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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2024	L\$188.8697/US\$1.00	L\$190.7208/US\$1.00

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

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VOL. 14 NO. 05 MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2024 PRICE LD\$40.00

Fraud, discrepancies in G. Bassa Dist. 5 recount



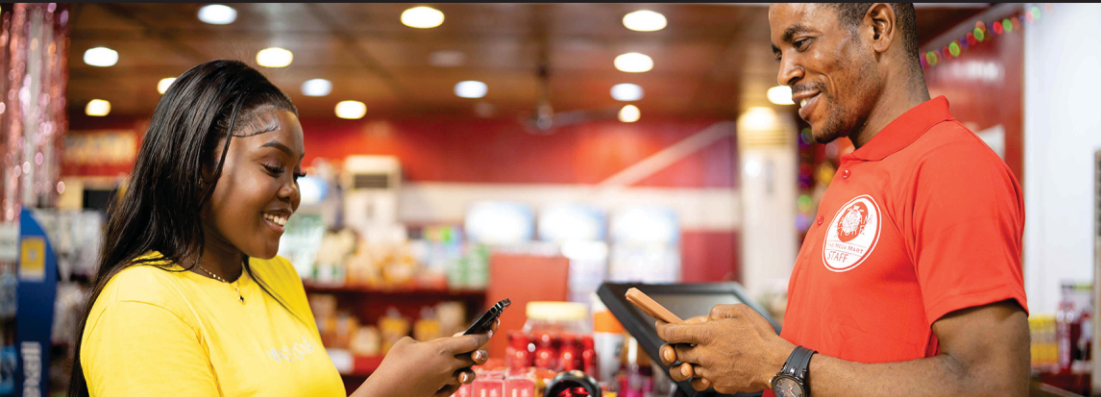
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Continental News

Ecowas: Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso quit West African bloc

Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso have announced they are leaving the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas). The junta-led countries had already been suspended from the bloc, which has been

It goes on to say that Ecowas "under the influence of foreign powers, betraying its founding principles, has become a threat to member states and peoples," adding that the bloc had failed to help them tackle the jihadist insurgencies in their countries.

received formal notification from the countries about their withdrawal from the bloc.

According to the Ecowas treaty, member states wishing to withdraw must give written notice a year in advance, and continue to abide by its provisions during that year.

Despite suspension from the bloc, sanctions, negotiations and threats of military intervention, the military leaders have hardened their stance, accusing the bloc of being influenced by external powers. In September, the three countries formed a mutual defence pact called The Alliance of Sahel States, distanced themselves from former colonial power France and strengthened ties to Russia. The three military leaders have argued that they want to restore security before organising elections as they struggle to contain insurgencies linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State.

Niger's military leaders have said they want up to three years for a transition back to civilian rule. The military government in Mali had pledged to hold elections in February, but that has now been pushed back to an unknown date. Meanwhile, Burkina Faso has set elections for this summer, but authorities there say the fight against the insurgents remains the top priority. BBC



urging them to return to democratic rule. The three governments said it was a "sovereign decision" to withdraw from Ecowas.

They were also founding members of the bloc, first established in 1975. In a joint statement - that was read out on state broadcasters in the three countries - they said Ecowas had "drifted from the ideals of its founding fathers and the spirit of Pan-Africanism."

Tensions between the bloc and the three countries have been tense after military coups took place in Niger in July, Burkina Faso in 2022 and Mali in 2020.

Ecowas has called on all three countries to return to civilian rule.

And in a response to Sunday's announcement it said the three countries were "important members of the Community" and the bloc "remains committed to finding a negotiated solution to the political impasse".

It also said it had not yet

Thousands March Against Slayings of Women in Kenya

Thousands of people marched in cities and towns in Kenya during protests Saturday over the recent slayings of more than a dozen women. The anti-femicide demonstration was the largest event ever held in the country against sexual and gender-based violence.

In the nation's capital, Nairobi, protesters wore T-shirts printed with the names of women who became homicide victims this month. The crowd, mostly women, brought traffic to a standstill.

"Stop killing us!" the demonstrators shouted as they waved signs with messages such as "There is no justification to kill women."

The crowd in Nairobi was hostile to attempts by the parliamentary representative for women, Esther Passaris, to address them. Accusing Passaris of remaining silent during the latest wave of killings, protesters shouted her down with chants of "Where were you?" and "Go home!" "A country is judged by not

how well it treats its rich people but how well it takes care of the weak and vulnerable," said Law Society of Kenya President Eric Theuri, who was among the demonstrators.

Kenyan media outlets have reported the slayings of at least 14 women since the start of the year, according to Patricia Andago, a data journalist at media and research firm Odipo Dev who also took part in the march.

Odipo Dev reported this week that news accounts showed at least 500 women were killed in acts of femicide from January 2016 to December 2023. Many

more cases go unreported, Andago said.

Two cases that gripped Kenya this month involved two women who were killed at Airbnb accommodations. The second victim was a university student who was dismembered and decapitated after she reportedly was kidnapped for ransom. The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology student's head was found in a dam on Monday, a week after her dismembered body was found in a trash can at the rented home. Two Nigerian men were arrested in connection with her death. VOA



Activists march at a demonstration against an alarming rise in murders of young women in Kenya, in Nairobi on Jan. 27, 2024.

The Nigerian professor who makes more money welding

Kabir Abu Bilal is not your regular Nigerian university professor - he has a second job working as a welder in the northern city of Zaria. Welding is widely seen as a menial job across Nigeria and he has shocked many - especially his colleagues - by opening up his own welding workshop.

"I am not ashamed that I work as a welder despite being a professor," he tells the BBC. "I make more money from welding."

The 50-year-old teaches and supervises research students at the faculty of engineering at Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria's largest and one of its most prestigious universities.

He has worked there for 18 years and published several books on physics and electrical engineering.

His fellow academic, Prof Yusuf Jubril, explains that

around two decades ago.

In 2022, a year after he was promoted to become a professor, he moved to larger premises having found plenty of business in the university town.

This has allowed him to buy more equipment and take on bigger jobs, with customers asking him to make things such as metal door and window frames.

"I collect the job no matter how small it is, even if it is one door I will weld it happily to get paid," he says.

Since he was a child, the professor says, he has always liked taking apart and putting back together gadgets and things like radios, which drew him to his career. "Unfortunately I found out engineering here was more theoretically based and I needed a place to express myself," he says.

"That desire culminated in me starting this welding workshop."

Not only has the workshop satisfied his need to get his hands dirty, but it has really helped him



The apprentices tend to stay at the workshop for about a year

their colleagues find it strange: "Society make us think someone is too big for certain roles and it's not true. "What he is doing is not humiliating but commendable, and I hope others learn from him." Prof Abu Bilal agrees that people, especially graduates, need to be more open-minded about how they make their living. "Education shouldn't stop one from doing jobs like this, I am surprised that there are people with first degrees who find a job like this degrading." His words have resonance - as according to Stutern's Nigeria Graduate Report, more than 40% of graduates fail to get a job in Nigeria, Africa's most-populous country. He opened up a mini workshop in Zaria

on the financial front. Academics in Nigeria have long struggled on modest salaries, most earning between 350,000 naira (\$390; £305) and 500,000 (\$555; £435) a month - and there are often long battles with the government to get a pay increase. Prof Abu Bilal says his welding job has allowed him to be more self-sufficient and he has even been able to buy a more reliable car - a Mercedes. In leaner times, he has even helped those who frowned on his joint career. "When university lecturers went on strike for eight months in 2022 and we weren't paid, I always had money because of this job and a few colleagues came to me for help." Prof Abu Bilal hopes to inspire other people to take on jobs like the one he does. BBC

EDITORIAL

UP government should come with clean hands

Circumstances surrounding the expenditure of US\$650,000 for the poorly organized inaugural ceremony of President Joseph Nyumah Boakai have a very high likelihood to taint the image of the new administration that campaigned on integrity and accountability to ascend to power, if nothing is urgently done to set the record straight and erase suspicions both within and outside the ruling UP.

By every account so far, nothing seems to be clear on how funds allotted for various aspects of the inaugural ceremony at which people fainted because of severe heat and dehydration, were expended, with tales of diverse shades being told.

Hell broke loose when a total of US\$365,000 allotted by President Boakai for ordinary citizens to celebrate his inauguration in all 73 districts across the country with each district apportioned US\$5,000 is greeted with noise and discrepancy. As if this was not enough, the woman who headed the President's inaugural committee, Auntie Miatta Fahnbulleh, told a media briefing Thursday, January 25, 2024 in Monrovia that she was never in control of activities for which she reportedly received huge cash.

Rather, she blames the former administration, security officers, protocol personnel everyone else, but herself, as head, for everything that went wrong on Inauguration Day, January 22, 2024 that was characterized by severe heat, lack of seats and water for guests, which nearly turned fatal for President Boakai himself!

Auntie Miatta is yet to account clearly how funds received for the program she presided over was expended, with people she claimed to have given money for specific activities, such as media, US\$50,000, and several thousands to an entertainment group "Kukatono" (we are one) refuting that they received far less than the amounts announced. Addressing the Ministry of Information's regular press briefing on Thursday, January 25, on Capitol Hill, she pointed fingers at the former Director-General of the General Services Agency (GSA) Madam Broh, revealing that the former GSA boss allegedly received funding for the renovation and preparation of the Capitol Building where the inauguration was held, but due to the poor management, progress was only halfway.

According to her, every time she tried to inquire, the consistent response she received was that the responsibility fell on the GSA.

She narrates that prior to the ceremony, she decided to confront Madam Mary Broh, but the meeting ended in deadlock, alleging that Broh obstructed preparations for the inaugural ceremony.

But reacting on Spoon Talk last week Thursday, Madam Broh said she didn't receive a dime, contrary to allegation by Auntie Miatta that the former GSA boss received a larger chunk of the US\$650,000 inaugural budget for logistical purposes. She explains that she has in her possession vouchers for cars that were rented for the occasion.

Besides, the National Chairman for the now ruling Unity Party, Rev. Dr. Luther Tarpeh is vividly struggling to account for the US\$3650,000 allotted by the President for the 73 electoral districts to celebrate. Without consultation with other party executives in Monrovia, Chairman Tarpeh explains that UP county chairpersons from all 15 counties requested for some of the money to have their own celebrations, so he authorized disbursement of US\$1,000 from the amount to each county chair for said purpose.

It is hard to comprehend how a party that preached equity, accountability and moral leadership throughout the entire campaign could entangle itself and have its hands stained in the disbursement and expenditure of the first public money it handled right from the onset of its six-year rule.

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,

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

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

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COMMENTARY

By Ishac Diwan and Vera Songwe

Developing Countries Need Debt Relief to Act on Climate Change

WASHINGTON, DC/PARIS - If developing economies found it hard to manage their debts in 2023, they are likely to face even more formidable challenges this year. Though most possess relatively small debt stocks and are not considered insolvent, many are in dire need of liquidity. As long as this remains true, they will struggle not only to manage their debts, but also to invest in the green transition.

Developing economies have faced a series of external shocks in recent years, including the COVID-19 pandemic, war-related disruptions of food and energy supply chains, and an uptick in global inflation. Moreover, their access to capital markets has been curtailed, preventing them from rolling over maturing loans, as they would do in normal times. As a result, countries have been forced to channel a large share of their tax and export revenues to service their debt, avoiding default at the cost of priorities like infrastructure investment, social-welfare programs, and climate action.

The outlook for these countries is likely to worsen in the next few years. According to estimates by the Finance for Development Lab (FDL), large debt payments are coming due in 2024 and 2026 for at least 20 low- and lower-middle-income countries. As countries hit this "debt wall," their already fragile fiscal positions will deteriorate further. This does not bode well for climate action.

Climate change is not some distant menace; its effects are already being felt worldwide, especially in climate-vulnerable developing economies. But international summits on the topic last year sent a disappointing message: while developed economies pledged to increase climate financing by 2030, developing-economy policymakers are struggling against severe fiscal constraints. With medium-term strategies being used to address a short-term threat, developing and emerging economies have been expressing frustration, including at the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact that was held in Paris last June.

Multilateral development banks can provide an essential lifeline, but their capacity would have to be strengthened - and quickly. According to World Bank data, the new concessional loans the world's poorest countries received from MDBs in 2022 were smaller than these countries' debt-service payments, a large share of which went to private and bilateral creditors. Increasing capital flight from the developing world - driven not least by monetary tightening in advanced economies - will intensify the needs of illiquid lower-income countries. But it is not only a matter of financial capacity. MDBs have so far been inconsistent, at best, when it comes to supporting countries struggling to repay their debts. For example, both Kenya and Ethiopia have been under pressure to repay their private and Chinese creditors, which are now collecting more in debt-service payments than they are providing in new loans. But only Kenya received enough

support from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and others to refinance its debt that is maturing this year.

By contrast, assistance to Ethiopia has declined in recent years. As a result, Ethiopia recently defaulted on its external debt, even though it amounts to just 25% of GDP. While the Kenya approach is not the solution - providing similar levels of support to all illiquid countries would require a tripling of MDB flows - this is clearly unacceptable.

A better approach would focus on closing the gap between short-term debt concerns and long-term investment needs, by unlocking net-positive inflows for countries facing liquidity constraints. As the FDL has proposed, an agreement among debtors, creditors, and MDBs to permit countries to reschedule debts coming due - delaying maturities by 5-10 years - would create fiscal space for climate-friendly investments, financed by MDBs.

For this liquidity bridge to work, MDBs would have to accelerate progress on implementing existing reform plans and increase funding substantially, while the IMF helps manage debt-rollover risks. Importantly, private and bilateral creditors would have to agree to the rescheduling. That is why, compared to the Debt Service Suspension Initiative that the G20 introduced in 2020, the proposal includes stronger incentives for private-sector creditors to participate, in addition to longer time horizons.

There are good reasons to believe that creditors can be convinced to join the program voluntarily. It is, after all, in their best interest to remain invested in solvent countries with strong growth prospects; no one benefits from debt crises like those that have ensnared Zambia and Sri Lanka. In any case, creditors would continue receiving interest payments, and as global interest rates fall and economic-growth prospects improve in the coming years, debtors may well be able to return to capital markets and resume repayment of the principal.

Shaping a workable blueprint along these lines is a task for upcoming international gatherings, such as the G20 summit in Brazil later this year. Logistical and financial coordination will be needed to ensure sufficient liquidity. Coordination among the IMF, the World Bank, and regional development banks will also be essential to ensure that participating debtor countries pursue investments that genuinely support green growth.

If nothing is done to help countries facing liquidity crises, the world will risk a wave of destabilizing debt defaults, and progress on the green transition will be severely undermined, with catastrophic implications for the entire world. Because promising solutions like the liquidity bridge can prevent such outcomes, they deserve broad global support.

Ishac Diwan is Research Director of the Finance for Development Lab. Vera Songwe is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and the Finance for Development Lab.

OP-ED

By Imme Scholz

The Sustainability Transformation Needs a New Narrative

BERLIN - In 2015, all 193 members of the United Nations agreed to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - a broad policy agenda aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet, and promoting well-being for all - by 2030. Now, eight years on, the UN's Global Sustainable Development Report 2023 (GSDR) warns that the world is far from meeting these targets. Poverty and hunger are increasing, greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions have continued to rise, and, at the current rate of progress, it will take 300 years to achieve gender equality.

The COVID-19 pandemic's devastating social and economic impact certainly pushed us off track, as did the war in Ukraine. But the transformative action required to meet the SDGs has also been lacking. As the GSDR shows, incremental steps and targeted interventions will not suffice. Instead, we need sweeping reforms that pursue several SDGs at once.

According to the GSDR, the sustainability transformation is a process in which new technologies, infrastructure, and decision-making approaches replace old ones, addressing the negative effects of the existing versions and producing better results. This change is usually met with resistance and can lead to conflict, because it has a cost: companies need to find new business models and markets, and workers are forced to retrain and then find new jobs. Policymakers should anticipate and plan for these outcomes.

One such innovation is renewable energy. But in most countries, renewables are a complement rather than replacement for fossil fuels. Making a full switch, however, is necessary to reach net-zero GHG emissions, which the European Union aims to achieve by 2050. In addition to the large-scale deployment of renewables and clean technologies such as electric vehicles, it will be crucial to scale up investment in energy infrastructure, especially in Africa, and improve energy efficiency. Social innovations that emphasize the collective provision and use of space and mobility services can also help reduce energy use.

Sweeping changes are also needed to end hunger and halt biodiversity loss. People in wealthy countries should drastically reduce their meat consumption, adopt plant-based diets, and halve food waste. Globally, agriculture must adopt low-input and multifunctional production systems that preserve land, water, and biodiversity, and the use of persistent pollutants such as heavy metals and plastics must be cut significantly to ensure a healthy environment.

To promote human well-being and inclusion, policymakers must relentlessly pursue gender-equality objectives, which requires strengthening women's legal status and economic autonomy. Moreover, putting a price on carbon in high-emitting countries could generate revenue for a global fund for social protection that low-income countries can use to improve education and health services. This would go a long way toward reducing poverty.

Transformation on this scale will not be easy to achieve. That is where the power of narrative comes in: people must be convinced that these changes are the best way to build a livable future, and that our current trajectory leads only to catastrophic outcomes that threaten human existence.

To shift the narrative, policymakers will have to learn how to shore up and maintain broad-based political and societal support for wholesale change. That means focusing more on common purpose than partisan conflict, developing long-term strategies that can achieve a just green transformation, and being proactive about identifying and resolving conflicts over the distribution of costs. It also means working with civil society, the private sector, and trade unions to identify implementation problems and adjust policies accordingly. Developing partnerships that enable mutual learning and exchange within and across regions can help build this capacity.

Democratic processes are fundamental to designing policies that fairly distribute the costs of transformation. The magnitude of the change required, however, is so enormous that anyone whose business or livelihood is affected will resist reform. Especially in societies with high levels of income and wealth inequality, people are more likely to believe that they will be worse off during such a paradigm shift.

That is why policymakers must put equity and justice at the center of this transformation and commit to transparency and accountability in determining how costs should be shared across different income groups and generations. Monitoring progress against agreed targets, in particular, would enable the public to hold government accountable, strengthening the rule of law and building trust in institutions.

As much as achieving the SDGs depends on democratic consensus, pursuing these radical but necessary reforms could in turn strengthen democracy.

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OPINION

By Jorge G. Castañeda

Mexico's Democracy Is at Stake in 2024

NEW YORK - Many countries, from the United States and Uruguay to India and Indonesia, will hold elections in 2024. Although pundits, politicians, and political scientists tend to portray each one as "historic" and "momentous," Mexico's June 2 presidential election may be one of the few to warrant such superlatives, if only because the country has limited experience with truly democratic votes.

It is not a stretch to say that Mexico experienced its first free and fair presidential election in 2000. This implies that over the course of two centuries of independence, the country has elected its leaders democratically on only four occasions. If things go well, this year's vote would be the fifth.

But things might not go well, posing a challenge for Mexico's political and business establishment, the military, and the US - always a key actor in the country. For starters, the playing field is tilted so far in favor of Claudia Sheinbaum, the ruling party's presidential candidate, that it recalls the heyday of one-party rule under the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

Moreover, the outgoing president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO), entered office in 2018 with an unusually broad social base and will leave with his popularity intact, becoming the country's most powerful former president since 1940. Lastly, while the opposition has fielded a competitive candidate, Xóchitl Gálvez, she represents an unholy alliance between the PRI, the right-of-center National Action Party (PAN), a tiny splinter left-wing party, and a host of civil-society groups, some more representative than others.

Sheinbaum, AMLO's protégé and a former mayor of Mexico City, enjoys the backing of a large majority of Mexico's governors, all cabinet ministers, the media, and the state machinery (including access to the federal budget). The chairwoman of the weakened National Electoral Institute is closely allied with AMLO's party, while the president of the Federal Electoral Tribunal, the country's highest electoral authority, was forced to resign in December and replaced with a colleague sympathetic to the government.

Every week, pollsters, many of whom are newly established or have ties to the ruling party, release survey results showing Sheinbaum with a commanding lead, in some cases 60 points, the aim being to convince Mexicans that the election is already a done deal. Why bother voting, or contributing money, or canvassing door to door?

This unlevel playing field raises the question of whether AMLO will leave office if Gálvez ekes out a victory. The president's drive for power, starting from his first run for governor in his home state of Tabasco in 1988, suggests that the answer may be no, and the electoral authorities would likely be too debilitated to oppose him. Moreover, several analysts have cast doubt on the Mexican military's loyalty to the Constitution. The armed forces, normally removed from politics, have become increasingly powerful since AMLO took office, building and administering massive infrastructure projects, operating a new commercial airline, and running the country's customs operations.

Even if Sheinbaum wins, currently the most likely outcome, AMLO may seek to maintain his grip on power. Historically, outgoing Mexican presidents who have attempted to extend their rule - Miguel Alemán in 1952, Luis Echeverría in 1976, and Carlos Salinas in 1994 - have failed miserably, largely because their base had eroded and they were deeply unpopular by the end of their term.

Already, there are signs that AMLO is stacking the odds in his favor. He has appointed a Supreme Court justice whom his successor normally would have named; selected the leaders of the Senate and lower house should his party achieve a majority; and outlined the constitutional reforms that must be approved during the transition period. Sheinbaum would owe her victory entirely to his influence, and she seems to lack the charisma and stature to break with him.

Lastly, the opposition is facing enormous challenges. Gálvez is a formidable campaigner, but also a micromanager who belongs to none of the political parties that nominated her, giving her little leverage. And she is running against not only Sheinbaum, but also Mexico's state apparatus.

At the beginning of Gálvez's campaign, I said that "the message was the messenger." This has proven true, insofar as her personal history of rising from humble, indigenous origins to become a successful businesswoman, cabinet member, and senator has struck a chord. But it is not enough to win the election, and Gálvez has understandably struggled to find a more substantive message that both resonates with the electorate and placates the parties backing her.

Gálvez's best option would be to focus on security, law enforcement, and reducing the high levels of violence that have plagued the country during AMLO's administration, as well as those of his two predecessors. On average, nearly 100 homicides occur each day, and more than 100,000 people have been reported as missing or disappeared. Polls show that this is the most important issue for Mexicans, and that AMLO's approval rating on the issue remains stubbornly low.

While grave dangers - including democratic backsliding, AMLO retaining his grip on power, creeping militarization, a largely unproductive informal economy, and an unending cycle of violence - lie ahead, this year's election could put Mexico on a new course. The opposition could win; AMLO could accept defeat; near-shoring could give the economy a much-needed boost; and the cartels could go back to their core business (drugs), bringing a dramatic decline in violence. Admittedly, such an outcome is a long shot, but there is no harm in dreaming.

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ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

The Supreme Court's intervention in recent electoral disputes

-Why the need for rerun in Grand Bassa County District #5

The Liberian Supreme Court on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, ordered an immediate recount in several electoral districts across the country where alleged vote manipulation had been reported following the October 10, 2023, Presidential and Legislative elections.

Among the districts in which the Supreme Court mandated immediate recounts was Grand Bassa County District #5, the case involving incumbent Representative Thomas Goshua of the Coalition of Political Parties (CPP) and Mrs. Juah S. Dennis of the Unity Party. The purpose of the High Court's decision was to ensure complete compliance with the Electoral Law of Liberia which seeks transparent and accurate determination of election results that reflect the will of the electorates.

However, it appears like this mandate has not been fully complied with in Grand Bassa District number 5, rather it seems to have exposed further frauds or discrepancies from the National Elections Commission's (NEC) own tally sheets.

A comparison between the October 10, 2023, results that were announced by NEC and the January 2024 recounts shows overwhelming discrepancies. At some polling centers the recount shows an increase in the number of voters that turn out, while in other places the number of people who turn out witnessed reduced. And that is besides the disputed results which show 29 points difference between the two leading candidates.

The Board of Commissioners at the National Elections Commission (NEC) needs to examine critically to make a bold decision.

From various accounts in the district, some of the ballot boxes were brought in with either their seals broken or swiped on different boxes thereby creating doubts, with many suggesting that the boxes were tampered with ahead of the recount.

As if that was not enough, the number of ballot papers automatically increased in some boxes, while in others they decreased. At Behn Town Palava Hot Polling place #2, for example, the total number of voters who were reported to have shown up on October 10, 2023, was put at 219. During the recent recount, the NEC Magistrate reported 331. Again, in the same Behn Town at another polling center where it was reported that only 250 voters showed up, the recount reported 300.

On October 10, polling place 4 in Korkor David Town reported turnout on October 10 to be 239, during the recent recount this month, NEC Magistrate reported that only 198 voters showed up.

The recount also shows discrepancies in total validated votes. On October 10, NEC reported that at least 20931 voters turned out to vote in the disputed district. However, during the recent recount, NEC reported 20951.

In addition to these overwhelming discrepancies, authorities at NEC failed to implement fully the Supreme Court's mandate. The High Court mandate calls for a total recount which should include the total number of ballot papers (both used and unused, spoiled and discarded) along with total valid and invalid votes. NEC only concentrated on valid votes during the recount. NEC also failed to produce the PO journals and FRR.

Another thing that has cast doubt over the recount is that for instance, ballot boxes that recorded say 350 ballot papers reported missing ballot papers reinforcing the belief that the ballot boxes were tampered with but in whose favor?

One of the candidates in the disputed election also claimed that days to the scheduled recounts, men slept in the Magistrate Warehouse for days. The matter was said to have been brought to the attention of the local police detachment in the area, but nothing was done to arrest the situation.

Ballot boxes from some polling stations did not only have their seals broken but some were replaced with seals that were not recorded during the October poll.

Whether there was consistent fraud or not, the absence of PO Journal, FRR, refusal to count all ballot papers used or unused along with broken seals as well as discrepancies speaks volumes. And such a display of total disregard for transparency shown by NEC's Magistrates at the local level leaves much to be desired.

That said the NEC BoC needs to conduct a thorough investigation if possible, and see reasons for a possible rerun.

DATE WITH THE NATION
WITH D. WAHNE, JR.

The New Sheriff

Liberia's 2nd Postwar Democratic Transition took place smoothly on January 22, 2024 after predictions of another civil war or security crisis for which the President was made to wear bulletproof vest under his traditional suit. This stands Liberia out as Africa's most promising democracy on the Continent.

The exchange of power from "Hope for Change" to "Rescue Mission" had its own peculiar trappings that have become a national and international discourse. The break in his inaugural speech and the abrupt end of the inaugural proceedings have sparked a new national debate on whether the new President has the agility for the Presidency.

Though his speech was uncompleted and left the world in limbo, one undisputed fact which is most important than all the hilarious comments is that a new Sheriff has been commissioned and has sounded the trumpet of an impending political revolution.

Drawing from his speech, President Joseph Nyumah Boakai might give Liberians positive shockers that could evolutionize and revolutionize Liberia's 167 years political and social orders if the President and his team commit themselves to implementation and outcomes rather than the usual jargons and impressionism that come with inauguration to cool off the heat and conflicts generated during the highly contested elections.

President Boakai's speech which was also a tell tale of our historical past that accounts for our current disjointed dispensational attitudes contained curative measures to put Liberia on the right trajectory. It is a plain fact that Liberia's political culture since independence has been a complication of ethnocentric divides and party sensitivities. These complications have obstructed our rise to building consensus in our body polity and pursuing tangible developments like other nations.

Though we claim to value democracy and all of its tenets, yet our approach to democracy itself has presented arduous tasks that have challenged the capacities of the most brilliant of our leaders. Our use of political parties and their doctrines and alliances as standards and measurements for democracy have been a foundation for disunity, bitterness, violence, selfishness, lack of reconciliation and disorientation of national agendas.

Liberia's new President has come clear in his speech with new standards to governance which will confront the old order and business as usual. He rejects friendship and partisanship as criteria for the formulation of his government and execution of his Rescue Agenda.

His speech seems to suggest that those considerations have been major factors that have got Liberia lagging behind in 21st Century politics and development. The New Sheriff seeks to Rescue the Nation from these pandemics. His first five appointments are outside partisanship which indicate that the new Sheriff is determined.

Governments in Liberia have elevated friendship and politics far above the national agenda. These have to change and it is our hope that President Joseph Boakai would commit himself to what he has begun. He spoke of "inclusiveness" in a way that brings to bear the late President Samuel K. Doe's political rhetoric that the "biggest political party is the Republic of Liberia".

In the heat of the Grand Coalition opposition against his government, late President Doe began defining democracy as "the nation". He said "if democracy is the government of the people, by the people and for the people, then it is greater than political parties".

If that is the interpretation of President Boakai's speech of inclusiveness, and his statement that "gone are the days of friendship and partisanship", it might not be an error to say a revolution might be in the making that could change the mental and political attitudes of Liberians. That would indeed be a major rescue for the country from itself. However, it is very early to give a pass mark while the examination is on. His appointments to government will showcase his commitment.

The outgone President George Manneh Weah was very practical and demonstrated inclusiveness outside of policy prescriptions and the visibility of an inclusive government was seen all around. Unfortunately, one of his weaknesses was friendship which denied him of several outcomes, dragged his friends into US Sanctions and the loss of his second term bid. President Joseph Boakai must seek to avoid that. Despite that weakness, one of President Weah's strengths was his complete runaway from nepotism. He steered clear of it. The new President must emulate his example to be rated high as much as the temptation presents itself high.

President Boakai needs to guide himself against believers of bigshotism and supremacists who would looked down on others due to their proximity to him and make him unpopular. Proximity Power destroyed the progressive and masses postures of the CDC Government as certain officials used power proximity to block communication with valuable entities heads of the governing structure. They saw themselves as the depositors and disbursers of power and conducted themselves in arrogance loaded with rapacity.

The Boakai's Administration must also be prepared for the taste of the new political menu introduced by the opposition against the CDC for six unbroken years. The concept of putting the government feet to the fire has become an acceptable political development eager to be practiced by every one who finds himself as opposition.

The months and years ahead will be critical and tedious. Protests and demonstrations will be a way of fundamental expressions of rights and the people will demand promises made to them in ways that might defy human reasoning. The Government, under constitutional oath must deliver on the rights of free thinkers.

Date with the Nation will review and analyze other portions of the President's Speech in its next edition.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

D. Wa Hne, Jr. is a Columnist, former Media Head of the Constitution Review Committee; former Deputy Director General for Research and Consultancy LIPA; Acting Chairman of the Liberia People Democratic Party.

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Government tight-lipped on Annual Message budget

By Kruah Thompson

The Government of Liberia is tightlipped on budget allocated for President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's first Annual Message to the 55th Legislature,

Speaking in special press briefing here on Sunday, January 27, at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism in Monrovia, Montserrado County District#7 Representative Emmanuel Dahn, who chairs the House

different places to pre-finance the program.

However, he promises that once a collaborative effort is made with both the Senate and the House of Representatives, details of all expenditures made in the preparation will be shared with the public.

"Since there is no finance minister currently, to sign budget and nobody to provide the money, the leadership of both houses decided to come together to act, inviting Liberian contractors and vendors to pre-finance the process", Representative Dahn explains.

Article 58 of the Constitution of Liberia mandates: "The President shall, on the fourth working Monday in January of each year, present the administration's legislative program for the ensuing session, and shall once a year report to the Legislature on the state of the Republic. In presenting the economic condition of the Republic the report shall cover expenditure as well as income."

It is this constitutional mandate that President Boakai

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Health practitioners brainstorm on CPD information

By Lincoln G. Peters

In a bid to provide significant information about Continuing Professional Development (CPD), the six health regulatory bodies with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through BRIDGE-U: at the weekend held a brainstorming forum with several District Health Officers and other health practitioners drawn from across Montserrado County in attendance.

The activity by the six regulatory boards, namely: Liberia Medical and Dental Council Board, Liberia Environmental Health Board, Liberia Board of Nursing and Midwifery, Liberia Pharmacist Board, Liberia Board of Laboratory, and Liberia Board of Physician, is one of many that is being supported by USAID through the BRIDGE-U: project at the College of Health

quality of health services within our area. This will improve our clinical skills. CPD will give us the capability and capacity to deliver more," he stated.

According to Mr. Coleman, dissemination of CPD information will also be taken to rural parts of the country, beginning with Rural Montserrado as the main activity will be rolled out by 2025.

In brief remarks, Dr. Yatta Sackie Whapoe, County Health Officer of Montserrado County, lauded the College of Health Sciences and the regulatory bodies for their effort, which according to her, is geared to bring Liberia on par with other countries.

For their part, Mr. J. Nathaniel B. Wwart, Deputy Registrar at the Pharmacy Board, and Mr. Zayzay S. Yekeh, Chairman of the Physician Assistant Board, also outlined the significance of CPD and the need for health workers to attain more professional development certificates. "CPD is one of the most important aspects for health



schedule for today, January 29, 2024.

Despite assuring the public of the President's good health to deliver the Annual Message, the government is yet to disclose financial details behind the event.

Committee on Executive, openly said he cannot disclose for now how much money was expended in preparation for today's ceremony, indicating that since there were no budget approved, they went out to vendors and contractors from

Margibians recommend to Boakai

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Boakai fails to increase salaries and take kush from the country, Liberians will go against him.

The Youth and Sports Coordinator of Margibi County, Kinsoreso W. W. Wuo, observes that the new government said they were going to rescue the Liberian people and indeed, Oldman Joe Boakai said it.

"Actually, he said one term. President Weah will be a one term government and he meant it and he did it and President Weah is a one term government. I can see development, but I foresee some leaders that are behind this President; this President needs to be very wise. President Weah was also a good president too but because of those that were appointed that the people who spoiled the government. I foresee the same thing happening to Oldman Joe Boakai. The president, I can see the loyalty and love for the

Liberian people in his eyes but people that behind him will be the one that will want to spoil the government. I am urging him that he should open his eyes very wide in making sure that indeed everything that he said that was not good in President Weah government that he should put it in place so that he will see the Liberian people going forward."

He says the expectations of the Liberian people rest in the hands of President Boakai, so everything he criticized former President Weah for should be done rightly to see the people forging ahead.

But a local official of the CDC Musa Siryon, thinks that President Joseph Nyumah Boakai will perform well because he served as vice president for 12 years.

"Those commitments that he made, those promises that he made, he should live up to them. In hundred days', from

the 22nd to April 19, no car should get stuck on any major highway. Our hospitals must be reawakened, rebranded and there must be that medical facility for everybody, irrespective of who you are, where you're from, your age, you should have those facilities."

He adds that his major recommendation is that Amb. Boakai should bring the War and Economic Crimes Court in the first hundred days of his leadership to stamp out impunity, while pointing at reconciliation as very cardinal.

"I don't want Boakai to make the mistake that we did that it's our time. It's not about our time, it's about Liberia's time. It was one of our faults. We felt to be in the ruling establishment was an inheritance", Siryon observes.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Sciences of the University of Liberia. CPD, according to a 2016 definition by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, is how members of the profession maintain, improve and broaden their knowledge, expertise, and competence, and develop the personal and professional qualities required throughout their professional lives.

Speaking at the opening of the training and subsequently to reporters, Mr. Joseph Coleman, Medical and Research Director at the Liberia Medical and Dental Council or LMDC, indicated that CPD aims to promote the quality of services provided by healthcare professionals. According to him, the acquisition of a CPD certificate will be one of the prerequisites for license renewal for health practitioners, noting that this will force employers to send their employees for training.

"CPD helps to improve the

professionals to refresh themselves. The implementation of professional training is good for a good health delivery system. By the end of this year, you might have completed CPD. I encourage all of you to support the project," stated Wwart. Accordingly, one of the important reasons for CPD is that it continues to update professional practice to reflect the best available evidence of ensuring the best possible care for patients, the community, and the environment to address the health priorities of the Liberian people.

Key principles behind CPD for Liberia health professionals include: it is self-directed and it builds on an individual's existing knowledge and experience; it is driven by the best available evidence and delivered by qualified trainers -individual's learning to their current and future practice; it is provided in an environment conducive for effective learning, with all health professionals benefitting from CPD regardless of their work location.

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China-Liberia commit to diplomatic partnership

- aim at strengthening infrastructure, corporation development

By Lincoln G. Peters

The People's Republic of China, through its Embassy in Liberia has committed to China-Liberia relationship,

Liberia share a common future, with many similar positions and ideas and a wide range of common interests," said the Chinese Envoy.

"As common members of

Initiative that further respond to the universal aspirations of people of all countries for peace, development and cooperation, and providing Chinese solutions to the common problems faced by mankind.

The Chinese Ambassador to Liberia further called on the government and people of Liberia to listen to what he termed as the voice of the "global South."

"Building a community with a shared future for mankind, the voice of the "global South", including those of China and Liberia, need to be listened."

"At a time when the world's unprecedented changes are accelerating, the voice of the "global South" is growing in strength, with a growing sense of solidarity and collaboration, which has a profound impact on world history," he added.

Ambassador Yin detailed that the call to listen to the voice of the "Global South" coincides with President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's inaugural speech in which he intimated that Liberia under his administration will foster South-South cooperation to address mutual developmental issues in the global South. "A few days ago, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai mentioned in his inaugural speech that 'we also will foster South-South cooperation to address mutual developmental issues in the global South', which coincides with China's proposition," he indicated.



especially in infrastructure and diplomatic partnership.

Chinese Ambassador to Liberia Mr. Yin Chengwu, in a special article on China-Liberia Cooperation said that China and Liberia will continue to support each other, unite and collaborate, and continuously promote new achievements in China-Liberia cooperation.

According to him, the cooperation will write a magnificent new chapter for building a community with a shared future for mankind.

"Though separated by thousands of miles, China and

developing countries, China and Liberia should continue to support each other, unite and collaborate, and continuously promote new achievements in China-Liberia cooperation, so as to write a new magnificent chapter for building a community with a shared future for mankind," he stated.

The Chinese Envoy further stated that it is within the framework of building a community with a shared future for mankind, President Xi has also put forth the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization

Lack of scientific data undermines Liberia's fisheries sector

--NFAA Director General

By Lewis S. Teh

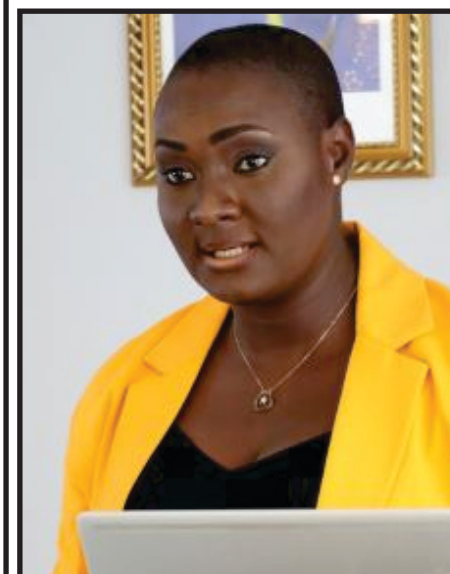
National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) Director General Madam Emma Glassco says the lack of scientific data has undermined the performance of Liberia's fishery sector. Speaking Friday, 26 January 2024 at the Bong Mines Piere on Bushorlud Island, Madam Glassco said scientific data is a critical factor in informing management decisions and attracting potential investment, especially from the private sector. The event on Friday marked the commissioning of a fish stock assessment and research exercise with scores of international donors in attendance. She said the launching of the initiative was timely as Liberia seeks to industrialize its fishery sector to provide socio-economic growth to its populations like most of its sister countries. Madam Glassco

Gentlemen, today marks a major achievement of a milestone as we endeavor to collect the requisite data of our marine resources and ensure the sustainable management of these valuable resources," she noted. "Our efforts are to guarantee that everything counts including the taxonomy of the fish stock, the breeding ground, the biomass, habitat, and distribution of the stocks across our coastline."

Glassco noted that NaFAA sees this process as an opportunity to connect the economic viability of the whole chain to human development, improve livelihood opportunities, and maintain healthy fish stock and catches that will support economic development and food security.

She reiterated that data is a key tool to fishery management, noting that it is significant in determining the best fisheries management approach to apply. Over the years, she said, NaFAA has applied the precautionary approach in managing Liberia's fish resources, to avoid overfishing. According to her, this gap has limited NaFAA's ability to engage in full industrial fishing. "As we kick off this exercise today, I believe that we are a step away from going into full-scale commercialization, depending on the reports from research." The NaFAA Director General recalled on 31 January 2023, at the margins of the second session of the High-Level Conference for a scientific, economic, and environmental integration in favor of the Blue Belt Initiative by the Kingdom of Morocco, the Government of Liberia through the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority and the Kingdom of Morocco through its Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forestry signed an MOU for cooperation and the conduct of this Research. She noted that Liberia was selected through a competitive process by ATLAFCO through funding provided by the Japanese government (the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean) to form part of the countries selected for the conduct of this comprehensive research assessment; a cost-intensive initiative, with technical support from the Moroccan government through its Research Institute Nationale de Recherche Halieutique (INRH) as well as their technical expertise for accurate reporting and the used of their new state of the art research vessel R/V AL HASSAN AL-MARRAKCHW, which will be commissioned today.

However, Madam Glassco noted that since the post-war era, Liberia's fishing sector has been characterized by subsistence and artisanal fishing activities which yield less returns to the country as compared to other fishing nations. "This Fish Stock assessment exercise is basically an activity which seeks to collect information on the abundance and distribution of various kinds of fish species within our waters in terms of its commercial value and ecological importance," the NaFAA boss continued. "Ladies and



Chambers finally concedes defeat

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away voters had a severe threat on the district elections, especially at the two polling places named, in Old Sodokan, since there were narrow margins.

The Supreme Court noted that the decision of the National Elections Commission to have dismissed Chambers'

contention, without considering issues raised about violence by traditional people during the polling process was unfair, hence, it mandated the NEC to conduct a rerun, which was conducted on January 25, 2024, under straight security measures with a total of 811 voters turning out from the 960 registered voters in Old Sodoken polling places I and II.

Out of the 811 voters that participated during the re-run, CPP Candidate Anthony F. William obtained 671 votes, instead of previously 643 votes, while CDC Candidate and incumbent Representative Bhofal Chambers, seeking reelection, obtained 120 votes rather than his previous 95 votes on October 10, 2023, losing the seat to William. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Government tight-lipped on Annual Message budget

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is expected to fulfill today, as he delivers his agenda for the first year to the Liberian people with preparations reported to be almost 98% complete.

Rep. Dahn highlights the collaborative efforts with Speaker J. Fonati Kofa, Deputy Speaker Thomas Fallah, and Senate President Pro-Tempore Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence to ensuring smooth execution of the President address.

Originally planning for 350 tickets, he indicates a potential increase to 500 tickets due to undisclosed factors.

As part of security measures, Chief of Public Safety of the Liberia National Police (LNP) John Saah announces a temporary halt to all traffic passing through the Executive Mansion.

Inspector Saah says regular traffic will be permitted until 3:00 PM, after which vehicles from ELWA Junction through

Tubman Boulevard toward central Monrovia will be redirected from Vamoma House Junction to Sinkor, while those from central Monrovia to Sinkor will be directed to use the Jallah Town route, instead.

He says regular traffic will resume immediately after the President's official convoy leaves the premises of Capitol.

Residents are asked to stay clear of the Capitol Building if they have nothing to do with the President's Annual Message. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Miatta Fahnbulleh dit ne rien à voir avec la mauvaise planification de la cérémonie d'investiture du président Boakai

Miatta Fahnbulleh, présidente du sous-comité de transition présidentielle conjointe chargé de

Assemblée Législative d'être responsables de l'organisation désastreuse de la cérémonie d'investiture qui s'est déroulée le lundi 22 janvier 2024, à

jeudi 25 janvier, sur Capitol Hill, elle a pointé du doigt Madame Broh, révélant que la responsable de la GSA aurait reçu des fonds pour la rénovation et la préparation du bâtiment du Capitole où la cérémonie de l'investiture a eu lieu, mais pour des raisons qu'elle ignore, les travaux n'ont pas été terminés.

Elle a fait valoir que chaque fois qu'elle tentait de s'informer, la réponse constante qu'elle recevait était que la responsabilité incombait à la GSA.

Elle a fait croire qu'avant la cérémonie, elle a décidé de confronter Madame Mary Broh, mais la réunion s'est terminée dans l'impasse, car Mme Broh avait entravé les préparatifs de la cérémonie.

Elle a ajouté que bon nombre de ses recommandations n'ont pas été suivies par les membres du comité. Il a dénoncé une supervision et d'une communication médiocres au sein du comité, ce qui a conduit à l'incident désastreux d'épuisement dû à la chaleur qui a failli coûter la vie au nouveau président.

"Il y a eu une rupture totale de coordination parmi ceux qui ont été nommés par l'ancien président Weah pour diriger le comité inaugural", a-t-elle dit, et ajouté : "Quand j'ai réalisé que je n'avais pas le contrôle, j'ai sérieusement envisagé de renoncer à ma position. Mais

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Miatta Fahnbulleh

l'investiture du Président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, a rejeté toute responsabilité dans la mauvaise planification de l'événement qui s'est soldé par un total fiasco.

Aunt Miatta - c'est ainsi qu'on l'appelle affectueusement - a accusé directement la Directrice générale de l'Agence des services généraux (GSA), Mary Broh, le ministre des Affaires étrangères Maxwell Kemayah, et la 55e

Monrovia.

Miss Fahnbulleh, qui a été nommée le 8 décembre 2023, pour diriger l'équipe de transition présidentielle conjointe, a admis ouvertement qu'elle n'avait pas le contrôle de la planification, en dépit du fait qu'elle fût responsable. Selon elle, la plupart des décisions étaient prises par des individus au sein de l'ancien gouvernement Weah.

S'exprimant lors de la conférence de presse régulière du ministère de l'Information le

Bonne Gouvernance : Trois Sénateurs libériens déclarent leurs avoirs

Trois membres éminents du Sénat libérien ont récemment soumis leurs déclarations de patrimoine au Secrétaire du Sénat, J. Nanborlor F. Singbeh, en vue de les présenter à la Commission Anti-Corruption du Liberia (LACC). Parmi ces sénateurs figurent la Présidente Pro-tempore du Sénat libérien, Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, le Sénateur Abraham Darius Dillon du comté de Montserrado, et le Sénateur Jonathan Boye-Charles Sogbie du comté de River Gee.

Lors du processus de déclaration, la Présidente Pro-tempore Karnga-Lawrence a souligné l'importance cruciale de cette démarche pour répondre aux exigences du Code de conduite en matière de déclaration de patrimoine. Originaire du comté de Grand Bassa, elle a également souligné que

cette initiative visait à promouvoir la transparence et la responsabilité au sein de la gouvernance.

Engagée envers la légitimité et la reddition de comptes, la Pro-tempore Karnga-Lawrence a pris l'engagement de rendre ses déclarations de patrimoine publiques en conformité avec la loi. Elle a appelé ses collègues sénateurs à emboîter le pas, renforçant ainsi la culture de transparence au sein du Sénat libérien.

Le Secrétaire du Sénat, Nanborlor F. Singbeh, a salué l'initiative de la Pro-tempore Lawrence, soulignant qu'elle était déjà parmi les sénateurs ayant précédemment déclaré leurs avoirs conformément à la loi. Singbeh a encouragé la Présidente Pro-tempore à influencer positivement ses collègues pour favoriser la transparence au sein de l'institution.

Par ailleurs, les sénateurs Abraham Darius Dillon et

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Éditorial

Le Liberia se lance sur une trajectoire démocratique irréversible

Le Libéria a emprunté un chemin historique de transition démocratique fluide suite à deux élections pacifiques. C'est une randonnée clairement irréversible.

L'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a pacifiquement transmis le pouvoir à l'ex-président George Manneh Weah en 2018, et six ans plus tard, M. Weah a remis le pouvoir à son successeur, le président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, ce lundi 22 janvier.

Le pays peut actuellement se vanter de trois anciens présidents vivants : Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, George Manneh Weah et Charles Ghankay Taylor, qui, lui, purge une peine de prison en Grande-Bretagne. C'est une distinction remarquable par rapport aux anciens présidents William R. Tolbert, Jr., et Samuel Kanyon Doe, qui ont, tous deux, été évincés violemment lors d'un coup d'État sanglant et d'une guerre civile.

Le Libéria se joint progressivement au Ghana, au Nigeria et à d'autres nations démocratiques de la région qui souscrivent à des élections libres et équitables ainsi qu'à des transitions pacifiques d'un gouvernement à un autre. Tous les Libériens devraient s'efforcer de maintenir le pays sur cette voie enviable.

Les anciens présidents Sirleaf et Weah étant en retrait et disponibles, le président Joseph Boakai n'a aucune raison d'échouer. Il n'a qu'à consulter ses prédécesseurs, surtout étant donné qu'il a été vice-président pendant deux mandats sous la femme qu'il appelle son "ancienne patronne".

La génération actuelle de dirigeants doit cela à la nation et à son peuple pour maintenir la patrie sur la voie des élections démocratiques et de transitions pacifiques, si l'on veut le pays progresse, car c'est le moyen le plus sûr d'attirer et de maintenir l'attention de nos partenaires internationaux.

Tant Madame Sirleaf que M. Weah ont révolutionné la manière dont les Libériens devraient rechercher le pouvoir politique. La voie à suivre est de passer par les urnes et d'accepter les résultats suite à un scrutin transparent qui ne laisse aucune place à la contestation et à la violence.

Dans son discours d'investiture lundi, le président Boakai a souligné que son élection par les Libériens est un appel clair à un nouveau Libéria, un Libéria différent, un Libéria qui pratique véritablement la primauté du droit et adhère aux principes de la gouvernance démocratique dans l'intérêt de tous. Nous croyons que cela devrait être l'essence de la recherche d'une fonction politique - servir le peuple plutôt qu'un agenda égoïste qui est le terreau de la corruption.

Tous les Libériens devraient se féliciter du chemin démocratique que le pays a pris. Nous devrions être fiers de veiller à ce que le Libéria reste sur le chemin de la démocratie en exerçant toujours notre droit de vote.

Par leurs votes, les Libériens ont facilité la tâche du président Boakai, car il sollicitera l'aide des gouvernements et des nations amis. La crédibilité de notre démocratie est importante dans nos relations avec nos partenaires mondiaux.

Il n'y a pas de retour en arrière. Nous devons continuer ce voyage de transition en douceur, car nous le devons non seulement à nous-mêmes, mais aussi à la postérité.

Français

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Miatta Fahnbulleh dit ne

suite aux conseils de mes collègues, j'ai fait avec".

Parlant de la 55e Assemblée Législative, Tante Fahnbulleh a remis en question leur supervision des processus de planification de l'événement. Elle a accusé les parlementaires de n'avoir jamais vérifié si le Capitole était prêt avant la date de l'investiture. Pour Tante Miatta, le pouvoir législatif a failli à sa responsabilité de surveillance.

"Ils ont omis de vérifier si le bâtiment du Capitole était correctement préparé et si tout était en ordre. Mais quand j'ai présenté ma proposition, ils ont souligné leur responsabilité de surveillance", a-t-elle dit.

Elle a également blâmé le ministère des Affaires étrangères qui aurait envoyée plus d'invitations que de places disponibles. Selon elle, l'accord initial faisait état de 400 billets. Mais elle a découvert par la suite que 300 invitations supplémentaires avaient été envoyées. « Alors pourquoi devrais-je être tenue responsable, quand les agents de l'EPS permettaient à des personnes sans invitations d'entrer dans les locaux, où se déroulait le programme. Comment aurais-je pu savoir que les agents de l'EPS laisseraient entrer des gens sans invitations ? »

L'EPS (Executive Protection Agency) - les gardes présidentiels d'élite qui assurent la protection du Président de la République et les VIP.

Ce sont ses préoccupations, soulignant les défis auxquels elle a été confrontée dans la gestion de l'inauguration.

Elle a cependant exprimé sa gratitude envers d'autres intervenants nationaux pour leur participation à la planification.

Dans une interview téléphonique avec ce quotidien, le Commandant en chef des Combattants de la Liberté Économique du Libéria (l'une des alliances du Parti Uni) Emanuel Gongua, a décrit l'ensemble de l'événement comme un désordre.

Il a souligné plusieurs lacunes que l'équipe n'a pas réussi à prendre en compte lors des étapes de planification.

Pour Gongua, la garde présidentielle aurait dû annoncer les conditions météorologiques quelques jours avant l'investiture pour informer les invités internationaux de la température à laquelle ils seraient confrontés.

"Par exemple, nous avons eu une situation où les conditions météorologiques étaient d'environ 44 degrés Celsius, et vous avez habillé le président en tenue traditionnelle, l'emmenant sur un lieu où il n'y a pas de ventilation."

Les citoyens demandent des compteurs pour réduire le vol d'électricité



Liberia Electricity Corporation

Des résidents de Monrovia, principalement ceux de West Point, font appel de manière pressante au gouvernement du Libéria, par le biais de la direction de la Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), pour étendre l'accès aux compteurs à travers le pays. Ces citoyens mécontents estiment que la généralisation de l'accès aux compteurs dans tout le pays contribuera à réduire le vol d'électricité et permettra au gouvernement d'augmenter les revenus de la LEC, contribuant ainsi au Trésor national. Selon eux, le problème du vol d'électricité représente une menace latente qui pourrait compromettre la stabilité financière de la nation s'il n'est pas

correctement résolu par la distribution étendue de compteurs dans chaque foyer du pays. Lors d'une rencontre avec des journalistes le week-end dernier, le directeur de l'Academic Treasury Academy (ATA) à West Point, M. Ponnyenneh D. Jay, a qualifié le vol d'électricité de défi majeur qui mine la base de revenus du gouvernement.

"Si les compteurs sont disponibles, cela réduira le vol d'électricité dans le pays. Le vol d'électricité est l'un des principaux défis qui sapent la base de génération de revenus du gouvernement", a déclaré M. Jay.

Il a souligné que la distribution de compteurs à chaque foyer contribuera à résoudre ce problème, ajoutant que les Libériens sont disposés à contribuer au développement, et que la disponibilité de compteurs pour les clients et les citoyens améliorera le climat des affaires dans le pays.

M. Jay a également affirmé que la plupart des ménages à West Point sont impliqués dans le vol d'électricité, car des personnes formées par la LEC sont principalement impliquées dans des branchements illégaux dans la communauté à des fins personnelles.

Secteur halieutique et économie bleue : Le Maroc tient une série de rencontres bilatérales au Libéria



Le ministre de l'Agriculture, de la pêche maritime, du développement rural et des eaux et forêts, Mohammed Sadiki, a tenu, vendredi au Libéria, des rencontres bilatérales avec la Directrice Générale de l'Autorité Nationale des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture du Libéria, Emma Metieh Glassco, la ministre de la Pêche et de l'économie maritime de la République de Guinée, Charlotte Daffé, et le ministre des Ressources animales et halieutiques de la Côte d'Ivoire, Sidi Tiémoko Touré, sur le secteur halieutique et l'économie bleue.

Tenues en marge du lancement de la campagne scientifique conduite par le bateau scientifique Al Hassane Al Marrakchi de l'INRH au Libéria le 26 janvier 2024, ces rencontres se sont concentrées sur des aspects cruciaux de la coopération sud-sud, mettant en avant l'expérience réussie du Maroc dans le développement du secteur halieutique, indique un communiqué du ministère de l'Agriculture, de la pêche maritime, du développement rural et des eaux et forêts.

Cette dynamique a donné naissance à une première série de propositions englobant des actions concertées dans des

domaines clés tels que la formation maritime, la recherche scientifique, l'échange d'expertise, et le renforcement des capacités des gestionnaires et des opérateurs du secteur de la pêche, fait savoir la même source.

Les pourparlers ont également examiné des initiatives telles que l'organisation de visites d'études dédiées aux hauts responsables en charge de la pêche et de l'aquaculture marine, ainsi que la promotion du partenariat privé par le biais d'échanges de visites entre les opérateurs économiques du secteur de la pêche, ajoute le communiqué.

Parallèlement, une réflexion approfondie a été lancée sur la nécessité d'organiser des sessions de la commission mixte, visant à raviver la coopération halieutique entre les pays. Ces sessions, en tant que moteur essentiel de la relance de la collaboration, seront étroitement surveillées pour garantir la mise en œuvre cohérente et efficace des initiatives convenues.

Cité dans le communiqué, M. Sadiki a souligné que la tenue de ces rencontres bilatérales témoigne de l'engagement profond du Maroc envers le continent africain et de sa volonté d'établir une coopération sud-sud durable, permettant de dynamiser le secteur halieutique en tenant compte des enjeux du développement durable du secteur halieutique et de la préservation des ressources marines vivantes et la protection de l'environnement marin.

Starts from page 8

Bonne Gouvernance : Trois

Jonathan Boye-Charles Sogbie, représentant respectivement les comtés de Montserrado et de River Gee, ont également procédé à la déclaration individuelle de leurs avoirs le jeudi 25 janvier 2024, témoignant de leur engagement envers l'intégrité

et la conformité au Code de conduite. Cette démarche collective des sénateurs renforce l'esprit de responsabilité et contribue à renforcer la confiance du public dans les institutions gouvernementales du Libéria.

Burkina, Mali, Niger se retirent de la Cédéao

Le Burkina, le Mali et le Niger ont annoncé dans un communiqué officiel conjoint leur retrait de la Cédéao avec effet immédiat.

Le Burkina Faso, le Mali et le Niger, trois pays dirigés par des juntes militaires, ont annoncé ce dimanche qu'ils quittaient la Communauté économique des États d'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cédéao) avec effet immédiat.

Les dirigeants respectifs des trois États sahéliens, « prenant toutes leurs responsabilités devant l'histoire et répondant aux attentes, préoccupations et aspirations de leurs populations, décident en toute souveraineté du retrait sans délai du Burkina Faso, du Mali et du Niger de la Communauté

économique des États d'Afrique de l'Ouest », dit le communiqué lu sur les médias d'État de ces pays.

Les trois pays, confrontés à des problématiques similaires d'insécurité, de jihadisme et de pauvreté, ont des relations tendues avec la Cédéao depuis que des militaires y ont pris le pouvoir par la force, en 2020 au Mali, en 2022 au Burkina Faso et en 2023 au Niger.

La Cédéao essaie d'endiguer les coups de force et de pousser au retour le plus vite possible des civils au pouvoir. Elle a pris de lourdes sanctions contre le Mali et le Niger et est allée jusqu'à menacer de recourir à la force dans ce dernier pays. Elle a suspendu les trois pays de ses organes.

Margibians recommend to Boakai

Starts from page 11

country is endowed with enormous natural resources that could better citizens' lives if they are utilized properly.

He calls for the formation of a government inclusion that would bring on board bright minds regardless of political alignment.

Another Kakata resident, V. Kromah, notes that the votes margin between President Boakai and former President Weah shows clearly that the country is heavily divided, stressing that President Boakai has a heavy task in uniting the country for forward march.

Kromah believes that the former Weah administration did extremely well and wants Boakai to avoid dealing with people based on party lines because elections are over, and he is now President for all Liberians.

V. Kromah: "The elected government, the first recommendation I can give them is they should learn from the past government's mistakes. Let them forget about the party link. They should focus on Liberia. Let them forget about the fight, they should focus on Liberia."

He points at two key messages the UP had for Liberians during the campaign including taking the drug "kush" from the country and increasing civil servants' salaries, so people are looking up to the new government for that.

Miss Kwande S. Farr, popularly known as 'Queen' from Margibi District#3, says the first and foremost thing President Boakai should do is to listen to the people, instead of making unilateral decision because the people will have their own agenda that they will expect him to do.

"What we want for Amb. Boakai to do, the first and foremost thing to make anybody successful is to listen to your people. Don't ever make unilateral decisions. Listen to your people, they will have their own thing. They will want you to do and out of the hundred, out of the 10, you can say, I will do the first two, three four, so I will wish and hope that he will listen to us. He's our leader. Let him come down to our level and listen to us and we make sure our little plight we

have, eh, you understand eh? We all can work around him and make it happen", she suggests.

The Margibi County Chairman of the National Patriotic Party Mr. Sam Zor, said the country is divided, evidenced by the small margin between Mr. Boakai and Mr. Weah.

"If you look at the margin, it's not a margin you can boast of to say yes, we did well and that clearly shows that the country is divided and the work the government needs to do is to unite the Liberia people, so that we all can work together. Uniting the people, it just got to be inclusive. If he listens to his people that this is our time and then division going to increase more. Those statements are not statements that can bring unity."

According to him, a government of inclusion will not just mean bringing anybody on board but bringing qualified and competent people that can deliver to the Liberian people.

Mohammed Dunor, a young businessman says his fear is that the Boakai regime will not provide the kind of opportunity that former President Weah gave to commoners or ordinary citizens, especially youth to serve in high positions.

He says Boakai will bring people from abroad to meet his taste of competence, noting that John Morlue, who is one of Liberia's best auditors was condemned by Boakai when he (President Boakai) spoke to the VOA and said he was going to bring international auditors to the country.

Mr. Dunor continues that one thing this administration can do is to consider government of inclusion, but notes it is going to be very difficult for President Boakai because of his followers.

He says for instance, Senator Prince Johnson will not allow Weah's appointees to work in the Boakai-led government.

Another concern he has is that Boakai may not continue with most of the programs that former President Weah started, because of petite jealousy and fear that glory will go to his immediate predecessor.

He further cautions that this new government should not witch hunt past officials.

Mohammed adds that if

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Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)
Representative Record of the Count

Grand Bassa
Electional District Number 05
Voting Precinct Name BEHN TOWN
Polling Place Number 011

NO.	CANDIDATE NAME	PARTY/IND	VOTES OBTAINED
1	BANNIE, Ben D. S.	(CDC)	-40-
2	BEAH, Morris G.	(EFFL)	-6-
3	BESTMAN, J. William	(DNA)	-10-
4	DAVIES, Lee Zeal	(IND)	-15-
5	DENNIS, C. Jush S.	(UP)	-36-
6	GBARGE, Solomon P.	(PUP)	-8-
7	GOSHUA, H. Thomas A.	(CPP)	-162-
8	JOHNSON, Joseph Chao	(ALP)	-3-
9	KARWOR, Jonathan M.	(MOL)	-6-
10	KORDAH, Sr. Mark A.	(REBUILDERS)	-10-
11	SIWAY, Sr. Robertson N.	(LPP)	-11-
12	YARLATEE, Enoch Easy	(MPC)	-18-
1. TOTAL VALID VOTES			344
2. TOTAL INVALID VOTES			340
3. TOTAL OF VALID AND INVALID VOTES (1+2)			344

Po's Name and Signature: *Nicholas A. Moore* Date: 23/01/24
Name and Signature of Party/Candidate Agent: *Rebecca M. Zor* Date: 21/23/2024

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Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)
Representative Record of the Count

Grand Bassa
Electional District Number 05
Voting Precinct Name BEHN TOWN
Polling Place Number 017

NO.	CANDIDATE NAME	PARTY/IND	VOTES OBTAINED
1	BANNIE, Ben D. S.	(CDC)	-12-
2	BEAH, Morris G.	(EFFL)	-0-
3	BESTMAN, J. William	(DNA)	-10-
4	DAVIES, Lee Zeal	(IND)	-8-
5	DENNIS, C. Jush S.	(UP)	-24-
6	GBARGE, Solomon P.	(PUP)	-3-
7	GOSHUA, H. Thomas A.	(CPP)	-93-
8	JOHNSON, Joseph Chao	(ALP)	-2-
9	KARWOR, Jonathan M.	(MOL)	-3-
10	KORDAH, Sr. Mark A.	(REBUILDERS)	-3-
11	SIWAY, Sr. Robertson N.	(LPP)	-17-
12	YARLATEE, Enoch Easy	(MPC)	-12-
1. TOTAL VALID VOTES			182
2. TOTAL INVALID VOTES			28
3. TOTAL OF VALID AND INVALID VOTES (1+2)			259

Po's Name and Signature: *Philip C. Gboabon* Date: 01/24/24
Name and Signature of Party/Candidate Agent: *Philip C. Gboabon* Date: 01/24/24

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Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)
Representative Record of the Count

Grand Bassa
Electional District Number 05
Voting Precinct Name BEHN TOWN
Polling Place Number 012

NO.	CANDIDATE NAME	PARTY/IND	VOTES OBTAINED
1	BANNIE, Ben D. S.	(CDC)	-18-
2	BEAH, Morris G.	(EFFL)	-3-
3	BESTMAN, J. William	(DNA)	-10-
4	DAVIES, Lee Zeal	(IND)	-10-
5	DENNIS, C. Jush S.	(UP)	-57-
6	GBARGE, Solomon P.	(PUP)	-3-
7	GOSHUA, H. Thomas A.	(CPP)	-115-
8	JOHNSON, Joseph Chao	(ALP)	-6-
9	KARWOR, Jonathan M.	(MOL)	-2-
10	KORDAH, Sr. Mark A.	(REBUILDERS)	-11-
11	SIWAY, Sr. Robertson N.	(LPP)	-19-
12	YARLATEE, Enoch Easy	(MPC)	-11-
1. TOTAL VALID VOTES			301
2. TOTAL INVALID VOTES			30
3. TOTAL OF VALID AND INVALID VOTES (1+2)			331

Po's Name and Signature: *Nicholas A. Moore* Date: 23/01/24
Name and Signature of Party/Candidate Agent: *Solomon A. Allie* Date: 01-23-24

Form RC-03

Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)
Representative Record of the Count

Grand Bassa
Electional District Number 05
Voting Precinct Name BEHN TOWN
Polling Place Number 012

NO.	CANDIDATE NAME	PARTY/IND	VOTES OBTAINED
1	BANNIE, Ben D. S.	(CDC)	-46-
2	BEAH, Morris G.	(EFFL)	-3-
3	BESTMAN, J. William	(DNA)	-10-
4	DAVIES, Lee Zeal	(IND)	-15-
5	DENNIS, C. Jush S.	(UP)	-55-
6	GBARGE, Solomon P.	(PUP)	-3-
7	GOSHUA, H. Thomas A.	(CPP)	-107-
8	JOHNSON, Joseph Chao	(ALP)	-4-
9	KARWOR, Jonathan M.	(MOL)	-1-
10	KORDAH, Sr. Mark A.	(REBUILDERS)	-11-
11	SIWAY, Sr. Robertson N.	(LPP)	-19-
12	YARLATEE, Enoch Easy	(MPC)	-245-
1. TOTAL VALID VOTES			300
2. TOTAL INVALID VOTES			300
3. TOTAL OF VALID AND INVALID VOTES (1+2)			600

Po's Name and Signature: *Nicholas A. Moore* Date: 23/01/24
Name and Signature of Party/Candidate Agent: *Solomon A. Allie* Date: 01-23-24

Form RC-03

Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)
Representative Record of the Count

Grand Bassa
Electional District Number 05
Voting Precinct Name BEHN TOWN
Polling Place Number 012

NO.	CANDIDATE NAME	PARTY/IND	VOTES OBTAINED
1	BANNIE, Ben D. S.	(CDC)	-46-
2	BEAH, Morris G.	(EFFL)	-3-
3	BESTMAN, J. William	(DNA)	-10-
4	DAVIES, Lee Zeal	(IND)	-15-
5	DENNIS, C. Jush S.	(UP)	-55-
6	GBARGE, Solomon P.	(PUP)	-3-
7	GOSHUA, H. Thomas A.	(CPP)	-107-
8	JOHNSON, Joseph Chao	(ALP)	-4-
9	KARWOR, Jonathan M.	(MOL)	-1-
10	KORDAH, Sr. Mark A.	(REBUILDERS)	-11-
11	SIWAY, Sr. Robertson N.	(LPP)	-19-
12	YARLATEE, Enoch Easy	(MPC)	-245-
1. TOTAL VALID VOTES			300
2. TOTAL INVALID VOTES			300
3. TOTAL OF VALID AND INVALID VOTES (1+2)			600

Po's Name and Signature: *Romco T. Sackey* Date: 10/10/24
Name and Signature of Party/Candidate Agent: *Soo G. Gboabon* Date: 10/10/24

* Election and recounts do not match.
Election total is 300 and recount is 331.

* Election and recounts do not match.
Election total is 300 and recount is 331.

Form RC-03

Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)
Representative Record of the Count

Grand Bassa
Electional District Number 05
Voting Precinct Name YARWEAH VILLAGE
Polling Place Number 017

NO.	CANDIDATE NAME	PARTY/IND	VOTES OBTAINED
1	BANNIE, Ben D. S.	(CDC)	-16-
2	BEAH, Morris G.	(EFFL)	-14-
3	BESTMAN, J. William	(DNA)	-14-
4	DAVIES, Lee Zeal	(IND)	-14-
5	DENNIS, C. Jush S.	(UP)	-57-
6	GBARGE, Solomon P.	(PUP)	-5-
7	GOSHUA, H. Thomas A.	(CPP)	-87-
8	JOHNSON, Joseph Chao	(ALP)	-5-
9	KARWOR, Jonathan M.	(MOL)	-6-
10	KORDAH, Sr. Mark A.	(REBUILDERS)	-65-
11	SIWAY, Sr. Robertson N.	(LPP)	-9-
12	YARLATEE, Enoch Easy	(MPC)	-7-
1. TOTAL VALID VOTES			223
2. TOTAL INVALID VOTES			223
3. TOTAL OF VALID AND INVALID VOTES (1+2)			446

Po's Name and Signature: *Elkanah Morris* Date: 24/01/24
Name and Signature of Party/Candidate Agent: *Marshall C. Bon* Date: 01/24/2024

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Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)
Representative Record of the Count

Grand Bassa
Electional District Number 05
Voting Precinct Name BEHN TOWN
Polling Place Number 013

NO.	CANDIDATE NAME	PARTY/IND	VOTES OBTAINED
1	BANNIE, Ben D. S.	(CDC)	-29-
2	BEAH, Morris G.	(EFFL)	-1-
3	BESTMAN, J. William	(DNA)	-8-
4	DAVIES, Lee Zeal	(IND)	-10-
5	DENNIS, C. Jush S.	(UP)	-30-
6	GBARGE, Solomon P.	(PUP)	-1-
7	GOSHUA, H. Thomas A.	(CPP)	-90-
8	JOHNSON, Joseph Chao	(ALP)	-3-
9	KARWOR, Jonathan M.	(MOL)	-6-
10	KORDAH, Sr. Mark A.	(REBUILDERS)	-5-
11	SIWAY, Sr. Robertson N.	(LPP)	-18-
12	YARLATEE, Enoch Easy	(MPC)	-7-
1. TOTAL VALID VOTES			206
2. TOTAL INVALID VOTES			17
3. TOTAL OF VALID AND INVALID VOTES (1+2)			223

Po's Name and Signature: *Nicholas A. Moore* Date: 24/01/24
Name and Signature of Party/Candidate Agent: *Alexander F. Forster* Date: 21/24/24

* There is a difference of 41 votes between the total of valid and invalid votes, and the total # of ballots taken for the box (209).

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Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)
Representative Record of the Count

Grand Bassa
Electional District Number 05
Voting Precinct Name YARWEAH VILLAGE
Polling Place Number 011

NO.	CANDIDATE NAME	PARTY/IND	VOTES OBTAINED
1	BANNIE, Ben D. S.	(CDC)	-44-
2	BEAH, Morris G.	(EFFL)	-5-
3	BESTMAN, J. William	(DNA)	-8-
4	DAVIES, Lee Zeal	(IND)	-8-
5	DENNIS, C. Jush S.	(UP)	-74-
6	GBARGE, Solomon P.	(PUP)	-4-
7	GOSHUA, H. Thomas A.	(CPP)	-120-
8	JOHNSON, Joseph Chao	(ALP)	-3-
9	KARWOR, Jonathan M.	(MOL)	-5-
10	KORDAH, Sr. Mark A.	(REBUILDERS)	-9-
11	SIWAY, Sr. Robertson N.	(LPP)	-8-
12	YARLATEE, Enoch Easy	(MPC)	-8-
1. TOTAL VALID VOTES			269
2. TOTAL INVALID VOTES			37
3. TOTAL OF VALID AND INVALID VOTES (1+2)			302

Po's Name and Signature: *Elkanah Morris* Date: 27/01/24
Name and Signature of Party/Candidate Agent: *Marshall C. Bon* Date: 24/01/24

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Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)
Representative Record of the Count

Grand Bassa
Electional District Number 05
Voting Precinct Name YARWEAH VILLAGE
Polling Place Number 012

NO.	CANDIDATE NAME	PARTY/IND	VOTES OBTAINED
1	BANNIE, Ben D. S.	(CDC)	-16-
2	BEAH, Morris G.	(EFFL)	-3-
3	BESTMAN, J. William	(DNA)	-10-
4	DAVIES, Lee Zeal	(IND)	-9-
5	DENNIS, C. Jush S.	(UP)	-53-
6	GBARGE, Solomon P.	(PUP)	-3-
7	GOSHUA, H. Thomas A.	(CPP)	-111-
8	JOHNSON, Joseph Chao	(ALP)	-6-
9	KARWOR, Jonathan M.	(MOL)	-11-
10	KORDAH, Sr. Mark A.	(REBUILDERS)	-40-
11	SIWAY, Sr. Robertson N.	(LPP)	-13-
12	YARLATEE, Enoch Easy	(MPC)	-11-
1. TOTAL VALID VOTES			256
2. TOTAL INVALID VOTES			30
3. TOTAL OF VALID AND INVALID VOTES (1+2)			316

Po's Name and Signature: *Elkanah Morris* Date: 27/01/24
Name and Signature of Party/Candidate Agent: *Marshall C. Bon* Date: 24/01/24

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Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)
Representative Record of the Count

Grand Bassa
Electional District Number 05
Voting Precinct Name YARWEAH VILLAGE
Polling Place Number 015

NO.	CANDIDATE NAME	PARTY/IND	VOTES OBTAINED
1	BANNIE, Ben D. S.	(CDC)	-79-
2	BEAH, Morris G.	(EFFL)	-7-
3	BESTMAN, J. William	(DNA)	-14-
4	DAVIES, Lee Zeal	(IND)	-14-
5	DENNIS, C. Jush S.	(UP)	-57-
6	GBARGE, Solomon P.	(PUP)	-5-
7	GOSHUA, H. Thomas A.	(CPP)	-87-
8	JOHNSON, Joseph Chao	(ALP)	-5-
9	KARWOR, Jonathan M.	(MOL)	-6-
10	KORDAH, Sr. Mark A.	(REBUILDERS)	-65-
11	SIWAY, Sr. Robertson N.	(LPP)	-9-
12	YARLATEE, Enoch Easy	(MPC)	-7-
1. TOTAL VALID VOTES			223
2. TOTAL INVALID VOTES			223
3. TOTAL OF VALID AND INVALID VOTES (1+2)			446

Po's Name and Signature: *Elkanah Morris* Date: 24/01/24
Name and Signature of Party/Candidate Agent: *Marshall C. Bon* Date: 01/24/2024

Form RC-03

Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)
Representative Record of the Count

Grand Bassa
Electional District Number 05
Voting Precinct Name YARWEAH VILLAGE
Polling Place Number 017

NO.	CANDIDATE NAME	PARTY/IND	VOTES OBTAINED
1	BANNIE, Ben D. S.	(CDC)	-16-
2	BEAH, Morris G.	(EFFL)	-14-
3	BESTMAN, J. William	(DNA)	-14-
4	DAVIES, Lee Zeal	(IND)	-14-
5	DENNIS, C. Jush S.	(UP)	-57-
6	GBARGE, Solomon P.	(PUP)	-5-
7	GOSHUA, H. Thomas A.	(CPP)	-87-
8	JOHNSON, Joseph Chao	(ALP)	-5-
9	KARWOR, Jonathan M.	(MOL)	-6-
10	KORDAH, Sr. Mark A.	(REBUILDERS)	-65-
11	SIWAY, Sr. Robertson N.	(LPP)	-9-
12	YARLATEE, Enoch Easy	(MPC)	-7-
1. TOTAL VALID VOTES			223
2. TOTAL INVALID VOTES			223
3. TOTAL OF VALID AND INVALID VOTES (1+2)			446

Po's Name and Signature: *Elkanah Morris* Date: 24/01/24
Name and Signature of Party/Candidate Agent: *Marshall C. Bon* Date: 01/24/2024

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Fraud, discrepancies in G. Bassa Dist.5 recount

The recent recount of votes in the disputed Grand Bassa County District #5 Representative elections has discovered fraud and discrepancies in the National Elections Commission tally sheets, according to documents in the possession of

fully complied with in the district, rather it seems to have exposed further frauds or discrepancies from NEC's tally sheets.

A comparison between the October 10, 2023, results that were announced by NEC and the January 2024 recounts

January, Mr. David Logan NEC Election

Magistrate and staff moved into the NEC compound which is fenced in and stayed there. They alleged that Mr. Logan and staff denied police access to the premises to enter and safeguard the votes.

From various accounts in the district, some of the ballot boxes were brought in with either their seals broken or swiped on different boxes thereby creating doubts, with many suggesting that the boxes were tampered with ahead of the recount.

As if that was not enough, the number of ballot papers automatically increased in some boxes, while in others they decreased. At Behn Town Palava Hot Polling place #2, for example, the total number of voters who were reported to have shown up on October 10, 2023, was put at 219. During the recent recount, the NEC Magistrate reported 331. Again, in the same Behn Town at another polling center where it was reported that only 250 voters showed up, the recount reported 300.

On October 10, polling place 4 in Korkor David Town reported turnout on October 10 to be 239, during the recent recount this month, NEC Magistrate reported that only 198 voters showed up.

The recount also shows discrepancies in total validated votes. On October 10, NEC reported that at least 20931 voters turned out to vote in the disputed district. However, during the recent recount, NEC reported 20951.

The UP candidate also reported that NEC officers failed to make available the PO and FRR during the recount process.

Meanwhile, NEC is yet to comment on the latest report from the disputed district. See evidence on page 10.-Writes **Othello B. Garblah**

Margibians recommend to Boakai

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr

Despite his call to Liberians to keep realistic expectations in his inaugural speech recently, it appears that President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's government is going to face high expectations from citizens.

On various radio talk shows, at intellectual centers and in street corners, many Liberians are heard proffering things they think the emerging administration should do to improve standard of life.

This is on the basis of high hope for a far better Liberia promised by Boakai and the UP during the campaign.

The issues include government of inclusion, fight against corruption, learning from mistakes of their predecessor, salary increment for civil servants, listening to the public concerns instead of running a unilateral decision, fulfilling campaign promises, among others.

The NEW DAWN spoke with lots of them especially from Margibi County who proffered

program, legislate payment of WASSCE fees for 12th graders then President Boakai would have put the country on the right trajectory again.

"In the first one month, the President should be speaking on civil servants' salaries. The civil servant salaries should be even elevated before the first sixty days."

Mr. Lamadine: "My advice to the President is the arrogance I see in the people behind the President, it's too much. He needs to speak to it."

A supporter of UP in Margibi District#4, Rudolph Palmer, says he expects the quality of decisions that will be taken by the Unity Party-led government should be far better than those of his predecessor, former President George Weah, and must be in the best interest of the Liberian people.

He underscores that decisions should have trigger-down effects on the general population and impact development of the country.

However, he cautions that President Boakai should not



the New Dawn.

The case involves Unity Party Representative candidate Juah S. Dennis and incumbent lawmaker NEC Magistrate and Thomas Goshua on one hand. Mrs. Dennis through her party challenged the outcome of the October 10, 2023, results of the representative election in the district immediately after NEC pronounced the winner citing overwhelming fraud and discrepancies.

On January 17, this month, the Supreme Court of Liberia ruling in the matter ordered an immediate recount from the 78 polling centers in the disputed area.

The High Court decided to ensure complete compliance with the Electoral Law of Liberia which seeks a transparent and accurate determination of election results that reflect the will of the electorates.

However, it appears like this mandate has not been

shows overwhelming discrepancies. At some polling centers the recount shows an increase in the number of voters that turn out, while in other places the number of people who turn out reduced.

In an official complaint filed before the NEC Board of Commissioners, the Unity Party through its Grand

Bassa Secretary General Thomas Nimely and its candidate Mrs. Dennis explained that there must have been some obstruction in the execution of the High Court's mandate or there must have been a refusal by NEC to carry out the court's mandate.

According to the UP complaint the court mandated NEC to conduct a total recount in the 78 polling stations and to include used, unused, spoiled, and damaged ballots, etc. However, the special recount team failed and refused to conduct a total recount.

The UP candidate averred that from the 18 up to the 22 of



their recommendations as the government takes shape.

Caesar C. Lamadine, a businessman in Lango Town Community, Kakata thinks the first and greatest responsibility for President Boakai is to do everything possible to maintain the already existing peace in Liberia.

Caesar is of the strongest conviction that the UP-led administration has those he called 'experts' who are not coming to learn on the job, noting that this government is expected to start a fully running leadership because they have already understood the problems of the Liberian people.

He says from the day of the inauguration up to the first hundred days, if Liberians can see price reduction in the nation's staple rice, paved roads, improved health services and education system, maintain tuition-freed public University

compromise the most talked about audit of the previous administration.

Rudolph Palmer: "What happens is that we set a bad precedent if we compromise audit of the government that we succeed. You will not know where you are starting from economically. Secondly, you need to unearth some of the things that wrongly happened so that you can set precedent so that other people who are taking over too will know that after my term, similar things will happen, so I need to be careful how I proceed."

He also says the new government should be strong in the fight against corruption because the past regime did not do well in regard to accountability.

According to him, Liberians are where they are because corruption has impacted the country negatively, pointing that the

Starts from back page Chambers finally concedes defeat

democracy and also a special thanks and appreciation goes to the National Election Commission for a peaceful process."

"Our district and its people have won, so to our winner, we want to say our heartfelt congratulations and we wish you well and we want the years before us should be a years of fulfillments because we have been there for our people's and this is why you have seen these achievements we have brought to our people's, so we don't want our district should be engulfed with commotion and conflicts" he disclose.

He recalls that during the election, there were several abusive remarks from supporters, something he notes, is not the character of the people of Sodoken District, urging Representative-elect, William to address division among the people.

"I want to say this; we are the people of Pleebo and we need to uphold the peace as citizens because election has ended.

He calls on the people of Pleebo to unite and work together in harmony because God is a God of peace.

The NEC announced Candidate Anthony F. William

winner after the October 10, 2023 election but the results were strongly challenged by former Speaker Chambers, citing involvement traditional people in two polling places in Precinct Code#27020, Old Sodokan, District#2, Maryland County

He took several appeals before the National Election Commission but was unable to overturn the result and subsequently ran to the Supreme Court of Liberia which ruled in his favor, pointing to the fact that the threat of violence by traditional people to scare

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Chambers finally concedes defeat

-congratulates his opponent, William

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Maryland County District # 2 Representative and former Speaker of the 54th

ordered the National Elections Commission to conduct the rerun after former Speaker Chambers protested the initial result that announced his opponent winner, on grounds

and true blue warriors, who are undeterred by momentary setbacks. In fact, this presents a major victory—a time to focus on a much bigger mission for you my supporters and the country.

To our opponents, I love you and appreciate the criticisms, all of which culminated in making me who I am. Had it not been for your constant blows, my inherent human resilience would not have been awakened,” Chambers asserted.

“Let me take this moment as a true believer in our country’s democracy to congratulate the Representative-elect of our district, Anthony William, and call on all of you to accord him the same respect as you did to me. I urge you to work with him peacefully in the interest of our district. We want to congratulate Mr. William for the strength he has shown doing the entire election and we have to respect that which have been said by those actors that are in charge of our



former Speaker Chambers

Legislature finally concedes defeat and congratulates newly elected Representative Anthony F. William, following a rerun of the October 10, 2023, representative election in two polling places with Precinct Code #27020 in Old Sodokan, District#2, Maryland County

of disruption when locals reportedly took masked dancers at the polling centers. Speaking on a local radio station on Friday, January 26, 2024 the outgoing District#2 lawmaker lauded the people of Pleebo for their overwhelming support during the election.

“We remain the committed

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