despite all of this, women and other vulnerable groups are frequently sidelined in climate-policy discussions. The recent Africa Youth Climate Assembly - held the day before the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi - showed just what a serious problem this is.

At the event, young people representing various African countries discussed climate-related challenges with which they have firsthand experience, shared personal stories, and engaged with leaders and peers. As the Africa Climate Summit unfolded, many youth-led organizations continued their work, holding climate walks, side events, and press conferences highlighting further the issues that directly affect them and their communities, but were being left out of the leaders' discussions.

These young people (including one of us) observed with astonishment that most leaders

and international organizations seemed focused primarily on carbon markets, but paid little attention to pressing issues like increased plastic pollution in Africa. They were equally dismayed by nebulous commitments to allocate resources for resilience and adaptation measures, and vague promises to help countries deal with loss and damage from climate-driven disasters.

The Africa Climate Summit should be a platform for African people - particularly youth - to share and propose homegrown solutions, rather than an opportunity for polluters to promote strategies that perpetuate the crisis. Africa is not a dumping ground; it is a continent rich with innovative thinkers and viable solutions. African climate solutions are global solutions, and Africans' ideas deserve attention and genuine support.

Solutions devised without input from those directly affected will always fall short, and the consequences of leaving some behind can extend well beyond the group in question. Consider agriculture. Despite playing a central role in the sector, women often lack the same access to agricultural resources, services, and formal decision-making bodies as their male counterparts.

Increasing women's access to these resources would not only reduce their vulnerability; it would also bolster the food security and climate resilience of households and communities. The Food and Agriculture Organization projects that ensuring gender equality in farming could boost women's farm yields by 20-30%. The resulting efficiency gains could reduce global hunger by at least 12-15% and lead to a 2.1 gigaton decrease in carbon-dioxide emissions by 2050.

Similarly, Project Drawdown, a coalition of scientists and economists from around the world, lists girls' education as one of the most effective ways to combat global warming, particularly when combined with voluntary family planning. Bridging the gender gap in education could help countries adapt to climate change and mitigate its worst effects. Investing in girls' education prepares them for the future they inherit and reduces the existing inequalities many women and girls face. Likewise, integrating climate topics into school curricula could foster greater ecological awareness among these children and thus contribute to their communities' resilience.

It is too soon to assess the Paris Summit's impact. But the event undeniably set the tone for subsequent international gatherings, including the Africa Climate Summit, as well as the G20 meeting in New Delhi and the annual session of the UN General Assembly. The message that emerged from these meetings - that climate change and development must be addressed simultaneously - is also likely to feature prominently at November's UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in the United Arab Emirates.

This is a start. But for any climate-change plan to be really effective, especially in emerging and developing economies, it must ensure women's social, economic, and political participation. Upcoming international summits, beginning with COP28, must therefore reflect a steadfast commitment to gender justice, and transform the "leave no one behind" mantra from a catchy slogan into tangible actions, both at the policy and grassroots levels. While proactive measures may be expensive, inaction would be far more costly.



## OP-ED

By Svenja Schulze,  
Christina Chilimba

## Investing in Gender Equality

**B**ERLIN/LILONGWE - Despite coming from vastly different beginnings - one of us comes from a fishing district in Malawi with one of the country's highest adolescent pregnancy rates, the other grew up in West Germany during the height of the women's movement - we have both seen the transformative impact of empowering women and girls. What also unites us is the same sense of urgency for more to be done - faster and at a bigger scale.

During the first 20 years of this century, progress toward equality was occurring, albeit not fast enough. But progress has stalled in recent years, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and inflation.

Now is the time to regain momentum. One way is through "feminist development policy" - a concept that at its core has a simple idea: Women and girls comprise half the population; they should have an equal share of the power and the same rights, resources, and representation as men enjoy.

Progress on gender equality requires the involvement of women and young people in decision-making and the co-creation of policies that are tailored to their needs. These policies give more women and girls access to contraceptives, safe-birth facilities, nutrition packages, immunization, and maternal care, regardless of where they live or their socioeconomic status.

The most common-sense and desperately needed policies we are fighting for start with bodily autonomy - a prerequisite if women and girls are to realize their full potential. When girls graduate from school, the benefits to society are enormous, not least because of the additional brain power and tax revenue. That is why social and cultural barriers that prevent girls from attending school must be removed.

In many places, a teenage girl who becomes pregnant is expelled from school and ostracized by her family - taking away her right to determine her own future. Such outcomes underscore why access to contraceptives is so important.

When a country's laws and regulations stand in the way of gender equality, it is time to change them. With the support of the World Bank and the Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF), countries are adopting crucial reforms.

For example, in Cameroon, where one in four teenage girls become pregnant, regulatory reforms were introduced last year allowing pregnant girls to remain in school. And in Niger, legislation enacted last year provides married adolescent girls access to family planning services without being accompanied by a parent or husband - so as not to be unduly influenced in their decision-making. Girls in secondary school can attend clubs to get information about family planning and learn about topics such as respectful relationships and the risks of sexually transmitted infections.

These policies help women and girls make decisions about their own bodies and lives. They are part of the work of the GFF, which uses modest grants to crowd in additional financing from both the public and private sectors, meaning that each dollar invested is multiplied many times over.

A feminist model like the GFF is one of the best investments the world can make in improving gender equality. This is why the government of Germany, alongside the Netherlands, Côte d'Ivoire, and the World Bank, are co-hosting a campaign this year to raise at least \$800 million for the GFF.

To address not only gender equality but also climate change, racism, and other societal challenges, young people need to be involved in the decision-making. Fortunately, today's youth are politically engaged and eager to make change happen. Around the world, they are forming movements to push for progress and offering fresh ideas and new perspectives on "old problems." Governments should listen to them.

In Malawi, for example, young people on local health committees are improving health services in their community. They reported shortages of family-planning commodities and electricity blackouts in maternity wards that were literally leaving expectant or new mothers in the dark. Young people are now on national health platforms.

As a result, programs that offer free or affordable access to health information and contraception to young people have been created. This is a game changer for young women.

Civil-society organizations are building on new momentum generated by the growing movement of youth engagement that we are witnessing across GFF partner countries from Côte d'Ivoire and Uganda to Madagascar and Mauritania.

In Senegal, for example, the Youth Alliance for Reproductive Health and Family Planning created a digital tool that tracks the quality of adolescent sexual and reproductive health services.

We are at a point in history when we have the chance to make a difference for women and girls worldwide. We have an opportunity to fast-track equality. But we cannot do it alone. We invite leaders around the world to support our vision.

By investing now and committing greater political and financial support to the feminist development agenda through the GFF, the world can unleash the potential of women and girls to create a more just and prosperous future. It's up to all of us to make it happen.

## OPINION

By Odile Mackett

## South Africa's Gendered Electricity Crisis

**J**OHANNESBURG - For the past 16 years, South Africa has grappled with an acute energy crisis characterized by rolling blackouts, some lasting as long as 15 hours a day. In February, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a national "state of disaster" and announced a bailout of the state-owned electricity company, Eskom.

But the government's failure to maintain a stable power supply has already had a profoundly negative impact on South Africans' daily lives, especially on the lives of women and girls.

The recurring nationwide power outages, euphemistically known as "load shedding," have plagued South Africa since 2007. Given that most South Africans depend on essential state-provided infrastructure - as of 2021, 77.7% of the country's households relied primarily on electricity for cooking - this crisis has hit homemakers especially hard.

Load shedding is implemented in several stages, with each stage signifying the removal of an additional 1,000 megawatts of electricity from the grid.

The first stage involves "three two-hour power outages over four days or three four-hour power outages over eight days," while in the sixth stage, consumers "could be affected 18 times for four days for up to four-and-a-half hours at a time or 18 times over eight days for about two hours at a time."

In addition to denying South African women access to essential infrastructure, the electricity crisis has compromised their safety. Recurring blackouts have been a boon for criminals, enabling them to steal cables - thereby prolonging the power outages - and terrorize people in their homes and neighborhoods.

With streets and houses left unlit and home security systems rendered ineffective, burglaries, car thefts, and robberies have surged. In March, a 27-year-old veterinarian was murdered outside his Cape Town home by criminals tampering with his car during a load-shedding episode.

While South Africa's law-enforcement authorities assert that they have not observed an increase in distress calls due to load shedding, numerous reports of sexual violence against women and children tell a different story.

In one particularly horrifying case, a two-year-old girl was raped by her uncle during a power outage. Given that women are already vulnerable in public spaces, the electricity crisis has severely limited their mobility both outside and inside their homes.

The technological advances of the past century, particularly the introduction of the washing machine, transformed women's lives, liberating them from time-consuming household chores and facilitating their entry into the labor force. Yet, even with many traditional services now offered by the state, women and girls often find themselves stepping in to fill gaps where public services are insufficient or absent.

For example, they tend to assume the responsibility of caring for sick family members who lack proper access to health care. Similarly, when a household lacks amenities such as running water or electricity, the burden falls disproportionately on them.

By hindering women's ability to use time-saving appliances such as ovens, microwaves, and washing machines to perform basic household chores, the electricity crisis has adversely affected young girls' school performance and limited women's employment opportunities, thereby threatening to erase decades of economic and social progress.

Moreover, the load-shedding crisis serves as a reminder of women's invaluable economic and social contributions. Despite the government's ongoing failure to deliver basic public goods, South African children and adults have continued to receive sustenance and care. Given the gendered division of labor within the typical household, this critical work is mostly carried out by women and girls, often overlooked - and unpaid.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated, the load-shedding crisis has exacerbated South Africa's existing gender and racial inequalities.

Such crises not only reverse the progress made by women during more prosperous times but also diminish their ability to bounce back by forcing them out of the labor market and impeding their education.

For those who can afford it, there are ways to mitigate this crisis. One option is to go fully or partly off the grid. But this requires a significant initial investment and is thus inaccessible to many low-income households.

Another option is to buy prepared meals or send laundry out to alleviate the burden of housework, which also requires financial resources and time that many impoverished families simply do not have.

Households unable to access these alternative services are thus left without a viable solution, exacerbating existing inequalities.

To ensure equitable outcomes, South African policymakers must guarantee that reliable and sustainable electricity is available to everyone. To this end, adopting a fairer load-shedding strategy that considers socioeconomic factors is crucial. For example, the state-owned monopoly could reduce power outages in poorer neighborhoods.

The ongoing electricity crisis has underscored the rampant corruption and inefficiency that plague South Africa today. Unless the government adopts a more equitable strategy for conserving electricity, women's well-being will continue to be disproportionately affected, further highlighting the discriminatory misogynistic logic underlying the country's inadequate public services.

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





## ARCH-BISHOP ISAAC S. WINKER, SR. ELECTIONS MESSAGE

September 17, 2023

As the nation prepares for its Presidential and Legislative elections in October, 2023, permit me to add my voice to the many voices of the peace loving Liberians who are promoting love and violent free elections.

I am appreciative to the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), United Nations (UN), US government and other Diplomatic and international organizations and personalities for the developed interest in the pending elections as we gladly welcome the deployment of EU and ECOWAS elections Observers across the 15 Counties. I called for the continuous engagements and partnership to aid the nation at this stage of political growth.

Liberians, we have a track record of being mature in our behavior since the 2005 general elections up to 2011 and the 2017 elections despite of the 14 years of civil unrest that jeopardized the peace of this nation.

Now, this October 10, 2023, we are to face other Presidential and Legislative elections which are opportunities to prove to the world that we the people of this nation have resolved to put Liberia first, beyond political affiliations and keep the peace.

With our peaceful elections history, I called on all citizens within the length and breadth of Liberia to go out and vote their choice or leaders comes October 10, 2023 without conflict and violence.

In the interest of Liberia, I am also calling on all political parties to remain committed to the Farmington River Declaration and keep their pledge to uphold unity and peace to prevent electoral violence, impunity and injustice.

As the spiritual father of this nation, I am calling on the National Elections Commission (NEC) to do everything humanly and professionally possible to create an enabling environment for the orderly conduct of peaceful, credible and transparent elections as the maintenance of peace solely depends on you.

I passionately admonished the forth-estate to remain Civil and Professional in their reportage during these electoral processes, because October 10, 2023 is a historical day in the lives of Liberians.

As the test for our democracy continues, I called on the religious communities to use their temple, sanctuary, Mosque, the Synagogue and places of worship to preach peaceful-co-existence, non-violence and love for country above love for party and personal interest.

As Africa's oldest independent nation, we are under obligation to be an example to the world through our behavior during these electoral processes, so let us continue to stand for peace and tranquility, stand for tolerance, stand for a peaceful election, and stand for one Liberia, with Liberty and Justice for all.

Finally! Liberians, Let us give a Gift to Liberia, and that Gift, is the Gift of peace!!!

I thank you! This is Archbishop Isaac S. Winker, Sir.

# ARTICLE

# ARTICLE

## Choosing Wisely at the Ballot Box for a Prosperous Liberia

By Caesar Morris - caesar@allbright.com.lr

A friend of mine who had just returned from Accra, Ghana came to visit me and as we sat across from each other in my office he was narrating his experiences in the west African nation adding "I noticed lots of Liberians are living in Ghana" in an exciting tone. He went on and on detailing his experiences and suddenly his tone changed as he talked about his experience since his return (first 48 hours) back in Liberia; "last night I slept in darkness and this morning I took my bath with dirty water that is now itching my skin". Sadly I couldn't help the situation but laugh and jokingly said "don't worry dude, your body will soon readapt to the dirty water, because that well-water most of us use it to take our bath and cook etc. for many years." The moral of this short story is that we get what we settle for. Some may disagree or argue this but it's true that our decision at the ballot box can determine whether we get safe water supply, infrastructure development and economic prosperity for all or we continue with the dirty water.

Our decision at the ballot box is not merely a political act but a compass that will chart the course of our nation's destiny. This is a solemn caution and a rallying call for citizens to scrutinize, deliberate, and elect leaders who are not just custodians of power but architects of a brighter tomorrow. Every Liberian action on Tuesday October 10, 2023 should not only be considered as our constitutional right only but should also be conscious that it is our moment to make Liberia for better or for worse, the collective impact of informed and righteous votes is the key to unlocking the potential for transformative change and building a brighter future for every Liberian.

Leadership, in the context of our nation, is a catalyst for change. It can either spur economic growth, champion social justice, and nurture a spirit of unity or become a stumbling block, hindering progress, perpetuating corruption, and deepening societal divides. We are living the realities of bad leadership evidenced by the deplorable state of our nation. Let me remind us that the many factors reasonable for our suffering and deplorable conditions were deliberately ignored for personal gains. As you are aware the United States government and other caring nations spend millions of dollars of their taxpayers' money to bring lifesaving medicines to ensure Liberians don't die of diseases but our government massively failed to ensure that those needed medicines are available in public health facilities. The repercussions of choosing leaders without foresight can reverberate for generations.

The economic landscape of our nation is molded by the policies enacted by our leaders. Before casting your vote on Tuesday, ask yourself; has the economic blueprints of this administration made our nation better. Has it created the one million jobs, or has it moved one million Liberians out of poverty as proposed 6 years ago? Will you choose a leader for Liberia based on friendship (kpaku-da-my-man) or rather choose a leader who understands the intricacies of economic stewardship that will champion and steer our nation toward prosperity.

It's time we choose leaders with social compassion, one that shares our pains. A compassionate leader is one who recognizes the urgent need for quality education, accessible healthcare, rule of law, genuine infrastructure development, and social welfare programs that elevate Liberians from abject poverty to a Liberia of equal opportunity. We must elect candidates who prioritize uplifting the most vulnerable members of society, ensuring that no one is left behind on the path to progress. We have suffered for too long by leaders who are insensitive to our needs. The sufferings of Liberians is a clear indication that this leadership of our country didn't do enough.

It is an open secret that this CDC government's lack of political integrity is not just defrauding the nation but it is undermining our democracy and endangering our stability as a nation. Political stability is the bedrock upon which the development of nations stands. Evaluate the track records of this government leadership concerning governance, transparency, and accountability. This president does not respect our laws, his repeated actions to condone the violation of our laws is significantly contributing to the sufferings of Liberia. We can record the illegal outsourcing of the cargo tracking note incident in the Freeport of Monrovia, our president and his lieutenants violated the PPCC law outsourcing statutory duties of customs, NPA to a company for personal gains that is repeatedly exploiting the Liberian business community and defrauding the nation of millions USD that could be financing healthcare, education, law enforcement thereby undermining our democracy. It's time we choose leaders who will uphold the principles of democracy, respect the rule of law, strive for inclusive governance and become true architects of enduring political stability.

2016 Liberia ascended to the World Trade Organization (WTO) putting our nation amongst the committee of nations for steady, sustainable economic prosperity. This government didn't do much to propel Liberia in adapting key international standards that would have triggered a tsunami of foreign direct investments across every sector of the country thereby creating millions of jobs; instead the government of Liberia created additional barriers of trade making Liberia unfavourable for business, plunging the nation in the current economic hardship being experienced by millions of Liberians. In an interconnected world, the adaptation of global and regional standards of trade are potent tools for development. Leaders must be skilful in navigating across the international community, opening doors for collaboration, foreign investment, and the sharing of knowledge. The writings are on the wall for all to see that the CDC government didn't do much in her engagements on the global stage.

The act of casting a vote is not merely a civic duty; it is a pivotal moment where the trajectory of our nation is shaped. Liberia stands at a crossroads; the warning is clear - choose leaders wisely. Leaders with integrity, vision, and a commitment to the well-being of all citizens and not a few partisans. In the polling booth, you hold the pen that rewrites the story of Liberia's future. Choose leaders who will be architects of progress, steering the nation toward prosperity for all and uniting everyone for a better tomorrow.



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Joint Security sounds caveat

### - warns political parties against provocation

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's Joint Security has threatened to arrest, charge and

Unity Party climaxed its political campaign activities on Saturday, while the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change climaxed Sunday.

provocation.

"Let me make this clear, the Joint Security will not hesitate to arrest, investigate charge and forward to court anybody or institutions that will engage into interference, political violence and unnecessary provocation against other political part on Saturday and Sunday," said Mr. Carter.

He stated that unnecessary provocation must stop, noting that elections are about communication of ideas and not physical combat.

Mr. Carter urged political parties to be cognizant of the movement of people and vehicles and don't engage into provocation while parading the streets of Monrovia and its environs.

He however assured Liberians that the Joint Security is fully prepared to provide security and protection for Liberians during and after these elections.

He disclosed that they have deployed security in all fifteen counties who are willing to ensure that these elections remain peaceful.

"Political parties that are closing their campaign activities this Saturday and Sunday will be guided by the Joint Security in line with its protocol," said Carter.

"We will ensure that supporters and partisans are peaceful during this closure," he stated.

## AFELL trains judges and magistrates on handling cases involving domestic violence

The Association Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) has held a training workshop for judges and magistrates in various courtrooms aimed at curtailing the prevalence of domestic violence to provide adequate justice for victims of abuse.

AFELL one day workshop sought to have judges, magistrates, and other Judicial workers acquainted with the Domestic Violence Act and its full Implementation across every sector of the Liberian Society.

In an opening remark at the training workshop that took place on Friday, October 6, 2023, in Monrovia, AFELL's president, Philomena Williams, said domestic Violence is prevalent in Liberia and the survivors live daily with the abuse because of lack of justice, predicated on the fact that the courts relied on rarely make application of the law for relief to the survivors, while perpetrators believe it is the norm.

Atty. Williams asserted that

competence of judicial actors, guarantee sound judicial decisions of our judges and magistrates, improve performance of our courts, and ensure an efficient justice system for victims/survivors," she explained.

AFELL trusts that judges and magistrates will remain passionate about making a difference in society through making fair, impartial, and transparent decisions; noting, "You are key to fighting human rights abuses at the justice system in Liberia, this training will be conducted by high level legal luminaries aimed at ensuring the correct and effective application of the law."

The training was attended by over 20 judges and magistrates, Gender Based Violence survivors, and topnotch legal practitioner. It was facilitated by legal luminaries, including Liberia's former Chief Justice, Frances Johnson Allison; Former Associate Justice, Felecia Coleman; and the head SGBV at the Ministry of Justice, Cllr. Isaac George.

The workshop was partnered by the Danish Institute Against



Atty. Williams

the training is focused on building the capacity of judges and magistrates on dispensing justice when it comes to the Domestic Violence Act, with more sensitivity to the dynamics of abuse or violence. According to her, when it comes to responding to gender-based violence, the judges and magistrates as custodians of the law, play a key role along the way. "When cases of domestic violence are brought before the court, the judges or magistrates are to adjudicate in consonance with the Act, and apply the prescribed and appropriate reoccurrence of the Act," she disclosed. Atty. Williams added that the training is more about responding better to said cases, discussing necessary reforms of the law, and providing a decision to determine whether the penalty prescribed under the law is commensurate with the seriousness of the crime or not. "We are confident that this training will enhance the

Torture (DIGNITY), Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI), and the Liberia Association of Psychosocial Services (LAPS).

In remarks, the participants described the training as a necessary one and prayed that AFELL achieves her goals and objectives along the way.

In tears, a victim of Sexual and Gender Based Violence explained her experience for over five years, since she got married to a perpetrator of domestic violence in 2018. The victim reported that she had been beaten on several occasions and maltreated by her husband without redress. According to her, in efforts to find justice and security for her life against her husband, who has become a threat to her life, she went to the police and church many times, but there was little to no progress. The lady called on AFELL and her partners to help her in the process to have her out of the problem she is into and make sure that justice comes her way.



Pres. Weah

forward to court political parties' representatives or individuals that will engage into campaign interference and unnecessary provocation.

Both political parties held grand parades across the streets of Monrovia and surrounding towns to show their strength.

The Joint Security's caveat came last week when the opposition Unity Party (UP) and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) were due to climax their political campaigns.

At a major press conference late Friday, 6 September 2023, the spokesperson for the Joint Security and Police Spokesperson Mr. Moses Carter said it was prudent that supporters and political heads desist from interfering in the political campaigns of opponents.

20 presidential candidates are taking part in the 10 October presidential and legislative elections.

According to him, the Joint Security will not hesitate to arrest, investigate, charge and forward to court anybody or party that will engage into political violence or

The incumbent, President George Manneh Weah is seeking re-election.

Liberia's main opposition

## Former Zambia VP heads election mission to Liberia

By Lincoln G. Peters

Zambia's former Vice President Dr. Nevers Mumba through the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa International Elections Observer Mission (EISA-IEOM) has led 32 election observers from 20 African countries in Liberia.

The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa. The USAID-funded EISA International Elections Observation Mission EISA-IEOM Activity seeks to enhance the integrity of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections in Liberia through the deployment of an independent international election observer mission (EOM). The Mission is to monitor, assess, and report on all phases of the electoral process by International and Regional benchmarks.

Additionally, the IEOM is implemented in close coordination with the financial

support of USAID-Liberia and will complement the efforts of other electoral stakeholders.

Also, the objective and purpose of EISA observers in Liberia are to observe the final days of political campaigning, the final deployment of sensitive and non-sensitive

election material, the voting day procedure, and the result tallying process.

However, EISA's assessment of the elections in Liberia is consistent with the legal framework in the country and international

▶ CONT'D page 11



Zambia's former Vice President Dr. Nevers Mumba



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# WONGOSOL calls for peaceful election

The Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) has called for peaceful election in Liberia.

Sunday, 8 October she noted that all Liberians are vigorously engaged with the electoral process and are striving to successfully carry on the civic duty by turning out Tuesday to

ourselves courteously and in a non-violent manner, including in our public discourse, from disseminating Mis-information and Dis-information that will disrupt the electoral process" she cautioned.

She pointed out that WONGOSOL also reminds all political parties of their firm commitment to promote a violence-free election, as expressed in their Farmington River Declaration, and as reiterated in their various public statements.

"We are the custodian of our peace therefore, it is our responsibility to maintain it."

She explained that the international community is watching the country to see how Liberians conduct ourselves during this period.

WONGOSOL boss called on government through the Ministry of Justice and the Joint Security to be vigilant and do everything possible in providing security. "It is our ardent hope that all Liberians will remain productively committed to a historic and peaceful election and that the collective will and aspirations of the all Liberians will not be compromised for individual ambitions; allegiance to Liberia must remain the common denominator for sustaining peace and the pursuit of development", Madam Yango urged.

vote in the interest of Mama Liberia.

"The conduct of peaceful, free, fair and transparent elections is a requirement for democratic alliance, sustainable peace and development in Liberia", Madam Yango added.

She reiterated that as Liberians go to the poll to vote, they should continue to be peaceful.

"We are obligated to uphold the rule of law and conduct



Executive Director Esther Davis Yango

Executive Director Esther Davis Yango lauds all Liberians and political parties for their peaceful conduct largely throughout the electoral process.

"We are aware and concern of some incidences of electoral violence and, are closely monitoring the justice system to ensure that they effectively respond to these incidences", Madam Yango explained.

Speaking in Monrovia

# CDC closes campaign with

Starts from page 11

"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 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 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.

# Ex-Nigerian elections boss heads observers to Liberia

By Kruah Thompson

The former Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (INEC) Professor Attahiru Jega is in Liberia, as head of the ECOWAS Election Observation Mission (EOM) to observe Tuesday's elections.

The Mission is set to monitor the Liberian presidential, senatorial, and legislative elections scheduled October 10, 2023.

Prof. Jega arrived in Monrovia and received a warm welcome from Ambassador Josephine Nkrumah, ECOWAS Resident Representative to Liberia.

The ECOWAS Election Observation Mission consists of a 95-member team, comprising 80 short-term observers and 17 long-term observers.

The observers are drawn from various entities, including the ECOWAS Council of the Wise, the ECOWAS Parliament, the Community Court of Justice,

Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS).

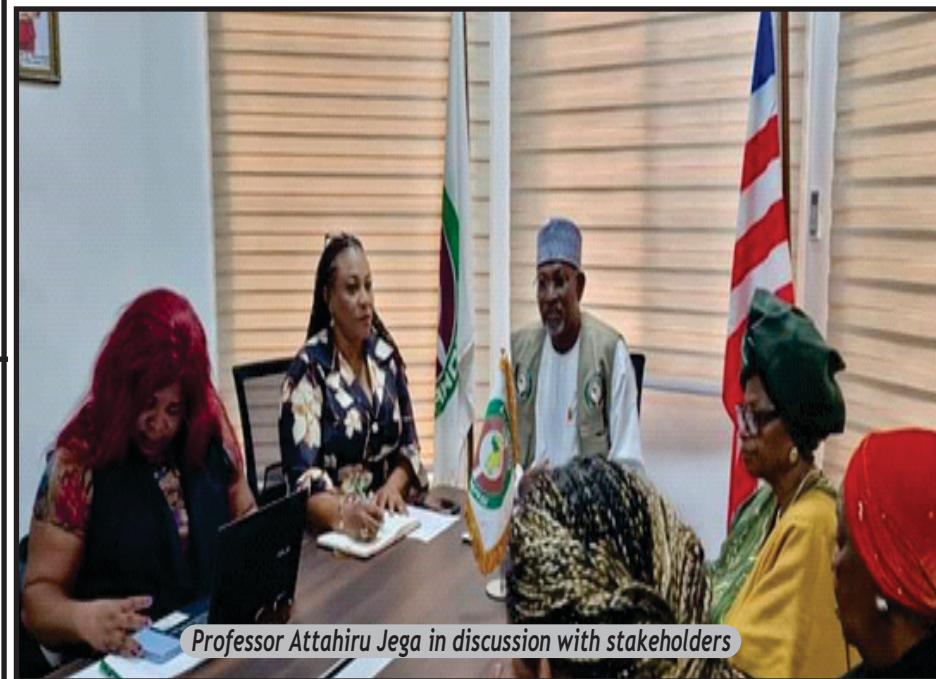
Discussions revolved around election preparations and challenges in ensuring a peaceful, free, and credible election.

On October 4, Prof. Jega, along with Mr. Santos and Ambassador Josephine Nkrumah, convened a meeting at the United Nations System Representation headquarters in Liberia.

They engaged with Ambassadors and representatives of International Organizations accredited in Liberia.

Additionally, the Head of the Mission held discussions with Mr. Dee-Maxwel Saah Kemayah, Liberia's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Minister Kemayah assured the ECOWAS delegation of the Government of Liberia's commitment to transparency in the electoral process, allowing national and international observers to carry out their missions with calm and serenity.

On Thursday, October 5, Prof. Jega and Ambassador Nkrumah



Professor Attahiru Jega in discussion with stakeholders

Member States' Ministries of Foreign Affairs, electoral management bodies, and civil society organizations.

According to an ECOWAS report, the Mission's primary objective is to monitor all phases of the electoral process, including pre-electoral, electoral, and post-electoral phases, aimed at ensuring international best practices.

Following Professor Jega's arrival recently, he has been actively engaging with various actors and stakeholders in preparation for the elections.

On October 3, 2023, he met with Mr. Leonardo Santos Simão, Special Representative of the

met with representatives of various Liberian organizations, including the National Center for the Coordination of the Response Mechanism (NCCRM), the Peacebuilding Office, the Liberia Women's Network, the Election Coordination Committee, the Liberia Election Observation Network, the NGO "Integrity Watch," and the West African Peacebuilding Network (WANEP).

During these meetings, the Head of the ECOWAS Electoral Observation Mission reiterated ECOWAS' commitment to assisting Liberia in organizing peaceful, credible, and transparent elections, so that the results will be accepted by all.

Read the *NewDawn* everyday & Advertise with us!

Read the *NewDawn* everyday & Advertise with us!



# Français

## Au Liberia, Weah la légende du foot, vise le doublé présidentiel

L'ex-footballeur star George Weah, élu président en 2017, remet son poste en jeu mardi face à 19 candidats lors d'élections indécises au

quelque 150 km à l'est de Monrovia, les hommes se lèvent un à un pour défendre leur candidat et énoncer leur priorité: un meilleur système de soins et d'éducation, une vie

troubles, tandis que la commission électorale s'évertue à rassurer sur sa capacité à organiser un scrutin juste et crédible. L'Union européenne, l'Union africaine, la Communauté des Etats ouest-africains et les Etats-Unis ont déployé des observateurs pour s'en assurer, dans une région où la démocratie est remise en cause par la multiplication des coups d'Etat.

Développement et corruption

Un second tour est prévu début novembre à moins qu'un candidat n'obtienne la majorité absolue dès le premier, ce qui est improbable. Les bureaux de vote seront ouverts de 08H00 à 18H00 GMT aux 2,4 millions d'électeurs qui renouvelleront aussi les 73 sièges de la Chambre des représentants et quinze membres du Sénat. Les premiers résultats sont attendus quelques jours plus tard.

Si l'élection est volée, "ce sera la fin de ce pays", a laissé entendre Joseph Boakai, l'un des favoris du scrutin, candidat du Parti de l'Unité. Ces propos ont été interprétés par certains comme une menace de violence. A 78 ans, l'ancien vice-président (2006-2018) veut sa revanche contre le président

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Liberia où le développement et la paix sont au cœur du débat.

"Ce que nous voulons avant tout, c'est la paix", assure Melvine Zoega, 37 ans. "On le dit aux jeunes: il faudra accepter la défaite, qu'importe celui qui gagne", renchérit David Tokpah, 55 ans. "Notre passé a été trop horrible pour que ça recommence", insiste-t-il.

Assis sous un abri de tôle qui jouxte une station essence de Buchanan, à

moins chère, plus de routes, plus d'emplois et le maintien de la paix.

La mort récente de trois personnes dans le nord-ouest lors d'affrontements entre partisans des deux principales forces politiques a rallumé chez eux les craintes d'un retour de la violence dans un pays encore meurtri par des guerres civiles qui ont fait 250.000 morts entre 1989 et 2003.

Les autorités promettent des élections libres et pacifiques, jurent de traquer les fauteurs de

## « Les Libériens ont eu le sentiment que George Weah les a trahis »

Au Liberia, près de 2,4 millions d'électeurs sont amenés à choisir leur président le 10 octobre 2023. Parmi les candidats en lice figure le chef de l'Etat sortant, George Weah, qui brigue un second mandat. Le bilan de ses six années passées à la tête du pays reste toutefois mitigé. Pour le politologue Abdullah Kiatamba, l'ex-superstar du football élue en 2018 « n'a pas assez affiché de volonté politique pour dire qu'il allait mettre fin à la corruption », notamment.

Au début de son mandat en 2018, George Weah apparaissait comme la personne idéale pour mettre fin au système en place depuis des décennies. L'ancienne star du football s'adresse aux jeunes et applique notamment une réforme dans le secteur de l'éducation : la gratuité des inscriptions à l'université. La gratuité aussi, du West African Senior School Certificate Examination

(WASSCE), un examen ouest-africain d'entrée dans le secondaire. Weah espère ainsi améliorer l'accès à l'école publique et faire reculer l'illettrisme. Sur le plan économique, George Weah entame la reconstruction de certaines routes. Mais les chantiers sont énormes et prennent du temps. Il est pris de court par l'épidémie de Covid-19 et par la crise qui secoue les marchés internationaux. En 2019, plusieurs entreprises publiques cumulent des retards de salaire : cela concerne près de 15 000 fonctionnaires. La colère gronde.

▶ 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'Etat 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

Starts from page 8

## Au Liberia, Weah la

sortant, contre qui il avait perdu au deuxième tour en 2017.

Fort d'une longue expérience politique, il a noué des alliances avec des barons locaux, dont l'ancien chef de guerre et sénateur Prince Johnson, toujours influent dans la province clé de Nimba (nord), qui avait soutenu M. Weah à la dernière présidentielle. M. Boakai promet de redorer le blason du pays, de développer les infrastructures et d'améliorer la vie des plus démunis. Plus d'un cinquième de la population vit avec moins de 2,15 dollars par jour, selon la Banque mondiale, et les prix des aliments de base ont explosé.

M. Boakai met aussi en avant sa probité au service de l'Etat, accusant M. Weah de servir un système corrompu. Washington a sanctionné cinq hauts responsables libériens pour corruption présumée en trois ans. Le Liberia occupe la 142e place sur 180 dans le classement de l'ONG Transparency international pour la corruption en 2022.

"Homme de la situation"

"Regardez les pays africains et dites moi quel pays n'est pas corrompu", objecte George Mobo, 30 ans, dans le bidonville de Westpoint, à Monrovia. Ses principales préoccupations sont la création d'emplois, l'éducation et la paix, pas la

corruption. Ses amis opinent, assis à proximité d'un stade de foot flambant neuf, œuvre du président.

"Le président est l'homme de la situation. Il a fait construire des routes, a supprimé les droits d'entrée à l'université et tout cela alors qu'il y a eu le coronavirus pendant deux ans", estime John Seaton, 24 ans. "Maintenant, il a l'expérience pour faire encore mieux", ajoute-t-il.

A 57 ans, l'ex-attaquant de génie du PSG, de Monaco et de l'AC Milan, unique Ballon d'or africain en 1995, gamin des bidonvilles de Monrovia, conserve une forte popularité chez les jeunes qui s'identifient à lui dans un pays dont plus de 60% de la population a moins de 25 ans. En 2017, il l'avait emporté avec plus de 61% au second tour contre Joseph Boakai.

Dans les rues de la capitale, son portrait le montrant aux côtés de sa colistière Jewel Howard-Taylor, ex-femme de Charles Taylor, un acteur majeur de la guerre civile condamné pour crime contre l'humanité, est partout. Son parti, le Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) multiplie les cortèges dans les rues, leurs enceintes déversant des musiques à sa gloire à plein tube. Outre Joseph Boakai, Alexander Cummings, philanthrope et ancien dirigeant de Coca-Cola, et l'avocat défenseur des droits humains Tiawan Gongloe sont ses principaux rivaux. Leur résultat pourrait être déterminant dans la perspective d'un second tour.

Starts from page 8

## « Les Libériens ont eu

d'éducation. Puis il y a eu ce choc externe, la pandémie de Covid-19. Plusieurs facteurs ont ensuite conduit à des révoltes de masse contre son régime. Les Libériens ont eu le sentiment que George Weah les a trahis. Pourquoi les Libériens se sont-ils sentis trahis ?

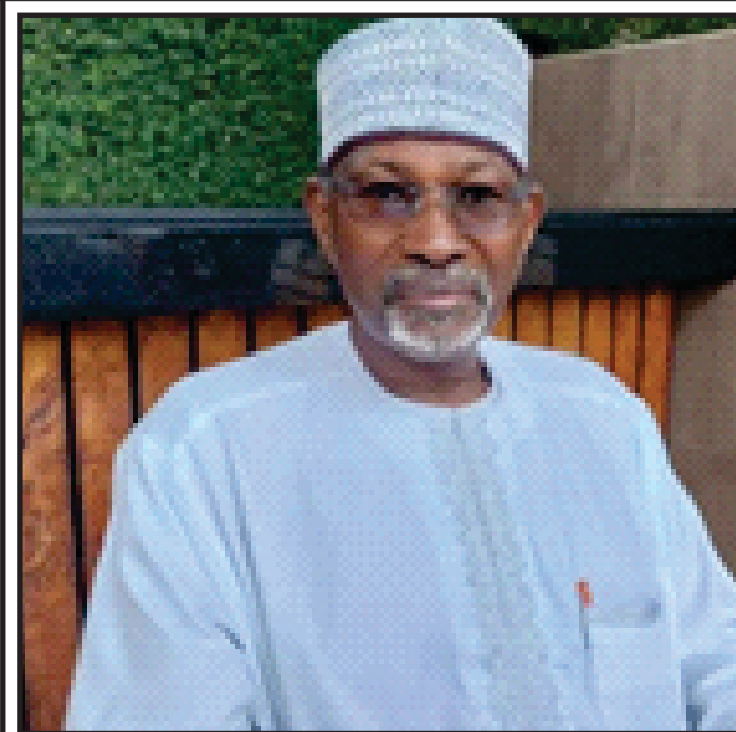
L'une des premières erreurs, c'est lorsqu'il a commencé par construire sa propre maison : c'est une bâtisse toute jolie, entièrement rénovée. Ensuite, il y a eu l'évaporation d'argent au niveau du gouvernement et quelques signes de corruption. Tous ces faits ont été exploités. Les gens en colère sont ensuite descendus dans les rues. Puis George Weah s'est mis à perdre du terrain aux élections locales : au Parlement, il a perdu plusieurs sièges. Donc, après son arrivée au pouvoir, son parti a reculé. On observe un déclin sur le fond, en termes

d'adhésion du public. Cette élection permettra de mesurer tout cela.

Comment George Weah a-t-il géré ces critiques ? Lorsqu'il y avait des critiques, il s'est enfermé dans le silence. Il évite les débats. Ce n'est pas une personne qui aime s'exprimer fréquemment, comme le faisait Ellen Johnson Sirleaf [présidente du Liberia avant Weah, de 2006 à 2018, NDLR]. Dès qu'il y a une crise majeure dans le pays, au lieu de répondre aux interrogations et de les rassurer, il disparaît. Donc cette élection sera un test de sa popularité, parce que des oppositions fortes se sont exprimées contre sa personnalité. Comment expliquer le fait que George Weah ne s'est pas attaqué aux problèmes de corruption ?

La corruption est ancrée dans le système. Des personnalités de l'entourage de George Weah ont été accusées de corruption, mais aucune sanction n'a été prise. Il n'y a pas de politique cohérente qui s'attaque à tous les aspects de la corruption.

## Élections au Liberia : l'ONU et de la Cédéao en mission d'apaisement



À quelques jours des élections générales (sénatoriale, parlementaire et présidentielle) au Liberia, prévues le mardi 10 octobre, plusieurs institutions internationales jouent la carte de l'apaisement et de la prévention. Une mission conjointe des Nations unies et de la Cédéao appelle les leaders politiques à la retenue, afin d'éviter des tensions au moment du vote et surtout à l'annonce des résultats.

Premier point d'observation : les préparatifs du scrutin. Selon la mission d'observation de la Cédéao, en juillet dernier, la Commission nationale des élections n'inspirait pas confiance aux électeurs. Mais depuis, des correctifs ont été apportés, constate cette mission. Second point : l'attitude des leaders politiques, qui pour certains, suscite une certaine inquiétude. Des discussions ont été menées avec les principaux candidats afin d'atténuer les tensions.

« Nous avons constaté des incidents liés à des discours incitant à la violence. Au cours de nos rencontres, nous avons appelé à la modération, affirme Prof. Attahiru Jega, le chef de la mission d'observation de la Cédéao. Nous avons demandé aux leaders politiques de respecter leurs engagements à être pacifique, à adopter une démarche constructive et à respecter les procédures électorales. Nous leur avons demandé de s'assurer que leurs partisans en feront de même. »

Cette mission a aussi rencontré les forces de police, qui ont augmenté leurs effectifs pour assurer la sécurité en marge de ce scrutin.

Aux côtés de l'ONU, la Cédéao demande l'ouverture d'une enquête concernant les violences survenues dans le Comté de Lofa la semaine dernière.

## Liberia : un système de santé toujours à bout de souffle (2/3)

Visite guidée du centre de santé de Bensonville. Tenneh Brochius, la responsable de cette structure nous conduit d'abord vers la sage-femme : ici, les consultations se font trois fois par semaine. Nous entrons ensuite dans la section de la médecine interne. Et comme tous les services de cette structure, le personnel se heurte à un blocage : le manque de matériel. « Les conditions de travail ici sont difficiles, témoigne un médecin qui a voulu garder l'anonymat. Il y a d'abord la distance. Ensuite, nous n'avons pas tous les outils de travail. Quand il nous manque des médicaments, nous devons les acheter. Si les médicaments ne sont pas disponibles, nous donnons aux malades une ordonnance pour qu'ils aillent les acheter eux-mêmes. » « Nous sommes dans la salle des vaccins. Voici deux congélateurs. Ce sont des

dons de l'Unicef. » Ces deux congélateurs sont les seuls acquis de la crise Ebola. Car depuis, ce centre de santé manque de tout, malgré l'appui du gouvernement, qui vient ponctuellement faire la liste des besoins. « Concernant le paludisme, c'est une maladie prise en charge par le gouvernement, et nous sommes sûrs à 80-90 % que nous serons pourvus en traitement. En revanche, les médicaments essentiels ne sont pas toujours disponibles », regrette Tenneh Brochius, responsable de la structure.

Un manque de personnel qualifié

Cette situation préoccupe les professionnels de ce domaine. « Depuis la crise du virus Ebola, seulement 17% des personnels de santé ont été formés, se désolent Deemit Dearzrua, secrétaire général des travailleurs de la santé. Nous voulons suivre des formations continues. Car toutes les maladies ont leurs propres propriétés. » Depuis l'épidémie d'Ebola, les autorités affirment miser sur la prévention, mais elles se heurtent à des difficultés. « Nous ne parvenons pas à instituer des frais : les consultations sont gratuites. Par ailleurs, l'état des routes est un facteur de blocage. Parfois, nous avons des approvisionnements de médicaments dans le centre de Monrovia, mais la distribution pose parfois problème », signale Varfee Tulay, vice-ministre de la Santé chargé de la Planification au ministère de la Santé.

Le ministère de la Santé libérienne a déposé une proposition de loi, afin d'améliorer la couverture médicale dans le pays.





## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Liberia: Update two of the 2023 Presidential Election

By Dagbayonoh Kiah Nyanfore II

This article continues the update on the Liberian presidential election scheduled for October 10, 2023. The first update discusses the positions of the major political parties and candidates.

As indicated, the CDC (Coalition for Democratic Change), the ruling party, is running on what it has done since 2018 and wants to do in the next six years. The Unity Party (UP) says the CDC has failed and caused massive suffering. Therefore, UP vows to rescue Liberia from the condition. On the other hand, the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) argue that CDC and UP have performed miserably. UP's 12 years of rule have brought negative results, including squandering opportunities and mismanaging public funds. It maintains that CDC has demonstrated incompetency and corruption since taking power six years ago. Hence, CPP sees itself as an alternative to the two parties. CPP comprises ANC (Alternative National Congress) and part of the Liberty Party (LP). A few years ago, CPP collaborated with UP, ANC, LP, and the All Liberian Party (ALP). But UP and ALP broke away. Since the death of its political leader, Charles Brumskine, LP has been divided. One part remains in the collaboration with ANC, and they retain the name CPP. The other joined UP and ALP. But about two months ago, ALP left UP before the campaign started.

Since the first update, the following activities have occurred.

## CAMPAIGNS

All the 20 parties have completed about 80% of the campaigning. CDC started with the 17 districts of Montserrado County and is completing campaigning in the Southeast region, including Sinoe, Grand Kru, Maryland, and Grand Gedeh Counties. It will climax the campaign in Montserrado on October 8. On September 8, the party launched its campaign in Monrovia at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium (ATS). Party's supporters jam-packed ATS and surrounding streets. They locked down the city, according to reports. As the National Election Commission (NEC) statistics show, Montserrado, Nimba, and Bong Counties have the highest registered voters for this election. There are 15 counties in Liberia. To succeed in the first round, a presidential candidate must win 50% plus one vote. Other than that, the two candidates with the highest votes will contest in the second round.

At the launch, Weah thanked the audience and the Liberian people for their confidence in him to lead the country for the past six years. He continued, "during our first term, we laid the foundations for peace, freedom of expression, macro-economic stability and the restoration of confidence in the national education system. I can guarantee that the years 2024 and beyond will be better for all Liberians".

Like the CDC, UP started campaigning in Montserrado County and traveled to other counties. Still, Joseph Boakai, UP's standard bearer, has yet to go to the Southeast. UP expects to get substantive votes from Nimba since Boakai's running mate, Senator Jeremiah Koug, is from the county. However, some analysts view that Liberian People's Party's (LPP) standard bearer, Councilor Tiawon Gongloe, also from Nimba, could get significant votes from Nimba and make the county competitive. They say Gongloe or Weah could take first or second place, and Boakai could take third place in Nimba's votes.

On September 17, UP launched its campaign at ATS on a rainy day. But the weather did not stop the partisans from turning out in their numbers. Like the CDC, they filled the stadium. Boakai thanked the attendees and urged them to transport their demonstration through votes on Election Day. He stated that his administration will make accountability and transparency the cornerstones. "Your ideas will shape our policies, and your feedback will hold us accountable together, we will establish a government that fosters and encourages dialogue," he added.

Boakai has been absent from campaign activities since sometime in September. He traveled to Ghana and Nigeria for what some observers viewed as medical or financial reasons. The party hierarchy has been tight-lipped on the matter. Before the campaign, family members rushed him to the ELWA Hospital in Monrovia for a mild stroke. He flowed to the US immediately after. Again, the party kept the trip purpose secret. However, some public reports said the trip was for medical treatment, while others said it was for business. In the first update, Boakai's former aide, Henry Costa, reported that Boakai was seriously sick.

CPP's Alexander Cummings campaigned in Montserrado and other counties, including Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Margibe, and Bong. He and his running mate, Charlene Brumskine, have appeared separately on several radio stations. They discussed their message that CPP is the alternative and the fixer. CPP held its launch at the Nancy B. Doe Stadium in Kakata, Margibe County, on September 14 with a huge crowd. Some witnesses considered the

gathering the largest political launch outside of Monrovia. Cummings told the crowd that, upon his election, he would fix the country's deplorable roads and improve the health, economy, and educational conditions.

On October 1, CPP had a victory rally at ATS. Like the CDC's and UP's launches, it jam-packed the stadium. At the gathering, Cummings expressed gratitude to the audience for coming and said when elected, his government would improve the economic life of the Liberian people by providing decent-paying jobs and other better social services to stop extreme suffering and poverty. Some observers viewed the event as a musical festival and extravaganza as supporters danced and yelled, "Cummings is the man we want."

Gongloe, Samion Freeman, the Movement for Progressive Change political leader, Sara Nyanti, standard bearer of the African Liberation League, and other candidates have debated the issues on public radios. However, the major candidates did not participate in the debates. Nyanti is the only female



presidential candidate and said she will champion gender equality and opportunity for all citizens if elected.

## ENDORSEMENTS

Nearly all candidates have received endorsements from civil groups and respectable individuals. The People's Liberation Party, Margibi County chapter, endorsed Alexander Cummings. Also, former Grand Bassa County Senator Gbehzohngar Findley endorsed him. In the 2017 election, Findley supported Weah. His present endorsement could attract some of Bassa's votes. However, current Grand Bassa senator Nyongblee Karnga Lawrence's support for Boaka could neutralize Findley's backing.

Meanwhile, the Muslim community in Lofa and some CPP members in Nimba have endorsed Weah. Though the Moslems are a minority group in Liberia, they are among the wealthiest Liberians. They control the country's gas and trucking industry. Also, Ambassador Jeremiah Slonteh and Senator Emmanuel Nuquay back Weah. In 2017, Slonteh served as Cummings' vice standard bearer. He is from Bong County. In the 2005 presidential election, he ran as Winston Tubman's running mate. The team did impressively well, besides losing to President Sirleaf.

Moreover, Nuquay was Boakai's vice standard bearer in 2017. He is from Margibi County, which has 7.49% registered voters. He won the county's senatorial seat in the 2020 election. These two individuals are well known and could help Weah in the election. But also, Boakai has the endorsement of Prince Moye, Sr., current senator of Bong County.

## PARTIES PLATFORMS

Most of the political parties still need to publish their manifestos. To this writer's knowledge, only UP, LPP, and the All Liberia Coalition Party (ALCOP) have made their platforms public. UP's manifesto entails job creation, access to finance, gender equality, and the fight against corruption. LPP, when becoming the ruling party, will, among others, have zero tolerance for corruption, audit all government ministries and agencies, and not interfere in police and court

matters. Further, it will reconcile the country. ALCOP has a seven-point platform, including improving health education and instituting human rights, the rule of law, peace, and security.

Moreover, it will construct 500-1000 housing units per county yearly, reform national zoning laws, and establish city and town planning, entailing a public transportation system. Some viewers think that ALCOP has the best manifesto because it is time-oriented. In order words, it states when these tasks will be performed and how they will. Lozinee Kamara is ALCOP's standard bearer. The party has existed since 1997 and participated in the election that year with the late Alhaji Kromah as political leader.

## FAIR AND VIOLENCE FREED ELECTION

Early this year, the political parties signed the Farmington River Declaration, which commits them to a free, fair, transparent, and non-violent election in 2023. But since the start of the campaign, there have been several violent instances. As stated earlier, on the first day of the campaign, CDC supporters paraded a casket with Boakai's photo. UP's partisans also attacked a CPP official in Grand Bassa County. According to reports, in a violent confrontation on September 30, UP members killed two CDC partisans at the residence of Thomas Fallah, a CDC representative candidate in Lofa County. One of the victims died when UP members chased him to his house and murdered him. The media and others condemned the violence. Through its Embassy near Monrovia, the US government expressed outrage at the behavior and called on the authorities to bring the violators to book. The US said political differences should be articulated through the ballot box and not by violence. The ECOWA and the UN have voiced similar condemnation. The Liberian National Police has arrested several individuals involved in the incident. Some UP officials said that CDC's members provoked the act. But ever so, did the provocation warrant the chasing into and the killing in the house?

Besides the deaths, some politicians have made inflammatory statements that could lead to violence. Yekeh Kolumba, a CPP's representative running for reelection, said he would go to the bush if he lost. Kolumba is a former rebel commander during the Liberian civil war. Another rebel leader, Senator Prince Johnson, has threatened war if the election is fraudulent, stating that there would be an "Arab Spring." Johnson, who is from Nimba and supports Boakai, is running for reelection. On September 25, Boakai said Liberia will end if he does not win or if the election is rigged. The public has condemned these utterances. US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken has imposed visa restrictions on Liberians or any individuals who attempt to undermine a fair, free, peaceful, and transparent election or influence the outcome of the election. While some media personalities have praised the US position, they have called on other Western nations to follow suit. i

The fear of cheating has become an issue. The opposition thinks or believes that NEC will cheat for the ruling party. This concern is the result of the determination for a first-round victory. For example, in speaking before the Liberian Council of Churches, Medina Wesseh, former secretary-general of the Mano River Union, considered the grit of a one-round win as a means to cheat in the election. She added, "Some politicians or political parties who shout first-round victory either plan to cheat or look for a short out." CDC and UP have vowed to win by first ballots. Though she did not mention the party's name, her statement that the "re-appearance of khaki and leather booths should alert us to reduce the "do or die" expectation of a one-round victory." Before her talk, CDC's Secretary-General Jefferson Koigee described his party's desire for a one-round win as a "do or die" determination.

Meanwhile, NEC's chairperson, Dividetta Browne, has reacted to the thinking that her agency would cheat, stating that the commission has no history of such. She reminded the public that the opposition won in the 2019 special senatorial election for Montserrado County, defeating CDC's candidate. The opposition cheered the NEC for the election. The opposition defeated the ruling party candidates in the 2020 mid-term national senatorial election. Again, the opposition hailed the agency for a fair election. So, others asked, "Where is this cheating thing coming from?". Some analysts viewed that the opposition senses defeat and cries wolf before losing.

Boakai will not campaign to the Southeast. Instead, his vice standard bearer, Jeremiah Koug, has traveled to the area through Ivory Coast. The party stated because of bad road conditions, Boakai decided not to go. However, critics said the decision was unwise, expressing that he should have to personally experience the road situation as a prospective head of state. They indicated that Weah traveling there by road could score a political point. UP will climax its campaign on October 7. The total registered voters in the Southeast are about 11% of the national registered voters of 2,471,617 Liberian citizens. Nimba has 12%, Bong, 8%, and Montserrado, 36%.

The ballots and other election materials have arrived in the country. Additionally, international observers were in Liberia about two weeks ago. They have met with the parties, NEC, civil societies, and partners.

The following article will discuss who will win.



# CDC closes campaign with mammoth rally

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC on Sunday closed its month long campaign with a mammoth victory rally a day after main opposition rival Unity Party ended its campaign. Partisans and supporters of

before him and as such he wants voters to give him a second term. President Weah and his ruling Coalition government are seeking a second term to complete ongoing developments, mainly roads

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:

▶ CONT'D page 7

# Liberia closes borders

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberian Immigration Service (LIS) has announced the closure of all land borders beginning Monday, 9 October 2023, ahead of the presidential and legislative elections due Tuesday.

LIS spokesman Abraham Dorley said over the weekend that their decision to close all borders is based on Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean’s instruction.

Mr. Dorley told a press conference that the border closure is to ensure boarder safety and security during these elections.

He said the Liberian Immigration is working with its counterparts from neighboring countries to strengthen and build border confidence.

He said the border will be closed at 6:00 pm, adding that it will not affect trade and economic viability.

Mr. Dorley explained that the border closure is just a normal protocol for borders during elections.

“... The Attorney General of Liberia Cllr. Frank Musa Dean instructed the Commissioner General of the Liberia Immigration Service, Col. Robert W. Budy, Sr., that beginning Monday, at 6:00 PM, all land borders should be considered closed,” he disclosed.

Based on the mandate, Dorley said the LIS has instructed its border and county commanders to close all entry points, which include both authorized and unauthorized land borders.

According to him, all land boarders will reopen to the public for transaction and movement at 8:00 am on Wednesday.

Mr. Dorley pointed out that Col. Budy has also instructed the LIS’ border patrol unit to make sure that borders that unauthorized borders are closed. “For Liberians that [are] wanting to participate in these elections, you need to be in Liberia before Monday, 6:00 pm, because nobody will be allowed to come in to partake when the borders have been considered closed,” said Dorley.

According to Mr. Dorley, they have been having a series of meetings and engaged with neighboring Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Ivory Coast, among others, to strength and build borders confidence and security.

“We are working jointly with our counterparts to ensure boarder



LIS spokesman Abraham Dorley

safety and border security during these elections,” he noted. “The closure of a boarder during elections is a normal protocol to regulate people. For trade, at 6:00 pm when the borders are close, it will not affect commercial trade and after that we will reopen,” he concluded.



CDCians walking from Sinkor to their party Hq

the ruling party flooded the streets of Monrovia and the main Tubman boulevard as they sang various victory songs ahead of Tuesday, October 10 polls.

The victory rally also comes as incumbent President Weah rounded up his campaign tour in Rivercess County on Saturday, October 7, calling on voters to give him a second term to enable him to complete his developmental projects which began over the last five years.

President Weah has insisted that his government has undertaken more developmental projects in its first term as compared to others

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

# Cummings urges peaceful

Starts from back page

to give him the single most greatest honor by electing him President to lead Liberia’s economic recovery for the betterment of all Liberians.

Rounding up his Campaign in Buchanan, Cummings met with several political, civil society, inter-religious, and interest groups, thanked them and pleaded with them for the chance to lead. On Sunday, Cummings, along with his Vice Standard Bearer Counsellor Charlyne Brumskine, ended the campaign with worship services at several churches, who offered special prayers of blessings, and wished him victory in the Tuesday, October poll. Earlier, in an exclusive interview with Radio Gbehzon on October 7, Mr. Cummings vowed that a CPP government will prioritize the interests of Liberian businesses and, will, within the first one hundred days, begin to restore salary cut of civil servants initiated by the CDC government.

Cummings told Journalists that his quest for the Presidency is to work along

with all well-meaning Liberians to change the pathetic condition of Liberians, and not to plunder the country’s resources.

He said, as President, he will donate his salary to charitable work, and disabuse the minds of his critics that he is seeking the presidency to amass wealth.

The CPP Standard Bearer said God has blessed him with enormous wealth and that his quest for the Presidency is not for a job, but rather, to use the Presidency to change Liberia for the betterment of all citizens. Cummings said, while aggressively combating corruption, a CPP Government will ensure Liberia reaps the full benefits of its natural resources, without necessarily aborting any concessionaire agreements. Last week the CPP Standard Bearer visited Bong and Nimba Counties and was accorded a rousing welcome with pledges of support to his Presidential bid. Meanwhile, Mr. Cummings, accompanied by his Vice Standard Bearer Counsellor Charlyne Brumskine, on Sunday, October

8, attended the closing campaign ceremony of Grand Bassa County Senatorial Aspirant Gbehzongar Findley in Buchanan.

Mr. Findley, former Senator of Grand Bassa County and President Pro-Tempro of the Liberian Senate, is seeking re-election.

The impressive ceremony was attended by thousands of Grand Bassa County citizens.

Official campaign for the 2023 General and Presidential elections ended Sunday, October 8, according to the National Elections Commission timetable. Since the 2017 elections, Cummings, widely considered the best and most suitable Presidential candidate of the 20 contestants, has remained engaged with Liberians nationwide, advocating the cause of Liberians, and making the case that he is the right candidate to institute real change in Liberia.

# Former Zambia VP heads

Starts from page 6

standards for elections and democracy.

Moreover, these frameworks include the constitution of Liberia, the elections law of Liberia, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and the Declaration on the Principals governing Democratic Elections in Africa. Consequently, after the conduct of the October 10 pools, the EISA International Elections Observation Mission will issue a preliminary statement on its findings at a press conference on October 12, 2023. Making the disclosure Friday, October 6, 2023, in an arrival statement at a local hotel in Monrovia, Liberia, Dr. Mumba said that EISA-IEOM is in the country to monitor the October 10 presidential and legislative elections to ensure transparency and accountability.

“The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa International Elections Observation Mission EISA-IEOM announces the arrival of 20 short-term observers (STOs).”

“The mission is headed by His

Excellency Dr. Nevers Mumba, former Vice President of the Republic of Zambia, and deputized by EISA Executive Director, Mr. Baidessou Soukolgue and supported by a technical team,” he stated.

Accordingly, Dr. Mumba noted that the 20 STOs bring a total of 32 observers from 20 African countries deployed to the 2023 elections in Liberia.

He also disclosed that initially, EISA deployed 12 long and medium-term observers (LTO/MTOs) in April and July 2023 respectively to observe the early stages of the elections.

Dr. Mumba narrated that the short-term mission would remain in Monrovia until 15 October with its secretariat at the Cape Hotel, Monrovia.

He added that they have followed the ongoing political campaigns in eleven of Liberia’s fifteen counties, namely Bomi, Bong, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Montserrado, Margibi, Lofa, Nimba, Maryland, and River Gee county.

Read the NewDawn everyday & Advertise with us!



## Cummings urges peaceful non-violent elections

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings rounded up his campaign tour of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, with a call on Liberians for a peaceful and nonviolence

for a sober reflection on the part of every Liberian on the question of why, Liberia at 176, it's still ranked amongst the least developed nations, in spite of the vast natural resources.

Cummings said, Liberia at 176, lacked good health care, good schools, no electricity, nor

Cummings said, if "government experience" was the required solution to achieving national development and economic prosperity, Liberia would rank amongst the most developed nations.

He said poor choices by Liberians of electing incompetent and wrong leaders over the years, with the same experiences and ideas, has degraded and worsened the country's great economic potential.

He vowed to take the hard and tough decisions, and said, to change Liberia and accelerate economic development, Liberians will have to do things differently, elect competent and experienced leaders with vision to engender economic growth through the creation of a strong and vibrant private sector.

Cummings said with his wealth of experience and knowledge of economic and business development, he has the capacity to transform the country's ailing economy, create jobs, fix the roads and restore basic social services.

He appealed to Liberians



CPP Standard Bearer Mr. Alexander Cummings

elections on Tuesday, October 10.

Cummings said, as Liberians go to the poll and decide on their choices of leaders, the CPP will accept the results on condition, that the results truly and accurately reflect the will and aspirations of the Liberian people.

In a nationwide address from Buchanan, Mr. Cummings called

pipe-born water, disastrous roads nationwide, and with vast majority of its citizens living in deplorable conditions and abject poverty.

He blamed the country's worsening economic conditions and the lack of basic social services and infrastructures on decades of poor leadership and gross mismanagement of public resources.

▶ CONT'D page 11

### MoMo Waysay-Wasa 3

**Da your time to win!**

**Dial \*156\*2#**

To buy a **50LRD bundle** and above to enter the draw!

## The New Dawn

TRULY INDEPENDENT

# PRESS

**WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:**

- \* Newspapers \* Magazines \* Flyers \* Posters
- \* Calendars \* Brochures \* Letterhead
- \* Receipts \* Invoices \* Souvenirs etc...

DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing

0886484201 | Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com | P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street

0777007529 | Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com | Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia

## HOPE

You Can Count On

# Vote #18

WEAH TAYLOR 2023

@dahmetakeit