

Liberia: George Weah concedes defeat in the Presidential election

November 21, 2023

November 20, 2023: **Monrovia, Liberia**: Election officials in Liberia on Monday formally declared the result of the **run-off elections** held on November 14, 2023. **Boakai**, emerged as the frontrunner with 50.9% of the vote, while **Weah** secured 49.1%, making **Joseph Boakai** as the **President-Elect**.

November 18, 2023: **Monrovia, Liberia**: Liberia's President **George Weah** gracefully conceded defeat in the presidential elections, after the Election Commission declared the provisional results of the run-off elections held on November 14, 2023. Weah congratulated the opposition leader **Joseph Boakai** for winning the tightly contested race. This concession ensures a smooth transition of power in a country that has experienced volatility in the past.

October 18, 2023: Monrovia, Liberia: The National Elections Commission announced that **President George Weah**, 57, who was seeking a second term, had 43.8% of the vote with his main challenger **Joseph Boakai**, a 78-year-old former vice president who previously lost to Weah in the 2017 election, at 43.4%, at the elections held on October 10, 2023.



Incumbent President George Weah

President-elect Joseph Boakai

This outcome stands in stark contrast to the 2017 election when Weah, a renowned global soccer legend, won by a significant margin with 62% of the vote. However, since then, disillusionment has grown among the population due to the perceived lack of progress on critical issues such as poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, and inadequate electricity supply.

Weah's magnanimous concession speech on national radio urged others to follow his example and accept the election results. This concession paves the way for Liberia's second democratic transfer of power in over seven decades, with the first occurring when Weah assumed office six years ago.

Weah's gesture is particularly noteworthy in West and Central Africa, where the region has experienced eight military coups within three years, eroding faith in democratic processes. Elections in this region are often marred by accusations of fraud and contested results that frequently end up in court battles.

Meanwhile, Boakai's supporters in the capital city of Monrovia expressed their **jubilation by dancing, shouting, and honking car horns** amidst the rain after the near-final results were announced. Speaking to Reuters, Boakai emphasized the responsibility ahead and expressed his excitement at receiving the citizens' approval. He stressed the importance of peace and reconciliation as the country moves forward.

Boakai's victory signifies a significant milestone for Liberia as it continues to face challenges in its efforts to recover from two civil wars that killed more than 250,000 peoples between 1989 and 2003, as well as a 2013-2016 Ebola outbreak that resulted in the deaths of thousands of people. The challenges facing the nation are immense, but **with this democratic transition of power, there is renewed hope for progress and stability in Liberia's future.**

Note: Please see “Crucial Elections in Liberia: Presidential Hopefuls” dated October 10, 2023 at <https://diqinews360.com/crucial-elections-in-liberia-presidential-hopefuls/>