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# The New Dawn

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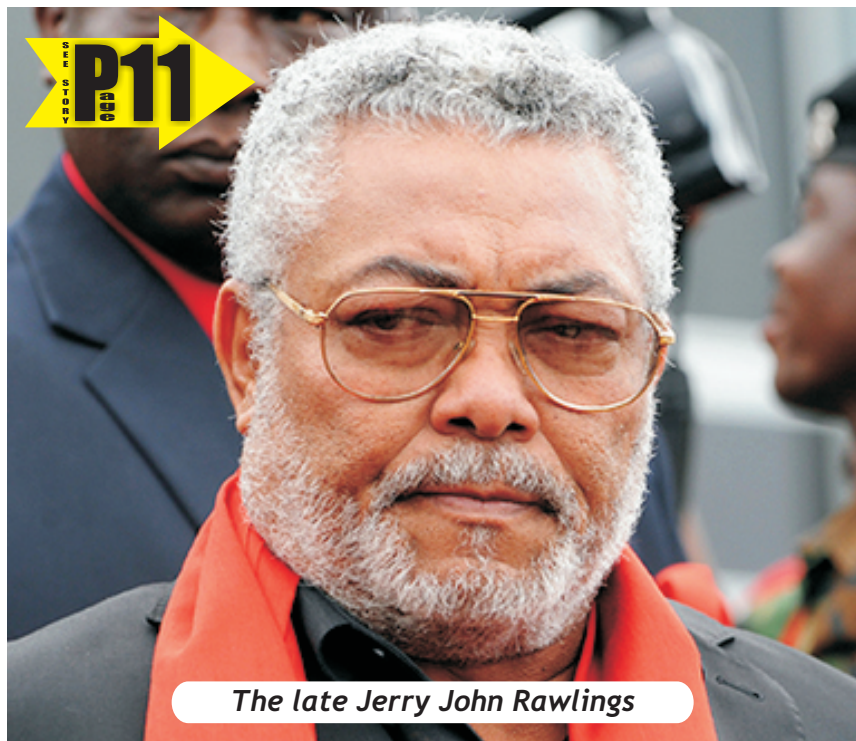
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The late Jerry John Rawlings

# Ghana mourns

*-as Rawlings succumbs to death*

# New constitution, not referendum

*-Sen. Wesseh suggests*



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# Continental News

## Ghana ex-President Jerry Rawlings dies aged 73

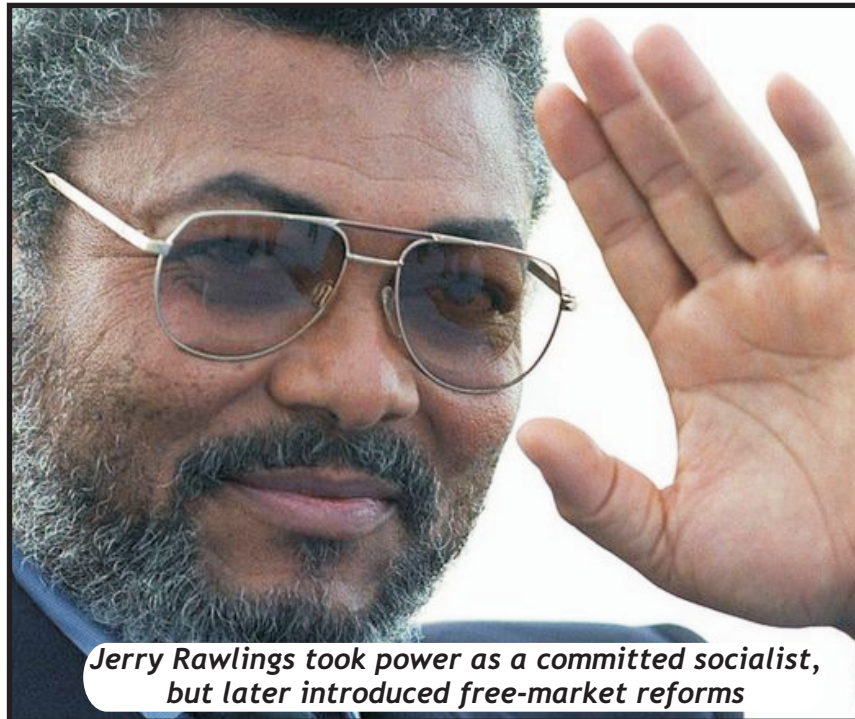
Ghana's former President Jerry John Rawlings has died at the age of 73. He led two coups, first in 1979, before twice being elected president in multiparty polls.

A charismatic figure, he first seized power railing against corruption and was responsible for executing several former heads of state for their alleged graft and mismanagement.

He was also seen as a champion of the poor, but came to be criticised for alleged human rights abuses.

He died in hospital in the capital, Accra, after a short illness. A week of national mourning has been announced in Ghana for the country's longest-serving leader, who oversaw the transition to multiparty elections in what is now one of Africa's most stable democracies.

John Mahama, presidential candidate of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), founded by Rawlings, has announced that he is suspending campaigning for next month's elections. The son of a Scottish farmer and a Ghanaian mother, Rawlings entered the Ghana Air Force,



*Jerry Rawlings took power as a committed socialist, but later introduced free-market reforms*

graduating in 1969.

A decade later, as a senior officer in the air force, he overthrew a military government, handing over power to a civilian leader.

He oversaw the execution of several former heads of state and army generals for corruption, but expressed some regret about the killings. Later the execution by firing squad of Supreme Court judges also left a stain on his legacy.

"I am still aware that we in Ghana do not like bloodshed,"

he said at the time.

"I personally do not like it. I mean, I'd rather, let's say, confiscate a man's wealth and bring him down to the level to which he's brought us just to give him a taste of what life has been, what he's done to us." In 1981, he led a second coup and was the head of a military junta until introducing multi-party elections in 1992, when he was first elected president.

He stepped down in 2001

after serving two terms but continued to wield a strong influence in the country. He began his time in power as a committed socialist, but later introduced free-market reforms. He ushered in a long period of political stability after a tumultuous series of coups in the 1960s and 1970s.

Power in Ghana now regularly alternates between the two major political parties. In later years, Rawlings campaigned for African nations to have their international debts written off. In 2010 he was named as the African Union envoy to war-torn Somalia.

But his legacy is controversial and he divided opinion domestically and in the wider world.

His detractors accused him of torture, corruption and worse. To his supporters, he brought order, security and

prosperity to Ghana. Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo, who is from a rival political party, announced seven days of national mourning.

"A great tree has fallen, and Ghana is poorer for this loss," he said in a statement.

African Union Commission chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat said "Africa has lost a stalwart of Pan-Africanism and a charismatic continental statesman". While Liberian President George Weah said "Ghana, Liberia and Africa will miss a great leader".

"Liberia remembers his immense contribution to the attainment and sustainment of peace during our dark days of our own history," he added in a tweet. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said "the entire African continent will sorely miss the sterling qualities of the great leader". BBC

## Fear that aid could run out amid Ethiopia conflict

Vital aid supplies to hundreds of thousands of people in northern Ethiopia are at risk because of the conflict there, a top UN official said.

"Shortages of basic commodities such as flour and fuel are being reported," Catherine Sozi, UN country director in Ethiopia, told the BBC.

Fighting in Tigray between

the federal government and a regional force broke out eight days ago.

Hundreds have reportedly been killed as fears of an escalating conflict grow.

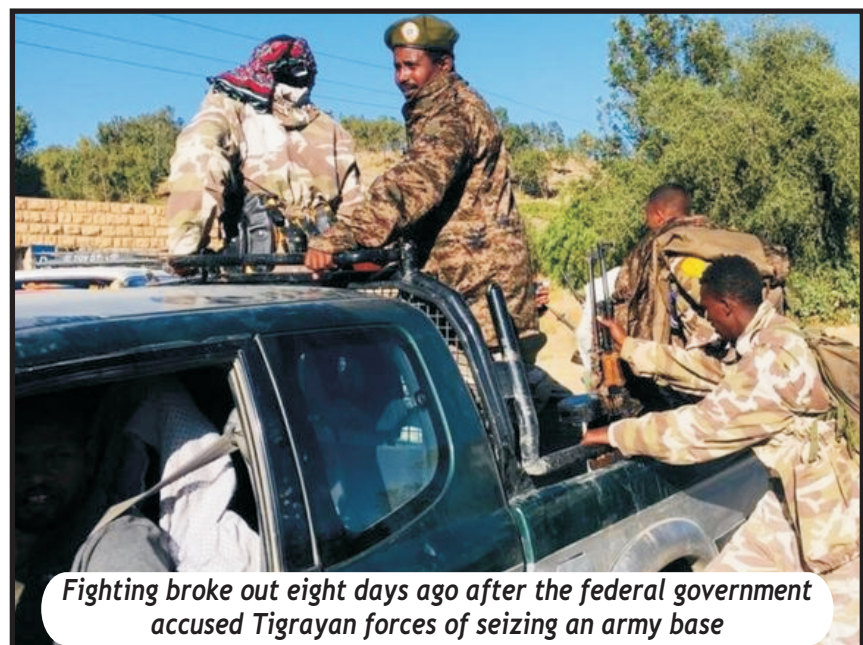
Long-standing tension between Ethiopia's federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which controls Tigray, the country's northernmost state, boiled over into military

clashes last week.

The Ethiopian government has also carried out airstrikes on military targets in Tigray. As a result of the fighting at least 7,000 civilians have crossed the border into Sudan. They fled either the fighting itself or the fear of attack and there are concerns that many more have been forced from their homes but are still living within Tigray.

Al Sir Khalid, a commissioner for refugees in Sudan's Kassala state, told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme that some of those fleeing had walked for two or three days to escape "bombardment", and that they included Ethiopian soldiers.

The UN supplies at least 600,000 people in Tigray with food relief on a regular basis and "assistance... is bound to be interrupted if the supplies are not restocked and if movement is not permitted", Dr Sozi told the BBC's Newsday programme. BBC



*Fighting broke out eight days ago after the federal government accused Tigrayan forces of seizing an army base*

## Mozambique denies mass beheadings by jihadists



*Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes in Cabo Delgado.*

The Mozambican government has denied reports of mass beheading by militant Islamists in the northern Cabo Delgado province.

The governor of the gas-rich province, Valige Tauabo, said there were no recent killings in any district of the province, contrary to reports.

He added that the last known killings by the Islamists took place on 6 April.

The state media had on Tuesday reported that more than 50 people were beheaded by the militants at a

football pitch in a village in Miudumbe district.

The gunmen chanted "Allahu Akbar" ("God is greatest", in English), fired shots, and set homes alight when they raided Nanjaba village on Friday night, the state-owned Mozambique News Agency quoted survivors as saying. Governor Tauabo said there had only been "incursions by evildoers" who were being pursued by the military. He added that the government is concerned about the spread of armed violence in Cabo Delgado. BBC

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# EDITORIAL

## Rekindling Liberia-America strong relationship

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH WEAH seems very passionate to strengthening traditional and historical ties with the Government of the United States especially, under the administration of U.S. President-elect, Joe Biden.

AT LEAST THAT'S what Mr. Weah said Sunday, 08 November in an Executive Mansion press release issued in Monrovia. "As Liberia's traditional ally, we stand ready to further enhance and rekindle our long, historic and unique bilateral relations," President Weah is quoted as saying.

WHILE IT IS Expected of governments around the world Liberian being no exception to seek ways to enhancing bilateral relations with America, the world's greatest democracy, the Weah administration should understand that such commitment are not mere words, but should be demonstrated based on share-core values.

RESPECT FOR RULE of law, democratic rights, human rights and critical opinions, including free speech, accountability and pluralistic media, among others are foundations upon which such cooperation grows, particularly with the United States.

IF UNFOLDING DEVELOPMENTS between this administration and the Government of the United States especially, under outgoing President Donald Trump in the past three years are anything to gauge by, the Weah administration needs to work overtime to restore absolute confidence.

FIRSTLY, THE UNSCRUPULOUS handling of Liberian diplomatic passports under President Weah that saw deviant individuals particularly non-Liberians with internationally questionable characters parading the world as diplomats from Liberia, which led Foreign Secretary Mike Pompeo imposing travel restriction on former Liberian passport director Andrew Woplo and his immediate family in September "due to his involvement in significant corruption" is one issue that needs to be addressed in its entirety to restore trust.

SECONDLY, MYSTERIOUS DEATHS in the past one month coupled with political violence on the way to senatorial election in December are unpleasant situations that attract global attention and beam spotlight on a country's governance process.

PRESIDENT WEAH SHOULD know that mere assurances from the lip would not make any significant difference in U.S.-Liberia relations unless these fundamental concerns are addressed in a transparent manner. More demonstrated actions would be required in the years ahead if Washington would open its doors with red carpet as it did for Mr. Weah's predecessor.

OFF COURSE, FORMER President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf came from the Washington bureaucracy and she understands its twist and turns with a female face. But Paul Kegame of Rwanda came from the jungle with his RPF rebels and became a darling of the West, so is President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, who has been a key ally of America since 1986. But why did Charles Taylor fail in wooing the United States? We all need to read between the lines.

PRESIDENT WEAH WOULD need to watch his steps and friends as he tries to get America's attention that he desperately needs to make a mark on the world's stage of global leadership. This means he would have to listen enough not just to people around him, but from afar to understand early warning signals and be able to adjust in time in order to keep pace with Washington.

# COMMENTARY

By Kent Harrington

## America's Alliances After Trump

*Donald Trump's reckless contempt for America's allies has weakened the country and created a far more dangerous world. President-elect Joe Biden will need a deft pair of hands to repair Trump's wanton destruction.*

ATLANTA - America's allies should be forgiven if they are confused about where American foreign policy is headed. Who isn't, given the go-it-alone recklessness of Donald Trump's presidency? Over the past three years, Trump has sowed strategic chaos, and his foreign policy, if one can call it that, brought new meaning to incoherence. President-elect Joe Biden will be better almost by default. But has Trump changed America so much that the world cannot count on it ever being normal again?

Not only did Trump pursue a love affair with North Korea's nuclear-armed dictator and remain smitten with Russian President Vladimir Putin - a man waging political war on the West. He also championed Brexit and badmouthed America's European allies, when he was not undermining them outright. At the annual Munich Security Conference in 2020, French President Emmanuel Macron and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier both acknowledged that Trump had fundamentally damaged the transatlantic alliance. Their message was clear: If Trump won a second term, the historic partnership that has long constituted the geopolitical "West" would never be the same. Prudent world leaders were doubtless preparing for even more instability and uncertainty had Trump been re-elected.

France and Germany, of course, have many reasons to disagree with the United States, be it on trade relations, Macron's outreach to the Kremlin, or both countries' relatively less confrontational approach to China. Macron, who last November called NATO "brain dead," has made no secret of whom he holds responsible for the alliance's decay and the broader sense of disarray among US partners and allies.

But in Paris and Berlin, as elsewhere in Europe, the reaction to Trump was not just about his bullying, trade tactics, or divisiveness. Europeans saw his administration charting a course that rejected the transatlantic security relationship and its central role in US global engagement more generally. Biden will ditch the unconstrained unilateralism. But even with a new approach, the damage Trump has done won't be repaired easily, or alter views among European leaders that the continent increasingly will need to fend for itself.

Trump's treatment of US allies in Asia has given Europeans ample warning to be prepared for more deterioration in the security relationship. Despite the North Korean nuclear threat and China's growing power, Trump tried to turn America's crucial alliances with South Korea and Japan into pay-as-you-go relationships. Fortunately, Biden understands what Trump doesn't: that US defense pacts with those two countries have underpinned East Asia's stability for 70 years and paid off handsomely for the US. Trump viewed both relationships as "bad deals," and Biden will need to persuade Americans to turn away from his transactional diplomacy.

Moreover, Trump wasn't the first US president to lean heavily on jingoistic rhetoric, and putting the MAGA genie back in the bottle may not be simple for Biden. Both South Korea and Japan can attest to the fact that "America First" was no

mere slogan. With the Host Nation Support Agreements that determine the details of America's presence in each country up for renegotiation this year, Trump repeatedly threatened to withdraw US forces from both countries unless they paid more for what he called American protection. Biden will have to work hard to restore Japanese and Korean trust as he seeks to renew these agreements.

In fact, South Korea and Japan already share mutual defense costs, and have underwritten the US military presence in Northeast Asia for decades. South Korea pays more than 40% of the operating costs of US forces stationed there; it also covered 92% of the US command's \$10.7 billion move to new facilities outside of Seoul, and it purchases billions of dollars' worth of US military hardware. For its part, Japan provides \$2 billion per year to support 54,000 US troops; it purchases 90% of its military hardware from US companies, and it has furnished \$19.7 billion (77% of the total costs) for the construction of three major bases.

For nearly a year, Trump administration officials have demanded that their South Korean counterparts quadruple their country's current \$1 billion in financial support. Add to that leaks describing possible US troop withdrawals and the announcement in July that 12,000 US forces would leave Germany. Clearly, Biden's administration will need not only to devise a new negotiating strategy, but also to reboot the US security guarantee.

Even with Biden in charge, the currently testy political relationship between South Korea and the US (which walked out on the earlier base talks) means negotiations won't be easy. In Japan, formal talks began last month, and the government has until March 2021 to renew its agreement. Trump's defense officials told their Japanese counterparts to expect the same treatment as South Korea. Biden will certainly change that script as well. But Japan's new prime minister, Yoshihide Suga, likely still expects arduous negotiations, albeit without the take-it-or-leave-it attitude that raised questions about the durability of America's security guarantees.

A simple return to treating allies like allies should go a long way for Biden. Trump demonstrated no concern for his policy's political fallout in Seoul and Tokyo, or for its impact on the political fortunes of South Korean President Moon Jae-in and former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In the interest of security, both leaders tried to pander to Trump's "stable genius" over the last three years, with little to show for it but domestic political embarrassment. Biden's election undoubtedly brought sighs of relief in Seoul and Tokyo.

Sadly, Trump's malignant legacy will survive his departure. With everything from health care to climate change begging for Biden's attention, foreign policy is certain to take a backseat to domestic priorities. For US allies, patience will remain a virtue. Righting the wrongs of the Trump years will take time. As he has said at least since 1990, Trump wanted to reshape America's defense arrangements and radically alter its role in the world. Trump may be a pathological liar, but he kept his word on this issue.

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# Lord, are we that mediocre?

Dear Father:

There is a common saying in our village that cuts across age, gender and status- "somebody old thing da somebody new thing." This is a phrase that resonates across every sphere of our village.

In fact, it is something that has been ingrained in us that we are sometimes blinded to the point that standard, quality, durability and brand doesn't matter- "we too must get something."

When someone snatches another person's girlfriend or boyfriend with the other showing extreme possession, the phrase comes alive here. Not only that but material things as well too.

Hmmm, my son this one you get my hair standing already because I know that some kinda premise you setting here so.

Look, Father, I tire ya. You na make me weak sef. My serious thing I talking here you na bring hair standing bisnaya inside.

But honestly Father, that's just the truth. Come to think of it, it's like we don't have taste for standards and qualities. We must just have something because everybody having it, even if it has been rejected elsewhere.

Aha, eh you see what I was talking you getting there small, small.

No, Father, that's just the truth. And that beings me to the meat of the issue. You know just the other day, the Footballer had an elaborate ceremony. He was so overjoyed that you could see the tears of joy literally coming down his cheeks.

And what was he so overjoyed about?

The man was happy because some old plane the people from Charlie land had refused to allow to fly in their village was coming here not as one of those ones coming and going but as our village flagship.

Must you?

That's the thing Father. Again, it just falls in line with what I just told you about our village anthem: "Somebody old thing, da somebody new thing." So that is our village mentality and when our people do so they think they are "getting there" at the level of other neighboring villages. But the truth is it defines who we are.

Yes, Father, it defines us to some extent. When our people go and fix substandard roads, they expect the entire village to jubilate simply because it was not there before and just before you know it, it wares away. Common street lights that should be available to boost night time security is a big political deliverable in our village that people should dance and worship for.

So, then it begs the question as whether are as the people of this village are that mediocre.

Must we just have it because we want to show that we too we get some or is out of mediocrity that we make the kind of choices we make as a village?

And Father, funny enough we are defined by the kind of choices we make in life. The kind of choices a village makes defines the kind of leadership the village has. And the kind of leadership is also define by the people who select them-which is why it is often said that a village gets the kind of leadership it deserves.

And you know, my friend always tell me not to be too excited about our village people, because their behaviors are just something else. In our village we say "he is neither hot nor cold." You would know in which category to place them-that's mediocrity for you.

## The National Elections Commission

9th and 10th Streets, Sinkor  
Monrovia, Liberia

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Government of Liberia through the National Elections Commission (NEC), has applied for fund from the 2020/2021 National Budget and intends to apply part of it to fund payments for the Special Senatorial Election, National Referendum & the Representatives By-Elections for the below listed contract packages.

The Contract packages are:

NO.	Package Number (code) and Contract Package	Description	Procurement Plan Type	Quantity	Submission Date and Time	Opening Date, Time and Place
1.	IFBNo.NEC/SBA/SSER/NCB/005/20/21 Vehicle Rental & Lease	Pickup/Jeeps and Trucks	SBA Procurement Plan	Trucks- 79 Pickup/Jeep- 479	Friday, Nov. 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM	Friday, Nov. 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM, in NEC'S Conference Room
2.	IFBNo.NEC/SSER/NCB/003/20/21 -V-SAT Subscription	V-SAT Subscription and Replacement Spares -VSAT	Core Budget Procurement Plan	Assorted	Friday, Nov. 20, 2020 at 2:00 PM	Friday, Nov. 20, 2020 at 2:00 PM, in NEC'S Conference Room

The NEC now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the above listed contract packages.

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure specified in the PPC Act and is open to all eligible bidders.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the address below from 9:00 am to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday:

#### THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT

Ground FLOOR, ROOM 73

National Elections Commission

9th / 10th Streets Sinkor

1000 MONROVIA 10, LIBERIA

MOBILE NUMBER: 0777090057 / 0777540212

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders through payment of a nonrefundable fee of Fifty United States Dollars (U.S. \$50.00) for each set.

Qualifications requirements include the follow:

- \* CURRENT BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
- \* CURRENT TAX CLEARANCE
- \* PAST PERFORMANCE HISTORY WITH AT LEAST THREE (3) REFERENCES
- \* AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR ATLEAST ONE (1) OF THE LAST TWO YEARS.
- \* AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY AT ALL TIME
- \* CAPACITY TO DO AT LEAST THIRTY (30) DAYS PRE-FINANCE OF SUPPLY
- \* MUST BE PART OF THE PPCC VENDORS' REGISTRY

Submissions must be clearly marked, signed and sealed in an envelope, including other requested information.

Bids must be submitted at the NEC Procurement Unit Room # 73 located at the Ground Floor of the main NEC building on the date and time indicated above. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder's representatives or those who choose to attend on the date and time indicated above.

The National Elections Commission reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted and to annul the process at any time without incurring any liability and without assigning any reason thereof.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
National Elections Commission



SOLICITATION NUMBER: VA-669-20-00012

ISSUANCE DATE: 11/04/2020  
CLOSING DATE/TIME: 11/25/2020 (17:30 local time)

SUBJECT: Solicitation for the Acquisition & Assistance Specialist (OAA), Cooperating Country National Personal Service Contractor (CCNPSC)

Dear Prospective Offerors:

The United States Government, represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is seeking offers from qualified persons to provide personal services under contract as described in this solicitation.

Offers must be in accordance with Attachment I, Sections I through III of this solicitation. Incomplete or unsigned offers will not be considered. Offerors should retain copies of all offer materials for their records.

This solicitation in no way obligates USAID to award a PSC contract, nor does it commit USAID to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the offers.

Any questions must be directed in writing to the Point of Contact specified in the attached information.

Sincerely,

/s/

Marc Griego  
Executive Officer

## ATTACHMENT I

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

SOLICITATION NO: VA-669-20-00012

- ISSUANCE DATE: 11/04/2020
- CLOSING DATE/TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS: 11/25/2020 at 17:30 Monrovia time
- POSITION TITLE: Acquisition & Assistance Specialist
- MARKET VALUE: CCN-11: \$40,344 - \$64,550 (Full Performance)  
CCN-10: \$35,104 - \$56,160 (Mid-level)  
CCN-09: \$27,502 - \$44,008 (Trainee level)

In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of the US Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia. Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value.

- PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: Initial contract will be for one year (with optional years included for extension, not to exceed five years), based on the programmatic needs, funding availability, and performance. This is considered a permanent position.

Employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of series of sequential contract; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.

- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE: Monrovia, Liberia with possible travel within the country and overseas.

**NOTE: ALL ORDINARY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND TRAVEL PERMITS ALLOWING WORK IN LIBERIA BEFORE BEING ELIGIBLE TO APPLY.**

- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED: Facility and computer access

- STATEMENT OF DUTIES:

### BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION

The Acquisition and Assistance Specialist is located in the Office of Acquisition and Assistance, USAID/LIBERIA. The function of the Office is to provide Acquisition and Assistance (procurement) support to Mission Technical Offices and to Development Objective (DO) and Assistance Objective (AO) Teams in the Mission and in any Regional Offices that may be supported by the Mission. The primary purpose of this position is to review and recommend approval or revision of requisitions in the Global Acquisition and Assistance System (GLAAS); review and recommend approval or revision of Scopes of Work (SOW); perform complex cost and price analysis; analyze proposals and/or quotes received; review contracts and contract modifications; analyze contractor-proposed budgets; recommend revisions to various contract provisions; write Memoranda of Negotiation; and, prepare other required documentation. The Specialist maintains up-to-date contract files and supports award closeouts. As required, the Specialist provides guidance to on related administrative award modifications. The Specialist is responsible for carrying out day-to-day activities in an independent manner.

This position represents the full performance level of a career ladder, beginning at FSN-09. Attainment of this grade level represents that the Specialist has successfully completed substantial training, met agreed-upon objectives and milestones, and has performed at the Fully Successful (or equivalent) level. At this level, it is anticipated that the Specialist will play a significant role in mentoring lower-level trainees, and others, by identifying knowledge gaps and training needs.

### MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Specialist provides professional-level procurement planning advice and guidance to USAID/LIBERIA Technical Offices, (DO and/or AO Teams including advice on procurement policy and procedures in the design and implementation of Mission activities. The Specialist coordinates the development of procurement objectives for assigned portfolios in terms of potential implementing partner (IP) organizations, competitive issues, and socioeconomic issues, and identifies and constructs appropriate contract and/or grant instruments.

The Specialist reviews GLAAS Requisitions (REQs) requesting acquisition/assistance for major and complex programs/project/activities and/or services. The Specialist analyzes requirements, and determines instrument selection or procurement approach, if SOWs or other program documents are complete, and if the request meets FAR, ADS, AIDAR, and/or other mission, Agency, or USG policies; ensures that necessary Mission clearances have been obtained, and that waivers and other supporting documentation are complete; recommends revisions regarding SOWs, budgets, classification of terms, reporting requirements, and any special conditions, and ensures that required performance indicators are developed and included in the initial Request for Proposal of Request for Application; and, develops solicitation documentation in accordance with all appropriate regulations, selects and includes correct clauses, and transmits solicitations for proposal using internet-based technology. The Specialist responds to offeror questions during the proposal submission phase; and determines the need for and prepares, clarifying amendments as required for solicitation documents. As necessary, the Specialist holds pre-bid or consultative meetings with partners to fully explain the Agency and counterpart's needs, and to discuss solicitation documents. The specialist applies a high degree of judgement and analysis when deciding among and between competing and often conflicting regulations and objectives, where the activities involved include multi-million-dollar issues, often with significant political and/or legal implications.

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The Specialist evaluates applications and offers for responsiveness to particular solicitations, and documents the relative strengths and deficiencies of each proposal; guides DO/AO Teams in the practice of 'best value' selection, and in performance-based technical approaches; and, obtains reports and references, ensuring that past performance of the offeror is relevant and of a high quality. The Specialist ensures that offerors have adequate management, accounting, personnel, and procurement systems, and appropriate corporate leadership, resources, and quality control systems to satisfactorily carryout contracts. The Specialist requests audit reports or pre-award surveys from the Office of the Inspector General, and/or the Defense Contract Audit Agency, and obtains clearance from the Department of Labor and/or the Small Business Administration on a variety of

EEO and workplace issues. The Specialist analyzes cost proposals and technical scores from technical evaluation committees; and based on the analysis, establishes the competitive range, and presents documentation for signature to the Contracting Officer/Regional Contracting Officer. The Specialist performs analysis of cost issues, considering economic conditions and factors of material, labor, and transportation costs; examines cost and pricing data submitted by offerors, to substantiate direct and indirect costs and profit; determines reasonableness of costs submitted; ensures data provided is consistent with USAID requirements on eligible geographic sources, and that salary structures are consistent with Agency policy; and, identifies circumstances that may require a waiver. The Specialist coordinates issues of technical weakness and excessive cost with DO/AO Teams prior to commencement of negotiation; and, clarifies and, as necessary, instructs the members of the Team, host-country counterparts, and other Mission staff on the USAID procurement process. The Specialist designs the negotiation strategy; identifies areas subject to negotiation, and consults with technical specialists concerning data submitted by offerors, conducts extensive negotiations on cost and technical issues prior to contract award, presenting USAID issues of concern, and persuading offerors to upgrade technical deficiencies and reduce costs where appropriate; requests submission of Revised Final Proposals, and prepares appropriate contract or grant instruments for award; coordinates the last stages of selection with DO/AO Teams and/or the technical evaluation committee(s); negotiates and awards grants and cooperative agreement with US-based and indigenous PVOs and NGOs, colleges and universities, and other non-profit organization, analyzes transactions to ensure compliance with Agency cost-sharing and registration policies, as well as local laws governing status, and coordinates contracting activities with other government agencies, frequently negotiating and drafting interagency agreements. The Specialist presents award decisions of ultimate contractor/recipient to the Contracting Officer, with all the appropriate supporting documentation, including the development of appropriate performance indicators, in conjunction with DO/AO teams, and, organizes and conducts orientation meetings with selected contractors, to ensure that mobilization efforts will be conducted effectively, and that all terms and conditions of procurement instruments are clear and well-understood by all parties. The Specialist provides support debriefings to unsuccessful offerors.

### III. Contract Administration

The Specialist monitors contractor performance in relation to the completion schedule required by the contract or assistance instrument, ensures timely submission of technical progress reports, making periodic visits to contractor work sites, and representing the Office at performance-based meetings held by other Mission Offices, assists any client Missions to development appropriate indicators for work plans, and contract documents, ensures contractors are fully compliant with performance standards contained in the Contract, and seeks corrective action in cases of non-compliance; expedites Change Orders or revisions when circumstances require; and, issues 'show cause' or 'cure notices' and/or recommends termination of contracts for default or for convenience, and negotiates termination settlements.

The Specialist analyses, and takes action to resolve, audit finding, such as cost items questioned and unresolved; supports recommendations with detailed analysis of each cost, category, or element as necessary; prepares necessary documents to resolve all aspects of audits, questioned or ineligible costs, and accounting issues; and, presents documentation to the Contracting Officer/Regional Contracting Officer for signature. The Specialist reviews completed (after full performance) contract files to determine that all contractual actions are satisfied, and that there are no pending administrative actions to be

resolved; ensures that all documents are signed, that there are no litigation actions pending, and that the contract is complete in every respect and ready to be closeout, and, ensures that contracts nearing annual anniversaries or final completion have a completed performance report from the COR/AOR, and submits reports to the Contractor for comment.

The Specialist provides guidance and mentoring to junior-level staff, trainees, procurement technicians, and the clients on basic principles of USG and USAID acquisitions, general procurement management, procurement policy direction, new/changed procurement policies, etc. as required.

As required, the Specialist may be called upon to provide information an advice to the Contracting Officer/Regional Contracting Officer and/or his/her designee on critical procurement issues, or on the effect of new or revised USG, USAID, or host-country requirements. The Specialist attends key mission meetings on the Office as assigned.

- "Cooperating country national" ("CCN") means an individual who is a cooperating country citizen, or a non-cooperating country citizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the cooperating country.

### 10. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

### 11. POINT OF CONTACT:

All application packages are to be submitted:  
Acquisition & Assistance Specialist, (OAA)  
by email to: [LiberiaHR@usaid.gov](mailto:LiberiaHR@usaid.gov)

### QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE

Possession of a Baccalaureate Degree or the equivalent of a four-year US College/university (or equivalency accreditation if a non-US institution) degree in Accounting, Law, Business, Finance, Contracts, Purchasing, Economics, Industrial Management, Marketing, Quantitative Methods, or organizational management is required.

### Post Entry Training:

To be hired at FSN-9 trainee/entry level, the incumbent must have met the required educational qualifications, work experience and demonstrated the capacity to develop the skills to perform at the full performance level.

- Entry Level (FSN 9) Relevant Education qualification plus a minimum of four years of progressively responsible, professional experience in any of the following relevant areas: procurement, development assistance, law, paralegal, research, business, or accounting. Preferably at least two years of this experience should have been with an international organization, government, or non-government organization.

- Mid-level (FSN-10) Relevant Education qualification plus a minimum of five years of progressively responsible, professional experience in any of the following areas: procurement, development assistance, management, law, paralegal, business, or accounting. Preferably at least three years of this experience should have been with an international organization, government, or non-government organization.

- Full performance level (FSN-11) Relevant Education plus minimum of five or more of progressively responsible work in acquisition and assistance is required. As this position is part of a recognized and established career ladder, a minimum of two years of this experience must have been gained working with the USAID Contracting/A&A Office, with at least one year at the next lower, FSN-10 grade level.

### Post Entry Training:

To be promoted to FSN-10 level, the incumbent must have (a) successfully completed all FAC-C training level I and USAID basic training courses covering (i) Assistance and (ii) Simplified Acquisition and (b) have 3 years of related USAID A&A work experience completing at least 50% of the on-the-job Procurement Training Program (PTP) actions contained in the employee's IDP and agreed to work with his/her supervisor through performing on the job actions. Some of the promotion requirements may be waived at the discretion of the OAA Office Director. The incumbent must meet all education and work experience requirements to be promoted to FSN-10.

To be promoted to FSN-11 full performance level, the Specialist must have demonstrated mastery of the full range of skills by: (a) successfully completed mandatory Federal Acquisition Certification - Contracting (FAC-C) Level II course in accordance with a formal individual development plan (IDP). Or equivalent class hours of other advanced A&A trainings approved by the supervisor in writing. (b) successfully completing 90% of the Procurement Training Program (PTP) actions contained in the IDP and agreed to with your supervisor through performing on the job actions; (c) having completed five years of USAID A&A related experience; (d) attaining at a fully successful performance evaluation.

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### Language Proficiency:

Level V (Fluent) English and local language proficiency both oral and written, is required.

### Knowledge:

Understanding of US Federal and USAID Acquisitions Regulations, and knowledge and understanding of how to execute and administer a complex acquisition and assistance portfolio is required, particularly as it relates to acquisition through methods of negotiation, small purchase procedures, and that result in standard and established contract types. A good knowledge of host-country and regional markets pertaining to programs/projects/activity requirements for services and commodities, and a good knowledge and understanding of US market and pricing methods is desired.

**Skills and Abilities:** The ability to plan and administer large acquisition activities and provide adequate acquisition assistance and support for agency programs/project/activities in a timely manner. The ability to apply governing contracting regulations, procedures, and policies to individual complex acquisition and assistance program is required. An ability to deal effectively with high-level representatives of the US and Regional business community, and with colleagues in USAID Missions and/or host governments is required. Skill in the use of most elements of the Microsoft Business suite is required.

Good analytical, negotiating, and time management skills, along with strong proofreading skills and attention to detail, are required. The ability to work calmly and effectively under pressure is essential, as well as the ability to maintain strict CONFIDENTIALITY, and meet all STANDARDS OF CONDUCT/ETHICS STANDARDS in accordance with US law throughout all phases of acquisition and assistance procurement processes.

### POSITION ELEMENTS

**Supervision Received:** The Acquisition and Assistance Specialist works under the general guidance of the Contracting Officer and his/her designee, who makes assignments in terms of the broad range of procurement actions the Specialist will perform. The Specialist works with considerable independence, initiating necessary coordination with requesting Mission CORs/AORs, Technical Offices, and DO and AO Teams, providing policy and strategic guidance on how to best fulfill requirements, and with the OFM and RLO, the staffs of other agencies, and with awarders. The Specialist keeps the Contracting Officer or his/her designee updated through periodic status reports, and through verbal briefings. Completed work is reviewed from the overall standpoint of providing a viable procurement approach for the results achieved, in meeting delivery schedules, and in the selection of appropriate contract methods.

**Supervision Exercised:** The incumbent may be assigned as a group/team leader but will not serve as a full supervisor. The incumbent is expected to serve as mentor to lower-level trainees, and others, by identifying knowledge gaps and training needs, and providing work guidance to lower-level acquisition staff, and trainees.

**Available Guidelines:** Guidelines include the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), USAID Acquisition Regulation, (AIDAR), the Automated Directives System (ADS), Contract Information Bulletins (CIBs), US Department of State Standardized Regulations (DSSR), Federal Travel Regulations (FTR), Office of management and Budget (OMB) Circulars, other Mission Orders, and grant format requirements.

**Exercise of Judgement:** At the full-performance level, the incumbent is expected to apply a high degree of judgement in all aspects of Acquisition and Assistance actions, in particular when advising CORs/AORs and Mission staff, and when interacting with IPs to resolve complex issues arising during program/project/activity implementation. The incumbent exercises good judgement in dealing with visitors and callers; in the analysis of cost, financial, and other characteristics of prospective contractors and grantees; and in deciding what questions need to be asked of technical officials and DO and AO Team representatives and proposed contractors/grantees, in order to ensure achievement of the acquisition objectives on contract, grant, or other assistance instruments. Highly unusual decisions and matters of policy are discussed with the Contracting Officer and his/her designee prior to making a final decision.

**Authority to make Commitments:** The incumbent independently holds discussions and negotiations with potential contractors and grantees to reach agreement on complex situations and often helps to develop strategies on managing budgets. The incumbent has the authority to conclude complex negotiations and to structure the final terms and conditions of major USAID acquisition and assistance instruments. Upon completion, agreements are approved and signed by a warranted Contracting Officer and/or his/her designee, in order to obligate funds.

**Nature, Level, and Purpose of Contacts:** The incumbent is in daily contact with staff throughout the Mission, technical office staff, DO and AO Team Leaders, CORs/AORs; grantees, potential grantees, visitors, mid-to high-level officials, VIPs from both the public and private sectors, international organizations and donors, NGOs and IPs in order to exchange and/or collect information, and to provide advice relating to program implementation.

**Time Expected to Reach Full Performance Level:** One year.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

The following are the selection criteria:

- Analytical, writing, and computer skills (15 points)
- Reference checks (15 points)
- Experience (35 points)
- Oral and interpersonal skills (15 points)
- Education and Training (20 points)

### Additional Selection Criteria

Management will not allow nepotism, conflicts of interest, monetary considerations, or visa status to be a determining factor in the selection of a successful candidate.

### Selection Process

After an initial screening of applications, qualified applicants will be invited to take an analytical, writing, and computer skills test. After the test, candidates will be reviewed, and the most highly scored candidates invited for interviews.

### How to Apply

Interested candidates for this position should submit the following:

- A clearly typed application letter which briefly summarizes why you believe you are qualified for this position.
- Resume
- The names and contact details of three references that can attest to your professional qualifications, work experience, and/or volunteer experience. The references must include phone number, titles, and an explanation of their relationship to the applicant.
- Documentation (e.g. copied of certificates, awards, degrees) that address the minimum requirements of the position.

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** The U.S. Mission provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Doctors' withdrawal stirs fear in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan  
in Bong County

Several citizens of Bong County have expressed fear over the government's alleged action to withdraw Doctors from the Phebe Hospital in Gbarnga.

Liberia's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Francis Kateh recently confirmed to a local radio station in Gbarnga, the reassigning of government's employed Medical Doctors at the Phebe Referral Hospital.

government's mandate.

But his statement has sparked fear among local residents of the county, many of whom do not afford to attend a private hospital in the county.

The citizens mostly radio talk-show participants say even though Phebe Referral Hospital faces challenges, it is better to have professional doctors at the facility instead of withdrawing them.

Aaron Kamara, a resident of Million Quarter Community tells a local radio station that the

hospital, then it will be harming the locals," he says.

Nancy Kerkulah, a Bong County - based market woman claims to have been denied [medication] as a result of her failure to buy glove for her pregnant daughter.

She says it is better for patients to be paying little amount for treatment than to abandon the hospital.

She suggests that it would be a complete abandonment of the people if the government doesn't send back or replace whoever it withdrew.

At the same time, many citizens have are accusing Jorquellah District #3 Representative Josiah Marvin Cole of being the mastermind of the government's plan.

Representative Cole had over the past described Phebe Hospital as a corruption center, accusing doctors and administrators of being corrupt even though an audit report from the hospital did not indict anyone of using monies for their own interest.

Cole had also threatened to have the budget of the hospital reduced if it failed to define its position whether it is private or government institution.

Even though others are accusing Rep. Cole, some are also saying it is a plan by the government and not the lawmaker alone.

Representative Cole is yet to speak to the media on the allegation levied against him.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



According to Dr. Kateh, this is in reaction to the alleged refusal of the hospital's board to offer slots to the Liberian government for appointments and key decision-making.

Dr. Kateh in his telephone interview recently said the decision is meant to empower government - owned facilities, instead of promoting institutions that do not want to adhere to

reported action of the government is a complete disaster to the ordinary citizens, calling on the government to with immediate effect reconsider its decision.

"I want to appeal to the government through Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah to please send back our doctors. Phebe Hospital has and continues to do well for the ordinary citizens, so if government wants to close eyes on the support of the

## NEC begins TOT training today

The National Elections Commission, (NEC) says it will today Friday commence the first in a series of two-day Training of Trainers, TOT workshop for registered Political Parties and Independent Candidates leading to the conduct of the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Elections, Constitutional Referendum and the two representatives By-Elections in Montserrado and Sinoe counties.

A statement issued by the Commission Thursday 12 November 2020 says the Political Parties and Independent Candidates TOT workshop is in partnership with the United Nations

Development Program, UNDP, Liberia Electoral Support Project, the German Government, National Democratic Institute, NDI with funding from the United States Agency for International Development, USAID.

According to the NEC over 400 representatives of political parties, Independent Candidates, Alliances and Coalitions are expected to benefit from the TOT workshop through the Strengthening Political Parties Program (SP3), also in close collaboration with the Liberia Peace Building Office, PBO.

Elections Monitoring Deployment Plan, field data collection and tallying procedures, the Principles of

election monitoring and observation, election day complaint procedures at the polls as well as Polling and Counting Procedure of the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections are topics that will form part of the discussions during the training of trainer's workshop, the NEC says in the statement today.

The NEC said additional training of trainers workshops for political parties, and Independent Candidates will be conducted next week in three regions across the country namely, Ganta, Nimba County, Tubmanburg, Bomi County and in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, focusing widely on Electoral Violence Prevention.

## LRA certificates several rural tax business offices across the country

By: Alvin Jask (LRA Communication chief)

The Rural Tax Division of the Liberia Revenue Authority, LRA, has certificated a number of Tax Administrators, TA, assigned at least seven of its Tax Business Offices with location around the country.

The Rural Tax Division Manager, Mrs Clara Goba Harris, welcoming the rural tax team at the honoring and recognition ceremony held recently at LRA headquarters in Monrovia disclosed, that the selected individuals and their respective tax business offices have proven to be excellent in their job of collecting lawful rural tax revenues for the country.

The rural tax boss named, Harper in Maryland, Ganta in Nimba, Buchanan in BASSA, Marshall in Margibi among others as being among the high performing LRA rural tax offices, and individuals that

difficulties and challenges regularly faced by many tax revenue administrators with assignments in rural Liberia. The two members of top management went on to reaffirm the institution's continuous commitment to supporting their individual domestic revenue mobilization endeavor.

The two Senior LRA Commissioners then joined the rural tax division in complimenting the honorees and further underscored the need for the rapid rotations amongst the staff but quickly called for the formulation of strategies that will minimize staff commute between central office and that of the county offices. They noted that this is all about bringing reduction in out station staff frequent travel to Monrovia to enable them focus on the daunting task of in-land tax



way exceeded the projected revenue for the fiscal year under review.

Manager Harris further asserted that individual tax administrators assign at these various up country locations have since the last fiscal year and up to present, maintain a steady rise in their quarterly revenue generation something which she said, is highly commendable especially with the application of global best tax revenue practices in a professional manner that keeps enhancing their collection efforts despite the many challenges they are faced with.

The Deputy Commissioner General for Administrative Affairs, DCGAA, Aaron B. Kollie and the Commissioner for Domestic Revenue, Darlington Talery in remarks, both recognize the many

revenue mobilization.

'Moving To The Billion', as currently being emphasized by LRA top management, the LRA bosses reminded the LRA out station staff of their respective responsibility and that of all national tax revenue worker and as such, every member of the rural tax division must make it a priority in the implementation of their tax revenue collection task for the country.

Commissioner Talery in further assertions, urged the group which is an integral part of his division to maximize their engagement with local authorities and institutions while at the same time getting involve with the robust investigation of every business certificates presented to them at their respective areas of assignment.

This according to the

# LMD Fellow's story: People with disabilities feel neglected, threaten to boycott election

*Start from back page*

blamed the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for delaying the funds disbursement.

Senator Yallah explained that funds allocated to Bong county from the national budget were never received because the government did not generate sufficient revenue.

Chairlady Tenneh W. Togba, representing the aggrieved voters, told reporters that casting their votes in the upcoming senatorial election would represent a waste of time and energy, reflecting on their past experiences. She stated that her members went to vote unflinching every time, but they have yet to see any investment or development programs in the Bong county.

"They only come to us during elections to fool us. When we participate, nothing changes. Our children are here; most of them are not going to school because we don't have any means to support them. Politicians would come and make promises to us, but after giving them power, they turn their back on us. We are sorrowful," Mme. Togba said.

focused on fighting extreme poverty, the most recent statistic on people with disabilities in Liberia is a UNICEF report from 1997 stating that 16% of the population has a disability.

Prince Kermue, 36-year-old Liberian living with disabilities, and father of three children, said that the important thing for him is for the government to provide access to hospitals and schools to the people with disabilities.

"I want them build a special school that is disabled friendly. Before I vote, I must see a tangible [result], like a major hospital for us to attend. I want scholarships for our community because nothing is happening like that," Kermue said.

Nineteen-year-old Mary Morris wants people with disabilities to be treated with care and respect, particularly by the county public institutions. In December she should be voting for the first time, if it weren't for the boycott.

"We have been looked at badly at various public institutions. No one is willing to assist us. Most of these areas are not disabled friendly, including some polling stations," she warned.



**Korto Kolubah**

Korto Kollie, the leader of the Group of 77 in Bong and social advocate on gender issues, said that politicians ignore the contributions and impact that people living with disabilities have on the society. "It is only during elections time that politicians know us," she said. "We should not be overlooked."

The Liberia Group of 77 is a welfare institution established by the Government of Liberia through the Office of the Vice President, and is primarily responsible to seek well-being for the people living with disabilities.

In response, the Bong county Superintendent Esther Yamah Walker denied the allegations and stated that county officials have consulted the community of people with disabilities on development planning.

Besides being abandoned between the elections cycles, the people with disabilities, through their representatives, have claimed that there was inadequate public education on the constitutional referendum. They believe not much awareness has been carried out by the NEC.

The constitutional referendum proposes three amendments. One proposal seeks Liberians' approval to reduce the president's and representatives' term in office, also known as tenure, from six years to just five and the senators' tenure from nine years to seven. A second proposal seeks Liberians' approval to set the months of October-November for elections and, the third proposal seeks Liberians' approval to legalize dual

citizenship for Liberian citizen who seeks the nationality of another country in addition to being Liberians.

But since the propositions were approved by the Liberian Legislature last year, little or no education was provided until October 2020 barely a month to the poll when the NEC embarked on civic education.

People with disabilities are demanding adequate public education on the propositions before citizens go to the poll in December saying, "If we don't understand or know the propositions on the national referendum, why will we participate? Besides, most of the polling centers are not disabled friendly."

Mr. Jappah Nah, NEC Coordinator of the Referendum Committee, who is responsible for civic education, recently told journalists that NEC was conducting public awareness on the constitutional referendum propositions, but highlighted logistical challenges and lack of manpower.

This is not the first time that people with disabilities from Bong threatened to

boycott the elections. In July 2019 they had issued a warning, well ahead of the elections, claiming neglect and abandonment by the Weah government.

"Adopted in 1986, the Constitution of Liberia was suspended several times during the country's civil wars (1989 - 2003) to make way for transitional governments formed at various peace conferences," wrote Ibrahim Al-bakri Nyei, PhD student in Politics and International Studies at SOAS University of London.

Proposals for a new constitution during the last transitional government (2003 - 2005) were poorly received by warring factions, political actors and regional and global bodies, including ECOWAS, AU and the United Nations that brokered peace here, Nyei added in an article written for the ConstitutionNet, a project created to support legislators, constitutional lawyers and other constitutional practitioners with information.

The December 8th referendum will be the second attempt to effect changes in the 1986 Constitution in a decade. When Liberians first went to referendum in 2011, they voted based on political leadership. One item that failed at that referendum sought to amend the residency clause for candidates that could have potentially disqualified the then-incumbent president and several other politicians from the 2011 elections.

A second successful amendment replaced the electoral system for the legislature from two-round majoritarian to first-past-the-poll. Two other unsuccessful propositions that were on the ballot included retirement age for judges at the Supreme Court, which is currently at 75 and change in the month for elections, according to Constitution.Net.



**Lawrence Tokpah**

As women from the disabled community, she added, they are resolved to withhold their full participation in the elections until their plights are addressed.

"If we don't see anything changing, our protest will continue beyond 2023 general elections," Togba promised.

The senior election magistrate for the National Elections Commission (NEC) in Bong, Daniel Newland was unable to state how many people living with disabilities have registered to vote in the upcoming elections, because there is no such statistic. According to the Borgen Project, an American NGO

Moses Tokpah, coordinator of the Group of 77 in Bong, and Lawrence Tokpah, spokesperson for the Christian Association of the Blind, believe that one key factor impacting their community is the perceived abandonment by the Bong county officials. They stated that they have not been consulted in any county policy decision or official engagement.

"Not because we are disabled, but we are literate. We need to have our say in the decision[s] of our county. We have cried, but to no avail. We are tired of accepting false promises from them," both men complain.



**Arthur Bondo**

# Français

## Crise Monétaire : Un député recommande l'impression de 35 milliards de dollars libériens

Le Libéria est frappé par une crise monétaire sans précédent due à la rareté de la monnaie locale. Aujourd'hui, les banques commerciales n'ont aucun choix que de maintenir le peu d'argent dont elles disposent. Conséquence, ceux qui ont des comptes en banque ont du mal à retirer de l'argent pour assurer leur survie. C'est dans ce contexte précaire qu'un député issu de l'opposition propose au gouvernement d'imprimer 35 milliards de

dollars libériens afin de soulager les populations qui continuent de souffrir sous le joug d'une pauvreté devenue endémique depuis l'accession à la magistrature suprême de l'ancien footballeur George Weah.

La Banque centrale avait tout récemment demandé que l'on imprimât 7,5 milliards de dollars libériens, mais l'Assemblée législative n'a approuvé que 4 milliards, un montant qui est aujourd'hui jugé insuffisant, d'où la nécessité d'imprimer des

billets supplémentaires.

Au cours d'un entretien avec un groupe de journalistes au terme d'une réunion technique financière avec les autorités de la Banque centrale du Libéria le mercredi 11 novembre au Capitole, le représentant Kiazolu, qui est expert des questions financières et fut contrôleur général du Libéria sous l'administration de l'expresidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a révélé que la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Armistice : la France et la Guinée célèbrent la fin de la Grande Guerre à Conakry

Le 102ème anniversaire de l'armistice, signé le 11 novembre 1918 (ce qui a mis un terme à la Première Guerre mondiale), a été célébré ce mercredi, 11 novembre 2020, en France et dans les représentations diplomatiques du pays dans le

monde. En Guinée, la cérémonie commémorative de cette date historique, qui marque la victoire des Alliés sur l'Allemagne, a eu lieu comme d'habitude au cimetière de Boulbinet, à Kaloum. Elle a connu la présence des cadres de l'Ambassade de France en

Guinée, des officiers de l'armée guinéenne, et plusieurs diplomates accrédités dans le pays, rapporte un journaliste de Guineematin.com qui était sur place.

C'est une cérémonie sobre qui a été organisée dans ce cimetière où reposent plusieurs soldats, sous-officiers et officiers français et guinéens, ayant perdu la vie pendant la Grande Guerre. Elle a été marquée par des dépôts de gerbes de fleurs en hommage à ces martyrs mais aussi des prières pour leur repos de leurs âmes. Dans son intervention de circonstance, Son Excellence Marc FONBAUSTIER, Ambassadeur de France en Guinée et en Sierra Leone, a indiqué que cette célébration revêt un caractère particulier cette année.

« C'est une cérémonie qui a un relief particulier, puisqu'elle correspond à Paris en ce moment, à des cérémonies importantes qui

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Le gouvernement libérien se prononcera sur le verdict de Ja'neh aujourd'hui

Le gouvernement libérien devrait dire s'il va oui ou non se conformer à la décision du tribunal de la CEDEAO qui lui ordonne de réintégrer l'ancien juge associé Kabineh Ja'neh qui fut l'objet d'une procédure de destitution l'année dernière. Le Solliciteur général du Libéria Me Sayma Syrenius Cephus a déclaré mercredi avoir accusé réception du verdict et qu'il le parcourait pour mettre au clair la décision pour le bénéfice du peuple du Libéria. Il a indiqué que certaines sections de la décision devaient être clarifiées au public libérien et que le gouvernement libérien disposait d'un maximum de trois mois pour répondre à la décision du tribunal de l'organe sous-régional. Selon lui, l'une des questions fondamentales que le gouvernement examinera est l'affirmation de Ja'neh selon laquelle ses droits ont été violés pendant la procédure de destitution.

Les juges siégeant au tribunal de la CEDEAO à Abuja, au Nigéria, dans un verdict rendu le mardi 10 novembre, ont ordonné au gouvernement libérien de soit réintégrer le juge associé Kabineh M. Ja'neh ou de lui accorder le droit de prendre sa retraite en toute dignité.

En plus, il faut lui verser 200 000 USD (deux cent mille dollars) en réparation du préjudice moral qu'il a subi pour la violation de ses droits. Le juge associé de la Cour suprême réclamait dans son recours la bagatelle 25 millions de dollars américains en compensation.

Le juge Edward Amoako Asante a en outre ordonné au gouvernement libérien de restituer et de payer tous ses droits retenus, y compris les salaires, les indemnités et les prestations de retraite à compter de la date de sa destitution jusqu'à la date de notification du jugement du tribunal.

Le Juge Janeh a été destitué de ses fonctions de juge associé de la Cour suprême du Libéria à la suite d'une procédure de destitution qu'il qualifie d'inconstitutionnelle.

Il considère que l'ensemble du procès en destitution, sa condamnation et son remplacement constituent une violation de ses droits à un procès équitable, une atteinte à sa dignité.

Ja'neha fait valoir qu'en vertu

du chapitre VII, article 72 (B) de la Constitution libérienne de 1986, il s'est vu garantir l'exercice et la protection de la fonction de juge associé et exhibé une bonne conduite jusqu'à l'âge de 70 ans. Cependant, les législateurs qui ont porté des accusations contre lui disent le contraire. Ils ont par conséquent procédé à sa destitution de ses fonctions.

L'une des affaires qui a déclenché le procès en destitution du juge associé Ja'neh au Libéria concerne un différend foncier qui l'opposait une certaine Mme Annie Yancy Constance.

Il a été accusé par les législateurs d'abus de pouvoir, lui reprochant d'avoir utilisé son influence en tant que juge associé pour obtenir une décision en sa faveur à la Cour suprême pour prendre possession du terrain.

Mais les avocats de Ja'neh ont soutenu que l'affirmation selon laquelle leur client aurait manipulé la Cour suprême pour se prononcer en sa faveur dans l'affaire des biens remet en question la crédibilité du juge en chef Francis S. Korkpor qui a présidé la Cour suprême et a également signé le jugement. Dans la plainte qu'il a déposée à la Cour de la CEDEAO, Ja'neh, par la voix de son conseil Me Femi Falana, a allégué que sa destitution violait ses droits humains à un procès équitable et impartial, le droit au travail et la dignité de la personne garantis par la Charte africaine de l'homme des peuples.

Il dénonce également une violation de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, ainsi que de la Constitution libérienne par la prétendue procédure de destitution, de poursuite, de condamnation, d'expulsion et son remplacement.

Il croit avoir fait l'objet d'une procédure de destitution sans règlement de procédure prescrit, le privant ainsi de son droit fondamental à un procès équitable tel que stipulé dans la Constitution libérienne de 1986.

Selon l'ancien juge Ja'neh, lorsque le procès a débuté au Sénat libérien le 13 février 2019, il a déposé une motion de récusation demandant que le juge en chef ne préside pas le procès puisqu'il a signé le jugement de la Cour suprême pour lequel il était mis en cause.



# Français

## Crise Monétaire :

réunion avait pour but de mettre les dirigeants de la Chambre des représentants et les experts des questions financières de l'Assemblée législative libérienne au fait des réalités monétaires que connaît le pays afin de trouver un remède à court terme.

Il s'oppose aux critiques selon lesquels le gouvernement a créé la pénurie de la monnaie locale délibérément pour forcer une chute drastique du dollar américain. Il accuse plutôt les commerçants.

« Ce n'est pas le gouvernement qui a créé cette pénurie. Ce n'est pas logique. Ce sont plutôt les chefs des petites et moyennes entreprises qui se sont engagés dans cette pratique car la plupart des entreprises versent de l'argent brut à leurs partenaires à la fin de l'année. Puisqu'il est un fait connu qu'à la fin de chaque année, plus de devises étrangères [dollars des États-Unis] entrent dans le pays, les hommes d'affaires, qui sont créatifs, ont décidé de mettre la main sur l'argent afin de réduire le taux de change au niveau qui leur convient, afin d'accumuler plus dollars américains dans un laps de temps », soupçonne le législateur.

Selon lui, la direction de la Chambre des représentants dirigée par le président Bhofal Chambers a constitué un comité de réflexion chargé de travailler avec les autorités de la Banque centrale du Libéria pour trouver une solution à court terme avant les fêtes de fin d'année où les transactions commerciales augmentent généralement.

Le comité est composé

d'experts des questions financières, des économistes, des comptables et des vétérans des politiques fiscales et monétaires. A en croire le représentant Kiazolu, l'équipe devrait présenter son rapport d'ici la fin du mois de novembre.

L'une des questions en suspens devant le comité, selon les informations, est l'impression des billets supplémentaires pour stabiliser la situation financière et cela ne peut être réalisé que lorsque les législateurs, actuellement en pause annuelle, sont rappelés au Capitole.

En raison de la crise, l'Assemblée législative libérienne devrait réunir sous peu dans le seul but de trouver un accord pour l'impression des billets de banque supplémentaires.

Actuellement, un dollar américain s'échange contre 150 dollars libériens. Mais dans le même temps, les prix des produits locaux et importés restent les mêmes.

Par ailleurs, le représentant Kiazolu a appelé le Gouvernement libérien à se conformer à la décision de la Cour de la CEDEAO qui demande la réintégration du juge associé, KabinehJa'neh qui fut destitué par le parlement libérien.

Le juge Ja'neh avait contesté sa destitution au début de l'année dernière et demandé une intervention du tribunal régional.

Kiazolu demande au gouvernement d'avoir l'honneur d'honorer la décision du tribunal régional car la CEDEAO a été un excellent partenaire du Libéria, en particulier pendant les 14 années de guerre civile du pays.

## Armistice : la France

mettent fin à un cycle de mémoire de la Grande Guerre, première chose. Deuxièmement, nous avons, avec le directeur du cabinet du ministre d'Etat (ministre de la Défense nationale), honoré les morts : guinéens et français, qui sont tombés dans des combats justes pour nos valeurs. Et troisième chose, cette relation de défense entre la France et la Guinée correspond à une relation qui est forte et danse, qui est un socle de la relation d'Etat. Je voudrais aussi dire que mes collègues diplomates qui sont venus, sont là pour montrer qu'aujourd'hui, la communauté internationale a

plus que jamais besoin d'être unie pour relever les défis de notre temps », a dit le diplomate français.

Abondant dans le même sens, le Général de brigade Sidi Yaya Camara, directeur de cabinet du ministre de la Défense nationale, a salué la mémoire des français et africains, particulièrement les Guinéens, qui ont perdu la vie lors de cette guerre mondiale. Selon lui, sa participation ainsi que celle des autres officiers de l'armée guinéenne à cette cérémonie, témoigne de l'excellence des rapports qu'il y a entre la Guinée et la France. « Je voudrais signifier que ladite cérémonie est un instant de mémoire.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Kent Harrington

## Les alliances des États-Unis après Trump

**A**TLANTA - Les alliés des États-Unis doivent être pardonnés s'ils affichent une certaine perplexité quant à la direction que suit la politique étrangère américaine. Qui ne le serait pas, étant donné que la présidence de Trump a essentiellement consisté à faire cavalier seul de la manière la plus imprudente qui soit ? Il a engendré un chaos stratégique et sa politique étrangère, si on peut l'appeler ainsi, a donné une nouvelle dimension au terme incohérence. Le président élu Joe Biden fera mieux, si ce n'est que par défaut. Mais Trump a-t-il à ce point changé les États-Unis qu'on ne puisse pas s'attendre à ce que le monde retourne à la normale ?

Trump a non seulement entretenu une histoire d'amour avec le dictateur Kim Jong-un de la Corée du Nord, un pays doté de l'arme nucléaire, et s'est entiché du président russe Vladimir Poutine - un homme qui mène une guerre politique contre l'Occident. Il s'est également fait le champion du Brexit et a dénigré les alliés européens des États-Unis, quand il ne leur mettait pas directement des bâtons dans les roues. Lors de la conférence de Munich sur la sécurité de cette année, le président français Emmanuel Macron et le président allemand Frank-Walter Steinmeier ont tous deux reconnu que Trump avait fondamentalement affaibli l'Alliance transatlantique. Leur message était clair : si Trump remportait un second mandat, le partenariat historique qui sous-tend l'Occident géopolitique depuis plusieurs décennies serait à jamais altéré. Les dirigeants mondiaux prudents se préparaient certainement à un regain d'instabilité et d'incertitude en cas d'une réélection de Trump.

L'Allemagne et la France ont bien entendu de nombreuses raisons d'être en désaccord avec les États-Unis, qu'il s'agisse des relations commerciales, de la politique d'ouverture de Macron envers le Kremlin, ou de leur approche relativement moins conflictuelle vis-à-vis de la Chine. Macron, qui avait en novembre dernier affirmé que « Ce qu'on est en train de vivre, c'est la mort cérébrale de l'OTAN », n'a nullement caché qu'il tient pour responsable de la désagrégation de l'Alliance et du sentiment plus général de désarroi au sein des alliés et partenaires des États-Unis.

Mais à Paris et à Berlin, comme ailleurs en Europe, les dirigeants ne réagissent pas seulement aux méthodes agressives de Trump, à ses tactiques commerciales unilatérales ou à sa politique génératrice de dissensions. Les Européens estiment que son administration a tracé une voie menant au rejet des relations sécuritaires transatlantiques et plus généralement, du rôle central que joue l'Organisation du traité de l'Atlantique Nord (OTAN) dans l'engagement des États-Unis dans le monde. Biden abandonnera cet unilatéralisme débridé. Mais même une nouvelle approche ne suffira pas pour réparer aisément les dommages infligés par Trump, pas plus qu'elle ne modifiera le point de vue des dirigeants européens qui pensent que le Vieux Continent devra de plus en plus assurer seul sa propre défense.

Le traitement réservé par Trump aux alliés des États-Unis en Asie a fourni aux Européens de multiples avertissements, qui auraient dû les préparer à une nouvelle détérioration de la relation transatlantique. Malgré la menace nucléaire posée par la Corée du Nord et la montée en puissance de la Chine, Trump a tenté de transformer les alliances cruciales des États-Unis avec la Corée du Sud et le Japon en des relations mercantiles. Heureusement, Biden comprend ce que Trump n'a pas saisi : les traités de défense mutuelle avec ces deux pays sous-tendent la stabilité en Asie de l'Est depuis 70 ans et servent directement les intérêts des États-Unis. Trump percevait les deux relations comme des « mauvais accords » et Biden devra persuader les Américains de se détourner de cette diplomatie transactionnelle.

Par ailleurs, Trump n'a pas été le premier président américain à largement user d'une rhétorique chauvine et il est possible que Biden éprouve des difficultés à faire oublier le mantra « Rendre sa grandeur à l'Amérique ». Tant la Corée du Sud que le Japon

peuvent témoigner du fait que « l'Amérique d'abord » n'a pas été qu'un simple slogan. Dans le contexte d'une renégociation cette année des accords sur les mesures spéciales (Host Nation Support Agreements) qui définissent les détails de la présence américaine dans ces deux pays, Trump a menacé à plusieurs reprises de retirer les forces américaines à moins que la Corée du Sud et le Japon ne contribuent davantage au coût de ce que Trump appelle la « protection américaine ». Biden aura fort à faire pour rétablir la confiance des Sud-Coréens et des Japonais lors du renouvellement de ces accords.

En réalité, la Corée du Sud et le Japon partagent déjà les coûts de la défense mutuelle et souscrivent à la présence militaire américaine en Asie du Nord-Est depuis des décennies. La Corée du Sud assume plus de 40 pour cent des coûts relatifs au soutien opérationnel du contingent américain stationné dans ce pays ; Séoul a également financé 92 pour cent des 10,7 milliards de dollars liés au déménagement du commandement des forces américaines vers une nouvelle base au sud de la capitale et achète chaque année des équipements militaires américains à hauteur de plusieurs milliards de dollars. De son côté le Japon verse environ 2 milliards de dollars aux États-Unis pour compenser le coût que représente la présence de 54.000 militaires américains dans l'archipel, achète plus de 90% de ses matériels militaires auprès de sociétés américaines de l'armement et a fourni 19,7 milliards de dollars (77 pour cent du total) pour la construction de trois importantes bases militaires américaines dans ce pays.

Pendant près d'un an, l'administration Trump a demandé au gouvernement sud-coréen qu'il quadruple sa contribution financière, qui s'élève actuellement à 1 milliard de dollars par an, une exigence à laquelle s'ajoutent des fuites concernant l'éventuel retrait de troupes de Corée du Sud et l'annonce en juillet dernier du retrait de quelque 12.000 soldats d'Allemagne. Il est évident que l'administration Biden ne devra pas seulement définir une nouvelle stratégie de négociation, mais également réinitialiser la garantie de sécurité américaine.

Même après l'entrée en fonction de Biden, l'aigreur qui prévaut actuellement dans la relation entre la Corée du Sud et les États-Unis (qui ont rompu les discussions initiales au sujet de la nouvelle base) signifie que les négociations ne seront pas aisées. Au Japon, les pourparlers officiels ont été entamés le mois dernier et le gouvernement a jusqu'en mars 2021 pour reconduire l'accord. Les responsables de la Défense américains ont averti leurs homologues japonais de s'attendre au même traitement que les Sud-Coréens. Il est toutefois très probable que Biden réécrive également ce scénario. Le nouveau Premier ministre japonais, Yoshihide Suga, s'attend sans doute à des négociations difficiles, mais sans l'attitude « à prendre ou à laisser » qui a soulevé des doutes quant à la pérennité des garanties de sécurité américaines.

Recommencer à traiter les alliés comme des alliés devrait considérablement aider Biden. Trump ne s'est nullement préoccupé des répercussions que pouvait avoir ses actions à Séoul et Tokyo, ou de leurs effets sur l'avenir politique du président sud-coréen Moon Jae-in et de l'ancien Premier ministre Shinzo Abe. Dans l'intérêt de la sécurité, tous deux ont tenté de se plier au « génie stable » de Trump au cours des trois dernières années, sans autre résultat qu'un certain embarras politique au plan national. L'élection de Biden a sans aucun doute été un grand soulagement dans les deux capitales asiatiques.

Malheureusement, l'héritage délétère de Trump survivra à sa défaite électorale. Biden devra consacrer toute son attention à la crise sanitaire et au changement climatique et la politique étrangère sera reléguée au second plan des priorités nationales. Pour les alliés des États-Unis, la patience restera de mise. Réparer les dégâts des années Trump prendra du temps. Comme il le dit depuis 1990 au moins, Trump souhaitait revoir les dispositions relatives aux garanties de sécurité américaines et radicalement modifier le rôle des États-Unis dans le monde. Le président sortant a beau être un menteur compulsif, sur ce sujet il a tenu parole.

# New constitution, not referendum

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

As Liberians gear up for senatorial election and national referendum on December 8, 2020, River Gee County Senator Conmany B. Wesseh thinks the country needs a totally new construction rather than a referendum that seeks changes in terms for the presidency and House of Representatives, the senate and legislation for dual citizenship.

Sen. Wesseh, from the opposition Collaborating Political Parties told a news conference Thursday, November 12, in Monrovia the 1986 Constitution which

our people. I think it is waste of time and resources because the needed result will not be realized," the senator argues.

Historicizing the process, Wesseh recounted that the 2003 Comprehensive Peace Accord signed in Accra, Ghana proffered change of constitution, which ex-president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf heeded to by establishing the Constitution Review Committee headed by former Chief Justice, Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott.

The Committee after two careful review processes proposed 25 propositions for amendment through a national referendum but of that number, the Liberian Legislature only selected eight of the 25,

ruling from the ECOWAS Court, mandating the Government of Liberia to reinstate impeached Justice Kabineh Ja'neh, Senator Wesseh says government should be responsible enough by meeting mandates as enshrined in the ruling.

Wesseh further stated that the Liberian Legislature who took the action of removal and subsequent impeachment of ex- Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh should muster courage to restore rights and dignity of Cllr. Ja'neh.

He noted that both the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate constitutionally and political blundered with the impeachment of the former associate justice.

He observes that during proceedings for the impeachment of Cllr. Ja'neh, the legislature misled the Liberian people, the government and the President, and such deception was supervised by current Chief Justice Francis Korpkor, who presided.

"The reason Cllr. Ja'neh took the matter to ECOWAS is to redeem his name, profession and protect future of his children because things were to remain as it is, the shame and embarrassment of the future would have affected [his] children and grandchildren."

He emphasizes that government should respect the rule of law adding, if there's a country that should disrespect ECOWAS, that should not be Liberia, and reminds that ECOWAS played a pivotal role doing Liberia's 14 years of civil crisis.

The Liberian lawmaker recalls that from the onset of the crisis in 1989, the now late President Jerry John Rawlings of Ghana and former Nigerian President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida were the first regional heads of state who called for peacekeepers and raised necessary funding for such peace in Liberia, a founding member state of the regional body. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Liberians currently uphold was written under influence of the military since the People's Redemption Council was headed by late Master Sergeant Samuel Kanyon Doe.

As a member of the former Constitutional Advisory Committee that crafted the 1986 Constitution, he suggests that if the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change government headed by President George Weah means well for Liberia and rule of law, it should instead, concentrate on writing a new constitution to meet present day's realities than rallying the population for national referendum.

He argues that many articles and provisions of the current constitution were intended to protect and defend actions and inactions of military leaders, who at the time needed such legal protection.

"Cancel the December 08 National Referendum [and] replace it with creation of [a] new constitution. The reason it is simple; we are calling for huge portion of the constitution to be changed through a voting process by

meaning the actual thinking of the Liberian people is not being reflected in the current propositions.

When quizzed if a new constitution is created and endorsed by the Liberian people it could give President Weah and opportunity to seek third term, Sen. Wesseh explains a new constitution will contain a 'very clear clause' which will state that the current President is to serve one term as the new constitution comes into force.

According to him, creation of a new constitution will be cheaper than the pending national referendum.

Commenting on recent

# Grand Bassa Politics:

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education; a sustainable middle class economic empowerment; Sustainable Mechanized Agriculture Programs and Infrastructural development among others.

Who is Barchue?

Barchue is an humanitarian turned politician and CEO, Hope Foundation International Liberia (HFIL) Inc.

A passionate and focused philanthropist. He worked with the CELLCOM GSM Company prior to the establishment of the mentioned supra foundation.

and peoples of Grand Bassa, and the Republic of Liberia.

Barchue told the New Dawn that his vision is integrating Grand Bassa County into the larger Liberian's Development Vision 2030;

He says, he anticipates transforming Grand Bassa County from low class to middle class sustainable economic empowerment, social security and infrastructural development.

Currently, Barchue's Hope Foundation has constructed a story building which is in use as



Donated a generator to Radio Diaenblay, #1 electoral district 2020

He is a Liberian national and professional who hailed from Grand Bassa County is a residence of BIA, St. John River City, electoral District #2 Grand Bassa County and is referred to as 100% TALK AND DO" due to his numerous social and infrastructure developments in the County;

His aim is providing effective and constructive oversight, law making and representation in an effort of good governance; for the provision and promotion of social security to all person

a means of providing access to quality free Primary Education in the county.

He says, his desire is to build within (5) five years period, beginning from 2020- 2025 A.D, "we will build (5) five free Pre-hood schools within the (5) five electoral districts of Grand. Bassa County; one of which is now under construction in BIA, St. John River City with the programs of free health care , free feeling program, free transportation for all admission students.

# Pastor abandons flock -to mine gold

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Several members and leaders of the Church of God Glory Ministry International (CGMI) in Battery Factory Community have accused Pastor Joe Wiles Allison, their spiritual leader, for abandoning them to

allegedly mine gold in Lower Margibi County.

The aggrieved church members, including Deacons Roberts Johnson; Wallace Sherman, and Elder Stephens Bannaba, narrated that Pastor Allison has been out of the church for seven months without prior information on his whereabouts, leaving

them to wonder why he left the work of God.

According to them, Pastor Allison allegedly left the Church at the time that some portion of the edifice had broken down, compelling the congregation to worship in a zinc shack.

They noted the decision by Pastor Allison to quite the

ministry work is causing serious embarrassment for the smooth operation of the church, as some of the members have already started leaving for other churches.

The CGMI, situated at the bank of the Mesurado River in Battery Factory Community, has a membership of 250

# Ghana mourns

By Othello B. Garblah

Former Ghanaian President Ft. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings has died just three weeks after he buried his mother.

Rawlings 73, died at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in the Ghanaian capital, Accra on Thursday morning at about 10:10AM after a brief illness.

He was last seen in public on October 19, at the Forecourt of the State House and Dzelukope in the Volta Region to bury his mother.

Close family sources told the New Dawn via telephone on Thursday that the former Ghanaian president died from COVID-19.

This account was also reported by ThebbcGhana.com, a Ghanaian online news website quoting former first lady and standard bearer of

half-mast, beginning Friday November 13.

"This is with great sadness that I announce to the nation the 1st President of the 4th Republic, His Excellency, Jerry John Rawlings has joined his ancestors," President Akufo-Addo said in a written statement.

"This tragic event occurred 10:10 am on Thursday 12th November 2020 at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital where the former president was receiving treatment, after a short illness," the statement added.

Akufo-Addo notes that in honor to the memory of the late Rawlings, he and his vice were suspending all political campaigns.

Ghanaians are expected to go to the polls on December 7 in a presidential and parliament elections in which former first lady Agyeman Rawlings is

constitutional arrangement the following year.

Rawlings is credited for Ghana's transition to multi-party democracy and one of the continents role model.

In 2001, after serving his second term under the 4th Republic, he peacefully handed power over to John A. Kufour in January of the same year.

Rawlings was described as a charismatic figure, a champion of the poor, but bags huge criticisms for alleged death of dozens of high profile Ghanaians including judges.

**Rawlings involving in the Liberian civil conflict**

The late Ghanaian former president played a very key role in the Liberian civil conflict as the regional grouping ECOWAS south to



the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings as saying her husband died of covid-19.

"My husband died after he contracted COVID-19 and was rushed to the intensive care unit of the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra" she was quoted to have said in an interview by the media that gathered at the family residence.

Mrs. Rawlings further to journalists that her husband was rushed to the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital on Sunday but there was no need for the news to be in the public domain.

Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, also breaking the death news has declared 7 days of mourning directing that all national flags be flown at

contesting as a presidential candidate on the ticket of her late husband's party.

## Background

Rawlings born in Accra in June 1947, to a Ghanaian mother and a Scottish father, was both a military and a civilian leader.

In 1979, the Ft. Lt. Rawlings overthrew General Frederick Akuffo as president. He soon relinquished power, handing over to civilian rule, but just to return two years later to stage another coup citing corruption and weak leadership.

From 1981 to 1993, Rawlings ruled as chairman of a joint military-civilian government. In 1992 he was elected president under a new constitution that ushered in the 4th Republic and became the country's first president under that

restore peace to the war torn nation.

In September 1990 following the death of Liberian President Samuel Doe, Rawlings and then Nigeria military leader Ibrahim Babandgida agreed to strengthen ECOMOG ground forces to the level of an effective fighting army with the objective of enforcing the peace.

In 1996, after the ECOWAS chairmanship was rotated from him, Rawlings told a visiting United States envoy to Liberia that the change in the ECOWAS chairmanship would not affect the sub-regional body's peace plan for war torn Liberia at the time.

"There is a strong feeling now that we are on the threshold of peace than ever before." Rawlings said, adding "It is up to all of us to make sure that we nail this problem in the coffin and bring a new lease of life to our brothers and sisters in Liberia."

# Patients applaud rehabilitation at PHC

By Emmanuel Mondaye

In-patients and first time visitors seeking medication at the Pipeline Health Center (PHC) in Paynesville City outside Monrovia have expressed gratitude to health workers and administrators at the government-run facility for their practical interventions in giving the center a facelift.

The PHC, through the Ministry of Health provides medical services to hundreds of inhabitants of Pipeline Community and its immediate localities.

Speaking to this paper during a visitation, two of the many patients awaiting medication at the health center, including Ms. Fatu Duncan Cole, 35, and Meata Freeman Smyth, 42, disclosed that several months ago, the Pipeline Health Center was in a deplorable state.

They recalled that prior to the facelift of the area, the PHC physical outlook was highly discouraging but the timely intervention by health workers and administrators there gives the facility a new look.

According to them, prior to the intervention, pregnant women visiting the health center stood outdoor under the sun and rain to await services, something that has finally changed.

"We used to sit down on concrete breaks because there were no chairs or benches for us ... but see today; we have abundant of chairs and benches and we no longer encounter sunlight and rain simply because the area is now covered and rehabilitated", they explained in joy.

They specifically referenced several other components of the Center such

as baby vaccination and injection rooms, physicians and nurses' offices, patient waiting room and restroom, among others that are now tidy through hard work and commitment of the medical staffers and administrators.

According to them, these people made enormous sacrifices by galvanizing their merger financial resources coupled with assistance from goodwill businesses operating in Paynesville City that makes the health center to be what it is today.

Fatu and Meata then encouraged other health workers and administrators of government-run health facilities in Montserrado County to emulate the exceptional example of PHC staffers and administrators who did not wait on government or the Ministry of Health to make a different at their assigned jobsite saying, government may not always have resources to provide everything to all health centers at the same time.

They pointed out that anyone visiting the Pipeline Health Center for the first time would be very glad of the tremendous work and physical outlook of the health center, as it now represents a medical facility that anyone would like to seek medication there.

They extolled the staff and administrators at the PHC for their enthusiasm and wisdom that will go a long way in enhancing growth and development of the facility.

The women also expressed gratitude to government, partners, and friendly business entities in Paynesville City for identifying with the Center in its time of need. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# Pastor abandons

Cont'd from page 10

devout Christians.

The edifice was constructed in 2004, but members lament the building is gradually being threatened by erosion from the St. Paul River, something, they said Pastor Allison allegedly ignored until a large portion of the structure collapsed recently.

According to them, Pastor Allison asked them through mobile communication recently to pray with him, as things are not going well with the mission he went on in Margibi County.

They said his plead has aggravated some of the church members, who think the action

of their spiritual leader was solely intended to undermine activities of the church.

However, when the spiritual mother of the church was contacted yesterday at her residence in Battery Factory on the prevailing situation at the church, she confirmed the members' allegation.

Mother Mamie Y. K. Allison disclosed her husband, Pastor Joe Wiles Allison has been operating a gold creek in Lower Margibi County prior to becoming pastor for the church, so she sees no reason why some members of the ministry are complaining to the media.

# Grand Bassa Politics: Anthony Neki Barchue takes Bassa by storm



The Zoegar's Market, Tubman Street, Buchanan City, Grd. Bassa Co. 2020

Independent Senatorial candidate Anthony N. Barchue, alias "Talk and Do" is taking Grand Bassa County by storm, though not much is heard of him in the media.

Even before he was pushed on to enter the crowded Senatorial race in Grand Bassa, Barchue had been working quietly making interventions that have brought relief to the people of Grand Bassa thus earning him the nick name: "Talk and

Do."

Barchue's humanitarian gestures ranges from building market hall, to schools and donating generators and a vehicle to the Liberian National Police detachment in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

"We are doing very well in Bassa and people are not hearing these things because we don't want to blow our trumpets in public. We just want to do them quietly", Barchue told the New Dawn in Monrovia recently.

Barchue says his team's approach is to focus on the enforcement of the "Compulsory Primary Education's law" of Liberia in order to minimize the high rate of illiteracy in the country; support of "Compulsory Emergency Health care" and insurance for all person and peoples of Grand Bassa County and the country at large; access to quality pre-hood / primary

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# LMD Fellow's story: People with disabilities feel neglected, threaten to boycott election

By J. Peter S. Dennis

People living with disabilities from Bong county are upset with the politicians and their failure to keep promises. For this reason, they have threatened to boycott the December 8, Special Senatorial Election and Constitutional Referendum.

According to Arthur Bondo, who is the Bong county coordinator for the National

Union of Organizations of the Disabled (NUOD), there are 523 people living with disabilities in Bong, and 435 are voting-eligible adults.

They allege that since 2018, the county council excluded the people living with disabilities from development discussions. In previous years, for example, the Bong people living with disabilities were allotted USD\$10,000 (1,7 million Liberian dollars) in the County Development Fund, an annual



Abestie Tozay

developmental budget raised from royalties and social funds paid by concession companies. But members of the community allege the money was never disbursed, and it remained an unfulfilled promise.

The former chair of the Bong Legislative Caucus, Senator Henry Willie Yallah, who is seeking re-election, and the chairperson of the Project Management Committee (PMC) Steve Jorquelleh Mulbah,

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