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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023	L\$187.0460/US\$1.00	L\$188.8614/US\$1.00

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

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3 persons dead, 25 others injured

-In UP'S horror



Pro-Temp-Absort Chie

Pro-temp Chie urges Boakai to heal nation



Amb. Boakai

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Continental News

Stampede in Congo kills would-be army recruits

At least 37 people have died in a stampede during an army recruitment drive at a stadium in Congo-Brazzaville, the government has said. People

government statement said. It did not give a number, but said that a "crisis unit" has been set up under the authority of Prime Minister Anatole Collinet Makosso, the AFP news agency

recruitment in the capital following the stampede at Michel d'Ornano stadium at around 22:00 GMT. Public prosecutor Oko Ngakala said that an investigation would be launched into the cause of the crush. Thousands of young people had reportedly gathered outside the stadium on Monday.

Brandon Tsetou, a graduate who survived the crush, said he had queued since early in the day. "According to the organisers, it was to be the last day. That's why many of us decided to wait until late into the night, hoping to register," he told AP.

"Some were so impatient that they had to force their way in, causing a stampede that left a number of people dead or injured, which we deplore." Morgue official Adelard Yvon Bonda told AFP that 32 bodies had so far been identified by family members. "We must first of all pay our respects to the memory of those who have just left us," he is quoted as saying.

"This is a situation that arose. It was not provoked, but it happened because young people need jobs." BBC



The army wants to recruit about 1,500 people between the ages of 18 and 25

tried to force their way through the stadium's gates in the capital, Brazzaville, causing the stampede, residents have been quoted as saying. Last week, the army announced plans to recruit about 1,500 people between the ages of 18 and 25.

Many were injured in Monday night's crush, a

reports. According to the Associated Press (AP) agency, as many as 700 people a day have been registering over the last week at recruitment centres.

Youth unemployment is at around 42% in Congo-Brazzaville, with many young people seeing the army one of the few places where they can secure a job. The army said it had suspended

Israel recalls its ambassador from South Africa

Israel has recalled its ambassador in South Africa "for consultations", Israel's foreign ministry has said.

The move on Monday followed the "latest South African statements" on Israel, ministry spokesperson Lior Haiat said on X without giving specifics. South Africa has been highly critical of Israel's military operation in Gaza.

On Tuesday, its MPs passed a motion recommending the Israeli embassy's closure until there is a ceasefire and a commitment to negotiations. The motion was passed in parliament by 248 votes to 91. All lawmakers from the governing African National Congress supported it, but it is unclear whether the government will act on the recommendation. Despite the objections of the presiding officer, some MPs chanted "free, free Palestine" after the motion was passed.

Israel launched a major military campaign in Gaza in response to a cross-border attack by hundreds of Hamas

gunmen on 7 October, in which at least 1,200 people were killed and more than 200 others taken hostage.

A potential deal that would see Hamas release some of its hostages is now "very close", US President Joe Biden has said.

Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry says at least 13,000 people have been killed in the territory since Israel launched its retaliatory campaign. Israel has said that it is acting in self-defence and its aim is to eliminate Hamas and prevent another attack like the one last month. The recall of

Israeli Ambassador Eliav Belotserkovsky came just before South Africa began hosting a virtual summit of the Brics group of emerging economies, which includes China and Russia, on the Israel-Hamas war. At its conclusion, the Brics leaders called for an immediate and sustained humanitarian truce in Gaza.

China's President Xi Jinping also called for the release of civilian detainees.

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa denounced what he called the collective punishment of Palestinian civilians.



There have been several pro-Palestinian rallies in South Africa

Libya Flood: Thousands Still Missing Amid Mental Health Crisis

In some places the water came on like a pack of cars, speeding more than 120 kilometers an hour over the tops of 30-meter-high palm trees. As Hani Elbah, a 47-year-old government worker, saw the flood approach, he mentally prepared for death. It was September 11, the day Storm Daniel swept into his city, Derna, in eastern Libya.

A nearby building, seven stories high with 21 families inside, collapsed. "The families were all upstairs," recalls Elbah. "The flood crushed it like a milk carton." Lights from mobile phones could be seen careening into the chaos as people were swallowed by the water. Elbah, his wife, and three children survived on the roof of a neighbor's six-story building.

They were spared, but more

Shallow mass graves appear in danger of being unearthed as workers continue to search for bodies. On the streets of Derna, one only needs to look to the children to see the lingering trauma from the floods and what has become a widespread mental health crisis, says Sanad Alowami, a Red Crescent volunteer who works in Derna.

"Whenever they see rain, they will run to the rooftops and shout at people to come up, saying 'It's coming, it's coming,'" Alowami says. This mental health crisis is among Derna's most urgent needs, says Talal Burnaz the Libya Country Director at International Medical Corps, but it is also a difficult issue to address. Libya lacks trained psychologists and a culture of mental health care, he says. But the trauma has become deadly, he says, with rising suicide rates and not nearly enough psycho-social support. "We started



More than 8,000 people are still missing more than two months after the flood

than two months after the flood, authorities have counted nearly 4,400 dead and more than 8,000 people missing, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

And residents of Derna say the region is still reeling from trauma and lack of humanitarian aid to replace what they lost—which for many people was everything. More than 43,000 people are still displaced amid increasingly dire reports of suicides and other mental health crises. "The city was worn out even before," says Elbah. "Now we need everything from A to Z. We need infrastructure, housing projects and water supply projects. Mostly we need psychological support." Some schools in Derna are operating a little, with damaged buildings and teachers missing or among the dead, adds Elbah, but others are destroyed or still occupied by homeless flood victims.

seeing lots of reports about cases who committed suicide or tried to commit suicide in that region," he says. "And those people of course were... mentally affected by the loss of their family members. And that number is not... small." People in areas destroyed by the floods also have immediate physical needs, adds Burnaz.

Roughly 2,000 families are still crowded into temporary shelters in Derna, like schools, relatives' homes or abandoned dwellings previously considered unfit for habitation. And in areas washed away by the floods, recovery has been slow, and sometimes haphazard, with aid suspended from time to time and other critical recovery projects still in the planning phase, says Alowami, from the Red Crescent. As winter rapidly approaches, many families still need basic things, like warm blankets and sheets, he adds. "At the beginning we received a lot of aid," he explains. "It was not all distributed correctly, but the demands were met. But for two weeks now most aid isn't coming in." VOA

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Kate Hampton,
David Miliband

Liberia's democracy gains strength

What We Can Do About Food Insecurity

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.

LONDON - 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 ClIFF is helping to lead the charge on issues like child wasting. We each have a clear stake in the success of the summit (which ClIFF 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, ClIFF 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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OP-ED

By UNDP Liberia Resident
Representative a.i. Louis Kuukpen

A call to action to accelerate carbon readiness in the runup to COP 28

Monrovia, Liberia; November 21, 2023: Over the next five weeks, representatives from parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and stakeholders from around the world are expected to descend in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 30th November to 12th December 2023 in what is dubbed as COP28.

This Conference of the Parties (COP), like other ones before it, will be quite significant considering that it marks the first comprehensive assessment of progress against the goals of the Paris Agreement. This COP is expected to focus on: Loss and Damage, Climate Finance, and Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP).



Liberia, as a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is expected to be visibly present at these negotiations with a delegation that includes representatives from government, civil society, and other actors.

Despite its limited contribution to global emissions, Liberia is one of those Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that continues to bear the brunt of the climate crisis. At the launch of the Implementation Plan for the country's revised ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2022, H. E. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah Snr -Foreign Minister speaking on behalf of the President of Liberia noted "No country is immune to the impacts of climate change. In Liberia, climate change is disrupting agriculture, coastal erosion, and perennial flooding, critically impacting the agriculture, energy, and fisheries sectors."

Speaking at the COP26 in Glasgow, H.E. President Weah highlighted that there is a need to bring equity and fairness to how the objectives of the Paris Accord on Climate Change can be achieved.

He bemoaned that countries like Liberia despite efforts made to protect its forest reserves, have received the lowest benefits for these ecosystem services noting "Although we bear the brunt of the impact of climate change, we benefit the least from the existing solutions and financial arrangements currently in place for tackling climate change".

As the Liberian delegation marches into COP28 this year, exploring the best options for Climate Finance is expected to be key on the agenda and a priority for the country's delegation during the ensuing negotiations. The government of Liberia has identified the forest sector as a pathway to accessing investment capital and financial resources that will catalyze its national development and reduce pressure on valuable ecosystems and tight fiscal space.

As one of the remaining countries in West Africa harboring high carbon stocks, Liberia commits to ensuring that forests are sustainably managed and maintained into the future. This bold position on the part of the Liberian government is quite laudable and builds on all the other efforts the country has embarked upon concerning its climate actions.

UNDP recognizes Liberia's commitment to ensuring the conservation of its forests as well as the government's desire to leverage its forest assets for accessing investment capital and financial resources that will catalyze its national development, achieve sustainable development goals, and implement Liberia's NDC.

UNDP is committed and will continue to support the government in this endeavor. It is worth noting that Liberia has great potential for accessing carbon markets, however, for this potential to be realized, it is imperative to put in place the institutional requirements for engaging, including legal national frameworks, strategies, and safeguards for carbon market operations.

It is therefore important that those who care about Liberia's forest and the development of the country get Liberia ready for the carbon market. A carbon readiness framework will help propel Liberia towards the carbon readiness path to ensure that key drivers of deforestation and degradation are prioritized, support the identification of barriers to results-based payments, and propose investment offers that will capitalize on current opportunities as well as potential emissions reductions and results-based carbon finance.

In the run-up to COP 28, this is a call to faster action that requires a stronger commitment to equity and justice for forest communities and future generations of Liberia. Through a collaborative partnership with the government, civil society, and development partners, we can put together a fit-for-purpose framework that can mobilize finance for Liberia. This requires working together across divides and making this initiative a top priority now so that Liberia fulfills its ambition while creating a more sustainable and just 21st century for Liberia.

OPINION

By Richard Haass

Summing Up the Biden-Xi Summit

NEW YORK - Summits are by definition occasions of high politics and drama, so it comes as little surprise that the November 15 meeting between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping generated immense global interest. It was a useful meeting: Biden and Xi agreed to restart military-to-military communications, curb the deadly opioid fentanyl, fight climate change, and discuss risks associated with artificial intelligence. But it was also something less than a reset of a relationship that has been deteriorating for several years and that will remain typified by competition more than anything else for the foreseeable future.

Both leaders came to San Francisco hoping the four-hour meeting (held alongside the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum) would place a floor (to use Biden's favorite image) under what is the defining bilateral relationship of this era. But it is worth noting that their motives differed fundamentally. Biden wanted to reduce tensions, as the last thing he needs is another diplomatic or, worse, military crisis at a time when an over-stretched United States is contending with Russian aggression against Ukraine in Europe and the after-effects of Hamas's October 7 terrorist attack in Israel.

Biden, a year away from the 2024 presidential election, also needed to show he could be tough on China, both to parry Republican attacks and to show that he was focused on issues that are touching American lives. In this regard, he successfully pushed China to pledge to do more to rein in its exports of the chemical precursors that cartels in Mexico use to manufacture fentanyl.

Xi, for his part, came to California somewhat weakened, owing to the Chinese economy's underperformance. Following years of excessive state intervention since Xi came to power a decade ago, youth unemployment is high, exports and foreign direct investment are down, and debt is a major issue. The last thing Xi and China's economy need are more US export controls, sanctions, and tariffs.

What did not change as a result of the conversation was the status of the most contentious issue dividing the US and China: Taiwan. For the past half-century the two governments have finessed the issue, essentially agreeing to disagree over the ultimate relationship between the island and the People's Republic. Xi sees unification as central to his country's future and to his own legacy; the US sees protecting Taiwan from coercion as central to America's standing with its allies in the region and the fate of a rules-based international order. It is likely that tensions stemming from these contrasting agendas will periodically spike in the future as in the past.

One piece of good news in this context was the agreement to re-establish military-to-military communications, which China cut off in the wake of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taiwan in August 2022. This is welcome in principle as it reduces the chances of an incident involving US and Chinese aircraft or ships, which operate in close proximity to one another on a daily basis. But whether this channel could be relied upon if an incident occurred, and if so, to what effect, remains an open question.

The summit appeared to produce the promise of enhanced US-China cooperation on climate change and on regulating the use of AI. What will matter, though, is whether the spirit of that promise ultimately translates into meaningful concrete action.

The summit did not appear to bridge Chinese and American differences over the world's two major ongoing conflicts. China is very much in Russia's corner, while the US is in Ukraine's, and China (unlike the US) has distanced itself from Israel in the wake of the October 7 attack, refusing to condemn Hamas and calling for an unconditional ceasefire.

Despite these differences, the two governments do not appear to be on a collision course in either region. China has held off on arming Russia, and it has a stake in not seeing conflict in the Middle East escalate to a point that jeopardizes its ability to import Iranian oil. Xi also wants to avoid a scenario where mounting geopolitical differences over either of these crises provides a pretext for the US to take additional steps that would add to China's economic difficulties.

But it remains to be seen whether such calculations on Xi's part will lead China to exercise restraint in the South China Sea, where it has been applying increasing pressure against the Philippines, a long-standing American ally. And the summit provided no reason to believe that China is prepared to use its influence to rein in the nuclear and missile programs of North Korea.

Over seven decades, the modern US-China relationship has evolved significantly. Early on, there was no relationship to speak of, and the US found itself in an armed confrontation with China during the Korean War. This was followed two decades later by a period of strategic cooperation against the Soviet Union, and then to boost trade and investment as a joint priority once the Cold War ended. But economic ties have become a source of friction in recent years, and as China became increasingly assertive, the two countries found themselves increasingly at odds over just about everything, from regional and global issues to human rights.

The San Francisco summit did not alter this reality. US-China relations remain an issue to be managed, not a problem to be solved. Expecting anything else from the summit was to expect too much. The world's most important bilateral relationship continues to be a highly competitive one, and the challenge remains what it was prior to the summit: to ensure that competition does not preclude selective cooperation or give way to conflict.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Liberia's archrivals meet again

Preparations are far advanced at least according to the National Elections Commission for the Tuesday, November 14, Presidential runoff between incumbent President George Weah and former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai.

Though many have considered the November 14 Presidential runoff as a rerun of the 2017 Presidential runoff between the two most popular presidential rivals in recent Liberian history, much has changed since the two men met in 2017.

In 2017, President Weah was at his highest popularity ratings with no incumbency records to defend, while Amb. Boakai had the burden of defending his party's 12-year record in power, most of which he distanced himself from.

Thus, unlike 2017, both candidates are now running on equal terms with President Weah hoping to maintain the presidency for another six years' term defending his current record, while Amb. Boakai would argue that Weah's six years of administering the nation's affairs have made things worse off than how the UP left it.

Whatever, the forgoing debate, the question that voters would answer on Tuesday is whether their lives have been better off than 12 years ago, the answer to this question is expected to be translated into votes on Tuesday. Another question which the results will show whether Liberians want to have an octogenarian president or continue with Weah to get him over his second and final term.

In 2017, Mr. Weah secured votes well ahead of Amb. Boakai clinching 38.37%, in the first round and 61.54% in the runoff. Amb. Boakai on the other hand accumulated 28.76% of votes cast in the first round and 38.46 in the runoff.

However, both men ran neck-to-neck in the October 10, 2023, presidential polls with incumbent President Weah securing 43.80% of the votes about 7.20 percent shy of securing a first-round victory. The same could be said of Amb. Boakai obtained 43.50% of the votes.

The October 10, presidential results of the two candidates only shows how fierce this runoff would be. Both candidates have so far received endorsements from the camps of the other 18 defeated presidential candidates who participated in the first round of elections. But with the very low percentages of votes obtained by these defeated candidates, it remains to be seen how these endorsements will translate into votes.

However, the stakes remain high in this election and both sides are hoping to clinch victory amidst various conspiracy theories ahead of Tuesday's vote. But what are their chances? Incumbent President Weah

Incumbent President Weah arguably remains a popular candidate in the race. His connection with young people, especially most first-time voters put him in a league all by himself. His Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) ability to organize rallies and publicize events has been exceptional compared to his fierce rival.

Mr. Weah and his CDC's slogan of "Change you can depend on", alongside WEAC fee payments and free tuition for public schools and universities, have resonated well with young people, but did not secure him a first-round victory.

Mr. Weah faces a daunting task not just in securing victory but with the huge margins secured in 2017. President Weah's critics will acknowledge that he came into the 2017 race without any record to defend and therefore, his popularity was the only vehicle that drove him to the Executive Mansion.

In 2023, the variables have changed. President Weah now has a record to defend: a crippled economy, corruption and failed promises. These are holes that have crept into the President's popularity, some created by men and women he has placed in authority, and he must now ably defend against a raging opposition that continues to feast on his administration's failure.

But the President would boast in addition to WAEC and free public schools and universities the construction of hospitals, roads, and rural housing units, etc. These have well swept him into his third runoff, and he must now finish the race.

At the end of the first round of voting, Mr. Weah changed his campaign strategy by knocking on voters' doors, particularly in his own district where he had never won before.

Amb. Boakai
Amb. Boakai stands a much better chance than he did in 2017. Now, that President Weah has a record to defend, and the former Vice President being seen as the most experienced Statesman puts him in a much better position to wrestle power from President Weah.

Supported by a host of former government officials including defeated presidential candidates in the October 10 polls, and surrounded by his kinsmen, Amb. Boakai looks the most likely alternative.

However, the former vice president comes into 2023 with too much excess baggage. The former vice President's alignment with US designee Sen. Johnson, a former warlord, has caused many of his supporters both local and international to rethink. Added to this is his inability to be decisive. Many blamed him for his failed leadership role which saw the CPP, Liberia's strongest opposition collaboration in recent history disintegrating right under his watchful eyes.

But some say the issue of Sen. Prince Johnson could be put away within the first six months of Amb. Boakai's regime, that is if he plays his cards well and works with the United States Government.

The former vice president's age is also a factor, particularly speculations surrounding his health, which has caused many to fear that electing him in office will be equated to electing Sen. Johnson. Sen. Johnson has not even made it any easier for Amb. Boakai with his campaign pronouncements prior to the October 10 polls.

However, he has remained quiet during the runoff campaign which ended Sunday, November 12.

Koijee rallies partisans to avoid anti-peace actions after election

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Secretary General and Monrovia Mayor Jefferson Tamba Koijee is rallying citizens to refrain from acts that would undermine democracy and peace.

Koijee's call came at a press conference Sunday evening, 19 November 2023 in the aftermath of the 2023 presidential run-off election results. Mr. Koijee said partisans of the CDC should be wary of those who would want to use their political defeat at the polls to ferment violence under the guise of being supporters and partisans of President George Manneh Weah and the CDC. Speaking at CDC headquarters, Koijee applauded President Weah for his magnanimity in accepting the outcome of the 2023 polls. Koijee believed it was an unprecedented display of patriotism and putting the wellbeing of the country above his personal ambitions to become president at all costs.

"We want to congratulate all our collaborating parties for your hard work and dedication during this electioneering period," Koijee said. He the relevant people with the National Elections Commission (NEC)."

He called on partisans of the CDC not to allow themselves to be misled at this time. He told his partisans that there are people who will come to CDC partisans under the guise of being partisans of the CDC to feed them with misinformation and disinformation. He said those people have an evil intent to misrepresent the institution during a critical period in Liberia's body politics.

"You fought a good fight. I want to encourage you to listen to us to provide direction for you. Do not allow yourselves to be deceived," Koijee pleaded with his partisans. He informed them that President Weah has spoken very clearly and he will be having a conversation with all his partisans.

"CDCians from across the world, we appreciate you. You have demonstrated your commitment and love for the President and the CDC. Please remain law abiding. There's time for everything," he added.

He stated that this time, they have committed themselves to a peaceful, transparent and credible election.



Mayor Jefferson Tamba Koijee

warned those who are spies and pretending to be members of the Coalition for Democratic Change with the evil intentions to manipulate their partisans and supporters. "We know our partisans very well. They are sober, peaceful and resilient people. No political party has withstood intense provocations and remained peaceful like we did for 12 years in opposition to the extent that our partisans and supporters were killed," Koijee alleged. According to him, the CDC and its supporting political institutions went into this process with their all.

He warn some of those pretending to be partisans and spreading rumors that the CDC is calling for a rerun. "That is false and misleading. Do not mislead our partisans. At no time did the CDC call for rerun. There were issues in a few places in Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Grand Kru Counties," Koijee explained.

"Those issues are being handled by

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

WSR commends Weah, congratulates Boakai

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Women's Situation Room (WSR) says President George Weah's

International Center for Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development International Peace and Security, Cllr. Yvette Chesson-

Wureh urged.

The Women's Situation Room is a Peace building mechanism for mitigation of conflict before, during and after elections in African countries. It mobilizes women in collaboration with youth to lobby and advocate stakeholders to support call for peaceful election.

The WSR is a non-partisan and neutral process that was initiated by the Women of Liberia in 2011 with technical support from the Angie Brooks International Center. The mechanism of the WSR has been acknowledged by the African Union and the United Nations Security Council, as a best practice in peace and security for replication in Africa.

On Monday, November 20, minutes after the National Elections Commission officially announced results of the November 14, 2023 Presidential Runoff Election, declaring Unity Party Standard Bearer Joseph Nyumah Boakai President-elect of Liberia, the Women Situation Room held a press conference, congratulating Amb. Boakai and commending President Weah for the action taken. The Eminent Women of the Women's Situation Room of the Angie's Brooks International Center for Women's Empowerment, Leadership

Wureh said the action by President Weah is commendable.

"Furthermore, the WSR also thanks President George M. Weah for the timing of his concession speech that actually stabilized peace in Liberia and the entire Subregion. The WSR acknowledges that the action taken by the President is commendable, it shows statesmanship and is worth of emulation. We hope that the example shown by the President will be replicated by other African leaders in pursuance of peace and tranquility", Cllr. Chesson-

▶ CONT'D page 7



early concession speech actually stabilized peace in Liberia and the entire West Africa, terming it as a demonstration of statesmanship that worth emulation.

Officially releasing its observation report on the November 14, 2023 Presidential Runoff Election with critical recommendation for electoral integrity, non-interference and non-violence elections, the initiator of the Women's Situation Room, and establishment Coordinator of the Angie Brooks

GoL sympathizes with victims of Monday night tragedy

The Government of Liberia extends its profoundest sympathy to the families of the victims of Monday's night incident at the Unity Party headquarters, which occurred when an untagged vehicle ran into a group of UP partisans celebrating their elections victory. This incident left three persons dead and dozens injured. The driver of the vehicle, Lawrence K. Williams was later arrested and is undergoing police investigation.

As the LNP has already informed the public of the preliminary outcomes of what has happened to date, the government assures all that a logical conclusion of this investigation will be reached in the coming days.

The government therefore urges the public to refrain from making unsubstantiated claims about the incident,

which has the potential of stoking post-elections violence. The government takes particular note of a Unity Party statement, which appears to have drawn a conclusion, by terming the incident as "domestic terrorism" while at the same time urging the police to

"investigate the cause" of the incident. In the intervening hours following a tense general election and the return to business as usual, all political parties, especially their leaderships, are urged to eschew incendiary rhetoric that could undermine the peace and tranquillity of the country.



WANEP congratulates Liberians for Peaceful Election

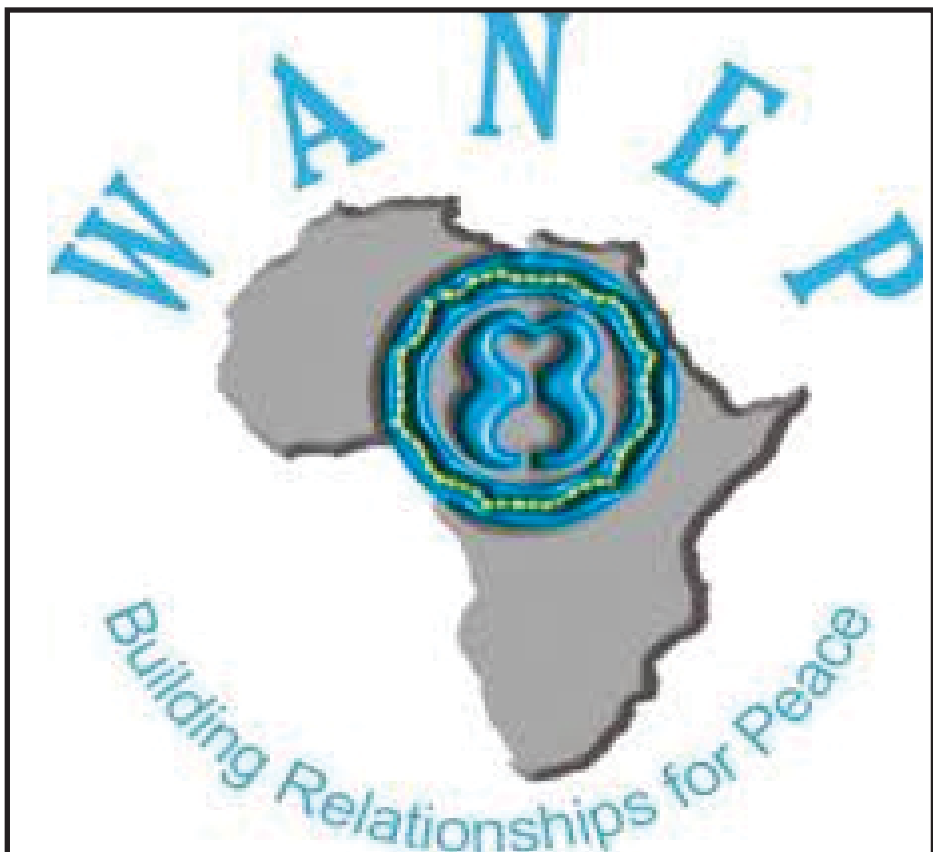
The West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) Liberia has extended congratulatory messages to all Liberians for actively participating and contributing to having a peaceful, general and presidential run-off elections held on October 10, and November 14, 2023, respectively.

"We also applaud the efforts of the National Elections Commission (NEC), Political Parties, the Joint Security, Civil Society Organizations, women, and youth groups for their

contributions towards the generally peaceful electoral process," WANEP said in a statement issued Tuesday,

election outcome is a victory for democracy and Liberians have proven that it is possible to change leadership through democratic means. Considering this, the stage is set for democratic stability, progress, and development in the country. However, WANEP has urged the incoming leadership to sustain peace, reconcile communities and foster democratic governance for the benefit of the nation. Also, citizens and political party supporters are implored to remain calm, respectful, and tolerant as the political transition unfolds.

"Once again, WANEP applauds its local and international observers, data collectors, analysts, communication experts and



November 21.

The West African Peace Network also commended President George Manneh Weah of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) for gracefully acknowledging and accepting the results and extending congratulatory messages to the people of Liberia, as the winners of the election, and former Vice President, Ambassador Joseph Nyumah Boakai of the Unity Party as President-elect.

WANEP asserted that the

eminent persons in the Election Situation Room (ESR) for contributing

to strengthening democracy and electoral integrity in Liberia. The ESR is an integral part of the

WANEP Electoral violence Monitoring, Analysis, and Mitigation (E-MAM) project, supported by the European Union and complemented by Swedish and Austria Development Agencies," the statement ended.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LPP Vice Standard Bearer seeks US intervention

-Condemns car ramming in Monrovia

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberian People's Party (LPP) Vice Standard Bearer Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo has termed as "terroristic,"

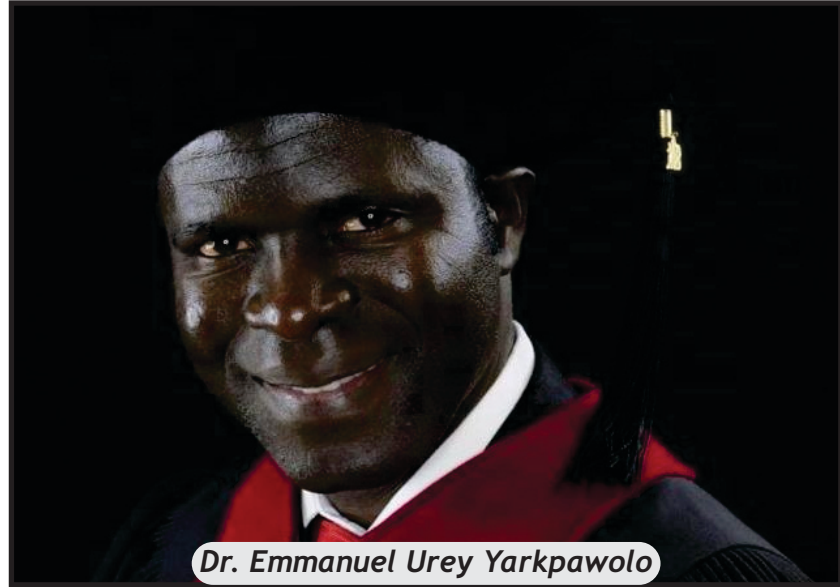
Manneh Weah-led government to get the US government involved for swift investigation. At least three victims were reported dead, and several others injured.

15 others had sustained various injuries ranging from minor cuts and bruises, to fractured limbs, and broken ribs. Others sustained head injuries and brain injuries.

According to Dr. Yarkpawolo-Urey, based on the testimonies of eyewitnesses and the violent threats attributed to Facebook users with names Kai Doe and Prisca Pauline, one can conclude that the violent act was an act of 'terrorist.'

He defines terrorist as a person who uses unlawful violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims. "Since the Liberian security sector has limited capacity to investigate terrorism, I am calling on President George Weah to formally invite the American Government to help with the investigation of this cruel act of barbarism," said Dr. Yarkpawolo-Urey. "With the Americans' involvement in the investigation, we will get to the bottom of the investigation, findings of which will restore confidence in the Liberian justice system," he argued.

Following the incident, the Liberia National Police (LNP) said it had in its custody a man accused of being the driver of the vehicle that rammed through the Unity Party partisans. Police said they are investigating the case.



Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo

the horrific incident of a car ramming through jubilant Unity Party (UP) partisans in Monrovia.

The incident occurred late Monday evening, 20 November 2023 at UP headquarters after the National Elections Commission (NEC) declared the opposition party as winner of the presidential run-off.

Dr. Yarkpawolo-Urey in his Facebook post, called on the outgoing President George

It was reported that while supporters of opposition Unity Party were celebrating the victory of President -elect Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, an unknown grey vehicle ran into a crowd of cheering UP supporters.

As of 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 21 November, Doctors at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital had confirmed that three persons had died, and that two other cases were critical.

Doctors also reported that

Whapoe believes Boakai can deliver

By Lincoln G. Peters

The standard bearer of the Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) has officially congratulated President-elect Joseph Nyumah Boakai, stating that he believes in the latter's ability to deliver toward prosperity and opportunities.

In an exclusive telephone conversation with this paper Tuesday, 21 November 2023, Dr. Whapoe said with Amb. Boakai emerging as the winner of the presidential run-off election, he doesn't think that VOLT has lost.

Dr. Whapoe described Amb. Boakai as a father who has similar political manifestos which focused on poverty alleviation, job creation, and above all, agriculture.

"I want to congratulate my father Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai for winning the presidency. To admit, I have explicit confidence in his abilities to transform, deliver and rescue Liberia," said Dr. Whapoe.

"VOLT has lost but with Amb. Boakai winning the Presidency, we have won because he will deliver all

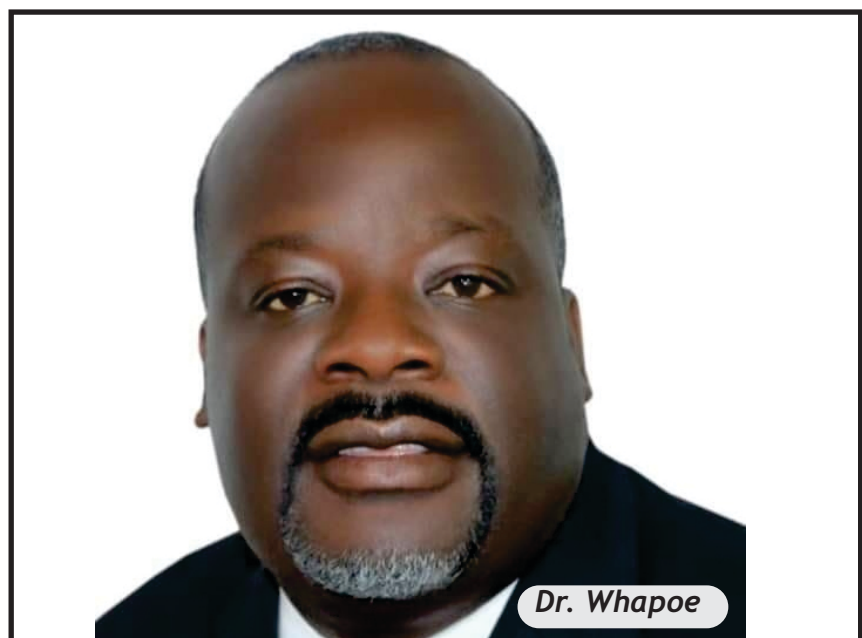
that the Liberian people need," Dr. Whapoe stated. The opposition politician said he believes that road connectivity, health and education, particularly youth development, will be paramount to his leadership.

Dr. Whapoe at the same time urged Amb. Boakai to ensure that reconciliation is key on his agenda, adding that Liberia is divided currently across political lines.

"We are calling on Amb. Boakai to ensure that he reconciles Liberia. To be sincere, Amb. Boakai is a man of

wisdom and I believe that he can do that," said Whapoe. With the people he has close to him and as a veteran in Governance, Whapoe believes that Boakai will deliver for Liberia, particularly because he experienced in governance.

Dr. Whapoe explained that Amb. Boakai worked as vice president of Liberia for twelve years and headed several other positions in governments. With the experience he gained from those years of work, Whapoe thinks Boakai will make Liberia great.



Dr. Whapoe

Desperate Mother Appeals for Immediate Medical Assistance

-as Seven-Month-Old Baby's Heart Condition Increases

By: Kruah Thompson

Mariama Massaley, mother of a seven-month-old baby who was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect at the John F. Kennedy (JFK) Hospital on October 1, 2023, has pleaded with Government and Humanitarian organizations asking for medical assistance. She needs an estimated cost of \$14,000 USD to transport the child abroad for heart surgery, as this condition cannot be treated here in Liberia. A congenital heart



informed that such condition cannot be treated in Liberia due to the need for a heart surgery, "and there are no heart surgeons in Liberia to perform such operations." she said

However, Facing financial constraints to afford the necessary medical intervention, Massaley noted that since the child was diagnosed with this condition one month and two weeks ago, she remains at the JFK hospital, awaiting specialized treatment and surgery.

"I am a mother willing to do anything for my child," passionately expressed Massaley. "I am reaching out to the government and all humanitarian organizations to please help me save my baby's life, as Every child deserves a chance to live," she pleaded with tears streaming down her face.

Moreover, The baby's heart condition has left Massaley devastated and feeling helpless, desperately appealing for immediate intervention to save her child's life.

Massaley, a street vendor, barely earning enough for the family's basic needs, struggles to afford the exorbitant medical expenses required for her baby's treatment while The child's heart condition has taken an emotional and financial toll on the entire family. Initially, she claimed when the information was first posted, heartfelt messages of support flooded social media, with calls for government officials and humanitarian groups to take immediate action.

she said that Local communities, neighbors, friends, and concerned citizens organized fundraisers while spreading awareness, but the generated funds fell short of addressing the child's condition and Today, she remains at the John F. Kennedy Hospital in Sinkor. Despite this, Massaley expresses hope that the government and humanitarian organizations will swiftly provide the necessary medical assistance to save her child's life. As Time is of the essence for her baby, and each passing day further jeopardizes her chances of survival.

defect is a structural abnormality of the heart or the large blood vessels near the heart that is present at birth. These defects can affect the heart's walls, valves, or blood vessels, potentially disrupting the normal flow of blood through the heart. Congenital heart defects vary in severity, and they may require medical intervention or surgical treatment depending on the specific nature of the condition.

Medical experts, including Dr. Gbilon, who examined the child at the JFK hospital, has emphasize the crucial need for immediate medical intervention, as Delays in treatment could worsen the baby's condition and lead to Death.

According to Massaley she was

Starts from page 6 WSR commends Weah

development International Peace and Security also thanked all Liberians for going to a peaceful run-off election.

According to WSR initiator, Cllr. Chesson-Wureh, they remain grateful to the people of Liberia for keeping the peace of the country. She disclosed that there were challenges during this period that could have disrupted the peace and plunged the whole country into complete chaos, but it was prevented by the WSR and other peaceful and well-meaning

Liberians.

At the same time, the WSR has congratulated President-elect, Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

"WSR of ABIC congratulates Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai for his victory in the just-ended Presidential elections. Above all, we applaud the Liberian people for their resolute commitment to a peaceful democratic electoral process in our country and for exercising their constitutional rights during these elections", the group said. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Boakai dévoile ses premières réalisations pour les cent premiers jours

Le président élu Joseph Boakai a confié aux journalistes ici, lundi, que ses cent premiers jours à la

l'ambassadeur Boakai a salué les Libériens pour avoir voté et protégé leurs votes lors du second tour de l'élection.

Selon lui, le parti UP et tous

élevé, il sera réduit. J'ai également affirmé que, dans mes cent premiers jours, aucune voiture ne restera coincée dans la boue sur les



présidence seront axés sur la baisse des prix du riz, aliment de base du pays, ainsi que sur l'infrastructure majeure des routes et l'amélioration du secteur de la santé.

La prestation de serment du président élu est prévue pour le 29 janvier 2024.

S'exprimant lors d'une interview inclusive avec les journalistes après l'annonce par la Commission électorale nationale le déclarant vainqueur,

ses alliés et collaborateurs sont prêts à apporter la prospérité au Liberia.

Il a assuré aux Libériens que le gouvernement UP concrétiserait tout ce que le peuple libérien attendait depuis longtemps, affirmant que le Liberia aurait des entreprises prospères.

"Pour mes cent premiers jours, nous examinerons rapidement et trouverons la raison des difficultés dans les domaines essentiels à la vie des Libériens. Si le prix du riz est

routes principales. Et je le dis avec conviction", a juré l'ambassadeur Boakai.

Le président élu libérien a également souligné que ses cent premiers jours seraient axés sur la santé des Libériens, le coût de la vie et l'amélioration des routes à travers le pays pour améliorer les revenus et les conditions de vie des Libériens.

L'ambassadeur Boakai a noté qu'ils se préparent actuellement à la transition et

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Le Président de l'Assemblée Nationale, le Dr. Bhofal Chambers, félicite Weah et Boakai

Le Président de la Chambre, le Dr. Bhofal Chambers, adresse ses plus chaleureuses félicitations au Président George M. Weah, le décrivant comme un leader exemplaire ayant fait preuve d'un patriotisme inébranlable et d'un dévouement constant envers le peuple libérien.

Dans une déclaration publiée le lundi 20 novembre, quelques jours seulement après la concession de la défaite par le Président Weah à l'ancien Vice-Président Joseph Boakai à la suite du second tour de l'élection présidentielle du 14 novembre, le Dr. Chambers a également loué M. Weah pour son rôle déterminant dans le maintien et la préservation de la paix dans la nation, qualifiant cela de témoignage de son engagement envers le bien-être du peuple libérien.

L'Assemblée a également souligné l'importance d'un leadership fort et visionnaire, en particulier pour surmonter les défis auxquels une nation est confrontée dans sa quête de progrès et de prospérité.

Par ailleurs, le Président de l'Assemblée a également adressé ses félicitations au Président élu, l'Ambassadeur Joseph N. Boakai, pour son succès lors des récentes élections présidentielles du 14

novembre 2023. Il a salué la résilience du peuple libérien et son engagement envers le processus démocratique, ayant abouti à une transition pacifique du pouvoir.

La 54e législature de la Chambre des représentants, sous la direction du Président de l'Assemblée Chambers, exprime également sa

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Le Libéria affirme son ancrage démocratique

Le parcours démocratique du Libéria a connu une avancée majeure le vendredi 17 novembre, lorsque le gouvernement sortant a gracieusement concédé sa défaite à l'élection présidentielle du deuxième tour du 14 novembre 2023 et a appelé ses partisans à la démobilisation et à un retour à la vie normale.

Cet acte remarquable de maturité politique s'est produit malgré les efforts considérables déployés par la Coalition pour le changement démocratique, désormais vaincue, pour obtenir un second mandat à travers des campagnes nationales étendues dans les premier et deuxième tours.

Le président sortant, George Manneh Weah, qui avait brigué un nouveau mandat de six ans, n'a finalement pas reçu le mandat du peuple libérien. Cependant, faisant preuve d'un leadership remarquable et de respect des principes démocratiques, il s'est humblement incliné devant son principal challenger, l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

La réponse gracieuse du président Weah aux résultats des élections contraste fortement avec les actions de bon nombre de ses contemporains dans la région qui ont eu recours à des prises de pouvoir et à des moyens non démocratiques pour maintenir leur emprise sur le pouvoir. Au lieu de cela, le président Weah a choisi de respecter la volonté du peuple, ce qui a créé un précédent pour les transitions démocratiques en Afrique de l'Ouest.

À l'instar de son prédécesseur, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, qui a transformé le Libéria d'une nation déchirée par la guerre en un phare de paix, le président Weah restera dans les mémoires non seulement pour avoir consolidé la paix mais aussi pour son engagement indéfectible envers les principes démocratiques. Sous sa direction, le Libéria a connu des élections libres, justes et transparentes, culminant dans sa propre concession pacifique et digne.

L'Afrique de l'Ouest, en particulier la CEDEAO, a beaucoup à apprendre du processus démocratique exemplaire du Libéria et devrait s'efforcer de reproduire son succès dans les prochaines élections à travers la région. De manière significative, les élections libériennes de 2023 ont été entièrement menées par les Libériens eux-mêmes, sans l'implication d'aucune organisation internationale.

Les institutions pro-démocratiques du pays méritent des éloges immenses pour leur dévouement indéfectible à garantir que les Libériens puissent exercer leur droit de vote dans un environnement paisible et sûr, libre de menaces, d'intimidations ou de violence. Leur engagement a protégé le régime civil et empêché un retour aux heures sombres du passé.

Avec l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf préparant le terrain pour des transitions pacifiques entre les administrations démocratiquement élues, le président Weah n'a eu d'autre choix que de suivre son exemple. Ses actions lui ont valu un immense respect non seulement dans la région mais aussi à travers l'Afrique et la communauté mondiale.

La Commission électorale nationale du Libéria, sous la direction de la présidente Davidetta Browne Lansanah, mérite la plus haute recommandation pour avoir mené un processus électoral crédible et transparent. Malgré les défis rencontrés, tels que la capacité limitée, les contraintes logistiques et les confrontations directes, la présidente Lansanah et le conseil des commissaires de la CEN ont habilement navigué dans le paysage électoral, s'assurant que la volonté du peuple libérien était entendue et respectée.

En conclusion, les Libériens devraient garder la tête haute en tant que nation fière qui est sortie de 14 ans de guerre civile pour organiser quatre élections pacifiques et démocratiques. Ils ont prouvé que les prophètes de malheur avaient tort, démontrant que leur pays n'est pas condamné à une nouvelle désintégration et à des effusions de sang. De plus, le Libéria reste profondément reconnaissant aux partenaires internationaux qui l'ont accompagné tout au long de ce voyage.

Français

Par Marina Romanello

Starts from page 8 **Boakai dévoile ses premières**

planifient l'inauguration, ajoutant qu'après la transition, son gouvernement commencera à déployer ses activités.

Entre-temps, l'ambassadeur Boakai a félicité le président en exercice George M. Weah pour avoir reconnu sa défaite lors du second tour de l'élection présidentielle.

Il a assuré au président Weah et au CDC qu'il était prêt à collaborer avec eux.

"Je tiens à remercier le président Weah et le CDC pour avoir reconnu leur défaite. Je leur assure que tout ce dont le Liberia a besoin, c'est d'une nation pacifique pour réconcilier la société et rassembler tous pour construire la nation", a-t-il conclu.

Starts from page 8 **Le Président de l'Assemblée**

gratitude envers les partenaires locaux et internationaux pour leur soutien inestimable tout au long du processus électoral. Leur collaboration a joué un rôle crucial dans la réussite et la crédibilité des élections. Cette élection est particulièrement notable car elle marque les premières élections d'après-guerre parrainées par le gouvernement libérien sans la présence de forces internationales de maintien de la paix.

Des remerciements spéciaux ont été adressés à l'appareil de sécurité libérien pour son travail

exceptionnel dans le maintien d'un environnement sécurisé pendant les élections. La Chambre reconnaît le professionnalisme et le dévouement des forces de sécurité, dont les efforts ont contribué de manière significative à la réussite globale du processus électoral.

Alors que le Liberia entre dans une nouvelle ère sous la direction du Président élu, l'Ambassadeur Joseph N. Boakai, le Président de l'Assemblée Chambers affirme l'engagement de la Chambre des représentants à travailler en collaboration avec le Pouvoir exécutif pour le bien-être du peuple libérien.

La NEC officialise la victoire de Boakai à la dernière présidentielle

La Commission électorale nationale a officiellement déclaré l'ancien vice-président Joseph Boakai vainqueur du second tour de l'élection présidentielle du 14 novembre.

L'annonce officielle fait suite au discours de concession du président en exercice, George Weah, le week-end dernier, après que la CEN a annoncé que plus de 99 % des votes exprimés le 14 novembre avaient été comptabilisés.

Lors de l'annonce officielle finale, la présidente de la CEN, Davidetta Brown-Lasannah, a déclaré que l'ambassadeur Boakai avait obtenu 814 481 voix, soit 50,64 %, contre le président Weah, qui avait accumulé 793 914 voix, soit 49,36 %.

Selon la présidente de la CEN, Mme Brown-Lasannah, environ 1 635 088 électeurs inscrits ont participé au second tour de l'élection présidentielle. Sur ce nombre, a-t-elle déclaré, les votes valides se sont élevés à 1 680 395, tandis que les votes invalides étaient de 25 788.

"Mesdames et messieurs, à cet égard, les résultats du second tour de l'élection présidentielle indiquent que

le ticket présidentiel du candidat Joseph Nyumah Boakai et du sénateur Jeremiah K. Koung de l'UP a obtenu le plus grand nombre de voix, huit cent quatorze mille quatre cent quatre-vingt-une voix, soit 50,64 %. Par rapport au président en exercice George M. Weah et à Jewel Howard-Taylor du CDC, qui ont obtenu sept cent quatre-vingt-treize mille neuf cent quatorze voix, soit 49,36 %, a-t-elle déclaré.

"Par conséquent, le ticket présidentiel du candidat Boakai et Koung de l'Unity Party est déclaré par la commission comme le vainqueur du second tour de l'élection présidentielle du 14 novembre 2023", a conclu Mme Brown-Lasannah.

L'annonce officielle a été honorée par plusieurs missions d'observation internationales et locales, y compris le corps diplomatique.

Ont assisté à la cérémonie des représentants de l'Institut électoral pour la démocratie durable en Afrique (EISA), de l'Union européenne (UE), de l'Union africaine et de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO), entre autres.

Burkina : la justice rejette la demande de suspension des réquisitions de citoyens au sein des VDP



Badjo, deux membres du Balai citoyen, réquisitionnés au début de ce mois de novembre, le journaliste et ancien de la profession, Issaka Lingani, ainsi que son jeune confrère, Yacouba Ladji Bama.

Figure également le Dr Daouda Diallo qui préside le Collectif contre l'impunité et la stigmatisation des communautés, le secrétaire général de l'Organisation démocratique de la Jeunesse du Burkina Faso (ODJ), Gabin Korbéogo, et puis aussi le président du parti Le Faso Autrement, Ablassé Ouedraogo. En juillet dernier, l'ex-ministre des Affaires étrangères, aujourd'hui âgé de 70 ans, accusait la junte de « violation des droits de l'homme » et dénonçait déjà les réquisitions de « citoyens menacés, muselés et enrôlés de force au sein des VDP » pour leur liberté d'expression !

Au Burkina Faso, les réquisitions pour le front anti-djihadiste sont-elles légales ? Plusieurs personnalités de la société civile réquisitionnées avaient demandé la suspension de cette mesure décidée, par la junte, officiellement pour lutter contre le terrorisme. La juge des référés a rejeté, ce lundi 20 novembre, cette demande.

La juge des référés n'a pas accepté la demande de plusieurs personnalités de la société civile ni celle de l'ancien ministre, Ablassé Ouedraogo. Tous avaient déposé un recours pour suspendre leur réquisition au sein des supplétifs Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie (VDP), une réquisition décidée par les autorités de transition, officiellement pour servir la lutte contre les groupes armés et terroristes, mais les organisations de la société civile et les syndicats dénoncent plutôt un moyen de faire taire les voix critiques.

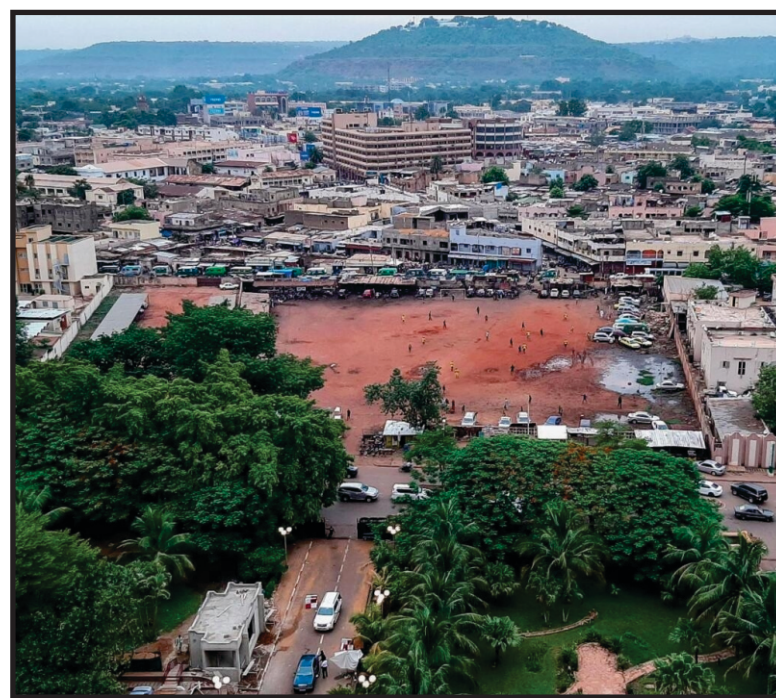
Parmi ces voix critiques que la justice vient de débouter, il y a celles de Rasmané Zinaba et Bassirou

« Un détournement de pouvoir »

Pour justifier le rejet de leur demande de suspension de leur réquisition, la juge des référés a expliqué ne pas avoir ce pouvoir dès lors qu'il s'agit d'une question de sécurité nationale. Mais selon Me Guy Hervé Kam, « ces actes de réquisitions », sont un habillage juridique de « l'arbitraire ». « Cette décision de réquisition n'est pas liée à la sécurisation. Ce sont des décisions sanctions » a rappelé pour sa part, maître Prosper Farama, qui considère ces enrôlements comme « un détournement de pouvoir ».

Cette décision marque le début d'un feuilleton judiciaire sur la légalité des réquisitions dans le cadre de la lutte contre les groupes armés et terroristes. « Nous allons avoir recours à toutes les possibilités que nous offre la loi », ont ajouté les avocats.

Mali : le militant Clément Dembélé placé sous mandat de dépôt après des menaces contre Assimi Goïta



Au Mali, Clément Dembélé a été placé lundi sous mandat de dépôt. Ce militant de la société civile, chantre de la lutte anti-corruption, avait été interpellé vendredi après la diffusion d'un message audio sur les réseaux sociaux. Un message qui reste à authentifier et dans lequel Clément Dembélé menacerait de mort le colonel Assimi Goïta, président de la transition. Placé sous mandat de dépôt et transféré à la maison centrale d'arrêt de Bamako, Clément Dembélé a comparu lundi devant le pôle judiciaire en charge de la lutte contre la cybercriminalité.

Sollicité par RFI, le procureur n'a pas donné suite mais, de source judiciaire, Clément Dembélé devrait être jugé pour

« atteinte à la sûreté de l'État » et « menaces de mort par le biais d'un système d'information ». Aucune date n'a encore été fixée pour son procès, qui devrait avoir lieu rapidement.

Personnalité de la société civile Clément Dembélé avait été interpellé vendredi et placé en garde à vue par la brigade d'investigation judiciaire (BIJ), après la diffusion sur les réseaux sociaux d'un message vocal lui étant attribué. Un message menaçant de mort le colonel Assimi Goïta, président de transition, ainsi que sa femme et ses enfants.

Si la voix de Clément Dembélé semble reconnaissable, RFI n'est pas en mesure de confirmer l'authenticité, ni de préciser les conditions d'enregistrement de ce message au contenu pour le moins violent.

Clément Dembélé est une personnalité respectée de la société civile malienne. Président de la plateforme contre la corruption et le chômage au Mali (PCC), Clément Dembélé est connu pour son combat en faveur de la bonne gouvernance mais aussi contre les coupures d'électricité, un problème récurrent au Mali, notamment ces derniers mois. Et contre lequel Clément Dembélé avait appelé à manifester la semaine dernière.

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!

3 persons dead, 25 others injured

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberian National Police (LNP) confirms the death of three persons and injury of twenty-

Mr. Carter quotes health authority at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital as confirming death of three persons, including two males

Speaking in an interview briefly, the alleged suspect Lawrence K. Williams narrates that he came to town with his spiritual father along with



five other citizens, who were celebrating at the Unity Party headquarters in Monrovia on Monday, November 20, when an unidentified jeep reportedly ran into the crowd. Hundreds of citizens, including UP partisans had converged at the winning party headquarters to celebrate after the National Elections Commission announced UP Standard Bearer Joseph Nyumah Boakai winner of the 14 November Presidential Runoff Election when they met their tragic fate. The LNP says it has launched an immediate investigation into the tragic incident, assuring Liberians that justice will be served. Making the disclosure Tuesday, November 21, 2023, Police spokesman Moses Carter, says the police are currently investigating the horrific incident to ensure justice is done.

and a female. He reveals that operator of the vehicle, who is now an alleged suspect, Lawrence K. Williams has been arrested and is undergoing investigation at the Police headquarters in Monrovia. Suspect Williams is a resident of Duport Road Flower-Pot Community in Paynesville, the Police disclose. "Out of the total of injuries of 25 persons, three are confirmed dead, while 22 persons - six females and nineteen males are undergoing treatment at both the JFK and the Mawah Clinic", Mr. Carter adds. "The leadership of the Joint Security extends its deepest sympathy to the bereaved families of those that unfortunately lost their lives and keeps in prayer those of our citizens that are undergoing treatment."

other members to transact business after which he dropped his spiritual father (name not disclosed) and members and later decided to go upper Broad Street to get something for his family, adding that while driving up town, he received a text from his wife, reminding him to purchase food for the children, something, he went to implement. "So, after I dropped the people, I received text from my wife to purchase food for our child and so, I decided to go buy it. When I finished buying the food, I came back and started the car, immediately the car starting moving and it's an automatic car; I couldn't stop it", Williams explains. However, Police disrupted the interview and took the suspect into custody, pending thorough investigation. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Pro-trompt Chie urges Boakai to heal nation

The Liberian Senate has asked President-elect Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai and his deputy, Jeremiah Koung to design and implement policies to heal the nation following an election that has divided the country. Delivering a special statement on behalf of the Liberian Senate on Tuesday, 21 November 2023, Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert T. Chie said Liberia has sustained wounds by the rigors and rhetoric of the electoral process. He also cited an evenly divided country that has witnessed an almost 50-50 Presidential Elections result. "We urge both of them to design and implement policies to heal the nation which has sustained wounds by the rigors and rhetoric of the electoral process and an evenly divided country which has witnessed an almost 50-50 Presidential Elections result," said Mr. Chie. The Senate President Pro-Tempore thanked Liberians for turning out to vote, for the

elections are so close that a government of inclusion will be a prudent way to help in national reconciliation. Chie specifically suggested that a significant number of appointed positions should go to the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in the incoming Unity Party (UP) administration. His justification is that the CDC ended up with a whopping 49.36% of the final votes. Explaining the Senate's role in the just-ended election, Chie recalled that around this time last year, major items on the Senate's agenda were electoral reform. He added that part of the agenda was funding of the October 2023 elections, security for the electoral process, and credibility of the National Elections Commission (NEC) to be fair and transparent, fear for the acceptance or rejection of election results, and concerns of election violence. "I am pleased to state that most of those issues are now largely behind us, and the elections are almost history,



most part in a peaceful manner. He also thanked all candidates for participating in the electoral process and abiding by the rules governing the process, to a large extent. He also expressed thanks to President George Manneh Weah congratulating his successor Amb. Boakai. Chie noted that this has caused the tension and anxiety that had built up in the country before last Friday's announcement of the election results to have dissipated. "This has paved the way for yet another peaceful transfer of power in Liberia, which peaceful transfer continues to dodge many African Countries," said Mr. Chie. He reminded his colleagues in the Senate that they are national leaders and belong to different political parties but witnessed the very competitive nature of the presidential election. According to him, the final results of the presidential

besides the being adjudicated through the legal process," he said. He noted that the work of local and foreign observers in the process and the support of the international community are worth noting. Specially, on behalf of the Liberian Senate, Mr. Chie expressed thanks and appreciation to the Chair, other members of the Board of Commissioners, staff, employees, and the temporary workers of the NEC for a job well done in conducting the 2023 elections fairly and transparently. "We have always had confidence in the integrity of the men and women at NEC," he said. Now that NEC has officially declared Boakai and Koung as the winners, Mr. Chie seized the opportunity to, on behalf of the Liberian Senate, congratulate them for their election as President and Vice President, respectively.

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Boakai consoles car

investigating this matter and I want to assure you that this will not go unnoticed. Justice will be served," he stated. For their parts, families of the victims expressed excitement and appreciation to Amb. Boakai and his team for the visit. But they cautioned that they should ensure that justice is served. "The thing we were very tired with that we voted angrily we don't want it to happen. It's very soon for it to happen to us," some family members pleaded. "We want this investigated and we want justice for our families. As we speak three persons have been pronounced dead with over twenty-five on critical list. We hope that justice will

be served," they noted. Through a press statement dated 21 November 2023, the Unity Party said it was deeply saddened and shocked by the tragic act which it called an alleged "domestic terrorism" that resulted to the deaths and injuries of its partisans. The UP statement bearing the signature of Lansana P. Fofana, Assistant Secretary for Press, Publicity & Media, stated that the party bemoans the tragic loss of lives of its partisans and supporters of the Rescue Mission in a targeted act of domestic terrorism. UP expressed condolences for the families and friends affected by this devastating, wicked and barbaric act of alleged "domestic terrorism," leading

to loss of precious lives. "We urge the authorities to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation to determine the cause and hold those responsible accountable," the party said. It added that it is crucial that justice is served, not only for the victims and their families but also for the broader community as Liberia strives to maintain trust, stability, and respect for the rule of law once again. Meanwhile, the UP in consultation with its Standard Bearer and President-Elect Amb. Boakai, has cancelled all related celebratory gatherings until further notice.

Boakai consoles car rammed victims

-As families demand justice

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monday, 20 November 2023. Their official declaration sparked celebration in Monrovia and across the country, but the joy

Liberia's President-elect Boakai has visited and consoled victims who were

by doctors. Accompanied by his wife Mrs. Kartumu Boakai, the president-elect was escorted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at JFK and interacted with victims of the incident.

He shared words of encouragement with the victims' families outside the ICU.

According to health authorities at the JFK, 20 victims are under critical list while 3 persons have already been pronounced dead. Addressing the victims' families, Amb. Boakai expressed regrets over the sad incident, describing it as unfortunate.

He assured that they will work with the victims' families to ensure that they receive the necessary attention, care and concerns. "You know this thing has affected all of us. These people were jubilating when this happened. It's very unfortunate. We will work with the family," said Amb. Boakai. "I have come to say sorry. We will be with the family in everything. The security has started



Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai

brutally injured after a vehicle rammed through opposition Unity Party (UP) supporters killing some and wounding others.

The tragic incident occurred Monday night at the UP's party headquarters in Central Monrovia when partisans were celebrating Boakai's presidential victory. The National Elections Commission (NEC) declared the former Liberian vice president and his running mate Senator Jeremiah Koug as winners of the 14 November presidential run-off on

Monday night at UP headquarters. Authorities here are reporting the deaths of at least three victims - two males and a female - and the injury of several others following the brutal incident. Early Tuesday morning, 21 November 2023, Mr. Boakai and his entourage paid an official visit at the Memorial Hospital where the victims are being attended to

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