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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2023	L\$187.0753/US\$1.00	L\$188.8862/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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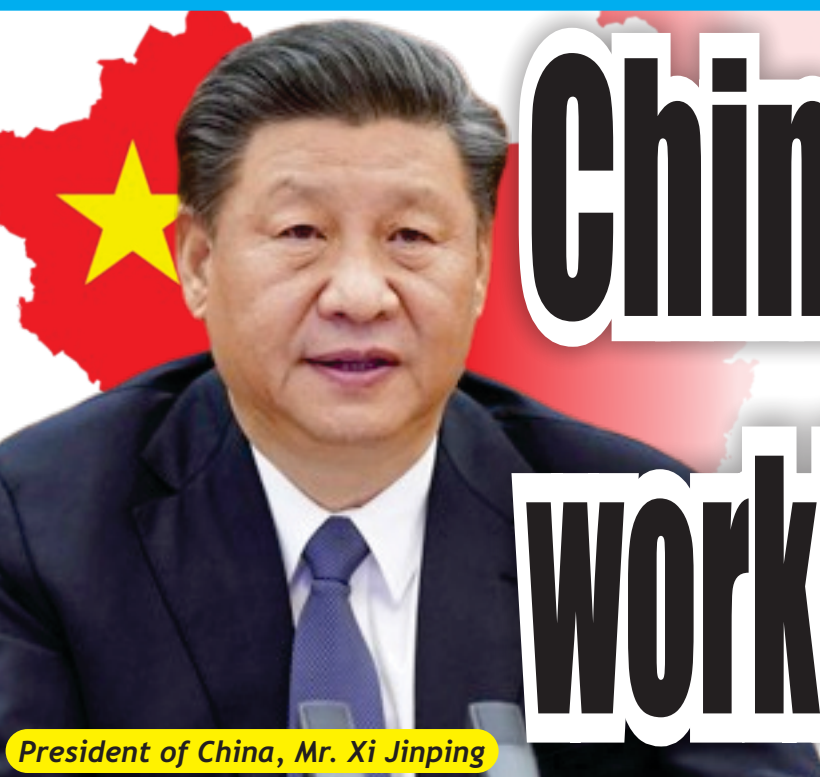
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P11

-Acarous Gray recommends to Boakai

Rep. Acarous Moses Gray



President of China, Mr. Xi Jinping

China commits to working with Boakai

P11



President-Elect of Liberia

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Continental News

Mali signs Russia deal to build gold refinery

Mali's military government has signed an agreement with Russia that includes a gold

It is valid for four years and does not specify the timelines for the construction. Gold is Mali's leading export product by value and one of its "correctly apply all taxes and duties", according to Finance Minister Alousséni Sanou. Mali has strengthened its relations with Russia in recent



Many Malians are involved in artisanal gold mining

refinery project in the Malian capital Bamako. The deal involves building the refinery to process 200 tonnes of gold annually.

largest contributors to economic growth, according to the country's mining ministry. The project will allow Mali to control all gold production in the country and years following the military coup in 2021 and the withdrawal of French forces from the country a year later. BBC

El Nino-Worsened Flooding a Disaster for Somalia

First, some families fled drought and violence. Now they say they have nowhere to hide from intense flooding as rainfall exacerbated by the weather phenomenon El Nino pummels large parts of Somalia. Among the worst hit towns is the densely populated Beledweyne, where the Shabelle River has burst its banks, destroyed many homes and caused thousands to flee to higher ground near the border with Ethiopia.

storms. It is hardest in December through February. Scientists believe climate change is making El Nino stronger.

Many parts of Somalia, as well as in neighboring Horn of Africa nations Kenya and Ethiopia, are still receiving torrential rainfall. At least 130 people have died in the three countries in what aid agencies have described as a rare flooding phenomenon.

Hakima Mohamud Hareed, a mother of four including one who is disabled, said her family constantly looks for shelter. The family recently moved to Beledweyne, fleeing battles between the extremist group al-Shabab and Somali government forces. "We left our home in search of safety

The U.N.-backed Somali Water and Land Information Management project has warned of "a flood event of a magnitude statistically likely only once in 100 years," the U.N. food agency said in a recent statement.

Some 1.6 million people in Somalia could be affected by flooding events in the rainy season lasting until December, it said.

Beledweyne, in the central region of Hiran, may be the most

Ethiopia drought: Fifty die of hunger in Tigray and Amhara amid aid freeze

More than 50 people have died in Ethiopia's northern Tigray and Amhara regions amid drought and an aid freeze, local officials have told the BBC.

one disaster to the next as climatic shocks become more frequent and intense".

The Horn of Africa has had five failed rainy seasons since 2019, according to the UN. The US and UN suspended aid earlier this year after allegations of theft, worsening the humanitarian crisis.

hunger amid what were described as "famine-like conditions". The conflict ended after the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) signed a peace deal brokered by the African Union (AU).

Tigray is recovering from a two-year civil war which ended a year ago, while a conflict has erupted in Amhara.

After the conflict ended, there was a steady flow of aid until June, when the US and UN paused humanitarian assistance, stating it had been systematically stolen by corrupt officials.

About 46 people died in the town of Yechila in Tigray, while six died in the neighbouring Amhara region of Wag Hemra, because of food shortages, the officials said.

The US says widespread food deliveries will be resumed in December after significant reforms had been made to ensure that the supplies reached those who needed it most.

As northern Ethiopia battles drought, the country's southern and eastern regions have been deluged by flash floods.

Across East Africa, heavy rains and flash flooding have killed 130 people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia in recent weeks, according to the Associated Press.

In a statement on X, formerly known as Twitter, the UN said that more than 370,000 people had fled their homes because of the floods.

The UN has described them as a "once-in-a-century event". In a statement, Fati N'Zi-Hassane, Oxfam in Africa Director said, the region was "going from

At least 43 people have been killed by the flooding and landslides in the eastern Somali region.



Thousands of people have fled their homes because of the drought



In this image made from video, men walk through floodwaters in the town of Beledweyne, Somalia

and stability, but little did we know that we would end up facing another calamity," she said by phone.

devastated community. As floodwaters swept through, homes were washed away.

In the displacement camp of Kutiimo in Beledweyne, the floods destroyed the family's small, tattered tent. Wind lashes the damp and flimsy fabric.

Hakima said her family may be safe from flooding in their camp, but they are hungry and desperate for warm shelter.

"The floods washed away all our belongings, so we were left only with our lives," she said. "It was a traumatic experience for all of us."

"We ask our Somali brothers and sisters to help us get out of this situation, as we are struggling to survive," she said.

They are not alone. According to the humanitarian group Save the Children, the flooding has forced an estimated 250,000 people, or 90% of Beledweyne's population, out of their homes.

Mukhtar Moalim, the owner of a retail shop, described frantic attempts to save his property in Beledweyne's market after the river burst its banks. He and a relative swam towards the shop to try to prevent the water from flowing in, putting concrete blocks against the door.

Somalia's federal government declared a state of emergency in October after extreme weather exacerbated by El Nino destroyed homes, roads and bridges.

But the water level keeps rising, also threatening their residence on the floor above the shop from which they monitor the destruction.

An El Nino is a natural, temporary and occasional warming of part of the Pacific that shifts weather patterns across the globe, often by moving the airborne paths for

At least 53 people have been confirmed killed by flooding across Somalia, said Hassan Issee, who manages emergency operations at the Somalia Disaster Management Agency.

"The situation is grave, and we are doing our best to provide relief to the affected people," he said. VOA

EDITORIAL

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.

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COMMENTARY

By Shang-Jin Wei

Biden Missed an Opportunity to Help America – and Himself

NEW YORK - At their recent summit in San Francisco, US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed on a few important issues. Notably, the two countries will resume military-to-military communication, thereby reducing the chances of an accidental conflict, and China will do more to restrict the export of chemicals used to make the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl - a major cause of death in the United States.

But there is one crucial area where progress remained elusive: tariffs.

In 2018, then-US President Donald Trump's administration hiked the tariff rate on imports from China from slightly over 3% to more than 21% - a level unseen in the US since before World War II. This prompted China to retaliate with higher tariffs on US imports from about 8% to some 19%. As China also lowered its tariffs on imports from all other countries, it reduced the competitiveness of US goods in the Chinese market by an even greater amount.

At the end of 2019, Trump and Xi reached a "phase one" agreement that froze the tariffs. The deal was a coercive one, designed to compel China to increase imports from the US at the expense of other trading partners, using means that are illegal under World Trade Organization rules.

Ultimately, China could not fulfill its purchase commitments. In any case, a WTO panel ruled in 2020 that the Trump tariffs are incompatible with America's legal obligation to abide by the organization's rules.

US insistence on maintaining the tariffs not only undermines the rules-based international trading system, but also hurts households and firms in both countries.

In 2017 - the last year before Trump's tariff hike - US imports from China amounted to \$506 billion, about 22% of total imports.

Every serious study of the issue suggests that the increased costs arising from the tariffs have been passed onto American consumers.

Since imported goods account for about 12% of the US household-consumption basket, the removal of the Trump tariffs would lower the cost of that basket by about half a percentage point.

But that is only the beginning.

About 40% of US imports from China are parts, components, and intermediate goods, so removing the Trump tariffs would also lower input costs for American service providers and manufacturers.

As a result, the prices of many American-made products and services in the US

household-consumption basket would also decline.

Then there are the indirect effects. As Chinese imports become cheaper, competitive pressure on other producers would rise, leading to lower prices on goods made in Mexico, India, Vietnam, and even the US.

Taken together, these effects would permanently reduce the cost of living to Americans by about one percentage point.

Put another way, this would be equivalent of an increase in US household income by more than \$250 billion per year (1% of US GDP in 2022).

US firms also stand to gain. Given that China has always characterized its tariff increases on US goods as retaliatory, one can assume that it would remove them if the Trump tariffs were reversed. This would benefit the competitiveness of US goods in the Chinese market, thereby bolstering jobs and incomes not only for US exporters, but also for their input suppliers.

Such increases in employment and incomes would help US voters, and Biden could certainly use the political win. In a recent poll, just 14% of American voters reported being better off financially now than when Biden took office.

Almost 70% said that his policies have either made the US economy worse off or made no difference, with about half believing his policies have hurt the US economy "a lot."

While no one should be surprised that a majority of Republican voters dislike Biden's policies, the fact that fewer than half of Democrats believe his policies have helped the economy, even a little, should be setting off alarm bells to the president.

Biden is facing a highly contentious election next year, and the rising cost of living is voters' number one economic concern.

And yet, despite the benefits that reducing tariffs would bring, the US Trade Representative did not attend the San Francisco summit, suggesting that Biden never intended to discuss the issue at all.

It is said that Biden does not want to give the Republicans a reason to say that he is soft on China.

But he should communicate to voters that removing the Trump tariffs would be good for American households and firms. Not doing so is a failure of leadership.

Shang-Jin Wei, a former chief economist at the Asian Development Bank, is Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School and Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.



Lord, everybody has an interest

By Othello B. Garblah

Dear Father:

Have you heard; they say the Old Soljar man has been crying ooh. They say, he say, he wan go back to him son. Ehn, you say whatin?

Father, da the galla me I hear oo. They say for the second round the man say, he wan go back to him son. The people mon make peace between he and him son. He say da the man two pekin them push him away.

You joking?

Father, da na fire coming from my mouth oo. And da na benniseeds popping sef. I heard the Old Soljar man say, he na go to sleepy Joe with him whole heart, it jus that the Footballer two pekin them spoiled between him and him son. Bor he wan go back to him for the second round.

Ehn! Da wah kina thing you talking so? Don't com give some people pressure here oo.

Father, you know me, I na leh gossip. Wen somebody tell you say fire in the hole, especially in our village here, you mon na jus dismiss it oo, because da Liberia here oo-aah.

Hmm, this one da na small thing oo.

Aah, have you ever wondered why the chicken cross the road? You think that jus to go to the other side? Awa, wait you will soon know why the cow na geh tale. If you taught the monkey would ever leave him black hand behind, well go think again.

My son, which one you na bring here again with your plenty parables?

Oh, Father, bor wait ooh, you think the chicken jus cross the road because it wan to go walkerboy, the chicken gat some interest across that road. You mon say him liver stream tie to the other side. You know how much the man spent doing the first voting time?

They will balance. You na know da time for some people to geh somer their money back? Aha, ooh jus be there, you na hear they say the child you no born, you na geh feelings.

Tell me about it my child.

Father, everybody hustling, da the village we find ourselves in na, no hard feelings. So, there is nothing leh loyalty in our village. When you find one loyal person without interest you come and tell me. So, leh them be sitting down there-they mon na "eat goat shit".

Um my son, this one will send some people to their early grave oo, because da na small thing you talking here so oo. You know whatin it mean for somebody to carry yor hope da high and drop it?

Ooh Father, da the one you talking slow leh da so. People do it all the time in our village, and in Uncle Sam's style too. They don't have loyalty only geh interest. So, the same people who can say I with you today, can leave you hanging tomorrow.

Huh, da na small thing, our village people mon know this one oo.

Kpoo, da it you talking so Father. In this our village who tell you say news can hide? By na, everybody know whatin up. The way the two camps jumping so, and so, it will soon be all over our village.

By next week, we will know the place the breeze da can blow the chicken from the back come from. I rest my case ya Father.

OP-ED

By Eric Posner

The Monopolists Fight Back

CHICAGO - As the Google antitrust trial winds down, corporate opposition to antitrust reform in the United States is winding up - and not by coincidence. With the trial having once again revealed the prevalence of anticompetitive behavior in the tech industry, big corporations are turning to Congress to block the two federal agencies tasked with antitrust enforcement, the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission, from ramping up their efforts after decades of neglect.

In the Google trial, the Justice Department argues that the company has a monopoly over "general search" and related markets, and that it has illegally maintained this monopoly by, among other things, paying other tech firms to incorporate its search engine into browsers and devices such as smartphones. Google paid Apple \$18 billion in 2021 alone. Though iPhone users can change the search-engine default by going into the settings menu, hardly anyone does.

For its part, Google argues that people prefer its search engine, and that Apple therefore might as well make it the default. But if everyone preferred the Google search engine, Google would not need to pay Apple billions of dollars every year to make it the default, nor would it be so worried (as Google's CEO apparently was) about Apple deliberately degrading the Google search experience.

Google's deals with Apple and other tech firms ensure that competing search engines like Microsoft's Bing won't reach most customers. Moreover, Google appears to have feared that Apple would develop its own search engine and incorporate it, rather than Google's, into the iPhone. If so, that means Google paid Apple not to compete with it in the search market, a serious violation of antitrust law.

Google denies that it has a monopoly, despite commanding a roughly 90% market share that has endured for over a decade. During that time, the user experience has been steadily degraded by ads crowding the top of every search result like a jungle of highway billboards.

Now that antitrust authorities have finally caught on to their tactics, Google and the other tech giants are in a panic.

We have come a long way since 2010, when Google, Apple, and few other companies settled a lawsuit with the US accusing them of agreeing not to hire each other's software engineers. The companies barely received a slap on the wrist; today, the executives who hatched that plan (Apple founder Steve Jobs among them) would face criminal prosecution for such behavior.

At the time, the widely held view of tech companies as benign engines of growth may have discouraged the Justice Department from prosecuting.

But it has since become clear that these companies use the standard old-economy bag of tricks - exclusive-dealing arrangements, most-favored-nations clauses, predatory pricing, and acquiring competitors - to extend and protect their monopolies. Google faces charges over its domination of online advertising, Meta/Facebook has been sued for its acquisition of Instagram, and Amazon for abusing its marketplace platform.

One way that US antitrust regulators are trying to reverse decades of underenforcement is by revising the guidelines that they use to evaluate proposed mergers. (Full disclosure: I worked on the new draft guidelines during a stint at the Department of Justice Antitrust Division.) But large corporations and their allies have geared up to derail these efforts.

Just this month, a rogues' gallery of business lobbying groups, led by the National Association of Manufacturers, sent a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee urging Congress to block the agencies' update of the reporting rules that govern the types of information that firms that plan to merge must disclose to antitrust agencies before they consummate a merger.

Though these organizations claim to be acting "on behalf of thousands of small businesses and workers," they seem to have failed to persuade any small-business organization, union, or other worker-advocacy group to sign their letter.

Citing a report written by economist S.P. Kothari of MIT, the letter claims that the new reporting requirements would impose more than \$2 billion in annual costs on industry, an amount vastly greater than what the agencies estimated. Kothari relies on a survey conducted by the US Chamber of Commerce (a leading business lobby) of corporate lawyers who specialize in merger cases.

But the resulting average of \$437,000 per merger is dwarfed by the average transaction size. Reporting requirements kick in only for transactions greater than \$111 million. And actual costs will be lower for firms at the lower end of the range, as they have less to report than the behemoths that the agencies usually target.

Kothari argues that the money is wasted in any case, because mergers boost productivity and innovation.

In fact, most experts believe that mergers generate minimal efficiencies over what firms achieve through organic growth. More to the point, the question is not whether mergers in aggregate produce gains or losses; it is whether additional reporting will root out harmful mergers at reasonable cost.

The answer is almost certainly yes. Research indicates that numerous (approved) mergers have caused more harm than good.

By giving large firms a cheap and effective way to further aggregate their market power, mergers enable them to raise prices, suppress wages, and reduce quality.

The additional reporting requirements should help the agencies reverse their history of underenforcement.

Even the article that Kothari cites to argue that mergers generate welfare gains recommends a 2% tax on mergers to offset the "churning" inefficiency caused by excessive entry by entrepreneurs who seek to cash out.

If this is right, the additional reporting costs would pay for themselves even if the reports yielded no information whatsoever.

Eric Posner, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School, is the author of *How Antitrust Failed Workers* (Oxford University Press, 2021).



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

For the Construction of 16 schools - 5 in Montserrado, 5 in Margibi, 1 in Maryland and 5 in River Gee (16 school construction)

[Street Child of Liberia (SCoL), November 21, 2023]

Street Child of Liberia is requesting competitive sealed proposals with the intent of entering into a contract with a general construction firm (s) for the purpose of providing the construction services for the project identified in this Request for Proposals (RFP). Any contract awarded as a result of this solicitation will be in effect from date of award until the completion of the project. It is important for all potential bidders to thoroughly review, comprehend, and comply with the requirements stated in this RFP. It is especially crucial to pay attention to the mandatory requirements. If feasible, it is recommended to visit the site of work in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of all existing conditions and limitations. The proposal should include the cost of all items specified in the RFP. The construction firm (s) is responsible for promptly notifying the appropriate contact listed herein if they observe any discrepancies between the Contract Documents and applicable laws, building codes, rules, regulations, or if they come across obvious erroneous or uncoordinated information.

BACKGROUND

Street Child of Liberia (SCoL) was formally registered as a Liberian NGO in 2013 and works in partnership with the UK-registered charity, Street Child UK, and Sierra Leone partner organization, Street Child of Sierra Leone (SCoSL). Together the Street Child Group has been working to give out-of-school children the opportunity to gain an education since 2008.

SCoL creates educational opportunities for Liberia's most vulnerable children through education, child protection, and livelihoods programs. We support the most vulnerable groups: street-connected children, slum-dwellers, children in remote, rural communities, and girls to access quality education. We do this through programs of teacher training and school improvement, and individually tailored packages of social work and livelihoods support for individual households to support their children in education.

PURPOSE

We are seeking the services of construction firm (s) for school construction. The overall objective is to construct 16 schools - 10 in Margibi/Montserrado and 6 in Maryland and River Gee, primarily to enable out of school children in hard-to-reach communities 3 kilometers from the nearest school to have access to school.

SCOPE OF WORK

Access to education for children living in isolated and deprived communities presents significant difficulties, increasing access to education by constructing schools in these remote and deprived communities would result in an increase in access to education at a secure distance.

Street Child constructs accessible building with three classrooms (to government standards), an office space, and gender-disaggregated latrines. A clear Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Street Child and the community is signed, highlighting the roles and responsibilities of all parties (community, contractor & Street Child). The community will provide the land for school constructions. SCoL (STREET CHILD OF LIBERIA) will hire a qualified construction contractor who will ensure that the building meets the high-quality standards set by the Ministry of Education. The school will be handed over to the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the local community. The transfer of ownership document would be signed by both SCoL and the Ministry of Education. The building will be constructed using a mixture of mud bricks and cement mortar. Based on the MOUs Street Child will sign with the community, it is possible that the community will support with some local construction materials such as sand, rock stones and the construction of the mud bricks.

The hired construction firm (s) will consult with Street Child of Liberia staff to discuss the construction of schools and review the scope of work. The construction firm (s) will consult with the procurement committee and the construction supervisors to set the key deliverables for construction activities highlighted below. The construction firm(s) should complete and hand over as stipulated within the contractual agreement scheduled within the 4-month contract. The construction firm(s) will meet with communities to discuss their specific support and contribution needed and to review community agreements to determine areas that should be prioritized for each community contribution and support. This process would be supported by Street Child staff and the construction supervisor. As mentioned above, the successful construction firm(s) will be required to visit Margibi, Maryland, and River Gee counties where communities for the construction of schools are located.

Key deliverables in the contractual agreement

- 1) Construct 16 schools - 5 in Margibi, 5 in Montserrado and 1 Maryland and 5 River Gee
- 2) Share a construction implementation plan.
- 3) Provide a comprehensive milestone narrative report monthly
- 4) Provide end of construction report
- 5) Share a hand over document of constructed schools as per contractual agreement

Construction Minimum Standards

Every construction must meet the below requirements:

- 3 classroom blocks -> each classroom measuring 5.5m by 5.5m
- Office -> measuring 3m by 3m
- Store -> measuring 2.5m by 2.5m
- Accessibility Ramp
- Water well - this should be constructed during the dry season to determine the correct water depth.
- 2 latrine blocks with three drop hole toilets (accessible)

Measures for school constructions

Measure	Number	Type	County	Comment
Shell	16	Schools	Maryland & River Gee = 6 Margibi = 5 Montserrado = 5	Each classroom and each office space should have a shell
Ceilings and roofs	16	Schools	Maryland & River Gee = 6 Margibi = 5 Montserrado = 5	The entire school, including the latrines
Painting, plastering and doors	16	Schools	Maryland & River Gee = 6 Margibi = 5 Montserrado = 5	In and outside of the school building (classrooms, office space)
Gender-segregated toilets (plastering and painting)	16	Schools	Maryland & River = 6 Margibi = 5 Montserrado = 5	In and outside of the toilets
Hand pumps (fully constructed)	16	Schools	Maryland & River Gee = 6 Margibi = 5 Montserrado = 5	The hand pumps should be plastered and painted
Black Boards (constructed on the wall)	16	Schools	Maryland & River Gee = 6 Margibi = 5 Montserrado = 5	Each classroom must have a standard cement mortar blackboard in line with the government measurement
School bench and desk sets	16	Schools	Maryland & River Gee = 6 Margibi = 5 Montserrado = 5	Each school must have 30 benches and desks. Each bench should occupied 2 students
Tables and chairs for teachers	16	Schools	Maryland & River Gee = 6 Margibi = 5 Montserrado = 5	Two table and three chairs
Transportation for building materials.	16	Schools		

1. CONTRACT DURATION AND TIMELINE

The contractual agreement should carry the assignment within four months, between Mid of December 2023 to Mid-Mid-April 2024.

Timeline

Phase	Key actions	Duration/Deadline
Preparation	Planning	Nov – December 2023
	Consultation with SCoL and community stakeholders	Nov – December 2023
	Grand breakings	January 2024
	Contracting between SCoL and the firm (s)	December 2023
Construction	Mobilisation and placement of materials to the communities	December 2023
	Foundation and completion of the building	January – April 2024
Reporting	Regular updating of SCoL assigned team members	Monthly starting from January 2024
	Monthly & milestone reports	Starting January 2024
	End-of-school construction reports	30 th April 2024

2. ETHICS AND RISK:

The Construction firm(s) must declare any Conflicts of Interest with Street Child of Liberia (SCoL) employees or other stakeholders, as part of their bid.

Construction firm(s) must apply a rights-based and do no harm approach, and they must sign the Code of Conduct along with the construction contract.

The construction firm (s) must sign to Street Child safeguarding prohibited behaviors policy.

3. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Qualification in construction engineering
- Significant (minimum 5 years) experience building construction and must have knowledge of the Liberian context.
- Experience building school and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) facilities are also preferred.
- Good understanding of development and humanitarian programs
- Strong capacity to get the job done, with demonstrated examples of previous and current construction activities.
- All statutory documents, tax clearance, authorization / permit for building construction
- A construction firm must express their interest or apply for a county. We only consider Maryland & River Gee as one county for the purpose of this proposal.

4. SUBMITTING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The applicant will submit a technical proposal and financial proposal

The technical proposal must include:

- An expression of interest letter that clearly states your interest in and outlines your suitability for the role (1-2 pages). Your expression of interest should clearly state whether you are able to provide the service.
- the proposed approach and methodology (2 pages)
- CV includes three contactable references for which you carried out such assignments in the last 2 years.
- Evidence of past experience in construction work.

The financial proposal will include an indicative budget including taxes, if applicable. The financial proposal will include a breakdown of costs.

The expressions of interests are to be submitted via email or in person at the office and include legible copies of:

- Bill of quantities, Quotation, timescale, and blueprint of construction (with measurements)
- Certificate of business registration
- Up to date tax clearance
- Business article of incorporation
- No bids received late will be considered.

The deadline for submission is December 4th, 2023 @ 12:00 pm. Applications must be submitted electronically to scoljobs@gmail.com

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CSOs vow to hold Boakai accountable

Starts from page 6

elected government to another.

“As Civil Society organizations and leaders, we wish to congratulate Ambassador Joseph Nyumah Boakai for his election as President from the November 14, 2023 Presidential Runoff Election,” the group said.

The seven CSO organizations include the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL), the Organization for Women and Children (ORWOCH), and Accountability Lab Liberia

(Alab). Others are Naymote Partners for Democratic Development, Public Health Initiative Liberia (PHIL), Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI), and Integrity Watch Liberia (IWL).

The group also commended incumbent President George Manneh Weah for honoring his commitment to Liberians and the world to conduct free, fair, transparent, and credible elections.

“This is a time for graciousness in defeat, a time to place our country

above party, and patriotism above personal interest,” the group said.

The CSOs called on everyone to hold on together to heal the divisions caused by the campaign and come together as one nation and one united people.

“We wholeheartedly applaud President Weah for not only doing so but courageously conceding defeat by congratulating the winner (Ambassador Joseph Nyumah Boakai),” said the CSOs.

Incoming lawmakers undergo budget training

Starts from page 7

explained that one of the main reasons they gathered elected lawmakers was to institutionalize gender responsive budgeting by formulating separate budget for men and women.

“What we are asking is to ensure that the national budget disaggregates on issues around gender,” Aidoo explained.

For the past years, Aidoo said IWL has been carrying on successful budget for different programs.

“As we speak, we just completed an extensive review of the 2023 national budget with key focus on its implementation from the gender level,” the IWL

Executive Director noted.

He added that they identified that it's difficult to mention the impact of the budget for people with disability, women, and men, saying all this is as a result of how the budget is being handled.

In remarks, the Chief of Party of USAID Election and Democracy Activity Stephanie Lynn thanked newly elected lawmakers for gracing the two days training. Ms. Lynn thanked the officials for gracing the workshop.

“We will love to start a new chapter with you as

you begin representing your various counties and district,” she noted.

Stephanie Lynn explained that they will be working with legislators who are keen on this process, hoping that following the two days event, results will be seen when the lawmakers take their seats. Speaking earlier, Harper District Representative P. Mike Jurry extolled IWL for organizing the event for incoming lawmakers.

“We want to thank the organizers of this event; gender responsive budgeting is key and as such we must take it into consideration.”

Boakai lauds Diaspora Liberians

Starts from page 7

families.

Meanwhile, As Liberia prepares for the transition on January 22, 2024, Boakai calls on all Liberians to join efforts

in rebuilding the country.

He emphasizes the importance of sound and honest leadership for the progress of the

nation, envisioning a future of functional and equitable society for generations to come. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Boakai gets more congratulatory messages

Starts from page 10

innocent citizens—particularly women and children—and the lack of vision. He underscores the rejection of negativity for positivity on November 14, 2023, urging the new administration to learn from past mistakes and steer the country in the right direction.

“The Liberian people yearn for rescue from poverty and despair,” asserts Mr. Fallah.

He emphasizes the collective responsibility to lift Liberia from poverty's depths to a future marked by prosperity and equitable governance, reflecting the diversity of the nation and its people.

Stressing the importance of

economic and social developments that benefit the masses, not just a select few, Mr. Fallah envisions progress that reaches every corner of Liberia, fostering a more inclusive and empowered society.

In urging the new administration to learn from past mistakes, he underscores the necessity of embracing positive change. The previous administration's mistakes are lessons that should guide the current government toward a more promising future.

In conclusion, Mr. Fallah echoes the

aspirations of a united Liberia poised for a brighter tomorrow. The call is for progress, diversity, and economic empowerment—a vision that transcends past challenges and paves the way for a more inclusive and prosperous nation.

Fallah said, “In the spirit of decisive leadership akin to our Lord-Saviour-Yeshua-Christ, who took bold steps to maintain order in the House of our Owner-Creator-God-Almighty, we implore you to act swiftly and decisively.”

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

WSR regrets tragic car ramming against UP partisans

AJAL commends Liberians

- Urges LNP to keep the public updated regularly

The Women Situation Room (WSR) has expressed deep

Street while partisans were celebrating opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai's victory over incumbent

Angie Brooks International Centre (ABIC) for Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security, has conveyed its deepest sympathies to those who lost their loved ones or who have family members hospitalized.

Through a press release dated 23 November 2023 under the signature of WSR Initiator Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh, the group said it understands that investigations by the police and security apparatus of the government are already underway. "In that regard, it is our understanding that investigations by the Police and Security apparatus of the Government are already underway," the release said.

Accordingly, Cllr. Chesson-Wureh urged the Government of Liberia to keep the public updated on its findings to avoid misrepresentations, misinterpretations, and misinformation being circulated to the public.

Cllr. Chesson-Wureh warned that this has the propensity to cause violence and disrupt the peace, noting that it is critical, given the current situation and developments facing the nation.—Press release

The Association of Liberian Journalists in the Americas (ALJA) is commending the resilient people of Liberia on the successful and peaceful conclusion of the recent presidential election and President Elect Joseph Boakai on his historic election as Liberia's 26th President.

In a press issued on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, ALJA says the peaceful and transparent nature of the elections reflect the maturity and progress of Liberia's democracy and is a testament to the deep-rooted desire for positive change and progress in the country.

The Association is also commending President George Weah for his statesmanship and exemplary leadership in

valued and included in the nation-building process.

The US based Liberian Journalists organization stressed that Inclusivity is key to building a robust and diverse society that represents the interests of all Liberians and is encouraging President-Elect Boakai to embrace a governance approach that includes voices from various sectors of society, recognizing the strength that comes from diversity and differing perspectives.

Furthermore, ALJA urges the new administration to uphold and strengthen the rule of law. A commitment to justice, accountability, and the protection of human rights is essential for building a stable and thriving democratic society. ALJA believes that a government guided by the principles of transparency and the



regrets over the tragic car-ramming incident that killed some partisans of the opposition Unity Party (UP) and wounded others on 20 November 2023.

The dreaded incident happened outside the Unity Party headquarters on Broad

President George Manneh Weah.

Three persons were killed and dozens of others brutally wounded hours after the National Elections Commission (NEC) declared Boakai as the winner of the run-off election.

WSR, an initiative of the

CSOs vow to hold Boakai accountable

By Lewis S. Teh

At least seven Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have vowed to hold Liberian President-elect Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai accountable if he fails to audit the outgoing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) - led government. The CSOs want the incoming Unity Party (UP) administration to prosecute all those identified to have misused or abused state resources.

"Comprehensively audit the outgoing administration and prosecute those who will be identified to have abused public resources and assets," the CSOs urged the incoming administration.

The seven CSOs held a joint press conference recently at CENTAL's head office in Sinkor, a suburb of Monrovia.

They recommended that the prosecution of corruption officials be in line with due process of law.

They called for an objective, thorough, and inclusive process that ensures that any public resources and assets are identified, retrieved, and used for the benefit of the public.

Atty. Mmonbeydo Joah, Executive Director of the Organization for Women and Children, said on behalf of the CSOs that they strongly recommend that the process be extended to the previous regime headed by the Unity Party from 2006 to 2017, and the CDC regime.

The group said the UP's previous regime, some officials abused public trust and resources, for which they need

to be held equally accountable.

Atty. Joah pointed out that Liberia has made remarkable peace gains after 20 years since the country's civil conflict ended in 2003.

The CSOs said the election of Amb. Boakai from the 14 November 2023 runoff election marks an important milestone in terms of a peaceful transition from one democratically

▶ CONT'D page 5



ALJA President

conceding the recent elections. The Association noted that President Weah's decision to concede gracefully and swiftly demonstrates a deep respect for the will of the Liberian people and upholds the integrity of the electoral process, while setting a commendable example for the sub region and the African continent. The Association stressed that a free and independent media is crucial for fostering transparency, accountability and the overall wellbeing of the society and is urging the incoming administration to strengthen the country's democratic tenets including Press freedom and the rule of law. ALJA says it stands ready to collaborate with President Elect Boakai's administration in promoting a free and vibrant media environment that will contribute to the continued growth and development of Liberia.

As Liberia ushers in a new era under President-Elect Boakai's leadership, the Association emphasized the importance of fostering unity and healing the divisions that may have arisen during the electoral process. Reconciliation should be at the forefront of the national agenda to ensure that all citizens feel

rule of law will contribute to the overall well-being and progress of Liberia. Meanwhile, ALJA is profoundly saddened and appalled by the tragedy involving Unity Party partisans who lost their lives in a fatal vehicle accident while celebrating their party's victory. ALJA extends heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and the entire Unity Party community affected by this devastating incident.

The incident, which occurred on Monday, November 20, 2023 at the UP headquarters, resulted in the death of three people and left 25 others wounded. The celebration of political victories is a fundamental aspect of democracy, and it is deeply disheartening when such joyous occasions turn into moments of profound grief. ALJA calls on the relevant authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the accident to ensure accountability and prevent such incidents in the future. ALJA is a conglomeration of current and retired Liberian Journalists residing in the Americas. It is a 201c (3) non-profit organization. The Association was founded in 1998 to foster companionship amongst its members and their American counterparts.



President-Elect of Liberia

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Boakai lauds Diaspora Liberians

Speaker Chambers donates ambulance to Pleebo Health Center

-for riding "Rescue Train" to victory

By Kruah Thompson

President-elect Joseph Nyumah Boakai expresses gratitude to Diaspora

He emphasizes the elections' significance, showcasing the power of the Liberian people and their dedication to democracy.

roads in the beautiful southeastern region," Boakai says, highlighting years of rural neglect, while rallying all Liberians, regardless of background, to join the journey to rescue the nation.

He commits to addressing immediate challenges, emphasizing the need to confront economic, social, and political disparities. He vows to lead by example, promising a Liberia that benefits all citizens and actively involves rural communities in decision-making.

The President-elect also pledges to establish a responsible and accountable government, tackle corruption, and announce a transitional team for a smooth handover. He welcomes cooperation with regional and global partners, expressing intent to participate actively in global affairs.

Acknowledging tragic losses during the campaign, Mr. Boakai announces plans for security and justice reform to honor victims' families, including a recent car ram at the Unity Party headquarters that led to three deaths and scores of persons injured, promising a thorough investigation and extending condolences to affected

▶ CONT'D page 5

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Amid his ongoing battle for reelection, Maryland County Electoral district#2 Representative and Speaker of the 54th Liberia Legislature, Bhofal Chambers, has donated a brand new ambulance to the Pleebo Health Center.

The donation ceremony held recently in the county brought together chiefs, elders, development superintendent, district statutory superintendent, rural women, and health authorities within the district.

Speaker Chambers said the ambulance is his own way of giving back to the district, knowing his for his people.

He said the people of electoral district#2 deserve more of such opportunity because over the

which is being heard.

He acknowledged the passion and dedication of Pleebo citizens in their pursuit of a better future and challenged all to channel their energies into productive discussions and peaceful actions, emphasizing that together, they can achieve their aspirations and bring about positive change.

It may be recalled that during the October 10th elections, a precinct in Old Sodoken, comprising of two polling places were plagued with series of controversies that led to the appearance a masked dancer 'Country Devil', scaring away poll watchers of the Coalition for Democratic Change with report of stuffing of ballot papers to the disadvantage of Speaker Chambers.

However, Chambers has assured his constituents of a positive outcome of ongoing investigation. "We have unabated trust and



President-Elect of Liberia

Liberian communities for their pivotal role in steering the "Rescue Train" to victory, promising to extend development across Liberia.

He calls for national unity, stating, "There are no green Liberians or blue Liberians, western Liberians or southeastern Liberians."

Addressing a press conference Thursday, 22 November at the Unity Party headquarters in Monrovia, Ambassador Boakai conveyed appreciation to his campaign team, individuals across the nation and in the Diaspora, and those who safeguarded the electoral process.

He urges citizens to embrace each other, be magnanimous in victory, and gracious in defeat, emphasizing a collective resolve for the country's transformation.

"I promise to extend development across this country, including building

Incoming lawmakers undergo budget training

By Lewis S. Teh

Integrity Watch Liberia (IWL) has embarked on a two-day gender responsive budgeting and planning training for newly elected, and re-elected members of the Legislature.

The training is intended to strengthen and increase incoming legislators' knowledge on issues regarding gender responsive budgeting and planning, among other issues.

In an overview, IWL Executive Director Mr. Harold Aidoo said the two days event is fully sponsored by its partner, the UN Women.

Aidoo said he was excited that IWL has contributed to the history making of the country, especially with the recently held 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

"I'm so proud as Liberian that all of us can sit and celebrate this historic milestone achievement that we have earned together as a nation," said Aidoo.

He stated that IWL's work focuses on three key issues which are cardinal.

Having worked with the Legislature since 2006 and followed its work closely, he said IWL is concerned that the rules giving the Speaker the right to appoint various committee leadership has the propensity to make the Speaker unaccountable to the House of Representatives.

"As we get close to your certification, we like to bring this to your attention so upon taking your seat you will look into the need to reform the rules to address critical issues of democratic tenets," said Mr. Aidoo.

He urged lawmakers to make use of the voting machines to enable citizens to know how their lawmakers vote on national issues that will be debated.

"We believe by not having a voting system that shows who vote on a particular issue will create doubt on your working," he argued.

"This will also be in your interest because your constituents will know what all you have voted for or against."

The IWL Executive Director

▶ CONT'D page 5



time, the health center and its authorities have been calling for help.

The embattled lawmaker, who is challenging his defeat from the October 10, 2023 elections, lauded the people of Pleebo Sodoken district for overwhelmingly voting for President Weah in the just ended presidential runoff election.

"Let me say to you, today I am who I am and I have what I have because of you; you made me and so, I owe a lot to you; this is of the many contributions I have made and the one to come", Representative Chambers said.

Consolidated tally votes released by the National Elections Commission from the district shows that the lawmaker was defeated by Candidate Anthony Williams, but Chambers filed a formal protest before the NEC Board of Commissioners

confidence in the National Elections Commission, at the end of the day justice will prevail. The case is proceeding well; there was the first engagement with the lawyers and things are going well because the truth will never be buried. However, it is trumpet upon it shall rise, and whatever the case is the people of Pleebo Sodoken district will be the beneficiaries." He noted.

The Maryland County lawmaker reaffirmed his commitment to the development earmarked for Pleebo, saying "The well-being and progress of the district remains a top priority. Rest assures, the earmarked development projects will continue as planned, and the people of Pleebo will see positive changes that will improve their quality of life." *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



IWL Executive Director Mr. Harold Aidoo

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Français

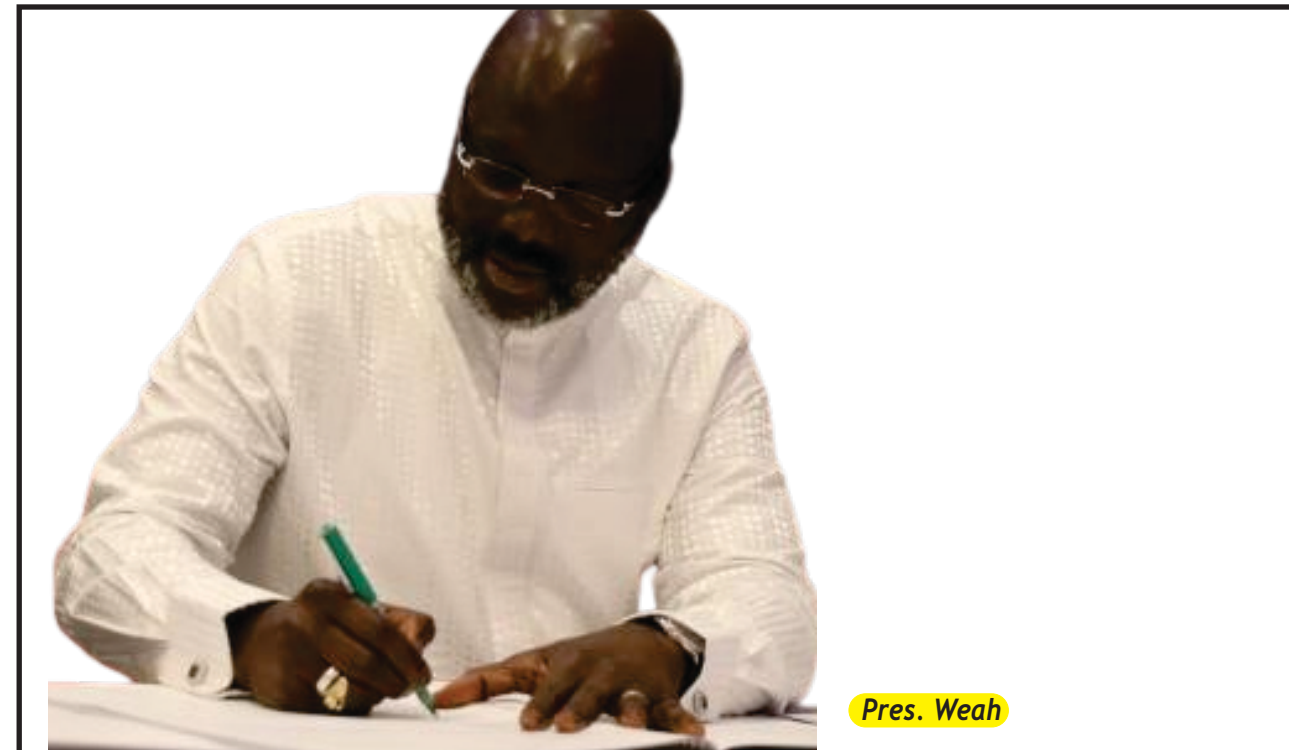
Le président weah retire le décret 123 qui porte formation de l'Équipe Conjointe Présidentielle de Transition (JPTT)

Dans un geste aussi inattendu qu'intrigant, le président George Weah a révoqué l'Ordre exécutif

protocoles adéquats pour assurer un transfert harmonieux du pouvoir au Président-Élu, Joseph Boakai.

Cependant, le secrétaire de

et Doyen du Cabinet, le Ministre des Finances et de la Planification du Développement, le Ministre de la Justice, le Ministre de la



Pres. Weah

n° 123, émis mardi dernier, qui instaurait l'Équipe Présidentielle de Transition Conjointe (JPTT).

Dans un communiqué de la présidence daté du 21 novembre, le Président Weah a souligné qu'il mettait en place la JPTT en vertu des pouvoirs qui lui sont conférés par le Chapitre 2, Article 5© de la Constitution de 1986 de la République du Libéria. Cette disposition lui accorde le pouvoir de développer des

presse présidentielle, Isaac Solo Kelgbeh, a annoncé le retrait mercredi dernier, le 22 novembre 2023, indiquant que le Président Weah avait choisi de réviser et de réémettre l'ordonnance dans les jours à venir.

Selon l'ordonnance maintenant retirée, tant le président sortant que le président élu étaient prévus pour co-présider l'équipe, qui comprenait des membres du gouvernement actuel tels que le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères

Défense Nationale, et le Ministre d'État aux Affaires Présidentielles.

D'autres nominations concernaient des postes clés dans divers ministères et agences gouvernementales, avec une invitation au Président-Élu, Joseph Boakai, à désigner 20 citoyens libériens pour rejoindre la JPTT.

Malgré le retrait, on s'attend à ce que la version révisée de l'ordonnance conserve la structure

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Le gouvernement américain félicite Boakai et Weah

Dans un communiqué émis le mercredi 21 novembre, la chargée d'affaires de l'ambassade américaine, Catherine Rodriguez, a exprimé ses félicitations au président élu Joseph N. Boakai et salué le président George Weah pour sa concession élégante. Rodriguez a exhorté les Libériens à se rallier au président Weah et à accepter paisiblement les résultats de l'élection présidentielle du 14 novembre.

Elle a souligné le succès du second tour et des élections générales du 10 octobre, consolidant les acquis démocratiques du Libéria post-guerre civile et renforçant son rôle en tant que phare de l'autogouvernance démocratique en Afrique. Les observateurs indépendants, nationaux et internationaux, unanimement élogieux

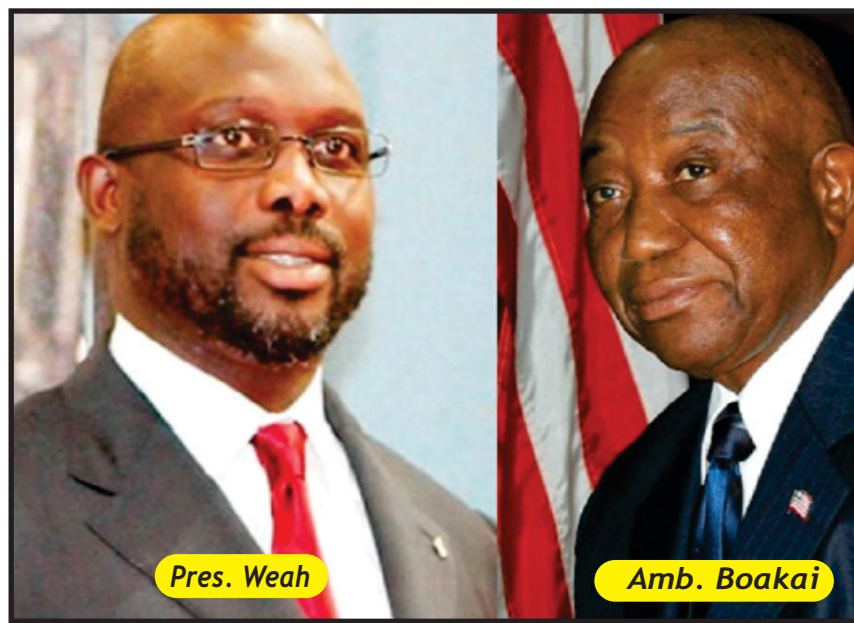
quant à la transparence globale et à la crédibilité du processus électoral, témoignent du succès des élections.

Rodriguez a attribué ce succès à divers acteurs, des citoyens ordinaires aux candidats, partis politiques, organisations de la société civile et médias, tous jouant un rôle crucial dans l'assurance d'un processus électoral pacifique. Une mention spéciale est dédiée à la

Commission électorale nationale (NEC) pour son organisation indépendante malgré des conditions difficiles.

La chargée d'affaires a souligné l'héroïsme des travailleurs de la NEC, surmontant des routes difficiles pour garantir la disponibilité des matériaux

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Pres. Weah

Amb. Boakai

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

Le président weah retire le

fondamentale, y compris l'arrangement de co-présidence entre le Président en exercice et le Président-Élu.

L'Ordre Exécutif soulignait la prise de décision consensuelle au sein de la JPTT, avec la résolution des litiges relevant de la responsabilité conjointe du Président en exercice et du Président-Élu. Initialement, l'ordonnance stipulait que la JPTT commencerait ses fonctions dans les 48 heures de la déclaration du Président-Élu par la Commission Électorale Nationale et conclurait ses activités avec la publication du Rapport Final au plus tard

48 heures avant l'Inauguration du Président-Élu et du Vice-Président-Élu en janvier.

Bien que ce retrait ajoute une couche d'incertitude au processus de transition, on s'attend à ce que le Président en exercice convoque la première réunion de la JPTT dans les 48 heures suivant la déclaration du Président-Élu par la Commission Électorale Nationale, comme stipulé dans l'ordonnance exécutive initiale.

Cette évolution apporte une dimension unique à la dynamique en cours de la transition, suscitant un vif intérêt quant à la version révisée de l'Ordre Exécutif que le Président Weah envisage de publier dans les jours à venir.

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Le gouvernement américain

de vote dans les 5 890 bureaux de vote du Liberia. Elle a fait état des conférences de presse quotidiennes de la NEC en tant que modèle de transparence, saluant la réactivité de la commission face aux préoccupations

légitimes et soulignant l'absence de soutien financier direct de la communauté internationale pour ces élections post-guerre civile.

En conclusion, Rodriguez a appelé les Libériens à être fiers de leur participation pacifique et à saluer la

Mali : le général El Hadj Ag Gamou nommé gouverneur de Kidal

Au Mali, le général El Hadj Ag Gamou a été nommé mercredi 22 novembre 2023 gouverneur de la région de Kidal. Une semaine après la prise de la ville, fief des rebelles du CSP (Cadre stratégique permanent), par l'armée malienne et ses supplétifs de Wagner, la nomination de ce chef militaire touareg fidèle à l'État malien lève un voile sur la stratégie des autorités maliennes de transition.

Le général El Hadj Ag Gamou n'aime pas apparaître en public, mais il est bien connu de tous les Maliens, surtout dans le Nord. En 2012, alors que les cadres touaregs de l'armée désertent un à un pour rejoindre la rébellion indépendantiste, celui qui n'est encore que colonel est le seul à rester fidèle à Bamako.

Deux ans plus tard, Gamou crée le Groupe d'autodéfense touareg Imghad et alliés (Gatia), un groupe armé du Nord, signataire du futur accord de paix de 2015, au sein de la Plateforme pro-État malien.

Méfiance des autorités de transition

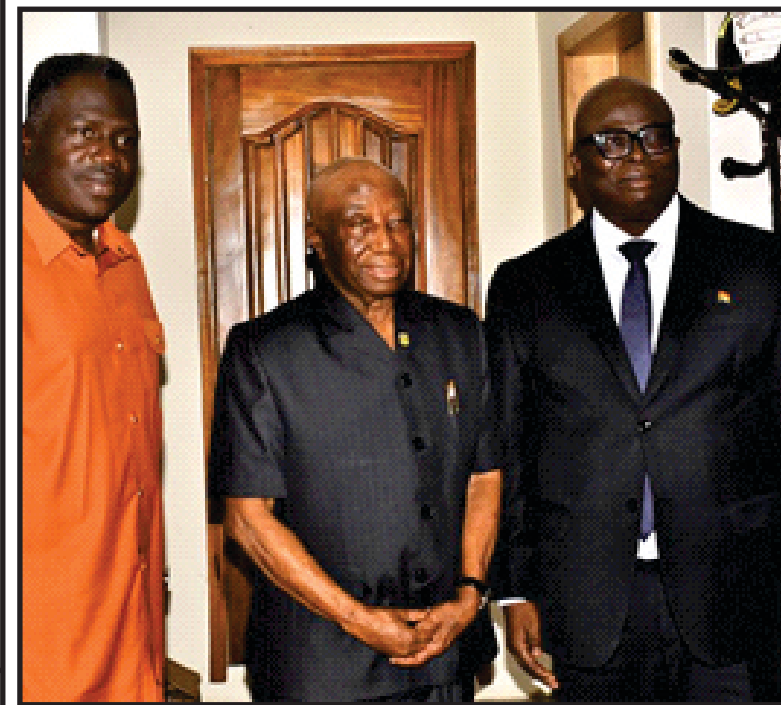
Il y a deux ans, en décembre 2021, les autorités maliennes de transition le débarquent de son poste d'inspecteur général

des armées. À l'époque, le CSP n'est pas une rébellion, cette coalition rassemble encore tous les groupes armés signataires de l'accord de paix et le jeu du général Gamou en son sein est jugé trouble par les dirigeants de la Transition. Mais la méfiance ne dure pas : aujourd'hui, Bamako compte sur lui pour ramener les habitants de Kidal dans le giron de l'État.

Le Général Gamou n'est pas originaire de Kidal, mais il connaît bien la ville et la région, où il a longtemps servi. Surtout, il est Imghad, une fraction touareg considérée comme « vassale » de celle des Ifoghas, qui assume la chefferie traditionnelle à Kidal et dont sont originaires les principaux chefs rebelles. « Il est celui qui pourra rassembler », juge une source sécuritaire malienne. « Il va rassurer les Touaregs », abonde un proche du général Gamou.

Un chef rebelle du CSP juge au contraire qu'il s'agit d'une vaine tentative pour créer des problèmes communautaires entre les Touaregs. « Cela ne nous fait rien, ils peuvent nommer qui ils veulent », réagit un autre cadre du CSP, qui ajoute : « ce piège ne marchera pas, nos communautés ne tomberont pas dans les erreurs du passé. »

Une visite de courtoisie de l'ambassadeur ghanéen au Président élu Joseph Boakai



L'ambassadeur Amoako a souligné les efforts du Libéria dans la promotion de la démocratie et de la paix en Afrique de l'Ouest, saluant le déroulement pacifique, libre et équitable des élections. Il a également mis en lumière les relations historiques entre le Ghana et le Libéria, appelant à la préservation de l'excellence des liens bilatéraux par l'administration entrante.

Exprimant l'espoir d'une consolidation des relations entre les deux nations, Amb. Amoako a mis en avant le potentiel économique résultant de la contribution des Ghanéens autochtones vivant le long des neuf comtés côtiers du Libéria. Il a appelé le Libéria à tirer pleinement parti de la Zone de Libre-Échange Continentale Africaine [ZLECAF] pour le bénéfice mutuel.

En réponse, le Président élu Boakai a chaleureusement accueilli la

Dans le cadre d'une rencontre diplomatique empreinte de cordialité, l'Ambassadeur ghanéen, Son Excellence Kingsford Amoako, a effectué une visite de courtoisie au Président élu Joseph Boakai. Accompagné du personnel éminent de l'Ambassade du Ghana à Monrovia, cette délégation a honoré de sa présence le bureau du Président élu, situé au Centre de Rééducation, le 22 novembre 2023. Au cours de cette rencontre, l'éminent diplomate ghanéen a présenté un message de félicitations de la part du Président de la République du Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, ainsi que du peuple ghanéen, saluant la victoire du Président élu Boakai et du Vice-Président élu Jeremiah Koung lors des récentes élections.

délégation ghanéenne, exprimant son engagement à renforcer les liens commerciaux entre le Libéria et le Ghana. Il a partagé sa vision pour les six prochaines années à travers le programme ARREST et a manifesté son enthousiasme à l'idée d'accueillir des responsables gouvernementaux ghanéens pour stimuler davantage les relations commerciales. Cette visite de courtoisie de l'Amb. Amoako au Président élu Boakai témoigne d'un lien solide entre les deux nations, soulignant la volonté du Ghana de collaborer avec le nouveau gouvernement pour renforcer les économies respectives et consolider les relations bilatérales.

Le président Biden se veut optimiste quant aux relations américano-libériennes



Le message de félicitations du président Biden met en avant l'importance de renforcer les liens entre les peuples américain et libérien dans les années à venir.

En plus de saluer le président entrant Boakai, il a rendu hommage au président sortant Weah pour son engagement à respecter la volonté du peuple libérien et à privilégier l'intérêt national sur les considérations politiques.

La déclaration a rappelé les discussions tenues lors du sommet des dirigeants américains et africains de l'année précédente, où l'importance d'une transition pacifique du pouvoir a été soulignée comme un aspect fondamental de la gouvernance démocratique.

Le président Biden a souligné la nature exemplaire du processus démocratique du Libéria, le citant comme un exemple clair pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et la communauté mondiale.

Le président américain a dit que le peuple libérien, en exerçant son droit constitutionnel de vote, a démontré la puissance de la démocratie, établissant un précédent remarquable pour le monde entier.

Il a souligné la puissance de la démocratie comme un outil de progrès, affirmant que les démocraties, lorsqu'elles fonctionnent efficacement, peuvent apporter des avantages tangibles à leurs citoyens.

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Boakai gets more congratulatory messages

-As Austin Fallah urges progressive path for Liberia's future

In a resounding declaration, Austin S. Fallah, a US-based Liberian Expert and Master of Study of Law student at Hamline University, extends

Emphasizing the incoming government's need to transcend divisive tribalism, Mr. Fallah passionately advocates for unity, urging the administration to embrace individuals from all corners of

Midwest of the United States, Mr. Fallah underscores the pivotal role of qualifications in governance. A commitment to a comprehensive and inclusive approach, he argues, is essential for fostering meaningful development, socially and economically, benefiting the entire nation.

Highlighting the pressing need to address Liberia's wage bill, Mr. Fallah advocates moving beyond tribal considerations, asserting that replacing tribalism with a focus on competence and qualifications is indispensable for the collective well-being of the nation and its citizens.

As a distinguished academician and President of the Hamline University Graduate Students Association (H+++), Mr. Fallah calls upon the incoming administration to exceed the high expectations of Liberians who endured six years of economic challenges.

Drawing on his wealth of experience, he emphasizes the necessity of elevating Liberia from the difficulties of the past towards a future marked by prosperity and equitable governance.

Reflecting on the past six years, Mr. Fallah highlights issues such as nepotism, corruption, the death of

Liberia. In selecting government officials, he stresses the importance of qualifications, competence, and educational backgrounds, aligning with the diverse aspirations of Liberia's fifteen counties and sixteen tribes.

Addressing a gathering in his home state of Minnesota in the

▶ **CONT'D page 5**



Austin Fallah

heartfelt congratulations to President-elect Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai, Vice President-elect Jeremiah K. Koung, and the dedicated members of the Rescue Team. Their commendable efforts signal a new era for Liberia, and Mr. Fallah aligns himself with their vision for the nation.

ECOWAS President charges Parliament on Enhancing Regional Integration and Development

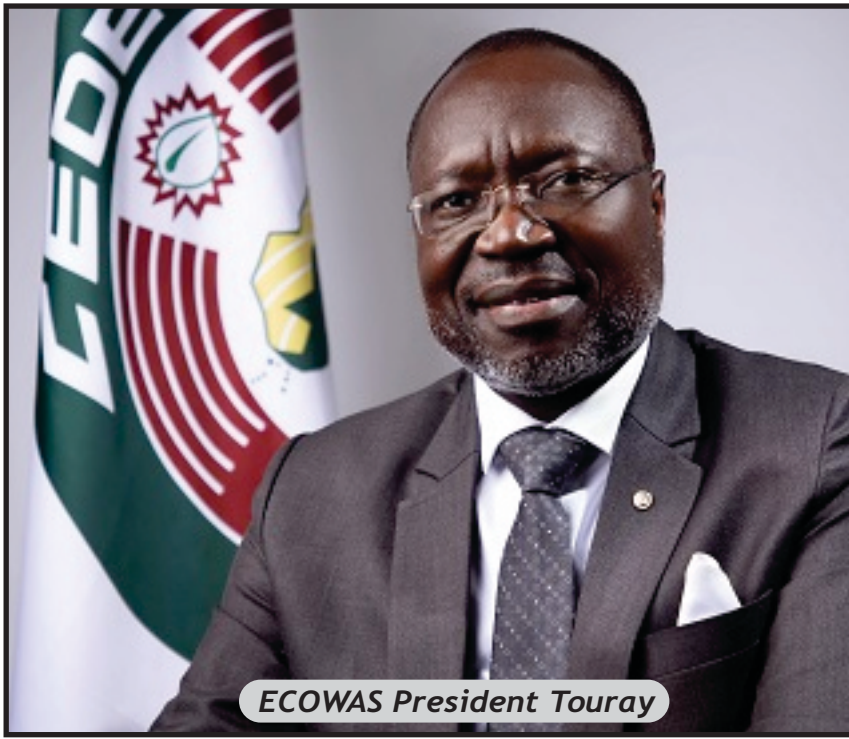
The President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, delivered a keynote address at the inauguration of the 2023 Second Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Parliament, marking a pivotal moment for collaboration and regional progress. The ceremony, which witnessed the swearing-in of new Parliament members, was graced by the Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament, Dr. Sidie Mohamed Tunis, the Auditor-General of ECOWAS Institutions, Mr. João Alage Mamadú FADIÁ, and the President of the ECOWAS Court of Justice, Justice Edward Amoako Asante.

The President of the ECOWAS Commission stressed the importance of regional cooperation and integration for the development of the region. He commended the Member States for their efforts and outlined the ECOWAS budget's priorities on projects that have a positive impact on the region, especially considering the

regional crises. President Touray also congratulated Liberia, Guinea Bissau, and Sierra Leone for their peaceful elections and expressed concern over the military coups, insecurity, and humanitarian crises that affect some parts of the region.

The Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament, Dr. Sidie Mohammed Tunis, in his opening remarks, urged for

regional solidarity and self-reliance to overcome the various security, humanitarian and economic challenges that face the region. He said that the region's development and prosperity depends on our shared sense of brotherhood and that we can only effectively address these threats through comprehensive, deep, and sustained cooperation.



ECOWAS President Touray

ECOWAS calls for increase coverage & strengthened social protection systems across west Africa

“Leave no one behind” is the bedrock of any form of social protection and a commitment made in addressing social inequalities, promoting inclusivity, and ensuring that vulnerable populations have access to essential services and support. It also recognizes the role of social protection in fostering sustainable development and contributing to the overall well-being of the population. Social protection is a key driver in the achievement of the ECOWAS vision 2050; which aligns with the five pillars of the ECOWAS Community Strategic Framework; Peace, Security, & Stability, Governance, Economic Integration, Sustainable Development and Social Inclusion, declared Prof. Fatou S O W S A R R , E C O W A S

vital role in reducing poverty, promoting social justice, and enhancing human dignity. He highlighted the importance of the development of an ECOWAS Social Protection Framework and Operational Plan that aims to provide policymakers, practitioners, and researchers with the necessary tools and knowledge to design and implement social protection programs specific to the ECOWAS region, which will involve drawing from the latest research, global best practices, and the experiences of ECOWAS Member States to create a comprehensive and practical guide for social protection. The UNICEF Representative in The Gambia, Ms. Mariavittoria Ballotta, Ms. Bintia Stephen-Tchicaya, the FAO Senior Policy Officer of the sub-regional



Commissioner for Human Development and Social Affairs, at the opening of a three (3) day meeting of ECOWAS Experts on Social Protection Framework and Operational plan, which began on Tuesday November 21st, 2023, in Banjul - The Gambia. The opening Speech of the Commissioner, Human Development and Social Affairs, delivered by Dr. Sintiki Tarfa Ugbe, Director of Humanitarian and Social Affairs, the importance of the ECOWAS Social Protection Framework and Operational Plan is a guide to Member States in the development and implementation of comprehensive social protection systems, including inclusive national social protection floors.

She noted that, though there might be many challenges which can be daunting but not insurmountable, and believes that with the necessary political commitment, technical expertise and support from Development Partners, and through a Regional Strategy, the Social Protection Coverage in Africa can be accelerated and ensuring that 40% of the population are covered. Dr. Abdulaziz S.K. Danladi, Representing Nigeria and Chair of the meeting emphasized the importance of viewing social protection as a critical component of sustainable development, which plays a very

Office for West Africa, pledged that in its implementation, FAO will continue to provide technical assistance to member states to scale up and enhance social protection in increasing productivity and support small-scale producers to manage risks better for an agrifood systems transformation that is MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind. The representative of the H.E Amb Cessouma Minata Samate AU Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development- Mr. Lefhoko Kesamang commended ECOWAS for the landmark achievement of elaborating the ECOWAS Social Protection Framework & Operational Plan aligned to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security. He underscored the importance of the social protection framework as an investment in the future and a cornerstone of resilience which centers around strategies that safeguard vulnerable populations

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Audit the 54th Legislature

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Defeated Monsterrado County District#8 Representative Acarous Moses Gray, says President-Elect Joseph Nyumah Boakai's resolve to audit the outgoing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)-led administration must well extend to the Liberian Legislature, as a benchmark to battling corruption.

Rep. Gray in a live podcast here says rampant corruption has engulfed the 54th

officials urged President-Elect Boakai to be ruthless against the outgoing CDC Administration by auditing all officials of the Weah-Taylor regime immediately after taking office in order to minimize the melee that has robbed the country of development.

Three top officials of the Weah administration were sanctioned in 2022 by the United States Treasury, including former Solicitor-General Sayma-Cyrenius

fighting corruption, then it would be viewed as an attempt to protect the interest of its Vice President-elect, Senator Jeremiah Koug, who he accused of involvement in rampant corruption at the Senate.

"If they decide not to audit the Legislature, their interest is to protect Senator Jeremiah Koug; there's no way if they agreed to audit both the Executive and the Legislature, Vice President-elect, Jeremiah Koug's hands won't be found in the cookies jar", Gray challenges.

He continued: "We at the Legislature know exactly the financial damages Senator Koug has caused to this country, so if they do not audit the Legislature, they wish he goes with impunity, but if they decide to do so, he will never go scout-free as Co-chair on the Committee on Budget and Finance at the Senate."

He further argues that audit reflects the will of the people so a comprehensive audit should cut across every sector and branch of the previous administration rather than being selective.

The former Monsterrado County lawmaker had deliberately accused Senator Koug of misappropriating all kinds of funds, cheques and vouchers without providing any evidence.

Meanwhile, Gray also underscores that if Liberia must progress, there must be a unifier of the people irrespective of political differences, and decries hatred and bitterness that have caused the country to be divided. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Rep. Acarous Moses Gray

Legislature, particularly the House where he served until losing the election recently noting that therefore, if the new government is steadfast in sweeping corruption, they must clean up both the executive and legislative branches of government.

The CDC lawmaker's comments came Wednesday evening after Unity Party

Cephus, for significant public corruption, which forced them to resign. But Gray thinks the current Legislature should not be spared if the incoming Boakai administration wants to succeed in its corruption battle.

He stresses that if the incoming UP-led government does not wish to audit the Legislature as a first step to

China commits to working with Boakai

By Lincoln G. Peters

The President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Xi Jinping on Tuesday, November 22, 2023, pledged his government

Meanwhile, Amb. Boakai in a special statement dated, Thursday, November 23, 2023, acknowledged the Chinese President's congratulatory message.

In his congratulatory message, President Xi Jinping expressed his



President of China, Mr. Xi Jinping

commitment and willingness to work with Liberia President-elect, Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

President Xi also extended his congratulatory message to Amb. Boakai, President-elect of Liberia on his election as president of Liberia.

According to the Chinese president in his congratulatory message to Liberia's President-elect, Boakai, Mr. Xi said that he stands ready to work with Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Liberia's president-elect, to deepen bilateral friendship and mutual trust, and strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation.

"I stood ready to work with Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Liberia's president-elect, to deepen bilateral friendship and mutual trust, and strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation" President Xi stated in his congratulatory message to Amb. Boakai.

readiness to work with the President-elect, Boakai to deepen bilateral ties, foster mutual trust as well as strengthen beneficial cooperation between Liberia and China" he stated.

Accordingly, Amb. Boakai acknowledged with profound satisfaction, the special congratulatory message and thanked the PRC for its long years of unyielding support to Liberia and its people. The President-elect also expressed his willingness to deepen cordial relationship with the people Republic of China and its industrious people for the mutual benefits both countries have and continue to enjoy.

While thanking the PRC for its support of Liberia's development, Amb. Boakai also reaffirmed his government's commitment to the one China Policy. The President-elect envisages a new page in the Liberia-China relationship that will thrive to nobler heights.

Prison officers protest over delay benefits

- but government confirms payment soon

By Lincoln G. Peters

Employees of the Monrovia Central Prison on early Thursday, November 23, 2023, staged a protest preventing inmates from entering and leaving the prison facility in demand of salaries and just benefits as well as the lack of food and medical supplies.

The situation which later turned chaotic led to two people sustaining major injuries, a male and female.

After several minutes of tussle, calm was restored when the Director of Administration at the Liberia National Police Asatu Reeves arrived at the scene and held talks with authorities at the prison facility and along with the aggrieved employees.

The angry protesters later extended their protest at the

Justice Ministry to seek redress from Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean. At the Ministry of Justice, Deputy Minister of Finance, Planning and Development Samurai Wolokolie and others had an indoor meeting on the payment of the officers. Following the meeting, a press conference was held at the Ministry of Justice, to address the plight of the aggrieved Prison Facility employees. At the joint press conference organized by the Liberian Joint Security and the Monrovia Central Prison authorities assured the media that they were on top of the situation. The Director of Prisons Reverend Sainleseh Kwaidah told journalists that the Government of Liberia has no outstanding salaries for prison employees. He noted that those who were protesting

did so for their portion of the Joint Security campaign fund that was given for security operations and service. "I want to make this clear that those who were protesting were not protesting for salary. They were protesting for their portion of the Joint Security campaign fund. Now you are shocked how they are included in the fund because during the campaign and elections period, they were given extra time and that is the money they need" she stated.



ECOWAS calls for increase coverage & strengthened

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from poverty, hunger, and deprivation.

The Vice President of the Republic of The Gambia, H.E. Muhammad B.S. Jallow, in his opening remarks, expressed his profound gratitude on behalf of the Government to the ECOWAS Commission for the trust and confidence bestowed on Banjul as the host of this auspicious meeting. He emphasized the importance of a harmonized and coherent framework in line with ECOWAS mandates. H.E recalled the commitment of ECOWAS member states to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, particularly regarding the right to social security. He further highlighted the efforts made by The Gambia in advancing international commitments and implementing

social protection policies. The government of The Gambia has formulated a National Social Protection Policy (2015-2025) with the goal of establishing, by 2035, an inclusive, integrated, and comprehensive social protection system. This system aims to provide preventive and transformative measures to safeguard the lives of all poor and vulnerable groups. The overarching objective is to contribute to broader human development, greater economic productivity, and inclusive growth.

H.E Jallow, reiterated the importance of social protection as a key strategic priority in the newly formulated Green Recovery-Focused National Development Plan (2023-2027) which indicates the government's commitment to aligning social protection measures with sustainable and environmentally friendly development goals.

Emulate Pres. Weah's example

-Speaker Chambers tells CDCians

By Bridgett Milton
Speaker Bhofal Chambers is calling on CDCians and Liberians generally to emulate the exemplary leadership of President George

defeat in the 14 November Presidential Runoff Election under a peaceful atmosphere. He notes that President Weah's peacekeeping role has not only branded him globally

Coalition for Democratic Change Headquarters in Congo Town, Chambers said he is of a conviction that CDCians and other Liberians will emulate President Weah and refrain from acts that undermine peace.

He encourages partisans that they are not left alone by their defeat, as CDC executives are with them all the way.

President Weah revealed recently that he will return to active politics in 2029.

Speaker Chambers notes that it is imperative to call the attention of all citizens, especially the youth to guard jealously the peace, and national cohesion the country enjoys, reminding that young people are the hope of Liberia's future.

The embattled Maryland County district #2 Representative warns Liberian youth not to allow self-seeking politicians to misdirect their energies into destructive activities that will not promote a better tomorrow for them.

He says Liberia is looking up to enterprising youth to be creative and use innovative ideas for national advancement. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Speaker Bhofal Chambers

Weah in maintaining peace as a man of peace but raised following the 2023 Presidential the bar for other leaders to election. emulate.

Speaker Chambers commends Speaking Thursday, President Weah for conceding November 23, 2023, at the

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