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# Continental News

## G20-Led Summit for Africa Highlights Renewed Interest in Fast-Growing Continent

Leaders from more than a dozen African countries are heading to Germany for the G20 Compact with Africa

German-African investment summit at Berlin's Marriott Hotel on Monday morning.

Europe and the United States are jostling with Russia and China

on Monday afternoon in the German chancellery, preceded by a news conference with leaders of the African Union, which in September was made a permanent member of the group of the G20 group of the world's most powerful countries.

"We will not make a common declaration, we do not want to force our African partners into a tight corset," a German government official said Friday. "Instead, we want concrete results."

German government officials say Africa can play a key role in helping Germany better diversify its supply chains, secure skilled labor, reduce illegal migration and achieve its green transition.

African countries have long complained that while Europe talks about investment, China actually provides financing without any moral lecturing. Still, Chinese lending in Africa is in decline, while European interest is rising as it seeks to diversify supply chains.

German trade with Africa was 60 billion euros (\$65.4 billion) last year, which is a fraction of its trade with Asia but up 21.7% on 2021.

Nearly two thirds of German companies want to expand their business in Africa, according to a study by KPMG and the German-African Business Association.

The member countries of the G20 Compact are Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia. VOA



Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz speaks at a press conference in Berlin

conference, which aims to help bolster private investment in the world's poorest, but fast-growing, continent.

Underscoring renewed interest in Africa, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, French President Emmanuel Macron and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte will be among those attending the summit in Berlin, hosted by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, according to German government officials.

Scholz, who has visited Africa several times since taking office in late 2021, will hold bilateral talks with several African countries on Sunday, before hosting a

for geopolitical influence, critical minerals and new economic opportunities in the world's second most populous continent.

Those include Africa's potential for renewable energy production, in particular green hydrogen, that could help its northern neighbor's transition to a carbon neutral economy. The stability and prosperity of the continent is also seen as key to reducing illegal migration. The Compact with Africa, which was created in 2017 under the German G20 presidency, aims to bring together reform-minded African countries, international organizations and bilateral partners to coordinate development agendas and discuss investment opportunities.

The event officially takes place

## Heavy Rain in Kenya Affects Tens of Thousands, Disrupts Cargo

Kenya on Sunday said tens of thousands of people across the country had been impacted by heavy rainfall, flooding and landslides that had also interrupted cargo services at Mombasa port.

The Horn of Africa has experienced intense rainfall linked to the El Nino weather phenomenon in recent weeks that has claimed dozens of lives, including at least 46 in various parts of Kenya.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said at least 80,000 households in Kenya had been affected "with numbers rising every day."

He said the government was responding to "save our people" including with helicopters and other emergency services to deliver aid and rescue marooned families.

"This situation has continued to threaten lives," he said in a statement issued Sunday, urging the public to avoid floodwaters and evacuate homes in low-lying areas. The prolonged rainfall was expected to extend into the first quarter of next year, he added.

Officials said nine people have died in the coastal region since last week including two passengers in a car belonging to the Kenya Revenue Authority that was swept off a flooded bridge in Kwale County on Friday morning.

"A multi-agency team led by the

Kenya Coast Guard Service is on scene trying to retrieve the bodies," the interior ministry said Sunday.

Kenya Railways said floods and landslides had caused an "unexpected delay" in deliveries to Mombasa port and along the cargo rail line to Nairobi. "Consequently, this has affected normal train operations, including cargo transfers, loading as well as offloading activities at the Port of Mombasa," the state-owned railway said in a statement on Saturday posted on X, formerly Twitter. VOA



Pedestrians waded through a flooded street following heavy rains at Kiambeni district in Mombasa, Kenya

## UN Plastic Treaty Talks Grapple With Re-Use, Recycle, Reduce Debate

A third round of United Nations negotiations to try to deliver the world's first treaty to control plastic pollution has drawn more than 500 proposals from those involved, participants said on the last day of the talks on Sunday.

Negotiators, who have spent a week meeting in the Kenyan capital at talks known as INC3, have until the end of next year to strike a deal for the control of plastics, which produce an estimated 400 million tons of waste every year.

The plastics industry, oil and petrochemical exporters, including Russia and Saudi Arabia, have said a global deal should promote recycling and re-use of plastic, but environmental campaigners and some governments say much less needs to be produced in the first place.

Environmental group Greenpeace said a successful

Sweden, who was involved in the talks, said delegates were also considering an extra session to analyze the scale of the problem.

"Plastics are connected to climate change, to biodiversity loss and other major threats and crises that we as the human population are facing on the planet," she said.

The United Nations said a statement would be issued later after the talks close on Sunday.

Stewart Harris, a spokesman for the International Council of Chemicals Association, an industry body that favors measures like re-using plastic containers as opposed to production curbs, said the Nairobi talks had delivered ideas that would be whittled down in Canada where the next round of negotiations will be held.

One of the most popular proposals was from Switzerland and Uruguay to hold more discussions on curbing harmful polymers and chemicals of concern.

It had the backing of more than 100 states, said the International



Rosalid Rwaru, Bio Foods Products Head of Sustainability, sorts yoghurt packed in plastic bottles on a conveyor belt at the Bio Food Products, in Nairobi, Kenya

deal would require the United States and the European Union to show greater leadership than they have so far.

"The hard truth is that INC3 has failed to deliver on its core objective: delivering a mandate to prepare a first draft of a treaty text," Graham Forbes, head of delegation for Greenpeace, said.

"This is not progress. This is chaos," he said referring to the number of submissions.

Two more rounds of talks will take place next year to try to finalize the deal.

Bethanie Carney Almroth, an eco-toxicologist at the University of Gothenburg in

Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN), a global network of non-governmental organizations.

Less than 10% of plastic waste is recycled, the U.N. Environment Program says, while at least 14 million tons end up in oceans every year, the International Union for Conservation of Nature says.

Canada, Kenya, and the European Union are among those who said plastic production needs to be limited, while a coalition of Russia, Saudi Arabia and others has sought to emphasize recycling.

Members of the Saudi delegation at the talks declined to talk to Reuters, while Russian delegates could not immediately be reached for comment. VOA



# EDITORIAL

# COMMENTARY

By Diane Coyle

## Liberia's democracy gains strength

Liberia's democratic journey took a great and historic leap on Friday, 17 November when a sitting government conceded defeat in the November 14, 2023, Presidential Runoff Election and called its supporters to disengage and return to normal life.

This happened despite the now defeated Coalition for Democratic Change going all out in massive campaigns across the country both in the first and second round to seek a second term at the ballot box.

But incumbent President George Manneh Weah, who had sought another six years in office, did not get the mandate from the Liberian people.

However, unlike many of his contemporaries in the region that imposed themselves on the people by hijacking power, he bowed to his main challenger, former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

President Weah congratulated Amb. Boakai late Friday last week for winning the Presidential Runoff Election, while telling his supporters and partisans that the election is over and it's time that they move on with their daily life peacefully.

The President's response is not only magnanimous but something that is very rare in recent history of West Africa, for a sitting President to yield to the popular will of the people after they have spoken at the ballot box.

Like his predecessor, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who took Liberia from war to peace, Mr. Weah will go down in history for not just consolidating the peace, but upholding the democratic path by conducting free, fair and transparent elections in which he competed, lost and conceded.

West Africa, particularly ECOWAS has a lot to learn from the Liberian elections and make sure it is replicated in countries going to elections in order to consolidate democratic governance in the region. Most importantly, the 2023 elections in Liberia were totally conducted by Liberian themselves without involvement of any international group.

The country's pro-democratic institutions should be applauded for standing tall in making sure that Liberians exercise their franchise in a peaceful atmosphere, void of threats, intimidation and all out violence that could cut short civilian rule and revert the state to its dark days.

With former President Sirleaf setting the pace of peaceful transition from one democratically-elected administration to another, her successor President Weah had no choice but to continue on this path that has won him immense admiration not only in the region, but the entire Africa and the global community.

The National Elections Commission of Liberia headed by Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah deserves high commendation for delivering a truthful verdict after hearing the choice of Liberian voters, who they want to govern their affairs in the coming six years. Madam Lansanah and the NEC Board of Commissioners performed excellently amid challenges such as capacity and logistics, and direct confrontations.

In its all, Liberians should lift their heads high as a proud people for taking a nation that suffered 14 years of bloody civil war thru four democratic elections and coming out peacefully, proving doomsayers wrong that this country was poised to disintegrate again into pieces with blood spilling in the street. In the same vein, this country remains grateful to international partners that stood by the people of Liberia in making this happen.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,

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

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

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## Rebuilding Trust in Expertise

**C**AMBRIDGE - The handmaiden to populism's rise across the West has been distrust of experts, particularly those in positions of power who believe their specialized knowledge entitles them to make decisions that affect millions of people. Populist leaders routinely rebuke such experts, disparaging them as entrenched, out-of-touch political operatives inhabiting the "swamp," the "blob," or the "deep state."

This sentiment stems, in part, from the economic shocks that followed the 2008 financial crisis, which culminated in today's high inflation and stagnant productivity.

As middle-class parents faced the prospect that their children might not be better off than them, they were bound to look for someone to blame. In an atmosphere of widespread public discontent, the technocratic elite emerged as a convenient scapegoat.

To be sure, independent expertise has failed to prevent crises such as the near-collapse of the global financial system or the COVID-19 pandemic. At times, experts have even made things worse. For example, central banks were far too slow to recognize the readily apparent fact that massive quantitative easing would boost asset prices, thus disproportionately benefiting those who already owned assets and contributing to rising inequality.

The concept of independent central banks setting monetary policy, insulated from the short-term pressures of electoral cycles, seemed self-evident during the stable years between the 1990s and the mid-2000s.

In retrospect, however, the macroeconomic stability of the "Great Moderation" likely owed as much to factors like the integration of China into the global economy, and even sheer luck, as it did to sound policymaking.

But the growing public distrust of experts is not merely the result of widespread economic distress or the proliferation of conspiracy theories on social media.

At the heart of the backlash against expertise are profound technological and economic shifts that call for more than just specialized know-how; they require value judgments.

Nowhere is the transition from a relatively stable (albeit complex) decision-making environment to one of radical uncertainty more apparent than in competition policy. Technological advances in artificial intelligence and decarbonization, together with escalating geopolitical tensions and a worldwide revival of industrial policy, have led to a departure from the principles that have long underpinned global antitrust enforcement.

The so-called Chicago School approach, which focuses on consumer prices within specific markets and maintains a skeptical view of state intervention in markets and mergers, has dominated antitrust enforcement in the United States and elsewhere since the 1970s. This analytical framework required complex legal and economic analyses by antitrust experts and often resulted in competition authorities being granted independent decision-making powers - an arrangement that was viewed as an effective defense against industry lobbying.

If there was an objectively "correct" course of action in any given merger case, the thinking went, government interference could only make things worse.

In recent years, however, the case for expert-guided decision-making has begun to unravel. US antitrust enforcers, led by Federal Trade Commission Chair Lina Khan and Jonathan Kanter, head of the Justice Department's antitrust division, have focused their attention on reducing the structural market power of large companies, signaling a return to a traditional, "pre-expert" understanding of how markets function.

The resurgence of industrial policies, driven by geopolitical considerations and the strategic need to maintain a dominant position on the technological frontier in key areas like batteries and advanced semiconductors, has far-reaching implications for competition analysis. After all, there are no definitive analytical answers to questions such as whether the state should subsidize domestic firms in emerging high-tech sectors or level the competitive playing field for foreign suppliers.

These questions require a careful evaluation of the inherent uncertainties, the political environment, and the potential winners and losers. These are not issues that technocrats can resolve on their own, although their expertise remains vital to devising effective policies.

Despite the populist backlash, the world still needs technocrats. In his 1973 book *The Coming of Post-Industrial Society*, the sociologist Daniel Bell anticipated the tension between the expertise necessary to run a complex modern society and the appeal of populist ideologies.

To maintain the authority of scientific and technical expertise, he wrote, we must rethink how experts interact with the public.

Better communication is essential, starting with what is often called "communicating with the ears" - that is, experts genuinely listening to people instead of lecturing them. By embracing more deliberative and participatory methods, experts could facilitate a two-way flow of information and foster trust.

But in the current climate of rampant misinformation and suspicion, such incremental measures may not yield dramatic results.

Restoring confidence in expertise will not be quick or easy, and it would be foolish to expect more thoughtful leadership from populist politicians. Instead of merely hoping for the best, researchers could help rebuild trust by reassessing and updating our existing institutional frameworks to keep pace with today's fast-changing global environment.

As the boundaries between value-based decisions and independent expertise become increasingly blurred, we must ensure that we do not throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Diane Coyle, Professor of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge, is the author, most recently, of *Cogs and Monsters: What Economics Is, and What It Should Be* (Princeton University Press, 2021).

## OP-ED

By Kate Hampton,  
David Miliband

# What We Can Do About Food Insecurity

**L**ONDON - In London on November 20, the United Kingdom will host the Global Food Security Summit and launch a new strategy for international development. Despite pressing crises like the conflict in Gaza, we must stay focused on other parts of the global system, where ongoing crises of hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity demand an urgent response. Faced with immense suffering around the world, we need a UK government that is willing and able to offer solutions.

The organizations we lead - the Children's Investment Fund Foundation and the International Rescue Committee - are resolutely committed to protecting vulnerable children and families wherever they are. In Gaza, the IRC has set out detailed proposals for a humanitarian ceasefire to save the lives of Palestinian civilians and increase urgent access to food, while CIFF is helping to lead the charge on issues like child wasting.

We each have a clear stake in the success of the summit (which CIFF has helped organize) and the government's new strategy for international development.

The global hunger crisis has become critical. Around 345 million people are facing acute levels of food insecurity this year - more than double the number in 2020 - and 45 million children under five suffer from acute malnutrition. Up to two million of those children die every year, and climate change and violent conflict are making the problem even worse.

Over the last decade, CIFF has invested over half a billion dollars in treating and preventing child wasting, and understanding what works to improve nutrition. It is a proud anchor partner to the Child Nutrition Fund, the largest global response to the child wasting crisis, which will be a key focus of the summit.

For its part, the IRC helps people in more than 50 countries whose lives have been shattered by conflicts and crises such as climate change. It constantly tests and scales up innovations to treat problems like malnutrition and food insecurity, for example by providing farmers and families in countries like Niger, Pakistan, South Sudan, and Syria with climate-resilient seeds and secure livelihoods. Proven solutions exist.

But we must all go further. To succeed, the summit needs to deliver on four fronts. First, participants should commit to scaling up proven, cost-saving solutions and innovations.

A good example is ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), a fortified peanut paste that helps 92% of acutely malnourished children recover, but which most children in conflict-affected settings cannot currently access.

More than a decade of research from the IRC shows that with simplified, combined protocols, more children can be reached with the same resources. A study in Mali, for example, found a 30% cost saving.

The World Health Organization will also use the summit to introduce new guidelines on the treatment and prevention of wasting, taking a positive step toward decentralizing and expanding treatment globally.

Second, the summit can combine disparate responses to the closely related climate- and food-security crises. A new IRC analysis shows that humanitarian need is particularly concentrated in just 16 conflict-affected, climate-vulnerable countries.

Given the importance of climate finance, we must tie the summit's outcomes to the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) and the UK government's own new development strategy.

Ensuring that climate finance reaches the most vulnerable communities requires improving local-level climate-risk mapping and access to grants, as well as operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund established at COP27. Loss and damage support should come in addition to existing climate-finance commitments and be proportional to vulnerable communities' needs.

Addressing climate finance also means tackling the global debt crisis and responding to the need for a more sustainable debt regime. It is well known that countries with shrinking fiscal space increasingly lack the capacity to invest in human capital and prevent food insecurity.

Third, the summit can set the stage for closing the global nutrition-financing gap in 2024. Donor governments must look ahead with ambition to next year's Nutrition for Growth Summit, by increasing their bilateral financial support for food security and starting to mobilize more effective and inclusive pooled funds.

Finally, the summit must mobilize political will, by uniting world leaders and partner governments around a global plan to address food insecurity once and for all.

Lofty rhetoric by global leaders must translate into policy implementation that includes practical support for national nutrition and food-security plans.

With a concerted, coordinated effort, we can turn the tide on global food insecurity, and the UK can demonstrate its capacity to lead.

The Global Food Security Summit - and the accompanying development strategy - could be a significant catalyst. Ten years ago, Andrew Mitchell, currently the UK minister of state for development and Africa, and David Cameron, the former prime minister who has just returned to serve as foreign secretary, helped unlock hundreds of millions of dollars for nutrition aid at the UK-hosted Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2013. Now, the UK and its partners must deliver again.

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## OPINION

By Nicholas Reed Langen

# Refugees, Rwanda, and the Rule of Law

**L**ONDON - Every Afghan and Syrian refugee who has sought asylum before a Rwandan court in recent years has been turned away. Many others have not even lodged their claims because the Rwandan government has "clandestinely" relocated them to neighboring countries. This places these refugees at risk of refoulement: return to the country they had fled for fear of persecution, torture, or death.

These were two of the key observations made by UK Supreme Court President Robert Reed as he delivered the judgment striking down the government's policy of removing asylum seekers from the United Kingdom and sending them to Rwanda. The Supreme Court justices unanimously found - on the "basis of the evidence and established legal principles," that Rwanda was not a safe third country.

The question of Rwanda's safety for asylum seekers was the core issue before the justices. Under international and UK law, a government may relocate asylum seekers - forcibly or otherwise - to another country, but only if that country is both willing to receive them and safe.

Given the financial inducements offered to Rwanda's authoritarian regime by the UK Home Office, Rwandan President Paul Kagame was willing. The UK paid Rwanda £140 million (\$174 million) before a single refugee was relocated there, while the government promised to pay Rwanda more than £100,000 for each asylum seeker it took.

Even with such a large down payment, and with the promise of more to come, Kagame's government failed to introduce the safeguards required to process asylum seekers properly.

This, Reed stressed, was a breach not only of treaties, fundamental norms of international law, and the European Convention on Human Rights (the current bugbear of the hard-right wing of the Conservative Party), but also of British law.

For example, the Asylum and Immigration Act 2004 and the Immigration Act 1971 require the government to uphold the 1951 Refugee Convention, and to safeguard refugees' "life and liberty." Refoulement is prohibited, whether it is done directly or by "indirect return via a third country."

This prohibition is absolute. There are no exemptions or loopholes that permit states to return asylum seekers to their place of origin while their claims are outstanding. By contrast, the agreement between the UK and Rwandan governments has no legal force. It is a purely political arrangement, based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that offers no protections for relocated refugees' rights.

It is neither "binding in international law" nor "justiciable in any court of law." Free of legal obligations, Rwanda's only reason to respect relocated refugees' rights was to keep the money flowing from the Home Office.

If Rwanda had proven its ability to house asylum seekers safely, and to uphold their rights, this MoU might have been enough. But the Court scrutinized Rwanda's track record and found that it had demonstrated no such thing.

The entire arrangement hung on the fact that a "senior official" from the UK Foreign Office was "confident Rwanda would honor its obligations." Unlike in cases such as *Begum v. Secretary of State for the Home Department*, where the Court was willing to defer to the government's decision to strip an Islamic State recruit of her citizenship on national-security grounds, the question of asylum did not lie "within the exclusive province of the executive."

The evidence before the Court of Appeal (and reviewed by the Supreme Court) showed egregious issues within Rwanda. Despite the country's "great progress" since 1994, when it endured "one of the most appalling periods of violence in modern history," its human-rights record "has been much criticized." In 2021, the UK government itself condemned Rwanda's "extrajudicial killings, deaths in custody, enforced disappearances, and torture"; and in 2018 Rwandan police fired "live ammunition at refugees protesting over cuts to food rations."

Those events may have been enough to give the justices pause - and should have been more than enough to make the UK's home secretary reconsider the arrangement - but it was Rwanda's recent record on asylum policy that revealed it could not be trusted. The Court's exhaustive review observed that Rwanda has a "surprisingly high rejection rate for [asylum seekers] from known conflict zones," and a "misunderstanding ... of the concept" of refoulement.

Under a broadly similar asylum agreement with Israel, it also engaged in refoulement, with refugees "routinely clandestinely moved to Uganda" in breach of the policy. Much like the UK's plan, the Israeli arrangement also ended when its Supreme Court struck it down.

A tone of disbelief pervades the UK Supreme Court decision. "Surprising" - a euphemism used by judges when they really mean "outrageous," "absurd," or "idiotic" - appears throughout the judgment, and one can almost see the justices' raised eyebrows over the home secretary's suggestion that Rwanda's "past and present" conduct does not matter. By refusing to add any caveats to their judgment, the justices unambiguously signaled their contempt for the home secretary's argument.

There is no suggestion that the policy could be made lawful if Rwanda were to offer more specific, legally binding commitments.

Their damning judgment is a fitting coda to Suella Braverman's tenure as home secretary. The day before the decision came down, she was sacked, ostensibly for accusing police of being too soft on pro-Palestinian protesters.

The defenestration of her flagship policy (which she had tried to persuade other countries to emulate) is further confirmation of her incompetence - and a fitting denouement to her failed tenure.

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## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Congratulations to President Weah for his historic Concession speech

By Tiawan Saye Gongloe

On November 17, President George Manneh Weah strengthened his credential as a man of peace by graciously conceding defeat, not just by a telephone call to the winning presidential candidate, Hon. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, president-elect, but by giving a very moving speech to the people of Liberia that emphasized respect for the will of the people and the need for all Liberians to remain peaceful.

The degree of a politician's commitment to democracy is not judged by the extent to which he or she celebrates victory, but by his or her willingness to graciously accept defeat. By his concession speech, President George Manneh Weah passed the test of commitment to democracy with an excellent score! He has set a precedent that will both strengthen our democracy and our collective effort to deepen a culture of peace. He has set the bar very high for the conduct of a sitting president who is defeated in a presidential election.

President Weah's landmark concession speech will now serve as guidance for any future sitting president of Liberia who loses election to easily concede defeat. Given the closeness of the votes, the country was on edge and many Liberians and members of the international community were nervous about the reaction of the losing candidate.

Therefore, the president's concession speech brought great relief to the Liberian people, the West African sub-region, the African continent and the world. President Weah has truly shown that he is a man of peace by such a nationalistic and patriotic decision.

It is important to note that the concession speech given by President Weah was the first of its kind in one hundred and forty six years. The last time that any sitting president conceded defeat was in 1877, when President James Spriggs Payne of the Republican Party (RP) conceded defeat to President Anthony William Gardner of the True Whig Party (TWP).

The Republican Party was the first ruling party, but was defeated by the True Whig Party for the first time in the 1869 Presidential Election. In 1871, Edward James Roye, the President elected in 1869 on the ticket of the True Whig Party was overthrown, detained and on an attempt to escape from detention, he was re-arrested, dragged on his back, jailed and he bled to death, while in detention, thus marking the first coup d'état in Liberia. ( C. Abayomi Cassell, History of the first African Republic, 1970). The next election was in 1872.

In that election, former President Joseph Jenkins Roberts won, followed by another Republican Party candidate James Spriggs Payne, also, a former president, who won the 1875 election and lost the 1877 election to Anthony W. Gardner of the True Whig Party. The similarities between the 1877 presidential election and 2023 presidential election are the following: one, in 1877 two parties that had tasted political power participated in that presidential election, just like the 2023

presidential election; two, the former ruling party, the True Whig Party defeated the current ruling party, the Republican Party, just as in the 2023 presidential election in which the former ruling party, the Unity Party (UP) defeated the current ruling party, the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC); and three, the sitting president conceded defeat to the candidate of the former ruling party in 1877, as was done, 146 years later by President Weah to President-elect Joseph Nyumah Boakai on Friday, November 17, 2023.

In order to avoid any confusion in understanding the historic nature of the concession made by President Weah, it is important to note that since 1877, there has been no occasion for a sitting president to concede defeat to an in-coming president. The True Whig Party ruled Liberia from 1878 to 1980 when it was overthrown for the second time.



The next elected president was Samuel Kanyon Doe, but that election was not between a sitting president and an opposition party but among four parties that had not tasted power. Samuel Doe won, but there was no concession made by any of the other three contending presidential candidates and none of them was a candidate of a ruling party or a former ruling party. In fact the three losing parties contested the final result announced by the Special Election Commission (SECOM). Also, the presidential term of Samuel Doe, should have ended in 1991, but he did not end his term due to an armed civil conflict that started on December 24, 1989.

The next elected President was Charles Taylor, but his six year term did not end because he was forced to relinquish power in 2003, due to a resumption of the civil conflict. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was the next elected president and she served for two terms. She did not participate in the 2017 presidential election; hence, she could not have conceded defeat, because it was her vice president that participated in that election as the candidate for the ruling party. It should be further noted that the 2017 election was between a ruling party and an opposition party that had not tasted power.

Therefore, this was the first election in which a former ruling party and a current ruling party participated since 1877 and similar to 1877, the former ruling party defeated the current ruling party and the candidate of the current ruling party, a sitting president conceded defeat. All peace-loving Liberians must express deep gratitude to the president for this pleasant repeat of history. The leadership of the CDC must share in this gratitude as well for this historic decision of President Weah.

Liberia is gradually becoming a sweet land of liberty by the civil conduct of all the political actors in the 2023 presidential election, especially President George Manneh Weah by his great concession speech. Thank you, Mr. President! A better Liberia is possible!

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Violence erupts in Nimba again

By Thomas Domah, Nimba county

What was meant as a pre-victory celebration by two supporters of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in Nimba County, turned bloody on Friday, 17 November when

results of the presidential runoff election.

The two victims, Prince Lounpea, 26, and 18-year-old Junior Monluo, both residents of Gbeh Manbor Town, were seen celebrating in the town when Suspects Festus Monsor, 35, and Sundayboy Young, currently on the run, alongside Radio Karn Voice of Peace News

following alleged order from a defeated senatorial candidate Anthony Quiwonkpa.

Several victims of that attack were hospitalized in Ganta, but the two Senators narrowly escaped the scene, according to report.

One of the victims, who was attacked and his vehicle destroyed, Nelsco Alco Wolo, narrates that prior to the attack, Anthony Quiwonkpa, son of the late General Thomas G. Quiwonkpa, texted Senator Prince Johnson, threatening him along with the UP Vice Standard Bearer Jeremiah Koug, not to enter Zor town to campaign.

According to Wolo, they ignored the text message containing alleged threats from Anthony Quiwonkpa, and headed for Karnplay when they encountered huge armed men, who attacked them in Zor Zualay Town.

Wolo, a former staff of the National Security Agency (NSA) continues that when they entered the town, young men, including the District#3 defeated representative candidate Anthony Quiwonkpa, moved on them with short and long-range single-barrel guns and sticks, which according to him, were discharged, wounding several persons.

He accused Anthony Quiwonkpa of full involvement in the attack after he had openly warned them not to enter the town to campaign for

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## Campaign to Stop Extreme Abortion in Liberia conducts comprehensive sex awareness

By Naneka Hoffman

Campaign to Stop Extreme Abortion in Liberia, has ended a three-day training awareness outside Monrovia on comprehensive sex education empowerment.

The former President of the Liberia Council of Churches, Bishop Kortu Brown, says there is a need to discuss the phrase given rights to take the life of unborn babies in Liberia.

According to him, the phrase

to go as a nation and people.

Delivering keynote speech, the former Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Global Health at the United States Agency for International Development, Dr. Monique Wubbenhorst, laments that the killing of unborn babies is sin and constitutes a violation of human rights

"Globally, there are increasing efforts in the developing countries on the discussions of introducing sex education in schools for



individuals believed to be supporters of the Unity Party allegedly wasted acid water in the eyes of the celebrants, damaging their visual ability.

Police in Karnplay, Nimba County have arrested three men believed to be UP supporters for allegedly wasting acid water in the eyes of the two CDC supporters.

The incident occurred in Gbeh Manbor, electoral district#3 in Gbeh - lay - Gweh Administrative District of Nimba, after the National Elections Commission announced consolidated

Director, OldPa Lamah, allegedly committed the act.

The NEW DAWN gathered that since the National Elections Commissions announced start of campaign activities for the 2023 Presidential and General Elections across the country, there have been several electoral violence cases recorded in Nimba, mainly in electoral district#3.

Weeks ago, Senator-Elect, Prince Yormie Johnson and Vice President-Elect, Senator Jeremiah Koug narrowly escaped attack in Zor Zualay Town along the Sanniquellie - Karnplay highway in district#3



## Police charge man for manslaughter

By Patrick N. Mensah and Jonathan Browne

Police in Pleebo have charged a man with manslaughter for the death of a 30 -30-year-old woman identified as Esther Toe after a fistfight in Pleebo, Electoral District#2, Maryland County in southeast Liberia.

Suspect Sayee Wesley was charged on Sunday, 19 November 2023 following an investigation by chief investigator Jimmie Kaydor of the Liberia National Police Crime Services Department in Pleebo.

According to the chief investigator Jimmie Kaydo, the police received a call from residents that suspect Saydee Wesley Doe, aged 39, and a resident of Pleebo, was allegedly involved in a fistfight resulting in his spouse's death.

The police charge sheet continues that the situation occurred when the suspect

and his spouse got into a fistfight for allegedly locking doors on his two girl children who had gone out at night and couldn't come home.

Police said the victim and the suspect engaged in a serious confusion during which the accused allegedly pushed the deceased.

The victim fell and went unconscious, and was later rushed to the Pleebo Health Center where she was

pronounced dead by medical practitioners on duty.

The accused at the Pleebo Police Station followed the charge by Article 14.2 of the Penal Law of Liberia.

There have been controversies over the incident, characterized by fear among community members while the suspect is expected to be forwarded at the Pleebo Magisterial court.



in the abortion bill that currently before the Liberian Senate, should to take into consideration that abortion is killing of an unborn child.

"This occasion is part of our efforts by mobilizing the Liberian community in standing up against extreme abortion component of the extreme abortion bill of the public health of Liberia that is currently under review by the Liberian Senate", he explains.

The former LCC President, it is this portion of the bill they do not want to be passed pass into law. Members of the House of Representatives have already passed the bill and forwarded it to the Senate for concurrence.

"Now, the Liberian Senate is in a limb dock session," Bishop Brown notes, arguing "We want to increase our awareness on the danger that the passage of this bill, especially the portion on sex education on our culture."

He underscores a need to bring understanding to this issue and keep the country for God, while cautioning that this is not the way

children and abortion", Dr. Wubbenhorst reveals.

He assures participants and organizers of the exercise that their efforts will never be wasted because God sees clearly their works and will reward them for standing up.

The General Secretary of the Apostolic Pentecostal Church International, Reverend Miatta Sirleaf, notes that training is intended to educate participants to create awareness in their respective localities about the danger of abortion.

The three-day exercise brought together about 150 Christian leaders and Muslim clerics, including youth and students from across Liberia.

Held on the theme: "Protecting Life and Family," it was organized by the Campaign To Stop Extreme Abortion in Liberia with funding from Family Watch International and facilitated by Bishop Kortu Brown, Convener and Lead Campaigner. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

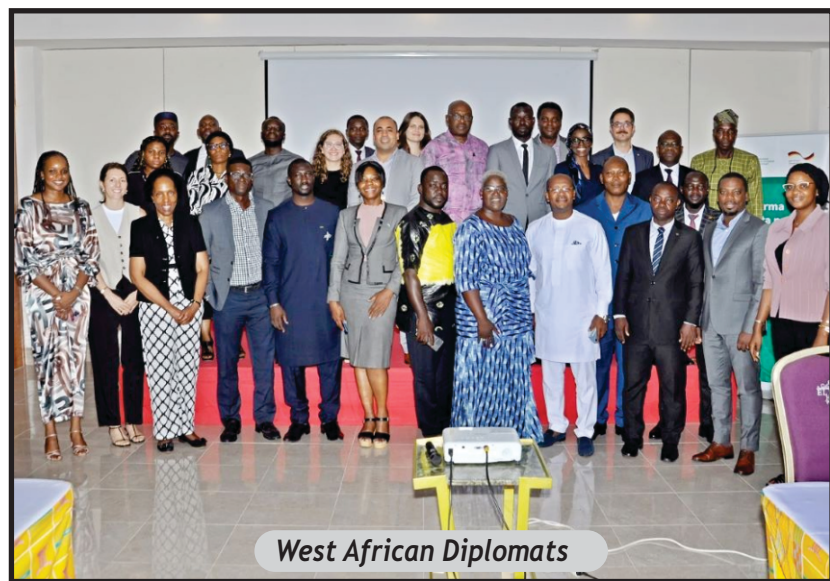
## ECOWAS Commission trains West African diplomats on cyber diplomacy

The ECOWAS Commission, in collaboration with the German Federal Foreign Office, the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale African diplomats, who play a key role in advancing their national and regional interests and values in the digital domain. The workshop covered topics such as cyber security concepts and challenges, cyber

participants to actively engage and contribute to the workshop, so that they can return and fulfil their role in their respective countries.

Mr. Boa, in his speech, noted the immense potential and opportunities created by the ongoing rapid digital transformation in West Africa, as well as the challenges posed by cyber threats such as cybercrime, cyberattacks, and cyber espionage. He stressed the need for effective cyber diplomacy to safeguard the stability, prosperity, and sovereignty of the region, while emphasizing the collective nature of cyber security. He underscored that diplomats must address cyber issues as part of advancing their national objectives, such as promoting peace, security, development, and human rights. He also pointed out the compelling need for coordinated regional cyber diplomacy to build cooperation, capacity, and norms. He expressed his hope that the workshop will contribute to the enhancement of the region's digital development and security, as well as to the advancement of a peaceful, open, and inclusive cyberspace for all.

The Joint Platform for Advancing Cyber Security in West Africa will focus on building regional cyber diplomacy, combatting cybercrime, ensuring data sovereignty, and protecting critical infrastructure.



West African Diplomats

Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the Diplo Foundation, organised a workshop on cyber diplomacy for West African diplomats on November 14-15, 2023, in Lome, Togo. The workshop was part of the Joint Platform for Advancing Cyber Security in West Africa, which aims to support ECOWAS in strengthening its cyber security governance framework and enhancing its cyber security capacities and cooperation at the regional and national levels. The workshop aimed to foster dialogue and cooperation on international security issues in cyberspace among West

diplomacy principles and practices, regional and international cyber security frameworks and initiatives, and cyber security cooperation and capacity building. The opening ceremony of the workshop was graced by the presence of the H.E Mr. Fischbach, German Ambassador to Togo, and Mr. Jerome Kouassi Boa, the ECOWAS Director of External Relations. In his speech, Mr. Fischbach highlighted the importance of cyber diplomacy as a vital tool to foster dialogue and cooperation on international security issues in cyberspace among West African stakeholders and globally. He also encouraged the

## WSR congratulates Boakai for maintaining Liberia's peace

By Lincoln G. Peters  
The Women Situation Room (WSR) over the weekend officially visited and congratulated Unity Party (UP) standard bearer Amb. Joseph Numah Boakai for maintaining Liberia's peace during the 14 November 2023 presidential run-off election.

announce the final result today, Monday, 20 November 2023. The purpose of WSR's visit was to extol Amb. Boakai for maintaining Liberia's peace during the run-off election.

The visit was also meant to caution Amb. Boakai to continue on the path of peace and focus on national reconciliation because the election has divided Liberians along several lines.

The WSR visitation was

headed by ABIC Establishment Coordinator Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh and graced by the eminent women of Liberia.

They included former Chief Justice Cllr. Francis Johnson-Allison, Cuttington University President Dr. Romelle A. Horton, and former Foreign Affairs Minister, Olubanke King Akerele, among others.

The objective of the Women's Situation Room is to ensure that there is peace before, during and after

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WSR members in group photo with President elect Boakai

## Weah announces major opposition role

### --Blames officials for his defeat

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Outgoing President George Manneh Weah has vowed to play a major opposition role and put his successor Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai's feet to the fire in the interest of the Liberian people.

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) leader has conceded defeat to the opposition Unity Party (UP) candidate following the 14 November 2023 presidential run-off. Mr. Weah's one presidential term of six years concludes this January, and his successor Amb. Boakai, a former Liberian Vice

result of the election and remain calm, stay together in unity while galvanizing with new strategies to come back stronger in 2029.

The outgoing president sees his defeat as a test of unity within his party, emphasizing that it is a learning curve for every CDCian to put up their seatbelt and strategize. "Do not be deterred by what has happened, we have let ourselves down," said Mr. Weah. According to him, there were some bad apples in government undermining the success of his administration. "Let this be a learning curve, teaching all of us a lesson. What's the fact is the fact;



Pres. Weah

President for 12 consecutive years, will step in. He conceded defeat after the National Elections Commission (NEC) announced over 99 percent of the preliminary results of the run-off election over the weekend. The commission is expected to declare the winner of the election today, Monday, 20 November 2023. Weah shocked many when he conceded defeat ahead of the full announcement of the result. He blamed some of his officials for causing his defeat but avoided naming them.

The NEC on Friday announced 99.98% of the preliminary results in which Boakai obtained 814,428 votes, constituting 50.64%, while Weah obtained 793,910 or 49.36 percent. Addressing supporters at his Forkly Klon Jlahleh Family Fellowship Church Sunday, 19 November, Mr. Weah reckoned his lost and accepted his fate as incoming opposition. In his future role as an opposition, Weah vowed to be robust in checkmating the incoming government by keeping its feet to the fire. "We're going to continue to fight as an opposition, we are not going sit and relax. We are going to keep Boakai's feet to the fire in the interest of our people," said Mr. Weah. "They were here as an opposition, protested freely and we provided food and water, likewise they must provide food and water as we'll be here to checkmate them in the interest of our people," Mr. Weah said.

Mr. Weah admonished his supporters to wave away the

what is blue is blue. We were not sincere to ourselves. What has happened has happened. I'm not going to blame anyone, but blame ourselves," President Weah continued. He attributed the lost not to an individual, but to every CDCian and officials who didn't work effectively in the interest of everyone to achieve the victory.

He argued that the idea requiring victory come with effort, work than just faith of hope.

Weah revealed that there were revelations from some pastors that CDC could win the election, but that it could only happen through efforts. "Some pastors told us in the first round we were going to win, some told us in the second round we were going to win. That is the revelation, but did we work towards this revelation?" he asked.

"Your faith doesn't constitute a victory. Faith with work constitutes everything. So let us take this as learning curve, moving forward so we can be stronger together," he admonished his supporters.

He said they should not be defeated because they can galvanize the strength of 2005, 2011 and shall never fail. He accused unnamed individuals in his government of undermining his administration and hindering the opportunities of those who were the best for his leadership and better for Liberia. "... The money was given..., every resource was given to ensure that we are victorious, but some of those Ministers have left us down," Weah lamented. "And because some of those ministers, I will not be president now, but will come back stronger in 2029," he noted.

# Français

## Présidentielle au Liberia : George Weah concède sa défaite face à Joseph Boakai

L'ex-star du football et président sortant du Liberia George Weah a admis vendredi sa défaite à l'élection

l'élection présidentielle du 14 novembre face à l'opposant Joseph Boakai. Une issue démocratique qui rompt avec les coups d'État survenus ces

George Weah.

Les résultats publiés vendredi par la commission électorale, après des votes dépouillés dans plus de 99 % des



présidentielle après une course serrée, ce qui devrait assurer une passation de pouvoir en douceur avec son rival Joseph Boakai dans ce pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest où le souvenir des guerres civiles reste vivace.

Il était le favori à l'approche du scrutin mais n'obtient finalement pas de nouveau mandat. Au Liberia, le président sortant, George Weah, a concédé dans la soirée de vendredi 17 novembre sa défaite à

derniers mois dans la région.

"Ce soir, le CDC (parti de George Weah) a perdu l'élection mais le Liberia a gagné. C'est le temps de l'élégance dans la défaite", a déclaré George Weah, ancienne gloire du foot élue en 2017, dans un discours sur la radio publique.

"Les résultats annoncés ce soir, bien que non finaux, indiquent que (Joseph) Boakai a une avance que nous ne pouvons rattraper. J'ai parlé au président élu Joseph Boakai pour le féliciter pour sa victoire", a dit

bureaux, donnaient 50,89 % à Joseph Boakai, 78 ans, et 49,11 % à George Weah.

Joseph Boakai bénéficiait d'un peu plus de 28 000 voix d'avance après le dépouillement de quelque 1,6 million de bulletins. Environ 2,4 millions de Libériens étaient appelés aux urnes mardi et la participation a dépassé les 65 % selon les chiffres publiés sur le site de la commission électorale.

Déroulement globalement

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## Le second tour de l'élection a profondément divisé les Libériens, selon la CEDEAO

La Mission d'Observation de la Communauté Économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) a indiqué que l'élection présidentielle du 14 novembre 2023 au Liberia opposant le président sortant George Manneh Weah à l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai avait profondément divisé la société libérienne.

La CEDEAO soulignait l'urgence de prendre des mesures pour remédier à cette situation.

"La Mission d'Observation de la CEDEAO a dit constater que le processus électoral a mis en lumière une société libérienne profondément divisée, nécessitant des mesures urgentes pour promouvoir une gouvernance plus inclusive, la cohésion sociale et l'unité nationale, quel que soit le vainqueur du second tour de

l'élection", soulignait l'organisme régional.

Le chef de la Mission d'Observation, le Professeur Attahiru Jega, a tenu une conférence de presse à Monrovia le jeudi 16 novembre 2023, saluant les électeurs libériens pour leur patience et leur patriotisme lors du processus électoral. Il a également appelé à faire preuve de la même maturité en attendant l'annonce

officielle des résultats par la commission électorale nationale.

Selon le Professeur Jega, le jour de l'élection, la Mission a déployé 80 observateurs répartis en 36 équipes à travers tout le pays. Il a précisé que l'équipe a visité un total de 847 bureaux de vote répartis dans les zones urbaines (56%) et rurales (44%) des 15 comtés du Liberia.

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## Éditorial

### La nécessité de la retenue en période électorale

Alors que la Commission électorale nationale dévoile les résultats provisoires du second tour de l'élection présidentielle du 14 novembre 2023, il est impératif que les partisans de l'opposition, notamment du Parti de l'Unité, et ceux du parti au pouvoir, la Coalition for Democratic Change, fassent preuve de retenue et évitent tout acte de provocation.

L'annonce d'une pré-victoire, avec une parade rapportée des partisans de l'Unity Party, dirigée par le représentant élu du district électoral n° 10 du comté de Montrrado, Yekeh Kolubah, semble précipitée, d'autant plus que la Commission électorale nationale n'a pas encore officiellement proclamé de vainqueur. Ces activités devraient être interrompues immédiatement pour éviter toute escalade inutile.

Il n'y a aucune justification pour une célébration anticipée tant que la victoire n'a pas été officiellement déclarée. De tels agissements ne sont rien de moins qu'une provocation flagrante, susceptible de dégénérer en chaos et violence, des éléments dont le Liberia se passerait volontiers.

Bien que les partisans du parti prétendent détenir des feuilles de résultats indiquant une performance exceptionnelle lors du second tour, il est crucial de souligner que de telles affirmations doivent encore être officiellement étayées.

Il est impératif de rappeler aux Libériens, en particulier aux leaders politiques, que la violence est contre-productive pour le progrès démocratique du pays, surtout après une guerre civile de 14 ans ayant coûté la vie à 250 000 compatriotes, parmi lesquels des femmes, des enfants et des personnes âgées.

De plus, la communauté internationale est actuellement aux prises avec des conflits armés à travers le monde, de l'Europe au Moyen-Orient en passant par le Sahel et l'Afrique subsaharienne. Elle n'a ni le temps ni les ressources pour s'occuper d'un nouveau conflit au Liberia, d'autant plus après avoir investi des centaines de millions pour rétablir la démocratie.

Partis de 20 candidats à la présidence au premier tour, nous ne comptons désormais que deux candidats en lice. Les résultats de nos choix du 14 novembre sont dévoilés par la Commission électorale nationale, l'organisme constitutionnel en charge de la conduite des élections au Liberia et de l'annonce des résultats. La Commission doit être autorisée à faire son travail sans interférences ni perturbations.

Nous saluons les déclarations publiées tant par la Coalition for Democratic Change au pouvoir que par l'Unity Party de l'opposition le mercredi 15 novembre, appelant leurs partisans respectifs et l'ensemble des Libériens à faire preuve de patience pendant que la Commission électorale dévoile progressivement les résultats conduisant à la proclamation d'un vainqueur.

N'oublions pas que notre pays a davantage à gagner dans la paix que dans le conflit. Il incombe à chacun de nous de préserver la voie de la paix, non seulement pour la génération actuelle, mais également pour les générations futures.

Les générations à venir jugeront sévèrement les leaders actuels si ces derniers ne parviennent pas à démontrer un véritable leadership, capable d'unifier une nation dans toute sa diversité, indépendamment des différences religieuses, politiques, culturelles et socio-économiques.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,  
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.  
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /  
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

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# Français

Par Marina Romanello

## Starts from page 8 **Présidentielle au Liberia**

pacifique du scrutin

Au-delà du choix de la personne appelée à diriger ce pays en quête de stabilité après les années de guerre civile et d'épidémie d'Ebola, l'un des enjeux de l'élection était le déroulement pacifique et régulier de l'élection et l'acceptation des résultats, alors que la démocratie est malmenée par une succession de coups d'État en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Le scrutin était organisé 20 ans après la fin des guerres civiles au Liberia, qui ont fait plus de 250 000 morts entre 1989 et 2003 et dont le souvenir reste vivace dans ce pays ouest-africain.

Cette élection était la première organisée sans la présence de la mission des Nations unies au Liberia créée en 2003 (et partie en 2018) pour garantir la paix après les guerres civiles.

Des affrontements pendant la campagne ont fait plusieurs morts. Des incidents ont été rapportés entre les deux tours, faisant craindre les lendemains de l'élection, surtout en cas d'issue serrée.

De nombreux observateurs étrangers et libériens ont suivi l'élection. Les missions

de l'Union européenne et de la Communauté économique des États d'Afrique de l'Ouest ont salué le déroulement globalement pacifique du second tour.

Joseph Boakai, un vieux routier

Des dizaines de partisans de Joseph Boakai ont célébré sa victoire vendredi en dansant devant l'un des bureaux de son parti dans le quartier de Fiamà à Monrovia, a constaté une correspondante de l'AFP.

Vainqueur, Joseph Boakai prendra pour six ans la tête de ce pays anglophone d'environ cinq millions d'habitants, l'un des plus pauvres du monde.

Ce vieux routier fut de 2006 à 2018 le vice-président d'Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, première femme élue cheffe d'État en Afrique. Il a occupé une multitude de postes au sein de l'État ou du secteur privé. Il s'est imposé malgré son âge face à un adversaire de 21 ans son cadet (57 ans) resté populaire parmi les jeunes, mais qui devait défendre un bilan critiqué.

Joseph Boakai prend sa revanche contre celui qui l'avait largement battu au second tour en 2017 avec plus de 61 % des voix, mais auquel ses détracteurs reprochent de ne pas avoir tenu ses promesses de combattre la pauvreté et la corruption.

## Starts from page 8 **Le second tour de l'élection**

Les résultats officiels consolidés publiés par la commission électorale nationale le jeudi 16 novembre montrent que le principal candidat de l'opposition, Joseph Boakai, a reçu 712 741 voix, soit 50,57%, tandis que le président sortant Weah est en retard avec 696 520 voix, soit 49,47%, lors du second tour de mardi.

Cependant, le Professeur Jega indique que l'équipe a constaté le début du vote dans 47 bureaux de vote et que, de manière générale, tous les 47 bureaux de vote visités ont ouvert dans la demi-heure suivant l'heure officielle d'ouverture à 8 heures, ajoutant qu'aucun retard significatif n'a été enregistré au début des votes. L'équipe a également observé un traitement des électeurs plus rapide que lors des élections générales du 10 octobre, notant qu'en moyenne, il fallait environ deux minutes pour traiter les électeurs depuis la remise des bulletins de vote jusqu'au dépouillement.

Il décrit l'atmosphère dans les bureaux de vote comme généralement pacifique, avec la présence d'agents de sécurité dans 95,74% des bureaux de vote

visités. Le Professeur Jega a cité le lycée central de Barclayville à Topoh, dans le comté de Grand Kru ; le lycée Bassa, l'école publique Bonjeh, Dewoin dans le comté de Bomi ; l'école secondaire Dorothy Cooper à Gbarnga, Jorquellah, comté de Bong ; le bureau de vote de l'école publique Johnny Voker à Saclepea, district n°7, comté inférieur de Nimba ; l'école publique Sosomolahun et l'école catholique St. Agnes à Kolahun, comté de Lofa, comme des endroits où la mission n'a pas remarqué la présence de la sécurité. Il a révélé que tous les bureaux de vote visités étaient mis en place de manière à garantir le secret du vote et que généralement, les électeurs devaient présenter leur carte d'électeur pour pouvoir voter. Dans 16 bureaux de vote visités, les observateurs ont constaté que les électeurs étaient autorisés à voter malgré l'absence de leur nom sur le registre de ces bureaux.

Il a noté que certaines des personnes autorisées à cette dispense comprenaient le personnel des bureaux de vote et le personnel de sécurité en service, ainsi que les chauffeurs des observateurs internationaux, conformément au manuel de la commission électorale nationale sur le processus de vote.

## L'EISA-IOM salue la performance exemplaire de la NEC lors du second tour de la présidentielle



L'Institut Electoral pour la Démocratie Durable en Afrique, via sa Mission Internationale d'Observation des Élections (EISA-IEOM), a vivement salué la Commission Électorale Nationale (NEC) pour sa préparation rapide et efficace dans la distribution des matériels électoraux sensibles et non sensibles. Les conclusions de l'EISA-IEOM pour le second tour de l'élection présidentielle du 14 novembre opposant le Président sortant George Manneh Weah à son rival Amb. George Manneh Weah ont été rendues publiques. Lors de la présentation du rapport jeudi 16 novembre 2023, le Dr Nevers Mumba, ancien Vice-Président de la Zambie et chef de l'EISA-IEOM, a souligné qu'en préparation des élections du 14 novembre, l'organisation avait observé une distribution en temps opportun du matériel électoral sensible et non sensible. Selon lui, dans les comtés du sud-est, le matériel a été acheminé par bateau, et les observateurs de l'EISA ont confirmé la livraison réussie dans le Maryland et le Grand Gedeh. "La NEC a imprimé les bulletins de vote présidentiels et le Registre Final des Électeurs (RFE) à temps. Cela constitue une amélioration appréciable, permettant aux partis politiques d'informer leurs partisans sur la manière de marquer le bulletin et d'affiner leurs stratégies de campagne et d'observation des élections respectives", a ajouté le Dr Mumba. Il a également souligné que la NEC a fait face à des défis persistants dans le recrutement de personnel temporaire, avec

des contestations des partis politiques concernant les affiliations présumées du personnel de la NEC.

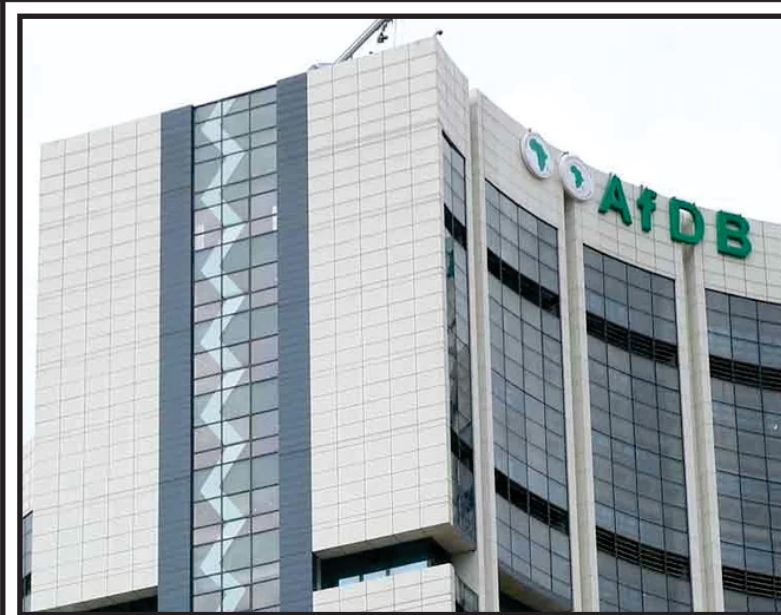
L'ancien Vice-Président zambien a indiqué que ces plaintes étaient plus marquées pendant la période de tabulation des résultats du premier tour, suite à l'arrestation de certains responsables de la NEC pour des pratiques électorales frauduleuses.

Parallèlement, formulat des recommandations cruciales au gouvernement du Libéria, à la NEC et aux parties prenantes pour améliorer le processus électoral, l'EISA-IEOM a exhorté le gouvernement à envisager

des réformes électorales appropriées pour renforcer le cadre juridique existant. "Clarifiez et renforcez les exigences légales et mettez en place des mesures pour identifier et dissuader les incidents de bourrage d'urnes", a souligné le Dr Mumba. "Envisagez la création d'une cour intermédiaire/tribunal électoral pour entendre et régler les questions liées aux élections. Améliorez le cadre réglementaire des médias pour réduire la marge de manœuvre des journalistes et des organes de presse dans le rapport et la publication d'informations non vérifiées. Les chefs traditionnels doivent s'abstenir de la politique partisane en violation de la constitution et exercer leurs mandats avec équité", a exhorté le Dr Mumba. "S'adressant aux partis politiques et aux candidats, le chef de l'EISA-IEOM a appelé ces acteurs à tirer parti des enseignements et des connaissances tirés du cycle électoral de 2023 pour engager des consultations et mettre en œuvre des suggestions de réforme électorale."

Le Dr Mumba a exhorté les partis à s'abstenir de faire des déclarations non officielles sur les résultats électoraux, de l'intimidation, de la violence et de la rhétorique politique, et à respecter les institutions de gestion des élections et la diversité politique.

## Rapport de la BAD sur l'arrestation illégale de deux employés en Éthiopie



La Banque africaine de développement (BAD) dénonce avec vigueur l'arrestation illégale de deux de ses membres du personnel, basés à Addis-Abeba, par les forces de sécurité éthiopiennes. Les employés ont été appréhendés de manière arbitraire, physiquement agressés, et détenus pendant plusieurs heures sans qu'aucune explication officielle ne leur soit fournie. Dans un communiqué, la BAD exprime sa satisfaction quant à la réaction immédiate du Premier ministre éthiopien dès qu'il a été informé de l'incident. Celui-ci a ordonné la libération immédiate des membres du personnel concernés et a promis d'initier une enquête immédiate sur cette affaire. Considérant cet épisode comme une affaire diplomatique très sérieuse, la BAD a formellement déposé

une plainte auprès des autorités éthiopiennes. Le gouvernement a reconnu officiellement cette plainte, pris acte de la gravité de la situation, et a assuré que toutes les personnes impliquées dans ces actes répréhensibles feront l'objet d'une enquête approfondie et seront traduites en justice, garantissant ainsi transparence et pleine responsabilité.

Par ailleurs, le gouvernement a réaffirmé à la BAD que son personnel en Éthiopie, ainsi que ceux en mission dans le pays, continueront de bénéficier du plein respect de leurs droits, privilèges, et immunités diplomatiques conformément à la Convention de Vienne sur les relations diplomatiques et à l'Accord de siège conclu entre la BAD et

le gouvernement éthiopien. La BAD tient à souligner la valeur de ses excellentes relations avec le gouvernement éthiopien et indique être actuellement en pourparlers avec les autorités par le biais des canaux diplomatiques pour discuter de cet incident. La direction de la BAD réitère son engagement envers la sécurité, la sûreté, ainsi que les droits et privilèges de tout son personnel, quel que soit le pays où la Banque opère. Elle assure également ses partenaires que cet incident n'affecte en rien ses opérations en Éthiopie.

# ARTICLE ARTICLE

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Why I'm not yet celebrating bigly

## International Community congratulates Liberia -for peaceful elections

Jonathan Paye-Layleh writes:

I feel relieved. But I haven't really been celebrating much since the Nov. 14 election victory, even though I was a well-known campaigner for the Boakai-Koung ticket.

The International Commission for their exemplary leadership and Liberia extends national ownership in congratulations to the Liberia's elections citizens of Liberia for management.

For me the real celebration will come when the Boakai government takes over and sees the economy in a very good or reasonably good shape, where monies spent on projects over the last six years are properly accounted for, where there are no traces of overtime and last minute questionable financial transactions by the outgoing regime and there is a clearly-defined turnover note explaining all the transactions.

calls on Liberians to come together in a spirit of national unity, as emphasized by President George Weah in his concession speech.

Meanwhile, the International Community further calls on all partisans irrespective of political affiliation to safeguard Liberia's peace in pursuit of security and development. The International Community assures that it remains a strong partner in Liberia to complement national efforts in deepening democratic principles.



Boakai



Boakai

Weah

their commitment to write a new chapter in their democratic dispensation during the 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections.

The International Community equally commends the joint security of Liberia for the integrity and professionalism in service rendered to the people of Liberia. "We express recognition of the work of civil society organizations and all institutions who [that] exercised civic duty in service to Liberia during these elections.

Liberians went to Presidential Runoff Election of 14 November 2023 in which incumbent President George Weah conceded defeat last Thursday, 16 November to his main rival, former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, calling on supporters and partisans of his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) to accept defeat and move on. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

In a press release over the weekend, the International Community commends national institutions including the Chairperson, Board of Commissioners and staff (permanent and temporary) of the National Elections

The release says the International Community

The real celebration will come when the soon-to-be set up transitional team reports that the outgoing government is leaving a better payroll structure and a better expenditure portfolio than those of the Ellen Sirleaf government.

## Violence erupts in Nimba again

Starts from page 6

I will celebrate if the outgoing government settled most of our domestic debts and that the salaries of employees were not left in arrears. Indeed, I will celebrate if the outgoing government left more money in our Central Bank reserve than what it saw there on assuming power.

that was the word from Anthony Quiwonkpa toward Senator Jeremiah Koung and Senator Prince Johnson", Wolo quotes Quiwonkpa to have said.

The latest violence on Friday occurred just a day after incumbent President George Manneh Weah

conceded to UP Standard Bearer Joseph Nyumah Boakai and congratulated him for winning the 14 November 2023 Presidential Runoff Election here, calling on CDCians that it is over and they should return to normal life. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

I will celebrate when newly appointed officials go to take office and the records and reports they see of their predecessors are correct and acceptable.

## WSR congratulates Boakai for

Starts from page 7

More importantly, I will celebrate when the new government starts to introduce meaningful reforms to change things around in a bid to make the long sought-after difference .

election. According to her, they are proud of the process and the way in which Amb. Boakai did it. "We have come to congratulate you, for the manner and former in which you conducted the process. Your engagement towards the process was not violent, rather my people let vote and vote for the best person," she said.

peacefully. She indicated that this history is not for Liberians alone, but the entire region, thanking the Unity Party leader for that. For her part, former Foreign Affairs Minister Olubanke King Akerele thanked Amb. Boakai for the unofficial victory and for the protection and maintenance of Liberia's peace and security.

"We thank you for the process. Now, there is no republic of UP or CDC. Rather, it's the Republic of Liberia and that is the message we have been about in your think Liberia, love Liberia and build Liberia."

### MY INITIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR A BETTER LIBERIA

Already, I've given the incoming government my first batch of suggestions highlighting some of the areas in which, in my opinion, they need to make some early interventions in order to start bringing relief to the virtually strangled population.

WSR deployed over seven hundred observers in seven concentrated counties in Liberia and seven hundred peace monitors. During the visit, Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh said they had gone to congratulate Amb. Boakai not just for victory but for the manner and form in which he conducted himself during the

"And you told them that you were the best. And so, your campaign was about ideas, instead of violence," she said further. She stated that Amb. Boakai made history for this republic because Liberians are transitioning once more

I think placing a suggestion box at every public place, encouraging people to speak out and stay away from this culture of silence, is one way of getting the public involved in decisions that affect them. I SUBMIT.

# Weah defends decision

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh and Lewis Teh

President George Weah told members of his congregation on Sunday, November 19 that he is not an African President who hijacks elections that cause the death of many innocent people. "I won't be a part of it," he said to members and supporters that his defeat in the presidential runoff is a learning curve.

But some members of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) on Sunday expressed their dissatisfaction over the President's unilateral decision, saying it was a betrayer of the people's trust by conceding defeat before announcement of the final results. They argued that Mr. Weah should have at least informed them about his concession plans.

At a press conference on Sunday, members of the CDC alarmed fraud in the just ended presidential run-off and said that had the President consulted them they would have exhausted all the necessary avenues before making any concession. However, party Secretary

representing 49.11%. In his concession speech later Friday night, Mr. Weah admitted that his Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) party had lost the election, but Liberia had won.

"The reason I congratulated Amb. Joseph Boakai is not about me; it is about Liberia. I told you once, I am not a politician, but an administrator, because if I were a politician, by now we are killing each other," the President stated earlier on Sunday.

However, his supporters and partisans differed with his concession and congratulatory message.

"We will not allow him to step his feet into this compound how can a sitting president concede defeat in the absence of final results this is a betrayal of the people's trust," CDCians who gathered at the party's Headquarters were heard saying.

But speaking to the angry CDCians, CDC Secretary General Jefferson Kojjee who doubles as Monrovia City Mayor encouraged partisans to accept the result and move on.

Kojjee at the news conference, instead

final pronouncement of the election results to inform their partisans on their next plan of action.

"Even though we have issues in Grand Gedeh, Nimba, and Grand Kru Counties, we will take a collective action as a party, and we urged you to remain calm and steadfast," Kojjee added.

He, however, cautioned partisans to desist from deceiving themselves and the public about a rerun of the election, adding "If you think I'm about to give you false hope then I'm sorry because you will not hear that from me."

He said CDC has never fallen short of providing leadership to its members, saying anyone coming here should desist from making profane language about the results.

Kojjee explained that President Weah's planned visit to the party headquarters is to have an open forum with partisans and supporters on the outcome and the next steps of the party.

The president's concession on Friday appears not to have gone down well with his partisans and supporters.

Earlier at the news conference, disenchanted



Pres. Weah

General Kojjee has advised supporters to accept the result and move on.

Mr. Weah telephoned former vice President Joseph Boakai of the opposition Unity Party on Friday to congratulate him following the National Elections Commission's announcement of 99.58 percent of the Tuesday, November 14 Presidential run-off result.

The president acknowledged that with 99.58 percent of results, President-elect Joseph N. Boakai of the opposition Unity Party (UP) had secured 814,212 of the votes amounting to 50.89%, while he had acquired 785,778

encouraged partisans to maintain the peace and avoid spreading falsehood about any form of election rerun.

"Don't allow yourself to fall prey to these results. The quicker you accept it, the faster you will overcome it," Kojjee added.

The president has spoken, and we his followers must listen and respect his decision. We have asked for an audience with him tomorrow and we expect every CDCian to come and listen to the president," he adds.

According to him, the issues the party has regarding the just ended runoff election have been communicated to the NEC, but they are awaiting the

partisans and supporters vowed to block the president's motorcade from entering the CDC headquarters on grounds that he (Weah) has jeopardized their future.

"We will not allow him to step his feet into this compound. How can a sitting president concede defeat in the absence of final results." They threatened.

Meanwhile, President Weah has cautioned Amb. Boakai to keep the peace, noting that former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf left the Peace with him and he kept the peace, and he (Boakai) should keep the Peace. -Edited by Othello B. Gablah

# NEC announces final result today

The National Elections Commission announces final results and winner of the 14 November 2023 Presidential Run-off Election today, Monday, November 20, at the Commission Headquarters on 9th Street in Sinkor, Monrovia.

NEC Chairperson Daviedetta Browne Lansanah, says 20 polling places previously quarantined as was reported on 17 November 2023 have been reviewed, cleared, processed, and approved to form part of the consolidated report that will be read today at 4:30 pm.

Madam Browne Lansanah

Commissioner Barsee Leo Kpangbai, read the presidential results from Grand Kru County, saying the following are the tallied results from the national presidential progressive tallied report consolidated.

On 17 November, the Commission informed Liberians and the public generally that a re-run of the Presidential Election in a polling place in electoral District#9, Nimba county would have been conducted on Saturday, 18 November.

Chairperson Lansanah assured that outcome of the re-run in Electoral District#9, polling place



NEC Chairperson Daviedetta Browne Lansanah

notes that four (4) polling places that were not quarantined but were part of the regular tally process in Grand Kru County were not ready at the time of reporting on 17 November due to retrieval from the field, but are now tallied 100 percent.

She spoke over the weekend at the NEC daily press briefings where progressive and consolidated reports of the Presidential Runoff Election are announced

#4 at the Vamie Elementary and Junior High School in Nimba County will be announced today and form part of the consolidated final results that will officially declare winner of the Presidential Runoff Election.

But incumbent President George Manneh Weah has already conceded defeated and congratulated his main challenger, Joseph Nyumah Boakai of the former ruling Unity Party. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# MPC congratulates Boakai

By Kruah Thompson

The Standard Bearer of the Movement for Progressive Change (MPC), Simeon Freeman congratulates Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai and the Unity Party for their victory in the 14 November 2023 Presidential Runoff Election. In a press statement Saturday, 16 November Mr. Freeman says he sees this triumph not only as a success for the Unity Party, but a pivotal moment for Liberia's advancement toward national development, particularly through industrialization.

The MPC political leader emphasizes the significance of national reconciliation over mere political victories. He urges Ambassador Boakai and the Unity Party to prioritize unity, fostering a sense of togetherness that transcends political boundaries for the greater good of Liberia. Commending Ambassador Boakai's courage in challenging the incumbent, who is an internationally acclaimed figure loved by many, Freeman acknowledges the importance of

a competitive democratic process.

He highlights that the MPC has gained valuable insights from the 2023 elections and is now more determined to ensure Liberia's democracy flourishes, with the people being the primary beneficiaries of the nation's wealth. At the same time he announces that the MPC would soon issue a national policy statement in coming days, aiming to contribute to genuine reconciliation and national development under the new leadership. "This statement is anticipated to serve as a catalyst for positive change in the country", the statement reads Expressing appreciation for President George Manneh Weah's graceful concession of defeat, the MPC extends congratulations to him for facilitating a smooth transition of power. Freeman recognizes this as a crucial step in maintaining Liberia's democratic credentials, especially after three consecutive elections. The MPC calls on the outgoing government to ensure a seamless transition of civilian power, echoing President Weah's message of concession. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

## France opens Visa application center in Monrovia

By Lewis S. Teh

The French government has opened a new visa application center in Monrovia to reduce the burden on Liberian citizens and other foreign nationals who are desirous of visiting France for

Liberian citizens who [are] desirous of visiting France," said Jondot.

He explained that in September they had the vision from the VFS global office about opening another branch in Liberia, and he was very

since 18 September 2023, ordinary passport holders residing in Liberia wishing to apply for a visa for France can now submit their application to the VFS center in Monrovia, specifically at the Royal Grand Hotel in Sinkor.

According to him, visa applications submitted with an ordinary passport in Liberia are processed by the French Consulate General in Abidjan, which has the sole authority on the visa decision-making process.

Mr. Collin said applicants must complete their application online before booking an appointment through the VFS global website. The Monrovia office will be open beginning 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays. Collin disclosed that processing time for short-stay visa applications varies according to the time of the year.

Applicants may expect an average processing time of two to three weeks, while processing time for long-stay visa application will have to take several months to process.



business, conferences, and other activities. At the official opening ceremony on Friday, 17 November 2023, Deputy French Ambassador to Liberia Sebastine Jondot said the opening of the visa center was a long discussion process that began with other foreign mission colleagues.

"This VFS office that is being opened here today will ease the burden from the shoulders of foreign nationals including

confident that this office would strengthen the smooth relations between Liberia and France. Jondot said there is a cordial working relationship between France and the Liberian officials through Liberia's Embassy in Paris and he hopes this office will do the same.

For his part, the French consulate general in la Cote D'Ivoire Mr. Philippe Collin said

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