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

# The New Dawn

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Pres. Weah

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# slight lead



Amb. Boakai



Former Nigerian President Jonathan

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# Continental News

## Mali's Army Says Kidal Recaptured from Rebels

Mali's army said Tuesday it has retaken the northern city of Kidal from rebels, after a raid that left many insurgents dead. The reported capture, not confirmed by independent observers, would mark a symbolic victory for Mali's

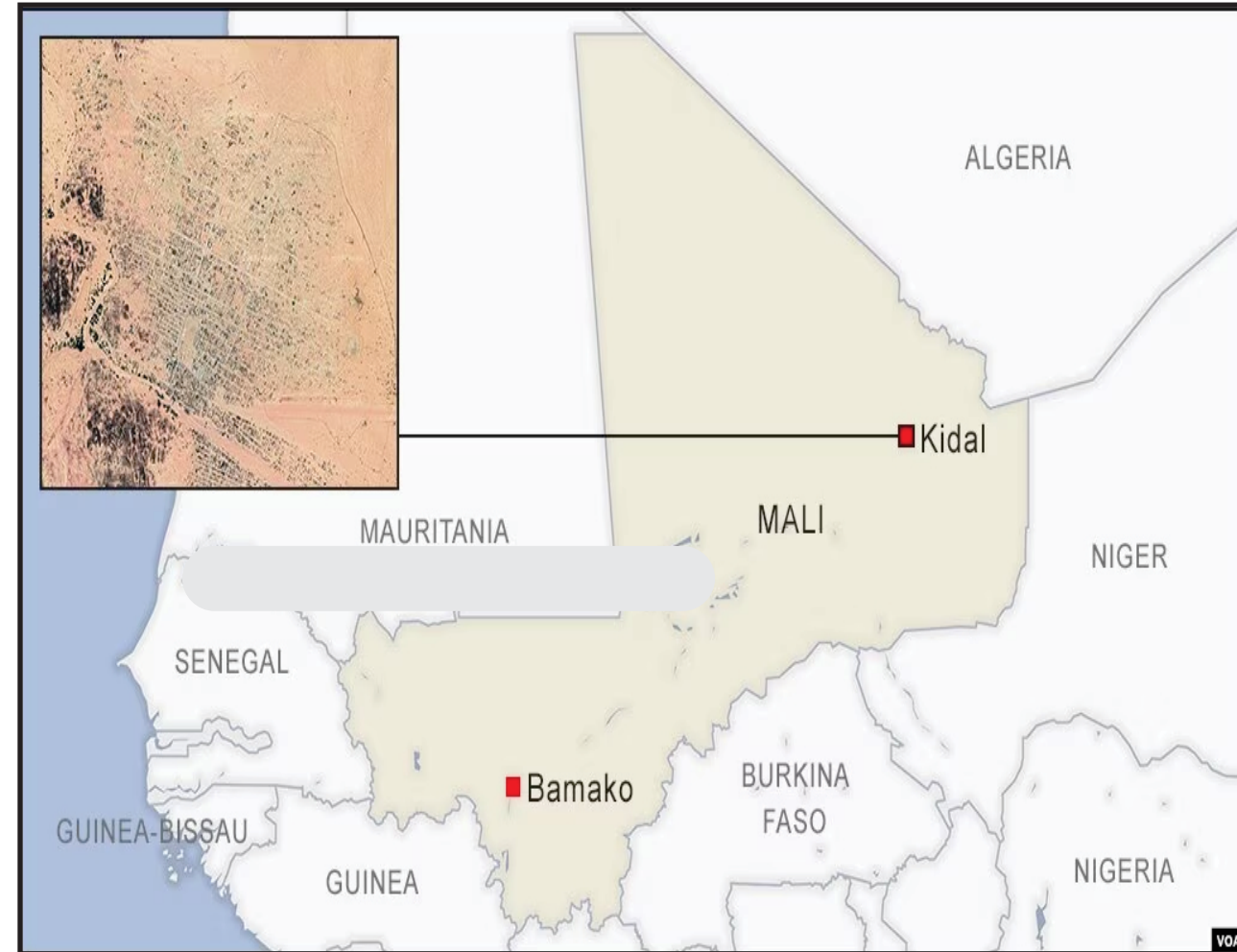
consists of recovering and securing the integrity of the territory, without any exclusion, in accordance with the resolution of the [U.N.] security council." Mali's army said it called for peace in the town of about 25,000 and told its residents to obey soldiers. Rebel leaders expecting a

foothold in the region since. Mali has faced much violence since 2012 when a coup in Bamako allowed insurgents to seized the northern half of the country. The U.N. brokered a peace deal between the rebels and Mali's government in 2015, though Islamist militants

## Why South Africa regrets its liberal post-apartheid asylum laws

With xenophobia rising in South Africa, Home Affairs Minister Aaron Motsoaledi has announced plans to toughen asylum and immigration laws in a move that will have far-reaching consequences for foreign nationals who seek refuge in the country. His proposals are contained in a document, known as a White Paper, which has been released for public discussion as the first step towards adopting legislation that will mark a decisive break with the more embracing policy that the government championed after it took power at the end of the racist system of apartheid in 1994. In a sign of the extent to which he envisages changes, Dr Motsoaledi said the government had made a "serious mistake" about two years later when it signed up to international agreements - such as the UN's refugee convention - without seeking exemptions from certain clauses.

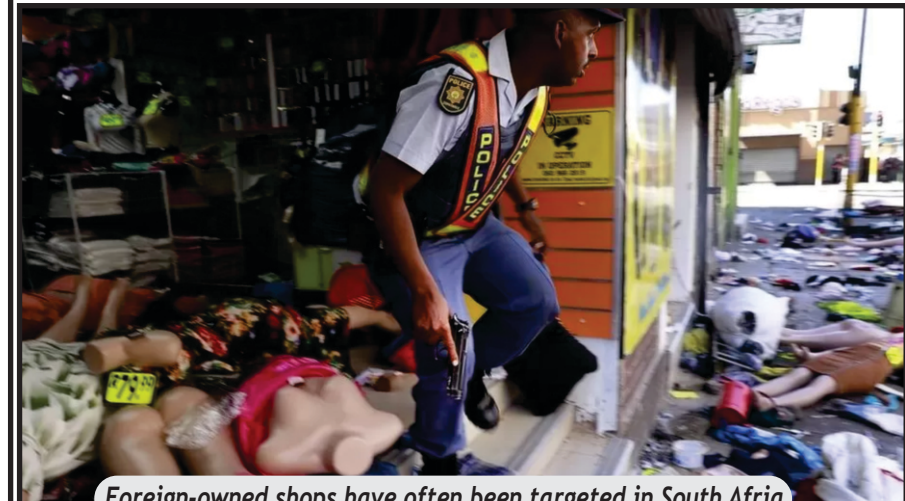
"The political and economic dynamics have changed considerably since then, which explains the shift in government thinking." Dr Motsoaledi is also pushing for people to seek asylum in the first safe country they enter, meaning they could be denied asylum if they came via other countries. His proposal would mostly affect those from other African nations, as they form the bulk of refugees and asylum-seekers fleeing conflict and persecution. According to the UN, about 250,000 refugees and asylum seekers live in South Africa. These are separate from documented or undocumented foreign nationals in the country for other reasons, including those seeking better economic opportunities. In a paper published in 2021, an academic at South Africa's University of the Free State, Khangelani Moyo, said that 25% of the refugees and asylum seekers came from Ethiopia, 23% from the Democratic of Republic of Congo, 11% from Somalia, 10% from Bangladesh and 6% from Zimbabwe. Harper says the



army as they have been virtually absent from the city, with ethnic Tuareg rebels controlling much of the northern part of the country. "Today, our armed and security forces have taken over Kidal. Our mission is not complete," Mali's junta leader, President Assimi Goita, said on X. "I recall it

military offensive cut phone lines in Kidal, and there has been difficulty in contacting the remote town. Insurgents have not commented on the reported takeover. The Kidal region has long frustrated the Mali government, after the army suffered several defeats there from 2012 to 2014, and has been unable to regain much of a

connected al-Qaida and Islamic State went on to kill thousands of civilians. Mali's military seized power in a 2020 coup, ordering the U.N. peacekeepers to leave the country, leading to fighting between the rebels and military over territories vacated by the U.N. VOA



This was unlike many other countries, which opted out of clauses giving asylum-seekers and refugees the same rights as their citizens - including the right to employment and education for their children, he said. Paddy Harper, a journalist with South Africa's Mail & Guardian newspaper, said Dr Motsoaledi's proposals were the latest sign that the government - led by the African National Congress (ANC) - believed it went too far after white-minority rule ended. "South Africa had been a pariah during apartheid, and as the ANC led its integration into the world it opened up the country to immigrants and asylum-seekers, with many coming from other parts of Africa and Asia," Harper told the BBC. "The ANC government also did this in the interest of pan-African and international solidarity because of the support it received from other countries during the struggle against apartheid," he said.

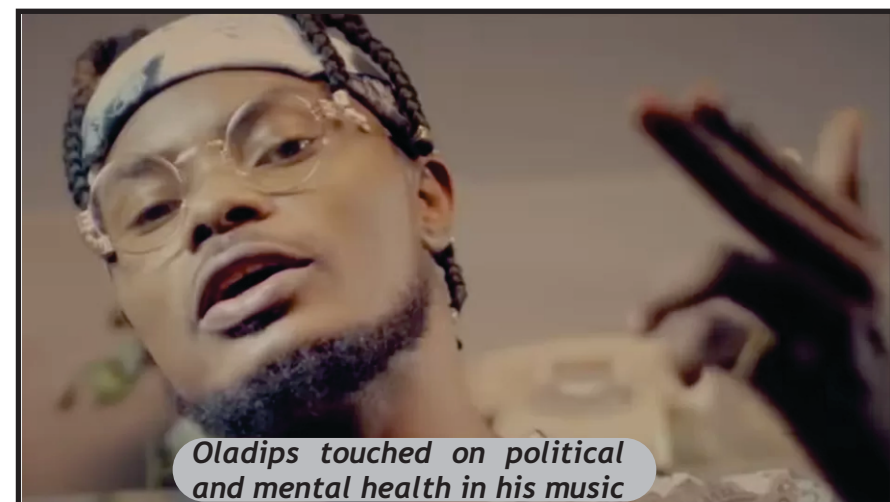
number of refugees and asylum-seekers may be small but it feeds into deeper hostility towards foreigners whose population has increased over the last three decades, while South Africa's unemployment rate has soared to around 32%. "Immigrants - especially Somalis and Bangladeshis - are seen to be controlling the economy of townships, and are accused of taking the jobs of locals. It has led to attacks on migrants, and the emergence of anti-migrant groups, like Operation Dudula," he said. With this in mind, Harper says that Dr Motsoaledi was looking to next year's elections when he unveiled his proposals. "Some of the opposition parties are likely to make migration a major campaign issue. The ANC fears losing support, and wants to be seen to be doing something about it," he said, adding that the governing party's focus on migration also helps deflect attention from its own failures in improving the economy and public services. BBC

## Oladips: Nigerian rapper dies aged 28

Tributes are pouring in for popular Nigerian rapper Oladips, following his death at the age of 28. "We are still in shock as we speak," his management said in an Instagram post. The cause of death is unclear but the post read he "kept his battles within himself" for two years. Oladips was a talented musician who rapped about political issues like the ENDSars protests against police brutality. He also touched on the subject of mental health and depression in his songs. "His story telling rap was top notch" one fan wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. Big Brother Naija

contestant Hermes Iyale expressed his shock over the young rapper's death saying: "May God grant the family the grace to carry this grief." The rapper was due to release his new album titled SUPERHERO ADUGBO (The Memoir) on Thursday. His last single was called Die Young.

Oladips rose to fame when he won a rap competition called the King is Here hosted by Nigerian music giant DBanj in 2015. Oladips's death comes a few months after another popular musician, Mohbad, died in September, leading to nationwide protests. BBC



Oladips touched on political and mental health in his music

# EDITORIAL

## A need for restraint

AS THE NATIONAL Elections Commission announces provisional results from the November 14, 2023 Presidential Runoff Election, it is important that supporters of the opposition Unity Party and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change exercise restraint and avoid any acts of provocation.

**PRE-VICTORY PARADE** by UP supporters reportedly led by Monterrado County Electoral District#10 Representative-Elect, Yekeh Kolubah is unwarranted, when the NEC has not announced a winner and therefore, should be stopped immediately.

**THERE IS NO** reason why any side should rush to celebrate when victory has not been declared officially. Such act is nothing but sheer provocation that could erupt in chaos and violence Liberia does not need.

**PARTY ADHERENTS ARGUE** that they have tally sheets in their possession that seem to indicate their side performed exceptionally well in the runoff poll, motivating them to jump in the streets with celebration, but such claim is yet to be officially substantiated.

**LIBERIANS, PARTICULARLY LEADERS** of political parties should be reminded again and again that violence is counterproductive to Liberia's democratic advancement and should have no place in our body politics, after 14 years of bloody civil war that left 250,000 of compatriots dead, including women, children and the elderly.

**BESIDES, THE GLOBAL** community is currently overwhelmed by arm conflicts, ranging from Europe, the Middle East to the Sahel or Sub-Saharan Africa, and does not have the time and resources to come nurse fresh conflict in Liberia, after spending hundreds of millions here to restore democratic rule.

**FROM A TOTAL** of 20 presidential candidates in the first round of election, we are now left with only two candidates to make a choice. Results of our choices on 14 November are being announced by the NEC, a body that is constitutionally responsible to conduct elections in Liberia and announce results. The Commission should be allowed to do its work, void of distortion and disturbance.

**WE WELCOME STATEMENTS** released by both the ruling CDC and the opposition UP on Wednesday, 15 November calling on their respective supporters and Liberians generally to exercise patience, as the Elections Commission releases progressive results that will lead to declaring a winner.

**LEST WE FORGET**, this country has a lot to achieve in peace than in conflict. We must all endeavor to keep the path of peace not only for this generation, but for posterity.

**THE NEXT GENERATION** of Liberians will judge us very unkindly if those of us calling ourselves leaders, don't demonstrate true leadership that unite a nation in diversity regardless of religious, political, cultural and socio-economic differences.

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# COMMENTARY

By Teresa Marchiori

## Justice for Street Vendors

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - A wave of evictions recently hit in Dakar's bustling Liberté 6 market, a roughly mile-long commercial hub that has served its community for more than 20 years. Hundreds of street vendors' stalls were bulldozed to make way for a new bus system. Authorities gave prior notice and an indemnity to help with the loss of business, but did not address the real problem: the lack of trading space.

Street vending is a legitimate economic activity that provides livelihoods for millions and accounts for a large share of urban employment in many cities across the Global South. Nearly 59,000 street vendors work in Dakar, accounting for 13.8% of total employment, while metropolitan Lima has roughly 450,000, comprising 8.8% of total employment. And these numbers are likely growing as the informal economy absorbs many of those left unemployed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is a livelihood that requires one resource above all: access to busy, pedestrian-friendly, well-connected, and affordable public space. But government authorities focus instead on "cleaning up" cities, which means clearing the streets of vendors. In their view, informal traders are a nuisance: they litter and clutter streets, obstruct urban mobility, and occupy precious space that could be used for modernization or beautification projects, or sold to deep-pocketed developers and transformed into oases of leisure for urban elites.

The failure to provide street vendors with the space they need is short-sighted, at best (eviction campaigns never solve the "problem" - workers often have no choice but to set up shop again). In 2015, the International Labor Organization recommended that subsistence workers be permitted to use public space as member states move from informal to formal economies. Yet time and again, governments have implemented narrow policies and legal frameworks that curtail access.

In fact, this pattern has become embedded in policymakers' strategies to formalize the informal economy. These strategies, focused mainly on getting informal workers to register and pay taxes, can provide important opportunities, including access to social protection, financing, and professional training. But they almost never recognize public space as a workplace, perpetuating the status quo. Instead, they build complex structures on shaky foundations - namely, punitive legal and policy frameworks that criminalize informal trading and deny the most vulnerable access to economic activities.

Proposals to relocate street vendors to enclosed markets are often empty promises - or implemented with little or no consultation with the affected individuals, resulting in poorly planned markets far

from the city's commercial hubs and difficult to reach. Vendors either shun or quickly abandon them, returning instead to the streets from which they were removed.

Acutely aware of their precarity, street vendors usually have one goal: to trade without fear of harassment or eviction. "I know we are not allowed to work here, but I have a family to feed," said an informal worker selling mobile phones from a small kiosk in Guédiawaye, a municipality on the outskirts of Dakar, in an interview in 2022 conducted by my organization, WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing). "All I want is to be able to work and make a living," added the man, who asked not to be named. Pointing to an empty patch of land across the street, he said, "With other vendors, we asked the municipality to authorize us to sell there, but we got no response."

The United Nations' New Urban Agenda, adopted in 2016, recognizes that public space can function as a workplace reality and supports measures that allow for the "best possible commercial use of street-level floors, fostering both formal and informal local markets and commerce." A legal framework that guarantees informal vendors access to this space must underpin any formalization strategy. In fact, it is a logical prerequisite for all other aspects of formalization, like registration and taxation.

Of course, as a scarce resource, urban public space is highly sought after, and there are many competing interests. But its effective management requires input from workers in informal employment, as various initiatives have demonstrated. In India, for example, the 2014 Street Vendors Act established "town vending committees," consisting of government officials, sellers, and others, to make decisions about trading locations and monitor evictions and relocations.

In the 1990s, the Lima municipality involved street vendors from the outset in its relocation planning process to ensure that they had proper access to infrastructure and customers. Between 2009 and 2011, the Dakar municipality started an effective dialogue with informal traders about relocation.

These examples are far from perfect. The inclusive planning process was discontinued in Lima (though it did result in successful relocations), as were the dialogues in Dakar, while India's Street Vendors Act is only partly implemented. But they show that the inclusive management of public space is possible.

Fair distribution of public space is crucial to recognizing street vendors, legalizing their access to a workplace, and protecting their livelihoods. That will not happen unless informal traders participate in - and meaningfully influence - the policies and regulations that affect them.

## OP-ED

By Marina Romanello

# COP28 Must Focus on the Climate-Fueled Health Crisis

**L**ONDON - Our continued dependence on fossil fuels is damaging our health and pushing global temperatures to record levels. The interlinked climate calamities of the past few years - extreme weather events, food insecurity, water scarcity, and worsening air pollution - are a direct result of greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions. But the adverse effects we are experiencing today could be just a preview of the catastrophes that await us.

That is the key finding of the latest Lancet Countdown report on climate change and health, authored by a group of leading health and climate scientists that I led. Undoubtedly, this grim conclusion will not come as a shock to the millions of people suffering from climate-related health issues and their loved ones.

Most of us, wherever we live, are directly or indirectly affected by this crisis.

As climate change worsens, its effects on our physical and mental health are no longer hypothetical. Our research finds that, compared with 1981-2010, the increasing frequency of heatwaves and droughts over the past few years has exposed 127 million more people to moderate or severe food insecurity in 2021.

Meanwhile, outdoor air pollution from the combustion of dirty fuels claims 1.9 million lives annually, and infectious diseases like dengue are expanding to new regions.

Yet, despite 27 years of annual climate-change negotiations, world leaders still refuse to acknowledge the urgent need to phase out fossil fuels. Despite overwhelming evidence that fossil-fuel combustion is the primary driver of the current health crisis, a draft statement on climate change and health, set to be released during the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, omits any reference to the issue.

With many countries and companies backtracking on their climate commitments, the world is moving in the wrong direction. At the current rate of GHG emissions, we are heading for a global temperature increase of nearly 3° Celsius by 2100, far above the 1.5° C target established by the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

The consequences could be catastrophic. Even with a global mean temperature increase of just under 2° C, annual heat-related deaths are projected to increase by 370% by mid-century. The most vulnerable groups, the elderly and children, are now exposed to twice as many heatwave days as they were 30 years ago. And with heatwaves becoming increasingly frequent, the number of people suffering from moderate or severe food insecurity could increase by roughly 525 million by mid-century.

Beyond these direct effects, the climate crisis undermines individual well-being and the socioeconomic conditions necessary for a healthy population. In 2022, extreme heatwaves resulted in a loss of 490 billion working hours worldwide.

Even if we manage to limit global warming to just below 2° C, heat-related labor loss is projected to increase by 50%.

It should be emphasized that these effects are not distributed evenly. The regions that have contributed the least to climate change - Africa, South and Central America, Asia, and small island developing states - often bear the brunt of climate-related health risks.

Given the urgency of the threat we face, the current pace of global efforts to reduce emissions is insufficient, falling far short of the Paris agreement's targets. Energy-based emissions hit an all-time high in 2022, while renewables still account for only 9.5% of the world's electricity.

Households around the world still rely on dirty fuels. In the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, families rely on polluting fuels for 92% of their domestic energy, subjecting residents to toxic air inside their own homes.

While policymakers are tempted to address this crisis incrementally, solving one problem at a time or focusing on adaptation alone is insufficient.

Without significant emissions reductions, adaptation will be futile. The climate-fueled health crisis cannot be solved without urgently shifting away from fossil fuels. By focusing on climate policies that enhance public health and well-being, governments could prevent premature deaths, build a more resilient population and a stronger workforce, and bolster their domestic economies.

How can this be achieved? Our report outlines 11 concrete measures across five priority areas. First and foremost, to ensure that climate hazards remain within the adaptive capacity of our health systems, we must reduce GHG emissions in accordance with the Paris agreement.

This requires a concerted effort to phase out fossil fuels through a just energy transition that mitigates the health effects of air pollution and expands access to clean, renewable energy, especially in the world's most underserved regions, where energy poverty remains a challenge.

At the same time, we must accelerate adaptation efforts to protect communities already suffering from the health consequences of climate change by bolstering cooperation between the health sector, environmental organizations, and meteorological services.

And by eliminating all subsidies, lending, and investment in fossil fuels, we can create space for climate financing and resource allocation to support adaptation efforts in vulnerable countries.

The health sector must lead this transition. Strengthening health adaptation is critical to ensuring that our health systems can protect us amid escalating climate disruptions.

Crucially, we must implement public-health measures that reduce air pollution, advocate healthier low-carbon diets, encourage active lifestyles, and enforce regulations on polluting industries. And, given that the health sector itself accounts for 4.6% of global GHG emissions and has influence over roughly 11% of the world's economy, it could play a significant direct role in global decarbonization.

COP28 is a test of world leaders' commitment to tackle this crisis. A genuine focus on health could catalyze a rapid and sustained shift away from fossil fuels and facilitate adaptation efforts.

Failing to do so will result in a conference that does little more than pay lip service to health concerns and validate our collective inaction. Climate-related deaths will continue to increase, and a livable future will drift further beyond reach.

## OPINION

By Cecilia Elena Rouse,  
Lisa Barrow

# America Needs Public Investment in Childcare

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - This year's winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics, Claudia Goldin, has been recognized for her work documenting women's changing role in the US economy over the past several decades. Far from just an interesting historical account of social progress, the topic remains deeply relevant to economic outcomes today.

Between 1950 and 2000, the labor-force participation rate for prime-age women (25-54 years old) nearly doubled in the United States, increasing by 26 percentage points, compared with a ten-point decline for prime-age men.

While prime-age women's labor-force participation fell from 2007 to 2015, data through October indicate that it will reach a new record high in 2023. That means many children today are in households with a working mother. As of 2022, more than two-thirds of mothers with children under age six were in the labor force. While some are the sole earners in their households, others are in households that need two earners. In either case, the big question is: Who takes care of the children?

Recognizing women's role in the labor market means also recognizing early childhood education and care as an essential market-based service. Without it, both the current health of the economy and future prosperity would be jeopardized. But ensuring ample provision of market-based care is complicated, and several challenges point to the need for a greater public-sector role.

The standard justification for a government role in any market is to address externalities, that is, costs or benefits to society that would not be taken into consideration by individual market participants. In this case, many economists agree that investing in children is one of the most productive investments a society can make. Support for child health and education has been shown to yield benefits (positive externalities) for society as a whole, not only for individual children. Among the long-term social benefits that researchers have documented are reduced crime, lower spending on public assistance, and higher tax receipts.

Despite these benefits, parents are unlikely to invest in the socially optimal level of high-quality early childhood education and care. Moreover, key features of this market suggest that the private sector will also underprovide it.

For starters, high-quality education and care for young children is expensive. Because young children need a great deal of human attention, childcare will always be labor-intensive, with high quality standards requiring low child-to-adult ratios. Unlike in other parts of the economy, such as manufacturing, childcare costs have not been significantly lowered through technological innovation. High-quality care will remain expensive for the foreseeable future.

Another challenge is the lifecycle mismatch in means and needs. Parents typically need early childhood education and care services early in their careers, before they have reached their peak earnings. But unlike with cars, houses, and college tuition, they typically cannot take out loans to pay for early childhood education and care. Such demand-side challenges are ample justification for the government to intervene, either with subsidies or direct provision of some early childhood education and care.

Nor is the supply side free of problems. Owing to the razor-thin profit margins in the childcare business, many providers barely get by.

Most are small, low-budget operations that cannot afford to pay employees truly livable wages. According to one analysis, childcare workers in the US earn 23% less on average than workers in other occupations with similar demographic characteristics. And another study found that 53% of childcare workers receive some form of public assistance. No wonder staff turnover in the industry is high.

Since a stable, qualified workforce is essential to high-quality care, greater public-sector investments to support staffing levels and reduce turnover are sorely needed. Yet despite this obvious need, the US lags many other countries in terms of public spending on early childhood education and care. In 2019, it ranked 34th among OECD countries, spending just 0.5% of GDP on early childhood education and care, compared with the OECD average of 0.8%.

Some economists argue that low public support for childcare, combined with the lack of other family-friendly policies, has contributed to a decline in US women's labor-force participation relative to other OECD countries.

Again, this involves externalities that ultimately affect everyone. Any standard model of economic growth will show that human capital and the size of the labor force are important factors.

A well-functioning market for high-quality early childhood education and care is thus essential for helping mothers who choose (or need) to work, and for sustaining socially beneficial investments in children.

Between the high costs of childcare, the absence of credit markets to help young parents pay for it, and the pressure on providers to contain costs by paying extremely low wages, the US public sector has more than enough reason to step in with support for both sides of the market.

Not only would such investments help millions of families balance competing demands of work and care; they would also give children a strong start in life and support their future economic well-being, as well as our own.



## LIBERIA NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY

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The Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) is a Humanitarian Organization that works throughout the 15 Counties. The LNRCS is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose mandate is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all time all forms of humanitarian activities.

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**Bid documents** containing an invitation to bid, instruction to bidders, requirements, general & special conditions of the contract etc. for the provision of Mosquito Nets can be obtained from the LNRCS HQ until **23, November 2023 at 16:00** from LNRCS by sending a request via email at the following email address:

[Lnracs.procurement@liberian-redcross.org](mailto:Lnracs.procurement@liberian-redcross.org) cc [aloysius.perry@liberian-redcross.org](mailto:aloysius.perry@liberian-redcross.org) or visit [www.lnracs.org.lr](http://www.lnracs.org.lr) , [www.liberiahrjobs.com](http://www.liberiahrjobs.com), or obtaining a hard copy at the security desk of the **LNRCS Head Office, 107 Lynch Street.**

Bids, complete in all respects and in a sealed envelope must be received at the above address **during office hours (Monday to Friday) from 9:00am to 3:00 pm. no later than 24, November 2023 at 3:00pm**

**The LNRCS reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever and is not bound to accept the lowest bid.**



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**Position:** VSAT and SAP Plantation Network Engineer  
**Number Needed:** One (1)  
**Duty Station:** Sinoe  
**Category:** Local  
**Application Deadline:** November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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1. Manage VSAT and SAP plantation network in all units.
2. Designing and implementing new network solutions and/or improving the efficiency of current networks
3. Installing, configuring, and supporting network equipment, including routers, proxy servers, switches, WAN accelerators, DNS, and DHCP
4. Configuring firewalls, routing, and switching to maximize network efficiency and security
5. Maximizing network performance through ongoing monitoring and troubleshooting
6. Arranging scheduled upgrades, Updating network equipment to the latest firmware release
7. Manage all network infrastructure equipment, including Cisco Routers/Switches/Firewalls/Wireless Networks/Power Management
8. Carry out any other task the Superior gives occasionally.

#### Education

Bachelor's Degree in Network Engineering. A Master's degree would be an advantage.

#### Experience/Competencies/Skills:

1. 7+ years' work experience in a fast-paced multinational/cross-border operation, including over five years as a Network Engineer.
2. Expert knowledge of networking concepts and protocols such as TCP/IP, DHCP, UDP, and routing.
3. Experience manage VSAT and SAP.
4. Experience with network hardware and infrastructure such as routers, hubs, servers, VPNs, and switches.
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12. Having MTCNA & MTCRE certificate will be an advantage
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14. Adaptable to multicultural settings with mutual respect
15. Ability to work in remote areas, under high pressure, and over long hours if necessary

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Interested Candidates should address a cover letter with a CV & (2) two passport-size photos to:

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 Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc.  
 Butaw Main Office  
 Sinoe County

#### Kindly note the followings:

- the information & application shall optionally be dropped at the GVL Butaw Main Office (HR Department)
- applicants shall also email the application letter, cover letter & credentials to: [alphonso.kofi@veroleum.com](mailto:alphonso.kofi@veroleum.com) or [daniel.cephas@veroleum.com](mailto:daniel.cephas@veroleum.com)
- Only selected candidates will be notified for the interview.

## ECC deployed over hundred observers

*Starts from page 7*

Liberia National Police (LNP).

The ECC also reported in its press conference that in Nimba County Electoral District #4 at the Dullay Public School with code 30052 in

Polling place 03, a Voter Identification Officer name withheld, was seen allegedly voting multiple times.

The UP agent called security to report the matter.

The security then tried

to arrest the voter identification officer, but the presiding officer intervened and told the security to leave the man because he would resolve the issue. As a result, the ECC said the UP agent refused to sign the Record of the Count Form.

## Political leaders urged to

*Starts from page 7*

While the anticipation for the official results persists, Liberia stands at a critical juncture.

The choices made by political leaders and citizens during this post-election period will shape the nation's future.

It is hoped that their

commitment to peace and stability will prevail, fostering an environment conducive to dialogue, national development, and the well-being of all Liberians. As the nation eagerly awaits the announcement of the official results, the call for unity and peace serves as a

reminder of Liberia's collective aspirations for a prosperous future. The citizens' commitment to maintaining peace during this transition period will be crucial in reinforcing Liberia's democratic progress and fostering an environment.

## Power House Ministries begins

*Starts from page 11*

He says he looks forward to the next four to five years that the ministries will take the gospel to all corners of the world. Born in a pastoral home, Apostle

Wilson began his ministerial journey at age 7 with the Gospel Proclaimed Evangelical Ministries at Patience Shop, Nyanford Town under Rev. /Mot. Sarah Flomo. He holds a Bachelor of Theology

degree from Theophilus Theological Seminary in Nairobi, Kenya and is currently a candidate for master's degree at Byrant Theological Seminary, African Methodist Episcopal University in Monrovia. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# ABIC urges Liberians to maintain peace

By Naneka A. Hoffman

The Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC) for Women Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security through its flagship program the Women's Situation Room

matter which party they elect. She says whichever government that comes to power is for all Liberians, and they should promote and maintain the peace.

"If partisans don't like the results of the election, they should help their political party and bring evidences so

they are here is because people or forefathers built Liberia, noting that Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh's father, was one of those killed in 1980, but she has not given up.

Madam Olubanke King Akerele continues that youth participation and presence at the Women's Situation Room



Chesson-Wureh

urges Liberians to maintain peaceful posture after the November 14, 2023 Presidential Runoff Election.

Speaking at the Women's Situation Room Motorcyclists' Peace Ride for peaceful election in Liberia on the eve of voting Monday, November 13, at the former Ducor Palace in Monrovia, Coordinator Cllr. Yvette Chesson -Wureh, said Liberians should promote and maintain peace after the election, cautioning that they don't want any Liberian dead or victimized because of elections.

Cllr. Wureh says Liberians are free to vote for whoever they want because it is their right, adding that it doesn't

that they can also start the legal process. There is a legal process; no need to cut anybody or fight anybody, they should use the legal process", she underscores.

Also speaking, the Chairperson of the Board of ABIC Olubanke King Akerele says Liberian youth are the future of the Nation, so they should prepare themselves for leadership.

Madam Akerele, former foreign minister of Liberia, says the youth should not allow themselves to be fooled anyone. "We will die and go to hell, and we will leave your here, you people will build this Nation, and people have to continue."

She says the only reason

Motorcyclists Peace Ride for peaceful election in Liberia is important because they are part of the future of Liberia.

Eminent Woman of the Women's Situation Room, former Mayor of the City of Monrovia, Ophelia Hoff Saytumah, says the future of Liberia lies in the hands of the youth, so they should do everything to preserve the peace, saying, "That means we have to be responsible citizens of the Republic of Liberia."

The former Mayor of Monrovia adds that peace is not something that you knock about, so it is very important that young people conduct themselves in a very peaceful manner. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# UP expresses regret

Opposition Unity Party has expressed its regret over a recent Facebook post in which its Campaign Spokesperson Mr. Mohammed Ali accused the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) of "receiving US \$150,000.00" to compromise its neutral role in Tuesday's Presidential runoff.

In a statement issued by the UP Secretary General Amos Tweh, the party said the allegation was at no time sanctioned by the Unity Party, its Standard-bearer, or Campaign Team.

"It should be noted that the UP does recognize and value the indispensable role ECOWAS has played in Liberia's rebirth and renewal," the statement

said. The statement explained that consistent with the UP's Policy of strengthening Liberia's participation in ECOWAS, it reassures ECOWAS, United Nations, and Liberia's bilateral and multilateral Partners of its unflinching

commitment to all protocols which Liberia has either acceded to, signed or ratified.

"The UP therefore regrets Mr. Mohammed Ali's assertion, which he is aware does not reflect that of the Unity Party," the statement concluded.



Boakai supporter at a rally Tuesday Sept. 5, 2023

# Violence at Voting Precinct# 30078 in Old Road

By Kruah Thompson

The Namuwa English and Arabic School on Old Road, Sinkor took a dark turn Tuesday, 14 November as voting precinct Code 30078 became a scene of chaos during the Presidential Runoff Election.

The peaceful democratic process took an unexpected turn when violence erupted, leaving voters and election officials shocked. The incident unfolded as voters queued to cast their ballots, anticipating a smooth electoral process.

But as the day progressed, confrontations between rival political supporters escalated, resulting in clashes that disrupted the voting proceedings.

Eyewitnesses reported use of gun, and, in some instances, fists, creating a chaotic and unsafe environment at the polling station.

Mohammed Diallo, an eyewitness on the scene, recounted sequence of events that transpired during the polling.



Scene at the English-Arabic school

Diallo narrated that the trouble began when motorcyclists associated with a group named "Capaio Capaio" were touring the district, but upon hearing of their arrival, Montserrado County District#10 Representative-Elect, Yakeh Kolubah, allegedly sent an emissary to investigate the situation.

In a surprising turn of events, a Sabu Unit team arrived without conducting a thorough investigation and apprehended an individual unrelated to the incident, according to Diallo. The wrong person was taken into custody, leading to a subsequent altercation. As the wrongly-accused individual arrived to cast his vote, the Sabu Unit allegedly assaulted and took him away. Diallo emphasized that the team associated with the lawmaker was not targeting innocent individuals but attempting to

maintain order in the face of perceived threats.

According to Diallo, the Capaio Capaio group, resembling a "terrorist" presence, originated from Peace Island. Law enforcement officers and NEC security intervened to prevent the group from disrupting the voting process, resulting in clashes.

Junior Sheriff, another witness, described an encounter where he picked up individuals claiming they were heading to the center to vote. Upon arrival, they observed a group chasing them, prompting Sheriff to take evasive action. During the pursuit, one assailant brandished a gun, threatening to open fire if Sheriff attempted to escape. The group then seized Sheriff's bike.

The unfolding events left the community shaken, with witnesses expressing concern over the unprecedented violence in the district.

Authorities are expected to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident, aiming to bring those responsible to justice and ensure the security of future

electoral processes in the area.

Mohammed Dulleh, the Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) observer present during the disturbance, expressed dismay, saying, "I never expected to witness violence at a polling station. It's disheartening that the democratic process has been marred by such incidents."

The Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) swiftly condemned the violence, emphasizing the need for a peaceful and fair electoral environment.

In a statement, the ECC urged political parties to prioritize peaceful engagement and respect the democratic rights of citizens.

Meanwhile, the incident at the Namuwa English and Arabic School created chaotic conditions during the voting process, with voters seen running for safety as violence erupted. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## ECC deployed over hundred observers to monitor tallying of results

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Body responsible for monitoring electoral activities here, the Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) says it deployed over a hundred observers across the country

transparency and fairness in the electoral process.

ECC Chairperson Cllr. Oscar Bloh, on behalf of the Committee, recommended that the NEC increase the frequency of pronouncement of preliminary results to at least

political parties expressing grievances on the outcome of the electoral results to channel them through the law and procedures outlined in the Constitution and provision of the NEC about the adjudication of electoral petitions.

Meanwhile, the ECC has called for calm as the NEC begins the announcement of provisional results.

Cllr. Bloh admonished Liberians to remain calm and resist being mobilized by political actors to get involved in violence.

In a related development, the ECC says it observed that 99% of the polling places across the country, both the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and Unity Party (UP) agents approved and signed the results form before being published on the wall by NEC officials.

The ECC condemned violence during the election, disclosing that it recorded a relatively tense environment in Montserrado and Nimba Counties during the voting, closing, and counting processes, acknowledging minor disruptions of polling places by supporters of both parties contesting the run-off process.

The ECC said it observed tension at polling at the Esther Yalartai Academy with code 30442.

The tension further extended and led to the disruption of the entire counting process for hours before calm was restored by the

twice a day to dispel doubts and spread of misinformation that has the propensity to undermine peace and stability.

Cllr. Bloh urged the Commission to publish results by polling places in an analyzable format that would foster transparency and increase its trust.

He also urged that the Commission allow election stakeholders to conduct -an in-depth analysis of the voting results.

The ECC Chairperson also cautioned political parties to refrain from claiming early - a victory that will interfere with the tallying process.

He noted that the ECC wants

## Political leaders urged to sustain Liberia's peace - As Liberians await run-off election results

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan

Citizens throughout Liberia are urging political leaders to prioritize peace and maintain unity as the National Elections Commission (NEC) begins announcing results from the 14 November 2023 presidential run-off election.

On Wednesday, 15 November, the NEC released a preliminary report from just 1,315 out of 5,890 polling places across the Country.

Incumbent President George Manne Weah and opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, the country's immediate past vice president, met for the second time in a run-off.

They earlier battled in a run-off election in 2017 which President Weah won as an opposition leader at the time.

Recognizing the potential for tensions to arise, citizens are calling for a peaceful Liberia and a commitment to the stability and progress of the country.

The run-off election marked an important milestone in

prominent civil society activist in Lofa County has stressed the need for maintaining peace and stability.

"Liberia has made remarkable progress over the years, and we must safeguard the unity we have achieved," said Ms. Kamara.

"I call upon our political leaders to act responsibly and prioritize the well-being of the nation above all else. Let us uphold the peace that so many lives were sacrificed to secure," she pleaded.

The citizens' appeal for peace resonates deeply within the nation, as Liberia's history is marred by a devastating civil war that ended only a few decades ago.

The desire to prevent a relapse into conflict and ensure a peaceful transition of power unites Liberians from all backgrounds.

Political leaders are also acknowledging the importance of maintaining peace during this critical juncture.

Representatives from various parties have issued statements emphasizing their commitment to peaceful governance and the well-being of the nation.

They have called for patience,



Cllr. Oscar Bloh

to monitor the 14 November 2023 presidential run-off results.

Votes are being tallied by the National Elections Commission (NEC) from the just-ended run-off following the voting exercise on Tuesday.

In a press conference Wednesday, the ECC assured the safety of votes, saying it has over a hundred observers, including 19 county coordinators and 146 observers assigned across national tallying centers.

It said it has observers at magisterial offices of the NEC to monitor the tallying of results that will allow

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## US remains committed to Liberia

### -US Envoy Amb. Greenfield

United States Envoy to the United Nations Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield says the US remains committed to helping the people of Liberia achieve their democratic goal.

In a brief statement issued Wednesday, November 15, following Tuesday's Presidential runoff between incumbent President George Weah and former Vice President Joseph Boakai, Amb. Greenfield noted that Liberians had once again reaffirmed their commitment to democracy.

"We commend their dedication to exercising their right to vote broadly and peacefully. The United States will continue to promote accountability and will call

out anyone who undermines the electoral process through fraud, violence, or intimidation.

At each step of this election, Liberians from all walks of life have expressed

their desire for Liberia - one of the oldest continuous republics in the world - to become a beacon of peaceful citizen-centered democratic governance in the region. The United States remains committed to helping the people of Liberia achieve this goal." She concluded.



Liberia's democratic process.

The election was conducted peacefully in most places, though there were cases of disturbances in a few places.

The process reflected the nation's commitment to upholding democratic values.

While the Commission gradually releases the official results, citizens are anxiously awaiting the outcome and emphasizing the need for national cohesion and stability.

In the wake of the ongoing tallying process, citizens from all walks of life are actively engaging in discussions and community initiatives aimed at fostering peace and unity.

Civil society organizations, religious leaders, and grassroots movements are organizing events and dialogues, encouraging each other to embrace tolerance, respect, and understanding across party lines.

Ms. Kumba Kamara, a

respect for the electoral process, and a commitment to accepting the official results once announced.

The international community, too, has underscored the significance of sustaining peace and stability in Liberia.

Diplomatic missions, international organizations, and regional bodies have commended the peaceful conduct of the elections and expressed their support for a peaceful post-election period.

They have urged political leaders to prioritize dialogue, inclusivity, and the rule of law.

As Liberia awaits the official results, the Election Commission is working diligently to finalize the tabulation process.

The Commission has assured citizens of its commitment to transparency and accuracy in delivering the official outcomes.

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# Français

## Présidentielle Libérienne : Weah et Boakai se disent surs de leur Victoire

Malgré une faible affluence visible des électeurs à travers le pays, le Président George Manneh Weah et son

Libériens ont exercé leur droit de vote dans une atmosphère qu'il a qualifiée de calme.

"Je suis heureux ; l'endroit est calme, tout le monde vote et il

plaidera en sa faveur lors du scrutin.

"Toujours confiant, en train de voter, la confiance que l'on m'a accordée pour mon travail. Avec ce que j'ai accompli, le peuple libérien m'élira, il n'y a aucun doute", a déclaré le président Weah sur un ton joyeux.

En revanche, après avoir voté dans le district électoral n°6 du comté de Montserrado, l'ambassadeur Boakai a déclaré aux journalistes à sa résidence de Rehab à Paynesville que le faible taux de participation était dû au transport d'électeurs.

Il estime que certains électeurs enregistrés en dehors de leur circonscription n'ont pas pu se rendre sur leur lieu d'inscription.

Le candidat du Parti de l'Unité (UP) défie le Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) du président Weah lors du second tour du 14 novembre, leur deuxième affrontement électoral.

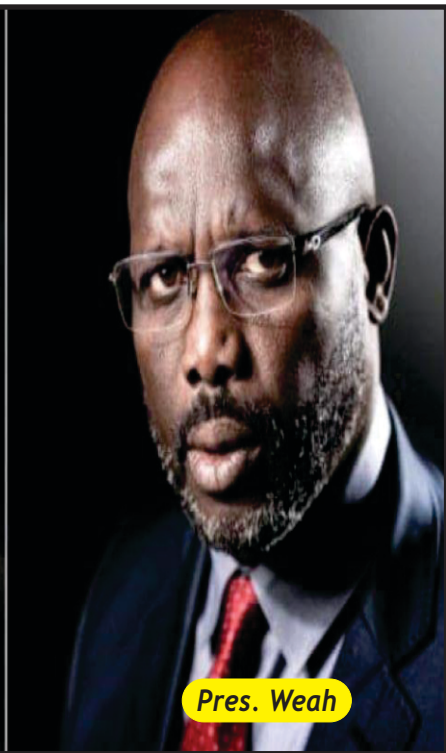
La Commission électorale nationale (NEC) a organisé le second tour car les deux hommes n'ont pas réussi à obtenir les 50% plus une voix, nécessaires pour être déclarés vainqueurs lors de l'élection présidentielle à laquelle ont participé 20 candidats le 10 octobre.

"Je pense que la faible participation est due au

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Pres. Weah



principal adversaire, Joseph Nyuman Boakai, demeurent optimistes quant à leur victoire lors du second tour de l'élection présidentielle, qui s'est tenu le mardi 14 novembre 2023.

Après avoir glissé son bulletin dans l'urne mardi dans la communauté de Kendeja, le long de l'autoroute Robertsfield à l'extérieur de Monrovia, le président Weah a exprimé sa satisfaction quant à la manière paisible dont les

n'y a pas de tension. C'est la vraie nature de la démocratie, et je tiens à exhorter chaque Libérien à exercer son droit constitutionnel de cette manière, c'est le meilleur pour notre pays", a déclaré le président.

Le président Weah s'est montré confiant quant à sa victoire face à son rival acharné, l'ambassadeur Joseph Nyumah Boakai du Parti de l'Unité, soulignant que son travail de développement sans précédent au cours des six dernières années

Lansanah a abordé l'impraticabilité de la demande des agents de parti exigeant que le personnel de vote lise les noms des électeurs avant de voter. Une telle pratique, a-t-elle souligné, va à l'encontre des procédures établies de vote et de décompte, exposant les électeurs à un examen indésirable par des personnes non autorisées,

mettant ainsi en danger leur protection.

De plus, la présidente Browne Lansanah a souligné que cette approche compromet la confidentialité du processus de vote. Elle a appelé tout le personnel de vote impliqué dans la

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NEC Boss Davidetta-Browne-lansana

## Éditorial

### Second Tour, une Étape Cruciale pour la Démocratie Libérienne

À l'approche du second tour des élections libériennes prévu pour le mardi 14 novembre, les électeurs se préparent à un face-à-face décisif entre le Président George Weah et l'ancien Vice-Président Joseph Nyumah Boakai. Bien que ces deux candidats aient recueilli le plus grand nombre de votes, aucun n'a réussi à atteindre le seuil légal de 50 pour cent plus une voix supplémentaire nécessaire pour remporter la présidence.

Les résultats officiels, rendus publics par la Commission Électorale Nationale le jeudi 19 octobre 2023, placent le Président Weah en tête avec 43,84 pour cent des votes, devançant ainsi son principal rival, l'Ambassadeur Boakai, qui a obtenu 43,43 pour cent. C'est donc le recours au second tour qui déterminera le vainqueur de cette joute électorale.

Cette situation n'est pas inédite, les deux partis ayant déjà participé à un second tour en 2017, où le Parti de l'Unité (UP) a été battu de justesse par le Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC), offrant ainsi à M. Weah son premier mandat présidentiel. Dans ce second tour, le peuple libérien assistera à l'émergence d'un vainqueur, maintenant que la course présidentielle s'est éclaircie des nombreux candidats qui caractérisaient le premier tour.

Il est essentiel que les Libériens méditent sur l'atmosphère pacifique qui a prévalu lors des élections du 10 octobre à travers le pays. Alors qu'ils se dirigent vers ce second tour, ils ont la responsabilité de maintenir l'admiration récemment acquise au cours de ces élections historiques.

L'essence même de cette réflexion réside dans la préservation de la paix et de la stabilité de la mère patrie. Les élections ne devraient en aucun cas être le prétexte à des discordes mutuelles menant à l'autodestruction, que ce soit pour le compte d'un candidat particulier ou d'un parti politique.

Le comportement exemplaire adopté lors du premier tour a valu des éloges aux observateurs internationaux. Il est impératif de conserver cet esprit civique au cours du second tour.

Nous lançons un appel aux deux principaux candidats, le Président Weah et l'Ambassadeur Boakai, pour qu'ils dialoguent avec leurs partisans respectifs alors qu'ils se préparent à ce deuxième affrontement. Le second tour ne signifie pas la fin du Liberia ni son agenouillement. Il vise plutôt à élire un leader qui dirigera le pays pour les six prochaines années.

Le pouvoir de prendre une telle décision réside entre les mains des électeurs libériens. Ils sont appelés à exercer ce pouvoir lors du scrutin du lendemain, sans aucune forme de coercition ni de violence, car leur responsabilité s'étend à eux-mêmes, à leurs enfants et à la postérité.

Les partis et les présidents peuvent être éphémères, mais le Liberia demeure le patrimoine commun auquel nous appartenons tous. Il est impératif de ne pas troquer cette nation contre des intérêts politiques égoïstes.

En démontrant lors de ce second tour que le Liberia transcende tout parti ou candidat, le pays pourrait maintenir son statut admiratif dans la région. Priorisons la paix.

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# Français

## Présidentielle Libérienne : Weah

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transport des électeurs pendant les élections générales", a déclaré l'ambassadeur Boakai.

"Un autre facteur de la faible participation pourrait également être que les électeurs estiment que le processus n'est pas aussi tendu que lors des élections précédentes, de sorte qu'ils ne voient rien de pressé à se rendre aux urnes", a-t-il ajouté.

Selon le politicien de l'opposition, lors du premier tour des élections, il y avait des candidats en lice pour les sièges de sénateur et de représentant. Il a noté que certains de ces candidats ont transporté des électeurs vers des endroits où ils ne peuvent pas se rendre au second tour.

L'ambassadeur Boakai, accompagné de son épouse Kartumu Boakai, a voté à l'école catholique Ma Guire à Paynesville. Il était également accompagné du président du parti, le révérend Luther Tarpeh, lors du vote mardi. Une foule importante de jeunes scandait "Notre père, désolé, nous avons commis une erreur ; le vrai sauvetage", alors que M. Boakai se dirigeait vers le centre de vote.

Entre-temps, l'ambassadeur Boakai a exprimé sa confiance dans le processus électoral,

affirmant : "Je suis satisfait de ce que j'ai vu. Je ne sais pas ce qui se passe autour, mais j'espère que tout va bien."

Interrogé sur ses attentes, le leader de l'opposition a déclaré qu'il était dans la course pour gagner.

Commentant la prétendue confiscation de bulletins de vote prémarqués, l'ambassadeur Boakai a noté que ce sont des choses auxquelles ils s'attendaient, mais il a ajouté qu'il n'avait pas peur.

"Nous nous attendons à tout ce qui se passe. Nous avons entendu parler de personnes voyageant avec des bulletins de vote et des boîtes. Nous avons également entendu parler de bulletins de vote prémarqués. Mais nous n'avons pas peur. Nous voulons que nos partisans n'aient pas peur, qu'ils aillent voter pour leur libération", a-t-il exhorté.

D'autre part, le président Weah, critiqué pour sa mauvaise gouvernance et son manque de compétences en leadership, a toujours affirmé être le meilleur président du pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Il a énuméré les réalisations de son administration - construction d'hôpitaux, de routes, d'universités publiques avec frais de scolarité gratuits et paiement des frais du WASSCE pour les élèves de 12e année, entre autres, tout en demandant un second mandat pour laisser un héritage durable dans la mémoire des Libériens.

## ECOWAS, Afreximbank et la CEA dévoilent une étude sur le commerce informel transfrontalier en Afrique de l'Ouest



La Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO), la Banque africaine d'import-export (Afreximbank) et la Commission économique des Nations unies pour l'Afrique (CEA) ont dévoilé une étude sur le Commerce Informel Transfrontalier (CIT) dans la région de la CEDEAO lors de la 3e Foire commerciale intra-africaine en cours au Caire le 12 novembre 2023. L'étude a été lancée de 2019 à 2023 dans le but de collecter des données sur le CIT le long du corridor Abidjan-Lagos (ALCO) pour mesurer le volume des

échanges.

Dans sa déclaration lors de la cérémonie de dévoilement, Mme Massandjé Toure-Liste, la Commissaire aux affaires économiques et agricoles de la Commission de la CEDEAO, a souligné que compte tenu de l'importance du commerce informel, la Commission de la CEDEAO a mis en place le Programme d'Appui à la Réglementation du Commerce Informel (PARCI/ITRSP) pour exploiter le secteur informel en vue d'accroître le commerce intra-régional. Dans son discours liminaire, M. Albert Muchanga, le Commissaire au développement économique, au commerce, au tourisme, à l'industrie et

aux minéraux de l'Union africaine, a souligné l'importance de l'intégration du CIT dans le commerce formel intra-africain, affirmant que jusqu'à 60 % du commerce intra-africain pourrait ne pas être enregistré.

L'étude, réalisée au Bénin, au Burkina Faso, au Ghana, au Nigeria et au Togo sur une période de quatre (4) mois, a révélé qu'environ 22,8 millions de dollars de commerce informel sont effectués sur le corridor, les femmes représentant 74 % et les hommes 26 %.

## Présidentielle au Liberia : à Monrovia, un second tour globalement calme



Près de 2,4 millions d'électeurs étaient appelés aux urnes ce mardi 14 novembre au Liberia pour le second tour de la présidentielle, avec une affiche similaire à celle de 2017 : George Weah, le président sortant, face à Joseph Boakai. Les deux candidats étaient au coude à coude au premier tour. Reportage dans des bureaux de vote à Monrovia, la capitale.

Ce matin, il y avait une forte affluence devant l'école Newport. Ici, les électeurs se sont mobilisés tôt, très tôt même : certains sont ici depuis 5h45. La plupart patientent, une radio à la main, à l'ombre, pour se protéger du soleil qui tape déjà fort. Le vote, lui, a démarré à 8h, heure locale.

Le matériel électoral était déjà sur place. « Toute l'équipe a dormi ici, dans cette école, pour surveiller le matériel électoral », explique le président du bureau de vote, signe de l'importance accordée à la sécurité autour de cette journée électorale.

Ici, le scrutin est bien organisé : les personnes âgées et handicapées ont voté en premières. « C'est important pour moi d'exercer mon droit de vote », affirme John, la cinquantaine.

Il y a aussi beaucoup de personnes présentes dans la file. Parmi elles, Joseph, 19 ans. Il espère que « cette élection se passera dans le calme et permettra de mettre fin aux crises

» au Liberia.

Plus tard dans la journée, à Bushrod Island, un quartier populaire de Monrovia, tout se passe également normalement : tout est bien indiqué, bien balisé, pour aiguiller les électeurs. Les listes des électeurs sont affichées, avec leurs photos, à l'entrée de chaque bureau de vote.

Ensuite, les agents électoraux expliquent à chaque électeur comment voter : sur chaque bulletin de vote, il y a en effet un tableau avec seulement deux tickets présidentiels, il suffit de cocher la case de son choix.

Cette étape est importante, car au premier tour, 114 000 bulletins de vote avaient été annulés. Cette fois, la Commission nationale des élections est très pédagogue pour éviter qu'autant de voix ne soient « perdues ». Au premier tour, il y avait eu à peine 7 000 voix d'écart entre les deux challengers de cette élection. Donc, chaque suffrage compte pour les départager.

L'affluence est toutefois très contrastée : certains centres de vote sont bondés, d'autres sont plus calmes.

Les électeurs arrivent par exemple au compte-gouttes, comme à Chevron Park. Globalement, ce vote s'est déroulé dans le calme. Quelques incidents ont été signalés à l'intérieur du pays. Mais, à chaque fois, le problème a pu être maîtrisé rapidement par la police qui est présente dans quasiment tous les centres de vote.

Ce scrutin est très suivi, en témoigne la forte présence d'observateurs internationaux et la présence aussi des représentants des partis politiques dans la plupart des bureaux de votes. Ces mandataires ont des fiches sur lesquelles ils comptent le nombre d'électeurs venus voter.

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## La NEC dément les rumeurs de

pratique de la lecture des noms des électeurs à cesser immédiatement. La responsable de la CEN a catégoriquement nié les informations suggérant que la Commission aurait conclu un protocole d'accord avec les partis politiques pour la lecture des noms des électeurs, indiquant que cela contredisait les procédures de vote et de décompte de la CEN.

Simultanément, la présidente Browne Lansanah a révélé que tous les bulletins déployés dans les bureaux magistraux et répartis dans les 2 080 bureaux de vote et 5 890 sites de vote sont restés intacts pour l'élection du 14 novembre. Exhortant les agents des partis politiques, les acteurs électoraux et les parties prenantes à s'abstenir de participer à des activités illégales et des campagnes de désinformation, elle a souligné les dommages potentiels pour la crédibilité du processus électoral et la

paix et la stabilité du Libéria.

Dans son discours, Lansanah a rappelé à tout le personnel temporaire chargé de conduire les élections de respecter strictement les procédures apprises lors de leur formation pour le second tour de l'élection présidentielle. Elle a appelé tous les Libériens à maintenir la paix et à attendre l'annonce des résultats de tout le pays, commençant par le décompte des votes du comté de Monsterrado au complexe ministériel Ellen Johnson Sirleaf à Congo Town.

Assurant au public de l'engagement de la CEN à garantir le décompte précis de chaque vote, la présidente Browne Lansanah a souligné l'importance de maintenir l'intégrité du processus électoral en cette période de tensions. La CEN a appelé les citoyens à rester vigilants contre la désinformation et à contribuer à un dénouement électoral pacifique et transparent. Les résultats des élections devraient être annoncés dans les prochains jours.

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# LIBERIANS DEBATE

**Topic:** Voters' turnout in Runoff Election

*By Naneka A. Hoffman*

Turn out in Tuesday, 14 November Presidential Runoff Election surprised many, unlike the October 10, 2023 Elections when Liberians overwhelmingly voted though none of the 20 Presidential candidates that contested obtained 50 percent plus one of the total votes cast to win the Presidency. Some Liberians have been expressing their views about turnout from the runoff election on Tuesday, as you may read below.



Kelvin O. George

candidates, so it slow down the entire process because people will have to vote representatives, senators and presidential candidates. What I understand yesterday about the whole turnout that was there was a short coming to the people that caused the low turnout. So the process was smooth to some extent and very transparent because you could see people moving in to vote peacefully so, with that we say thanks to the Liberian people. And we also want to keep the courage that this entire result will be announced and we will keep the peace in the country."

"I will like to say the process with only turnout was not really presidential. So you bad. Where I realized could realize that the the turnout was that process was faster. The there was people going first round of the to the polling centre election we had yesterday, but what representative, happened was that the senatorial and process was just a single presidential



Mohammed A. Dukuly

"The turnout was low and there were many facts associated with that: one factor could be voters' fatigue and another factor is those who trucked people, those candidates that trucked people - those who were elected and those who were defeated in the process didn't have the financial resources to re-trucking some of those people to their various destinations, and looking at the economic condition in the country today, people are challenged economically; nobody wants to use their limited

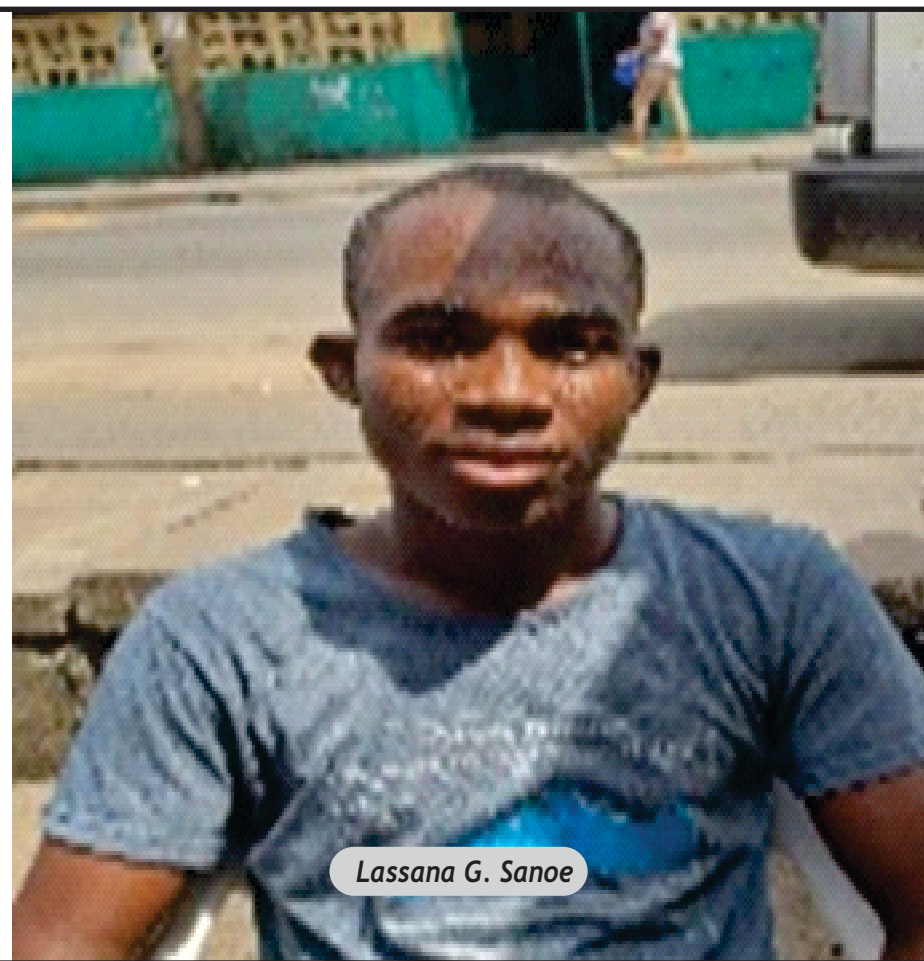
resources to go where they were trucked, so these were some of the motives behind the low turnout in the runoff election."



Abel King

"The turnout of the election was not bad; everything went well even though there were

some challenges from some areas, but it went peacefully and the process went on. I am okay with the process. The challenge we experienced was the FRR the NEC shared with the various parties especially, Unity Party was in charge of theirs and when we went to the polling centre to vote, Unity Party said oh, they wanted to find out, sometime the ruling party would have refused. They know that it was the rightful thing, at last they ended it. There was a press statement from NEC that everything went well."



Lassana G. Sanoe

"The turnout from my side where I was assigned at Mark Foundation, as a poll watcher and also assistant observer for Unity Party, it was not bad. I only want to tell the Liberian people that we should be kind and patient and wait for the results. The place was not packed; I learned that the first round there was a lot of

of the representatives in register and vote. But our district during the election trucked lost, they were not able to bring voters back, people, making the leave their district to go and yesterday, the place was poor."



Varlee Kromah

"The turnout was not bad and it was little bit impressive. I actually expected the first number of

people that turned out in the first round than the turnout yesterday. I was actually impressed from the turnout I saw yesterday. I think the turnout yesterday was very impressive and the reason people didn't observe it because of the voting parties. The last election, you could see the line because we have representative, senatorial and presidential candidates, so it took a lot of time and a lot of people weren't able to stand the process, so whenever voters went behind the booth they took one or two minutes before voting. But the voting process yesterday was very easy and cool and kind."

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# Boakai takes slight lead

By Lincoln G. Peters

Official preliminary election results released Wednesday shows opposition Unity Party Joseph Boakai taking a slight lead ahead of his fierce rival

on Wednesday, 15 November 2023 and the process is expected to continue in the coming days.

The opposition Unity Party (UP) presidential candidate challenged the ruling Coalition

Reading the national progressive tally results at the NEC headquarters in Monrovia, NEC chairperson Madam Davidetta Brown-Lansanah said the results came from 1,315 of the total of 5,890 polling places across the country, constituting 22.33%.

She said Boakai's Unity Party obtained 193,41 votes amounting to 50.71% while Weah's ruling Coalition for Democratic Change obtained 187,615 votes constituting 49.29%.

According to her, the total valid votes were 380,656 constituting 100% while the invalid votes totaled 5,420. A total of 386,70 votes have been counted so far.

Following the release of the first preliminary result, opposition leader Amb. Boakai wrote on his social media Facebook page appreciating all Liberians for turning out to vote in the peaceful way they did.

"As we have started, we will do everything humanly possible to continue to protect your votes. We will also continue to work with our international partners to ensure that the results of the votes cast by everyone will be announced in keeping with the will of the people," Boakai wrote.

# Ex-Nigerian president hails Liberians for peaceful polls

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Former Nigerian President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan has hailed Liberians for conducting themselves peacefully during the 14 November 2023 presidential run-off election here on Tuesday.

Mr. Jonathan who is in charge of the West African Elders Forum (WAEF) mission to Liberia, has also urged Liberians to sustain the commitment to their country.

Speaking to journalists as part of his assessment tour on the

presidential candidates in the October 2023 polls obtained the 50 percent plus one vote required to be declared a winner.

Following the conduct of polls in the run-off, Mr. Jonathan expressed satisfaction over the peaceful atmosphere, describing it as peaceful and the right way to go

"I think it's going on well and I am happy with the peaceful environment. Of all the polling stations I have visited, [it] has been quite peaceful," the former Nigerian President said.

Mr. Jonathan expressed hope that at the end of the election,



Pres. Weah



Amb. Boakai

incumbent President George Manneh Weah following Tuesday's vote in a run-off.

With just 22.33 percent of the votes counted so far, Mr. Boakai, the country's immediate past vice president, is leading with 193,41 votes or 50.71% while incumbent President Weah follows with 187,615 votes or 49.29%.

The National Elections Commission (NEC) began releasing preliminary results

for Democratic Change's (CDC) Weah in Tuesday's run-off on 14 November, their second time in such an electoral battle.

The NEC held the run-off because both men failed to secure the 50 percent plus one vote required to be declared a winner of the presidential election contested by 20 candidates on 10 October.

On Wednesday, the NEC released preliminary reports from just 1,315 out of 5,890 polling places across the Country.

# Power House Ministries begins Gethsemane Experience 2023

Power House Ministries International, a prophetic ministry in Monrovia rolls out Gethsemane Experience 2023 this Sunday, 19 November at its edifice on Gibson Avenue, 14th Street. Gethsemane Experience is an annual power-packed national prayer summit that brings together people from all walks of life to prostrate before God and pour out their problems and seek His intervention. Apostolic leader and lead pastor, Apostle D. Daniel Blojay Wilson, Jr., says the 5-day prophetic prayer summit is a period when the Church puts all aside and allows God to manifest Himself in the lives of members and visitors.

He explains that daily sessions include an anointing service at 6 am, one-on-one encounter with Jesus at 9 am, blood and deliverance service at 12 noon and prayer revival at 6 pm. "This is the 4th Edition. We got the vision in 2010; the Lord asked us to gather people for prayers and to be selfless", he says.

He details that flyers and

banners have already been printed and posted in the streets, with several guest pastors invited to speak and bless people's lives.

He reveals that guest ministers include his spiritual father, Pastor Robert D. Ketter, Jr., of the City Hills Church of God on Snapper Hill, Broad Street; Evangelist Dr. J. Ben Greatness (AKA 'Lion of Life') of Triumphant Evangelistic Fire Ministry in Chicken Soup Factory along the Japan Freeway; and hosts, Apostle Daniel Blojay Wilson and Pastor Mardea Y. Wilson. "We are receiving about 100 delegates from Grand Cape Mount, Nimba and Grand Bassa

counties", he adds.

PowerHouse Ministries International started as a fellowship in September 2020 and was officially launched on February 28, 2021, with branches in Wilberforce, Freetown, Sierra Leone and Kakata, Margibi County, Liberia, respectively. The ministries operate on four key pillars namely; word of God, prayer, worship and prophetic, according to Pastor Wilson. "We are fully in the apostolic ministry, we pray and the Lord uses us to see what he wants to do in the lives of people", he says.

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PowerHouse



Former Nigerian President Jonathan

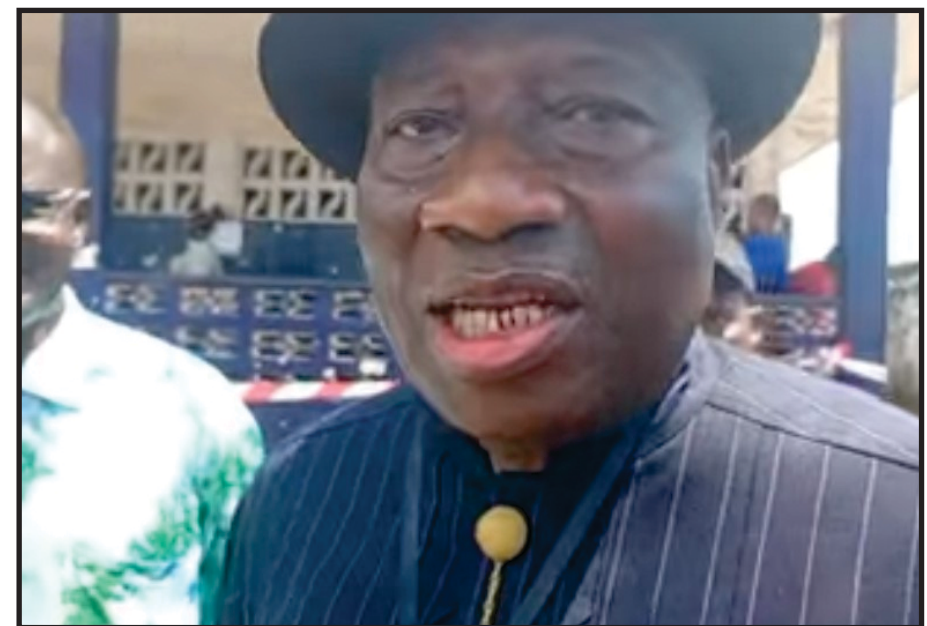
Liberian election, Mr. Jonathan said there was a peaceful turnout which he said is the best way to go.

He commended the people of Liberia for fostering peace throughout the election, noting that it demonstrates their quest for a better Liberia.

Liberians will remain happy.

He further urged Liberians, especially the young people, to show commitment and patriotism to their country, while encouraging them to duly maintain the peace which fosters a beautiful nation and the pillar of democracy.

He indicated that maintaining



Liberians voted in a presidential run-off on Tuesday between incumbent President George Manneh Weah and his archrival Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

The run-off election was held because none of the 20

peace in Liberia is the only way to go in making Liberia a better nation. Meanwhile, counting is ongoing after voting in the run-off between Mr. Weah of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and Amb. Boakai of the opposition Unity Party (UP).

# Nimba: Police investigate man with gun

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polling day, Tuesday including Mah-Display Public School Center Code# 33122, Garplay Center Code#33042, Boe Lontuo Town Code# 33258 and Boe

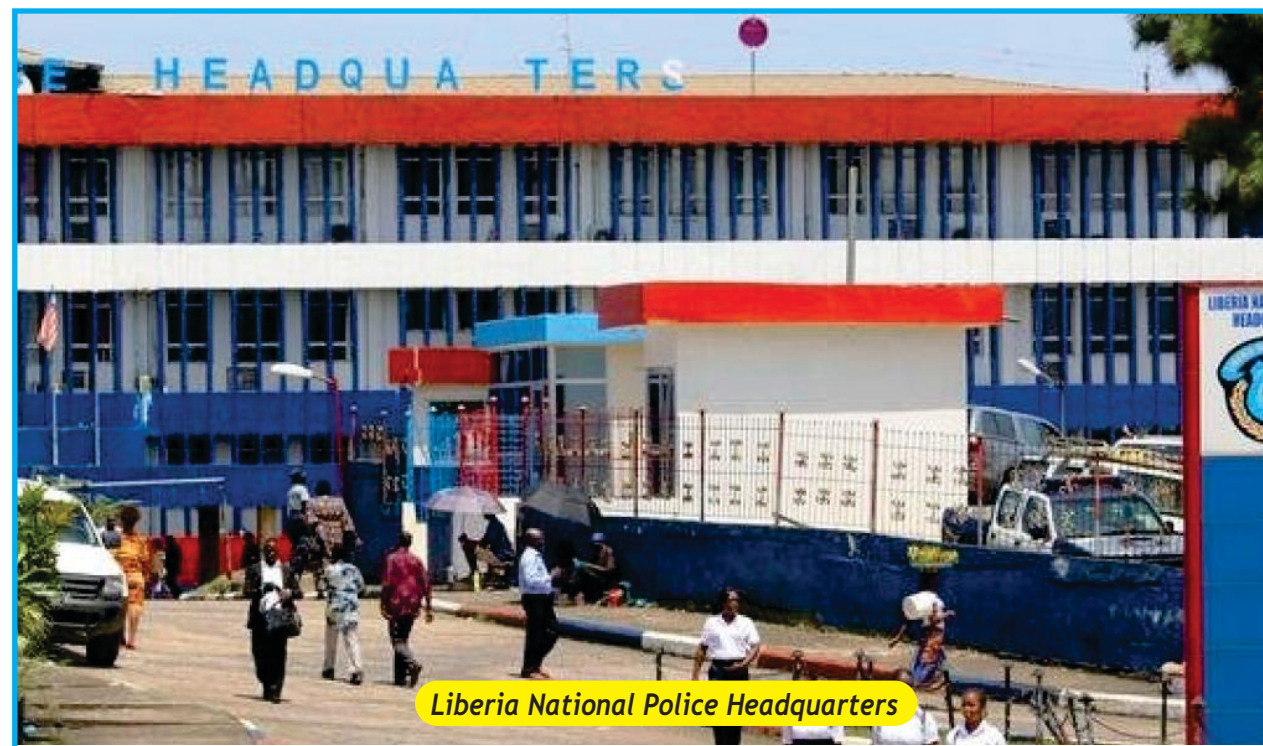
Ghanaglay Public School Code# 33119, among others were virtually empty as voters trickled one by one to cast their ballots unlike the first round of voting on October 10, 2023. Editing by Jonathan Browne

## Nimba: Police investigate man with gun at polling center

By Thomas Domah/ Nimba County  
Police in Nimba County are interrogating a 42-year-old man Othello G. Menson, after he was arrested with a single-barrel gun at Garplay Polling Center with Code# 33042.

Suspect Menson is currently in Police custody, facing interrogation. Meanwhile, the Mayor of Ganta City, Amos N.G. Suah and Nimba County electoral district#7 defeated representative candidate Roger S.W.Y Domah, allegedly

crossed into Liberia from neighboring Guinea via New Yekepa to disrupt votes counting process were also arrested by the Police Support Unit (PSU) of the Liberia National Police. Tuesday, 14 November Presidential Runoff Election



Liberia National Police Headquarters

Othello G. Menson confirmed being in possession of single-barrel gun but explained that he is a local businessman in Garplay Town and had gone to distribute flashlights to CDC poll workers in the Garplay Polling Center.

attempting to mobilize some ruling party supporters to disrupt votes counting process in Ganta and Seaclepea. The NEWDAWN gathered that group of individuals believed to be voters, who

in Nimba and elsewhere in the country was marred by poor turnout of voters. Several polling precincts visited by the NEW DAWN on

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