

**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
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023	LS186.0405/US\$1.00	LS187.9205/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

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005  
**Down Load New Dawn Android App**

VOL. 13 NO. 188      MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023      PRICE LD\$40.00

# Battle for Speakership begins (Pt-1)



**P11**

Deputy Speaker Cllr. Koffa

Ms. Cooper

Mr. Bility



NEC ES for Sodoken District

# Legal battle looms over

**P11**

# Pleebo elections results

*-As secret recording reveals admission of ballot stuffing*

**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!

MoMo | Lonestar Cell | MTN



# Continental News

## Why Nigeria's lax attitude to names is causing a fuss

There has been quite a hullabaloo in Nigeria recently over the fact that the three top candidates

resolved, but it has led me to reflect on how a number of Nigerians utilise their many names.

wealth/success has arrived).

The catalogue of carefully thought-out traditional names with deep meanings usually includes an English one, especially for Christians.

It can also include names given by grandparents - a privilege that some couples afford their parents after a new child is born.

I have three names - two Igbo and one Christian.

I could have added a second Christian name in my teenage years, when I was a member of the Roman Catholic church.

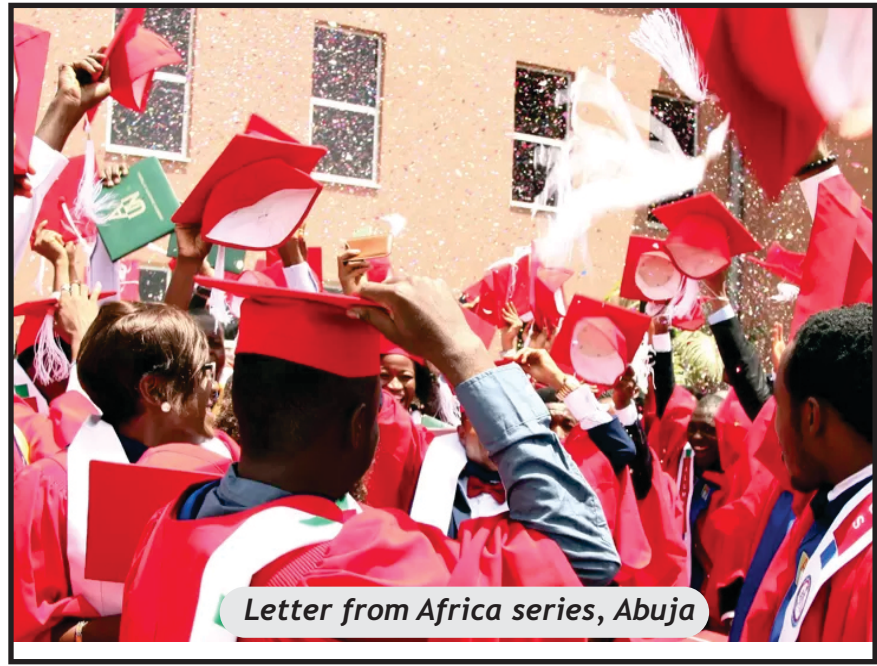
While taking the sacrament of confirmation (in which you're asked to formally affirm your faith and beliefs), the priest at my boarding school in south-eastern Nigeria asked all confirmands to choose an additional Christian name to mark the occasion.

However, I still presented "Tricia", which was the same name by which I had received the sacrament of baptism shortly after I was born.

I just did not feel like having another name.

Some of my classmates, on the other hand, used the opportunity of their parents' absence at the school to take on funky names that the older generation might never have thought of, such as Madonna.

Many Nigerians I know slide between their various names for different reasons or occasions. BBC



Letter from Africa series, Abuja

in February's presidential elections presented academic records showing different names to those by which they are now known.

Allegations of forgery or impersonation have been made and vigorously denied, with various explanations for the discrepancies offered by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi - or their spokespersons and supporters.

The courts of law will probably determine how the most serious of these allegations are eventually

Most Nigerians have more than one name apart from their surname. Most people I know have as many as five or six.

In a society where many cultures name a child based on the circumstances of their birth, their position in the family, or the parents' hopes for the child's future, one person can have different names that reflect each of these different considerations.

For example, a Yoruba child could be named Taiwo Peter Tokunbo Olamide - Taiwo (meaning he is the firstborn of twins), Peter (Christian name), Tokunbo (meaning he was born abroad), and Olamide (my

## Niger's Deposed President Is With Family and Doing Well: Close Source

Niger's ousted president Mohamed Bazoum is with his family and is doing well, a relative told AFP Sunday, after claims by the country's new military rulers this week that he had tried to escape "He is at the presidential residence [in Niamey] with his wife and son and is doing well," the family member said, adding that he was allowed to make one phone call.

The source added that his doctor was able to see him and "bring him food".

On Thursday, the military regime which overthrew the democratically elected Bazoum on July 26 said they had foiled an attempt by him to escape their custody. The escape plan, the regime's spokesman said, had involved Bazoum getting to a hideout on the outskirts of the capital Niamey before flying out on helicopters "belonging to a foreign power" towards Nigeria.

The regime added that "the main actors and some of the accomplices" were arrested.

A lawyer's collective representing Bazoum rejected the "fabricated accusations" and said Bazoum was being "held incommunicado".

French President Emmanuel Macron expressed Friday his "concern over the uncertain situation" and called "for his immediate release and that of his wife and son".

Since he was toppled by the military in July, Bazoum has refused

to resign and has been held at his residence in the heart of the presidential palace along with his wife and son.

Last month, Bazoum's lawyers said he had filed a legal case with a court of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) against those who deposed him, and appealing for the restoration of constitutional order. VOA



Niger's President Mohamed Bazoum speaks at the U.N. Climate Change Conference COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland

## Pro-Palestinian Demonstrators Flood Streets All Over World

Tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators marched Saturday through a rainy London to demand Israel stop its bombardment of Gaza, and similar calls were heard in cities around the world as the Israel-Hamas war entered its third week.

On the day a trickle of aid entered Gaza, where more than 1 million people have left their homes because of the conflict, protesters gathered in at Marble Arch near London's Hyde Park before marching to the government district, Whitehall.

Police estimated the crowd that wound its way through the city for three hours at "up to

Waving Palestinian flags and chanting "Stop bombing Gaza," participants called for an end to Israel's blockade and airstrikes launched in the wake of a brutal incursion into

appears to show a London Underground driver leading passengers in a chant of "Free, free Palestine" over the subway intercom.

British authorities urged demonstrators to be mindful of the pain and anxiety felt by the Jewish community. London's Metropolitan Police force says it has seen a 13-fold upsurge in reports of antisemitic offenses in October compared to last year. Reports of anti-Muslim crimes have more than doubled.

Police said there had been "pockets of disorder and some instances of hate speech" during protests over the war, but "the majority of the protest activity has been lawful and has taken place without incident."

Hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters also gathered in Belfast and in Northern Ireland's second city, Londonderry, where speakers included lawmaker Colum Eastwood of the Irish nationalist Social Democratic and Labour



Protesters hold flags and shout slogans gather for a pro-Palestinian rally in Rome

southern Israel by the Hamas militant group that controls Gaza.

Authorities in Gaza say more than 4,300 people have been killed in the territory since the latest war began. More than 1,400 people have been killed in Israel, mostly civilians slain during Hamas' attack on October 7.

Israel continued to bombard targets Saturday in Gaza ahead of an expected ground offensive. A small measure of relief came when 20 trucks carrying humanitarian aid were allowed to enter Gaza across the southern Rafah border crossing with Egypt.

The war has raised tensions around the world, with both Jewish and Muslim communities feeling under threat. The British Transport Police force said it was investigating after footage was posted online that

Party. "The murder of children is wrong," he told the crowd, calling for an immediate cease-fire in the conflict. "I don't know how that is so difficult for some of our world leaders to actually utter. It doesn't matter whether they are Israeli children or Palestinian children."

Across the border in the Republic of Ireland, thousands marched through the capital, Dublin, calling for an end to Israel's bombardment.

In France, pro-Palestinian demonstrators gathered in several cities including Rennes, Montpellier, Dijon and Lyon, where thousands of people could be seen chanting "we all are Palestinians" in the central square.

In Marseille, the country's second-largest city, some people took to the streets, waving Palestinian flags and shouting "Free Gaza," despite the protest being banned by local police.

A pro-Palestinian gathering scheduled for Sunday in Paris has been allowed by police. VOA

# 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.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,

UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.

Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /

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

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

# COMMENTARY

By Riana Pfefferkorn  
and Callum Voge

## Curbing Government Internet Surveillance

**S**TANFORD/PRAGUE - Government efforts to access private communications are nothing new. In decades past, such attempts at prying were often justified on national-security grounds. Today, however, policymakers point to child safety and disinformation as reasons to limit privacy protections. Established democracies are often leading this charge, inadvertently paving the way for the world's autocrats.

But people around the world are not taking these policies lying down. They speak out, using events like Global Encryption Day to highlight the importance of privacy and security not just for their own lives but for their communities and societies. And as vociferous opposition continues to stymie government efforts to expand surveillance powers, it has become clear that public pressure works.

Encryption, which scrambles digital data so that it can be read only by someone with the means to decode it, has become ubiquitous because it keeps information confidential and secure while authenticating the identity of the person with whom one is communicating. Today, billions of people use encryption to send digital messages and emails, transfer money, load websites, and protect their data. The gold standard in security is "end-to-end" encryption (E2EE), as only the participants have access to the data - not even the service provider can decipher it.

Despite its immense value and global appeal, encryption is under threat worldwide. It is used by law-abiding citizens to protect themselves, but also by bad actors to hide their malicious activities. For this reason, law-enforcement authorities oppose encryption designs, especially E2EE, that prevent them from accessing data.

But even after decades of research, there is still no known way to grant law enforcement access without undermining encryption's privacy and security features. The makers of encrypted devices and services have therefore resisted calls to build in "backdoor" government access, which would make all of their users more vulnerable.

The harmful online activities that concern police do not happen only in encrypted spaces. Hate speech, disinformation, and other objectionable content remain a pernicious problem on social-media platforms and other sites, motivating a worldwide legislative push to force tech companies to improve their services. The British Parliament, for example, recently passed the Online Safety Bill (OSB) after several turbulent years during which civil-society pressure changed its scope significantly. The final version focuses mainly on the removal of illegal content and mitigating risks to children.

Yet the OSB still has serious flaws. For example, Parliament failed to include language safeguarding encryption. Moreover, the law gives Ofcom, the United Kingdom's communications regulator, the authority to compel social-media platforms and messaging services to mass scan their users' files and communications for evidence of child sexual abuse.

No one contests that fighting child exploitation is immensely important. But Ofcom's power covers E2EE messaging services, which, by definition, cannot be accessed by service providers. Thus, the only way these services could comply with an Ofcom order is by making fundamental changes to their encryption design.

In other words, the OSB gives Ofcom the power to force service providers to undermine their own encryption. Apple, Meta, and Signal have all promised to pull their E2EE apps from the UK rather than comply with any government order to diminish their users' privacy and security. In response, Ofcom has publicly vowed not to use its

new authority, at least for now.

And with good reason: important bodies have concluded that scanning technologies are not sufficiently accurate, would limit fundamental rights, and would likely fail the proportionality test - the disadvantages would outweigh the advantages. Furthermore, criminals could easily circumvent these controls by encrypting content with a separate application. Ofcom would be wise to tread carefully, lest it risk the privacy and security of internet users for the sake of unproven and potentially ineffective technologies.

Ofcom's (supposed) forbearance recalls Australian authorities' conduct since the passage of a contentious 2018 law granting new governmental powers to compel communications providers to add backdoor access to their products. Civil-society and cybersecurity experts raised alarms about the law's dangers for privacy and security, and legislators themselves admitted the bill was flawed, but it passed anyway.

Five years later, not a single compulsory notice has been issued. This may reflect a deliberate choice: exercising such a power risks political blowback. Wield the sword too enthusiastically, and it might be taken away; better to keep it sheathed in favor of other, less controversial tools. Then again, government forbearance might also indicate that the controversial new power was unnecessary in the first place.

Public scrutiny of government powers keeps them in check. That is how a democracy is meant to work. In promising not to use its new tool, Ofcom appears to have grasped that the government's legitimacy is at stake. But as the UK bill inspires similar legislation in other countries, some of which are less democratic and have a track record of weaponizing digital technologies against their citizens, this nuance will likely be lost.

The first test will come in the European Union, where legislators are fighting over a draft regulation to expand tech companies' child-safety obligations. Like the UK bill, the proposed Child Sex Abuse Regulation (CSAR) has already gone through numerous revisions, as member states lock horns over protecting E2EE.

Derisively called "chat control," the draft CSAR has been widely decried for potentially forcing European service providers to scan all public and private communications, which would amount to an illegal general monitoring obligation. Recent reporting stoked these concerns by revealing that Europol, the EU's law-enforcement agency, requested unlimited access to and use of the data produced beyond the purposes identified in the regulation; it appears to have no intention of restraining itself. Continued public pressure is necessary to push for reform of "the most criticized draft EU law of all time."

If government surveillance is a concern in an established democratic entity like the EU, what hope is there for beleaguered democracies like Turkey, India, and Brazil, much less autocracies? Fortunately, the public movement in support of encryption is growing, with advocacy groups like the Global Encryption Coalition leading the charge.

By engaging with civil society, technologists, and the public, governments can design regulations that respect privacy, data security, and freedom of expression while still helping protect users from harm. Doing so is the only way to make sure that the internet works for everyone.

Riana Pfefferkorn is a research scholar at the Stanford Internet Observatory. Callum Voge is Director of Government Affairs and Advocacy at the Internet Society.

## OP-ED

By Richard Haass

# An Israeli Dilemma

**N**EW YORK - The history of Israel has often been a history of conflict. A partial list includes the 1948 Arab-Israeli War that followed Israel's birth; the Israeli-British-French attempt in 1956 to seize the Suez Canal and topple Egypt's Arab nationalist leader; the 1967 Six-Day War; the 1973 Yom Kippur War; and Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. There are also the two Palestinian intifadas and numerous smaller conflicts.

To this list must now be added Hamas's October 2023 invasion of Israel. Thousands of short-range rockets were launched from Hamas-controlled Gaza against towns and cities in western Israel. Hundreds if not thousands of Hamas fighters crossed into Israel by breaking through defensive barriers, flying over them, or sailing around them.

The human toll of these attacks is enormous and growing. More than 900 Israelis have lost their lives. Several thousand have been injured. Some two hundred Israelis attending a concert were killed in cold blood. Nearly the same number have been abducted. It was terror - the intentional harming of innocents by a non-state actor - on a large scale.

It was also a colossal Israeli intelligence failure. The most likely explanation for Israel's being caught unprepared is less a lack of warning than a lack of attention. As was the case in 1973, complacency and an under-estimation of the adversary can be dangerous.

It was a defensive failure as well. Deterrence broke down. Expensive physical barriers were overrun. Israeli military readiness and troop levels were woefully inadequate, possibly because attention had shifted to protecting settlers in the occupied West Bank. There will surely be official inquiries and independent investigations.

Why Hamas attacked remains a subject of debate. The most likely explanation is that Hamas wanted to demonstrate that it alone - not the Palestinian Authority that rules the West Bank and not Arab governments - is able and willing to protect and promote Palestinian interests.

The timing of the assault is another matter. It is possible that the date was chosen to coincide with the last successful surprise attack against Israel, carried out by Egypt and Syria 50 years ago almost to the day. But the planning and training for the attack took place over months, which suggests a strategic purpose not tied to a specific event. The timing may have been motivated by a desire to disrupt the growing momentum in negotiations to normalize diplomatic relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, an outcome strongly opposed by Iran, the principal backer of Hamas. Hamas may also have sought to take advantage of Israeli political divisions. Or all of the above.

The Hamas attackers took hostages back to Gaza for two reasons: to limit Israel's freedom of action lest those individuals be placed at even greater risk, and to exchange them for Hamas operatives held in Israeli jails.

Israel now faces an acute dilemma. It wants to deal a decisive blow to Hamas, both to weaken the organization militarily and to discourage future attacks and Iranian support for them. And it wants to accomplish this without bringing Hezbollah, which has some 150,000 rockets in Lebanon that could reach much of Israel, directly into the conflict. It also does not want the war to expand to the West Bank. Restoring meaningful deterrence without widening the war will be difficult.

There is the additional consideration that Israel's military options are limited. The hostages are one reason. In addition, occupying - or, more precisely, re-occupying - Gaza would be a nightmare. There are few, if any, military undertakings more difficult than urban warfare, and Gaza is one of the most densely populated urban environments in the world. Many Israeli soldiers would lose their lives or be captured in such an operation.

Massive attacks from the air, designed to avoid the need for a ground invasion, would inevitably kill or injure a significant number of innocent inhabitants of Gaza, thereby decreasing international sympathy and support for Israel. Efforts to shut off Gaza's supplies of food, water, fuel, and electricity also would be counterproductive. Regional and international pressure for a cease-fire would surely mount.

There is also the question of the operation's strategic objective. Hamas cannot be eliminated, because it represents an ideology as much as an organization. Efforts to destroy it risk building support for it.

What comes to mind is the famous question posed by then-US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, who wondered whether US drone strikes on suspected terrorists, which at times killed innocents, were effective. His question - "Are we creating more terrorists than we're killing?" - remains worth asking.

All of which is to say that while there must be a military component to Israel's response to its security challenge, including reconstituting Israel's ability to defend itself from attacks and targeted strikes on terrorists in Gaza, there is no solely military answer. A diplomatic element will need to be introduced into the equation, including a credible Israeli plan for bringing about a viable Palestinian state.

There is an American saying that you cannot beat something with nothing. Rewarding those Palestinians willing to reject violence and reach an accommodation with Israel is still the best way to marginalize Hamas.

## OPINION

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.

# ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

## On 2nd Thoughts: Liberia's emerging warring factions

Last August, Liberia celebrated two decades of peace since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement 20 years ago in the Ghanaian capital, Accra.

From the surface, the guns have been long silenced, and the people are focused on consolidating their democracy which has witnessed successive elections, changes of power from one regime to another through the ballot boxes and a prospect for economic growth and development semblance of stability from a volatile history.

However, despite decades of peace and transition of power from one regime to another, Liberia remains fragile. The country is currently sitting on a time boom that could soon explore beyond everyone's imagination.

Yes, the country faces a clear and present danger from two emerging warring factions: Pen-Pen Riders and At-Risk Youth, commonly referred to as Zogoes.

These two groups, one primarily dominated by ex-child soldiers and street dwellers most of whom are drug addicts (Zogoes), and the other because of weak systems have placed this once troubled West African country on a time boom that both politicians and policymakers have continued to ignore.

According to the United Nations Development Programme, there are well over 75,000 disadvantaged youth or zogoes in Liberia and can be found mainly in the urban areas. This figure could be higher as new members join daily. There are no exact figures for the Pen-Pen Riders who provide transportation services in both urban and rural communities. However, this group is made up of mostly school dropouts, former combatants, and young family heads.

While this last group of Pen-Pen riders are part of the informal sector and making little contributions to society, their outlaw behaviors outweighed their meager contributions.

For example, they drive recklessly and obey no traffic rules. They are quick to set vehicles on fire whenever there is an accident involving one of their members with impunity too. They have even gone further to set Police Depots ablaze because of accident cases, again with impunity. They are terror on the road because of their recklessness. The Liberian Government has yet to come up with any law that would put this group of people in check. And if there are any, they are soon relaxed to the detriment of commuters and vehicle owners.

Recently, one Pen-Pen rider between Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County and Kaweaken, River Gee County, threatened that they would set President George Weah's remaining convoy ablaze if one of their members was harmed.

What was the issue: two vehicles had gotten stuck in the mud and all other vehicles including motorbikes were asked to wait till one of the vehicles was pulled out of the mud. While the process was ongoing; another motorbike rider came running through. When he was told to stop like all others he refused. While drivers and passengers tried talking to him, one of their colleagues remarked: "If anybody touch (sic) any motorbike rider here, we will burn all the cars in this convoy."

This is how far, these Pen-Pen riders have gone because they believe they have the numbers to hold citizens at ransom. There are times they even set up roadblocks in communities to proffer their demands.

But if you thought the Pen-Pen Riders had become law and gospel unto themselves, then think again, the Zogoes are the most dangerous of the two.

Often armed with broken scissors, machetes, clubs, and other dangerous weapons, they parade the streets and inflate pains, while rubbing their victims.

Just last week between 1:30 and 2 AM, over 100 of these Zogoes armed with all kinds of weapons to inflate pains invaded this Newspaper offices, while staff were printing the Wednesday, October 18 edition of the paper wounding two staff and making away with a motorbike and cellphones. The motorbike was later retrieved by officers of the Anti-Robbery Unity of the Liberian National Police. No arrest was made.

Last year, the same group armed with similar weapons invaded this newspaper office after one of their men was caught stealing. That night one of the paper's staff was wounded. The newspaper was advised by Police Investigators who came on the scene that morning around 3 AM to armed staff members in case of repeated similar attacks.

On December 24, last year, these same Zogoes invaded the city's main shopping center during the eve of the festive season forcing sellers and buyers to run helter-skelter. Businesses and shopping centers closed as early as 2 PM on that day. The members of the Liberian National Police are ill-equipped to face these Zogoes thereby leaving citizens to repel their attacks.

This situation is becoming rampant, leaving the Zogoes and Pen-Pen Riders to feel like they are in charge of the situation.

Sadly, it is alleged that most of these police officers are in cohort with these criminals particularly the Zogoes. This allegation is based on the premise that these Zogoes soon appear back on the streets two days after their arrest.

Meanwhile, in the case of the New Dawn newspaper, the Police Inspector General Patrick Sudue has yet to respond to an official complaint filed before it by the management of the New Dawn.

With this growing level of impunity, it's time that the government takes a decision to address the situation from the beginning before it develops into a bigger crisis that could plunge the country into chaos.



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT  
BANK GROUP



MANO RIVER UNION  
UNION DU FLEUVE MANO

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
A CONSULTING FIRM TO TRAIN AND EQUIP WOMEN WHO ARE  
INVOLVED IN CROSS-BORDER TRADE IN THE THREE VALUE CHAINS IN  
THE TWO PROJECT COMMUNITIES AS A WAY OF STRENGTHENING  
CAPACITY FOR INCREASED BUSINESS PERFORMANCE AND  
SUBSEQUENTLY, IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS

COUNTRIES: Sierra Leone and Liberia

Sector: Gender Equality

Mode of Financing: Grant

Project ID: P-Z1-ID0-009

Grant No: 5900155016801

Issued Date: 22 October 2023

The Mano River Union Secretariat has received a grant from the African Development Fund to implement the project to Build Inclusive Business Ecosystems for Stabilization and Transformation (BI-BEST) in the Mano River Union (MRU) and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grant to payments under the contract for the recruitment of a consultant to train and equip women who are involved in cross-border trade in the three value chains in the two project communities as a way of strengthening capacity for increased business performance and subsequently, improved livelihoods.

The particular services required from the Consulting Firms under the assignment include, but not limited:

- Develop skills of WCBTs through training and mentorship/peer-to-peer support;
- Train WCBTs on cooperative development to strength their networks and associations
- Improve access to finance through market facilitation with Banks and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs).

The assignment will be undertaken twelve (12) months.

The Mano River Union Secretariat is therefore inviting public and private entities, civil society organizations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), International Organizations, associations, foundations or any structure with a legal mandate to operate in both Sierra Leone and Liberia, and with required expertise in developing and providing entrepreneurship development support to women entrepreneurs and cross border traders using a sectoral approach to express their interest. The Mano River Union Secretariat requires that interested Consulting Firms shall provide information on their qualifications and experience (cover letter, supporting documents referencing similar services and showing demonstrated experience in similar assignments, etc.) to undertake this Assignment.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "Procurement Policy and Methodology for Bank Group funded Operations" (BPM), dated 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>. MRU is under no obligation to shortlist any consultant who expresses interest.

Interested Consulting Firms may query or obtain further information from the email addresses provided below during the Office's working hours between 09:00 to 17:00 hours GMT.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by November 17, 2023.

Sierra Leone time and mention " **CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE WOMEN CROSS-BORDER**"

Attention:

Mano River Union Secretariat

32 S Spur Loop, Wilberforce, Freetown

Rep. of Sierra Leone

Tel: +232 76-964-965

E-mail : [job@mru.int](mailto:job@mru.int)

Cc : [fnyuma@mru.int](mailto:fnyuma@mru.int)

Website : [www.mru.int](http://www.mru.int)

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Boakai calls for democratic revolt

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Unity Party presidential candidate Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai has urged Liberians to join him in the run-off to revolt against the sad state of the nation.

The former Liberian vice

governance," he added.

He called on Liberians to deliver their country from the crushing jaws of mismanagement and ineptitude, adding that the opportune hour is before Liberians and is ripe.

Mr. Boakai believes that Liberia will only experience

diversity of the country.

"We shall form a government in which the true value of a Liberian is not determined by loyalty to party but by loyalty to country plus the person's ability and willingness to contribute his or her quota to the country's progress," he noted.

Amb. Boakai however said that he is reaching out to brothers and sisters in the opposition and Liberians in general to join his campaign in this noble mission of making the country breathe freely again.

"It is against this backdrop that I today issue this clarion call to you, to summon the patriotic courage, rise once more, trek distances, defy any shade of unpleasant weather, endure the long queues in your respective polling places so as to drop your verdict in the ballot box for the unshackling of our dear Mama Liberia," Amb. Boakai admonished Liberians.

He further indicated that, together, they can, and will effectively tackle the KUSH epidemic in the country, invest in health care, education, and agriculture and as well spur foreign investment.

He pledged to the uplifting of the country and save the future of the young people who have become walking dead-bodies due to the action and inaction of a government that just does not care.

"Together, we can once more make the Liberian flag to radiantly flutter high, bringing pride and dignity to all. Together, LET'S THINK LIBERIA. LET'S LOVE LIBERIA. LET'S BUILD LIBERIA," he concluded.

## Provocative & premature

### --LCC & WSR descend on CDC

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberian Council of Churches (LCC) and the Women's Situation Room (WSR) have described as premature and provocative, the self-proclaimed election victory by the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

Last week, CDC Secretary General and Monrovia Mayor Jefferson T. Kojee and CDCians held victory celebration ahead of the National Elections Commission (NEC) declaring a winner.

The NEC conducted presidential and legislative elections on 10 October 2023 contested by 20 presidential candidates.

None of the contestants acquired 50 percent plus one of the total votes to be declared a winner. The two archrivals,

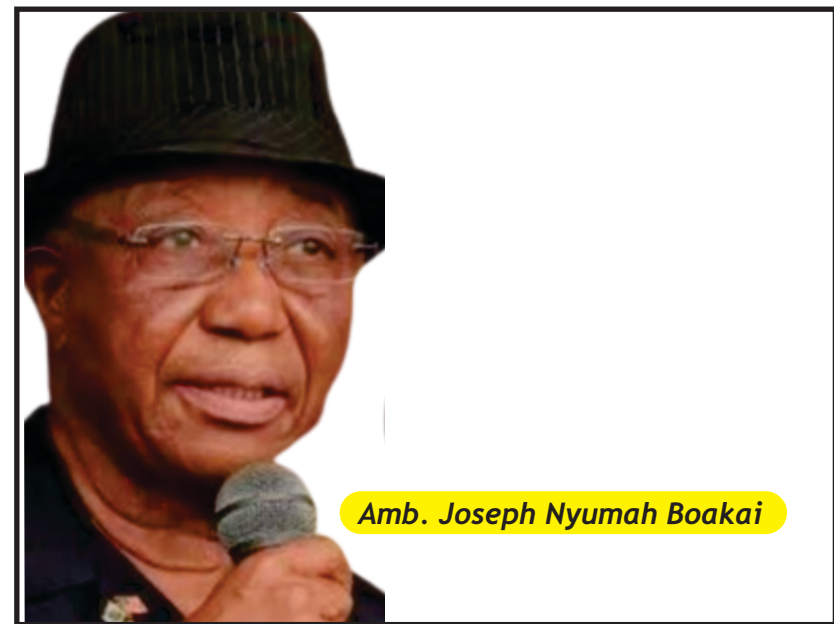
Responding to the CDC Secretary General's assertions, LCC General Secretary Rev. Christopher Wleh Toe called on the leadership of CDC to inform its partisans to desist from such announcements.

"The Liberian Council of Churches (LCC) and the Women's Situation Room (WSR) has expressed deep concern about the statement coming from the Secretary General of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)."

Rev. Toe frowned against Kojee for telling partisans to prepare for victory celebration ahead of the official NEC pronouncement of results.

He believed that it would spark violence, urging the NEC to take issue with the CDC and condemn the premature victory remarks.

The Liberian clergyman pointed out that WSR and the LCC



Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai

president addressed a press conference over the weekend, assuring citizens that he is committed to forming a government of inclusion.

Amb. Boakai who is likely to face incumbent President George Manneh Weah in a presidential run-off this November, expressed the hope that through God's will his party will democratically evict President Weah from office in weeks.

"And so let us revolt against this sad state of our nation and our existence as a people. I urge all of us to wield our sacred votes to take the destiny of this nation in our own hands," Boakai pleaded.

"Let us deliver that deadly blow to mediocrity, corruption, ethnic strife, and this absurd approach to

truth development and reconciliation when all hands are on the deck.

"My fellow Liberians, our country needs to be rescued and then we can embark on getting it fixed. Your country needs to be swept. Our country needs to be redeemed. Our country needs to be healed and reunited."

He noted that to achieve these lofty goals, he needs all hands on deck, further indicating that one thing he knows very well is that all the talents and ideas they need to rebuild the country cannot be found in a single party, tribe, county, region, or religion.

Amb. Boakai assured Liberians that he would form a government that truly reflects the political, ethnic, regional, and religious, as well as gender



## NEC announces final results today

The National Elections Commission (NEC) announces various categories of winners of the October 10 Elections today, Monday 23 October, including results of the rerun poll held Friday, 20 October in Nimba County Electoral District #4 at precinct Beo Lontuo.

NEC Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah, in a press briefing Friday, reported that polling went well and attracted hundreds of registered voters, despite previous disruption of the process by some Liberians, now behind bars.

Group of citizens made away with ballot boxes during the 10th October polls, which disrupted voting in that precinct.

NEC Magistrate and polling staff have been counting, tallying, and collating results from precinct Beo Lontuo in District#4, Nimba

The results from the re-run

elections in Beo Lontuo will form part of the final results and general outcome of the 10 October 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections.



NEC Boss

incumbent President George Manneh Weah and opposition Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai are likely to face a run-off.

According to the LCC and the WSR, the statement by Mayor Kojee has the propensity to stir violence and undermine the NEC's integrity and credibility.

"The Liberian Council of Churches and the Women's Situation Room see the CDC Secretary General's victory remarks as premature and a source of provoking violence," the two groups said.

"We are calling on him and other officials to wait until the final results are announced by the NEC. Even were NEC to announce a run-off, we must be cautious in proclaiming victory before NEC gives the final results," the statement said Saturday, 21 October 2023 at a joint press conference.

On Tuesday, 17 October 2023, Mayor Kojee alleged at CDC headquarters that preparations for the inauguration of President George Manneh Weah were well underway for next January.

"Let's get ready for the inauguration. We want to celebrate like never before," Kojee told CDCians.

maintained that the CDC Secretary General cannot be coming out to make pronouncements of victory when the final tally of results has not been announced by the NEC.

He noted that 99% of the tally clearly states that there will be a run-off election.

On 16 October 2023, the LCC WSR issued a joint statement calling on the citizens of Liberia to remain calm and non-violent as they await the final election results from the NEC.

During the press statement, they also urged the exuberant Unity Party that was in the forefront of calling for a victory celebration before NEC's final results to desist from said pronouncement.

"We ask all political parties to not yield to provocative statements and continue to remain calm and non-violent," the groups said. They informed the NEC to investigate and respond to the growing allegations of many issues that compromise the integrity of the data that is being put out in the public - real or imagined.

"After acclamation of a peaceful election, we do not want to have aspersion cast on us," Rev. Toe stated.

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Hyde Investment rehabilitates Caldwell roads**

By Lewis S. Teh

In an effort to creating easy access to roads across several communities in Caldwell, Montserrado County

Sand Mining Company, as part of its corporate social responsibility programs has regularly rehabilitated community roads in Caldwell as well as provided other support to the community

and motorcyclists that ply the road during the rainy season.

In terms of cooperation, Nagbe said at times it can be difficult, but they are still trying their best to maintain the relationship as well as fulfill their corporate social responsibility to the community.

He added, "When you make the community people happy, they make you happy too, and I can safely say that we are now one family." Nagbe assured residents that they will continue to give back to the community in which they operate.

Also speaking, Joseph Myers, the township clerk, who spoke on behalf of the commissioner, lauded the company for the level of development in their area, aside from its corporate social responsibility. He said, "Hyde is a very good company, and we wish to compliment one day for what they are doing for our people within the township of Caldwell." Myers disclosed that since the township was founded on May 25, 1825, this is the first time for them to own a town hall through this company. "This is the first project we've seen, so I just want to say kudos to the guys for this project and even to the company that is helping with the construction." For his part, Ernest Bull, a resident and development chairman of the Taylor Mayor Compound, also thanked the Chinese sand mining company for helping them. "Through the sand mining company, we're now able to own a multipurpose building and a vocational training center," he said. According to Bull, the company pays US\$5 per sand truck as royalty to the community for development purposes, and through that, the community decides which project to undertake. He expressed gratitude to the company for the support and hoped the relationship would continue. Editing by Jonathan Browne



District#15, a Chinese sand mining company Hyde Investment, has embarked on rehabilitation of various feeder roads across the district.

The road rehabilitation plus ongoing construction of the township's first multipurpose hall are part of the company's corporate social responsibility aimed at improving lives of residents.

The road initiative is targeting Taylor Mayor Compound and other projects in the township.

The company has been rehabilitating and maintaining roads in all of its project communities and has undertaken several development projects, such as construction of hand pumps, among others. The Taylor Mayor Compound Road was one of the most difficult roads in the township, especially during the rainy season when it creates uneasy access for residents. As a result of Hyde Investment Company's corporate social responsibility, there is now easy access to the community, promoting free flow of goods and services and thereby boosting the local economy.

For several years now, Hyde

when need arises.

Speaking to reporters over the weekend in the township, Mr. Austin Nagbe revealed that the conditioning of feeder roads in the township plays a crucial role in ensuring smooth transportation and connectivity within a community.

Nagbe is expected to take over from Mr. Anthony Borbor as local manager in Caldwell. Borbor has been transferred to another company site in Marshall City, Margibi County.

"This is our corporate social responsibility as a company. We always do the road, and besides that, we are helping with the construction of the township town hall," said Nagbe.

He indicated that the lack of roads in the area remains a major challenge for locals; a situation he said that his company is committed to tackling. "This is just one part of the company's corporate social responsibility. And we want the road to be accessible for children during this school year and for other users," Nagbe maintained.

He said the absence of a road has caused a lot of embarrassment for the community including students

**U.S. targets corrupt officials**

Starts from page 11

forward to working closely with the Members of the Senate Committee and its staff to promote and protect U.S. interests in Liberia.

Amb. Toner noted that he has a strong personal connection with Liberia, having served here as a Peace Corps Volunteer - a formative experience that kindled his

desire to become a Foreign Service Officer. During that time, he said he had the privilege to work alongside many dedicated Liberian health professionals, people who showed up every day to work under difficult circumstances without any guarantee of a regular paycheck. "These are the people who inspire me to this day through their commitment, courage, and

determination. If confirmed, it would be an honor to return as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia, a country with which the United States shares a special bond rooted in our deep historical ties, and preserved through our shared commitment to democracy, human rights, health security, economic prosperity, and regional stability."

**Nimbaians disappoint Weah?**

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

President George Weah campaigned vigorously across Liberia for votes particularly in Nimba County amid strong opposition from the UP/MDR collaboration, but the ruling CDC didn't sweep the county, as was expected in its quest for a second term on a one-round victory.

The NEW DAWN's Nimba correspondent has been reflecting to see what went wrong that the Nimba people could not deliver their county to the CDC despite all efforts by President Weah to get the vote-rich county on his side in the October 10th elections.

During his four-day campaign visit to the county prior to the elections, President Weah received huge support from Nimbaians, including rural women and VIP women groups in Electoral District#4 which has a population of 1,500. Besides women and youth groups under the banner Gbeh -la-Gweh project also

plus other developmental activities carried out across the county, but she was unable to get more votes after Senator Prince Johnson of MDR campaigned against her.

During the 2020 Special Senatorial elections, which former Superintendent Edith Gongloe-Wehyee contested, she was unable to get more votes from the Gio region despite campaigning across the county.

In the October 10th Elections, another candidate from the Mano tribe Nya Twayen, Jr., who carried out more investment in the Gio region under the expectation that he would have been voted there, lost to Senator Prince Johnson, who will historically become perhaps the longest serving member of the Liberian Senate, looking up to 27 years.

The Weah administration has delivered development across Nimba County with citizens of Districts 3,4 and 5 respectively benefitting reconditioning of farm-to-market roads, modern schools in Bahn City, and buses for schools in



President Weah

pledged support towards the re-election of President Weah.

However, political observers note that these various groups including the Very Important People (VIP) Women headed by Pastor Mary Massaquoi received 5 Million Liberian Dollars and a twin-cabin pick-up from the President, while the Gbeh -la- -Gweh project received huge cash but they didn't deliver Nimba as was expected, as the county was a battleground between the ruling CDC and the opposition Unity Party of former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

Our correspondent notes members of the tribe that dominate Nimba voted overwhelmingly for the UP instead, because of Senator Jeremiah Koung who is the running mate of Boakai,

However, this is not the first time they have voted this way.

During the 2011 elections, former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf did all, including the construction of the Jackson Fiah Doe Memorial Hospital in Tappita

Karnplay and Bahn, among others.

The President, however, got votes from the Mano region including Gbi-Dru and Kparblee as well as from huge numbers of youth mainly first-time voters.

In the hometown of CDC Nimba campaign manager, Mack Gblinwon, who is also County Inspector; Good Governance Commission Atty. Garrison Yealue, Jr., deputy minister Melvin Yealue, and hometown of the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, the CDC performed poorly.

In the same District#4, Representative Gunpue L. Kargon also lost to opposition Unity Party/MDR Candidate Ernest Manseh in the re-run election conducted in Precinct Beo-Lontuo. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Read the NewDawn everyday & Advertise with us!

# Français

## Liberia: bilan mitigé de George Weah, contraint à un second tour très indécis

Les électeurs retourneront aux urnes en novembre pour choisir leur futur président, soit reconduire le

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Weah avait ensuite largement gagné au second tour, recueillant plus de 60% des voix. Cette année, la victoire du président Weah est

pendant la Coupe du monde pour soutenir son fils Timothy, footballeur professionnel jouant pour l'équipe nationale des États-Unis. Même s'il avait



sortant George Weah, ancienne star du football, soit opter pour le changement en élisant Joseph Boakai. Au terme du premier tour du scrutin présidentiel, le 10 octobre, les résultats provisoires sont très serrés : 43,8% pour George Weah, 43,4% pour Joseph Boakai.

En 2017, George Weah avait devancé de 9 points Joseph Boakai qui était le vice-président sortant, sous

loin d'être assurée. Cela témoigne d'une appréciation fort mitigée de son bilan à la tête de l'État alors qu'il avait suscité l'engouement des jeunes et plus généralement des classes populaires.

Au-delà des résultats économiques et sociaux difficiles à obtenir en six ans, Weah n'a pas incarné une pratique sobre et exemplaire du pouvoir. Il avait passé 48 jours hors de son pays en 2022, dont une bonne partie au Qatar

mis en avant les autres étapes de son périple et l'intérêt qu'elles représentaient pour son pays, des centaines de personnes avaient manifesté fin décembre à Monrovia, protestant contre un président absent dans un contexte de forte inflation et de souffrances économiques pour les populations.

Face à Weah, Joseph Boakai a une longue expérience de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Le PUL exprime son inquiétude face aux allégations de Freedom FM concernant une division politique au sein de l'AFL

L'Union de la presse du Libéria (PUL) a exprimé sa profonde préoccupation face aux dires selon lesquels les forces armées du Libéria seraient profondément divisées.

Dans son édition du mercredi 18 octobre 2023, la Radio Freedom FM, qui appartient au Directeur adjoint de la National Security Agency (NSA), a fait état des divisions politiques au sein des rangs des Forces armées du Libéria (AFL).

Selon Freedom FM, des officiers brevetés de l'armée auraient été renvoyés de la force en violation des normes établies. Lors d'une émission-débat, Abraham Wheon, animateur et directeur de Freedom FM, a affirmé que le général de division Prince C. Johnson, chef d'état-major des forces armées du Libéria, ferait de la politique et serait favorable à

l'opposition. Wheon a exhorté les soldats en service actif de l'AFL qui n'ont pas soutenu le président Weah lors du premier tour de scrutin à changer d'allégeance en raison d'un leadership perçu comme inadéquat au sein de l'armée libérienne.

Le gouvernement américain dispose d'un attaché de défense à Monrovia pour travailler avec les forces armées du Libéria sur leur professionnalisme. L'AFL a été restructurée après les guerres civiles et s'est depuis construite comme une force du bien aux

yeux du public libérien.

L'Union de la presse du Libéria trouve ces allégations profondément troublantes et potentiellement préjudiciables à la réputation et à l'intégrité des forces armées du Libéria. En tant qu'organisation engagée à respecter les principes d'un journalisme responsable et à promouvoir des normes éthiques au sein de l'industrie des médias, la PUL souligne

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## 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

Starts from page 8

## Liberia: bilan mitigé

l'État à faire valoir. Il a été vice-président pendant 12 ans. Mais Boakai a 79 ans, 22 ans de plus que George Weah, qui en a 57 ans. Dans un pays où l'âge médian est de 18 ans et demi, Boakai peut avoir du mal à convaincre le jeune électorat.

Vous profitez de cette actualité électorale pour vous intéresser à la situation du Liberia dans différents domaines.

Oui, depuis 2015, à l'occasion des élections présidentielles dans tous les pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest, nous présentons une sélection de documents mais aussi les candidats aux élections présidentielles et leurs programmes, lorsqu'on les trouve. Cet exercice me semble particulièrement utile pour les pays qui font rarement l'actualité sauf en cas de catastrophes. Le Liberia fait partie des pays les moins peuplés de la région, avec 5,4 millions d'habitants estimés en 2023. Depuis qu'il a tourné la page de la guerre civile il y a maintenant 20 ans, on n'en a plus reparlé que pendant la grave crise sanitaire d'Ebola en 2014-2015, qui avait également touché la Sierra Leone et la Guinée.

Le Liberia reste un pays à très faible revenu. Plus de la moitié de la population vit dans l'extrême pauvreté, la pauvreté est deux fois plus élevée dans les zones rurales. Il dépend fortement de l'aide étrangère, des envois de fonds de la diaspora et de l'exploitation des ressources

naturelles brutes. Le Liberia ne manque pas d'eau, de ressources minérales, et dispose de forêts et d'un climat favorable à l'agriculture. Il exporte du fer, du caoutchouc, des diamants, de l'or et de plus en plus de l'huile de palme et du cacao. Les infrastructures restent très peu développées. 45% seulement de la population peut accéder à une route praticable en toute saison dans un rayon de 5 km. L'accès à l'électricité est estimé à 19,3% au niveau national, 32% dans les zones urbaines et seulement 1,4% dans les zones rurales.

Le pays pourrait profiter de liens économiques plus forts avec les pays voisins.

Oui, je me souviens avoir recommandé en décembre 2011, dans un rapport de l'International Crisis Group sur la Côte d'Ivoire, la mise en place d'un espace de codéveloppement comprenant l'Ouest ivoirien et l'Est libérien, des régions particulièrement dévastées par les conflits armés respectifs dans ces deux pays. Alassane Ouattara qui venait d'arriver au pouvoir en Côte d'Ivoire et Ellen Johnson Sirleaf qui présidait alors le Liberia, bénéficiant tous les deux d'un soutien financier international important, auraient sans doute pu porter une telle ambition et donner une forte impulsion au développement des zones frontalières enclavées par l'absence d'infrastructures. Cela ne s'est pas fait. Avec ou sans George Weah à la tête du Liberia, il faut espérer voir émerger une véritable dynamique d'intégration économique entre le Liberia, la Sierra Leone, la Guinée et la Côte d'Ivoire.

Starts from page 8

## Le PUL exprime son inquiétude

l'importance de rapports précis, justes et impartiaux tout au long du processus électoral. Des affirmations non fondées et des discours qui divisent peuvent saper la cohésion et le moral de nos forces armées, une institution vitale pour la sécurité et la stabilité de notre nation.

L'Union de la presse du Libéria appelle tous les

médias, y compris Freedom FM, à faire preuve de prudence et de responsabilité dans leurs reportages, en particulier lorsqu'ils traitent de questions sensibles impliquant la sécurité nationale et l'intégrité de nos forces militaires. La PUL encourage un dialogue respectueux et constructif qui favorise la compréhension et l'unité entre tous les secteurs de notre société.

## Au Liberia, George Weah et Joseph Boakai se préparent à un second tour serré



President Weah

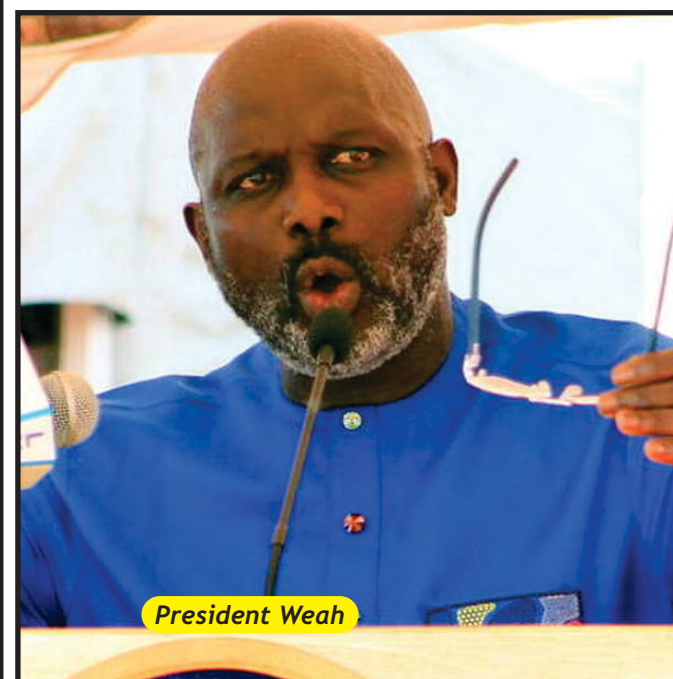
Amb. Boakai

Un peu plus de 7 000 voix ont séparé le chef de l'Etat sortant et l'ancien vice-président d'Ellen Johnson Sirleaf lors du premier tour. Le second tour est prévu le 7 novembre.

Le « coup K.-O. » n'a donc pas eu lieu. George Weah l'avait promis aux Libériens, mais le président sortant n'a pas réussi son pari de remporter 50,1% des voix nécessaires pour être élu au premier tour. Il aura face à lui le 7 novembre, Joseph Boakai, 78 ans, quatre décennies dans les arcanes du pouvoir et ancien vice-président d'Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Un duel serré, 7 361 voix séparent les deux hommes, 43,84% pour Weah, 43,44% pour Boakai d'après les résultats quasi définitifs, et qui sonne comme un match retour de la présidentielle de 2017. George Weah avait alors été élu avec 61,54% des voix. Ce deuxième tour est un coup dur pour le camp du président qui n'avait pas préparé financièrement cette hypothèse. « Nous gagnerons dès le premier tour car un deuxième round nous coûterait trop cher », assurait le 10 octobre, jour du vote, Emmanuel Mulbah Johnson, le président de la ligue des jeunes du Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC), le parti de George Weah.

L'organisation de ces élections générales a été un défi financier pour le Liberia qui a souhaité prendre en charge la majeure partie du scrutin. Sur les 53 millions de dollars nécessaires pour offrir un vote dans de bonnes conditions, seuls 49 millions avaient été décaissés par le ministère des finances début octobre. Lors d'une comparution devant le Sénat le 29 août, Davidetta Browne Lansanah, présidente de la Commission électorale, avait estimé qu'un second tour des élections ne pourrait avoir lieu que si le ministère des finances déboursait les fonds manquants. Vendredi, elle a calmé les inquiétudes en annonçant le déblocage des crédits grâce à un appui de l'Union européenne et du Programme des Nations unies pour le développement. Corruption impunie George Weah n'a sans doute pas mesuré le mécontentement populaire qu'il suscite désormais, bien loin de l'euphorie qu'avait suscitée son élection en 2017. Candidat des couches les plus défavorisées du pays qui se sont identifiées à l'ancien enfant prodige d'un quartier pauvre de Monrovia, l'ancien footballeur paie aujourd'hui son maigre bilan. Malgré les 400 kilomètres de route construits par son administration ou la gratuité des frais d'inscription à l'université qu'il a imposée, « Mister George » n'a pas réussi à convaincre la majorité des électeurs le 10 octobre. En six ans, son image a été écornée. Même s'il apparaît pour ses partisans comme celui qui a consolidé la paix dans le pays - la guerre civile, qui a fait 250 000 morts selon la Commission vérité et réconciliation libérienne, s'est achevée il y a vingt ans -, la présidence Weah est désormais aussi associée à une corruption impunie. « Certains de ses collaborateurs se sont enrichis illicitement et ont été sanctionnés par les Etats-Unis pour détournement de fonds publics sans que Weah n'agisse. D'autres affichent des signes extérieurs de richesse que leurs salaires de fonctionnaires ne peuvent justifier.

## Liberia : le président sortant dépasse le candidat de l'opposition à l'élection



President Weah

Le président libérien sortant George Weah dépasse le candidat de l'opposition, Joseph Boakai, à l'élection présidentielle à l'issue du dépouillement de 99,93% des bulletins, selon Reuters. Le premier obtient 43,84% des suffrages, tandis que le second est crédité de 43,44% des voix, selon les données de la Commission nationale des élections (CNE) du Libéria, citée par l'agence.

La Commission a précédemment demandé un nouveau vote dans deux bureaux du comté de Nimba où les urnes ont été volées, fait savoir le journal libérien FrontPage Africa. Plusieurs partis politiques ont immédiatement remis en question les résultats du vote. Selon le

représentant de la coalition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Alexander Cummings, c'est une atteinte à la démocratie et une menace pour la sécurité et la stabilité du pays.

La présidente de la CNE, Davidetta Browne-Lansana, a affirmé, citée par le journal Daily Observer, que plus de 112.000 bulletins avaient été annulés, intentionnellement ou par ignorance.

Les élections présidentielle et législatives ont débuté au Libéria le 10 octobre. Le président en exercice, George Weah, brigue un second mandat sur la liste qui compte encore 19 candidats. Son principal rival est Joseph Boakai, 78 ans, qui a été vice-président du Libéria de 2006 à 2018.

Le président est élu en même temps que le vice-président au suffrage universel direct pour six ans et peut être réélu une seconde fois. Quelque 2,4 millions d'électeurs sont appelés aux urnes. Les résultats définitifs seront annoncés par la CNE d'ici au 25 octobre. Si aucun des candidats n'obtient 50% plus 1 voix au premier tour, un second tour opposera le 7 novembre les candidats ayant totalisé le plus grand nombre de voix. Les législatives doivent permettre de réélire l'ensemble de la Chambre des représentants et la moitié du Sénat. Les candidats ont été présentés par 46 partis et mouvements. Le Libéria est l'un des dix pays les plus pauvres d'Afrique.

Read the  
NewDawn everyday

&

Advertise with us!

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Liberians, please vote wisely

By William Kollie

21 October 2023: Our country is currently in a political season and the country is littered with political activities. In every corner of the country and now on our newly found platform, the Facebook, the talk of the day is inundated with politics and elections.

For some people, this has even become a daily job, because their lives are overwhelmed by the politics of the day. I take no offense for our people - the old, young, small, literate, illiterate - who are participating in these public debates and actions.

It is a healthy thing to do because the outcome of our electoral process will define our country for the next 6 years and beyond because whatever the Government in power does could have social, economic, emotional, psychological impact on the country for several years beyond the 6 years in power. Think about this as you participate in these public debates and actions. As you participate, you need to keep asking yourself: What does all this mean to me, my family, my children, and the country at large.

Liberia got its independent in 1847 and is considered as the oldest independent country in Africa. So, if age was a determinant of prosperity and growth, Liberia should rank very high in several human and social index. Unfortunately, this is not the case, irrespective of being the first so-called independent country in Africa. We are still ranking as one of the least in many of the global indexes which measure progress. Does this matter to us as a people? How are we factoring these concerns in these elections? Today, I thought that probably it is good to remind Liberians as to why we should think soberly as we move to making these very crucial decisions. What are the crucial things that matter and should continue to remind us in the process? Here are a few pointers:

In the Transparency International's 2022 Corruption Perception Index, Liberia is ranked 142nd among the 180 countries. The index measures a country on its public sector performance, i.e., a demonstration of the honesty of the public sector. This implies that Liberia is better than only 38 countries in the world when it comes to the honesty of our public sector irrespective of our age as a country.

Between 2020 to 2021, Liberia spent nearly \$280M to import rich from other countries, including a small west African country, Togo. Given the fact that our country is endowed with all the ingredients that facilitate production, we should be exporting agricultural products including rice, but instead, we rely on other countries. These issues should concern us in these elections.

It is believed that of the estimated 10,000 km plus public roads in Liberia, only 7% (734 km) are paved.

Do we understand what this means? Of the total 2,471,617 million people who registered for the 2023 elections, at least 36% are in the Montserrado County, one of the smallest counties in the country. What does this tell us? If our road network was robust, people would prefer to live in their counties because they would be assured of moving freely to seek medical attention, move goods and services around etc, but because our road network is deplorable and impassable, it is encouraging urbanization thus putting heavy burden on Montserrado and surrounding counties.

The US State Department Human Rights report 2023 on Liberia pointed out significant human rights issues including: a) arbitrary killings by police, b) Cases of cruelty, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment by police, c) harsh and life threatening prison conditions, d) arbitrary detention by government officials, d) serious problems with the independence of the judiciary, e) serious restrictions on the freedom of the press, including violence and threats against journalists, f) official corruption and the list goes on. Are these issues featuring in our decision-making process during these elections? We need to think.

The health system of Liberia is one of the worse in Africa with hospitals lacking very basic medical supplies and diagnostic equipment while the public hospitals in many places have totally collapsed. Thousands of Liberians are dying annually from non-life-threatening diseases due to the poor health system. For example, hospital records in Liberia suggest that at least 33% of in-patient death, and 41% of infant mortality are attributable to Malaria, a disease that has been eradicated by many countries in the world,

including Africa.

Liberia's Education system is one of the worse in Africa. According to the UNICEF report on the situation for children in Liberia, the country's Education system lags behind most countries, in both access and quality. For example, the literacy rate in Liberia stands at 48% irrespective of the long years that we have existed as a country.

Liberia is one of the fewer countries in Africa that is blessed - tropical rain forest, gold, diamond, abundant water supply, enough rainfall for agriculture etc - yet still we depend on other countries for nearly everything we eat and use. What has gone wrong with us since 1847 to date? Are we going to continue this path? If not, what are our plans? Those plans must be interpreted in the way we vote during this election.

around in the streets in the name of campaign etc. I however think that instead of us spending our time antagonizing one another, let's spend our time discussing the issues. Let's hold these two leaders accountable to a public debate to tell the Liberian people how they intend to address these issues. Let's make the campaign an issue-based and let them tell us their plans through a public debate. This is part of a healthy democratic practice and Liberia is a democracy, so let's go for it. Make no mistake, no matter what side you cast your vote, you will live with the outcomes of your decision, 60 seconds of every minute, 60 minutes of every hour, 24 hours of each day, 30/31 days of each month and 365 days of every year and this will haunt you for the next 6 years - please do not say I did not warn you.

Another issue which has claimed my attention is the level of polarization in our country because of these elections and our inability to be objective. Fortunately for the world, including Liberia, Facebook has created a platform for us to share our views on any issue, including our current politics. However, we need to understand that Facebook is a global platform.



According to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) report 2023, Liberia's progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is one of the lowest in the world with only 20% of the SDGs currently reported to be on track, and Liberia is ranked 157th out of 166 countries, i.e., of the 167 countries in the index, Liberia is making progress more than only 9 countries in the world. Don't forget, we are the so-called oldest country in Africa, yet still that is our ranking.

I think these are some of the issues that should inform our decisions in this coming run-off election. Let's get sentiments out of this.

For a long time, we continue to allow sentiments to supersede our objectivity. We need to be objective in our decision-making process. It doesn't matter whether you love or hate George Weah or whether you love or hate Joseph Boakai, what matters are the issues which matter to this country. We need to make a sober choice and we need to choose the person who is better positioned to address them or start to move them in the right direction.

I see that a lot of us spend a huge amount of time debating empty issues, attacking one another, insulting Joseph Boakai or George Weah and running

So, it feels very sad when a Liberian refers to one another as dogs, inept, "sanamaswine", useless, cats, goats, pigs, and other abusive languages. When we post these statements on a global platform like Facebook, do we understand how the world looks at us? If you don't know, people look at us like a people who need to grow up. We are more than 170 years old as a country, much older than many countries in the world and we should be setting positive examples.

As the saying goes, "a hint to a wise is sufficient". That is my little hint, and the choice is yours as you go to the polls on 07 November to decide. Again, just remember that the decision you make on that day is going to live with you for 6 years and beyond.

Read the  
NewDawn everyday  
&  
Advertise with us!

# Battle for Speakership begins (Pt-1)

Just before the dust begins to settle over the October 10, 2023, Legislative Elections results, the battle for Speakership at the lower House seems to be gathering steam already.

includes serving on the FIFA Board. However, Bility has a lot of skeletons in his closet and would be washed out should the politics for the speakership begin. Some of these skeletons

Since 2005, she has been an ardent adherent of the Liberty Party political Platform centered on the four R's: Reconciliation, Reform, Recovery and Rebuilding. She is of the unbending conviction



Among the contestants seeking to replace House Speaker Bhofal Chambers are Deputy House Speaker Fonati Koffa of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), newcomers Musa Bility of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), and Ms. Priscilla Abram Cooper of the Unity Party. Deputy Speaker Cllr. Koffa would face a daunting task in his bid to replace Speaker Chambers in that he would face Constitutional checkpoints. Should incumbent President Weah retain his seat and Senate Pro-tempt Albert Chie gets lucky to retain his, it would be difficult if not impossible to allow the President, the Speaker, the Chief Justice, and Sen. Pro-tempt to hail from the same county.

would be better off should they remain in the closet. There are reports that he plans to infuse money into his campaign, but this is very unlikely to win him the speakership. The next known candidate so far is fellow newcomer Priscilla Abram Cooper Representative-elect of Montserrado District#5. Not much is known about Ms. Cooper's political astuteness. However, Ms. Cooper has an experience in the corporate world: General Manager/Co-Owner- Executive Inn Thinkers-village, Paynesville - Liberia., Executive Assistant - Cellcom Telecommunications Inc., Capitol By-pass, Monrovia-Liberia, Customer Care Coordinator-Lone-Star Cell Communications, Congo Town-Monrovia-Liberia, and Senior Customer Care Officer- Lone-Star Cell Communication, Congo Town-Monrovia-Liberia.

that although politics is sometimes defined in terms of who gets what, when, how, and where, contemporary Liberian politics must present a human face. This, to her, entails going beyond defining politics in the often-narrow view of "what is her ultimate interest?" Owing to this view, she continued to work along with her political party in projecting what is known as the utilitarian value of politics: the greater good for the greater number of people. With no inclination to pursue politics in the context of "what can one get out of it personally" and disregarding the overall interest of the political environment in which one lives. As a young entrant to politics in 2005, she worked with different auxiliaries including the Brumskine Women Movement, the Friends of Brumskine, among others, in projecting the four pillars of the Liberty Party platform to the public. By the time of the 2017 General and Presidential Elections, I featured prominently in the political auxiliary called Charlie Angels. This group was active in the mobilization and recruitment of scores of partisans and supporters for the presidential bid of the late Political Leader, Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, whose vision for a better Liberia attracted support from different shades of political persuasions. With her endurance and active participation in the running of a major political institution like Liberty Party, she attained one of the significant standards of trust needed in Liberia's quest for effective public sector reform drive, still holding up to those values she has moved on and joined the Unity Party, whose standard bearer holds all those same principles.

The current President George Weah, Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Yuoh, and current Sen. Pro-tempt Albert Chie all hailed from Grand Kru County. Electing Deputy Speaker Cllr. Fonait Koffa as speaker would mean the entire leadership of the three branches of government heading from one county-Grand Kru. Thus, Deputy Speaker Koffa's chances at the Speakership would stir up some constitutional challenges. The next known candidate is CPP Musa Bility. Musa Bility's chances at the speakership are very slim, slimmer than even Deputy Speaker Kofa. Bility, an incoming lawmaker is a former president of the Liberia Football Association (LFA). He is also the CEO of SRIMEX Gas and Oil Company. Besides, Mr. Bility is the owner of Renaissance Communication Incorporated owner of Truth FM. Bility also has a lot of international experience under his belt, one of which

During her time at the entities above and businesses she established, she was able to employ over 3,000 individuals, some of whom are residents of District #5, Montserrado County. She also seems to have a little experience working in public office: County Affairs Coordinator Office of the Senator - River Gee County, The Honorable of House of Senate, Capitol Hill, Monrovia- Liberia; \*Executive Officer - Prevailing World Mission Int'l, Paynesville 72nd - Liberia; and Expeditor - Ministry of State, Executive Mansion-Monrovia-Liberia. Political Experience As an aspiring professional woman, she has been very meticulous in how she aligns with and conducts herself in a society where politics is viewed by many as a game in which personal interest supersedes group interest.

As a young entrant to politics in 2005, she worked with different auxiliaries including the Brumskine Women Movement, the Friends of Brumskine, among others, in projecting the four pillars of the Liberty Party platform to the public. By the time of the 2017 General and Presidential Elections, I featured prominently in the political auxiliary called Charlie Angels. This group was active in the mobilization and recruitment of scores of partisans and supporters for the presidential bid of the late Political Leader, Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, whose vision for a better Liberia attracted support from different shades of political persuasions. With her endurance and active participation in the running of a major political institution like Liberty Party, she attained one of the significant standards of trust needed in Liberia's quest for effective public sector reform drive, still holding up to those values she has moved on and joined the Unity Party, whose standard bearer holds all those same principles.

# Legal battle looms over Pleebo elections results

Reports reaching this paper indicate a looming legal battle over the Pleebo, Sodoken District #2 Representative election results amidst allegations of ballot stuffing in a leaked audio recording. The district, particularly at polling precinct #27020 in Old Sodoken made headlines on election night when Traditional Chieves brought out a Country Devil (Mask Dancer) and took sieged of ballot boxes at the precinct comprising two polling centers. The action of the traditional leaders was condemned by observers including the Women Situation Room (WSR) and the Liberian Council of Churches

she claimed to have stuffed ballots in favor of the winner because of undue pressure. In the audio, the voice purported to be that of Ms. Nimely can be heard saying that if the situation had been in Gbololu Precinct 27010, one of the Precincts in which she presided, she would have recommended a rerun in the area, but the Old Sodoken is hustle to the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC). As if the purported confession was not enough, the tally sheet at Old Sodoken, where the Country Devil took over the center for some time shows that a total of 962 ballot papers were in use instead of the total of 550. Sources close to Speaker Bhofal



(LCC), which called on the National Elections Commission and the Ministry of Internal Affairs to investigate the situation adding "Our National Symbols should not be used in elections." Now, the situation appears to be headed to court following the declaration of Mr. Anthony Willaims of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) as the winner of the district in the October 10 polls. This comes amidst a leaked audio recording purported to be the voice of NEC Supervisor Cece Munah Nimely in a conversation with a CDC Poll watcher in which

Chambers's office say the Speaker is initiating a legal battle in which he is demanding a rerun of the Representative election in the district. Speaker Chambers who took an early lead during the tallying process, called for calm after the incident. Reports say, the ballot boxes, from the Old Sodoken voting Precinct, were taken to the NEC office in Harper, Maryland County. It remains to be seen how far this case will go as the involvement of Traditional Mask Dancers in the election comes as a complete violation of the entire process. - Writes Othello B. Garblah

# U.S. targets corrupt officials

Starts from back page are integral to establishing the conditions necessary to attract responsible foreign investment. "We must apply this same approach to human rights, as Liberia's justice sector works to address reported cases of gender-based violence, forced child labor, and human trafficking, as well as the legacy of war crimes," Amb. Toner noted. He indicated that these abuses must be confronted for their own sake, as well as to ensure a broader system of accountability, good governance, and rule of law. If confirmed, Amb. Toner said he looks forward to

building on the outstanding work the previous Ambassador and his excellent team have done to assist with the many challenges facing Liberia. "I am optimistic the United States can work with its partners in the Liberian government and people to help strengthen their democracy and secure a brighter, more prosperous future for the next generation." The U.S. Envoy expressed gratitude for the trust and confidence President Joe Biden and Secretary Anthony Blinken have placed in him with the nomination. He said he looks

## U.S. targets corrupt officials

**-As Ambassador-designate says corruption, lawlessness erode Liberia's progress**

United States concrete dividends in the Ambassador to Liberia-designate Mark Toner says growing lawlessness and corruption within President

elect their next president. Amb. Toner indicated that President Weah and his challengers pledged to hold an election that is peaceful, free, and fair. He said the United States, and its partners are doing everything in their power to hold them accountable for delivering on that commitment. He pledged to ensure that ordinary Liberians see the benefits of private-sector growth and accountable government, and the country remains the United States' most steadfast partner in Africa.

"If confirmed, my team and I will also work to increase investment opportunities for U.S. businesses and promote inclusive economic development focused on job creation, providing much-needed opportunities for a population in which the median age is 19 1/2 years," said Amb. Toner. But he said the onus, ultimately, is on Liberia's political leaders to increase transparency and tackle corruption, as both



Amb. Toner

George Manneh Weah's administration have heavily eroded progress made through U.S. bilateral assistance to Liberia since 2003. If confirmed, Amb. Toner said he will lead the U.S. Embassy's efforts to hold corrupt government officials accountable and keep Liberia on a path to self-reliance. Addressing the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on 19 October 2023, Amb. Toner said the United States is the largest bilateral donor to Liberia, with more than \$5 billion in bilateral assistance since 2003. "That assistance has paid

growing lawlessness and corruption within the present administration," said Amb. Toner. He continued that Liberia is also a country shaped by years of conflict, terror, disease, and hardship. According to him, it speaks to the Liberian people's resilience when, in 2017, the country achieved a significant milestone by carrying out the first peaceful transition of power between two elected presidents in over 70 years.

He added that the next test is now underway, as Liberians cast their ballots last week to

▶ CONT'D ON 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!

MoMo | Lonestar Cell | MTN

## The New Dawn Press

TRULY INDEPENDENT

**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