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

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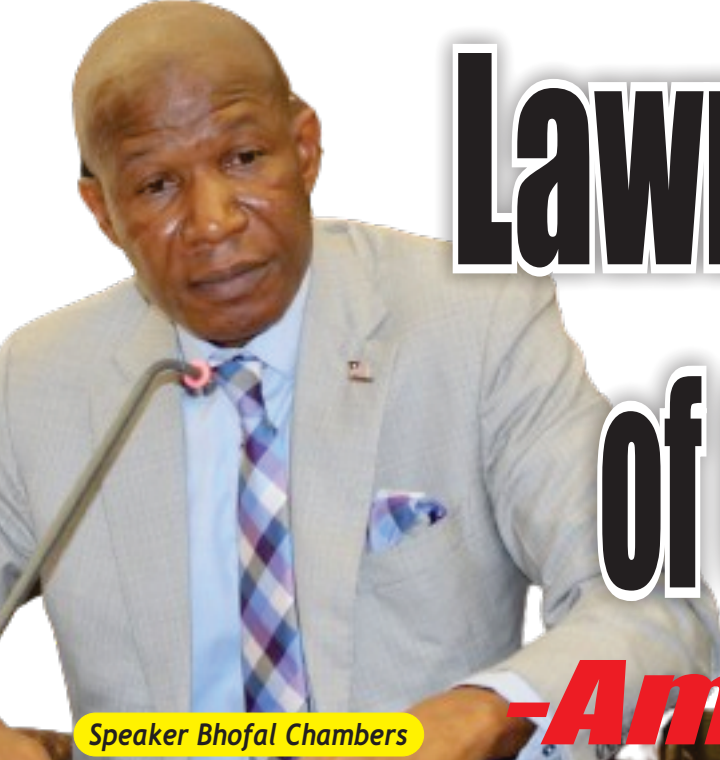
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I couldn't be the sacrificial lamb



Lawmakers await outcome of Chambers' electoral dispute

-Amidst speakership battle



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Continental News

Death Toll From Flooding in Somalia Climbs to Nearly 100

The number of people killed by floods from heavy rains in Somalia post on X, formerly Twitter, adding the figure had been confirmed by Mahamuud Moallim, the head of the country's disaster



In this image from video, residents move through floodwaters in the town of Beledweyne, Somalia

has risen to nearly 100, state news agency SONNA said Saturday. "Somalia's flood death toll climbs to 96," SONNA said in a

management agency. Like the rest of east and Horn of Africa, Somalia has been battered by relentless heavy rains that

began in October, caused by the El Nino and Indian Ocean Dipole weather phenomena. Both are climate patterns that impact ocean surface temperatures and cause above-average rainfall.

The flooding has been described as the worst in decades and has displaced about 700,000 people, according to the United Nations.

The intense rains have unleashed widespread flooding across the country, triggering displacement and exacerbating an existing humanitarian crisis caused by years of insurgency.

In neighboring Kenya, the floods have killed 76 people so far, according to the Kenyan Red Cross, and also unleashed widespread displacement, destruction of roads and bridges and left many residents without shelter, drinking and food supplies, according to the charity Doctors Without Borders. VOA

Curfew in Sierra Leone After Gunmen Attacked Main Military Barracks and Detention Centers

Sierra Leone's president declared a nationwide curfew Sunday after gunmen attacked the military's main and largest barracks in the West African nation's capital and then overran detention centers, including a major prison.

The attack raised fears of a breakdown of order amid a surge of coups in the region.

The detention centers, including the Pademba Road Prisons — holding more than 2,000 inmates — were attacked just as security forces fought to restore calm during sustained shootouts at the Wilberforce military barracks, according to Information Minister Chernor Bah. "The prisons were overrun [and] some prisoners were abducted by the assailants while many others were released," Bah said. Security forces managed to "push back" the assailants to the outskirts of the city where fighting continues, he added.

Sierra Leone's President Julius Maada Bio earlier declared a nationwide curfew in response to the attacks.

An Associated Press journalist in the capital said that gunshots were still heard in the city hours after the government assured residents of calm, although it wasn't clear who was behind the exchange of fire, nor if any arrests were made. "The security forces are making progress in the operation to defeat and apprehend those

responsible for today's attacks," Bah said. "The government remains in control and on top of the situation." The president and the country's Ministry of Information and Education also both said that the government and security forces are in control of the situation, trying to dismiss fears of a possible escalation of violence in the country whose population of 8 million people is among the poorest in the world, having some of the lowest scores on the U.N. Human Development Index.

No details were immediately given about the gunmen or the reason for the attack, which comes months after Bio was reelected for a second term in a disputed vote in which the main opposition party accused the electoral commission of rigging the results. Videos posted online showed soldiers patrolling Freetown's empty streets and captured the loud blasts of gunshots at dawn. The AP couldn't immediately verify the authenticity of the videos. West Africa's regional economic bloc ECOWAS — of which Sierra Leone is

a member — described the incident as a plot "to acquire arms and disturb the peace and constitutional order" in the country. The bloc has in recent months tried to reverse the surge in coups in West and Central Africa, which has recorded eight military takeovers since 2020, the latest in Niger and Gabon this year. "ECOWAS reiterates its zero tolerance for unconstitutional change of government," the bloc said in a statement. Bio was reelected in Sierra Leone's fifth presidential election since the end of a brutal 11-year civil war — more than two decades ago — which left tens of thousands of people dead and destroyed the country's economy. He continues to face criticism because of debilitating economic conditions. Nearly 60% of Sierra Leone's population is facing poverty, with the youth unemployment rate being one of the highest in West Africa. VOA



A soldier with the Sierra Leonean military police greets a man along an empty road in Freetown

Dozens kidnapped by motorcycle 'bandits' in north Nigeria

At least 100 people have been abducted by gunmen in Nigeria's northwest, residents have said.

Locals told the BBC that armed men on motorcycles stormed villages in Zamfara state.

The residents were kidnapped after the villages failed to pay a "tax" imposed on them by the gunmen, witnesses said.

In recent years, kidnapping for ransom has become rife in north-western Nigeria.

Armed gangs, referred to locally as bandits, target

were women and young people," the resident said.

Locals told the BBC the gunmen's leader is named "Damana".

They said Damana controls most of the region in the absence of state security forces.

"The terrorists are in control of the area - they send us to the forest to work as agricultural labourers, and when we come back they come into the town to eat meat, tea and bottled goods without paying," one villager complained.

Nigeria faces multiple security challenges: the jihadist insurgency in the north, deadly



Motorcyclists rounded the villagers up, eyewitnesses said (File image)

villages, schools, and travellers, demanding millions of naira in ransom.

According to the Reuters

clashes between animal herders and farmers, a separatist insurgency in the southeast as well as militants in the Niger Delta



news agency, a local village head said one resident was killed in Friday's attack.

The BBC heard from a resident from the village of Mutunji, who said he was abducted by the gunmen but managed to escape.

"We are trying to collect the money... but suddenly the bandits came in and robbed people. They took more than 100 people - most of them

demanding a greater share of oil profits.

President Bola Tinubu, who took office in May, has yet to detail how he will tackle the insecurity. During his election campaign, Mr Tinubu's office acknowledged the challenge, touting his experience as governor of north-eastern Borno state, home to many Islamist militant groups and the Boko Haram insurgency.

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EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Hippolyte Fofack

Working in concert for the common good

The Technologies African Farmers Need

In a working session Friday, 24 November President George Manneh Weah challenged officials of the Joint Presidential Transition Team (JPTT) to demonstrate honesty and love for country in their deliberations to ensure smooth transfer of power from his administration to incoming President Joseph Nyumah Boakai and his team.

CAMBRIDGE - Ethiopia has long suffered from recurrent large-scale famines, most notably in the early 1980s, when at least one million people died, and millions more were displaced. This year, however, Ethiopia has become a net exporter of wheat for the first time, an extraordinary feat given its vulnerability to climate change and food-security crises.

extreme hunger, with many communities on the continent facing the worst food crisis in 40 years.

“Today, we are on the verge of passing this symbolic staff to another democratically elected leader, marking yet another important chapter in our democratic journey; let us ensure an effective, efficient, and seamless transfer of power to President-Elect Boakia and his team”, President Weah urged.

While many factors contributed to this accomplishment, it mainly reflects the central role that new technologies have played in transforming Ethiopia’s agricultural sector. By boosting crop yields and building resilience to extreme weather, these innovations have proven particularly helpful in regions facing worsening droughts and other climate risks.

But the consequences of geopolitical upheaval and intensifying climate risks extend beyond food security to create a vicious cycle of droughts, floods, macroeconomic instability, and balance-of-payments crises across the continent. Around 85% of the food in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is imported, largely owing to the region’s weather-sensitive agriculture. The continent now spends around \$75 billion annually on cereal imports, depleting foreign-exchange reserves and increasing exchange-rate pressures. (Most African currencies depreciated sharply in 2022, with the Ethiopian birr growing especially weak.) This import dependence negatively affects the balance of payments, with increasingly frequent global supply shocks exacerbating the region’s vulnerability.

The call truly demonstrates Mr. Weah’s unwavering commitment to delivering a smooth transition, which has won him huge admirations across the globe and placed Liberia on the spotlight for all good reasons.

The Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) program, established by the International Fertilizer Development Center, has been instrumental in deploying proven and high-performance agricultural technologies at scale, with the aim of helping farmers increase the production of millet, maize, rice, wheat, and other staples. As a result of the yield-increasing performance of these technologies, the area allocated to heat-tolerant wheat varieties in Ethiopia has grown from 5,000 hectares in 2018 to more than 2.2 million hectares in 2023, putting the country on the path to food self-sufficiency.

Africa’s food-import bill is set to rise dramatically in the coming years, partly because of geopolitically induced shocks and projected population growth. But global warming will also fuel this surge. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, five of the ten countries most affected by climate change in 2019 were in SSA, where one-third of the world’s droughts occur but less than 1% of arable land is equipped with irrigation. The World Bank estimates that, if global temperatures rise to 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels by 2050, crop production in SSA will decrease by 10%.

The football icon-turned-politician is going down in history, as the first African president in recent history to concede defeat and congratulate his main rival even before the announcement of final poll results by the National Election Commission.

Members and supporters of his outgoing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) are yet to digest and accept the quality of democratic pedestal their standard bearer has established for Liberia, and there can be no reversal.

The “polycrisis” world of increasingly volatile global supply chains has accelerated the drive toward greater self-reliance. The war in Ukraine triggered a surge in food prices in Africa, with the wheat sub-index, for example, reaching a multiyear high in May 2022. Ethiopia was hit particularly hard, because it had been importing almost half of its wheat from Russia and Ukraine. Now the continent is reeling from the export ban that India, the world’s largest rice exporter, recently imposed on several varieties.

Such a gloomy prediction may well come true. This year is on track to be the hottest on record, around 1.4°C above pre-industrial average temperatures. Moreover, if greenhouse-gas emissions continue to rise at current rates, climate models predict an additional 4°C of warming during this century. The need for greater investment in climate mitigation and adaptation has never been clearer.

The leader has spoken and must sink down the spines of CDCians that power does not belong to a particular political party or government, but the people. Hence, whenever the people decide in an election who should govern their affairs to enable them enjoy peace, prosperity, and happiness, nothing else but to obey.

Amid this challenging environment, the Ethiopian government’s remarkable ability to use technology to boost domestic production and to reduce the risks associated with over-reliance on food imports may well represent a breakthrough. Such progress, especially in a country that was an agricultural basket case for several humiliating decades, offers hope for Africa, which has been on the frontline of the climate crisis, with food insecurity often fueling political unrest.

Faced with over-reliance on food imports and daunting climate forecasts, Africa must move away from the traditional rainfed model of agricultural production. Following Ethiopia’s lead, the continent should embrace technology to boost agricultural productivity and improve food security. This will require aggressive investment in precision-agriculture technologies, such as variable-rate irrigation, that maximize productivity in a resource-constrained environment.

It is in this light that President Weah is urging members of JPTT to prioritize and focus on the national interest above selfish interests by placing the general good of the Liberian people first and foremost in their deliberations on the road to handing over power in January 2024. In other words, these are moments of stock-taking and proper reporting other than what some may think is a last-minute opportunity to scrip what is left of the national coffers to line their pockets and leave.

Consider, for example, that cereal yields in Africa have stagnated to 1,589 kilograms per hectare, far below the global average of 4,153 kilograms. There are many reasons for this, but chief among them is the chronic technological deficit. The lack of agro-processing and high value-added industries is another longstanding hurdle to increasing agricultural output and productivity growth on the continent, and has also exacerbated post-harvest losses estimated at about 30-50% of total food production in Africa.

In addition to water-saving innovations, policymakers should invest in high-yield seed varieties that perform well under dry conditions and in agricultural equipment to mechanize the sector. Improved infrastructure, including solar-powered irrigation systems and digital technologies that allow farmers to access early-warning systems and improve efficiency, will also be essential.

But Mr. Weah informed JPTT members that his administration’s democratic achievements have set a new and enviable standard, not just for Liberia, but for Africa and the global community, saying that “By graciously conceding and congratulating President-Elect Boakai ahead of the final tally, we have also earned global recognition and admiration.”

Compounding the problem is the limited use of fertilizer on the continent and excessive dependence on rainfed agriculture. At around 7.6 million metric tons in 2021, fertilizer use is far lower than in East Asia (61.9 million metric tons) and South Asia (38.7 million metric tons), while the dearth of irrigation systems and other water-management tools is especially worrisome in light of the accelerating pace of global warming.

Deploying a wide range of technologies to transform Africa’s agriculture sector will address food-security concerns as well as environmental and sustainability issues. Such a move is long overdue: even though Africa is home to more than 60% of the world’s uncultivated arable land, it has yet to benefit from the green revolution that has boosted yields elsewhere. The harsh realities of climate change and geopolitical upheaval may finally create sufficiently strong incentives to unlock the continent’s potential and ensure greater self-sufficiency and resilience in food production.

This is so true and it is the main reason why nothing should be done or no one should be allowed to make the road thru the transition rocky. A smooth landing of the incoming administration will pay off in dividends that we must strive to achieve, for as President Weah notes, this monumental achievement is a victory not just for one political entity but all Liberians and the entire country.

These shortcomings have precipitated a rise in

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OP-ED

By Ilias Alami, Jack Copley, Alexis Moraitis

Hard Truths About Green Industrial Policy

CAMBRIDGE/DURHAM/LANCASTER - From the European Union's Green Deal Industrial Plan and the United States' Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to Japan's Green Growth Strategy and the Korean New Deal, industrial policies aimed at accelerating the energy transition are proliferating in wealthy, technologically advanced economies.

Many developing economies are also designing and deploying state-led projects to foster green industrialization, as competition intensifies for electric vehicles (EVs), so-called transition minerals, and clean energy.

For example, several African countries, including South Africa, Kenya, Mauritania, Egypt, Djibouti, Tunisia, Morocco, and Namibia, have enacted state-led initiatives to support the development of green hydrogen. Others, including Indonesia, Bolivia, and Chile, are implementing national strategies to stimulate industrialization based on the extraction and processing of nickel, cobalt, copper, lithium, and other transition minerals and metals.

These policies use a broad range of instruments - including subsidies, regulations, incentives, and diverse state-business arrangements - and differ widely in terms of the public and private resources at their disposal. But they all seek to tackle three crises simultaneously: economic stagnation, polarized and precarious employment, and intensifying climate change.

The revival of industrial policy is based on the logic that addressing all three crises will create a virtuous cycle: targeted investment in green manufacturing and energy will boost economic activity, create well-paying jobs, and usher in a low-carbon economy.

The Biden administration's "modern American industrial strategy," comprising the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the IRA, exemplifies this approach. What has been called the "Biden three-fer" is designed to boost US competitiveness in key industries vis-à-vis China, provide better economic opportunities for American workers, and accelerate decarbonization.

But the win-win narrative undergirding these new industrial strategies tends to obfuscate the risk that solving one problem may exacerbate another. In fact, the tensions between these policy objectives are already visible. For example, the decarbonization of the economy may not create as many decent jobs as initially expected.

In the US, both car companies and the United Auto Workers union have warned that the shift to manufacturing EVs, which require fewer parts, could lead to job losses. Some of these jobs will be redistributed to battery production, but this may be cold comfort for American and European auto workers, given China's dominance over the global battery supply chain.

At the same time, the growth of green industries can result in other environmental harms. Despite aiming to generate employment and value through the production of transition minerals, the industrialization strategies of several Global South countries tend to entrench extractive practices.

For example, Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile - South America's "lithium triangle" - are seeking to capture various stages of the lithium supply chain, from mineral extraction to processing to battery assembly.

But the growth of this industry threatens to deplete water supplies, degrade soil, and disrupt habitats, often in zones inhabited by indigenous Andean peoples. Similarly, the production of semiconductors, which are at the heart of clean tech, is energy-, water-, and land-intensive and releases perfluorocarbons and other potent greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Finally, economic stagnation can have a destabilizing impact on domestic politics, impelling governments to aim for a higher growth rate regardless of the environmental costs.

For example, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak recently announced a series of U-turns on the government's net-zero pledges. Shedding burdensome climate commitments may seem like a politically attractive strategy to boost immediate growth prospects. But - and herein lies the contradiction - longer-term growth will at least partly depend on governments ensuring that their economies are competitive in the green industries of the future.

As these examples show, industrial policy is not a silver bullet for the intersecting crises of our times. The policy objectives of environmental sustainability, industrial dynamism, and full employment are difficult to reconcile and require hard political choices about resource allocation, strategic priorities, and, crucially, the distribution of economic and social costs.

Moreover, the trade-offs will grow more complex and challenging as global warming worsens and growth continues to sputter. What we call the "wicked trinity" of contemporary governance - climate catastrophe, economic stagnation, and surplus humanity - will not go away anytime soon. In fact, it will likely shape the trajectories of public policymaking long into the future.

This is not to say that policymakers should give up on designing ambitious strategies to address these crises. On the contrary, swift and effective action is an absolute necessity.

Yet packaging these plans in win-win narratives that paper over the difficult trade-offs they involve significantly raises the risk that governments will lose popular support. The complex and conflicting nature of these policy objectives means that even the best-designed strategies will fall short, at least in some respects. This is unavoidable and an important component of learning-by-doing.

To avoid being seen as breaking promises, policymakers must embrace, rather than dismiss, the tensions and trade-offs at the heart of green industrial policies and subject them to public deliberation. This is essential to securing broad support for state-led decarbonization projects. Such an approach would help build robust, transparent governance structures rooted in the principles of democratic deliberation and public oversight and control.

As matters stand now, many industrial strategies are the product of top-down, technocratic policymaking processes, despite all the talk of "leaving no community behind" and a "just green transition."

Subjecting the economy to democratic decision-making in this way would, admittedly, constitute a radical challenge to the current system of private ownership and market coordination. But it is essential to secure and maintain popular legitimacy for green industrial policies, as well as to facilitate collective and efficient decision-making and minimize mismanagement. Otherwise, we risk a public backlash that impedes the collective action needed to safeguard our future on this planet.

OPINION

By Ricardo Hausmann

Is Industrial Policy Like Vitamin C or Penicillin?

CAMBRIDGE - Vitamin C may not be particularly effective at preventing the common cold or treating cancer (notwithstanding Linus Pauling's claims to the contrary), but a lack of it can cause scurvy. As a result, daily consumption is essential to a healthy diet.

In contrast, penicillin cures bacterial infections, although its overuse can lead to drug-resistant germs. It should thus be taken only when absolutely necessary.

So, is industrial policy more like vitamin C or penicillin? Can a deficiency lead to problems, meaning that regular, modest amounts are crucial to a well-functioning economy? Or should it be used sparingly to combat a particular type of infection?

In this context, infections represent market failures, which many economists tend to see more as the exception than the rule. They would argue that leaving the body to cure itself is better than intervening. As the old joke goes, an untreated cold lasts a week, whereas a treated cold lasts seven days.

The late Nobel laureate Gary Becker famously quipped that "the best industrial policy is none at all."

From another perspective, however, market failures are more widespread and generic. Firms have little incentive to train their workers and invest in research and development (R&D), as other companies could lure away their employees and copy their costly ideas.

Meanwhile, it can be difficult to coordinate the inputs - including electricity, water, mobility, logistics, and security - required to make a particular location suitable for manufacturing.

Consequently, it has become standard practice for the government to share training costs, to subsidize R&D through the tax code, and to plan industrial zones. Like vitamin C, these policy interventions are beneficial for many industries and should be recurrent.

The reality, however, is more complex: market failures are endemic but also extremely heterogeneous; as such, they can rarely be treated with generic tools. To understand why, we must remember that well-functioning markets achieve three things.

First, through the price system, they reveal highly decentralized information that is distributed across the economy. Second, through the profit motive, they provide incentives to create value by producing goods and services where the gaps between the price of output and that of the requisite inputs is large.

Finally, through financial markets, resources are allocated to those firms whose responses to the information contained in prices suggest future profitability.

Market failures, including the provision of public goods, create challenges to information, incentives, and resource mobilization that industrial policy must ultimately overcome. For example, without sanitary controls, safety certifications, and cold-chain logistics, international trade in fresh produce would not exist, just as the lack of infrastructure explains why high-speed rail does not exist in the United States.

Similarly, nascent industries often face daunting chicken-and-egg problems. For example, people are unwilling to buy electric vehicles (EVs) as long as the charging infrastructure is inadequate. But investors are reluctant to sink money into charging stations without assurances that EV sales will increase.

Providing financial guarantees to investors would expand the charging network and boost EV sales, making the guarantees unlikely to be used and thus cheap to issue.

Such interventions, however, must be designed for each context, just as different antibiotics are used to treat specific infections. This raises the question of who diagnoses the problem and prescribes the course of action, and whether their sources of information are adequate.

Given this, a better metaphor for industrial policy may be the body's immune system, which protects against various invaders by using a highly decentralized detection network to identify threats and determine when it needs to act. Leveraging its "memory" of previous infections, the immune system develops antibodies to address the issue at hand. Each exposure to disease thus strengthens the system's capacity.

Such an analogy is apt because industrial policy involves close cooperation between a wide network of public entities - including area ministries, economic development boards, investment-promotion agencies, and special economic zones - and private-sector actors.

Moreover, like the immune system, industrial policy can fail in one of two ways: its response can be too weak, or it can misfire, as with autoimmune disorders, attacking the body it is meant to protect. Policy capture, corruption, and bureaucratic inefficiencies can lead governments to exacerbate, instead of resolve, market failures.

The fact that industrial policy can backfire does not imply that countries should eschew it. Learning how to deploy these interventions is as important for a well-functioning economy as developing sound education and health policy, and a failure to do so would likewise carry an unacceptable social cost.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Liberia: Why Joseph Boakai Won; Analysis Of Results Of The Runoff Election

By: *Dagbayonoh Kiah Nyanfore II*

The Liberian National Elections Commission (NEC) has declared Ambassador Joseph Boakai the November 14, 2023, runoff election winner. He defeated the sitting president, George Weah. This is Liberia's fourth presidential election since the country's civil war ended.

In the first round of the election on October 10, Weah led slimly over seven thousand votes. He won overwhelmingly the Southeast region and led in Grand Bassa, Rivercess, and Bong Counties. Meanwhile, Boakai dominated votes in Nimba and Lofa and narrowly won Bomi, Garpolu, Margibi, Grand Cape Mount, and Montserrado Counties.

In the runoff, though Weah increased his votes in the Southeast, Rivercess, Grand Bassa, and Bong and improved votes in Lofa and Nimba Counties, he failed to increase votes in Montserrado, a county in which he once served as a senior senator. That inability primarily caused his defeat. Nationally, Boakai won 814481 votes, constituting 50.6% over Weah's 799,391, amounting to 49.3%. Overall, Weah lost by 20,000 votes, a minimal margin. Before NEC declared Boakai winner, Weah gracefully and honorably conceded defeat. The local and international communities praised him for the move, an exceptional exercise uncommon in African presidential history. Indeed, with the closeness of the votes and as president, Weah could have used his influence to turn the number in his favor. But he did not for fairness and peace's sake. Observers rated the election as being fair, peaceful, and transparent. Boakai deserves tremendous credit. With negative criticisms and propaganda against him, he was undisturbed and came victorious.

WHY BOAKAI WON

Many factors contributed to Boakai's victory, chief of which are the following four:

- Prince Johnson's support
- Weah's failure in Montserrado
- The failure of Weah's trusted officials
- Civil service workers's resentment

Senator Johnson influenced Boakai's selection of Senator Jeremiah Koug as Boakai's running mate. This move enabled Boakia to win Nimba, the second-largest county in Liberia. Indeed, Johnson has been Nimba's senior senator for 18 years. Nimbians considered him their Godfather. Koug is also a senator from Nimba.

Johnson was instrumental in former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's 2011 re-election and Weah's 2017 election. Moreover, Nimba had the second-largest number of registered voters for the 2023 election. As an earlier article indicates, a candidate with substantial votes in Montserrado, Nimba, and Bong Counties stands an excellent chance of victory. The numerical strength of these counties from NEC's voter registered data resulted in this statement. Boakai won 74% of the Nimba votes, though Weah improved his votes in the county in the runoff compared to the first round.

Weah let his guard down in Montserrado County. He should have concentrated on Montserrado during the runoff. Know that the county

had 36% of the election registered voters. That was the highest percentage. The overlook in the runoff was likely due to complacency. My last article discusses this point thus:

"There is less enthusiasm in the runoff compared to the first round. The parties have reduced campaign activities. This could be a factor of complacency or finance. In 2005, after George Weah won the first round, he campaigned less, relaxing and thinking that he had already won the election. Sirleaf came from behind to win the runoff."

Weah's campaign should have known that Boakai led in Montserrado in the first round. Weah needed to focus and canvass harder in the districts Boakia had won in round one. This failure and the Nimba votes cemented Boakai's win.

Many observers noted that some of Weah's officials were untruthful to him regarding their loyalty to his re-election. Some of his supporters complained that campaign money given to some officials for field

workers was converted to personal use. Further, some officials paid lip service to the campaign.

The opposition misinformed and negatively propagandized the civil service workers concerning the administration harmonization policy. The Sirleaf government paid some government officials up to US\$ 30,000 monthly, while some workers made less than US\$125. This led to an acute income disparity. The Weah harmonization program cut the high income, creating a relatively balanced payment structure that enabled the employment of additional workers. However, a side effect was the temporary delay of some salary payments. The opposition branded the policy to be unfair to civil servants. This resulted in the anger of

many civil service workers toward the government and reduced their votes for Weah.

Another factor, though silent, was the administration's blatant violation of the Constitution by enacting the dual citizenship bill. In the 2020 Midterm election, the Liberian people massively rejected dual citizenship as one of the many government-sponsored referendums. Despite the refusal, the administration influenced the legislature to pass a bill amending the Alien and Naturalization Laws granting dual citizenship to Liberians who willingly chose foreign naturalized citizenship. Weah, an advocate of dual citizenship, signed the bill into law.

Opponents argued that supporters wanted the bill for self-interest, for some advocates have children or family members who are naturalized citizens abroad. The violation caused voters anger. Consequently, most of the lawmakers who backed the bill lost re-election. Indeed, the bill sponsor, Representative Acarous Gray, and Senators Vanneh Sherman and Cummini Wesseh lost.

Another element is that some analysts see Weah as a victim of what can be called an "Elitist Perception," a view of entitlement. It maintains that a particular class of Liberians should rule the country. The prescribed rulers should be the products of leading learning institutions. One of



President-Elect of Liberia

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Gongloe leads LPP on visit to JFK, Benson hospitals

--Consoles families of deceased partisans

By Lincoln G. Peters

Ex-presidential candidate Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe has led a delegation from his Liberian People's Party (LPP) to visit victims and families of deceased partisans affected by election violence in Nimba.

victims and members of the LPP who were involved in election violence in Nimba County between the opposition Unity Party (UP) and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

The incident is said to have taken place on the Ganta to

somersaulted in a deep curve on the Ganta to Saniquellie highway in Nimba County.

Of the thirty persons that were on the bus, three persons were reported dead with over 21 others injured.

During the visitation, LPP expressed sadness over the death of three of its supporters during the just-ended presidential run-off election.

Cllr. Gongloe, flanked by his running mate, Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo, LPP chairman J. Yanqui Zaza with a host of other party officials, visited hospitals, and clinics where some of the affected partisans were taking treatment.

Minutes after they visit the hospitals and clinics, Cllr. Gongloe held a brief conversation with journalists at the Benson Hospital in Paynesville.

He expressed dismay over the accident and also expressed his deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their lives.

"First I want to inform the public that during our support for the Unity Party, we lost four of our partisans and supporters, and over twenty persons were injured," said Cllr. Gongloe.

"Many of them got injured from moto accident, two of



Over the weekend, Cllr. Gongloe and his LPP team visited the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Sinkor, and Benson Hospital in Paynesville to console victims and their families.

The LPP visitation was intended to interact, encourage, and console

Saniquellie highway on 13 November 2023, a day before the presidential run-off election between CDC's George Manneh Weah and UP's Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

The report says over thirty partisans and supporters of the LPP left Monrovia on a public transport bus which

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Court upholds \$3m verdict against LBDI ex-president

The Civil Law Court in Monrovia has upheld a jury verdict that finds former Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) president Deo Delaney liable for US\$3,000,000 for general damages and for punitive damages. Mr. Francis Dennis filed a complaint before the court accusing Delaney of allegedly tarnishing his reputation that he is a delinquent borrower.

Mr. Dennis lamented that Delaney dehumanized, embarrassed, and caused mockery to him and exposed him to undue inconveniences and emotional and mental anguish through a radio appearance on LBS and other stations.

Dennis complained that Delaney, while in an official capacity as LBDI president, allegedly breached his fiduciary duty of the bank customer relationship in a loan agreement published in the press.

In December 2022, Mr. Delaney quit his job as LBDI president after the LBDI Board of Directors discovered that the accused had lied about his

academic credentials.

While applying for the LBDI president position, Delaney was said to have inflated his curriculum vitae.

During the final ruling of the civil case, defendant Delaney was absent, but the court appointed Cllr. Jerome B. Kolleh to take the ruling and exercising the rights of the defendant under the law.

In his complaint, Mr. Dennis narrated to the court that he had a loan facility with LBDI which had not matured and was under no condition for him to be exposed as a delinquent borrower.

He lamented that the allegation carried out by Mr. Delaney was untrue and it was only intended to undermine and destroy his hard-earned reputation.

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Ministers adopt the ECOWAS social protection framework and its operation

-urge for increased social protection investments in west Africa

ECOWAS Ministers responsible for Social Protection convened in Banjul and online on the 24th of November 2023 to validate and adopt the ECOWAS Framework on Social Protection and its Operational Plan.

The meeting was Chaired by Dr. Betta C. Edu, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The meeting is a significant milestone in the regional quest to achieve comprehensive and inclusive social protection.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Edu stated that the theme of the Ministers' meeting is of crucial importance as "Social Protection is a fundamental human right and should not be regarded as a privilege. It is a social and economic necessity that has proved to be a stabilizer in times of crises and shocks". In this regard, the ECOWAS Framework on Social Protection and its Operational Plan would guide the

build a peaceful and prosperous region with strong institutions, fundamental freedoms, and inclusive and sustainable development.

The UNICEF Representative in The Gambia, Ms. Mariavittoria Ballotta, stated that the ECOWAS Social Protection Framework and its Operational Plan is landmark achievement for the ECOWAS Commission and the Member States. While emphasizing the transformative potential of Social Protection to change the narratives of poor and rural households. The UNICEF would accompany the ECOWAS Commission and the Members in the implementation of the Framework, and she called on all development partners to use the ECOWAS Social Plan Framework as the basis to foster collaboration and coordination of social security schemes across the region.

The FAO Coordinator for West Africa - Dr. Robert Guei in his statement reaffirmed the commitment of the FAO to support



Member States in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of inclusive national social protection floors.

Dr. Edu while acknowledging the region's vulnerability to various shocks and related cross-border challenges, stressed that the ECOWAS Social Protection Framework and its Operational Plan would foster regional collaboration to enhance existing social protection systems. Furthermore, the Framework would enhance a more coherent and effective approach to poverty reduction (SDG 1) and the eradication of food and nutrition insecurity (SDG 2).

The ECOWAS Commissioner for Human Development and Social Affairs, Prof. Fatou Sow Sarr reiterated the significance of the meeting and urged for increased regional investment in social protection, re-echoing its dual role as a fundamental human right and an economic necessity capable of elevating the standard of living for ECOWAS citizens. Prof. Sow Sarr linked the effort to develop the ECOWAS Social Protection Framework to the ECOWAS Vision 2050 which is to

the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Social Protection Framework and its Operational Plan. He emphasized the importance of building solid and sustainable social protection systems linked to the broader development plans for the benefit of West African communities. Dr. Guei then underscored the role of Social Protection in transforming agri-food systems to become efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.

The Vice President of The Gambia, Muhammed B.S. Jallow, expressed gratitude to all participating Ministers for the trust and confidence vested on The Gambia as the host of the Ministers meeting. The Vice President, H.E Jallow also emphasized the importance of the ECOWAS Social Protection Framework and its Operational Plan as a harmonized and coherent framework aligned with the ECOWAS mandates. H.E. Jallow highlighted The Gambia's commitment to the international declarations on human rights and social security and gave examples of the concrete initiatives undertaken by the Government in this respect.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

AYOWEI Boss Underscores the Need for Substantial Investment in Women Empowerment for a Prosperous Africa

By: D. Adam Togba - Contributor
(adamtogba@gmail.com)

Madam Leelai M. Kpukuyou-Browne, the Executive

Director of the African Youth and Women Empowerment Initiative (AYOWEI), has stressed the need for substantial investment in women's empowerment across Africa. She made the emphasis recently in an address at the first international conference on gender equality held in Ghana. The former Secretary-General of the Liberia Business Association (LiBA) took the stage in Ghana to deliver a technical presentation that delved into the realms of women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship in Ghana, Liberia, and West Africa at

large. Her insightful discourse resonated with international guests, prominent gender advocates, Ghanaian dignitaries, and heads of various international entrepreneurs in Africa. By investing substantially in women's empowerment, we not only uplift individuals but contribute to the socio-economic development of entire nations."

Madam Kpukuyou-Browne's comprehensive background as a gender advocate, entrepreneur, global business consultant, and development specialist in both the private and public sectors has positioned her as a force for positive change. For years, she has dedicated her efforts to advancing society, with a particular focus on youth and women in Liberia.

As Liberia undergoes transitions, Madam Kpukuyou-Browne emerges as a key figure capable of making a significant impact on the international stage. With her multifaceted expertise in sectoral development, diplomacy, and activism, she stands poised to contribute to the restoration of Liberia's image and serve as a commendable representative of the new Liberian government.

In the quest for a more equitable and prosperous Africa, Madam Leelai M. Kpukuyou-Browne continues to be a beacon of inspiration, advocating the empowerment of women as a cornerstone for societal progress.



Madam Browne

Director of the African Youth and Women Empowerment Initiative (AYOWEI), has stressed the need for substantial investment in women's empowerment across Africa. She made the emphasis recently in an address at the first international conference on gender equality held in Ghana. The former Secretary-General of the Liberia Business Association (LiBA) took the stage in Ghana to deliver a technical presentation that delved into the realms of women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship in Ghana, Liberia, and West Africa at

organizations gathered on the eve of the 2023 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

During her presentation, Madam Kpukuyou-Browne highlighted the prevailing gaps faced by African women and entrepreneurs. She passionately advocated strategic measures to bridge these gaps, emphasizing the pivotal role of substantive investment in women's empowerment initiatives.

In her own words, she declared, "It is imperative that we recognize and address the challenges hindering the progress of women and

Poultry Farmer in Bong Grateful for RETRAP Interventions, but Wants More Support

By: D. Adam Togba, Contributor
(adamtogba@gmail.com)

Gbarnga City, Bong County, Central Liberia – In the bustling heart of Gbarnga City, Tryphaina's Poultry and Farm has become a beacon of agricultural progress, boasting over 1,800 chickens and a flourishing vegetable production venture. Under the leadership of Miss Tryphaina Nyahn, this farm has evolved into one of Liberia's largest poultry enterprises.

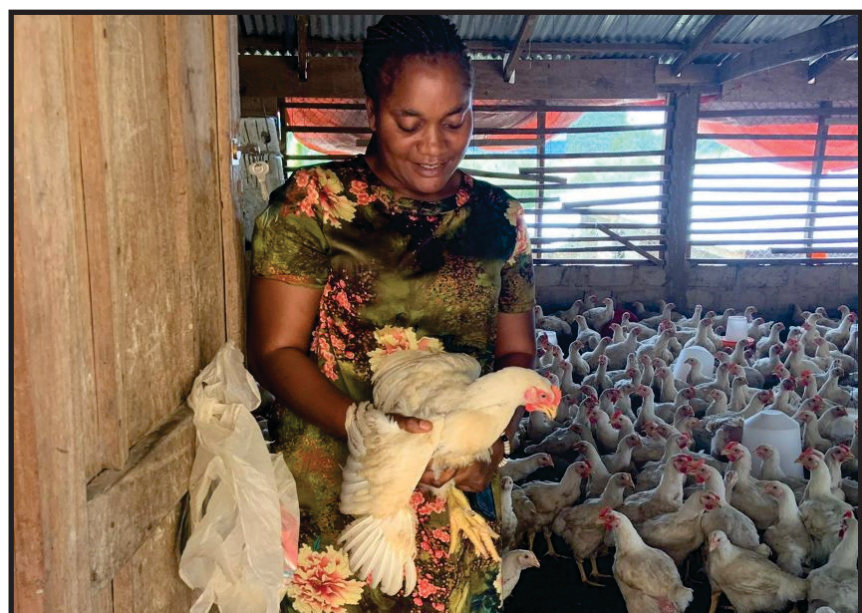
The pivotal moment in their journey occurred when Tryphaina and fellow poultry farmers in Bong County received a transformative boost from the Government of Liberia's Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP). Executed by the Ministry of Agriculture and funded by the World Bank, RETRAP provided 2,000 chicks and essential chicken feed to farmers—a move hailed by

Tryphaina as a game-changer. Expressing her gratitude, Tryphaina, the CEO of her farm and head of poultry farmers in Bong County, acknowledged RETRAP's contribution, stating, "I am grateful to RETRAP for the intervention, which has contributed to the progress poultry farmers are making in Bong County, especially enhancing the multiplication of chicks."

Despite her achievements, armed with a bachelor's degree in agriculture and specialized certifications in poultry and vegetable farming, Tryphaina believes there's room for more growth. "RETRAP should do more with training or building the capacity of poultry farmers in Liberia to further enhance productivity and growth," she emphasized.

A standout facet of Tryphaina's work is her unique

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ALCOD congratulates President-elect Boakai

-Commends Pres. Weah for Graciously Conceding

The All-Liberian Conference on Dual Citizenship (ALCOD) has congratulated President-elect Ambassador Joseph Nyuma Boakai for his triumph in the November 14, 2023, Presidential Runoff Election.

According to the National Elections Commission (NEC), of the 1,634,183 Liberians who voted in the Runoff Election, former Vice President Boakai got 814,481 (50.64%) votes, while President George Manneh Weah obtained 793,914 (49.36%) votes.

In their congratulation, ALCOD's Eminent Chairman, Mr. Emmanuel S. Wettee, said the President-elect has been a longtime advocate for dual citizenship and Liberians on Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or Deferred Enforced Departure (DED). Between 2006 and 2008, then VP Boakai joined The Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA) to advocate for Liberians on TPS/DED, to be granted Permanent Residence status in the US. According to him, Vice President Boakai continued this immigration advocacy beyond 2008 and whenever he was in the US, he met with city, state and federal officials in Rhode Island, Minnesota, and other states to make the case for Liberians. "Liberians on TPS/DED then are now benefiting from Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness (LRIF) and becoming Permanent Residents. Other Liberians benefiting from LRIF are those continuously present in the United States of America since November 20th, 2014," Eminent Wettee further stated. Because of his leadership role in advocating for his fellow Liberians in the diaspora for dual citizenship, ALCOD made President-elect Boakai their "2017 DIASPORA PERSON OF THE YEAR". Dual citizenship is now the law of the land: "Once A Liberian Always A Liberian" is a reality. He disclosed that ALCOD will work closely with the Boakai-led Administration on a few things including removing restrictions that are still in the dual citizenship law, out of country voting, Diaspora Free Zone Authority, and more.

Meanwhile, the diaspora Liberian group (ALCOD) has heaped commendations on President Weah for graciously conceding to President-elect Boakai when the presidential race was very close to call.

"On November 17th, 2023, President George Weah joined a unique class of incumbent leaders, who have conceded defeat in democratic election. By extension Liberia has joined the United States of America, where incumbent leaders concede

defeat and place a call to the President-elects," ALCOD's Eminent Chairman Wettee stated.

According to him, the President's action has birthed a changing narrative of African electioneering politics.

Liberia has an exceptionally long political history of one-party political system, a 14-year civil war and a fragile democratic political system. However, on November 17th, 2023, President Weah changed the narrative by accepting the will of the people. In Third World countries including Liberia, this is not normal.

"The act on the part of President Weah demonstrates his long-standing attributes as a humanitarian and a Man of Peace," Wettee added. He extended thanks and appreciation to the President for his leadership and services to all Liberians – in the



President-Elect of Liberia

diaspora and home – irrespective of their political backgrounds, education, and social statuses. He narrated that President Weah partnered with ALCOD and helped to push the dual citizenship Act until it was passed into law making "Once A Liberian, Always A Liberian" a reality. "This law is having immediate impact. In the just-ended 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections, about 5,000 diaspora Liberians with dual nationalities/citizenships came to Liberia, got their National ID cards, registered to vote, and voted. Diaspora Liberians with dual citizenships are obtaining their Liberian passport in record numbers and using their regular Liberian passport to travel to Liberia without the need of a visa. A child born to the Liberian mother is a Liberian citizen at birth," Eminent Wettee disclosed.

The advocacy for dual citizenship in Liberia started as far back as 2005 and on July 22, 2022, President Weah signed it into law. President Weah's effort in passing

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Français

Ancien Législateur Appelle à un Audit Approfondi du Législatif Libérien

Dans un récent podcast en direct, l'ancien représentant du district n°8 du comté de Monsterrado,

sein de la 54e législature, en particulier à la Chambre où il a précédemment siégé. Il a soutenu que, pour que le nouveau gouvernement puisse

le développement du pays.

Les commentaires de Gray rejoignent les préoccupations concernant la corruption au sein de la législature actuelle. Il a souligné que l'audit des deux branches est crucial, affirmant que l'omission de l'audit de la législature pourrait être interprétée comme une tentative de protéger le vice-président élu Jeremiah Koung, que Gray a accusé de se livrer à des pratiques corrompues lorsqu'il siégeait au Sénat.

"S'ils décident de ne pas auditer la législature, leur intention est de protéger le sénateur Jeremiah Koung; s'ils acceptent d'auditer à la fois l'exécutif et la législature, les mains du vice-président élu, Jeremiah Koung, ne pourront pas rester propres", a défié Gray.

Gray, sans fournir de preuves, a accusé le sénateur Koung de détournement de fonds, de chèques et de bons pendant son mandat. Il a soutenu qu'un audit global, englobant chaque secteur et branche de l'administration précédente, est essentiel et reflète la volonté du peuple.

De plus, Gray a souligné l'importance de l'unité dans le progrès du Liberia, appelant à un rassembleur du peuple indépendamment des différences politiques. Il s'est inquiété de la division causée par la haine et l'amertume au

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Rep. Acarous Moses Gray

Acarous Moses Gray, a appelé à un audit étendu de la 54e législature, soulignant la nécessité pour le président élu, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, d'étendre ses efforts de lutte contre la corruption au-delà de l'exécutif sortant dirigé par la Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC).

Gray, qui a perdu sa tentative de réélection, a mis en évidence la corruption omniprésente au

lutter efficacement contre la corruption, il doit aborder les problèmes au sein des branches exécutive et législative.

L'appel à un examen approfondi de la législation intervient après que des responsables du Parti de l'Unité ont exhorté le président élu Boakai à réaliser un audit approfondi de l'administration sortante de la CDC immédiatement après son entrée en fonction. Cette mesure, selon eux, contribuera à minimiser le chaos qui a entravé

La CEDEAO plaide en faveur d'une extension des systèmes de protection sociale renforcés en Afrique de l'Ouest

Dans un effort concerté pour remédier aux inégalités sociales et renforcer l'inclusivité, la Communauté Économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) appelle à une augmentation de la couverture et au renforcement des systèmes de protection sociale dans la région. La réunion de trois jours des experts de la CEDEAO sur le Cadre de Protection Sociale et le Plan Opérationnel, qui a débuté le 21 novembre 2023, à Banjul en Gambie, vise à guider les États membres dans le développement et la mise en œuvre de systèmes complets de protection sociale.

La Professeure Fatou SOW SARR, Commissaire de la CEDEAO pour le Développement Humain et les Affaires Sociales, a déclaré que le principe de "Ne laisser personne de côté" est fondamental pour

la protection sociale. Cet engagement est considéré comme essentiel pour promouvoir l'inclusivité, remédier aux inégalités sociales et garantir que les populations vulnérables aient accès à des services essentiels et un soutien. La Prof. SARR a souligné le rôle de la protection sociale dans la promotion du développement durable et la contribution au bien-être global de la

population, aligné sur la vision 2050 de la CEDEAO.

Le Dr Sintiki Tarfa Ugbe, Directeur des Affaires Humanitaires et Sociales, a prononcé le discours d'ouverture au nom du Commissaire. Elle a souligné l'importance du Cadre de Protection Sociale et du Plan Opérationnel de la CEDEAO

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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

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Ancien Législateur Appelle

sein du pays.

Alors que le Liberia attend une transition du pouvoir, le débat sur l'étendue de l'audit

et l'engagement à lutter contre la corruption continue d'être un point central dans le discours public.

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La CEDEAO plaide en faveur

en tant que guide pour les États membres dans le développement de sols nationaux de protection sociale inclusifs. Le Dr. Ugebe a reconnu les défis mais a exprimé sa confiance que, avec un engagement politique, une expertise technique et le soutien des partenaires de développement, la couverture de la protection sociale en Afrique peut être accélérée, visant à couvrir 40% de la population.

Dr Abdulaziz S.K. Danladi, représentant du Nigeria et président de la réunion, a souligné le rôle crucial de la protection sociale dans le développement durable. Il a insisté sur l'importance du développement d'un Cadre de Protection Sociale et d'un Plan Opérationnel de la CEDEAO complets, fournissant des outils et des connaissances pour concevoir et mettre en œuvre des programmes de protection sociale spécifiques à la région.

Divers représentants, dont Mme Mariavittoria Ballotta de l'UNICEF, Mme Bintia Stephen-Tchicaya de la FAO et M. Lefhoko Kesamang représentant le Commissaire de l'UA pour la Santé, les Affaires

Humanitaires et le Développement Social, ont promis l'engagement de leurs organisations à fournir une assistance technique aux États membres. Ils ont souligné l'importance de renforcer et d'améliorer la protection sociale pour accroître la productivité et soutenir les petits producteurs.

Le Vice-Président de la Gambie, S.E. Muhammad B.S. Jallow, a exprimé sa gratitude pour l'organisation de la réunion et a mis en avant l'engagement du gouvernement envers les politiques de protection sociale. Il a souligné les efforts de la Gambie dans la formulation d'une Politique Nationale de Protection Sociale (2015-2025) et a réitéré l'importance de la protection sociale en tant que priorité stratégique dans le nouveau Plan National de Développement Axé sur la Récupération Verte (2023-2027).

La réunion, organisée par la Direction des Affaires Humanitaires et Sociales de la CEDEAO en collaboration avec l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture (FAO), se conclura par la présentation du Cadre de Protection Sociale et du Plan Opérationnel de la CEDEAO aux ministres pour validation et adoption le vendredi 24 novembre 2023.

Mali : à Kidal, l'armée prend des mesures contre les incursions, les pillages continuent

Cela fait douze jours que l'armée malienne a pris possession de Kidal, dans le Nord. Cette ville était le fief des rebelles du CSP (Cadre stratégique permanent), qui se sont depuis repliés dans les zones montagneuses de la région et qui promettent de continuer le combat. Les jihadistes du Jnim (Groupe de soutien à l'Islam et aux musulmans), liés à al-Qaïda, qui ont mené vendredi deux attaques meurtrières dans la région de Tombouctou, menacent, eux aussi, la ville de Kidal. L'armée a pris ses dispositions pour se prémunir des incursions dans la ville, où les pillages massifs se sont poursuivis. Outre le couvre-feu nocturne, qui avait rapidement été instauré, les Fama se sont logiquement installés aux différents points d'entrées de Kidal.

Véhicules et habitants sont soumis à des contrôles à

l'intérieur et aux alentours de la ville. « Il est interdit de rouler à toute vitesse en direction d'un check-point ou d'une patrouille », stipule même une communication de l'armée destinée aux habitants datée du 22 novembre, qui précise la conduite à tenir en cas de contrôle : présenter ses pièces d'identité, se soumettre aux fouilles ou encore enlever son turban, pour pouvoir être identifié. Les civils ont interdiction de porter des vêtements militaires. Uniformes et armes doivent être « immédiatement rendus » aux autorités locales. Des policiers sont venus grossir les effectifs des forces maliennes et de leurs supplétifs russes de Wagner, et de nombreuses arrestations ont été rapportées. Commerçant, enseignant à la retraite... des civils, que les Fama et Wagner soupçonnent d'être en liens avec les rebelles du CSP ou d'avoir des informations à partager.

L'Integrity Watch Liberia Dispense une Formation sur le Budget Sensible au Genre aux Nouveaux Législateurs



IWL Executive Director Mr. Harold Aidoo

L'Integrity Watch Liberia (IWL) a lancé un programme de formation approfondi de deux jours sur le budget sensible au genre et la planification à l'intention des nouveaux membres élus et réélus de la législature libérienne.

L'objectif principal de la formation est de renforcer la compréhension des législateurs entrants sur les questions liées au budget sensible au genre et à la planification, visant à renforcer leur capacité dans ces domaines critiques.

M. Harold Aidoo, le directeur exécutif de l'IWL, a fourni un aperçu de l'événement, soulignant que la formation est entièrement financée par leur partenaire, l'ONU Femmes. Exprimant son enthousiasme, M. Aidoo a souligné l'importance historique des récentes élections présidentielles et législatives de 2023, déclarant : "Je suis fier en tant que Libérien que nous puissions célébrer cette réalisation historique tous ensemble en tant que nation."

Aidoo a énuméré trois points clés qui constituent le cœur du travail de l'IWL. Observant de près le fonctionnement de la législature depuis 2006, il s'est inquiété des règles accordant au Président le pouvoir de nommer la direction des divers comités, suggérant que cela pourrait rendre le Président moins responsable envers la Chambre des Représentants. Il a exhorté les nouveaux législateurs à envisager de réformer ces règles pour défendre les principes démocratiques.

Abordant l'importance de la transparence, Aidoo a encouragé l'utilisation de machines de vote pour s'assurer que les citoyens connaissent les habitudes de vote de leurs législateurs sur les questions nationales. Il a soutenu qu'un système de vote clair éliminerait les doutes sur les actions des législateurs et favoriserait la responsabilité envers les électeurs.

Le directeur exécutif a souligné qu'un des principaux objectifs de rassembler les législateurs élus était d'institutionnaliser le budget sensible au genre en élaborant des budgets distincts pour les hommes et les femmes. Aidoo a insisté sur la nécessité de désagréger le budget national en fonction des questions liées au genre.

Revenant sur les initiatives budgétaires précédentes de l'IWL, Aidoo a révélé qu'ils venaient de terminer une revue complète du budget national de 2023 en mettant particulièrement l'accent sur les considérations liées au genre dans sa mise en œuvre. Il a souligné les défis dans l'évaluation de l'impact du budget sur les personnes handicapées, les femmes et les hommes en raison de la manière dont le budget est actuellement géré.

Guinée: les femmes victimes du 28 septembre 2009 créent une maison des survivantes



Ce samedi 25 novembre, c'est la Journée internationale pour l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des femmes. En Guinée, une initiative originale a vu le jour. Il y a 14 ans, plus d'une centaine de femmes étaient violées au grand stade de Conakry par des militaires guinéens venus interrompre, les armes à la main, un meeting de l'opposition. Pour permettre aux victimes de se reconstruire, des associations guinéennes et une ONG internationale ont créé une maison des survivantes. Inaugurée le 28 septembre dernier, elle se met en route tout doucement.

Il est 7 h du matin, dans la cour de sa concession, la poule et les poussins sont déjà réveillés. Oumou Barry s'apprête à rejoindre la maison des survivantes. Cette grand-mère est une rescapée du stade de Conakry.

« J'avais 50 ans quand j'étais au stade. Ce que j'ai subi, c'est inexplicable. Tu vois un enfant qui a le même âge que ton propre garçon qui te fait du mal... », raconte-t-elle. À mots couverts, Oumou Barry raconte son viol.

Sans politique de réparation, les femmes ont dû se prendre en main. « Personne ne nous a assistées. Même le gouvernement », dénonce Oumou Barry. « Il faut qu'on soit fortes maintenant. Il n'y a plus de pleurs, si tu pleures, qu'est-ce qu'il y a ? Qui peut t'aider ? »

La maison des survivantes est née de cette prise de conscience, de cette révolte. Les femmes ont pu alors compter sur quelques soutiens : celui de l'Association des victimes du 28 septembre 2009, l'Avipa, celui de l'OGDH, l'Organisation guinéenne de défense des droits de l'homme, et puis une ONG les a aidées : le Global Survivors Fund, fondé par les prix Nobel de la paix Nadia Murad et Denis Mukwege.

Une aide médicale, psychologique et juridique

Il faut un peu plus d'une heure à Oumou Barry pour rejoindre le centre implanté dans le village de Moribayah, à 70 kilomètres de Conakry. Ici, les survivantes ont un local pour leurs activités économiques, mais pas seulement, elles vont pouvoir bénéficier, à terme, d'une aide médicale, psychologique, mais aussi d'une clinique juridique.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Weah departs with dignity

President George Mannah Weah has set for himself a new record. The Africa only Ballon d'Or will go down in history as the first African incumbent President who concedes defeat to his fierce rival with a narrow margin of 1.16% in a tightly contested election that could have witnessed a prolonged political crisis in other democracies.

And in conceding defeat, he was quick to draw such distinction, that he is not an African President who hijacks elections that cause the death of many innocent people. "I won't be a part of it," he said.

The former Ballon d'Or winner, best known for his football prowess in Europe, particularly at Monaco, Paris Saint-Germain and AC Millan sent heartfelt congratulatory messages to President-elect Joseph N. Boakai with 99.5% of the polls result which put Boakai at 50.89% and he (Weah) at 49.11%.

Mr. Weah did not just call President-elect Boakai to congratulate him, but in a speech broadcast on national radio, the President showed great statesmanship and was gracious in defeat informing the nation that his party had lost the November 14, Presidential runoff, but Liberia had won.

"My fellow Liberians, ladies and gentlemen, tonight the CDC has lost the election, but Liberia has won. This is a time to be gracious in defeat, a time to place our country above personal interest," President Weah said, adding that unity was more paramount for the "Love of Mama Liberia."

Meanwhile, the action taken by Mr. Weah in such a tightly contested poll remains unimaginable in Africa. Although his administration was marred by corruption allegations, unsolved murder mysteries, and high unemployment rate, his unprecedented action draws out a pathway for his redemption.

His administration had promised to respect the will of the Liberian people, and he indeed demonstrated it through peaceful means.

Mr. Weah showed sportsmanship in conceding defeat, something which also demonstrated how his government had ensured the conduct of a free, fair, and transparent election.

Not only did Mr. Weah concede, but his subsequent pronouncements following his concession strongly confirmed his commitment to maintaining the country's fragile peace, while nurturing its young democracy.

"Now, more than ever unity is paramount for the Love of Mama Liberia. To the members of the Mighty Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) fellow partisans, I understand this is not the outcome of the election we all desire. Your support has been the backbone of our campaign and for that, I am deeply grateful. I (now) urge you to follow my example and accept the result of the election. I want you to go home tonight knowing that our ideas and vision for our nation remain strong. We are a young moment, and our time will come again.

Tomorrow, resume your daily activities in a normal way. You can join me at our party headquarters to reflect on our journey and plan for our return to political leadership in 2029," Mr. Weah stated.

As the new government prepares to take over on January 22, 2024, President Weah would drive away with dignity beaming with smiles, that he has set an unprecedented example on the continent.

But the question that remains is who's next to walk in his footsteps.

It has been nearly three decades since he won Africa's first Ballon d'Or, no African player has ever won that since. Will his latest action in politics again put him in a class of his own, or will another African leader emulate his example, it remains to be seen as we watch on.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Gongloe leads LPP on visit

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them are currently in hospital with one in the JFK and the other here at the Benson Hospital, and on Saturday we will be burying two of those who died in the process," he added.

Cllr. Gongloe disclosed that the first person died during the campaign closure of the Unity Party in Monrovia.

"We pray that those that are affected recovered and as well we sympathize with the families of those that lost their lives, and we [are] also asking the leadership of the Unity Party to be with us in this process," he added.

Cllr. Gongloe said after they lost the election, his party pledged its support to the Unity Party of President-elect Joseph Nyumah Boakai. In the process, he said his people were delighted to campaign and vote for the Unity Party. He said unfortunately for his party, four persons died and many persons got injured and some were in hospitals.

In one of his visits, Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo consoled the families of the late Ruth L. Dahn, 43, who died during the accident. He said those who died were going to exercise their democratic

rights by voting for President-elect Boakai.

"It is incumbent on President-elect Joseph Boakai and those around him to make sure that the transformation of the country is realized because those that lost their lives wanted to see a better Liberia," he said.

Meanwhile, several affected family members appreciated the leadership of the Liberian People's Party for their care and attention during their time of bereavement and pain.

According to eyewitnesses, the incident occurred between 3-4 PM on the eve of the presidential runoff election.

They noted that the driver of the vehicle was at an excessive speed while engaging a deep curve along the Ganta to Saniquellie highway.

They noted that the driver lost control of the vehicle and it somersaulted.

Minutes after the accident, victims were rushed to the Ganta United Methodist Hospital where three persons were pronounced dead by Doctors at the facility.

Two of the victims were critically injured and doctors at the Ganta hospital were not able to treat others, transferring them to Monrovia for proper medical care.

Court upholds \$3m verdict

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He believed that Delaney's sole objectives were achieved. In his ruling, Judge Kennedy Peabody said a Writ of Summons was issued against Mr. Delaney, but he could not be found. The judge noted that the arguments were heard and the Jury was instructed accordingly after which the Jury returned with a unanimous verdict against Mr. Delaney, stating that he was liable in the amount of US\$2,500,000.00 for general damages

and further awarded the complainant US\$500,000.00 for punitive damages. Judge Peabody indicated that the verdict is supported by the evidence and that the Court affirms and confirms the verdict against the defendant. "Wherefore and in view of the foregoing, this Court finds the Defendant liable to the Plaintiff in the amount of US\$2,500,000.00 for general damages and US\$500,000.00 for Punitive Damages and ruled against the Defendant with costs," said Judge Peabody.

Poultry Farmer in Bong Grateful for RETRAP

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ability to produce chicken feed, setting her apart in Liberia. She highlighted the need for additional support to expand this aspect of her operations, aiming to provide affordable feed options for her birds and fellow poultry farmers. "I need support to produce chicken feed at a lower cost. It's expensive, but I want to make it affordable for everyone," she said.

Madam Deedee F. C. Cooper, a County-Level Facilitator of RETRAP in Bong County, shed light on the project's vision. "RETRAP is keen on supporting smallholder farmers and agribusiness SMEs in various value chains in Liberia,

including poultry," she stated. Deedee expressed satisfaction with the progress made by Tryphaina's Poultry and Farm and other beneficiaries in Bong County, highlighting their willingness to share knowledge and experience—a testament to the community spirit fostered by RETRAP interventions.

For the poultry value chain, Tryphaina's Poultry and Farm stands as a testament to the transformative power of strategic interventions. With RETRAP's support, Tryphaina and her fellow farmers are not only raising birds but also sowing the seeds of knowledge and sustainable agricultural practices, ensuring the availability of unfrozen chickens in Liberia.

ALCOD congratulates

Starts from page 7

this dual citizenship law is one of his legacies. And as a result of his advocacies, ALCOD made him their "2023 DIASPORA PERSON OF THE YEAR."

About ALCOD

All-Liberian Conference on Dual Citizenship (ALCOD), which includes the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA), European Federation of Liberian Associations (EFLA), Liberian

Advocacy for Change (LAFC), Federation of Liberia Communities in Australia (FOLICA), United Liberian Association of Ghana (ULAG), Liberian Association of Canada (LAC), and Conference of Liberian Organizations in Southwestern United States of America (CLOSUSA). ALCOD represents more than 500,000 Liberians living in the diaspora and advocating for dual citizenship and out-of-country voting for diaspora Liberians.

I couldn't be the sacrificial lamb

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

President George Manneh Weah says he couldn't be the sacrificial lamb to allow a fresh round of war, torture, and civil unrest in Liberia that would have seen innocent people being killed only to satisfy the desires and interests of colleagues, loyalists and stalwarts of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

Instead, Mr. Weah blames executives, partisans and supporters of the ruling party



Pres. Weah

for blundering by allowing the election to slip away which caused their defeat on the 14th November 2023 Presidential Run-off Election here. He maintains that the concession to the opposition Unity Party (UP) will allow Liberia return to peaceful democratic transition of power from one administration to another.

He points to division among CDCians, fighting one another for power, while losing unity and harmony, as a primary cause for them losing the election and he as President, didn't want bloodshed in Liberia.

President Weah speaking here Sunday, 26th November

while attending worship at his private Forkly Klon Jlateh Family Fellowship Church in Baptist Seminary community, ELWA, Paynesville, for the first time, opening up on why he chose as a sitting President to concede defeat with a narrow margin in an epic election.

Mr. Weah lost to his main rival Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai of the opposition Unity Party (UP) 50.58 % to 49.28 %, instantly conceding defeat just before pronouncement and declaration of winner of the election by the National Elections Commission (NEC).

The CDC Standard Bearer reveals that the Coalition has been self-destructing characterized by internal wrangling without pursuing a common goal of winning the election.

He notes that CDCians refused to heed call to unite; rather, campaigning against one another, ably losing focus on the poll, something, he describes as disunity that highly attributed towards their defeat. He asserted that greater danger the party faces is that even those who they took from the ghetto and empowered have refused to listen or take advice.

"People had asked me: Mr. President, what has happened and I don't have to answer and can only try to answer because it's what it's, and I'm sure you will understand that it's almost impossible for fifty (50) persons to pass through a single-narrow-door at the same time. There must be one at a time like the Bible says - a Children of Succession. If one person's there, let the person be there until they are removed; then the next person comes in, but in CDC, everybody wants to be there at

the same time, fighting each other."

"We cannot be together in unity with defeat; there was complete disunity, where some people fielding candidates against our candidates because they feel they have small funds. We were fighting each other that is what happened", President Weah laments.

It sounds so painful for a man who won popular votes in 2017 after giving the Unity Party serious work for their money in two previous elections - 2003 and 2011 respectively while he was in opposition.

But Mr. Weah maintains that he recognized the defeat in the just-ended election and didn't want war that would have resulted in innocent people dying in cold blood just to be declared winner in an election.

"We couldn't sacrifice our children, friends, families, for people's desires; I didn't take a decision, as I recognized we were defeated because we defeated ourselves and there was no need to fight."

Meanwhile, he says if CDC must make a stronger comeback in 2029, there should be unity among CDCians, as they cannot be divided and achieve victory.

"I hear somebody saying in 2029, we will bounce back; we will only bounce back if we are sincere to ourselves; stop the division, apply the rules and support the party and those on the party's tickets", Mr. tells CDCians, who are still recovering from their defeat.

The ruling Coalition's dream for second term in office was cut short on 14 November by the UP, a party they took power from in 2017. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Lawmakers await outcome of Chambers electoral dispute

By Bridgett Milton

Several lawmakers say they are watching the speakership battle with an eagle eye, as many claimed to be anxiously awaiting the

Furthermore, proponents argue that Chambers has significantly elevated the profile of the Liberian Legislature on the global stage. His diplomatic approach and commitment to constructive leadership have garnered



Speaker Bhofal Chambers

outcome of the ongoing electoral dispute involving current speaker Bhofal Chambers.

Despite the current electoral dispute at the National Elections Commission (NEC) over claims of alleged fraudulent results from Pleebo Sodoken District in Maryland County, Speaker Chambers maintains confidence in the democratic process.

Some lawmakers have indicated that Chambers' leadership style is considered optimal for the role, with a majority of both retained and new lawmakers expressing admiration for his respect towards colleagues and his genuine concern for their well-being.

One Representative from the outgoing ruling party, Saah Foko who claims to be watching the speakership race said though he remained undecided as to who to cast his vote for in the pending speakership battle for the pending 55th Legislature, he would not waste his time casting ballot for

Others say, Chambers leadership prioritizes values over financial gestures.

Told to accept the reality of the day and try to start considering others in the race outside of Chambers who is not certain of overturning the October 10 Legislative result in his district, the lawmakers maintained their confidence in the process, indicating that NEC would ensure a fair and democratic resolution.

Amongst those hooting for Speaker Chambers, they claimed that the Maryland District #2 Representative was able to maintain stability within the Legislature throughout his six-year tenure and is portrayed as a leader who operates without unnecessary noise on Capitol Hill.

recognition, marking a positive impact on Liberia's international standing.

As the situation unfolds, lawmakers eagerly await Speaker Chambers' response to the widespread support, while he remains notably silent on the matter.

Chambers supporters named some of his remarkable achievements as elevating the Liberian legislature on the global stage. Chambers received international recognition, having been invited to prestigious gatherings such as the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C., where he engaged in meaningful discussions with former U.S. Speaker Nancy Pelosi. His diplomatic prowess was further showcased in the United Kingdom, where he met with members of the House of Commons, among other notable international forums.

Speaker Chambers, according to his supporters has consistently demonstrated his ability to navigate the complexities of legislative affairs, earning the respect and admiration of colleagues both at home and abroad. His commitment to fostering cooperation and collaboration among lawmakers has contributed to the legislative body's effectiveness in addressing the needs and concerns of the Liberian people.

The lawmakers who eagerly await Chambers' candidacy firmly believe that he is the ideal candidate to continue leading the 55th Legislature. His proven track record, global recognition, and dedication to the principles of democracy make him a compelling choice for the position of Speaker.

Meanwhile, it remains to be seen how long the electoral dispute before the NEC will last as the date of the speakership election coming much closer.

GVL congratulates President-Elect, Boakai

The Management of Golden Veroleum Liberia Inc. (GVL) extends heartfelt congratulatory message to Liberia's President and Vice President-elect, Joseph Nyumah Boakai and Senator Jeremiah Kpan Koung, on their victory in the recently concluded elections. In a press release issued in Monrovia, the company says the remarkable achievement not only reflects the trust and confidence the people of Liberia have placed in them but also represents a significant milestone in the democratic journey of a great nation. GVL expresses confidence that under President-elect Boakai's leadership, Liberia will experience significant advancements in various

spheres, including improved infrastructure, and economic development. The oil palm company also commends outgoing President, George Manneh Weah, for gracefully acknowledging and accepting the results of the elections, and all Liberians for actively participating and contributing to having peaceful elections in the country. At the same time, it lauds President George Weah and his government for the level of support towards its

investment in Liberia. Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) is an oil palm developer, committed to long-term investment here. As one of Liberia's largest foreign investors, its operation is bringing employment, infrastructure, education and healthcare to some of the country's poorest areas, playing a key role in the Government of Liberia's Poverty Reduction Strategy and the economic revitalization of Liberia's rural economy. Press Release



Police interrogate 3 suspects

-following woman's death in Nimba

By Thomas Domah / Nimba County
Police in Ganta, Nimba County have arrested three men for their alleged involvement in the death of a 25-year-old woman.

The NEW DAWN Nimba correspondent detailed that the late Young Cooper, 25, was preparing coal on her farm, about three hours' walk from Nengbehn Town when she

distance to greet her boyfriend", one resident narrates.

The 25-year-old neck was cut, resulting to her death.

However, suspects arrested are Lawrence Gono, 34; Sampson Dolo, 38, and Levin Yasiah, 45, who is the boyfriend of the late Young Cooper.

The suspects are currently undergoing police investigation in Sanniquellie.

The death of the young woman brings to four, the number of women that have reportedly been killed by their fiancés in what is likely domestic violence.

Few months ago, a woman believed to be in her early 40s, was killed by her boyfriend at F2 Guest House in Pearson community, Ganta City, Nimba.

Following that incident, there has been no arrest as to who committed the murder.

Report says the late Young Cooper's throat was sliced and her blood drained out allegedly by the three suspects. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



The deceased was married in Bain, Nengbehn Town, Electoral District One in Nimba County, but she left the town with her children. Speaking to reporters, Amos Sahn, a care provider for the deceased, explained that the woman left the town with her children only to hear her death news.

He told reporters that the deceased was a mother of six children.

received a phone call from one of the suspects, who happened to be her boyfriend that wanted to see her on the main road.

"Following the call from one of the three suspects, the deceased left the two children on the farm near the coal and went to respond to the call when she was killed near the farm road after she covered thirty minutes walking

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