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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.  
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# Uncertainty looms

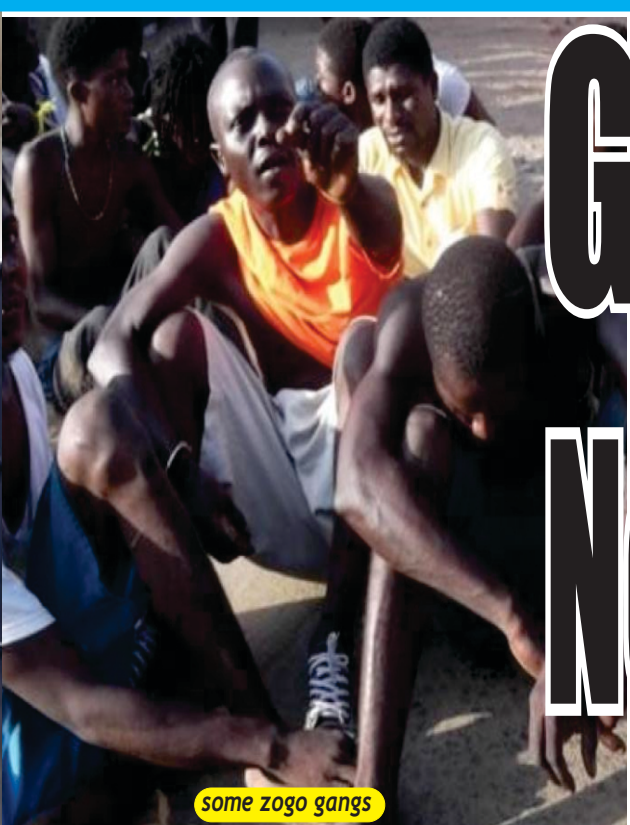


President Weah

**- over first-round victory**



Front view of the New Dawn Newspaper



some zogo gangs

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# Continental News

## Ugandan President Wants to Ban Imports of Used Clothing From West

Jostling for space, people jam the crowded footpaths crisscrossing a massive open

wholesalers and then shipped to African countries by middlemen. It's a multimillion-dollar business, with some two-thirds of people in

"When a white person dies, they gather their clothes and send them to Africa," Museveni said.

Trade authorities have not yet enforced the president's order, which needs to be



Ugandans buy secondhand clothes at Owino Market in Kampala, Uganda

market in Uganda's capital. They are mostly looking for secondhand clothing, sifting through piles or trying on shoes despite getting pushed around in the crush.

Downtown Kampala's Owino Market has long been a go-to enclave for rich and poor people looking for affordable but well-made used clothes, underscoring perceptions that Western fashion is superior to what is made at home.

Discarded by Europeans and Americans, these clothes are often purchased from

seven countries in East Africa having "purchased at least a portion of their clothes from the secondhand clothing market," according to a 2017 U.S. Agency for International Development study, the most recent with such details.

Despite the popularity, secondhand clothes are facing increasing pushback. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, a semi-authoritarian leader who has held power since 1986, declared in August that he was banning imports of used clothing, saying the items are coming "from dead people."

backed by a legal measure such as an executive order.

Other African governments also are trying to stop the shipments, saying the business amounts to dumping and undermines the growth of local textile industries. The East African Community trade bloc — consisting of Burundi, Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda — has recommended banning imports of used apparel since 2016. However, member states have not enforced it at the same pace amid pressure from Washington. VOA

## Guinea-Bissau capital without power over unpaid bill to Turkey's Karpowership

A Turkish firm has cut power supplies to Guinea-Bissau's capital over an unpaid bill of at least \$15m (£12m), plunging the city into darkness.

It has severely disrupted daily life, with hospitals affected and radio stations off-air.

Economy Minister Suleimane Seidi acknowledged the arrears, saying most of the bill would be paid in 15 days.

Karpowership is one of the world's biggest floating power plant operators, supplying several African states.

But it has taken a tough line over non-payment. Last month, it cut power to Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, over an unpaid bill of \$40m.

The Turkish company has also signed a deal to supply power to South Africa, saying it will cover more than 5% of

State-run Rádio Nacional is among media outlets that have stopped broadcasting, while the private radio station where Sambu works is only partially operating, he added.

Karpowership says it has been supplying 100% of Guinea-Bissau's electricity since signing a five-year agreement with the state-owned electricity and water utility company in 2019.

The country is one of the poorest in the world and has been beset by instability since independence. "Unfortunately, following a protracted period of non-payment, our [floating power plant] is now unable to continue operating," a Karpowership spokesperson was quoted by the Reuters news agency as saying.

"We are working around the clock with officials to resolve this issue and we aim to have generation back online as soon as possible," the spokesperson added.

Energy Minister Isuf Baldé said



Guinea-Bissau is one of the world's poorest countries

## Floods in Ghana Displace Thousands of People

Flooding after heavy rains in eastern Ghana have forced nearly 26,000 people to leave their homes at the request of the authorities, the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) said Tuesday.

Crops have been destroyed and schools shut after two hydroelectric dams overflowed at Akosombo and Kpong.

"We have moved most of the affected people to a safe haven. About 26,000 mostly women and children have been displaced," NADMO deputy chief Seji Saji told AFP.

"What they need is water, food and medicine and we're working with the government to take care of that."

No deaths had been reported.

Mercy Tamakloe, a 35-year-old food vendor and mother of two, said she lost all her belongings.

"Everything is gone. I don't know how I'll be able to recover but at least I have life," she told

AFP by telephone.

Farmer David Fui Banini said the deluge destroyed his four-acre maize farm.

He urged the government to "consider compensating us because this is no fault of ours."

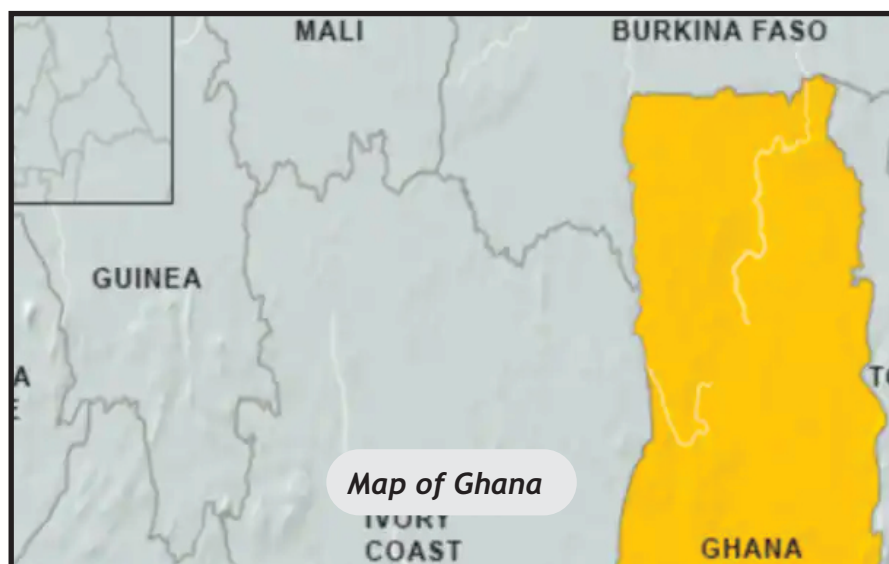
Ghana's navy said thousands of people had been rescued in the Volta Region, bordering Togo, after the surge of water from the dams.

"So far everything is under control, and we have rescued more than 8,000 residents across the nine

affected districts in the region," said Commodore E.A. Kwafu.

President Nana Akufo-Addo has set up a committee to coordinate ongoing rescue efforts.

Ghana's meteorological service has forecast more rains this year as the West African country experiences a marked increase in the frequency and unpredictability of weather events, amid warnings linked to climate change. VOA



Map of Ghana

the country's total electricity needs.

South Africa has been hit by a wave of power cuts with people going without electricity for up to 10 hours a day. Power was cut in Bissau, a city with a population of more than 400,000, in the early hours of Tuesday and has not been restored, a resident told the BBC. Some public hospitals are now using generators to carry out surgery, local journalist Assana Sambu told the BBC. But they don't have running water because there is not enough electricity, and hospital directors have appealed for power in order to cook food for their patients.

Another journalist, Alberto Dabo, said he was drinking water from a well because water supplies had been cut amid the sweltering heat which reaches 40C. "Our houses are very hot. Most families stay outside till 4am before entering their houses to spend the rest of the night. You can't stay indoors because of the heat."

\$6m of the \$15m bill had been paid.

"In a small and poor country like Guinea-Bissau, carrying out a transfer operation of this level, \$10m, takes time," he said.

He added that the contract with Karpowership needed to be renegotiated because costs had almost doubled since it began, to a level Guinea-Bissau could no longer afford. The company also supplies electricity to six other African countries - Ghana, The Gambia, Ivory Coast, Mozambique, Senegal and Sierra Leone. The company prides itself as "the owner, operator and builder of the world's only Powership (floating power plant)".

Its involvement in the electricity sector is the latest example of Tukey's growing influence in Africa. Although access to electricity has increased in sub-Saharan Africa in recent years, it still remains low, with more than 50% of the region's population having no grid connection, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad). BBC

# EDITORIAL

## A need to heed recommendations by international observers

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS MONITORING the electoral process in Liberia are providing series of recommendations to Liberian authorities to enhance future polls and strengthen the country's democratic process.

THE ELECTORAL INSTITUTE for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) through its Elections Observation Mission (EISA-EOM) outlines challenges it observed during Tuesday, 10 October elections polls ranging from underrepresentation of young people in elective offices, growing engagement of youth as militants by political parties, delay in distributing the Final Registration Roll for public scrutiny, delay in releasing regulations on collation and tabulation of results, lack of substantial issue-based or policy-focused campaign messages, widespread misinformation about elections on social media to weak communication strategy, and low visibility of NEC's programs.

ESIA THEREFORE, URGES the Government of Liberia to promulgate into law provisions on compulsory gender quotas for female candidates in line with Liberia's international commitment to affirmative action.

IT ALSO CALLS on government to explore possibility of legally moving Election Day to a timeframe that does not coincide with the rainy season to reduce logistical challenges and risks while facilitating voter's participation.

"ENFORCE THE RULES in the election law by prosecuting offences such as voter trucking. To the NEC, strengthen public communications with emphasis on key processes making it more proactive, timely and precise. Collaborate with CSOs to improve the conduct of civic and voter education", the group recommends.

FOR ITS PART, election observers from the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, recommends that to address congestion and long queues at polling precincts, reforms may be introduced in the electoral laws to reduce the number of voters per polling unit, taking into cognizance the need for such reforms.

THOUGH THESE ARE but few of the recommendations from foreign observers here, with more to come, we think they are germane and should claim immediate attention of authorities of the National Elections Commission and the Government of Liberia in order to enhance our electoral process.

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# COMMENTARY

By Lennie Bazira,  
Prossy Muyingo

## Compensating Community-Health Workers

CLARKSVILLE, MD/KAMPALA - At least six million women worldwide provide unpaid or grossly underpaid labor in community-health centers, often in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Many work as community-health workers. But, though this is a skilled job that should be salaried, only 34 countries offer CHWs accreditation, training, and salaries, leaving the majority exploited and therefore less effective for their patients. If we are serious about making "health for all" a global priority, this must change.

CHWs are crucial to strengthening health systems at the national level: they have been proven to improve maternal- and child-health services, expand access to family planning, and support prevention and care for both noncommunicable and infectious diseases. Deploying CHWs who consistently provide just 30 lifesaving health services in countries with the highest disease burden would save as many as 6.9 million lives annually and reduce child mortality by almost half. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how resilient community-health programs can provide essential services even in the face of great adversity.

But such programs will reach their full potential only with service design that adheres to evidence-based best practices. That means treating CHWs as professionals who require training, fair pay, and safe working conditions. When used as a stopgap solution or a source of cheap labor, CHWs are less effective than their well-resourced counterparts.

In Africa, up to 85% of CHWs are unpaid, and, worldwide, CHWs' essential medicines are out of stock one-third of the time. In Uganda, our home country, there is a shortage of health-care workers, so CHWs have stepped up to fill the gap. Though these workers provide vital services to their communities, performing many of the same tasks as their salaried supervisors, they often receive little or no pay.

Why are CHWs, who are often women of color, expected to work and save lives without recognition or remuneration? It is clear that this is also a gender-rights issue. Patriarchal norms and power dynamics condition women to accept no or low wages for what should clearly be paid work. For example, women from low-income households and with low levels of education often view this type of unpaid work as an opportunity that might lead to paid work or an asset like a mobile phone or bicycle.

Unpaid work in health care can also bring women social recognition. In many contexts, it is seen as honorable work that families will approve of for a woman. As a result, CHWs tend to juggle these positions with piecemeal paid jobs and family responsibilities.

These women face an unenviable dilemma: If they give up their work as CHWs to find full-time employment that can support them, who will provide much-needed health care for their communities? Backed into a corner by systemic inequalities and traditional gender roles, they often continue to overextend themselves, sacrificing stability, economic security, career progression, and their own well-being in the process.

To redress this entrenched social and economic injustice, professional CHWs must become the norm, not the exception. At minimum, CHWs must be accredited to ensure that certain standards are met; paid a competitive wage; continuously trained and supported by a dedicated supervisor; and integrated into health systems, including primary health-care facilities and wider monitoring and evaluation systems. That way, they can be proactive in surveillance and see patients without point-of-care user fees. In short, CHWs must be salaried, skilled, supervised, and supplied.

After years of being marginalized and isolated, CHWs are now organizing and establishing in-country networks, largely using digital technology, to achieve these goals. More than 5,000 CHWs and aligned health organizations across 40 countries have come together via the Community Health Impact Coalition to translate shared research and advocacy work into policy change at the national level. Our shared mission is to ensure that all LMICs, including Uganda, adopt policies for professional CHWs.

The global community must decide whether it will fairly compensate those who, for decades, have propped up health systems in LMICs, or continue to exploit a largely female workforce. The moral choice is clear. Countries that professionalize CHWs and integrate them into a robust health infrastructure will be in the best position to make progress toward "health for all" - including for the women delivering the bulk of the care.

# 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 Jim O'Neill

## Ending the UK's Permanent Silly Season

**L**ONDON - It is the season of political parties' annual conferences in the United Kingdom. While much of the attention will be on the governing Tories, many also will be closely watching the Labour Party, now that it is significantly ahead in the polls.

In the weeks leading up to the Conservative Party conference, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak seems to have shifted his personal strategy. Rather than presenting himself as a competent, safe, unambitious pair of hands, he is making a show of bold promises to tackle the country's biggest challenges. But is he serious, or is this mere political theater timed for the election?

Sunak, after all, presides over a party that is riddled with factions - many of them ideologically committed, and all of them scarred by the infighting of the past 13 years. Moreover, the party's current MPs were elected in 2019 by a strange mix of traditional Tory constituencies and newer Brexit-oriented voters who previously voted Labour. Both cohorts rather like government spending when it is directed toward them, provided that their own tax bills don't go up.

Hence, in the run-up to this year's conference, some Tories have once again trotted out the dream of lower taxes, decrying the tax burden borne by many households, and blaming this supposed problem on the country's weak economic performance in recent years. Michael Gove, a member of the cabinet, has even come out and said that while he personally favors income-tax cuts before the next election, Sunak and the chancellor of the exchequer have ruled them out.

In fact, though the UK tax burden has risen somewhat in recent years, it remains notably lower than in other developed countries. According to the UK's own fiscal watchdog, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), the UK's tax-to-GDP ratio in 2021 (33.5%) was 2.2% below the developed-country average, 3.3% below the G7 average, and a whopping 6.4% below that of 14 other peer European countries, many of which have much higher standards of living. Of the countries that are wealthier than the UK in terms of per capita GDP (Britain ranks 22nd globally), more have a higher tax burden than have a lower one.

But not only do the data fail to support the argument that taxes are the main drag on UK growth; polling in recent years has shown that the British electorate generally favors higher taxes for the sake of higher spending (though many presumably would prefer that someone else bear the additional burden). This marks a shift from the 1990s and the 2000s, suggesting that higher taxes and spending do not pose the same political risk they once did to an incumbent government.

Still, any Tory leader, no matter how skilled, would struggle to navigate the current political and policy landscape, given the party's own decisions in government since 2010 and the endless internal squabbles they have inspired. Moreover, after 13 years in the political wilderness, Labour is focused squarely on demonstrating that it would be more competent with public finances and deliver stronger growth.

Earlier this year, Labour leader Keir Starmer and his shadow chancellor, Rachel Reeves, issued a mission statement pledging to achieve the fastest growth in the G7. (One hopes they mean per capita GDP, not absolute GDP, since that is what matters to households and correlates more strongly with productivity performance.) They also would enhance the powers of the OBR, which regularly estimates the costs of government programs and the tax policies needed to support them. This point matters because the OBR was (in)famously sidelined by former Prime Minister Liz Truss, whose extremely short stint in office almost crashed the entire economy.

Moreover, a few weeks ago, Labour went further by vowing that, if elected, no major tax or spending decision would be implemented without the OBR having publicly issued an independent analysis of the policy's implications (presumably for growth and the public balance sheet).

In response, George Osborne, who created the OBR while serving as chancellor for the Tory-led coalition government back in 2010, has suggested that Sunak's administration should adopt this proposal immediately. As a means of reinforcing the UK's fiscal "credibility," it has much to recommend it. But unless it results in tax and spending policies that are both more realistic and more ambitious, its effects will be limited.

As the data make clear, the UK suffers from persistently weak public- and private-sector investment, relative to its peers. Unless that changes, achieving rapid per capita GDP growth will be a pipe dream.

A smart government would stop playing the political game of focusing excessively on arbitrary short-term tax-to-GDP levels, and instead pursue an agenda that raises that ratio for the express purpose of boosting investment spending and productivity. Both are needed to sustain long-term growth and to reduce long-term debt. If the OBR's independent analysis determines that such spending will require increased taxes, so be it. That will be the ultimate test of the government's seriousness.

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# The Appleton Phenomenon and Liberia's Electoral Fluidity

Dr. George Wah Williams

Civic Activist and an Int'l Electoral Observer & Engineer  
October, 2023

October 2023 Abstract: Liberia's most recent presidential and legislative elections have ignited numerous topical issues thumping the headlines in conversations - private and public. Across party lines, the issues lifted, but not limited to the slowness of the data center processing of votes, the excessively high number of invalid votes, and inadequacies in the vote counts from centers closest to the headquarters of the National Elections Commission (NEC) in Monrovia.

As valid as these issues remain, the Appleton factor in Liberia elections has left more questions than answers and perhaps will continue spotlighting future elections for decades. This paper is an attempt to make sense of the Appleton mystery and its implications for future elections in Liberia.

Introduction:

Edward "Eddie" Appleton, I got to meet in the early 80s, through a brother who was then a student at Cathedral High School on Snapper Hill. The two were strong buddies and have maintained that relationship even today. The last time I saw Eddie was at this brother's 50th birthday in North Carolina. Eddie the character has always impressed me to want in on the social spotlight. Like many others in our generation, had never projected any semblance of political ambition or desire to partake in national or community politics. The truth is, Eddie and I interacted in passing, so my observations are limited by my rare interactions with the gentlemen.

But here is a larger story. While there were 20 contestants in the race for the presidency of Liberia, NO one I have spoken to had heard of Eddie in any way. Eddie, dad, Cllr. Wade Appleton came more prominently into the limelight, I believe after the Tolbert assassination and the incumbency of Samuel Doe. Always nicely cut and decked, Eddie's crowd-pulling strength circled around Central Monrovia. He did play basketball but didn't cement himself as a brand in basketball circles. Schooling in Brewerville meant only the stars were known to us, Jessie Harmon, D-Jaal, and Siafa Varney...

All of this begs the question, how did an unknown candidate attain the number of votes over and beyond other much-publicized candidates? A number of theories abound, explaining the probabilities.

In no particular order, the first of the theories that come in handy is that of mistaken identity. Many purport that checking the box in favor of Eddie could have been a case of mistaken identity. Whose identity could have been mistaken? There is a possibility, considering Liberia's increasing literacy levels, that Eddie could have benefitted from a Weah look-alike or an Alexander C. name similarity.

While these propositions might seem improbable to the scrutinous eye, the likelihood of a vision-poor or illiterate voter examining the ballot from the top and checking the box near the picture or name resembling his choice is practically high. Even educated people routinely make such mistakes in other areas of life like sending the wrong text to someone seemingly bearing near similar identities.

Notwithstanding, another proposition - bordering on technology - is that of the quality of the tallying booklet imported by the NEC. Pundits have proffered that the defect of the booklets was such that writings on the duplicates lower down in the pile tended to spill over to other sections leading to votes misallocation.

This suggestion is less plausible considering that instances, where such occurred, would rather spill downwards and not above. Appleton is positioned at the very top of the ballot invalidating this proposition.

Meanwhile, there is an improbable electoral fraud circulating which - for all intents and purposes - seems most unlikely since this writer does not believe the candidate to possess the quality of infrastructure required to influence electoral fraud on the belly of the widespread votes he's attained so far.

The reason for this is simple. Had Appleton the resources to finance the scale of fraud, he would have chosen to publicize himself better than he did. Moreso, the candidate has never been known - to me at

least - to be a risk-taker on the opposite end of the law. So this proposition, I rule out this until proven otherwise.

Finally, there is an advantage of placement on the ballot that might explain why so many votes could have represented Eddie in the results. With the many long queues at voting centers, commentators suggest that voters might have been increasingly worn out and once given a ballot, checked the very first candidate they saw. Now this is possible, but not like considering the systematic collection of votes received across the country.

So where does this leave us? Several factors might explain why a little-known Eddie Appleton could have accumulated an unexpected number of votes over his better-known rivals. By far the strongest argument likely informing the sudden rise of Eddie may lie in his apparent charisma and appeal - but to whom?

Eddie is indeed a flashy crowd-puller, but to a

Another area of reform - though indirectly associated with the "Appleton Phenomenon" is the centralized vote processing currently employed by the NEC.

- The Over-centralization of the tally processing is susceptible to infringements since the overall results ultimately rest on the accuracy of the data-entry personnel. Perhaps a framework in the operationally centralized in the counties rather than in Monrovia. This will help with the disaggregation of data for healthier public access. In terms of the "Appleton Effect" this decentralization could ensure that ballot of a more localized scrutiny of the votes is undertaken. From an institutional reform standpoint, situations such as the "Appleton Phenomenon" and the increasing quantity of invalid votes and turnout present ample opportunities for research and engagement.

- Operational Transformation: Transforming the NEC into a knowledge generation and management entity rather than simply an operational vehicle for gathering and counting votes will enhance the "operationability" and responsibility of the NEC to the execution of its mandate. Setting up a structure focused on the understanding of electoral operations, administrative, and programmatic challenges and seeking local opportunities for improvement and overcoming identified problems.



Cllr. Wade Appleton

community that almost does not exist in these times. Whether the votes received were a combined protest against the leading candidates and the incumbent still does not explain how Appleton the phenomenon outclassed Gongloe and Cummings.

Though it remains inarguable that Mr. Appleton is the unknown factor in these elections, his unexplained 1 rise in the vote count raises election concerns and could spike motivations for electoral reforms going forward. "What are the implications for future elections in Liberia?"

Implications: Having served in several electoral capacities over my short professional life, a number of changes have to be effected to safeguard future elections from any similar situations. The first of many that pops up is:

- Ballots and Candidates: A system to streamline the number of candidates at all levels of the electoral process has to operationalize in helping our mostly illiterate populations deal with the innumerable maze of options from which to select. Perhaps a framework that filters the top five ranking candidates for a presence on the ballot. Setting a ballot performance threshold could prove useful to the process. Most folks heard of any association of Appleton with the electoral process only after the NEC's first announcement of results - which was unfortunate.

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Bishop Doryen rejects polls result in Montserrado District #2

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Montserrado County Electoral District #2 representative candidate Bishop Nimely J. Doryen has rejected the results of the National

Doryen alleged that results shown by the NEC have alleged to have been manipulated.

Results announced by the NEC on Tuesday, 17 October 2023, placed Mr. Kanneh ahead with a total of 9,965 votes

won slightly ahead of Bishop Doryen.

Speaking Wednesday evening, Bishop Doryen who heads the Independent Catholic Church of Liberia claimed he had won the election.

He claimed that the results obtained by his agents, tallied from every polling place in the district, gave him the confidence that he had won.

"If ballots are counted and numbers are registered, they remain the same and mathematics don't lie," he argued.

"We had our observers everywhere in every tally room, so nothing going to be fraudulent against us and we accept it," he noted.

The Bishop insisted that there must be a mistake that NEC has made in tallying the results from his district.

"This is why we have written them a complaint about the mistake, and urged for retally of the results, as a servant of God," he added.

"We are honored to accepting the truth, nothing different from the truth, and we are going to pursue [the] results to the end," said Father Doryen. He claimed that there was overwhelming evidence available that makes it impossible for him to accept the hurried results.

He said he will not sit there and his rights be taken away, adding: "We have won this election and we are confident of our tally."

## Citizens react to polling in M'land District#2

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Several citizens in Maryland County electoral district#2 are jubilating the defeat of their Representative, Bhofal Chambers, who also serves as Speaker of the House in the 54th Legislature.

The jubilating citizens in huge numbers were seen parading in communities and in streets of Pleebo Sodoken district, chanting battle cries such as "We tired suffering Mr. 18Yrs."

Representative Chambers was elected in 2005 by citizens of electoral district#2, serving three six-year terms and was seeking reelection for 4th term when he got booted out by his fierce rival, Candidate Anthony F. Williams of the opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP).

The jubilation Wednesday, October 18, 2023, included youth, women, men and several supporters of his rival, Mr.

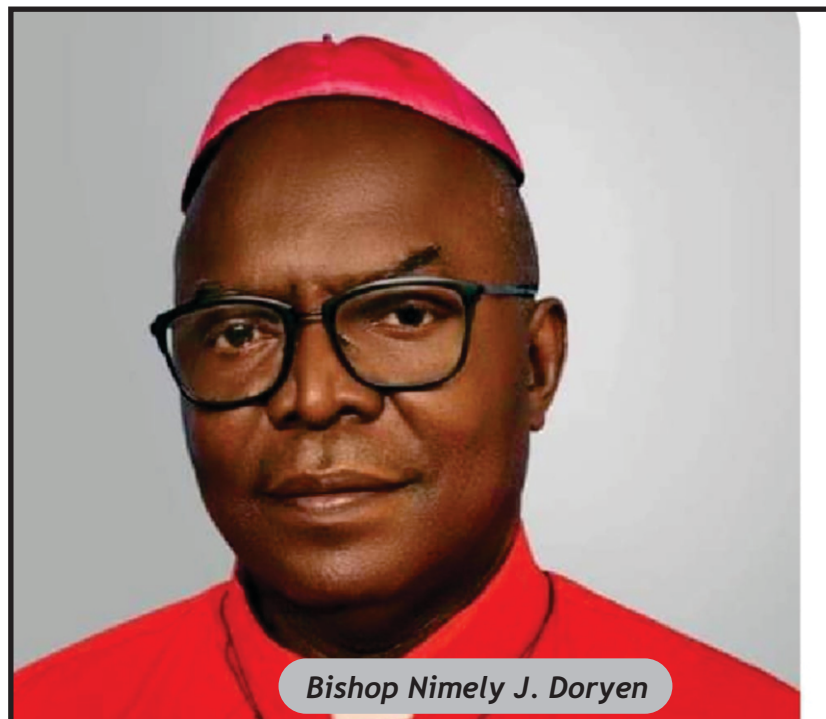
the people of Pleebo Sodoken district have done well.

"We appreciate his scholarship, his hard work, his collaboration and unity but we think, he needs to appreciate us for those numbers of years".

The Speaker hasn't accepted the poll results, because, in his recent press conference, he claimed to have been in the lead based on tallying of results from his war room.

According to Chambers, results from other polling centers especially, a precinct in Old Sodoken that comprises two polling places, were plagued with series of controversies involving the appearance of a 'Country Devil' on Wednesday, 12 October after Election Day, which left his observers to flee for their lives.

He continues that the 'Country Devil' allegedly took over the ballot site, adding that supporters of Mr. Anthony Williams were allegedly seeing harassing and intimidating members of the CDC



Bishop Nimely J. Doryen

Elections Commission (NEC) for the district seat.

The NEC has declared opposition Unity Party (UP) candidate Sekou Kanneh as winner of the representative seat.

But Bishop Doryen who contested as an independent candidate wants the NEC to do a recount of ballot papers in the Montserrado County electoral district #2 representative race.

above his challenger, Bishop Doryen, who received 9,444 votes.

The NEC said Kanneh has reclaimed the seat he lost in 2017 to out-going Representative Jimmy Smith.

Smith also contested the election as an independent candidate after his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) backed the candidacy of Koko Bofo.

The NEC said Mr. Kanneh has

## g7+Elections Observation Mission applauds Liberians

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Members of the g7+Elections Observation Mission to Liberia The g7+Elections Observation Mission in Liberia for the 2023 electoral process is commending Liberians for generally conducting a peaceful campaign that led to the conduct of a successful election on Tuesday, October 10th. Addressing a news conference in Monrovia, the chairman of the Political Parties Regulation Commission of Sierra Leone (PPRC) Abdulai Masiyambay Bangurah said, Liberians demonstrated a good tolerance on the 7th and 8th of October during the campaign launch of the ruling CDC and opposition UP. He narrated that the g7+Elections Observation Mission arrived in Liberia on October 6, 2023 and covered the campaign launch on the 7th and 8th between both the ruling Coalition and the opposition UP.

According to him, Liberians conducted themselves in a peaceful manner on these days when they left some parts of the road for vehicles and pedestrians to carry on their normal

businesses. Mr. Bangurah explained that they are in membership of 20 countries, mainly countries that are in conflicts or countries that are emerging from conflicts.

He noted that Liberia is the 4th country they have observed elections in, adding that they previously observed elections in Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau and Guinea before coming to Liberia.

He further noted that on Election Day, most of the polling places opened in time with polling materials made available and commend the National Elections Commission for that.

The PPRC chair said queues were very long which showed that there were very high voters' turnout that demonstrated Liberians' conscience and readiness to vote. He said Liberians waited in queues

patiently to exercise this constitutional duty with physically challenged people, nurses, security, baby mothers and older people given priority to cast their ballots, something, he described as admirable.

Meanwhile, he explained that after the polls, election workers and poll watchers shared jokes among themselves. g7+also helped in facilitating dialogue between warring factions in Central African Republic and supported the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone, Guinea Liberia as well as facilitated sharing of experiences in conducting elections in Guinea-Bissau and voters registration in Sao Tome Principe, respectively.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Williams.'

Results released by the National Elections Commission say Candidate Anthony Williams won the district with 7,944 votes against Representative Chambers with 7,858 votes.

Speaking to this paper, the citizens stressed that enough is enough, saying, "We have played our part since 2005, so we think the Speaker needs to rest; we are not saying he hasn't done anything, but he needs to rest small."

"Let me say enough is enough; we voted for him in 2005, 2011, and 2017, so we need to try another person too yaa", said one resident, Rufus.

"Since those years what can he show to this district? I think we have tried our best and he should appreciate our efforts because he knows what we have done for him since 2005", another said.

Search Weah of Zone#2 in Pleebo, noted that she was at the age of 10 when Representative Chambers was elected and now, she's 27 years, so since that time,

and Team Chambers, to an extent of threatening to inflict bodily harm and destroy election materials on polling day.

According to the ruling CDC defeated lawmaker, one of the polling precincts in old Sodoken had a total used and unused ballots 962 on the tallying sheet, instead of 550, as required by the National Elections Commission.

He argues that it's totally against the election guidelines and intended to manipulate the process.

Chambers claims he has evidence that Maryland County Senator James Biney was bent on twisting the process after a meeting the senator allegedly held with NEC staff in Gbloken over the weekend.

"So, Senator Biney, I feel he holds Pleebo people explanation, because being a Senator, why would he want to interfere in Pleebo issue?" He asks.

He says the act of bringing



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Liberia wins ECOWAS youth cyber security competition

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia has emerged as one of the grand winners in the Economic Community of West

International Airport (RIA) to participate in the practical grand final of the ECOWAS.

The ECOWAS Cybersecurity (CTF) competition took place

Liberia "Cyber Warriors" performance in the recent ECOWAS Youth Cybersecurity Competition," he said.

"Liberia Cyber Warriors has emerged as one of the many winners in this prestigious event, showcasing the country's growing prowess in the field of cybersecurity," he stated. Jarlwoods said in a display of talent and dedication, young cybersecurity enthusiasts from Liberia competed alongside their counterparts from across the ECOWAS region. He indicated that the competition brought together the brightest minds in the field, challenging them with complex scenarios and real-world challenges to test their cybersecurity skills.

"We demonstrated exceptional technical proficiency and innovative problem-solving abilities, solidifying our place among the winners of the competition." According to him, their outstanding performance did not only reflect their commitment, but also highlighted the investment and support provided by local institutions and the government in nurturing and empowering the cybersecurity community.

Mr. Jarlwoods said they are proud and excited of Liberia's accomplishment in this competition, saying that it's a testament to the country's commitment to building a robust and skilled cybersecurity workforce.



African States (ECOWAS) Youth Engaged in Cybersecurity threat competition held in Lome, Togo.

The ECOWAS Youth Engaged in Cybersecurity Competition serves as a platform to encourage and motivate the younger generation to pursue careers in this critical field.

It emphasizes the importance of cybersecurity in today's digital age, with an eye towards securing the digital future. Recently, four brilliant Liberian Information Technology specialists (ICT) headed by Victor K. Jarlwood, Jr., departed Liberia for Lome, Togo to represent Liberia in the grand final of the ECOWAS Youth Engaged Cyberthreat competition.

The group under the banner "Cyber Warriors" left the country late Friday evening through the Roberts

The competition brought together all the young, talented cyber security champions from all ECOWAS member states to compete for the grand price of being the best in ECOWAS youth ranking.

Liberia's Cyber Warriors Team headed by young ICT specialist Victor Jarlwoods helped secure victory and further solidified Liberia's reputation as cybersecurity frontrunners within the ECOWAS community. Speaking in an exclusive interview with this paper Wednesday, 18 October 2023 via WhatsApp, Mr. Jarlwood described the process as very tough and intensive. "We are thrilled to share exciting news about Liberia's outstanding team

# MOH and partners climax 2023 forum on adolescent health and wellbeing

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with Big Sisters Organization has climaxed the 2023 National Event in Support of the Global Forum for Adolescents and the 1.8 Billion Young People for Change on Adolescent Health and Well-being under the theme "Ensuring a Brighter Future for Adolescents in Liberia."

The event marked a significant milestone in the journey to prioritizing and investing in the health and well-being of Liberia's young population.

The event, which was held at the Ministry of Health in Congo Town, brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including 100 adolescents and 20 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with an indirect target audience of 500 people reached through strategic media engagements, focusing on several key objectives.

It seeks to encourage commitment and action from

demonstrated a heightened commitment to prioritize and invest in adolescent health and well-being, resulting in tangible policy changes and increased allocation of resources towards adolescent-focused initiatives.

For example, Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah, Minister of Health of the Republic of Liberia lunched a commitment on behalf of the Government of Liberia to improve the country's health and well-being.

Minister Jallah noted that Liberia will employ additional higher advocacy mechanisms in an effort to boost the commitment implementation; adopt higher level advocacy with senior government officials; invite international advocates to dialogue with higher level government official on the plight of adolescents and young people.

It is a national call to action for the adherence to Convection on Elimination Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other international frameworks that



government institutions and civil society organizations to prioritize and invest in adolescent health and well-being, leading to concrete policy changes and resource allocation, including shifts in national policy, programs, and finance for adolescent well-being.

It sought to celebrate efforts to date and discuss challenges and action needed to advance the adolescent well-being agenda, while amplifying voices of adolescents and youth-led organizations, enabling them to express their needs, concerns, and aspirations, as well as highlighting their role as advocates and agents.

It also provided a platform for the sharing of best practices, innovative approaches, and successful interventions aimed at addressing adolescent health challenges, promoting peer learning and collaboration.

The outcomes and results of this landmark event were nothing short of exceptional outcomes.

Government institutions and civil society organizations

guarantees women's equal rights in deciding freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights.

At the same time, the Executive Director of Big Sisters, Amelia G. Frederick, appreciated the Government of Liberia for its efforts to improve the health and well-being of adolescents in Liberia and called on government to ensure its commitment is achieved through quality policy and programs implementation.

Amelia highlighted several activities that have been implemented leading up to the National Event for Adolescent health and then to the 1.8 Billion Young People for Change campaign.

The Deputy Representative of UNFPA, Leonard Kamugisha, making remarks on behalf of the Agency, said investing in adolescents' health and well-being is not just the right thing to do but a smart move in investing in adolescents and young people health and well-being that has an impact.

Starts from back page

# Liberia detains election workers

Presiding Officer, Polling Place Four.

According to the NEC boss, the accused were incarcerated pending trial. Regarding the temporary staff involved in the alleged election malpractices in Montserrado County, the NEC boss named Butie S. Monday, with application number 086791 in electoral district #4, and Jamama N. Togby, with application number 089187, electoral district #4.

She also named J. K. Gbassegy, application number 061403, electoral district #8, Tracy, with application number 06265, electoral district #15, and Victor T. Johnson, with application number 102959, electoral district #16.

She noted that they are also in police custody undergoing investigation. At the same time, the NEC has assured all political

parties, candidates, and payment of temporary stakeholders that the alleged staff, the NEC boss said the electoral malpractices are well- corrected and will not affect the outcome of the elections.

"The NEC also notes that new payroll staff entering individuals involved in those into the Human Resource System. According to her, NEC," she said. Additionally, these staff were placed at the NEC chairperson disclosed the last minute to time.

that the rerun for the Madam Brown-Lansanah presidential, senatorial and stated that currently, the representative elections at two payroll has been completed polling places in precincts in Buo so far for Lofa, Upper Bong, Gauyoto, Nimba electoral Lower Montserrado, Sinoe, district #4, will be held on and River Gee. She said Friday, 20 October 2023. those completed have sent

"The NEC urges all their payrolls and stakeholders including political temporary staff will begin parties, alliances, candidates, to receive their payment and agents, of two polling places via mobile money in the district. We urge that they immediately. "At the same play their respective roles in time, payroll of the eleven these elections. The process will start from 8-6 PM," she noted. and will be immediately

Regarding the delayed transferred," she said.

# Français

## À la Une: la Côte d'Ivoire tient son nouveau gouvernement

Tout va vite » écrit Koaci. Au lendemain de la nomination surprise de Robert Beugré Mambé au poste de Premier ministre, on connaît désormais les

Côte d'Ivoire, Claude Paulin Danho est évincé du ministère des Sports. Portefeuille qui incombe désormais à Robert Beugré Mambé!

Ce dernier point n'a pas

s'adjudge le département des Sports. »

« On prend les mêmes et on continue jusqu'à.... la CAN ! » titre pour sa part Wakat-séra. Le quotidien l'affirme, l'objectif est clair pour Alassane Ouattara : « réussir sa Coupe d'Afrique des nations ». Et pour le président qui de mieux capé que Robert Beugré Mambé qui a sur son CV l'organisation des jeux de la francophonie de 2017. Aujourd'hui au Faso renchérit, « Ouattara émonde et garde une équipe qui gagne ».

Autre grand titre dans la presse : Ousmane Sonko qui entame une nouvelle grève de la faim au Sénégal

C'est écrit en grande lettre rouge en Une de Sénépluss. Le leader de l'opposition l'a fait savoir hier via un message publié sur Facebook. Un geste en solidarité, dit-il, avec les « patriotes injustement arrêtés » et pour protester contre sa propre détention, appelant ainsi à la résistance contre la « dictature » du président Macky Sall.

Sonko, « un patient si spécial » titre pour sa part le Quotidien. Il est toujours en observation à l'hôpital « devenu une annexe de l'Administration pénitentiaire ». Le journal

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visages de ce nouvel exécutif. Verdict : « Très peu de changement » commente Jeune Afrique, qui évoque « un remaniement à minima ». La nouveauté, c'est le ministère des Affaires étrangères qui revient à Kacou Houadja Léon Adom parce que la précédente titulaire du poste Kandia Camara vient d'être élue présidente du Sénat.

Et puis, à trois mois de l'ouverture de la Coupe d'Afrique des nations en

échappé à l'œil de la presse burkinabè

« Beugré Mambé chausse des crampons pour jouer un match capital » peut-on lire dans l'Observateur. Le site s'interroge, « que le chef du gouvernement cumule des fonctions régaliennes comme la Défense, les Finances ou encore les Affaires étrangères, on a coutume de le voir mais sauf erreur ou omission, c'est la première fois dans les annales politiques ivoiriennes pour ne pas dire africaines, que le PM

## Frappe sur un hôpital à Gaza: l'Union africaine dénonce un bombardement israélien

L'hôpital anglican Al-Ahli Arabi, situé dans le centre-ville de Gaza, a été touché par des frappes mardi soir 17 octobre. Alors qu'Israël et le Hamas se renvoient la responsabilité, l'Union africaine (UA) a clairement accusé l'État hébreu.

L'attaque contre l'hôpital est « un crime de guerre ». Moussa Faki Mahamat a réagi rapidement après les frappes de mardi soir. Sur les réseaux sociaux, le président de la Commission de l'UA a indiqué : « Aucun mot ne peut exprimer pleinement notre condamnation du bombardement par Israël d'un hôpital à Gaza, qui a tué des centaines de personnes ».

Une fois de plus, l'Union africaine a appelé la communauté internationale à réagir. Au lendemain de l'attaque du Hamas, le 7 octobre, Moussa Faki Mahamat avait

appelé « les grandes puissances mondiales à assumer leurs responsabilités pour imposer la paix et garantir les droits des deux peuples ».

La même critique contre Israël émane du président égyptien. Abdel Fattah Al-Sissi parle d'une violation flagrante du droit international : « Je condamne avec la plus grande fermeté le bombardement par Israël de l'hôpital à Gaza ». Ce bombardement a entraîné des manifestations, notamment à Tunis, devant l'ambassade de

France. En Mauritanie, les manifestants se sont réunis devant l'ambassade américaine, les autorités ont décrété un deuil national de trois jours.

« Fin du génocide à Gaza », « Israël n'est pas une nation mais une organisation criminelle et terroriste », voici quelques slogans entendus ce mercredi dans les rues de Tunis, la capitale tunisienne où les députés, qui

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## Éditorial

### Il faut tenir compte des recommandations des observateurs internationaux

Les observateurs internationaux qui surveillent le processus électoral au Libéria donnent une série de recommandations aux autorités libériennes pour améliorer les futurs scrutins et renforcer le processus démocratique du pays.

L'Institut électoral pour une démocratie durable en Afrique (EISA), à travers sa Mission d'observation des élections (EISA-EOM), a fait un état des lieux des défis qu'il a observés lors des élections du mardi 10 octobre, dont notamment la sous-représentation des jeunes dans les postes électifs, l'engagement croissant des jeunes comme des milices politiques des partis,

le retard dans l'exhibition de la liste électorale définitive, le retard dans la publication des réglementations sur la collecte et la tabulation des résultats, le manque de messages de campagne substantiels basés sur des questions ou des politiques, la désinformation généralisée sur les élections sur les médias sociaux et une stratégie de communication faible, et la faible visibilité des programmes de la NEC.

L'ESIA exhorte donc le gouvernement du Libéria à promulguer dans la loi des dispositions sur les quotas obligatoires de genre pour les candidates féminines, conformément à l'engagement international du Libéria en faveur de l'action positive.

Il a appelé également le gouvernement à explorer la possibilité de déplacer légalement le jour du scrutin à une date qui ne coïncide pas avec la saison des pluies afin de réduire les défis et les risques logistiques tout en facilitant la participation des électeurs.

"Appliquer les règles de la loi électorale en poursuivant les infractions telles que la transhumance des électeurs. À la NEC, il faut renforcer les communications publiques en mettant l'accent sur les processus clés, en les rendant plus proactives, plus rapides et plus précises. Collaborer avec les OSC pour améliorer la conduite de l'éducation civique et électorale", recommande le groupe.

Pour leur part, les observateurs électoraux de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) recommandent que, pour remédier aux embouteillages et aux longues files d'attente dans les bureaux de vote, des réformes soient introduites dans les lois électorales afin de réduire le nombre d'électeurs par unité de vote.

Bien que ce ne soient là que quelques-unes des recommandations des observateurs étrangers ici, et d'autres sont à venir, nous pensons qu'elles sont pertinentes et devraient attirer l'attention immédiate des autorités de la Commission électorale nationale et du gouvernement du Libéria afin d'améliorer notre processus électoral.

Les élections sont cruciales pour consolider la paix au Libéria. Un scrutin crédible produit un résultat qui sera acceptable pour la majorité de la population et fera progresser la gouvernance démocratique. Tout ce qui ne permet pas aux électeurs de choisir librement les dirigeants de leur choix est contre-productif et n'est pas sain pour le pays.

Cependant, le processus menant au déroulement effectif des élections est encore plus important. C'est pourquoi il est nécessaire que les parties prenantes, y compris les acteurs et les arbitres, travaillent ensemble pour organiser des élections crédibles afin que les résultats soient validés par les observateurs nationaux et internationaux pour le bien du pays.

C'est pourquoi nous pensons qu'il est important que nos autorités électorales et le gouvernement prennent ces recommandations très au sérieux pour améliorer le processus.



# Français

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## À la Une: la Côte d'Ivoire

évoque un accord avec les autorités, pour lui permettre de purger sa détention à l'hôpital Principal. Cette faveur, commente le site d'information, coûte « 150 mille francs CFA par jour au contribuable ».

Une information reprise en chœur par de nombreux médias, notamment par Rewmi qui s'interroge : « Sonko : Patient ou Prisonnier ? »

La relation entre la France et le Tchad s'affiche en Une de la presse tchadienne

« Une relation ancrée dans l'histoire depuis la période coloniale traversée actuellement par une phase de questionnement profond » écrit Tchad Info. Un sujet qui revêt une importance particulière ce mercredi car Mahamat Idriss Deby est en déplacement à Paris. Le président de la transition doit rencontrer Emmanuel Macron, le chef de l'État français. L'occasion d'aborder en profondeur leur relation bilatérale, l'occasion de repenser « le partenariat dans un contexte sahélien en mutation ». « La "Black Tax", entre tremplin et fardeau

pour les jeunes actifs Africains »

Et puis, on termine avec cet article dans Le Monde Afrique. La black tax est une sorte d'impôt familial, une redistribution des travailleurs à leur famille élargie ou à leur village. Des sommes qui peuvent parfois être très conséquentes. Quand Dennis était étudiant, il avait un petit boulot mais l'argent que cet élève modèle recevait tous les mois servait à payer les frais de scolarité de ses autres frères et sœur. « Le petit dernier sera diplômé l'année prochaine, j'attendais ça avec tellement d'impatience ! » dit-il en riant.

Aujourd'hui, il a 38 ans, il est architecte et il a financé l'éducation de sept autres enfants, qu'il n'a parfois jamais rencontrés. Ça représente des dizaines de milliers d'euros. Il ne s'en plaint pas, d'ailleurs lui aussi a profité de ce système, de ses « anges gardiens ». Mais dans certains cas, à force de pression psychologique des familles, à force de non-dits, de tabous, on peut arriver à de l'anxiété, voire de la dépression. Steve, lui, a décidé de ne plus payer. Il prévient, « le prix de l'indépendance c'est une guerre froide » entre lui et le reste de sa famille.

## Présidentielle au Liberia: George Weah et Joseph Boakai au coude à coude, selon des résultats provisoires



President Weah

Amb. Boakai

Les deux principaux candidats, George Weah et Joseph Boakai sont toujours au coude à coude. Mais sur la base de 98,50% des bulletins dépouillés, on peut d'ores et déjà dire qu'il y aura un second tour. Il devrait se tenir au début du mois de novembre.

D'après les derniers résultats annoncés par la

Commission nationale des élections (CNE), George Weah obtient 43,79% des suffrages. Il est suivi de près par Joseph Boakai qui est crédité de 43,49% des voix.

Les résultats sont donc trop serrés pour qu'il y ait un vainqueur dès le premier tour. Selon le Code électoral, pour remporter le scrutin dès le premier tour, il faut obtenir au moins 51% des suffrages.

Incidents

Ce mardi, au début du point presse, Davidetta Browne-Lansana, la présidente de la CNE, a précisé qu'il y avait des bulletins manquants à cause, selon elle, d'urnes qui auraient été détruites.

Vendredi, cette responsable avait mentionné un incident survenu dans le Comté de Saino, où des procès-verbaux de résultats avaient été volés. De présumés coupables ont été arrêtés.

Ce genre d'incident semble ralentir la proclamation des résultats dans leur globalité. Une annonce qui tient d'ailleurs en haleine le pays depuis quelques jours, poussant la mission d'observation de la Cédéao à publier un communiqué pour appeler au calme. Cette mission demande aux partis politiques d'éviter les annonces prématurées de résultats afin de baisser les tensions autour de la Commission nationale des élections.

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## Frappe sur un hôpital

ont suspendu la session parlementaire, et les étudiants ont rejoint le cortège des manifestants, à l'appel du chef de l'État. Kaïs Saïed a déclaré : « Il faut libérer la Palestine. »

Au Maroc, c'est le groupe d'action nationale pour la

Palestine qui a organisé une manifestation mardi soir à Rabat. Alors que les relations avec Israël se sont normalisées depuis 2020, ce mouvement de la société civile marocaine demande « la fin de tout type de normalisation » avec l'État hébreu. En Égypte, la rue a aussi exprimé sa colère.

## Sénégal: l'opposant Ousmane Sonko reprend sa grève de la faim

L'opposant sénégalais Ousmane Sonko, détenu depuis fin juillet sous divers chefs d'accusation dont appel à l'insurrection, a annoncé mardi 17 octobre reprendre sa grève de la faim qu'il avait arrêtée début septembre.

C'est via les réseaux sociaux qu'Ousmane Sonko a annoncé reprendre sa grève de la faim. Il s'agit du seul « moyen de résistance » possible selon lui dans sa situation actuelle. Cette grève de la faim a pour objectif de marquer sa « solidarité » avec tous les militants « injustement arrêtés pour avoir exprimé leurs opinions politiques » et toujours détenus aujourd'hui. Certains sont privés de tout contact avec leurs proches, affirme Ousmane Sonko dans un long message publié sur

Twitter et Facebook.

L'homme politique et candidat à la présidentielle de 2024, incarcéré depuis fin juillet, dit vouloir aussi protester contre sa « détention arbitraire et électoraliste », selon ses termes, et « en exiger la fin ». Il entend protester aussi contre l'incarcération de centaines de membres de son parti.

Jeudi dernier, le tribunal d'instance de Ziguinchor, dans le sud du pays, a ordonné qu'Ousmane Sonko soit rétabli sur les listes électorales dont il a été radié, rouvrant la possibilité pour l'opposant d'être candidat à la présidentielle. Mais sa candidature est encore loin d'être garantie. Car la Cour suprême sénégalaise doit décider en appel de la légitimité ou non de la restauration des droits civiques d'Ousmane Sonko.

## Sénégal: des détenus de la prison de Ziguinchor en grève de la faim



Dans le sud du Sénégal, en Casamance, 180 prisonniers ont entamé une grève de la faim pour dénoncer leur détention préventive qui dure pour certains depuis 4 mois sans avoir été présentés à la justice.

Parmi les grévistes de la faim, il y a quatre mineurs âgés de 15 à 17 ans, selon une association de la société civile qui leur a rendu visite. Arrêtés au mois de juin suite aux manifestations qui ont secoué le pays après la condamnation de l'opposant Ousmane Sonko, leurs familles demandent leur libération immédiate pour qu'ils puissent retrouver les bancs des écoles où ils sont inscrits.

Vingt-six autres personnes ont été arrêtées à Ziguinchor suite à ces émeutes, les 150 prisonniers restant sont des détenus de droit commun. Mais tous dénoncent des périodes de détentions préventives trop longues, plus de quatre mois pour certains.

Madja Diop Sané, coordonnateur de l'organisation Vision citoyenne, a sonné l'alerte : « Ces détenus n'attendent rien d'autre que d'être auditionnés sur le

fond de leur dossier. Maintenant, pour ceux qui peuvent bénéficier de la liberté provisoire, d'en bénéficier, pour ceux qui doivent attendre le jugement, ils attendront le jugement. Mais il faudrait d'ores et déjà qu'ils soient entendus sur le fond de leur dossier, parce que maintenir des gens en prison, ne pas les auditionner, c'est un problème. »

Mais avec un seul juge d'instruction à Ziguinchor, le problème est chronique, et l'embouteillage, avant que chaque dossier ne soit examiné, évident. L'association Vision citoyenne demande donc la nomination d'un deuxième juge et qu'il y ait une durée limite pour l'instruction.

« Ce qu'on voudrait, c'est que les questions judiciaires, surtout les questions d'instructions puissent avoir un délai, car au Sénégal, on peut parler d'instructions. Mais on vous met en prison 3 mois, 5 ans, sans pour autant vous juger, ça pose problème ! », poursuit Madja Diop Sané, de l'organisation Vision citoyenne. Les 180 prisonniers, eux, promettent d'interrompre leur grève de la faim uniquement lorsqu'ils seront présentés à un juge. Ils se plaignent également de la mauvaise qualité de la nourriture et du prix du téléphone trop élevé. La direction de la prison de Ziguinchor n'a pu être jointe à ce sujet.

À Dakar, six femmes arrêtées suite aux émeutes du mois de juin et détenues à la prison liberté 6, ont également entamé une grève de la faim depuis une semaine, selon le parti de l'opposant Ousmane Sonko, pour exiger la libération immédiate des détenus dits politiques.

# LIBERIANS

# DEBATE

Topic: Likely runoff election

By Naneka A. Hoffman

With more than 98 percent of the votes in the Presidential election already counted, and there is no clear winner, it is likely that there will be a runoff between the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change and the opposition Unity Party. The NEW DAWN randomly asked some Monrovia residents what they think of this possibility. Read their responses, as compiled below.



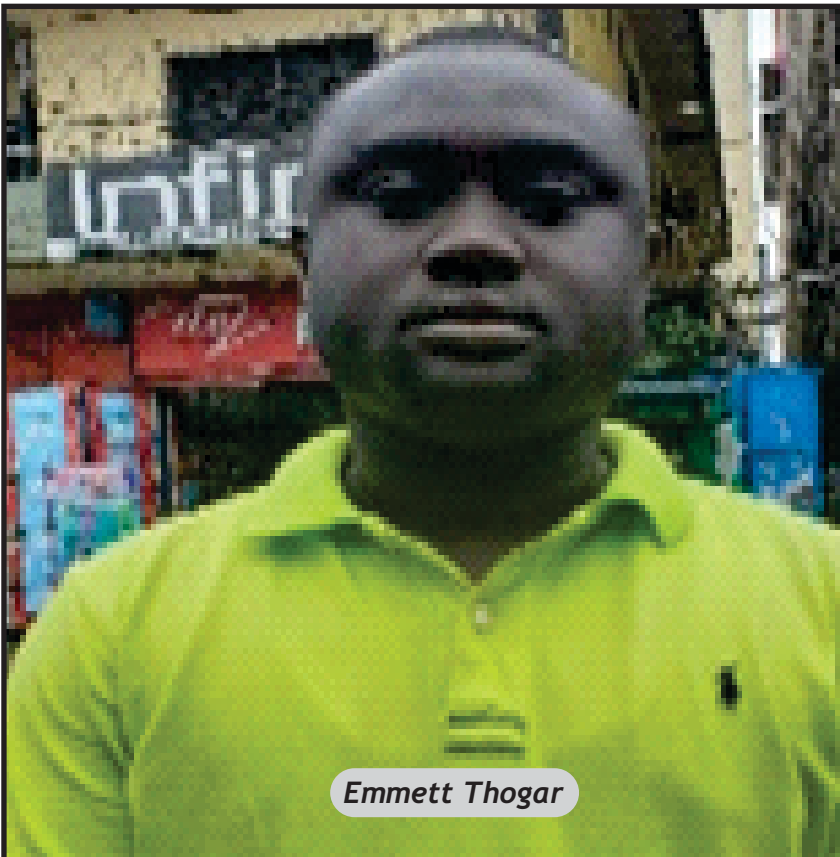
Andrew Moses

Currently, Joseph Boakia has 43.70 percent and President George Weah, who is the incumbent, has 43.65 percent so, we need 50 plus one percent to win. And there is additional 10 percent that hasn't been announced and it is not possible that the remaining 10 percent one candidate can win the entire 10 percent. If one candidate can win 8 percent from the 10 percent that means the candidate will win the elections on a first round. And I'm saying that is impossible. It is very difficult that one person can get 8 percent of the 10 remaining votes so that doesn't give anybody the assurance that they can win the elections on a first ballot."

"Yes, I foresee a second round, as the statistics and the figures being read by NEC doesn't put anybody in the race of winning the elections on a first ballot, for the fact that NEC has almost concluded some of the polling centers. Most of

the counting, some of it are 97 percent, 98 percent, 99.00 percent completed. With the remaining votes that will be coming from these various counties even if you give all to one candidate, that can't make a candidate to win this first round.

"On a very serious note, with the level of results that have been announced by the National Elections Commission, and taking into consideration the amount of percent that is left, I foresee a one round victory for the CDC. I am optimistic because I am looking at Lofa that has finished already; Nimba County is also like 99 percent finished and with the level of percent that is left in the southeast, the CDC is also doing well in Bassa, which is one of the vote-rich



Emmett Thogar

county and CDC. But there is a possibility for second round." I am optimistic for the round."

"Yes, there's huge potential for a second election from the present trend because if you observed the tallying, you have more than 92 percent that has been tallied by the National Elections Commission. And the balance 6.3 percent can't deliver a one round victory for any candidate in this election. So based on the tallying of yesterday, we have made our projections per the existence data that the



Mohammed A. Dukuly

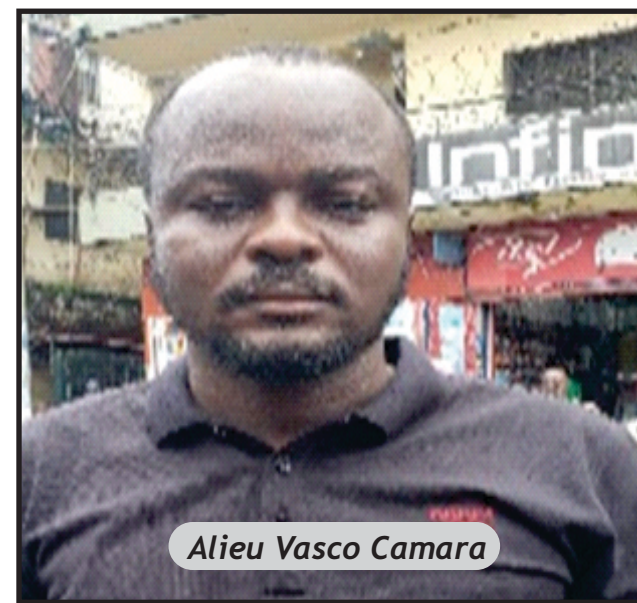
election will go for second round."



John Kollie

"We'll have to wait on NEC. But for my own observation right now, there must be a second round because the results from NEC is head-to-head. But the result for today from NEC will tell us that there will be a second round."

"I listened to the press conference yesterday from the Chairperson of the National Elections Commission Davidetta Browne Lansanah; I read the numbers and analyzed the numbers and I'm sure there will be a second round election because you can't have 20 candidates in the elections then you expect one person to have 50 percent plus one vote; it is not possible. So, from the



Alieu Vasco Camara

look of things, there is a huge possibility for a second round in this election."

"Now, I can't predict that because looking at the numbers that are left, there is less number for the opposition party and there is a big number for the ruling party, so I can't tell you that the will be a second round. But if that happens, we are looking forward to seeing that."



Abraham T. Teah

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# Uncertainty looms over first-round victory

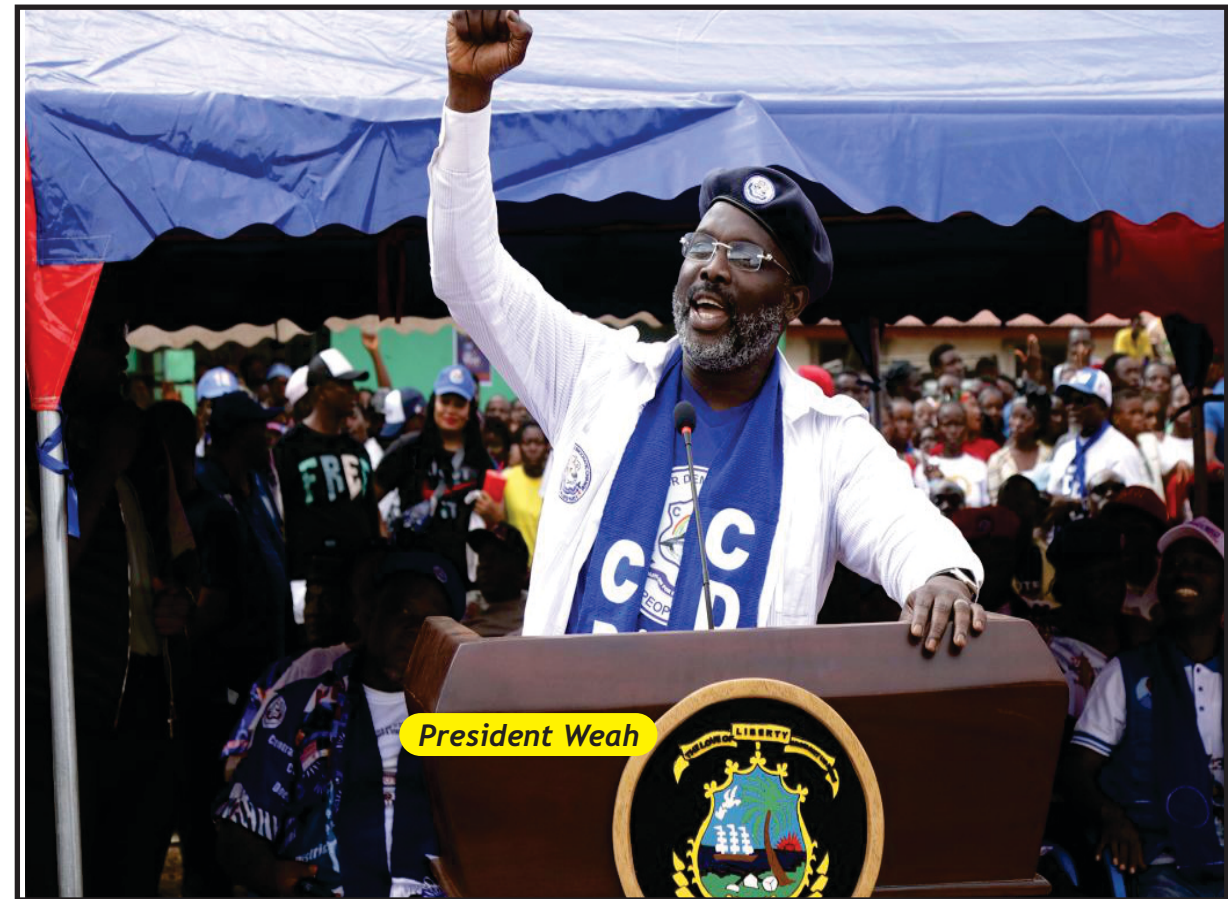
By Lincoln G. Peters

There is looming uncertainty that any of Liberia's two political archrivals - incumbent

valid votes to be declared a winner.

Should the NEC declare a run-off, this would be the second time Mr. Weah and his ruling Coalition for

polling places out of a total of 5,890 polling places, accounting for 99.93%. "Now these are the National Presidential Progressive Tally Reports for today.



President Weah

President George Manneh Weah and opposition Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai would win a first-round victory as they projected.

Both men are sharing close percentages from the total votes counted so far, and a re-run ordered by the National Elections Commission (NEC) this Friday in Nimba County does not show prospects of preventing a run-off.

NEC chairperson Davidetta Brown-Lansanah said Wednesday, 18 October 2023 that President Weah had obtained 803,674 votes or 43.84%, while Mr. Boakai obtained 796,313 votes or 43.44%. A presidential candidate must obtain 50 percent plus one of the total

Democratic Change (CDC) and Amb. Boakai of the former ruling Unity Party (UP) faceoff in the presidential run-off.

Both men battled in a 2017 run-off when Mr. Weah was an opposition. Boakai, whose party's loyalty was divided in factions between him and his former boss, then President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, lost the polls.

20 presidential candidates contested in the October 2023 polls. The National Presidential tally report released Wednesday placed Mr. Weah in a narrow lead with a margin of 7,361 votes. NEC chairperson Madam Davidetta Brown-Lansanah reported 5,886

Candidate, Incumbent President George M. Weah, of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) accumulated 803,674 votes, constituting 43.84%," she said.

"...Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai of the Opposition Unity Party, 796,313 votes, constituting 43.44%," she continued. She also reported that Mr. Edward W. Appleton Jr., obtained 40,255 votes, constituting 2.20%. The National Elections Commission chairperson put the total valid votes at 1,833,189, while the total invalid votes is at 114,597. She added that the total vote was 1,947,786.

# Citizens react to polling

Starts from page 6

'County Devil' out in the town deprived most of his supporters from voting in Old Sodoken, which put his rival ahead with total votes of six hundred and forty-three (643) against ninety-five (95) votes he obtained from Old Sodoken polling center.

Representative Chambers, who also serves as Speaker of the House, also excuses Deputy Speaker and his ruling CDC lawmaker, Grand Kru County Representative Fonati Koffa of financing and plotting these acts against him.

"Let me say this, I'm surprised; Biney of all people, who I have helped during the 2020 election, is among those people behind these things. Even my colleague Koffa, but

I can assure my supporters that we are leading this election, and we will continue with those things we have started as lawmaker of the people."

He adds that evidence links the Deputy Speaker towards the reported violence but that he is not deterred.

"If we think, Liberia is our common denominator and we have to make Liberia prosperous, fair, trust and united, I don't think we should have this aspect. I mean, in the legislature, there are many times Deputy Speaker Koffa has been excused even though we had other instances where we have brought it in his face and in recent times, there were some communications

between him and Maryland County former chairman of the traditional council, Nelson Neal, to have contested against me but that didn't happen. Perhaps, he is now using Candidate Anthony F. Williams through Senator Biney."

"So, with all that's happening, people trying to control and destabilize the process, but I want to thank the Liberian National Police for being so active in handling these issues", Chambers narrates.

He reveals that officials of the CDC and Team Chambers have filed an official complaint against the alleged act perpetrated by the 'Country Devil' and supporters of his rival. Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Gangs invade NewDawn offices

The New Dawn newspaper, one of Liberia's leading local dailies, has been invaded by about a hundred hardened criminals armed with different deadly weapons during night hours.

The incident has formally been complained to the Liberia National Police (LNP) following the brutal attack on Wednesday morning at around 1:30 a.m, 18 October 2023.

Through a formal communication detailing the incident, Mr. Othello B. Garblah, Chief Executive Office (CEO)/Managing Editor of the NewDawn newspaper informed Police Inspector General Col. Patrick Sudue of repeated organized attacks being perpetrated against the newspaper.

"We bring you greetings from the Searchlight Communications Inc., Publishers of the New Dawn Newspaper and to formally

machetes, clubs, and stones attacked the New Dawn newspaper offices.

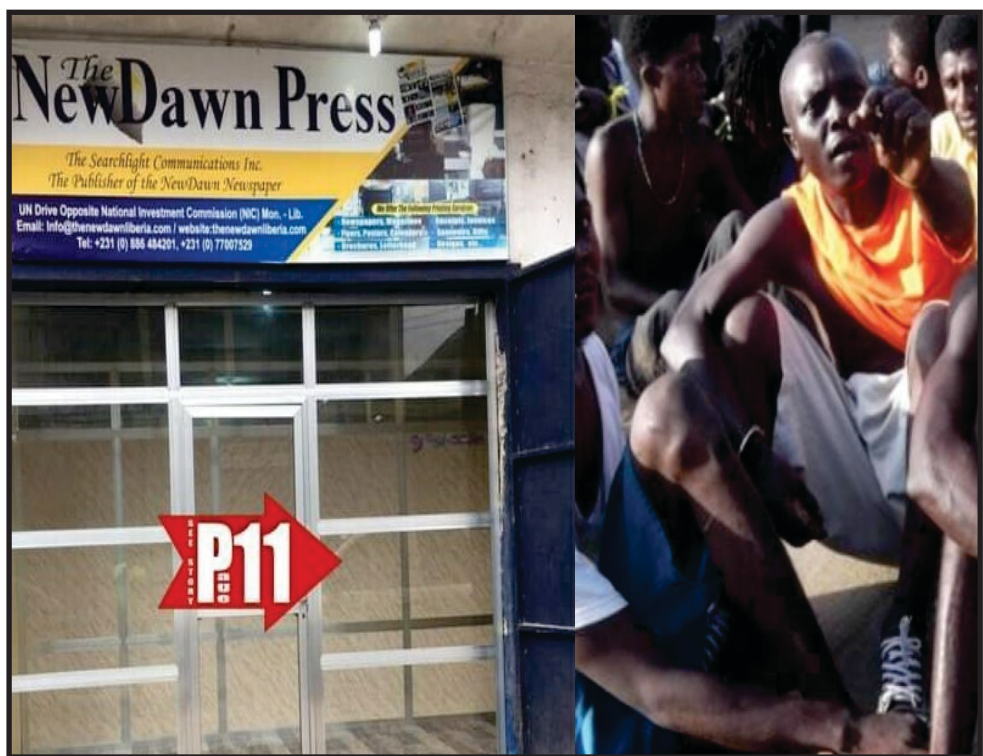
Mr. Garblah stated that the attack occurred as workers were printing the Wednesday, 18 October 2023 edition of the newspaper.

"In the process, they wounded two of our employees and took away valuable items including phones and a motorbike. The bike was later retrieved by some officers from the Anti-Robbery Unit," said Mr. Garblah.

"This is not the first attack on our newspaper offices by these street individuals commonly referred to as "Zogoes,"" he added.

Sometime last year, the NewDawn CEO said about the same number of men stormed the newspaper's offices, after one of their guys who had gone to steal was caught by staff at the institution.

"Last night took the intervention of officers from the Anti-Robbery



complain to your Honorable office of repeated organized attacks being perpetrated against our newspaper offices," wrote Mr. Garblah.

Located between Center Street and UN Drive right opposite the National Investment Commission, the NewDawn newspaper has repeatedly faced attacks by criminals referred to here as zogoes (disadvantaged youth).

Mr. Garblah explained that early Wednesday morning at about 1:30 A.M., over 100 men armed with broken scissors,

Unit to rescue our staff from the hands of these Zogoes who have their base on Center Street not far from our offices," Mr. Garblah explained.

He stated that by the letter addressed to the police, the NewDawn has requested the police's timely intervention before these attacks result in casualties.

"Like our night staff, our securities are unarmed and cannot physically repel these Zogoes who often come in droves with all kinds of deadly weapons to cause bodily harm," he further informed the police.

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# Liberia detains election workers

## -For electoral malpractices

**By Lincoln G. Peters**  
 Liberian authorities say over eight electoral workers are in detention for their alleged roles in electoral rhetoric among Liberia's political leaders and their supporters since Election Day has brought unease among many residents. Jittering folks often flee



National Police Headquarters

malpractices in an election marketplaces upon hearing marred by political tension rumors that suggest that across the country. "some people" are coming. As preliminary results for National Elections presidential and legislative Commission (NEC) elections are being announced,

Chairperson Madam Davidetta Brown-Lansanah Wednesday, 18 October 2023 disclosed the arrest, investigation, and dentation of over eight election Presiding Officers and temporary staff. She said they are held for their alleged involvement in election malpractices. Madam Brown-Lansanah stated that the individuals are in police custody undergoing investigation and awaiting trial before a court of competent jurisdiction. Madam Brown-Lansanah explained that the accused are from Grand Cape and lower Montserrado Counties. She named the accused as Presiding Officers from Grand Cape Mount, suspects Philip A. Zouduya, Electoral District #1 Coordinator, and Patience Mongro, Presiding Officer, Polling Place One, with Code 12035. She also named Mohammed Kaymot, Presiding Officer, Polling Place Two, Waydo Public School, with Code 12035, and Munah Passaway,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

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