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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
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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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A new beginning



-As Boakai pledges government of inclusion

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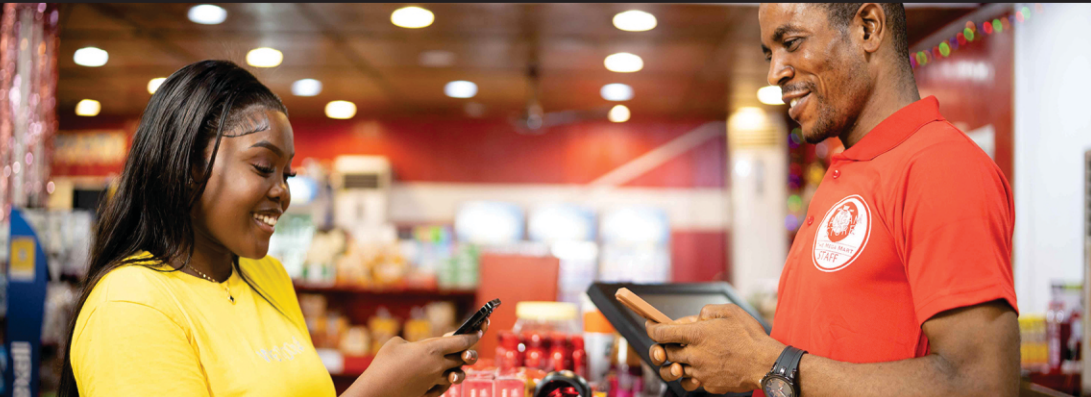


-Boakai tells Liberians

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Continental News

Nigeria police did not free kidnapped sisters - uncle

Nigerian police had no role in rescuing four sisters and their cousin from kidnappers, an uncle of the girls has told the



Nabeeha, pictured second from left, was killed by the kidnappers

BBC. They were taken from their home in Abuja earlier this month, along with another sister who was later killed. The uncle said a ransom was paid and the kidnappers dropped the girls in a forest for them to be collected. On Sunday, police said they had "successfully rescued the victims", reuniting them with relatives.

Sheriff Al-Kadriyar, the girls' uncle, said the family went to collect them after a ransom was paid. "There's nothing like rescue on this matter, we paid ransom - even though I can't disclose how much for security reasons," he told BBC Yoruba. The Nigerian police spokesperson has not responded to a BBC request for comment.

The case has shocked the country, with people donating

to a crowdfunding initiative to help raise the money. In total five sisters were taken hostage in the Abuja suburb of Bwari on 2 January, along with their father Mansoor Al-Kadriyar, who was later released to raise the ransom.

Sheriff Kadriyar clarified that contrary to earlier reports that six Al-Kadriyar sisters had been abducted, one of the girls was in fact their cousin who had been staying with them over the school holidays. Twenty-one-year-old Nabeeha, a final-year university student, was killed a few days after her father's release as a warning that the ransom of \$68,000 (£53,000) must be paid.

Nigeria's defence minister had urged the family not to pay the ransom, but the Al-Kadriyars said they had no choice. A controversial law that criminalises ransom payments was passed in 2022 aimed at tackling the country's spiralling and lucrative kidnapping industry. It carries a jail sentence of at least 15 years for anyone who pays a ransom, however no-one

has been arrested, and a former minister is among those who said he had helped organise the payment to the kidnappers of the Al-Kadriyar sisters. Sheriff Kadriyar, who said he was involved in negotiating with the kidnappers, explained that the money had been handed over to them on Wednesday.

His account backs up two others given by relatives to Nigeria's Daily Trust newspaper.

They all say that the girls were released on Saturday. One of them then called the family in the early evening, giving their location. "The kidnappers chose the day and the location we were to pick up the girls about four or five days after ransom payment," the uncle said.

A group of male relatives then headed to the Kajuru Forest in neighbouring Kaduna state to find them. Along the way they chanced upon an army unit and requested help.

These army officers escorted them to find the girls - afterwards taking them all home by around 23:30 local time (22:30 GMT). "We are happy and we thank God that the girls were found alive," the uncle said.

His brother and nieces were now being treated at a medical facility, he said.

Kidnapping has become rife in Nigeria, with hundreds of people abducted in recent years, largely by criminal gangs who see it as an easy way to make money. BBC

Liberia moves from youngest elected leader to oldest

Mocked by his critics as "Sleepy Joe", 79-year-old Joseph Boakai has been sworn in as Liberia's oldest-ever president after scraping a win in November's run-off election, with the help of a former rebel commander. It marks a generational shift, as Mr Boakai takes the reins of power from the nation's youngest-ever elected leader, George Weah.

The former international football star rose to the presidency at the age of 51 after defeating Mr Boakai in elections six years ago, but lost to him this time around by just over 20,000 votes.

For Rodney Sieh, the editor of Liberia's FrontPage Africa news site, Mr Boakai's victory did not come as a surprise. "People were fed up

to the different counties to campaign for votes. He says he has a clean bill of health, but we know that he has a pacemaker because of a heart condition," Mr Sieh said.

Before the election, Mr Boakai dismissed the concerns about his health. "Age should be a blessing to this country," he told the BBC. He said he considered himself "a man who is old, who is wise, a man who is sound and a man who is committed to the cause of the country".

Mr Boakai was vice-president in Nobel Peace Prize-winner Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's government until 2018, and contested the presidency under the banner of the United Party (UP).

Gyude Moore, a Senior Policy Fellow at the US-based Center for Global Development, said that what counted heavily in Mr Boakai's favour was that voters



with the Weah administration - its corruption and opulence, the flashy cars and fancy restaurants. An official from the presidency even threw a bottle of Moët champagne over a flashy car he bought for his wife, and put a photo on social media.

"Voters questioned how officials could lead such lifestyles when ordinary people are struggling more and more to put food on the table, and to pay school fees for their children," he told the BBC.

Mr Boakai won despite the fact that for years he has been derided by his opponents, and some ordinary Liberians on social media, after appearing to doze off at public meetings - a charge his aides deny, saying his small eyes and drooping eyelids give this impression.

To improve his image, Mr Boakai often wore dark shades on the campaign trail this time around. But concerns remain about his fitness and health - especially as his term in office will end when he turns 85. "Boakai did not travel a lot

saw him as a man they could trust after the scandals of the Weah administration.

"He has been involved in Liberian politics in some form or another for decades. He is regarded as an elder statesman," said Mr Moore, who was a minister in the Sirleaf government and came to know Mr Boakai well.

"I think he will be a competent manager, and I expect him to give ministerial posts to people who were deputy ministers and assistant ministers in our administration. So the government will have experience, which the Weah administration lacked," Mr Moore told the BBC. But the man to watch in the new government is Jeremiah Koug, who rose from being a street hawker to become a businessman and lawmaker - and is now set to be sworn in as vice-president at the age of 45.

"I think Boakai's selection of Koug as running-mate softened the debate [around his age], and made many Liberians move towards the Unity Party alliance," Liberia-based political analyst Daniel Sando told the BBC.

Floods cause devastation in Tanzania's main city

Houses have collapsed and roads and bridges been destroyed after heavy rains pounded Tanzania's coastal city of Dar es Salaam for two days. A woman was swept away in the floods, while a child was missing, local radio quoted relatives as saying. The destruction was most severe in neighbourhoods built along rivers that lead into the Indian Ocean. With roads unpassable, some schoolchildren and workers were forced to stay at home on Monday. Dozens of families are assessing the damage caused to their homes, and trying to recover their belongings. Heavy rains hit the city on Saturday and Sunday, with the most-affected areas being the Kinondoni and Ilala districts. A bridge that is a gateway to the city centre - including the official residence

of President Samia Suluhu Hassan - could not be crossed on Sunday because of flooding, but this is now possible as water levels have fallen. The Tanzania Meteorological Agency has warned of heavy rains for the rest of the month, while the president has urged people to move away from flood-prone areas.

The authorities have not given any casualty figures, but one man told a radio station that his wife had been swept away, while another family said they are searching for their missing son.

They are not sure whether he was swept away or whether he survived and is being looked after by another family. Kinondoni resident Jonathan Urassa told the BBC that "some people have lost everything".

Pointing to an elderly

woman, he added: "She just buried her mother last year, and now her house is completely gone. She is living at her neighbour's house." Another resident, Elinaike Shoo, said she too had lost her home in the floods.

"I have nothing left behind. I've even borrowed clothes from my neighbour," she said.



Several roads are unpassable

EDITORIAL

VP Taylor's cry over spilled milk

OUTGOING VICE President Jewel Howard-Taylor's recent disclosure of treatments received in the Coalition government of President George Manneh Weah that she serves for six years is nothing but crying over spilled milk. How could a woman of her status allow herself to have suffered such psychological humiliation without speaking out!

YET, SHE WAS bold enough to come in public defending the CDC and repeatedly criticizing the opposition, including former Vice President now President-elect, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, for performing dismally under Madam Sireaf. Such political decent boomeranged.

Madam Taylor took the National Patriotic Party (NPP) to President Weah's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) in a coalition that offered her the Vice Presidential slot during the 2017 election, but received cold shoulders after the CDC came to power.

In the entire first year or so of the administration, she did not report for work in the Senate where she presided as President, because the Executive Mansion withdrew her official aids and motorcade amid claims and fears in the ruling party that she wanted to out shine President Weah. It took public pressure to have her amenities restored.

Appearing as guest on a live online talk show recently, the Vice President lamented that she never had access to the inner cycle of the Weah administration despite being the second in command, while her value in terms of education and experience was downplayed in the government. How does this gain attention of the public when she is already on her way out to give way to a new administration?

The Coalition for Democratic Change lost the 14th November 2023 Presidential Runoff Election to the Unity Party, clearly thwarting President Weah's bid for second term in office.

But for the woman, who once served as First Lady of the Republic of Liberia before her election as Vice President to have endured such humiliation for six long years in total silence, is not only a serious disappointment to herself, but disappointment to Liberian women aspiring for public office.

By her revelation, Madam Taylor clearly indicates that she was completely sidelined. No wonder why cries for jobs from within the NPP faction that headed went unheeded because she had no influence on President Weah or key officials to push her interest, and could not say so publicly.

"Certain point in time I was blocked; I was no longer part of the team. In 2016-2017, I was part of the team; we sat at the roundtable to talk and he (President Weah) will asked me at the end of everybody's conversation to talk, 'Deputy S.B., what you say' and I always had the chance to speak my mind."

But she observed that subsequently, all this changed, and she was increasingly ostracized in the Coalition, lamenting "That disunity of not communicating and consulting actually ate into the fabric of me. If I could look back, I will say that was the hardest part for me. As a woman, you know, we like to talk. And so, I always wanted the opportunity to talk about some of the things that were happening. And I always wanted to say that President Weah and I had never had an argument, a face-to-face argument; never."

Coming out now at the eleventh hour is, as it is often said in a Liberian parlance, "water under the bridge" that makes no significant relevance at the moment. All that is before her now is to move on with her life after January 22nd.

ANALYSIS:

By: Austin S. Fallah, Liberian and a Liberian US-based Professional.

An analysis of the Presidential Inauguration in Liberia: A lesson in Event Planning

On January 22, 2024, the President of the Republic of Liberia, Joseph N. Boakai, was sworn into office amidst numerous challenges.

From a poorly executed inaugural program and merciless atmospheric conditions to a remarkable lack of on-stage coordination, the event highlighted critical planning pitfalls.

Furthermore, this observed disarray prevented news networks from properly capturing this historic moment, thereby diminishing the international image of Liberia.

Most notably, the long-winded inaugural speech prepared for President Boakai, coupled with his restrictive dress code and oppressive climatic conditions, resulted in heatstroke that abruptly ended his inaugural address.

This scenario not only put the health of the President at risk but also mired the entire ceremony with an atmosphere of uncertainty and confusion.

The plan for the inaugural program appeared ambitious initially, with a lengthy speech, but practical considerations relating to the prevalent weather conditions were ignored.

In the Liberian climate, characterized by high humidity and temperature, enforcing a strict dress code while delivering an extensive discourse proved detrimental to the health of President Boakai.

A key takeaway from this event is the importance of context in event planning - the location, weather, and, importantly, the physical condition of participants impact the success of an event. Fundamental principles of crowd management and logistics were seemingly overlooked

during this inauguration, setting a perplexing precedent for future events in Liberia.

Moreover, the mishap with the audio output during the inauguration prevented the global audience from partaking in Liberia's democratic celebration.

This seemingly minor technical glitch had far-reaching implications, limiting the reach and impact of the event that should have been a symbol of Liberia's democratic progress.

Overall, the 2024 inaugural event in Liberia serves as an essential case study in event management.

It underscores the significance of meticulous planning, team coordination, and adaptability in unpredictable scenarios.

Moreover, it illuminated the caution that significant occasions like a presidential inauguration are not merely national events; they have a broad international audience whose perspective will inform their perception of the host nation.

The inauguration of President Joseph N. Boakai was a blend of anticipation and trepidation, demonstrating that the success of any event hinges on strategic planning and execution.

It is a reminder that in an increasingly globalized world, national events are under international scrutiny, and nations must strive to execute such functions to uphold their image impeccably.

We wish President Joseph N. Boakai a speedy recovery and all the best as he gets ready to shape our nation for the better for all Liberians, as he cherishes Diversity as the New World Currency in his quest for an inclusive government.

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Congratulations



**The World Lebanese Cultural Union-Liberia
Extend heartfelt Congratulations to the
President of the Republic of Liberia,**

His Excellency Joseph N. Boakai

**on having been elected and inaugurated as the 26th President of
Liberia.**

Our congratulations also go to the Vice President

Hon. Jeremiah K. Koung

**the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
the President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate,**

Members of the 55th Legislature, the Judiciary,

**the Government and the People of Liberia on this historic and
auspicious Occasion.**

May God Bless the Republic of Liberia

Inaugural Address Of Honorable Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr 26th President of the Republic of Liberia January 22, 2024

HIS EXCELLENCY BOLA AHMED TINUBU, GCFR,
PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
NIGERIA & CURRENT CHAIR OF ECOWAS
AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT;
EXCELLENCIES HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF
ECOWAS MEMBERS; REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH WEAH
HER EXCELLENCY FORMER PRESIDENT ELLEN JONHSON SIRLEAF, HONORABLE
SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE 55TH LEGISLATURE; MADAM CHIEF JUSTICE AND
JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT; MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS;
PRELATES & IMAMS;
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS; EXCELLENCIES AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS MY
FELLOW CITIZENS;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I give thanks and praises to God Almighty, the Great Guide and Sustainer of us all, for His manifold blessings. We pray for His continued grace as we embark upon this arduous journey together for national reconstruction and renewal.

The sacred oath of office taken moments ago by me and Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Kung has now been administered for the second time in a peaceful transfer of power since 2006. It is a celebration of the new democratic dispensation in our country. This must be a proud and historic moment for all Liberians that we have in attendance at this ceremony a living former Liberian President with another now in transition. It is a rare occurrence and a departure from our recent past.

You, my fellow Liberians, have made this occasion possible by your determination to pursue and nurture democratic governance. We must continue to irreversibly latch ourselves onto the budding democratic culture sprouting from the rubbles of a most tragic and costly 14-year civil war.

I congratulate the 55th Legislature which has just been sworn in. Our Constitution provides for three independent and coordinate branches of government. I like to emphasize the “coordinate” element. It implies working together cooperatively toward a common objective of service to the Liberian people. We want to release the energies of our people to take their destiny into their own hands. We must rectify the flaws in our present Constitution to address the devolution of power and other pressing issues. I look forward to working with members of the Legislature individually and collectively, to advance the people’s agenda.

I applaud the people of Liberia who voted in their numbers for change. Not only did Liberians vote but they also showed unwavering resolve to protect their votes, a phenomenon not to be taken lightly. Hundreds became volunteer poll watchers at polling stations, including the hardest to reach places, throughout the country. The message they sent by their act of courage and determination is loud and clear: no more business as usual. It is a clarion call for a new Liberia, a different Liberia, a Liberia that genuinely practices the rule of law and adheres to the tenets of democratic governance in the interest of all our people.

This historic vote by the people has given me the mandate to serve as the 26th President of the Republic of Liberia. This mandate makes me the president of all Liberians within our territorial confines and the diaspora at large. The elections are over. Partisanship must give way to nationalism and inclusive governance.

The march of time has brought us to this new beginning. We stand here today at the intersection of Liberia’s past and its destiny. This was a country founded in the early 19th Century on the idea of liberty. It was conceived as an experiment in liberal democracy: a destination of refuge for oppressed peoples of color to come and live in freedom and the pursuit of happiness. The various streams of the population would meet in fraternal embrace to build their country based on equality, equal access to justice and equal opportunity. It was intended to be the city on the hill on the African Continent.

A small group of the founding fathers even advocated a vision of a Liberian society that included both settlers and the rural populations as equals. Such a society would then seek to create a new great African civilization that would blend the best attributes of Christianity, Islam and traditional African beliefs.

The national mission to become a beacon of hope and the vision to create a new great African civilization were often waylaid by the country’s internal contradictions. Through its long struggle for democracy, Liberia has had its share of periodic violent manifestations of historical antagonisms within its body politic. The 14-year civil war of our recent past has perhaps been the most traumatically challenging. It nearly brought us to our knees and inflicted near total self-destruction on us as a country.

We cannot thank enough those African countries whose citizens made the ultimate sacrifice to save us from ourselves. We will forever remember that the peace we have today came at a great price for many.

Thousands of our people fled to safety all over the Continent and were welcome with open arms. Now many of our young people realize they are African first and foremost. They appreciate their African heritage as they travel freely around the continent in search of trade and opportunities. They no longer have to look only across the ocean but can also look next door.

Several thousand also fled across the seas and the international community eventually mounted one of the largest peacekeeping operations for the country at the time. Our forefathers never contemplated a time when Liberians would be forced to flee their country in such mass movement. We thank the world for the extraordinary intervention.

At the time of Liberia’s founding, almost the entire world was ruled by chieftaincies and kingdoms. In Africa, great kingdoms and great civilizations fell to the cruel swords and guns of colonialism. The country was able skillfully to navigate its Century of Survival. It entered into Treaties of Friendship and Commerce with major powers of the world.

In spite of its internal flaws, Liberia has punched above its weight in international relations. It has successfully discharged the responsibilities it believed history imposed on it as the oldest independent African Republic. For the first fifty years of its founding, Liberians elected nine presidents of African American descent. The country reached even deeper into the African Diaspora in the 20th Century to elect two presidents whose families came from Barbados in the West Indies. Our people also elected a president who had roots in both Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

Many of our prominent politicians, jurists, journalists, clergymen, economists, and private citizens have been immigrants from our neighboring countries, other African countries and the West Indies. Our country has further endeavored to accommodate establishment of whole communities of Diaspora Africans including the Marcus Garvey Movement, African Americans or Black Israelites from America.

We have proven our credentials as a responsible member of the community of nations. We were present at the creation of the international organizations and institutions that underpin our world order. We have used the legal instruments of those global institutions to fight for the cause of Africa’s total freedom from the yoke of colonialism and apartheid. Where these legal remedies proved ineffective, we have provided financial and material support to the African Liberation Struggle.

Your vote in the 2023 election reflects our country’s long and arduous struggle for democracy. We have evolved into a democratic dispensation, with inclusive governance as our watchword. Ordinary Liberians have made possible this democratic dividend which mightily contributes to national, regional, and global peace. This must now become an irreversible path to Liberia’s destiny.

As we today celebrate this milestone, we can now begin to build Liberia into the solid bridge across the continents it was originally envisioned to be.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS:

During the just ended political campaign, the state of the nation was laid bare. Many words were spoken. Angry words were spoken. The experts uncovered for us cogent analyses of our national condition. We can no more attempt to bury our heads in the proverbial sand. We see hard times, we see disfunction, we see culture of impunity, we see corruption in high and low places. It is these and similar conditions that we have come to RESCUE. But we come with false assurance to no one. Our plan to fix the ills we are inheriting must go together with realistic expectations. We will act in the first hundred days of our Administration, and then diligently pursue our rescue mission.

I began my quest for the presidency because something seemed wrong with us Liberians, and the leadership of our country. Rather than the positives, we were accentuating the negatives about our country and about each other. We were initiating false starts, building on poor foundations. We were deepening our differences, creating new social fault lines. Inclusive and accountable governance was at an all-time low. We created a culture of unfinished business, engaged in ad hoc undertakings, making this behavior the “new normal.” We were chevalier about the rule of law. We lowered standards in many domains of our common life as a people. We seem to have lost our way, lost hope.

I have come to rekindle hope, to reposition us on our national pathway. I have come to remind us that though the accident of our births has made of us a diverse people, we must employ our CITIZENSHIP, our Liberian citizenship to make of us a united people, for only a United people can build a nation.

And where do we plan to take Liberia in the next six years? We must refocus our political energies. With the electoral campaign now behind us, I embrace all my fellow Liberians at home and in the diaspora. One of the good things brought to light by the campaign, and facilitated by social media, is that Liberians from all walks of life had a chance to engage a “national conversation” about our past, our present, and our future prospects. We learned together what is wrong with our country, and hopefully what is right as well.

Let us now recalibrate, let us “restore the years the locusts have eaten” by accentuating the positive about our country and about our fellow citizens. As we think, love, and build Liberia, let us take this state of mind to the business of national healing and reconciliation, both the old and new emerging social cleavages. Let us restore inclusivity, transparency, and accountability to governance at all levels of our society, including government.

We must discourage the culture of unfinished business, doing things in a haphazard and unserious manner. We must restore hope to ourselves, individually, and as a collectivity. We must also restore dignity and integrity to public service – livable remuneration and pension schemes to civil servants and foreign service government workers. We must restore respect for the rule of law, and respect for officers of the law across our three branches of government.

The twenty-five individuals who have held this office before me have each made their contributions to our common patrimony. We must build upon their strengths and correct their shortcomings. I thank President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, my former boss for her stewardship when the country needed to come out of the ruins of war. I commend my immediate predecessor, President George Weah, for living up to the dictates of our Constitution and laws in ensuring the smooth transfer of power. The people wanted change, and we have no option but to do the people’s bidding.

Intersection of History and Destiny

My fellow compatriots, permit me to say a few words about my person and this political journey. First, Kartumu, my wife, friend, and confidant of over 50 years, and I are humbled and moved by the overwhelming demonstration of love, affection, and support from you, the great people of this land.

On our journey on this road in the last five decades, we have met different people - old and young, rich, and poor, great and ordinary, sick and healthy. We have been in your homes, on your farms, and at your businesses. We have mourned with you and shared in your joy, felt your pain, your frustration, and your hopes.

The experiences on this journey and the stories of resilience, determination, courage, and success have provided me with a profound insight into the soul of our country and the inspiration to forge on and to be true to myself about serving you. But this journey had its beginning deep in one of the remotest regions in the northwest of our country--in Warsonga, Lofa County.

As I have proudly referenced on many occasions, I was born to a mother with disabilities, Madam Lusu Kumba Kpetu, and a father, Mr. Bundor Tamba Yamba, who was mostly absent. My childhood, like many of you, was anything but normal. However, by the grace of God and with modest help from family, and the compassion of strangers and ordinary people like those I met on the campaign, I was able to pull through by my bootstraps.

I worked hard in menial jobs fending for myself in a country at the time steeped in patronage and a class system determined by the family in which one was born or associated.

In Monrovia, I attended high school at the College of West Africa, one of the most prestigious and elite schools in the country, where I also worked as a janitor, became a bookstore salesman, and librarian. There, I won an election and became President of the Student Council Government. In all this, I managed to make friends across the social class lines.

I went to college, started a professional life, and served the public in capacities including Managing Director of the Liberia Produce and Marketing Corporation, Minister of Agriculture, and Vice President. The rest, as they say, is history.

I thought to share this brief story of my life for two reasons: first, to inspire every boy and girl, and all the young people of this country that with determination, focus and hard work, you can be who you want to be in this country and the world; every one of you has been endowed with talents and other gifts by God to enable you serve your country and humanity in a spirit of compassion; and that you can overcome barriers and challenges, and excel in your station of life.

Second, to let you know, my fellow compatriots, that when we work hard together as a country, there is nothing that history has imposed on us, including the foundational problems, that we cannot overcome.

Like every generation before now and the others to come after us, we have an opportunity and a duty to rebuild or build better. And like those before us and the ones to come after us, we must respond to that call of duty in an epoch-defining way that sets the tone for the future, not fixated on the next elections but rather on the next generation and generations unborn.

Liberia First: A Vision for National Renewal

That is why, with your support, my countrymen and women, we will respond to this duty - the mandate you have entrusted to us - by committing to make the bold decisions needed to thrust us into the actions we must take to transform our country. Our response, reflecting the agenda our government is poised to set, will not only address the immediate challenges we face as a country but also tackle head-on, the foundational problems that may militate against our agenda and undermine the change we deeply crave.

Fellow citizens, our agenda sets broad goals for improved governance and institutional capacity. It will prepare us to make bold decisions for economic development and sustained growth, including increased productivity.

It will ensure we rebuild the broken infrastructure and improve the delivery of health and social services such as combatting the drug epidemic ravaging our youth and eating away the future of this country. It will address crimes and security, and the empowerment of the people in the decision-making process affecting their welfare.

Fellow citizens, while we look to the future with hope, it is also important that we view that future, including the aspiration and the attending agenda, from the prism of our past; the historical foundations, which for better or worse have influenced and shaped our society in the nearly 200 years of statehood.

I believe the success of Liberia also depends on the examination of the national situation in its historical context, in addition to our strengths, our system-wide weaknesses, the existential threats we faced as a country, the potential we have been endowed, and the opportunities we must seize to build a great country. How we confront these more proactively will help drive the transformative process required.

Unity

The truth we must face is that like many countries, we, too, are a divided society, with some of our differences triggered by historical narratives, ethnicity, exclusion, and marginalization - all having been exploited over the years to create social, political, and economic disparities, and intense adversarial political divisions that deeply feed personal aggrandizement and stoke conflict.

As our history has shown and generations of Liberians have experienced, despite the sanguine aspirations of the founding fathers as envisioned in the declaration of independence for the promise of liberty from “... the most grinding oppression” and “ deep degradation” suffered in the United States, and with “every avenue to improvement ... effectually closed,” it is counter-intuitive that the very foundation of our country and the nature of its statehood, would stab at the very core of this vision and create a divided society.

As it seemed then, and for over a century, this vision only applied to a few – the descendants of the colonists and settler class. But class domination, economic and social exclusion, or marginalization of the majority of Liberians did not end with one hundred and thirty years of an oligarchy.

It later transformed into a new era of domination by a small ruling elite, made largely of elements across both indigenous and settler divide, who sought to maintain the trappings of the old order, using the state and its centralized system to marginalize the people for personal gains. The effect is the perpetuation of an unjust and unequal society by the new elites and their informal networks.

As the first independent Republic in Africa, Liberia was hailed as the beacon of hope for the African continent and for the African Diaspora worldwide. However, as seen over the years at home, the social and material conditions of the country’s population have not reflected that hope because of the entrenched predatory behavior of the state and the various governing elites. Today, I say with all conviction, that we have walked this road for far too long and it is now time we change course.

That change comes when we unite and work together in nation-building rather than continue to build an impervious state that is not responsive to the needs and dreams of most Liberians but to those presiding over it. We have been building the state and its capacity since independence and after the

Inaugural Address Of Honorable Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr

war but must equally now embark on nation-building to accommodate each other, and leverage shared values and beliefs for the promotion of a just society with equality for all.

We must foster a Liberian identity that overcomes the contrasting historical narratives, blurs the lines of regions and counties, gender, and historically sinister and destructive individualism that triggers greed and corruption as opposed to compassionate service for the public good.

We must unite to confront the challenges and break free from this stranglehold, for we are one people indivisible with a common purpose, who must come together in our diversity to build a stable and harmonious society in which every man and woman, and every boy and girl can have a chance to live a dignified life.

This presidential election was hard fought and looked to have further divided our country politically and regionally. But what unites us is bigger than what divides us. I am therefore extending a hand of cooperation and peace to my political opponents, knowing the common bond between us is “Liberia” and the need to harness its potential for the good of its people.

As is said, “We must work together or fail separately.” I am, therefore, assuring all Liberians that I will be the President for all irrespective of whether you voted for me or not, your party affiliation, county, religion, gender, region, and social and economic status. There is no contest between so-called “Green Liberia” and “Blue Liberia”, “Southeastern Liberia” and “North Central Liberia”. There is only one LIBERIA! We share a common CITIZENSHIP!

Compatriots and Distinguished Guests, we have managed to withstand a checkered history. We experienced economic growth in the 50s and 60s; endured near state collapse in challenging times, scorched by political crisis and war; preserved our sovereignty despite balkanization and two great wars; and gained the respect of the world by resolving our deep fissures politically. But the seemingly perennial presence of the vestiges of Liberia’s foundational challenges still stare us in the face.

I believe we can overcome the challenges we face as a country when we apply our collective gifts and talents to this new course we seek and draw from the exceptionalism that Liberia is.

We are a rich diversity within a great mosaic; the first independent Republic in Africa never colonized in the scramble for the continent. We have a common thread of culture running through our diversity, a shared history of trials and tribulations, celebration and grief, as well as one of dignity and respect in the world.

We have given the world a unique brand of hospitality that attracted millions to our shores and the glorious stories told by people around the world about a Liberia of yesteryears that offered opportunities and hope to all peoples who set foot on this land are too familiar.

Our resilience and resolve to shed the image of violence for which we were known for most of three decades, to uphold a democratic culture despite years of strife, autocracy, dictatorship, and war, and a deeply rooted communal spirit in a society that celebrates close and proximate relationships are a marvel to the world.

Seizing the moment today to transform the future

Today, history has given us a moment that we must seize for course correction and the molding of a new mindset. That moment begins now.

We are a country facing challenges and threats, some of which are existential. In the recent past, we have had a war that left in its wake telltale loss of lives and destruction of our country; the economy, in recent years, has been grossly mismanaged; social and youth problems, including a drug epidemic, are destroying the youth and essentially pose a threat to our future; unemployment is high and most of those working hardly have a livable income as the cost of living keeps escalating.

In addition to poor livelihoods, the state of security in the country is dire causing panic in several quarters of the population. The education system is facing multiple challenges including gross inequities in access. The country’s natural and beautiful environment and ecosystem are gradually being degraded. Our health system is suboptimum in its delivery to the people. Limited access to food is undermining the country’s food security, while poor, limited, broken, and nonexistent infrastructure in parts of the country is undermining growth and development.

With commodity prices uncontrollably fluctuating on the world market, current economic challenges are becoming even more acute. We are still confronted with the menace of corruption, which continues to eat away at the core of our social and economic development. We face an international system that is becoming more competitive than ever before, with the threat of climate change, pandemics, and terrorism always evident on our horizon.

Amid these challenges, we have made some progress, especially after the war. We have made progress in our democracy, instituted several institutional reforms, and have also largely kept the peace. However, we have yet to achieve economic progress in ways that reflect the country’s potential and promise. But I believe our economic conditions can improve when we seize the opportunities we have: and that we will do!

It is in our hands now to build a new Liberia, the Liberia we all want. We have been blessed naturally. We are a land richly endowed with resources that other countries envy. Our oceans, rivers and streams are teeming with some of the world’s exotic species. Our forests are coveted and are a part of the frontier in the fight against climate change, and together with the judicious exploitation of other natural resources, will help unlock the doors to the country’s development. Our landscape is beautiful and still pristine. Our soil is rich, and our water resources are abundant. Our population is young and dynamic and with the demographic dividend to be gained from a young population, we can experience an unprecedented level of productivity.

We now must exploit our human and material resources in optimum ways for the benefit of all Liberians.

My fellow compatriots, it is precisely because of these possibilities and opportunities that we offer to chart a new direction for the country; a new way and a mindset that will lead to an equal future and a transformed country in which the promise of Liberia will show in the lives of the people.

Our Path to Progress

Our vision, dubbed ARREST (Agriculture, Roads, Rule of Law, Education, Sanitation, Tourism), defines the development path we set for our people. We must and will harness opportunities in agriculture, roads, and other infrastructure development; improve the rule of law, rethink the education sector, improve sanitation, and unlock the potential of tourism.

We believe the economic linkages these will create and their reinforcement of each other in meeting our developmental goals will help arrest and reverse years of economic downturn.

Agriculture must be the key driver of our economy and potentially of national development. As a major source of employment in the country, agriculture provides over 50 percent of our population with livelihood and contributes substantially to the country’s GDP.

It is our long-held view that, more than any other sector, agriculture is the most critical catalyst to drive growth in an agro-based economy like ours, create employment and ensure food security. It is our goal to leverage our comparative advantage in agriculture including the provision of incentives and application of appropriate technology, as well as key interventions across the value chain such as food processing, storage, marketing, and trading.

I believe our strategy for improving agriculture will help with food self-sufficiency, boost economic transformation, and reduce poverty.

The poor state of our roads has undermined development and reduced the quality of life of citizens. This is indeed a major contributor to rural neglect in the country.

This is why we view the building of good roads as a critical intervention in infrastructure improvement for economic growth and national development. Our development agenda and the critical areas we want to address for economic growth cannot be realized without the appropriate investment in road connectivity and other infrastructure developments.

We plan to invest in roads to connect our people, improve agriculture, commerce and industry, education, promote tourism, and provide needed social services such as quality health care delivery for our people.

Enforcing the rule of law and public safety is vital to the ARREST agenda for overall national development. Our government pledges to improve transparency, accountability, and openness to promote good governance. In addition, access to justice to preserve social, economic, and political rights and freedoms and long-term stability in the country will be a top priority of our government.

Corruption is a menace and a drawback. Commitment to the application of the rule of law, therefore, will be essential in the fight against corruption, as halting the tide of public corruption is an important part of our development agenda for the transformation of our country. We must, accordingly, reset the fight against corruption and impunity to demonstrate firmness and resolve. We have decided to set up an office to explore the feasibility for the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court

(WECC) to provide an opportunity for those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity to account for their actions in court. An estimated quarter of a million of our people perished in the war. We cannot forever remain unmoved by this searing national tragedy without closure.

We shall seek advice and assistance from the Office of the United Nations Secretary General to ensure that the court, if found feasible, will be in compliance with highest standards of similar courts everywhere. The Legislature will have its say appropriately in this matter in order to avoid any appearance of vendetta or witch-hunt.

Similarly, predictable business practices, including contractual certainty and public safety as enforced under the rule of law will establish a better investment climate as we seek to expand the private sector and create jobs that best serve our people.

Education is essential to our development, but we believe that in its current state, it offers less of the bold actions needed to transform the country. We must begin to rethink and retool how we address the challenges of our educational system in ways that best serve our developmental needs.

In this direction, and for the development outcomes we desire under the ARREST agenda, we will invest in vocational training and science education to support the required workforce development essential to providing jobs, increasing productivity, and improving the quality of life of our people.

That investment will also build the capacity of Liberians to compete in a globalized workplace and leverage technology for entrepreneurship. As we also begin to think about evolving a knowledge-based economy, we will continue to invest in technological training and IT programs. In this connection, we shall adopt the development of multiuser rail system to encourage expansion and greater productivity in our mining sector for jobs creation.

We view sanitation as a major area of concern because it relates to our public health system and directly impacts efficient workforce development and deployment. The lack of safe drinking water and proper garbage and sewage disposal systems has exposed millions of Liberians and residents living in congested cities, towns and rural communities to diseases and other health risks.

Given the inequities in an already inadequate healthcare delivery system, exposure to poor hygienic practices is a national developmental risk. As our interconnected world is making us increasingly mutually vulnerable to pandemics, addressing the challenges of sanitation and health care will be a major priority of our government. I must however pause to thank our volunteers and supporters including diplomats who helped to give our city face lift.

We will invest and partner with others to improve the provision of safe drinking water, basic hygienic practices, and related and affordable healthcare delivery services for our people, especially children and the vulnerable of our population.

Developing Liberia’s tourism is key to the country’s social and economic growth. It has the potential to generate employment and income for thousands of our people, particularly our youth population. However, this great national resource remains untapped and undeveloped, depriving the country and its people of significant economic benefits.

With our country endowed so much with natural beauty and some of the world’s most coveted flora and fauna habitats, we can develop a tourism industry that will welcome the world to Liberia as a top tourist destination.

Our development agenda will, as a matter of top priority, feature the needed investment in this and related sectors, such as security, the fight against drug trafficking and other crimes, corruption, as well as improved infrastructure.

Fellow Liberians, this is the path we have chosen to address our socio-economic challenges and bring relief to you the people.

And with you joining us as we provide the leadership, it is possible to transform our country.

We can build a capable and responsive state, halt the tide of corruption, develop a productive economy with increasing/significant participation of Liberians, remove structural barriers, stem the tide of rural neglect especially in the Southeast, and eventually win the fight against the drug epidemic.

To you, the residents of this country, we acknowledge you have had a continuous presence in our country dating back to its founding. Join us and bring your talent and resources to the growth of our economy, particularly in the productive sectors, but not in areas of unfair advantages to deprive our people.

Let me renew thanks to the International Community for its engagement with us during our worst and better moments. We are ready to engage you for the mutual benefit of our people. We note and are proud of our history as one of the oldest and continuous republics in the world, and our leadership in shaping the post-World War Two order. As a beacon of hope in Africa, we supported the independence and liberation movements on the continent and helped found sub-regional, regional, continental and global organizations.

Our storied diplomacy helped us traverse the challenges of the 19th and 20th centuries and helped preserve our State. Despite a 14-year civil war, and one of the worst human tragedies in Africa, we refuse to be defined by this dark chapter in our national history.

Under our leadership, we will strive for Liberia to rise and take its rightful place in the world as a leader in global affairs, maintaining its traditional liberal and democratic ideals at home while fostering international cooperation driven by “development diplomacy” focused on a repurposed national development agenda aimed at giving our people better livelihoods.

We will strengthen cooperation with our region in the spirit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and support the African Union in its (AU) continent-wide initiatives aimed at improving the lives of our people. We also will foster South-South cooperation to address mutual developmental issues in the global south.

Liberia’s relationship with the United States of America is spoken about in glorious terms. But on the eve of our 177th anniversary, we are yet to show how we have made this traditional relationship work for us in ways that have helped the transformation this country craves.

This is not to suggest, however, that we are not aware of the debate over the dynamics of two centuries of a relationship nurtured across the Atlantic. But given this long relationship, it is a bit discomforting to be found debating about how we as a country are still struggling to come to terms with the extent to which we think the relationship might benefit us.

We believe we deserve more, but we would be remiss if we did not mention that we cannot ask the United States to do for us what we can do for ourselves, including leveraging the relationship for the good of our country.

For example, how might we expect American taxpayer money to support our development needs when government officials embezzle public funds with impunity and government officials personally pocket taxes raised locally?

We believe we can make the relationship work to our benefit if and when we partner with the United States in ways that promote an equitable society. In this light, working with the U.S. to build our democracy, to end the culture of corruption and impunity, and to promote deep economic and cultural cooperation, while collaborating on serious global challenges like climate change and international security cooperation, will help lift the relationship to a mutually beneficial level.

To the business community, we say the country is always open to business - legitimate business that links to our development agenda, creation of wealth, increased productivity, and serious participation of Liberians in the economy.

This country can only be built by Liberians with the help of others. We support business profitability, but we will avoid profitability that does not translate to general economic prosperity for citizens. Growth must come with development, and growth must be equitable. We will welcome Foreign Direct Investment but in a partnership that will ensure our people benefit fully from our resources.

To the Liberian Diaspora Community in the United States and around the world, we recognize your role in the effort to build the society and help improve the country’s political, economic, and social conditions. The Diaspora Community will have a pivotal role in our government and be an important partner in the renewal we seek for Liberia.

We will seek new engagements to leverage the critical mass of the Diaspora in national development. I am, therefore, announcing the holding of periodic Diaspora Conferences to enhance diaspora engagement in national development.

To Civil Society, your voice will matter because you will make us better. We extend a hand of partnership to you to collaborate with us in ways that reinforce our roles to improve the conditions of our people and elevate our country.

Let me now speak directly to the youth. You will be the drivers of the change we seek. As our future, you are invited to be more involved as we explore ways of working with you to develop a national service program to help prepare young people for future leadership roles. Our agenda will create the space you need. You must therefore prepare yourselves to play a significant role in changing your country.

I stand before you today to promise the commitment of my Administration to the public good; to working for the millions of Liberians waiting for the beginning of a new day; and to build the people’s trust in their government and institutions.

To you, my fellow Liberians across the length and breadth of our great country, let us this day begin a process of national renewal and make this century the Liberian century. Let us unite and build together.

Let us resolve to make our country a truly bright and shining star – “the Lone Star Forever”. And in so doing, let us reflect on the words of our national hymn: “In union strong, success is sure. We cannot fail”.

We look forward with hope, faith and confidence, as we Think Liberia, Love Liberia, and together Build Liberia.

May Almighty God bless us all and save our State.

Thank You!

Français

Joseph N. Boakai a-t-il été manipulé à l'aveugle lors de sa visite des installations de LTMI ?

La récente visite du président élu Joseph N. Boakai aux locaux de Liberia Traffic Management Incorporated (LTMI), une entreprise

l'occasion de capter des revenus essentiels du pays, pour un travail déjà pris en charge par le ministère des Transports.

Le ministère des Transports, établi en août 1987 par la loi,

garantir l'enregistrement des véhicules et la délivrance des permis de conduire. Cependant, le projet de MoU de LTMI, en plus de réguler la circulation dans le pays,

Éditorial

Les lamentations de la vice-présidente Taylor sur du lait versé

Les récentes révélations de la vice-présidente sortante Jewel Howard-Taylor sur les traitements qu'elle aurait subis au sein du gouvernement de la coalition du président George Manneh Weah, qu'elle a servi pendant six ans, ne sont rien d'autre que des lamentations sur du lait versé.

Comment une femme de son statut a-t-elle pu permettre de subir une telle humiliation psychologique sans réagir ?

Pourtant, elle a été assez courageuse pour défendre publiquement le CDC et critiquer à plusieurs reprises l'ancien vice-président, maintenant président élu, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, pour sa performance médiocre sous Madame Sirleaf. La même chose qu'elle disait de l'autre s'est retournée contre elle.

Madame Taylor a conduit le Parti patriotique national (NPP) au sein du Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) du président Weah dans le cadre d'une coalition qui a fait d'elle vice-présidente à l'issue des élections de 2017. Mais elle a été négligée après l'accession au pouvoir du CDC.

Au cours de la première année de l'administration, elle n'a pas repris son travail au Sénat qu'elle préside, car le palais présidentiel a retiré ses collaborateurs officiels et son cortège officiel, invoquant des allégations et des craintes au sein du parti au pouvoir selon lesquelles elle voulait éclipser le président Weah. La pression publique a été nécessaire pour que ses avantages soient rétablis.

Lors d'une émission en direct sur Internet récemment, la vice-présidente a déploré qu'elle n'ait jamais eu accès au cercle intérieur de l'administration Weah malgré son statut de deuxième commandant, tandis que sa valeur en termes d'éducation et d'expérience était minimisée dans le gouvernement. Comment cela peut-il attirer l'attention du public alors qu'elle est déjà sur le départ pour laisser place à une nouvelle administration ? La Coalition for Democratic Change a perdu le second tour de l'élection présidentielle du 14 novembre 2023 au profit de l'Unity Party, contrecarrant clairement la tentative du président Weah de briguer un second mandat.

Mais le fait qu'une femme qui a déjà été première dame de la République du Liberia avant d'être élue vice-présidente endure une telle humiliation pendant six longues années dans un silence total, est non seulement une déception sérieuse pour elle-même, mais aussi pour les femmes libériennes aspirant à des fonctions publiques.

Par ses révélations, Madame Taylor indique clairement qu'elle a été complètement mise à l'écart. Ce n'est donc pas étonnant que les appels à l'emploi au sein de la faction NPP soient restés sans réponse, car elle n'avait aucune influence sur le président Weah ou les principaux responsables pour faire valoir ses intérêts, et elle ne pouvait pas le dire publiquement.

"À un certain moment, j'ai été bloquée ; je ne faisais plus partie de l'équipe. En 2016-2017, j'ai fait partie de l'équipe ; nous nous sommes assis autour de la table pour discuter, et il (le président Weah) me demandait à la fin de chaque conversation de parler, 'Deputy SB, qu'en dis-tu,' et j'avais toujours la chance de dire ce que je pensais."

Mais elle a observé que tout cela a changé par la suite, et elle a été de plus en plus ostracisée au sein de la Coalition, regrettant "Ce manque de communication et de consultation a réellement atteint ma personne. Si je pouvais revenir en arrière, je dirais que c'était la partie la plus difficile pour moi. En tant que femme, vous savez, nous aimons parler. Et donc, j'ai toujours voulu avoir l'opportunité de parler de certaines des choses qui se passaient. Et j'ai toujours voulu dire que le président Weah et moi n'avions jamais eu d'échanges en face à face ; jamais."

Le fait de s'exprimer maintenant à la onzième heure est, comme on le dit souvent en parlant libérien, "de l'eau sous le pont" qui n'a pas une grande pertinence pour le moment. Tout ce qui lui reste maintenant, c'est de continuer sa vie après le 22 janvier.



libanaise avec des intérêts locaux, soulève des interrogations majeures. Cette visite suscite des préoccupations non seulement en raison de la présence physique de M. Boakai, mais également en raison du contexte de litige juridique entourant le projet de protocole d'entente (MoU) proposé par LTMI.

De nombreux observateurs estiment que cette initiative pourrait compromettre les fonctions statutaires du ministère des Transports et offrir à LTMI

jouit d'un mandat statutaire pour administrer toutes les fonctions liées au transport, y compris la délivrance des plaques d'immatriculation et des permis de conduire dans le pays. Cette institution est également habilitée à formuler et à administrer les réglementations et politiques liées au transport, à l'assurance et à la navigation maritime au Liberia, devenant ainsi l'une des principales agences génératrices de revenus du pays.

Au fil des ans, le ministère a collaboré étroitement avec la police nationale libérienne pour

cherche à s'attribuer le rôle de délivrance des plaques d'immatriculation et des permis de conduire. De nombreux observateurs estiment que cela pourrait constituer une usurpation des fonctions du ministère, soulevant ainsi des préoccupations sur la sécurité nationale en confiant ces responsabilités à une entreprise étrangère.

Ce qui rend la visite de Boakai à LTMI le 15 janvier dernier encore plus préoccupante, c'est la

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Liberia : Joseph Boakai investi président lors de la deuxième transition pacifique du pays

Au Liberia, le désormais président Joseph Boakai a prêté serment lundi 22 janvier à Monrovia pour un mandat de six ans, après sa victoire fin novembre sur l'ex-star du football et président sortant George Weah. Des milliers de personnes ont assisté à la cérémonie d'investiture au Capitol Building, le siège du gouvernement, avec des invités tels que des chefs d'État des pays voisins, notamment ceux de la Sierra Leone et du Ghana. Il s'agissait d'un rendez-vous, crucial pour la jeune démocratie libérienne.

Tapis rouge, invités d'honneur, et le soleil au rendez-vous : l'ambiance est à la fête lundi au Liberia. La cérémonie d'investiture de Joseph Boakai a commencé à 12h heure locale (et TU) au Capitol Building, le siège du gouvernement.

Pendant son discours, dont longueur de plus d'une

heure a suscité des vives critiques de la part de commentateurs, le nouveau président a dû marquer deux pauses, avant d'être aidé à quitter le podium. La cérémonie n'a pas repris. Cet homme de 79 ans a prêté serment dans une salle en plein air, sous une chaleur étouffante

Certains des opposants de Joseph Boakai avaient exprimé des inquiétudes quant à son âge et à son état de santé pendant la campagne électorale. Son équipe

a rejeté ces critiques et son porte-parole a déclaré qu'il n'avait pas de commentaire à faire dans l'immédiat, après l'incident pendant la cérémonie.

Parmi les présents se trouvaient le président de la Commission de l'Union africaine, Moussa Faki, l'ancien président du Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo et une délégation importante des

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Français

Par Daron Acemoglu

Ce qu'il faut pour bâtir des institutions démocratiques

BOSTON - Pour bâtir de meilleures institutions démocratiques, les pays en voie de développement et les pays industrialisés peuvent suivre différents modèles. Le Chili, après plusieurs tentatives avortées de rédaction d'une nouvelle Constitution, fournit en revanche l'exemple de ce qu'il ne faut pas reproduire.

Comptant pourtant parmi les pays les plus riches d'Amérique latine, le Chili souffre encore aujourd'hui de l'héritage de la dictature brutale du général Augusto Pinochet, ainsi que d'inégalités historiques. Le pays a réalisé des progrès dans la construction d'institutions démocratiques depuis le référendum de 1988, qui a marqué la transition loin de l'autoritarisme, de même que les programmes d'éducation et sociaux ont réduit les inégalités de revenus. Un certain nombre de problèmes majeurs persistent néanmoins. De profondes inégalités demeurent non seulement en termes de revenus, mais également d'accès aux services publics, de ressources éducatives de qualité, ainsi que d'opportunités sur le marché du travail. Par ailleurs, le Chili demeure régi par la Constitution imposée par Pinochet en 1980.

Bien qu'il puisse sembler naturel de repartir de zéro, le Chili s'y est pris de la mauvaise manière. À la suite d'un référendum de 2020 qui a révélé un soutien considérable à la rédaction d'une nouvelle Constitution, le processus a été confié à une convention de délégués élus. Seulement voilà, environ 43% seulement des électeurs ont participé à l'élection de 2021 pour la composition de cette convention, et de nombreux candidats provenaient de cercles d'extrême gauche, idéologiquement déterminés à rédiger une Constitution répressive pour les entreprises, et établissant une multitude de nouveaux droits pour différentes communautés. Lorsque le document qui en a résulté a été soumis au vote, 62 % des Chiliens l'ont rejeté.

Une deuxième tentative a reproduit les mêmes échecs, mais dans la direction inverse. Une majorité de droite à la convention, galvanisée par la réaction du public à la première version, a rédigé une Constitution qui a elle aussi fini par être rejetée, considérée comme allant trop loin. Cette expérience devrait sembler familière, le Chili n'étant certainement pas le seul pays dans lequel un organe militant préconise des mesures auxquelles s'oppose une majorité d'électeurs. Des épisodes comparables s'observent en effet aujourd'hui à travers le monde - notamment aux United States - avec pour conséquence une perte de confiance dans les institutions.

Le soutien à la démocratie peut-il être rebâti ? Mes récents travaux aux côtés de Nicolás Ajzenman, de Cevat Aksoy, de Martin Fiszbein et de Carlos Molina peuvent apporter ici plusieurs indices. Nous constatons que les individus qui ont fait l'expérience des institutions démocratiques ont tendance à les soutenir, mais seulement s'ils estiment que les démocraties sont efficaces dans l'accomplissement des performances économiques, des services publics et d'autres résultats auxquels ils s'attendent.

Ce que les individus semblent attendre des démocraties est tout à fait révélateur. Le soutien à la démocratie diminue ainsi durant les crises économiques, les guerres ou autres périodes d'instabilité, et augmente lorsque la population bénéficie de services publics de qualité, de faibles inégalités, et d'une corruption minimale voire inexistante. Les leçons à en tirer sont claires. Si nous entendons bâtir une meilleure démocratie, nous devons commencer par nous pencher sur la capacité des institutions démocratiques à atteindre les résultats escomptés par la population.

Avec le creusement des inégalités dans de nombreux pays et la montée en puissance des grandes entreprises mondiales, il est raisonnable pour les démocraties d'appliquer une plus grande redistribution et de plus fortes protections pour les catégories défavorisées. En revanche, comme toujours, la droite et la gauche procéderont ici des différentes manières.

Dans le cas du Chili, le programme de gauche radicalement hostile aux entreprises apparaît malavisé. Une meilleure alternative réside dans le modèle promu par les partis sociaux-démocrates scandinaves, qui ont accédé au pouvoir après le krach boursier de 1929 et la Grande Dépression, période à laquelle il était impératif de procéder à des changements institutionnels majeurs, ainsi que d'appliquer des politiques de redressement de

l'économie et de lutte contre les inégalités.

De nombreuses idées faussent entourent les origines de la social-démocratie nordique. Certains commentateurs semblent croire que les pays scandinaves ont toujours été prédisposés à l'égalité et à la coopération. D'autres les considèrent comme des modèles de social-démocratie. Ces deux perceptions sont en réalité erronées. La Suède et la Norvège étaient toutes deux marquées par de fortes inégalités au début du XXe siècle. Le coefficient de Gini du revenu avant impôts (une mesure d'inégalité sur un échelle de 0 à 1) s'élevait à 0,57 pour la Norvège en 1930, ce qui signifie que le pays était à l'époque plus inégal que n'importe quel État d'Amérique latine aujourd'hui.

La Suède et la Norvège ont également connu des conflits industriels fréquents. Les partis ouvriers qui sont devenus plus tard des partis sociaux-démocrates étaient enracinés dans le marxisme. Lorsqu'ils sont arrivés au pouvoir, ils avaient néanmoins commencé à s'éloigner de leurs engagements antérieurs en faveur de la révolution et d'une idéologie rigide. Ils ont davantage fait campagne sous une large ombrelle de promesses : une gestion macroéconomique saine, ainsi qu'une réforme égalitaire du marché du travail et de l'éducation.

Pour sa part, le Parti travailliste norvégien a changé de cap par rapport à son programme marxiste radical après de piètres résultats aux élections de 1930 en Norvège. Tout comme les partis ouvriers danois et suédois de l'époque, il a recentré son attention sur des questions plus pragmatiques, mettant en œuvre les politiques que la population souhaitait. Le parti a également promis une réforme éducative majeure pour améliorer la qualité de l'éducation dans les zones rurales en retard. Après son retour au pouvoir en 1935, le parti a rapidement mis en œuvre sa « loi sur l'école populaire » l'année suivante.

Dans mes récents travaux aux côtés de Tuomas Pekkarinen, de Kjell Salvanes et de Matti Sarvimäki, nous démontrons que la réforme scolaire en Norvège a fait davantage qu'améliorer la qualité de l'éducation en milieu rural. Elle a également exercé un profond impact sur la politique norvégienne, dans la mesure où nombre de ceux qui ont bénéficié de cette réforme (à commencer par les parents) ont changé d'allégeance en faveur du Parti travailliste, contribuant ainsi à créer la coalition qui soutiendrait le modèle de démocratie sociale désormais célèbre en Norvège. Autrement dit, le parti a fourni les services que les électeurs souhaitaient, et les électeurs l'ont récompensé par leur soutien électoral.

Le cas suédois est largement similaire. Après sa première victoire électorale en 1932, le Parti social-démocrate suédois a tenu sa promesse d'augmentation des salaires, de paix industrielle et d'environnement macroéconomique stable, ce qui lui a valu d'être récompensé dans les urnes pendant plusieurs décennies.

Des leçons peuvent ici être tirées par ceux qui entendent renforcer la démocratie et bâtir de nouvelles institutions afin de combattre les inégalités et de protéger les moins favorisés. La première étape doit consister à prouver que la démocratie fonctionne, en élaborant un programme réformiste qui soit une réussite dans la fourniture de services à la population. Les tentatives qui consistent à imposer aux électeurs des politiques extrémistes (de droite comme de gauche) sont vouées à l'échec - et risquent même d'altérer encore davantage la confiance dans les institutions démocratiques.

Daron Acemoglu, professeur d'économie au MIT, est coauteur (avec Simon Johnson) de l'ouvrage intitulé of Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity (PublicAffairs, 2023).

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Joseph N. Boakai a-t-il été

présence de deux anciens directeurs de la police, Chris Massaquoi et Gregory Coleman, qui guident la visite sans la présence d'aucun membre actuel de la hiérarchie policière. Cette situation suggère que Boakai aurait pu être influencé par ces anciens responsables pour effectuer la visite, au milieu du litige en cours, selon une source proche du président élu. Le 31 janvier 2022, le gouvernement du Libéria et LTMI devaient signer un protocole d'entente (MOU) visant à réglementer le système de circulation du pays. La cérémonie de signature et le lancement du programme étaient programmés sur les lieux de LTMI à Paynesville, à côté du complexe sportif Samuel Kanyon Doe. Cependant, la cérémonie a été interrompue et reportée dans des circonstances non expliquées, alors que des autorités de la sécurité, dont la police nationale libérienne (LNP) et le service de l'immigration du Libéria (LIS), étaient déjà présentes en tant qu'invités. Le MoU de LTMI promet des avantages significatifs pour le Libéria, notamment l'amélioration du système de régulation du trafic, le renforcement des capacités de 500 membres du personnel de la police nationale libérienne et la création de plus de 1 200 emplois pour les Libériens. Cependant, ce document ne précise pas la part des maigres revenus du pays qui serait prélevée.

LTMI, un modèle de partenariat public-privé, est réputé fonctionner dans plus de 50 pays à travers le monde. Selon les extraits du

MoU, LTMI serait responsable de la gestion des véhicules de circulation, tandis que l'application des réglementations de la circulation serait assurée par la police nationale libérienne, en partenariat avec le ministère des Transports. La LNP fournirait des ressources humaines et une expertise technique en application de la loi, tout en menant des programmes de sensibilisation à la sécurité routière et de soutien à la gestion de la circulation à travers le pays.

Outre ces responsabilités, le MoU de LTMI soulève des préoccupations supplémentaires en cherchant à assumer certaines fonctions étatiques, telles que la fourniture d'uniformes pour la police nationale libérienne et la formation du personnel. En 2019, LTMI avait déjà conduit des responsables gouvernementaux, y compris le président élu Boakai, pour inspecter des flottes de véhicules et de motos de la police, prévues pour renforcer la sécurité routière et la gestion du trafic. Dans une déclaration de son bureau, le président élu Boakai a exprimé son optimisme quant à la mise en place de LTMI, affirmant que le pays aurait un guichet unique pour le traitement de tous les documents, des permis de conduire aux plaques d'immatriculation, des inspections de validité routière aux polices d'assurance. Selon le bureau du président élu, le Centre d'application des lois sur la circulation est prêt à être opérationnel, et l'espoir subsiste que les obstacles juridiques liés à l'investissement seront surmontés pour que le public puisse en bénéficier.

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Liberia : Joseph Boakai

États-Unis. Sont également présents les chefs d'État de la Sierra Leone et du Ghana, où cette journée est suivie avec beaucoup d'attention, car les Ghanéens se rendront aux urnes à la fin de l'année. Également présente au premier rang : l'ancienne présidente libérienne Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, également première femme élue chef d'État en Afrique, qui avait ensuite passé le pouvoir à son successeur George Weah en 2018.

La passation de pouvoir d'aujourd'hui, la deuxième de l'histoire du Liberia à se faire de manière pacifique, fait la fierté des Libériens, explique Oscar Bloh, un membre de la société civile.

Nombreuses attentes dans un pays miné par la corruption et la pauvreté

Les attentes sont nombreuses. Car le nouveau président Joseph Boakai prend le pouvoir dans un pays miné par la pauvreté et la corruption.

Dans ce contexte, le nouveau chef d'État Joseph Boakai a notamment réduit le coût de sa cérémonie d'investiture de 900 000 à 650 000 dollars. En limitant les dépenses, il signe la rupture avec le style de son prédécesseur George Weah. Ce dernier a également assisté à la cérémonie, après avoir défendu son bilan la veille.

Dans 100 jours, Joseph Boakai a promis de tirer un premier bilan de son mandat, lui aussi devant les Libériens.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Don't take the route of Weah's regime"

-EFF Leader Julius Malema cautions Boakai
By Lewis S. Teh

South African politician Julius Malema has cautioned Liberia's new President Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai to not take the

outgoing Weah administration was booted out due to its failure to commit to said promises.

The South African politician lamented that it was

explained that he will ensure that EFF-Liberia continues to become vibrant in its advocacy. Malema told newsmen that the EFF's affirmation of President Boakai is not an affirmation of the United States government.

"We find him to be better than the other one and someone that can solve our problem internally," said Mr. Malema. "We have never affirmed America; we have never befriended America. We know what America did here in Liberia, we know what Europe did, we know what the British have done to our continent, so we do not support neocolonialism in whatever way," said Malema.

The EFF leader said the US and EFF may have a different diplomatic relationship, but that doesn't mean they have affirmed them.

The EFF Global Leader wants to see democracy and freedom upright in Africa where there is no split of blood. Malema's arrival to join other high-profile delegates in a groundbreaking moment for Pan-African solidarity has ignited a wave of excitement across Liberia.

Malema, renowned for his fervent advocacy of Communism, Marxism-Leninism, Black nationalism, Left-wing populism, Fanonism, Sankarism, and Pan-Africanism, is hailed as one of Africa's most influential voices against capitalism, imperialism, and antisemitism.

His arrival marks a significant milestone for the local chapter of the EFF, which shares his commitment to these transformative ideologies.

The EFFL, under the

route of the regime of his predecessor, former President George Manneh Weah. Malema who heads the South African-based Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) was in Liberia to grace Amb. Boakai and his vice president Jeremiah Koung's inauguration held Monday, 22 January 2024. Malema's EFF has a Liberian version named the Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia (EFFL) political party headed by Emmanuel Gonquoi. Malema urged the Boakai regime not to use the style of leadership adopted by the immediate past government of President Weah by deviating from its obligation to Liberians.

unfortunate that the outgoing administration failed to allow the will of the people to prevail. According to Malema, the people of Liberia, especially the indigenous, must feel the impact of the moment, and no one should live in a situation where they will not feel the impact of peace.

He described Boakai as a gift to Liberia, noting that the EFF Liberia chapter which is highly recognized by EFF Global, will continue to engage the Boakai administration to ensure effective leadership for Liberians. However, he craves the Boakai administration to ensure that the EFF-Liberia be allowed to continue to express itself, despite its proximity to the incoming presidency.

Praising EFFL for its commitment, Malema



South African politician Julius Malema

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for the visit. He said the election of Ambassador Boakai is a new time in the history of the country looking at where it has come from. "To see Ambassador Greenfield being sent here by President Joe

U.S. assures support for Boakai

Biden is a new sign and as such the church was glad to have received her," he noted.

He added that this is a new time for the church to work in partnership and collaboration with the government to deal with some of the challenges

facing the country. "Our expectation from this government is that we hope they will live to their promise and better the lives of citizens," said Amb. Greenfield.

Keep realistic expectations

"I thank President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, my former boss for her stewardship when the country needed to come out of the ruins of war. I commend my immediate predecessor, President George Weah, for living up to the dictates of our Constitution and laws in ensuring the smooth transfer of power. The people wanted change, and we have no option

but to do the people's bidding. However, the President's inaugural speech was aborted by heat exhaustion, as the temperature here went very high despite the occasion held outdoor on the grounds of the Capitol. Story by Jonathan Browne

Lonestar Cell MTN addresses network outages in Nimba County

Monrovia, Liberia January 19, 2023 – Lonestar Cell MTN, Liberia's leading telecommunication and fintech provider, acknowledges recent network outages in Nimba and other counties and regrets any disruptions caused by them.

Damein Mariappen, the Chief Technical Information Officer, said that the company understands the inconvenience and assures subscribers that restoring and improving service is a top priority.

"Our goal is to build a reliable and fast network in Liberia on par or better than other countries in the region. Last year, we embarked on a major national network upgrade where we modernized a large part of Monrovia. In 2024 we are working on improving the experience in the various counties," he said.

Mr. Mariappen added that the ongoing network upgrade will

modernized large parts of the network, we have seen a 50% increase in speeds."

Lonestar Cell MTN CEO, Mr. Rahul De, said that network modernization entails replacing old equipment with new ones, major alignments, and restructuring of tower signals which all must be done simultaneously.

"Sometimes these initiatives do not go as planned. Sometimes the process requires additional changes and different planning which might cause outages while the new systems are coming online" he said.

Mr. De assured the public that these issues are temporary and are a norm during major upgrades and assures subscribers that brighter days are lying ahead.

"We appreciate the patience of our valued subscribers during the modernization process and, we apologize for all the inconveniences they might have



give subscribers a new network equipped with the latest 4G technology, which offers faster speed, better voice quality and higher reliability.

This is particularly true in Nimba County.

"We have been working on restoring the service there and have now completed that. By mid-February Nimbians can expect a new modernized network with the upgrade of 18 key sites. We want to give all our subscribers the best service in the best possible way. In Monrovia, where we've

caused. Subscribers will certainly appreciate the upgrades when they see how improved their experience will become across the country," said Mr. De.

#ENDS#
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A new beginning

Keep realistic expectations

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Newly inaugurated Liberian President Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai has pledged a government of inclusion void

prosperous future. The new President gave his opponents hope, particularly those vacating government positions from previous administrations with concerns

energies, recalibrate, and help restore the years the locusts have eaten."We must restore our dignity and integrity. With the election campaigns now behind us, I

President Joseph Nyumah Boakai reminds UP partisans and Liberians generally that their plan or desire to fix the ills inherited must proceed with realistic expectations.

normal." We were chevalier about the rule of law. We lowered standards in many domains of our common life as a people. We seem to have lost our way, lost hope."

Mr. Boakia assures that he has come to rekindle hope, to reposition the country on a national pathway and to remind all citizens that though the accident of national births has made Liberians a diverse people, they must employ their Liberian citizenship to become a united people, "for only a United people", he underscores, "can build a nation."

President Boakai says being fully aware of the enormous task ahead, the UP-led government's rescue mission comes with no false assurance, but will act in the first hundred days of the administration and then diligently pursue with the mission.

"The experts uncovered for us cogent analyses of our national condition. We can no more attempt to bury our heads in the proverbial sand. We see hard times, we see disfunction, we see culture of impunity, we see corruption in high and low places. It is these and similar conditions that we have come to RESCUE", President Boakai said here on Monday, 22nd January 2023 immediately after he was sworn in office as 26th President of Liberia on grounds of the Capitol.

Responding to the rhetorical question where do Liberians plan to take the country in the next six years, he rallies the country refocus on its political energies saying that with the electoral campaign now behind, "I embrace all my fellow Liberians at home and in the diaspora. One of the good things brought to light by the campaign, and facilitated by social media, is that Liberians from all walks of life had a chance to engage a "national conversation" about our past, our present, and our future prospects.

The inaugural ceremony was



of partisanship, minutes after taking the oath of office at the Capitol on Monday, 22 January 2024.

"The Election is over; partisanship must be erased. Time for national and inclusive government, for everyone to have the opportunity to work. Together we can build a new Liberia, a bigger Liberia, and a better Liberia, restoring our dignity," said President Boakai.

The 79-year-old former Liberian vice president succeeded former Liberian international soccer icon Mr. George Manneh Weah who, after a tightly fought election battle, conceded defeat following the 14 November 2023 presidential run-off.

Boakai's inauguration brought together high-profile international guests including Amb. Linda Thomas Greenfield, the U.S. representative to the United Nations represented the Biden Administration in Liberia for the historic transfer of power.

In his inaugural speech, Boakai committed himself to a government of inclusion in which every Liberian can have the opportunity to serve their country in a pathway of building a new Liberia with dignity, integrity, and a

about what would be their fate in the new Unity Party era.

In his inaugural speech, President Boakai denounced the attributes of partisanship, and political affiliations in government that frequently happened under previous administrations.

Boakai suggested that the appointment of loyalists, partisans, and supporters of a political party in key positions has served as a hindrance to the growth, development, and progress of Liberia over the years. President Boakai called for inclusivity, transparency, and accountability of former officials to the new administration, stressing national reconciliation as the pathway to moving Liberia forward.

"We must unite to resolve the stranglehold of our country, restore our dignity, build a better Liberia because only with united people we can build this nation," Amb. Boakai said.

The 26th President of the Republic of Liberia also launched a clarion call for a new Liberia where every Liberian will respect the rule of law and adhere to the tenets of democracy.

He called on Liberians to reshape their political

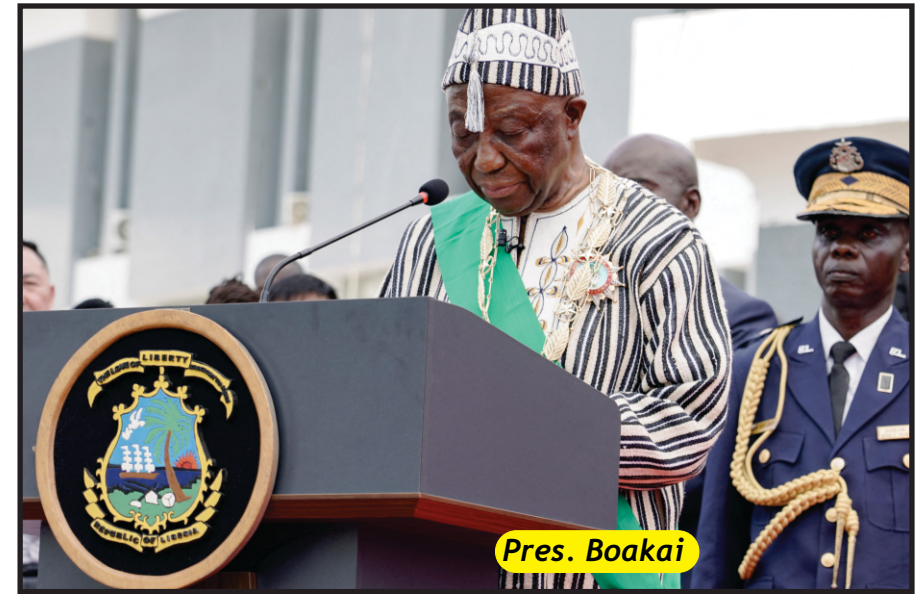
embrace all my fellow Liberians. Let us now recalibrate and restore the years the locusts have eaten," President Boakai said. He promised to fix the ills of the Liberian society, and fight corruption.

Amb. Boakai said before being president of the Republic, the Rescue Mission for a New Liberia set a broad goal of economic development, sustainability, and a chance of increased productivity.

Meanwhile, President Boakai couldn't conclude his speech delivered before thousands of dignitaries following an incident that many considered as massive heat exhaustion.

There is no medical report available to the public regarding what occurred on Capitol Hill on Monday, but Mr. Boakai was led away after being observed to have appeared weak under the scorching sun.

He was dressed in long sleeves traditional attire with bulletproof vest underneath and mounted a podium with visibly no ventilation and read about 21 pages of a speech that is reported to be 24 pages long before the incident abruptly disrupted the speech delivery.



Pres. Boakai

attended by several dignitaries and global leaders, including the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Linda-Thomas Greenfield, a Vice Premier from the People's Republic of China, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo of Ghana, Sierra Leonean President Julius Maada Bio, and former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, among others.

President Boakai explains that he began his quest for the presidency because something seemed wrong with Liberians, and the country's leadership, noting that rather than the positives, Liberians were accentuating the negatives about their country and about one another.

"We were initiating false starts, building on poor foundations. We were deepening our differences, creating new social fault lines. Inclusive and accountable governance was at an all-time low. We created a culture of unfinished business, engaged in ad hoc undertakings, making this behavior the "new

We learned together what is wrong with our country, and hopefully what is right as well."

President Boakai urges Liberians to recalibrate to "restore the years the locusts have eaten" by accentuating the positive about the country and about their fellow citizens.

"As we think, love, and build Liberia, let us take this state of mind to the business of national healing and reconciliation, both the old and new emerging social cleavages. Let us restore inclusivity, transparency, and accountability to governance at all levels of our society, including government."

He stresses that Liberians must discourage the culture of unfinished business, doing things in a haphazard and unserious manner to restore hope individually, and collectively, adding "We must also restore dignity and integrity to public service - livable remuneration and pension schemes to civil servants and foreign service government workers. We must restore respect for the rule of law, and respect for

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Don't take the route of Weah's regime"

leadership of Mr. Gonquoi, has expressed delight over Malema's arrival to attend a memorable inaugural carnival in Liberia. EFFL Commander-in-Chief Gonquoi further expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all EFFL members for their "tremendous support and tireless efforts" in upholding the institution's

values and their cooperation to celebrate Malema's arrival.

Gonquoi maintained that the visit of Malema is anticipated to strengthen the bonds of Pan-Africanism and further enhance the cause of economic freedom across the continent.

He encouraged members and supporters of EFFL to

continue upholding solidarity with the movement and CIC Malema's visionary leadership.

Meanwhile, Gonquoi said the arrival of Malema to Liberia promises to be a historic demonstration of unity and shared purpose among Africans seeking social and economic justice.

U.S. assures support for Boakai

By Lewis S Teh

The United States Government through its representative Amb. Linda Thomas Greenfield has assured that it will continue to support Liberia by supporting the

inaugural program reiterated her government's continued support of Liberia. "The United States has always supported Liberia from previous administration to the current Biden administration.

States government during the deadly Ebola virus and the most recent COVID-19 virus which claimed more lives.

The United States has always supported Liberia not just in this administration but even in Liberia's worst days during war. "Liberia made history in this region to have a peaceful transition of power that is a great idea for this country and we want to continue to support Liberia," she said.

The United States envoy described her coming to Liberia as coming home, saying she was here in 1978, 2008, and now she was back. Amb. Greenfield noted that it's always a pleasure to come to Liberia.

According to Amb. Greenfield, the expectations of the United States have always been for the country to move forward, to consolidate the democracy, to support the people of Liberia, and to ensure stability and economic growth.

Meanwhile, LCC president Dr. Samuel Reeves extolled the United States delegation



incoming administration of President Joseph Nyumah Boakai. Boakai took the oath of office Monday, 22 January 2024 before thousands of people including foreign guests at the Capitol following an election run-off against former President George Manneh Weah last November. The U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations who represented the Biden Administration in Liberia for the

Our support to Liberia remains unwavering," said Amb. Greenfield, a former U.S. Ambassador to Liberia.

Following a brief meeting held with church leaders including the president of the Liberia Council of Churches (LCCP), Amb. Greenfield said the United States government has no intention to halt support to Liberia. She recalled the support provided by the United

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