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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023	L\$186.0901/US\$1.00	L\$187.9613/US\$1.00

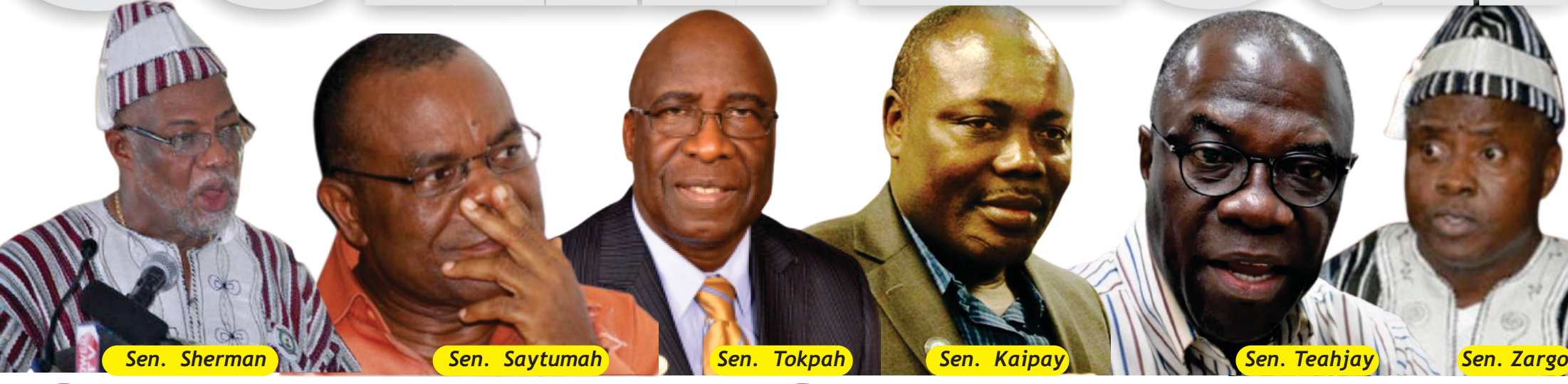
These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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-Citizens show 11 Senators the door

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-in underground mining



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Continental News

Widow of Killed Pakistani Journalist Sues Kenya Police

A widow of a Pakistani journalist who was shot dead by police in Kenya after he fled arrest in his home country filed a lawsuit against Kenyan police on Monday, her lawyer said.



Members of Shiite Ulema Council, a Shiite Muslim religious-political organization

Arshad Sharif, a strident critic of Pakistan's powerful military establishment and supporter of former premier Imran Khan, died when Kenyan police opened fire on his car at a roadblock outside the capital Nairobi in October last year. Javeria Siddique, one of Sharif's two wives, told AFP in Islamabad last week that she was filing a lawsuit. Her lawyer confirmed it had been lodged at Kenya's High Court on Monday, a year to the day since the late-night killing. "Yes. The case has been filed," lawyer Ochiel Dudley told AFP in Nairobi, adding that they were

waiting for a case number and further instructions from the court. "It has been a year that I have been fighting for justice,"

Siddique said. "The Kenyan police admitted that they killed my husband but never apologized." Last year, Kenyan officials said it was a case of mistaken identity and officers believed they were firing on a stolen vehicle involved in an abduction. Siddique, however, alleges her husband was killed in a "targeted attack." "I have written to the Kenyan president and foreign minister but they were not even kind enough to say sorry," she added. Sharif fled Pakistan in August last year, days after interviewing a senior opposition politician who said junior officers in Pakistan's military should disobey orders that went against "the will of the majority."

Tens of thousands of mourners attended Sharif's funeral at Islamabad's main mosque. Pakistan has been ruled by the military for several decades of its 75-year history and criticism of the security establishment has long been seen as a red line. Pakistan's top court has taken note of the murder but the case is still pending. In December, a factfinding team of Pakistani intelligence officials submitted a report to the Supreme Court calling the incident a "planned, targeted assassination" that purportedly involved "transnational characters."

Press freedom campaign groups have called for those responsible to face justice. Pakistan is ranked 150 out of 180 countries in a press freedom index compiled by Reporters without Borders, with journalists facing censorship and intimidation. "Throughout the past year, I have endured financial and emotional losses and have even been subjected to character assassination," Siddique said. Police in Kenya are often accused by rights groups of using excessive force and carrying out unlawful killings. Last year, President William Ruto disbanded a feared 20-year-old police unit accused of extrajudicial killings and the government has said it is embarking on reforms of the security sector. VOA

The Middle East giant taking over Africa's ports

A multimillion-dollar deal signed between Emirati maritime giant DP World and Tanzania on Sunday looks set to further entrench the dominance of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Africa's freight industry.

Reports of the \$250m (£205m) deal first emerged in July, sparking criticism by the opposition that it "violated Tanzania's constitution and endangers national sovereignty".

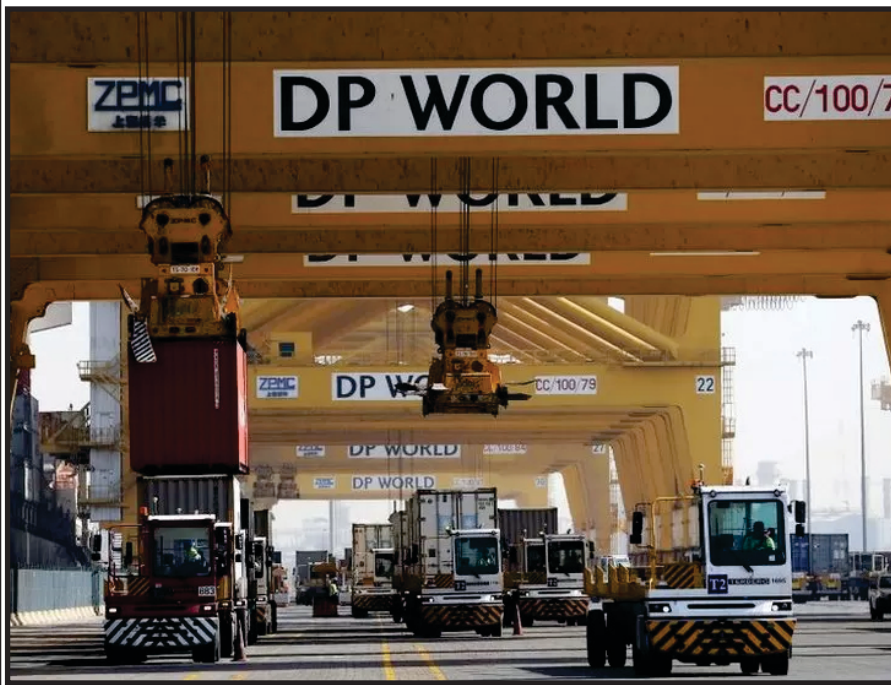
Activists petitioned a court to halt the deal and were briefly detained for planning anti-government protests.

The high court in Tanzania's south-western town of Mbeya dismissed the petition, paving the way for DP World to manage two-thirds of the Dar es Salaam port for the next 30 years. Transport Minister Makame Mbarawa - whose office did not respond to

decade, it has invested nearly \$60bn in infrastructure and energy sectors across the continent. DP World - established in 1999 and owned by Emirati ruling families - has increased those inroads with port operations in Angola, Djibouti, Egypt, Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal and Somalia. In 2021, DP World pledged to invest \$1bn in Africa over the next several years. These investments have at times sparked tensions, tested geopolitical relations and - more crucially - intensified competition for infrastructural development in Africa.

Like China, Turkey and Russia, the UAE is increasingly becoming a political and economic counterweight to the West in Africa.

Abu Dhabi's diplomatic presence has been boosted by humanitarian support and defence cooperation, particularly in the Horn of Africa. It brokered a



earlier requests for comment - said there would be no job losses and that Tanzania would retain 60% of earnings.

DP World says it expects to triple revenue within a decade and speed up the clearance of vessels from the current average of 12 hours to 60 minutes. Chronic inefficiency, corruption allegations and competition in freight management by neighbouring Kenya are some of the underlying reasons why Tanzania President Samia Suluhu signed off on the agreement.

"People have a right to raise concerns because this is a democracy. And it is the government's job to act," she said during the signing in the administrative capital, Dodoma, downplaying public disquiet. The UAE is the fourth-largest investor in Africa, after China, Europe and the US. In the last

peace deal between Eritrea and Ethiopia in 2018, and delivered thousands of tonnes of food aid to Somalia in 2022 amid warnings of a looming famine. These relationships have given DP World a near monopoly in the Red Sea region, just north of Tanzania. They have also allowed the UAE to consolidate defence interests in the Gulf of Aden as part of an almost decade-long military offensive in Yemen. As a result, the UAE - despite its size - has an edge over other Gulf nations as the Horn of Africa is a strategic route for crude oil exports.

DP World's developments in Somalia's Bossaso port and Berbera in the self-declared republic of Somaliland amount to almost \$1bn. The agreements caused a row with the Somali federal government, which considers Somaliland to be part of its territory and has often had a turbulent relationship with the semi-autonomous Puntland region, which includes Bossaso.

Malema calls for boycott of Israeli goods in South Africa

South Africa's third biggest political party, the Economic Freedom Fighters, has held a protest outside the Israeli embassy in the capital, Pretoria.

Party leader Julius Malema once again called for the closure of the embassy after saying Israel's government had "no respect for humanity". Mr Malema also urged retailers in the country to remove Israeli-produced goods from their shelves by the end of October. "If they don't remove products from Israel, we'll remove them ourselves. We don't want Israeli products sold in South Africa, we don't want food from people who have the blood of innocent people on their hands," said Mr Malema.

The governing African National Congress (ANC) held

a similar picket outside Israel's embassy on Friday.

ANC Deputy Secretary General Nomvula Mokonyane called on South Africans to boycott imports from Israel in solidarity with the Palestinians. Ms Mokonyane also reiterated South Africa's calls for

an immediate ceasefire to hostilities in the Middle East.

Last week, a spokeswoman for the ANC Women's League resigned, accusing the party of failing to see the "Jewish side of the story" in the Israel-Palestine conflict. BBC



Julius Malema, seen here in July, has often expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people

EDITORIAL

Runoff election does not mean war

LIBERIAN VOTERS are bracing themselves for a runoff between President George Weah and former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, who both received the highest number of votes but did not obtain the legally required 50 percent plus one extra vote, to win the Presidency.

OFFICIAL RESULTS announced by the National Elections Commission as of Thursday, October 19, 2023, put President Weah ahead with 43.84 percent of the votes against his main rival Ambassador Boakai, with 43.43 percent, thus a need for runoff to determine a winner.

THIS IS NOT strange, both parties participated in runoff in 2017, when the UP narrowly lost to the CDC, earning Mr. Weah his first term in the Presidency. There will be a winner in the pending runoff now that the Presidential race has been cleared of the crowded candidates that characterized the first round.

BUT LIBERIANS need to reflect on the peaceful atmosphere under which the October 10 elections were generally held across the country, as they prepare for the second round in order to maintain the admiration this country just won for itself in the just-ended historic elections.

WE'RE TALKING about the peace and stability of the Motherland. Election should not put us at one another's throats in self-destruction just for the sake of a particular candidate or political party. We behaved so well at the ballot in the first round, leaving international observers raining praises, absolutely there should be no reason to abandon or to depart from such spirit in the runoff.

WE URGE BOTH President Weah and Ambassador Boakia to talk to their partisans and supporters as they ready for a second showdown. The runoff is not meant to bring Liberia to end or on its knees but to elect a leader that governs the country for not six years.

IT IS YOU the Liberian voters who have the power to make such decision through your votes. Exercise this power void of coercion and violence because you owe it to yourselves, your children and posterity.

Parties and presidents will come and go but Liberia remains the only common patrimony that we all belong to. We should not trade this nation for any politician or selfish interest.

We would have kept our admiration in the region by demonstrating in the runoff that Liberia is bigger than any party or candidate to be traded anyhow. Let's prioritize peace.

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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 Andrew Stein

Breaking Free from Polio

SEATTLE - Eradicating polio has taken far longer than anyone expected. But the last 35 years of efforts to immunize every child against polio represent a major win for global health: a 99% reduction in cases means that nearly 20 million people are walking today who otherwise would have been paralyzed.

Now we must finish the job and achieve a polio-free world. That is why, in addition to combating wild polio in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) is focusing on the places where children are most likely to encounter and spread variant poliovirus - particularly the more prominent type 2. This includes northwestern Nigeria, southeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), northern Yemen, and southern Somalia, which have accounted for more than 84% of these cases globally since January 2022.

Insecurity, weak infrastructure, and challenging terrain make it difficult to provide children in these areas with the most basic health services, let alone vaccines. This type of "under-immunized" environment is especially conducive to outbreaks of variant polio, which can occur when the live, weakened virus contained in the oral polio vaccine is allowed to circulate around unvaccinated or under-vaccinated communities. Tragically, the virus can regain its strength over time and paralyze children.

Stopping the spread of variant poliovirus in Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen, and the DRC is critical to building a world without polio, but success won't come easy. Fortunately, each of these countries has eliminated wild polio in the past, and a similar approach can be implemented to end variant outbreaks for good.

Nigeria, in particular, has demonstrated how improving population immunity through high-quality vaccination campaigns can contain outbreaks. In 2020, the country - together with the rest of the WHO African Region (with the exception of Somalia and Egypt) - was certified as being free of wild polio, marking the end of a decades-long effort to deliver a healthier future for its children. But variant poliovirus was slowly circulating in the background, before surging in 2021 and ultimately paralyzing more than 400 children in Nigeria over the course of 12 months.

The Nigerian government, steadfastly committed to eradicating polio, met the rapid rise in variant polio with a forceful response, which has led to a nearly 95% reduction in cases from the 2021 peak. Not only is the polio map shrinking, with fewer cases confined to smaller areas, but so, too, is the virus's genetic diversity, which means that existing outbreaks are being interrupted while new ones are being prevented. Perhaps most importantly, immunity against variant poliovirus is rising.

Much of Nigeria's success in bringing this explosive outbreak under control can be attributed to the pioneering rollout of the

novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2), which was engineered to be more genetically stable than its predecessor and thus less likely to revert to a form that can paralyze. This innovative tool, coupled with scaled-up vaccination efforts in under-immunized communities, has resulted in fewer new type 2 variant poliovirus outbreaks. Moreover, after administering more than 450 million doses of nOPV2 to children across the country since March 2021, Nigeria is now facing only two genetic strains of the virus, compared to seven when the rollout began.

Strong political commitment has also been instrumental in this vaccine rollout, with the creation of the Presidential Task Force on Polio Eradication keeping the fight against polio high on policymakers' agenda. Moreover, programs like the Community Reorientation Women Network (CRoWN), supported by the Aliko Dangote Foundation, have contributed to Nigeria's success by empowering women - who comprise the majority of community-health workers in remote areas - to identify zero-dose children and encourage vaccine uptake within their communities. These initiatives help parents and caregivers access essential health services for their children.

Nigeria is not the only country making progress. In Somalia, which faces the longest ongoing outbreak of variant poliovirus, GPEI is collaborating with other organizations to implement mobile health camps that can provide more than a half-million children with polio vaccines, as well as neonatal, nutrition, and curative services. In the DRC, the expanded use of digital mapping tools has helped health workers reach thousands of zero-dose children, and the government is setting a global example by convening Presidential Forums on Immunization and Polio Eradication; the most recent of which was held in June.

Emergency operations centers are now in place in each of these countries, helping to improve the speed and quality of their responses to polio outbreaks; in many cases, these centers also help defend against other health threats, including COVID-19 and measles. These innovations, together with the increased use of nOPV2, have already boosted immunity, reduced the number of cases, and shrunk the virus's genetic diversity in the highest-priority areas.

The goal of ending polio once and for all is within reach, but getting there requires a collective effort. To achieve a polio-free world, financial support from global donors - a significant factor in making progress in Nigeria and elsewhere - must be increased. The governments of affected countries must also commit themselves, more strongly than ever, to eradicating the disease within their borders.

Nigeria beat polio once, and it can - and will - do so again. Let's ensure that every country experiencing outbreaks can put an end to the disease for good.

OP-ED

By Daoud Kuttab

Gaza's Never-Ending Catastrophe

JERUSALEM - Israel's military response to the brutality of the Hamas attack on October 7, which has claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 people in Gaza and displaced hundreds of thousands, has evoked every Palestinian's worst nightmare.

In 1948, roughly 750,000 Palestinians - including my father, uncle, and grandmother - fled their homes to escape the violence that followed the declaration of Israel and the violence by the Jewish underground against many Palestinian villages and towns.

My uncle, who stayed behind in Jerusalem's Musrara neighborhood until April 1948, assured my father and grandmother that the house would remain safe until they could go back once the fighting ended. He had locked it by turning the key twice, believing that they would return soon. They never did.

The trauma of that first Arab-Israeli War was so profound that Palestinians call it the Nakba ("catastrophe") and commemorate it every year on May 15. Earlier this month, when Danny Ayalon, Israel's former ambassador to the United Nations, told Al Jazeera's Marc Lamont Hill that there is "endless space" for Gazan civilians in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and that they "should all be moved there," many Palestinians interpreted this as a call for a second Nakba. That is why the Israeli order to evacuate 1.1 million people from northern Gaza has stoked fears of a repeat of 1948.

The Gaza Strip has long been a thorn in Israel's side. In 1992, then-Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin famously remarked, "I wish I could wake up one day and find that Gaza has sunk into the sea." A year later, Rabin and the late PLO chairman Yasser Arafat shook hands in the White House's Rose Garden after signing the Oslo Accords. Tragically, Rabin's assassination by a Jewish far-right extremist in 1995 robbed both Israel and the international community of an Israeli leader who recognized that the two-state solution represented the best hope for Israel's security and a homeland for the Palestinians.

Israel's warning to Palestinian civilians to evacuate northern Gaza has been strongly opposed by leaders worldwide, while US President Joe Biden has said that a full-scale Israeli occupation of Gaza would "be a big mistake." But Israel insists that civilians must move south to protect themselves when Israel inevitably launches a large-scale ground invasion in response to the mass murder of Israeli citizens by Hamas, which has controlled Gaza since 2006.

Displacing the Palestinian residents of northern Gaza, however, would be a flagrant violation of international law. Moreover, Israel's post-war plans for this area remain unclear. Does Israel intend to create a buffer zone that stretches deep into Gaza, or does it want to return settlers to Gaza? If the primary objective is to protect Israeli communities, then Israel can and should designate its own territory for such a buffer, rather than encroaching on the tiny and densely populated strip of land currently inhabited by more than two million Palestinians.

The atrocities committed by Hamas and others on October 7, which claimed the lives of more than 1,300 Israeli civilians, have significantly harmed the Palestinian cause and must be unequivocally condemned by anyone who supports the establishment of an independent Palestine. While Palestinians, like any group under occupation, have an internationally recognized right to resist their occupiers, Hamas's violent and brutal acts against Israeli civilians were undeniably war crimes, as have been some of the responses.

But, deliberately or not, the rhetoric of some Israeli officials calling for a reoccupation or depopulation of Gaza has revived Palestinians' painful memories of the Nakba. Palestinian refugees, especially those in northern Gaza, have no desire to live in the Sinai Peninsula; they still yearn to return to their ancestral homes within the present-day borders of Israel. At the very least, they wish to live in Gaza with dignity, free from occupation, blockades, and travel restrictions.

When Rabin and Arafat shook hands in 1993, they raised hopes that peace between Israel and Palestine was feasible. But 30 years later, the vision of a two-state solution has been rendered all but impossible as dozens of illegal Israeli settlements have fragmented the West Bank, leaving the would-be Palestinian state looking like Swiss cheese.

To be sure, Israel pulled out of Gaza in 2005. But its unilateral withdrawal was essentially a strategic repositioning of troops. Instead of directly occupying Gaza, Israel has imposed a land, air, and water blockade on it since 2007. Sixteen years into this devastating siege, some Israelis advocate reoccupying part or all of the Gaza Strip. Such a move, however, would merely perpetuate the vicious cycle of violence and displacement.

Now more than ever, we need courageous leaders willing to recognize Palestinians' fundamental human rights. To achieve a sustainable peace, Israel must end the occupation and colonization of the West Bank, lift the Gaza blockade, and engage in meaningful negotiations with the Palestinian Authority leadership in Ramallah. As Rabin understood, the only real solution is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside a safe and secure Israel.

OPINION

By Bernard Haykel

Saudi Arabia's New Nationalism

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

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

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

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

To understand these developments, one must pay close attention to what MBS has said about past Saudi policies, both publicly and in private, since 2016. He argues that his predecessors pursued failed policies and governed in ways that were detrimental to the country's national interests. For example, he regards the Kingdom's earlier endorsement of Islamism - partly a response to domestic religious opposition and to the threat posed by the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran - as a grave mistake. Instead of fostering stability, it created enemies, with radical Islamists such as the Muslim Brotherhood, al-Qaeda, and the Islamic State all eventually seeking to end the Al Saud dynasty's rule. MBS believes the regime should have relied on nationalism, rather than religion, as a means of ensuring its survival.

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

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

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

In a recent interview, MBS said he wants Saudi Arabia to become one of the world's ten largest economies, noting that the Kingdom, already a member of the G20, recently became the 15th largest. While MBS had previously sought an invitation to join the G7, he made little headway and then jumped at the chance to join the BRICS, insisting that this was not a move against the West, but rather a way to position his country for future growth and maintain cordial relations with all of the world's major powers.

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

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

Saudi Arabia under MBS can be viewed as an emerging power that aspires to use its available assets to develop and diversify its economy. At the same time, the Kingdom aims to leverage its resources and diplomatic ties to enhance its influence in a world increasingly divided among major powers like the US, China, Russia, and, to a lesser extent, Europe. Judging by MBS's recent foreign-policy moves - such as getting the Chinese to mediate his dispute with Iran and the US to do the same with Israel - he certainly appears adept at navigating an exceptionally challenging geopolitical landscape.

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, e) serious problems with the independence of the judiciary, f) serious restrictions on the freedom of the press, including violence and threats against journalists, g) 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.

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Weah's Aide offers apology for officials

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr., in Margibi

The special aide to President George Manneh Weah Mr. Sekou Kalasco Damaro has

President Weah during the first round of the elections, Kalasco said the behaviors of some of the officials did not please some of the citizens.

He said this caused them to vent their anger against the president at the ballot box.

sorry for whatever way they may have gone wrong during their duties. He noted that whether he did anything wrong or not, he sees it very prudent to join the others in extending apology.

He was speaking in response to inquiry about the attitudes of government appointees from Margibi that poorly performed and didn't reach out to their own people. Kalasco narrated that the president is a good man who loves the Liberian people and wants to continue on the path of development. He added that the citizens should not vote against the president due to issues from some of his officials. According to him, President Weah does not send any of his officials to do any wrong but some of them did things at their own will so the president is not responsible for their behaviors. President Weah and former Vice President Joseph Boakai are expected to battle in the final round of the 2023 elections which saw the two coming through neck-to-neck in their percentages after the first round. During the first round, Unity party slightly topped the Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC in Margibi and other counties.



Mr. Sekou Kalasco Damaro

openly apologized on behalf of government officials that acted in a ways that angered some Liberians. He believes that the actions of some officials made some Liberians to vote against President Weah during the first round of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections. While appreciating residents of Margibi County for voting for

Speaking during a radio appearance over the weekend in Kakata, Margibi County, he said the president appointed people in various sectors of the country to help him take service delivery to their own people. However, Kalasco said some of them created mixed-feelings. He stated that his apology is for him and other appointed officials, saying

Bong County Senator-elect Johnny Kpehe undecided

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Bong County Senator-elect Johnny Kpehe has denied rumors that he has decided to throw his weight behind the re-election bid of President George Manneh Weah and the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

President Weah and opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai of the former ruling Unity Party are expected to face a run-off this November. Following the first round of the election, President Weah obtained 803, 956 votes, constituting 43.84%, while Boakai obtained 796, 513, constituting 43.43%.

Speaking to the New Dawn on Sunday, 22 October 2023, Mt. Kpehe denied speculation that he has declared his support for the CDC. "I have not yet taken a side in this presidential run-off election. What people are saying ... are

falsehood and misleading," he said. "This is a highly-contentious election and I haven't come out with any decision yet until the right time comes," he said. "There's no agreement between the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), neither the Unity Party (UP), so don't go by that," Senator-elect Kpehe added. He acknowledged that

both parties have reached out to him for his support, but he remains undecided. Bong is one of the vote-rich counties in Liberia, and it would be an advantage for any of the parties that may get bulk of the votes from there. On 10 October 2023, the CDC won Bong County.



Sen. elect Johnny Kpehe

Gongloe's running-mate threatens lawsuit against Spoon Management

By Lincoln G. Peters

The office of the vice standard bearer of the Liberian People's Party (LPP) has threatened a lawsuit against Spoon FM Network and its former Chief Executive Officer Mr. Stanton Witherspoon over character deformation.

Addressing a major press conference on Sunday, 22 October 2023, Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo, the running mate to Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe alleged that Mr. Witherspoon made demeaning and false statements against him.

"I want to bring to your attention the Spoon Talk October 20, 2023, edition aired on the Spoon Network Inc.," said Mr. Yarkpawolo. "I draw the public attention to several demonstrably false statements made on the show that were not only outright lies but also have injured me

hosted Yarkpawol here he told you say when he is Vice President he will not listen to his bossman. He told you on this show when you brought him."

"Let me state for the record that at no time did I make any demand or write a letter for the LPP to support any of the two parties remaining in the presidential electoral process," Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo clarified.

Displaying the letter and series of screenshots, Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo said the letter Mr. Witherspoon mentioned and put up was never written by him and the content is completely different from what Mr. Witherspoon said he wrote.

"I also want to inform the public that Kou's allegation as mentioned above is false, baseless, and malicious. At no time [did] I mention on the Spoon Talk or any other talk show or gathering or interview that I would not listen to



Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo

greatly by defaming my high-earned character and endangering my life in the wake of the upcoming runoff presidential election," Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo stated.

According to him, on the Spoon Talk, Mr. Witherspoon among other things said that he called for an LPP leadership meeting in which he wrote a letter to the LPP Executive Committee requesting the LPP to support the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC). Urey-Yarkpawolo said Witherspoon alleged that he called for LPP support to CDC because Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor is from Bong and they are friends. Dr. Yarkpawolo-Urey also stated that Mr. Witherspoon alleged that he had convinced 25 percent of the Executive Members, but 75 percent were unconvinced. He complained that Mr. Witherspoon also indicated that "So Tiawan Gongloe is in a problem now with his Vice Standard Bearer, Yarkpawolo." He added that Mr. Witherspoon also said it was "shocking" because people were "mad."

Additionally, Yarkpawolo noted that Kou, a panelist of the Spoon Talk said "But the last time you

Cllr. Gongloe," he noted.

Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo pointed out that he has written the Management of Spoon Network Inc., demanding an unreserved apology and retraction of what he described as the spurious, false, and defamatory allegations made on the Spoon Talk program against him. "When someone or an institution is involved in the business of providing information to the public, it is duty-bound that the person endeavors to always speak the truth and nothing else," he noted. Dr. Urey-Yarkpawolo also noted that he had also written the Press Union of Liberia to urgently look into the matter, adding that he subscribes to freedom of expression and of the Press as well as responsible journalism.

"But if a talk show like Spoon Talk deliberately chooses to not only lie [about] me but also put my life at risk with the public, they need to be held accountable." "Let me also state for the record that the failure on the part of Spoon Network Inc. to correct the record on this matter will leave me with no alternative but to seek legal redress for the deliberate design to defame my good name and expose me to public ridicule and endanger my life," he vowed.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Women want penalties for violators of FGM practice

By Kruah Thompson

UN Women Liberia Country Representative, Comfort Lamptey, has emphasized the need for severe

of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection, civil society organizations, and international partners.

This issue remains complexly tied to cultural norms and

female secret society associated with the initiation of young girls.

The UN Women Representative, with a pivotal role in advocating for gender equality and women's rights, reiterated their commitment to supporting organizations that educate communities about adhering to the ban in all 11 regions,

emphasizing, "Even when you have a ban, implementation doesn't happen one hundred percent, and "that's why there will be penalties for those who break the law if you have it."

At the same time, she called for increased awareness and education regarding the consequences of FGM. Such efforts she said if successful, could play a significant role in shifting deeply rooted cultural norms and ensuring that girls and women are no longer subjected to this harmful practice.

"This is crucial, not only to protect the rights and well-being of women and girls but also to shift societal attitudes and end this harmful tradition once and for all."

The call for strict penalties by the UN Women Representative aligns with the broader global efforts to eliminate FGM and advance gender equality around the world.

It is expected to encourage governments and communities to take more decisive action against the practice by passing legislation that will ultimately bring about a safer and more equitable world for women and girls.

The Swedish Government has applauded Liberia for outlawing female genital mutilation, hailing it as a groundbreaking achievement for the West African country.

The Ambassador commended the commitment, leadership, and the decision to unite based on tradition and culture to make a decision that will benefit both women and men in Liberia.

Sustainability of the process is a key consideration. It is crucial for the government, the traditional council, civil society, and communities to take this initiative forward. Investment partners view this as a positive step to ensure that both girls and boys, women and men have the same opportunities and rights. From Sweden's perspective, this is what truly fosters prosperity, development, and the ability of everyone to contribute to

Police charge 7 in Nimba

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

Police in Nimba County have charged and sent to court, seven persons including a supervisor of the National Elections Commission (NEC) who presided over the Beo-Lontuo polling centers in Electoral District#4, Nimba.

The seven have been charged with multiple crimes, including obstruction of government functions, criminal facilitation, criminal conspiracy, and tampering with public records, among others.

The seven citizens of Beo-Lotuo polling centers including the National Election Commission (NEC) supervisor in connection to the obstruction and destruction of the National Election Commission NEC ballot boxes alongside some election materials.

On October 10th, election day, a group of individuals reportedly seized ballot boxes at polling precincts in Beo-Lotuo, which

Gunpue L. Kargon. As the NEC is expected to officially announce final results and winners of the October 10 elections and announce a runoff between the CDC and UP for the Presidency.

In Beo-Lotuo town polling centers, Yeaneh Kanweah, a citizen of Beo-Gbornplay town in district#4 was among other Nimbaians who reportedly disrupted the voting there on October 10th.

Those arrested alongside the NEC election supervisor include Emmanuel Louh, 19, Harrison Cooper, 25, Habakkuk Mahn, 40, and Supervisor Menwonggbay B. Sieder himself. Others include Gomehtay Gomie, 38, Beo-Lotuo Town Chief Josephus George, and Nelson Gomah, 19.

Police charge sheet also indicates that the seven suspects have also been charged with destruction, removal, or mutilation of ballot papers and ballot boxes, including slogans, as



penalties to be imposed on those who violate the ban on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Liberia.

Nearly nine months have passed since Chief Zanzan Karwor, Chairperson of the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia (NACCEL), announced a nationwide ban on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Sonkay Town, Montserrado County.

Despite the ban in February 2023, reports indicate that many girls at a young age are still being subjected to this illegal and harmful practice without having a choice in the matter, which is described as a violation of their right to give informed consent for any procedure performed on their bodies.

In Liberia, like in many other countries, the practice has no health benefits for girls and women, causing severe bleeding and urinating problems, and later cysts, infections, as well as complications in childbirth and increased risk of newborn deaths.

According to the World Health Organization's January 2023 report on female genital mutilation (FGM), the practice persists due to a combination of cultural norms and lack of effective enforcement.

The report further indicated that treatment of the health complications of FGM is estimated to cost health systems US\$ 1.4 billion per year, a number expected to rise unless urgent action is taken towards its abandonment.

However, violations still occur, while efforts to raise awareness about its harmful effects are ongoing with the assistance of the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia (NACCEL), the Ministry

traditions practiced in 11 regions of the country, namely: Bong County, Lofa County, Nimba County, Grand Gedeh County, Maryland County, River Gee County, River Cess County, Grand Kru County, Sinoe County, Margibi County, and Gbarpolu County respectively, while progress towards its elimination is still underway.

Speaking to this publication, the UN Women Liberia Country Representative stated that the call for strict penalties to be imposed on those who violate the ban is a response to the persistent practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and that this is seen as a necessary step to deter individuals and communities from engaging in the harmful tradition.

She made these remarks during the turnover ritual ceremony that occurred on Friday, October 20, 2023, in Gbaota, Bong County, where the National Council of Chiefs and Elders represented by its deputy, Jemmie Jpokia, conducted a traditional ceremony, officially marking the handover of traditional tools used for performing FGM and the closure of the bush in the region.

In Liberia, there are two major societies or ethnic groups that have been historically associated with the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

These societies are Krahn Society: the Krahn people, who primarily reside in the southeastern region of Liberia, have a long-standing tradition of practicing FGM. This practice has been deeply ingrained in their cultural and traditional beliefs. Secondly, Bassa Society: the Bassa people, also located in Liberia's southeastern region, have been known to practice FGM, particularly in the form of the Sande Society, which is a



disrupted the poll.

The NEC re-conducted the election at the polling precinct on Friday, 20 October.

The re-run in Beo Lotuo polling centers has put opposition Unity Party/ MDR Candidate Ernest Manseah in the lead with five votes difference against ruling CDC incumbent Representative

election offenses, pending court trial.

Police source told The NEW DAWN Nimba correspondent that other suspects also to be charged are Stanley Kwanue, Adolphus Kwanue, Yeaneh Kanweah, Prince Winegbah, and Nelson Gweh in connection with the violence. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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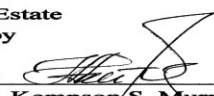
October 20, 2023

The General public is hereby informed that having been granted the permission by Mr. Godwin A. Amegeshia the undersigned registered license surveyor will conduct a survey of two and the half of land (2 ½) lots of land situated, lying and being in the Paynesville, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, on Monday, the 23rd Day of October AD 2023 at the hour of 10:00AM prompt, in favour of Mr. Mohammed K. Kamara.

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

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

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2. Solomon Tinpoteh
3. Madam. Veve Tarnu
4. Edward Dolo
5. Edwin Smith
6. AB Sayon
7. Mary Gormu
8. Nearest Police Station
9. J.W. Depute
10. J.E. Jones Estate
11. J.W. Grigsby

Approved: 
Kempson S. Murray, Sr.
Registered Licensed Surveyor
Contact: 0777750002/0886514399

Français

Les fonctionnaires libériens corrompus dans le collimateur du gouvernement américain

Mark Toner, Ambassadeur désigné des États-Unis au Liberia, a mis en lumière l'essor inquiétant de

visant à rendre les fonctionnaires corrompus du gouvernement responsables de leurs actes, tout en s'efforçant de maintenir le Liberia sur la voie

publique, mais ces avancées ont également été sérieusement érodées par l'illégalité et la corruption au sein de l'administration actuelle," a-t-il



Deputy Speaker Cllr. Koffa

Ms. Cooper

Mr. Bility

l'illégalité et de la corruption au sein de l'administration du président George Manneh Weah, phénomène qui mine profondément les progrès réalisés grâce à l'assistance bilatérale des États-Unis au Liberia depuis 2003.

Dans le cas de sa confirmation, l'Ambassadeur Toner a affirmé qu'il prendrait la tête des efforts de l'ambassade américaine

de l'autosuffisance. S'étant exprimé devant le Comité des Relations étrangères du Sénat américain le 19 octobre 2023, l'Ambassadeur Toner a souligné que les États-Unis sont le premier donateur bilatéral du Liberia, ayant apporté une contribution de plus de 5 milliards de dollars depuis 2003.

"Il est indéniable que cette assistance a généré des dividendes concrets dans les secteurs économique, éducatif, sécuritaire et de la santé

fait remarquer. Il a ajouté que le Liberia reste un pays façonné par des années de conflits, de terreur, de maladies et de privations.

Selon lui, cela témoigne de la résilience du peuple libérien qui, en 2017, a marqué un tournant significatif en effectuant la première transition pacifique du pouvoir entre deux présidents élus en plus de 70 ans.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

L'opposant Boakai appelle à une révolte démocratique au second tour de la présidentielle

Le candidat du Parti de l'Unité à l'élection présidentielle, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, a exhorté les Libériens à se joindre à son « mouvement de contestation », lors du second tour, contre l'état déplorable de la nation.

L'ancien vice-président libérien a tenu une conférence de presse au cours du week-end, affirmant avec fermeté son engagement à former un gouvernement inclusif, tout en rassurant les citoyens quant à ses intentions.

L'ambassadeur Boakai, qui devrait probablement affronter le président en exercice, George Manneh Weah, lors du second tour de la présidentielle en novembre, a exprimé l'espoir que, par la grâce de Dieu, son parti parviendra à évincer démocratiquement le président Weah du pouvoir dans les semaines à venir.

"Levons-nous donc contre cette triste réalité de notre nation et de notre existence en tant que peuple. J'en

appelle à chacun d'entre vous pour exercer son droit de vote sacré, afin que nous prenions en main le destin de cette nation", a-t-il imploré.

"Portons un coup décisif à la médiocrité, à la corruption, aux tensions ethniques et à cette approche absurde de la gouvernance", a-t-il ajouté avec conviction.

Il a lancé un appel aux Libériens pour qu'ils délivrent leur pays des mâchoires implacables de la mauvaise gestion et de l'incompétence, en soulignant que l'opportunité est à portée de main

pour les Libériens. M. Boakai estime que le Liberia ne pourra connaître un véritable développement et une réconciliation qu'en unissant toutes les forces.

"Chers compatriotes, notre pays a besoin d'être sauvé, avant de pouvoir être remis sur pied. Notre pays doit être purgé. Notre pays doit être guéri et réuni."

Il a souligné que pour atteindre ces objectifs ambitieux, il est nécessaire

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Éditorial

Il faut tenir compte des recommandations des observateurs internationaux

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

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

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 **Les fonctionnaires libériens**

L'Ambassadeur Toner a également mentionné que le prochain test est en cours, alors que les Libériens ont exprimé leur suffrage la semaine dernière pour élire leur prochain président.

Il a noté que le président Weah et ses concurrents s'étaient engagés à organiser un scrutin paisible, libre et équitable.

L'Ambassadeur Toner s'est engagé à veiller à ce que les citoyens ordinaires du Liberia puissent constater les avantages de la croissance du secteur privé et d'un gouvernement transparent, tout en veillant à ce que le pays demeure le partenaire le plus fidèle des États-Unis en Afrique.

"En cas de confirmation, mon équipe et moi allons œuvrer également à élargir les opportunités d'investissement pour les entreprises américaines et à promouvoir un développement économique inclusif axé sur la création d'emplois, offrant des opportunités bien nécessaires pour une population dont l'âge médian est de 19 ans et demi," a souligné l'Ambassadeur Toner.

Il a rappelé toutefois que la responsabilité ultime incombait aux dirigeants politiques du Liberia d'accroître la transparence et de lutter contre la corruption, car ces éléments sont indispensables pour créer les conditions nécessaires à l'attraction d'investissements étrangers responsables.

"Nous avons dû appliquer la même approche aux droits de l'homme, alors que le secteur de la justice au Liberia s'était efforcé de traiter les cas signalés de violence basée sur le genre, de travail des enfants forcé, de traite des êtres humains, ainsi que l'héritage des crimes de guerre," a noté M.

Starts from page 8 **L'opposant Boakai appelle à une révolte**

que toutes les compétences et idées nécessaires à la reconstruction du pays soient réunies, et qu'elles ne peuvent être trouvées au sein d'un seul parti, d'une seule tribu, d'un seul comté, d'une seule région ou d'une seule religion.

L'ambassadeur Boakai a assuré les Libériens qu'il formera un gouvernement qui reflétera véritablement la diversité politique, ethnique, régionale, religieuse et de genre du pays.

"Nous formerons un gouvernement dans lequel la

Toner.

Le diplomate américain s'est dit impatient de poursuivre l'exceptionnel travail accompli par l'ambassadeur précédent et son excellente équipe pour faire face aux nombreux défis auxquels le Liberia est confronté.

"Je suis optimiste quant à la possibilité pour les États-Unis de collaborer avec leurs partenaires au sein du gouvernement libérien et du peuple pour renforcer leur démocratie et garantir un avenir plus radieux et prospère pour les générations futures," a-t-il déclaré.

L'envoyé américain a exprimé sa gratitude pour la confiance que le président Joe Biden et le secrétaire Anthony Blinken ont placée en lui en le nommant.

Il s'est réjoui de travailler en étroite collaboration avec les membres du Comité du Sénat et leur personnel pour promouvoir et protéger les intérêts des États-Unis au Liberia.

Il a souligné qu'il entretenait un lien personnel fort avec le Liberia, ayant servi ici en tant que volontaire du Corps de la Paix, une expérience formatrice qui avait éveillé son désir de devenir un agent du service extérieur.

Pendant cette période, a-t-il expliqué, il avait eu le privilège de travailler aux côtés de nombreux professionnels de la santé libériens dévoués, des personnes qui s'étaient présentées tous les jours pour travailler dans des conditions difficiles, sans aucune garantie de salaire régulier.

"Ce sont ces personnes qui m'ont inspiré jusqu'à ce jour par leur engagement, leur courage et leur détermination. En cas de confirmation, ce serait un honneur de revenir en tant qu'ambassadeur des États-Unis en République du Liberia, un pays avec lequel les États-Unis partagent un lien spécial enraciné dans nos profonds liens historiques, et préservé grâce à notre engagement commun envers la démocratie, les droits de l'homme, la sécurité sanitaire, la prospérité économique et la

valeur d'un Libérien ne dépendra pas de sa loyauté envers un parti, mais de sa loyauté envers le pays, de sa capacité et de sa volonté de contribuer à la progression du pays", a-t-il affirmé.

L'ambassadeur Boakai a cependant tendu la main à ses frères et sœurs de l'opposition et aux Libériens en général, les invitant à se joindre à sa campagne dans cette noble mission de redonner de l'air au pays.

"C'est dans ce contexte que je lance aujourd'hui un appel pressant à vous, pour faire preuve de courage patriotique, vous lever de nouveau, parcourir des

Les leaders traditionnels du comté de Bong disent non à la mutilation génitale féminine (MGF).

Les leaders traditionnels du comté de Bong ont volontairement remis leurs outils traditionnels utilisés pour la mutilation génitale féminine (MGF).

Ils se sont également engagés publiquement à fermer officiellement les écoles de brousse, communément appelées la Société Sande, et à renoncer à leurs propriétés traditionnelles pour mettre fin à la pratique séculaire de la MGF au Libéria.

La cérémonie de remise a eu lieu le vendredi 20 octobre 2023, lorsque le Conseil national des chefs et des anciens, représenté par son adjoint, Jemmie Jpokia, a organisé une cérémonie traditionnelle marquant officiellement la fermeture de l'école de brousse à Gbaota, dans le comté de Bong.

Pour renforcer leur engagement à mettre fin à la MGF dans le comté, les Zoes ont entrepris une marche symbolique, portant leurs outils traditionnellement utilisés pour la pratique de la MGF sur leur tête, alors qu'ils voyageaient de la brousse jusqu'au lieu de la cérémonie.

Lors de l'événement, ils ont remis ces instruments à Judee Andee, surnommée reine traditionnelle, en geste symbolique marquant leur détermination à mettre fin à la pratique de la MGF dans cette partie du comté. Lors de cet événement, les leaders traditionnels étaient visiblement émus alors qu'ils étaient assis par terre pour écouter leur reine et le chef du conseil traditionnel du Libéria déclarer leur intention de poursuivre le rite de passage important des jeunes femmes vers l'âge adulte tout en excluant la MGF de leur tradition culturelle.

S'exprimant lors de l'occasion, la représentante de l'UN Women au Libéria, Comfort Lamptey, a salué les leaders traditionnels pour leurs efforts inlassables visant à éradiquer la MGF au Libéria. Elle a souligné que le changement culturel est difficile, mais impératif pour un meilleur Libéria où les jeunes filles peuvent réaliser leur plein potentiel dans la société.

Elle a en même temps offert des paroles d'encouragement aux émotifs leaders traditionnels, mettant en avant l'impact considérable de leurs actions, qui, selon elle, s'étendra bien au-delà des frontières du Libéria. Elle a exhorté les Zoes des autres comtés du Libéria ayant des centres patrimoniaux à poursuivre des initiatives similaires, en témoignage de leur engagement à mettre fin à la MGF.

De plus, la représentante de l'UN Women au Libéria a promis son soutien aux anciennes Zoes des onze comtés pratiquant la MGF pour les aider à trouver des sources de revenus alternatives après avoir abandonné leurs outils. Ce soutien comprend la fourniture d'outils agricoles, et ils aspirent à obtenir le soutien d'autres partenaires dans la lutte contre la MGF.

Cependant, lors de la cérémonie rituelle à Gbaota Town, dans le comté de Bong, les leaders des Zoes ont été interrogés trois fois par Jemmie Jpokia, adjoint du chef du Conseil national des chefs et des anciens du Libéria, s'ils étaient d'accord avec la décision de renoncer à leurs outils.

Au nom de tous, Judee Andee a accepté, et avec des larmes dans les yeux, ils ont tous répondu de manière emphatique, "Oui, nous sommes

d'accord." La cérémonie a été marquée par des moments émotionnels, marquant un tournant significatif dans la lutte contre la MGF.

Pour souligner leur position lors de l'occasion, le gouvernement suédois a félicité le Libéria pour sa réalisation révolutionnaire en renonçant à ses outils traditionnels et a souligné l'importance de leur engagement et de leur leadership dans la priorisation du bien-être des femmes et des hommes.

L'ambassadeur de Suède au Libéria, Urban Sjöström, a déclaré que la Suède est un partenaire de longue date du Libéria, et c'était un honneur d'assister à la remise symbolique et à l'engagement conjoint de tous les partenaires pour interdire et éradiquer la MGF.

Il a ajouté que cela est également une preuve du rôle essentiel et du partenariat solide dirigé par le chef traditionnel, le conseil traditionnel des anciens et les chefs de la communauté locale, ainsi que de l'engagement ferme du gouvernement dans cette entreprise.

"Vous avez la société civile et des partenaires internationaux tels que l'UN Women et la Suède, capables de renforcer ce processus localement détenu, et nous discutons de la durabilité de cette initiative", a-t-il noté.

Selon lui, il pourrait s'agir d'un effort collaboratif impliquant le conseil traditionnel du gouvernement, la société civile et les communautés locales pour promouvoir cette cause car leurs partenaires d'investissement le voient d'un très bon œil. L'objectif est de garantir que les filles et les garçons, les femmes et les hommes aient des opportunités et des droits égaux au Libéria.

"De la Suède, nous percevons que c'est ce qui favorise véritablement la prospérité, le développement et la contribution collective de chacun à la société. Par conséquent, cela doit être soutenu, dirigé par les leaders traditionnels, le gouvernement, la société civile et les communautés."

La reine traditionnelle du Libéria, Judee Andee, a également pris la parole lors de la cérémonie de remise des outils, soulignant la nécessité d'efforts soutenus pour faire respecter l'interdiction de la MGF, même si elle a été officiellement interdite.

Elle a souligné que les efforts pour éradiquer la MGF au Libéria sont financés par l'UN Women, le gouvernement suédois et les Nations Unies. De plus, elle a expliqué que des plans sont en cours pour établir des centres patrimoniaux professionnels dans les onze comtés où la MGF est pratiquée, dans le but de doter les femmes de compétences alternatives.

"En ce qui concerne le comté de Bong, l'établissement d'un tel centre est en cours d'approbation, et l'on encourage les partenaires internationaux à

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Runoff Election

By Naneka Hoffman

As the National Elections Commission is expected to announce winners of the October 10, 2023 Elections, it has become obvious that there is no clear winner for the Presidency with almost 100 percent of the votes counted. But the ruling CDC and the opposition UP with the highest percentages from the first round of polling, are by all indications, going for runoff. Liberians have already begun to share their thoughts on the runoff and who they think will emerge victorious, as compiled below.

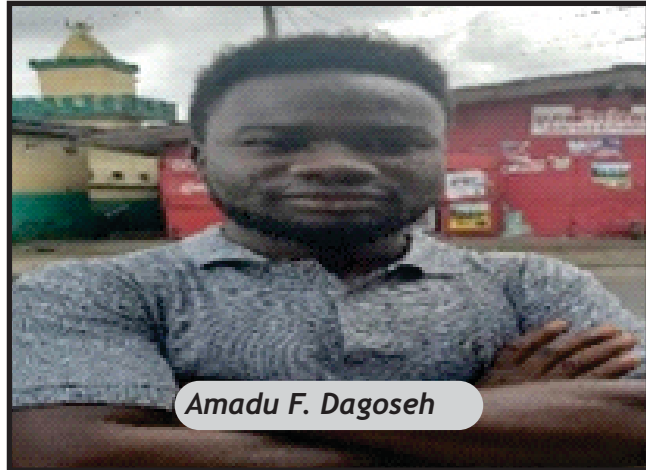


Charles Mansary

an easy thing, but it is difficulty because the ruling party and her opponents, they are in a good fight and it is competitive, because if you see the ruling party, they have all the resources and strength, and they are looking forward to see how they can overcome the runoff. So the runoff will be tough but the ruling party will be in the lead as I see it. But if you look at the both sides, the Unity Party, they are not a joke; they are prepared doing everything in their power and strength to overcome. But because the Liberian people still want President Weah, which is the reason we are going to a runoff. But at the end of the day, the ruling party will become winner."

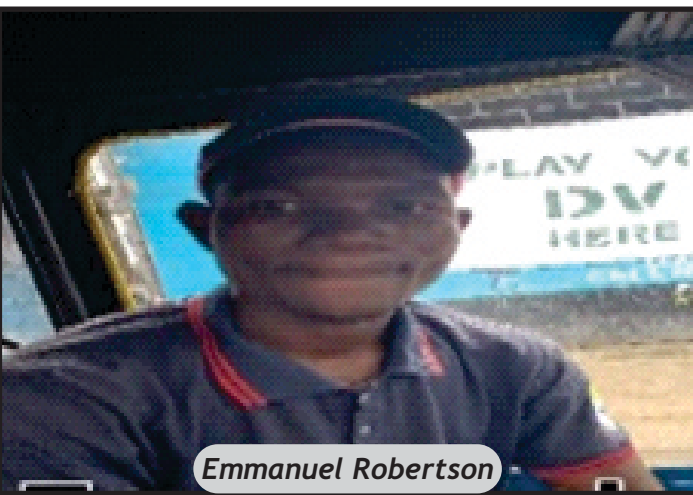
There was no tell the Almighty God problem; the thanks for peaceful elections were elections. The runoff peaceful in our will be a tough country; we want to election. We saw it as

"You see the first round between the Unity Party and CDC; the margin, both of them didn't reach 50% plus one so, the Unity Party id going to win the election. The reason is clear: Appleton is no longer in the race, and Alexander B. Cummings, who came from the CPP, is not in the process. So it is a clear point that the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), All Liberia Coalition Party (ALCOP), and Liberian People's Party (LPP) are



Amadu F. Dagoseh

going to give their going to win this support to the Unity second round." Party, so Unity Party is



Emmanuel Robertson

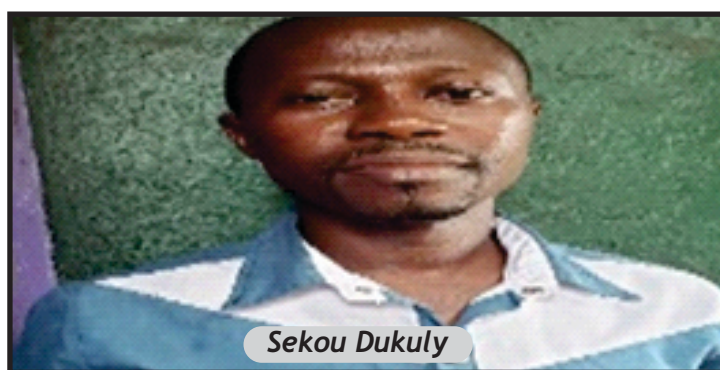
people's expectations are not being met, and many people's lives are not transformed. The people stood in queues on October 10, 2023 and voted against President Weah but, unfortunately, we are seeing the election going for runoff and the Liberian people are still standing strong to vote against President Weah. Now, we are sending people to the southeast because we didn't do it first round. We are sending poll watchers out there this time around, to protect our votes."

"The runoff between Unity Party and the CDC, there will be massive defeat for the CDC. Looking at the fact that the Liberian people themselves are

tired with the entire government; the way they are doing things in the country and the way the government is corrupt. The Liberian

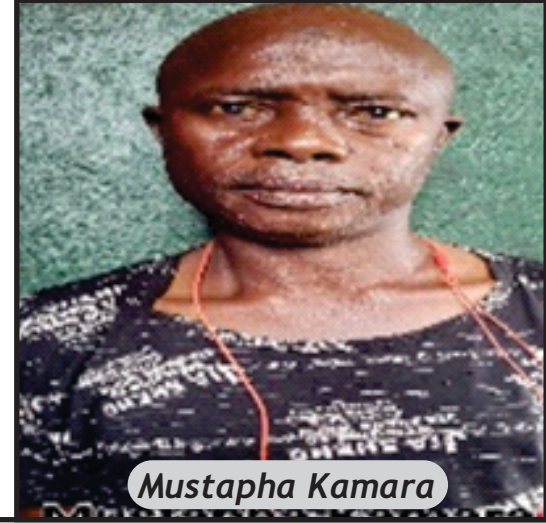
"The runoff between CDC and UP will be good, but we only pray for peaceful election in the country. CDC has the chance to win the runoff. CDC is a ruling party and the southeasterners are standing by for the CDC and other rural areas, like Grand Cape Mount, Bong and Bomi, CDC will get good number from there and CDC will still get

number from Nimba third round so any winning County. Now, the two for now will be a CDC's parties that in the race victory. CDC has the chance now are CDC and Unity to win the runoff." Party, so this one now, no

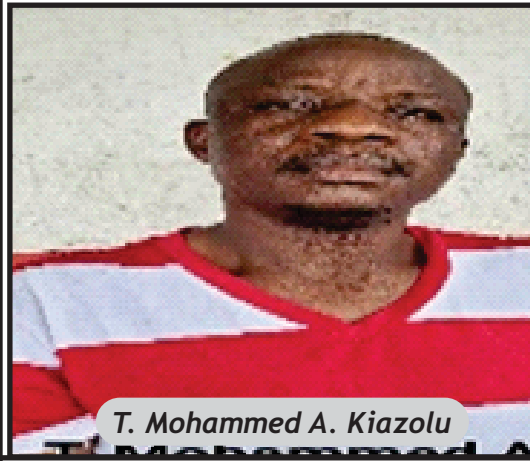


Sekou Dukuly

"The runoff will be very hard, but at the end of the day CDC will carry the victory, because President Weah needs to complete what he started in the first term, because he has done tangible things. We're looking at road connectivity, health and education. President George Weah has put more things in place. Liberia now, we need road connectivity to bring our goods in town. Let's give President Weah a second term to complete the road connectivity and do more for the country so, we need the second term to do the Liberian people's work."



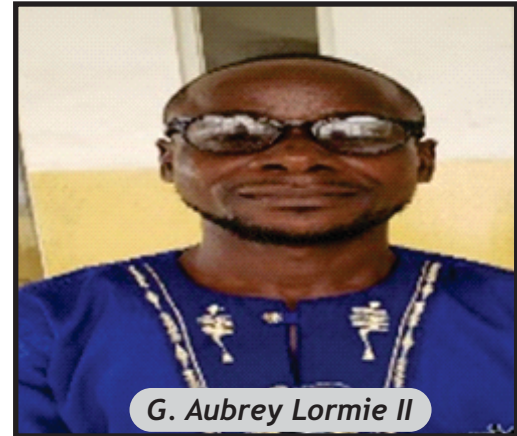
Mustapha Kamara



T. Mohammed A. Kiazolu

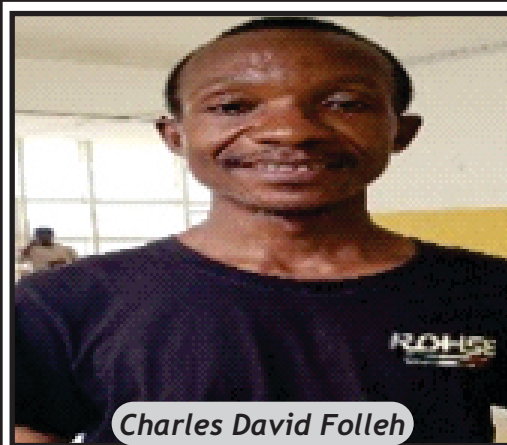
"In my mind, it will be a very tough runoff. In order for Unity Party to win this runoff, she needs to put proper mechanism in place to protect her votes; anything short of that will be difficult to accept. On the other hand, CDC needs to manipulate to win the elections. If the elections go on with no manipulation, CDC will lose. So CDC needs to manipulate and the Unity Party needs to protect in order to win the elections."

"I think it is a very tough electoral process more especially, coming down from the general elections and going to the runoff where the people decided in favor for change. It is a tough political game but both sides have to put their feet down to deliver their messages, because I believe that the ruling establishment won massively in the southeast. Though the southeast population is less, I think it is an edge for President Weah, because he got some votes in other strong holds of Ambassador Boakia, like in Lofa, Nimba, Bong, Margibi and Montserrado at large. He accumulated some level of significate votes. And the Unity Party, as well has to do extract well; they have to put their feet down. They need to employ some tactics to see how best they can protect their votes, because it is electoral process and no one is to be



G. Aubrey Lormie II

trusted. If they just squarely relax on the international community, thinking that they will protect their votes, I think they will be living in total elusion. So, the best thing to do is for them to have their poll watchers knowledgeable of how to protect their votes so they can win the election."



Charles David Folleh

messages to the people, that party stands a chance to win the runoff comes November, but it depends how well they will reach out to the people. What we see interplaying now in the politics is tribal politics or regional politics. When I look at the votes that came from southeast clearly speaks that the politics is going regional. So the Lofa people who have their son in the race that is, Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai, they too need to stand strong and make sure their son gets the victory otherwise, it will be looking like in the Liberian setting, you killed the cow, but then eat dry rice."

"The election is yet to be determined, meaning that the election is still open, it is challenging for the both parties. Any party that carried their

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By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Gbehzonhngar M. Findley, who is making a comeback.

A former member of the opposition Unity Party and a sympathizer of the ruling CDC, Findley would soon jump ship to pledge his support to the

McGill surfaced in Margibi to contest the Senatorial race there following his resignation from government months after the US put him on sanction for alleged corruption here.

Senator Marshall Dennis of Grand Gedeh County settled as the 7th defeated Senator who will not be returning to the Capitol. He was kicked out by Mr. Thomas Yaya Nimely of the Liberia Reconstruction Party (LRP).

At number 8 is Daniel Naatehn Sr. (Deceased) of Gbarpolu County. A former member of the CPP, he was replaced by former Finance and Development Planning Minister Amara Konneh. Mr. Konneh, who contested as an independent had easy access to the Capitol.

Senator Stephen Zargo of Lofa County sits at number 9 among the outgoing senators. He was defeated at the hotly contested Lofa County ballot by Security expert Momo T. Cyrus an independent but with allegiance to the ruling CDC.

Senator Francis S. Paye of Rivercess is recorded as the 10th and second Senator to be defeated by a US designee. Mr. Bill T. Twehway, former Managing Director of the National Port Authority was one of three persons sanctioned by the US Government for alleged corruption.

Twehway resigned and relocated to Rivercess County where he would son run on the ticket of the CDC. Twehway, a former Representative once contested on the ticket of the former ruling Unity Party but lost his seat in 2017.

The last Senator on the list of departees is Sen. Conmany Wesseh of River Gee County. Sen. Wesseh was forced out by Rep. Francis S. Dopoh, who contested as an Independent Candidate after he failed to win the Unity Party's nomination. He lost to Sen. Wesseh at the party's primaries but defeated him at the national election.

Meanwhile, the four senators who retained their seats are Sen. Saah H. Joseph of the ruling CDC (Montserrado County, Nimba County Sen. Prince Y. Johnson (MDR), Maryland County Sen. J Gbleh Bo Browne of the CDC, and Senate- Pro-tempt Albert T. Chie (CDC). -edited by Othello B. Garblah

At least about 11 incumbent senators have been butted out of the Senate, according to results emanating from the October 10, 2023, Presidential and Legislative elections. This



means only four of the 15 incumbent Senators that were up for re-election retained their seats.

The 11 Senators are-Senator Cllr. Varney G. Sherman of Grand Capemount County was replaced by Dabah M. Varvpilah. Cllr. Sherman, a former chairman of the opposition Unity Party would later run as an independent candidate only to be defeated by a candidate of his former party-UP's Dabah M. Varvpilah, Next is Senator Morris G. Saytumah of Bomi County, again another steward of the former ruling Unity Party who jumped ship at the eleventh hour to support incumbent President George Weah's reelection bid. Boored by citizens at the early stages of the 2023 October 10 campaign, he was kicked out by former House Speaker Alex Taylo, a former member of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) who withdrew his support and contested as an independent candidate.

In Bong County, Senator Dr. Henrique Tokpah's 18-year journey at the Legislature came to an end, when Johnny Kpehe, an independent candidate whose popularity took Bong County by storm during the 2023 elections.

In Grand Bassa County, Sen. Jonathan Kaipay was the 4th Senator to vacate his seat for former Senate Pro-tempt

Collaborating Political Party (CPP) but would choose to contest as an independent candidate. Findley is being viewed as the rising Godfather of Bassa Politics.

Findley also served as Foreign Minister in the Weah government before resigning to contest in the December 2020 mid-term Senatorial Election, he was defeated by incumbent Sen. Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence.

Senator Milton Teahjay, a former sympathizer of the CDC during the 2005 presidential runoff, would later join the Unity Party following his appointment by ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as Superintendent of Sinoe. He would later leave the post to contest as Senator in 2017, which he won. During the months leading to the 2023 election, Teahjay tried to beat his path back at the CDC but could only do that by alignment.

He was woefully defeated by someone he had regarded as a son-Crayton Oldman Ducan, Sinoe's outgoing District #1 Representative.

Number 6 on the list of outgoing senators is Sen. Jim Tornonlah of Margibi County. Sen. Tornonlah's chances of retaining his seat were made visibly impossible when former Minister of State Nathaniel McGill joined the race on the ticket of the ruling CDC.

Starts from page 7 Women want penalties for

society. It needs to be continued and owned by the traditional leaders, the government, civil society, and communities.

Regarding Liberia's recent elections, the international community is not just impressed but very impressed. While there were challenges, overall, the election process

was highly commendable.

The Ambassador recommended to those who continue the practice of FGM to follow the path laid out by the government and the traditional council to end FGM. While external support will continue, it's essential that this process is driven and owned by local voices, including the traditional council and civil

society.

In addition, the traditional queen of Liberia declared during the turnover of tools used in FGM in Bong County that FGM is officially banned, and the traditional community has accepted that it will no longer be practiced. However, she emphasized that there are other steps required to ensure legal enforcement.

Bea Mountain confirms 1 death; 2 injured

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Bea Mountain Mining Company has confirmed at least one dead, two in critical condition at the John F. Kennedy Medical Hospital in Sinkor, Monrovia, after a fatal accident during underground mining that occurred last Thursday, October 19, 2023, at its mining site in Kinjor, Grand Cape Mount County, Western Liberia.

The Turkish gold-mining company also clarifies initial media reports that more than 40 miners died after the latest mudslides, explaining that more people trapped underground or beneath the rocks, were struggling for survival after the rubbles fell upon them in the fatal accident.

Bea Mountain Safety's Manager Shadrach O. Fahnbulleh, confirms that a local miner identified as Thomas Haines, instantly lost his life,

and unfair to us."

He details that at the time of the incident, a new shift had taken over that Tuesday, October 17, when the two foreign employees and a Liberian, responsible for charging the blasting machine, had gone to perform their duties and unfortunately met their fate unfortunately.

"At the time, there were no workers on the site, only three of those guys responsible for charging the machine, and there were no blasting."

According to him, on Monday, October 23, rescue crew including staffers and medical teams assisted the survivors, but unfortunately, the Liberian Thomas Haines, died instantly, while Muzatter Cengiz and Bagi Cava were rushed to the company's medical facility for first aid before they were transferred to Monrovia for proper medication.

Eyewitnesses confirm the one death with two injuries.

Zinnah Diablo, Kinjor Town



when a rock from the broken-bricks fell on his head, while two nationals - Muzatter Cengiz and Bagi Cava, who got severely wounded with parts broken from their bodies, were among three miners on duty responsible for charging the battery, before rock blasting can occur when the rubbles fell upon them.

Fahnbulleh says at no time forty (40) miners were on duty when the casualty occurred, saying "At no time there were 40 people mining when this incident occurred; this is sad, misleading

Chief, describes as unfortunate, situation involving the death of a member of his community.

Chief Diablo calls on the Management of Bea Mountain and the Government of Liberia to do away with underground mining that he describes as very dangerous.

Meanwhile, Bea Mountain through its Communication Consultant, Alphonso Toweh, expresses grief over the incident and extends condolences to the bereaved family. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from back page Liberia's verdict out today

and Amb. Boakai of the former then President Ellen Johnson-ruling Unity Party (UP) faceoff in a Sirleaf, lost the polls. presidential run-off.

Both men battled in a 2017 run- contested in the October 2023 off when Mr. Weah was an polls. The National Presidential opposition. Boakai, whose party's tally report released last week loyalty was divided in factions placed Mr. Weah in a narrow lead between him and his former boss, with a margin of 7,361 votes.

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Liberia's verdict out today

By Naneka A. Hoffman

The National Elections Commission (NEC) says final nationwide results for the presidential, senatorial and representative elections will

stolen during the first round of the elections held on 10 October 2023. Nationwide final results could not be announced due to the absence of results from Nimba County

continued that the collation of the results is ongoing at NEC Headquarters.

As final results are due today, there is looming uncertainty that any of Liberia's two political archrivals - incumbent President George Manneh Weah and opposition Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai would win a first-round victory as they projected.

Both men are sharing close percentages from the total votes counted earlier, and a re-run ordered by the NEC last week in Nimba County does not show prospects of preventing a run-off.

On 18 October 2023, NEC Madam Browne-Lansanah said President Weah had obtained 803,674 votes or 43.84%, while Mr. Boakai obtained 796,313 votes or 43.44%.

A presidential candidate must obtain 50 percent plus one of the total valid votes to be declared a winner.

Should the NEC declare a run-off today, it would be the second time Mr. Weah and his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)



NEC Boss Davidetta Browne-Lansanah

be announced today, Tuesday, 24 October 2023.

During a regular press briefing Monday, 23 October 2023 in Monrovia, Davidetta Browne-Lansanah, also disclosed that election results from Nimba County Electoral District #4, Beo Lontuo will be announced.

Votes in the district were re-run after ballot boxes were

Electoral District #4.

She added that these announcements will be made at the Commission's press briefing at the NEC Headquarters on 9th & 10th Street at 4:30pm. The NEC boss stated that tally has been completed following the re-run of elections in Nimba County District #4. She

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