

Vote YES To All Propositions In The Referendum

- ✓ CHANGE IN THE DATE OF GENERAL ELECTIONS [From October To November]
- ✓ REDUCTION IN THE TENURE OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT [6 YRS TO 5 YRS]
- ✓ DUAL CITIZENSHIP
- ✓ SENATORS [9 YRS TO 7 YRS] ✓ REPRESENTATIVES (6 YRS TO 5 YRS)

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Continental News

Ethiopia 'rejects interference' in Tigray conflict

Ethiopia has urged the international community to refrain from "unwelcome and unlawful acts of interference" in its affairs following calls to end the conflict in the northern Tigray region.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has called the military offensive a "law-enforcement operation".

His deadline to Tigray fighters to surrender will lapse on Wednesday.

Hundreds of people have reportedly been killed and thousands have been forced from their homes. Aid groups fear the conflict could trigger a humanitarian crisis and destabilise the Horn of Africa region.

The UN has said it was alarmed by the threat of major hostilities if the Ethiopian army advanced on Tigray's capital, Mekelle, home to about 500,000 people.

In a statement released on Wednesday morning, Mr Abiy said when it came to help from outside "the international community should stand by until the government of Ethiopia submits its requests for assistance". On Tuesday, a UN Security Council meeting to

discuss the fighting in Tigray ended without a statement, according to AFP news agency, with African countries reportedly requesting more time to allow for diplomatic efforts by the African Union to continue.

Meanwhile, the EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell met with Ethiopia's foreign minister to discuss the conflict. "I expressed my great concern regarding increasing ethnic-targeted violence, numerous casualties and violations of human rights and of

international humanitarian law," Mr Borrell said after their Tuesday meeting.

On Sunday, Mr Abiy issued a 72-hour ultimatum to Tigray's forces, telling them to surrender as they were "at a point of no return".

But Tigray's forces have vowed to keep fighting, with their leader Debretsion Gebremichael saying they are "ready to die in defence of our right to administer our region".

Meanwhile, Ethiopia's state-appointed Human

Rights Commission has accused a youth group from the Tigray region of being behind a massacre earlier this month in which it says more than 600 civilians were killed. The commission says the group stabbed, bludgeoned and burned to death non-Tigrayan residents of the town of Mai-Kadra with the collusion of local forces. Human rights group Amnesty International first highlighted reports of a massacre in Mai-Kadra but was unable to confirm who was behind it, or exactly how many died. The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), a

political party which controls Tigray, denied involvement, and called for an independent international investigation into the killings.

The conflict started after Ethiopia's central government accused the TPLF of holding an illegal election and attacking a military base to steal weapons.

In response, Mr Abiy - a former Nobel Peace Prize winner - ordered a military offensive against forces in Tigray, accusing them of treason.

The TPLF sees the central government as illegitimate, arguing Mr Abiy does not have a mandate to lead the country after postponing national elections because of coronavirus. BBC



Hundreds of people have reportedly been killed and thousands have been displaced in the fighting

Ex-head of Rwanda's president security unit jailed

A court in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, has sentenced a former head of President Paul Kagame's security unit to three years in prison "for stealing a mobile phone".

Tom Byabagamba, who has been stripped of the rank of

colonel, was already serving a 15-year prison sentence for disrespecting the national flag, insurrection and endangering state security.

In 2016, a military court handed him a 21-year sentence, which was later commuted on appeal.

The court heard that he planned to use the phone to escape from prison. He has maintained that all the charges were trumped up.

Following Tuesday's ruling, he will now serve 18 years in total.

Mr Byabagamba told the court he was not the kind of person to steal such an "insignificant object".

He admitted that being caught up in possession of a phone was in violation of prison regulations, but shouldn't warrant a prison sentence.

Mr Byabagamba told the court his troubles started when his older brother and former senior adviser to the president fled the country and became a vocal critic of Mr Kagame.

A number of human rights organisations have accused the Rwandan government of not tolerating dissent, which it has consistently denied. BBC



Trump imposes new rule for some African travellers

Citizens of 15 African countries will have to post bonds of up to \$15,000 (£11,000) to visit the US, according to a new temporary travel rule which comes into effect on 24 December.

The six-month pilot programme - which targets those on both visitor and business visas - will act as a deterrent to those who

untangling hundreds of changes could take months or years.

The visa bond rule targets countries whose nationals had an "overstay rate" of 10% or higher in 2019 and will now be required to pay a refundable bond of \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000.

While those nations had higher rates of overstays, they



overstay their visas, the US state department said.

Outgoing President Donald Trump, who lost a re-election bid earlier this month, made restricting immigration a central part of his four-year term in office.

President-elect Joe Biden, a Democrat, has pledged to reverse many of the Republican president's immigration policies, but

sent relatively few travellers to the US, Reuters news agency reports.

The African countries affected are: Angola, Burkina Faso, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Sudan, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde, Burundi. BBC

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EDITORIAL

COVID-19 and the senatorial election

IF THE CURRENT post-election atmosphere in the United States of America that has seen serious surge in the coronavirus pandemic across several states with daily death toll hitting nearly a million is something to gauge, then Liberians should exercise every caution during this campaign period leading to the actual poll on December 8, 2020 to avoid a resurgence of the virus in the country.

PARTICULARLY LAST WEEKEND saw mass gathering of partisans and supporters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change here at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville City outside Monrovia to officially launch its campaign for the senatorial and representatives' by-elections. Party loyalists draped in predominantly blue and white T-shirts matched by red and blue berets converged from various parts of Monrovia and outside the capital for the launch clustering the stadium to capacity.

JUST DAYS BEFORE, ON Wednesday, 18 November Bomi County District#1 Representative also Independent Senatorial Candidate Edwin Melvin Snowe, who had been campaigning in his county, reportedly tested positive of the virus and immediately went into self-quarantine at his residence though according to him, he had never felt any signs and symptoms.

REP. SNOWE, A senior member of the ECOWAS Parliament, was expected to have attended a meeting in Lome, Togo when he went for routine test at the government facility here and was subsequently pronounced positive, effectively banning him from traveling abroad.

WITH BARELY TWO weeks before actual voting day on December 8th, the need for all Liberians, particularly partisans and supporters of rival parties and candidates to exercise caution and ensure full compliance of all health measures cannot be over emphasized. We don't want a scenario in which after the poll this country could slip back to compulsory lockdown, as we experienced before.

AND THIS MAY likely happen, if care is not taken now, especially as we prepare to celebrate Christmas after the elections that would be characterized by victory euphoria from the poll.

LIBERIA'S MINISTER OF Health Doctor Wilhelmina Jallah, addressing a press briefing in Monrovia last week disclosed re-emergence of the virus, particularly in Montserrado County and elsewhere in the country, stressing strict adherence to all health protocols including wearing nose mask, social distancing and regular hands washing, among others.

ENFORCING THESE REGULATIONS should not only be left with health authorities along; political party leaders and candidates equally have a responsibility to educate their followers by wearing masks in public and observing social distancing themselves.

THESE ELECTIONS WILL come and pass, but how we conduct ourselves as a nation importantly, amid the global pandemic would go a long way in determining our continuous stability health-wise, politically and economically.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT everyone takes cue from Rep. Snowe, who should have been out there campaigning, but is now constrained to self-quarantine for two weeks before being cleared by the Health Ministry to resume normal public activity, pray God that he wouldn't miss the election.

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COMMENTARY

By Anne-marie Slaughter
& Alexandra Stark

Crafting a Diplomacy-First US Foreign Policy

US President-elect Joe Biden's pledge to make diplomacy "the first instrument of American power" represents a welcome departure from President Donald Trump's transactional approach to the world. But crafting a diplomacy-first US foreign policy will require revamping America's foreign-policy institutions.

WASHINGTON, DC - US President-elect Joe Biden has made it clear that diplomacy will be at the center of his administration's foreign policy. Biden has pledged to rejoin the Paris climate agreement on day one of his administration, recommit to NATO allies, return the United States to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, and convene a "Summit for Democracy" to "renew the spirit and shared purpose of the nations of the free world." As he wrote in Foreign Affairs in March, "diplomacy should be the first instrument of American power."

Rebuilding America's treaties and alliances will be a welcome development after four years of President Donald Trump's transactional approach to the world. Trump's "America First" foreign policy has eroded the country's relationships with its allies and impeded its ability to confront increasingly complex global challenges such as pandemics, climate change, nuclear proliferation, democratic backsliding, and inequitable trade practices.

But crafting a diplomacy-first foreign policy to address issues like these depends on more than the new administration's policy choices in its first year, as important as they will be. It requires fundamentally revamping the relevant US institutions to make diplomacy and development the permanent center of foreign and national-security policy.

Such efforts should begin with a rethink of what security is and whom it is for. Practitioners and political scientists have traditionally defined security in the narrow sense of protecting a nation-state's territorial integrity and political independence, which naturally leads to a focus on military capabilities.

But national security should actually mean protecting people from the threats - ranging from disease and violence to fire and floods - that affect their everyday lives. The fact that these threats disrupt the most vulnerable communities the most is a result of policy, not chance. Security must therefore begin with developing a set of national and global tools to reduce the risks that these groups face.

Diplomacy, on this calculus, starts at home. If pandemics threaten national security, for example, then the US will need to invest in a more robust health system while substantially ramping up its engagement in international institutions like the World Health Organization to prepare for the next virus.

If political violence threatens Americans' safety - and New America has shown that more Americans have died from right-wing terrorism than from jihadi terrorism since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the US - then the US will need to invest more in tracking tools at home and abroad. We must also invest in rebuilding trust in our

democratic institutions, including our voting system, while working with partners around the world to counter democratic backsliding and fight the spread of disinformation.

Likewise, if unequal Internet access prevents some Americans from obtaining education and health care, as well as a growing number of government and private services, then the US government must focus on how to make digital connectivity as ubiquitous as electricity across the country. At the same time, it must work with other governments and international organizations to create a far more equal and accessible digital world.

A Biden administration should also devise a plan to reinvent the US State Department, starting with the Foreign Service. As one of us recently argued in the journal Democracy, the twentieth-century conception of the Foreign Service as a corps of career officials "deprives the United States of the talent, connections, and agility we need to advance national interests and address global challenges effectively in the twenty-first century." A service that welcomed the talents of professionals from NGOs, universities, and faith-based groups, among others, would be better equipped to tackle complex transnational problems that demand personnel from diverse backgrounds with a wide range of experience and expertise.

Finally, a diplomacy-first US foreign policy would recognize a far greater role for development, which requires its own diplomacy. Ideally, a Biden administration would work with Congress to overhaul the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act and establish a new cabinet-level department of global development. Short of that, elevating the director of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to a cabinet-level position could signal that the US regards economic development as a critical tool in its efforts to increase global human welfare.

Other countries can similarly rethink their diplomatic strategies and how they define diplomacy and security. This will require their legislatures to play a role. In the US, Congress is responsible for deciding how much funding each federal agency and program gets. In the 2019 fiscal year, defense accounted for about half of the federal government's total discretionary spending, while the entire international affairs budget amounted to less than 4%.

Congress can help to build America's diplomatic capacity by devoting more resources to reforming and increasing funding to the State Department and USAID. In addition, via its oversight role, it can prevent the executive from relying too much on military tools. At its most assertive, Congress can revoke its authorizations for the use of military force, block US arms sales, and restrict or place conditions on funding for security cooperation.

O-PED

By Chris Patten

America's Fifth Column

Authoritarian states such as Russia and China have argued for years that core liberal-democratic principles are hypocritical and hollow. By undermining them in America, President Donald Trump, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Fox News are giving them a big helping hand.

LONDON - The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the 1970s was a product of the Cold War standoff between the liberal democratic West and the communist Soviet bloc. The body's name accurately described its role. As the Soviet empire crumbled, the OSCE turned to nurturing countries' transition to democracy, including by helping them run free and fair elections.

The world paid close attention to OSCE observation missions' verdict on elections held in countries like Ukraine, Romania, and Kazakhstan. But few back then took much notice of the conduct of presidential elections in the United States, the land of the free.

True, some might have been a bit troubled by the main US parties' widespread electoral gerrymandering, more recent Republican efforts to suppress the vote in communities of color, and the relentlessly partisan political reporting of some local and national media. Overall, however, the handling of US elections gave little cause for concern. Voters chose presidents fairly, albeit through a curious Electoral College system that reflected America's history but sometimes denied victory to the winner of the popular vote.

This year's presidential election took place amid high political tension and a raging COVID-19 pandemic. But the OSCE's verdict was clear: The vote was "competitive and well managed."

Other independent foreign observers - as well as Republican state officials who organized and administered some of the voting and counting - said the same. But there was a large orange fly in the ointment in the form of President Donald Trump. The OSCE denounced "baseless allegations of systematic deficiencies, notably by the incumbent president," which "harm public trust in democratic institutions."

I guess no one should be surprised at Trump's refusal to concede to President-elect Joe Biden, which delayed by weeks the start of the transition to the new administration. While daily US deaths from COVID-19 surged toward a new peak, Trump sulked, tweeting claims he had made before Election Day that he could lose only if Democrats cheated.

In arguing that his loss - by about six million votes - must be a fraud, Trump is behaving just as he did when he was an expensively failing businessman. Every collapsed deal, every dispute with a bank that had foolishly lent him money, spawned a specious legal challenge. Trump could never admit that he had lost. In 2016, USA Today reported that Trump and his businesses had been involved in at least 3,500 legal cases over the previous 30 years.

But Trump's mendacious claims of electoral fraud not only further demean him, but also damage America's global image and the cause of liberal democracy everywhere. Authoritarian states such as Russia and China have argued for years that core liberal-democratic principles - including the rule of law, an independent judiciary, civil society, freedom of expression, and the separation of powers - are hypocritical and hollow.

For Russian President Vladimir Putin, rigging elections and imprisoning opponents (or conniving to eliminate them) are second nature. He rules by the old KGB playbook, and has created a society in which, to borrow the title of an excellent book by Peter Pomerantsev, "nothing is true and everything is possible."

Chinese President Xi Jinping, meanwhile, has encouraged an assault on what the Communist Party of China derides as Western values. His regime has regularly broken the letter and spirit of international agreements, most notably by crushing Hong Kong's fledgling democracy in an attempt to turn the once-free city into a carbon copy of Xi's own police surveillance state.

Open societies have to stand up for the principles their institutions embody. Confucius argued that leaders' moral qualities matter more than institutions, but history surely vindicates the importance of both. Corrupt, cowardly, and venal leaders often destroy the institutional foundations of their countries' governance systems.

Although Trump has done Putin's and Xi's destructive work for them, he could not have managed it without the collaboration of other Republican Party leaders, especially in the Senate. They know how dangerous Trump's post-election behavior has been, but, fearing him and his most virulent supporters, they have given their principles a long holiday.

Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who in 2016 described Trump as a "xenophobic, race-baiting, religious bigot," recently lobbied Republican secretaries of state in Georgia and Arizona to see whether they might be able to disqualify any votes cast in Democratic areas.

The commander of this fifth column is Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. His primary concern is to hold on to his job by ensuring that the Republicans retain control of the Senate following two run-off elections in Georgia in early January. So, McConnell does not want to do anything that may deter Trump supporters there from turning out to vote.

McConnell does not seem to believe in partnership and accommodation. During Barack Obama's administration, he blocked much of the Democratic president's agenda, just for the sake of blocking it. Consensus is an alien concept to him. He is, quite simply, bad for democracy, and his behavior sabotages the case for it around the world.

The enablers of all this wanton destruction are the media who parrot and broadcast Trump's agenda. Fox News has been the principal Trump megaphone, although even it recently seems to have gotten cold feet about continuing to resemble media outlets in authoritarian countries. This assertion of independence - which, admittedly, amounts to no more than acknowledging the fairness and outcome of the election - has naturally annoyed its usual star in the White House.

The founder and owner of Fox News is Rupert Murdoch. In Australia, former prime minister Kevin Rudd recently launched a record-breaking e-petition calling for a formal inquiry into Murdoch's near-monopoly control of the country's print media. It's not hard to see why more than a half-million people signed it.

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OPINION

By Melvyn Krauss

Europe's Faustian Bargain

Lost behind the news of the European Union's budget and recovery fund is a long-awaited improvement in the eurozone's internal balance. The convergence between north and south is such an important development that it is likely to take precedence over guaranteeing member states' adherence to the rule of law.

NEW YORK - The second wave of COVID-19 infections has struck Europe harder than many expected. The hope of a V-shaped recovery has been replaced by the fear of a double-dip recession, implying that there will be no quick return to normal European Union budget rules. More worryingly, Europe now finds itself forced into a tradeoff between two objectives, both of which are critical to its long-term viability as a supranational political and economic bloc. Now more than ever, the EU's commitment to the rule of law appears to be on the chopping block.

The news is not all bad. Owing to farsighted policy decisions by EU leaders, north-south relations within the Union are on a firmer footing than they have been for many years. One sign of this is that the spreads between German and Italian interest rates are at a record low, indicating that Italy's position in the euro is now rock solid. "Spread anxiety" about the sustainability of the euro has abated across the entire southern tier of the eurozone.

Forget the political hurdles recently introduced by Central European member states with their threats to veto the EU's budget and new COVID-19 recovery fund. Sustaining the long-awaited north-south political and economic convergence will be the EU's top priority in the weeks and months ahead.

While the narrowing of interest-rate spreads initially reflected the European Central Bank's quantitative-easing (QE) policies, it is the EU's new recovery fund - dubbed Next Generation EU - that brought them to record lows. Investors have stopped selling the bonds of indebted southern countries because they realized that northern politicians, particularly in Germany, are willing to provide the support necessary (be it grants or loans) to prevent an unraveling of the euro.

Following the announcement of Next Generation EU came still more good news. In October, the European Commission's first issuance of corona bonds with which to finance the program was vastly over-subscribed. Investors placed bids for more than €233 billion (\$276 billion), far exceeding the initial €17 billion on offer. This market reaction sent an unambiguous signal that a fully funded €750 billion recovery program would soon be a reality.

Despite the over-subscription, Hungary and Poland have put the fund's future in doubt by threatening to veto it unless the EU drops its demand that disbursement of EU funds be conditional on member states' adherence to the rule of law. The fact that north-south spreads are remaining at record lows despite this fresh intra-EU political brouhaha reflects confidence that European politicians will work things out before a crucial summit on December 10-11, the final deadline for concluding a budget deal before 2021.

With the prize of north-south unity on the table, there will be intense pressure to buy off the two spoilers. Extortion is especially likely because Hungary and Poland both have the veto and the political will to use it. More to the point, both governments know that this is probably their last, best chance to forestall the imposition of conditionality on the disbursement of EU funds in the future.

The key player, as usual, is German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Now in the twilight of her long chancellorship, Merkel will not allow Next Generation EU - which is sure to be a major part of her legacy - to be derailed. Jeopardizing north-south solidarity and the newly achieved eurozone cohesion is simply too high a price to pay to stand up to Hungary and Poland.

Of course, there will be the usual political fig leaf. Hungary and Poland will pretend to commit to democratic principles (which they will continue to violate), and EU leaders will pretend to believe them. As such, the recovery fund will cost Europe a lot more than it should have. 1

Still, in thinking about the long term, the European Commission's bond auction brought good news for the ECB, which stands to benefit from an important spillover effect from the return of robust fiscal policy. Next Generation EU's loans to indebted member states will take some of the pressure off the ECB after years of monetary policy doing all the heavy lifting.

According to Reuters, the ECB's governing council is discussing how it might "offer less generous support for indebted governments when it puts together a further stimulus package next month, to push them to apply for European Union loans tied to productive investments." By reducing the centrality of QE in supporting European solidarity, this outcome would finally make the ECB governing council a less contentious body.

This development is especially promising for the long term. ECB hawks and doves' endless skirmishes over QE are not only tiresome; they have also undermined European solidarity at a time of Russian revanchism, US unpredictability, Chinese assertiveness, and all of the disruptions implied by Brexit. Against this grim geopolitical backdrop, the recovery fund's promise to reduce divisiveness in the governing council could not be more welcome. It is no wonder that ECB President Christine Lagarde wants EU politicians to enshrine Next Generation EU as a permanent, rather than a temporary, policy mechanism.

Jean Monnet, one of the early exponents of European integration after World War II, famously observed that the European project "always moves forward through crisis." In this sense, the pandemic represents a unique opportunity to advance European integration like never before. Even if Europe's illiberal populists in Hungary and Poland appear to avoid accountability yet again, their position may be more tenuous in the future. An EU that no longer needs to worry about the euro's collapse will have much more time, energy, and resolve to take on its enemies within.

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LMD FELLOW STORY

Margibi: Confusion and concern over lack of understanding the Referendum

By: Abraham K. Kollie (LMD fellow)

Leaders of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including the Young Man Christian Association (YMCA) Margibi chapter, the United Students Organization (USO), and the Association of Community Chairmen (ACC) say that the voters in Margibi that they represent are unhappy with the lack of awareness campaign ahead of the Special Senatorial Elections (SSE), Representative by-election and the referendum scheduled to be conducted by the National Elections Commission (NEC) on December 8.

Aside from voting for their candidates in the Legislative, voters will also have to answer to three constitutional amendment propositions on reducing the term in office for elected officials, legalizing dual citizenship, and moving the presidential elections from the month of October, when it rains, to the month of November, in the dry season.



Proposition 1 ballot. Voters will have to tick "Yes" or "No" to the question whether they agree with dual citizenship for Liberian nationals.

All constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority approval of all total valid votes cast in order to be validated. In other words, 2 out of every 3 voters must vote yes on an amendment in order to be approved.

But civil society organizations, such as Partnership for Sustainable Development (PaSD), and locals in the Margibi raised concerns about the lack of proper awareness and education on the referendum and called on the NEC to postpone it. Edward Travis, head of PaSD, explained that the three propositions need to be well explained to the ordinary voters, and especially to residents living in rural Margibi who also have a right to be educated and have full knowledge of the referendum propositions before they cast a ballot.

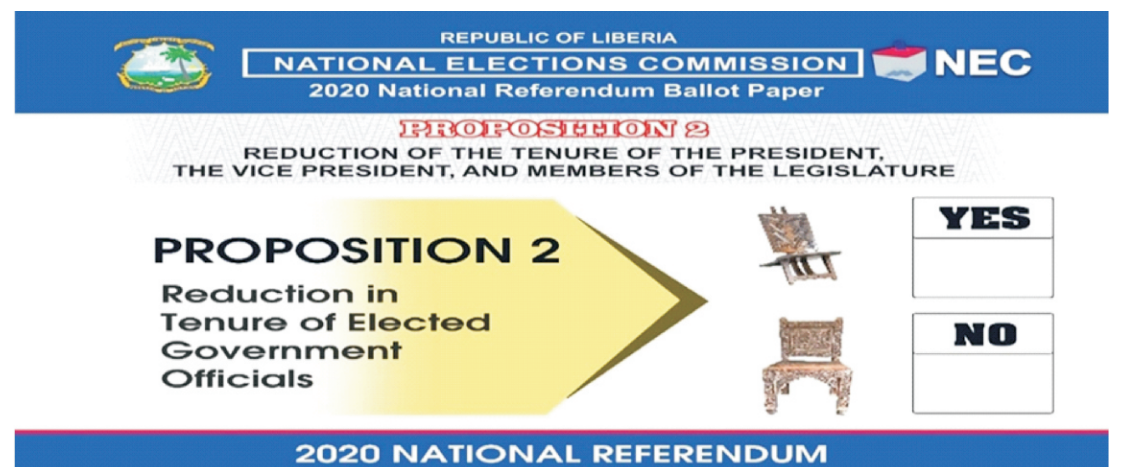
The educational process is necessary especially since many in Liberia, and in the remote areas, are not literate, and the referendum is a complicated process that only takes place once every many years.

Women United for Peace and Development (WUPD), a local non-governmental organization whose overall goal is the promotion of peace among women and their husbands has also joined the call for the postponement of the national referendum. WUPD Executive Director, MusuPaye, said there are many doubts from her organization members on the issue of dual citizenship in the country.

The head of ACC Margibi, Victor Johnson, said that on November 16, about 150 community chairpersons expressed dissatisfaction over NEC's alleged poor performance, and believed that the referendum needed to be canceled, based on their discussions with members of each of their communities.

According to Mr. Johnson, before his general meeting with chairpersons of various communities in Margibi, he had earlier instructed each chairperson to have a general and consultative meeting with community members, and the result showed that community dwellers are yet to understand the three propositions especially dual citizenship.

"This meeting was basically to understand this referendum issue. After their meeting, we, as chairmen, had a very big general meeting and agreed to call on the Government of Liberia to postpone the national referendum so that our people can better understand what they will be voting for," Chairman Johnson explained. The Margibi community chairperson added that the time is too short and NEC cannot carry on any tangible awareness.



Proposition 2 asks voters to check "Yes" or "No" to the reduction in tenure of elected government officials, including senators, representatives, and the president of the country. Source: NEC.

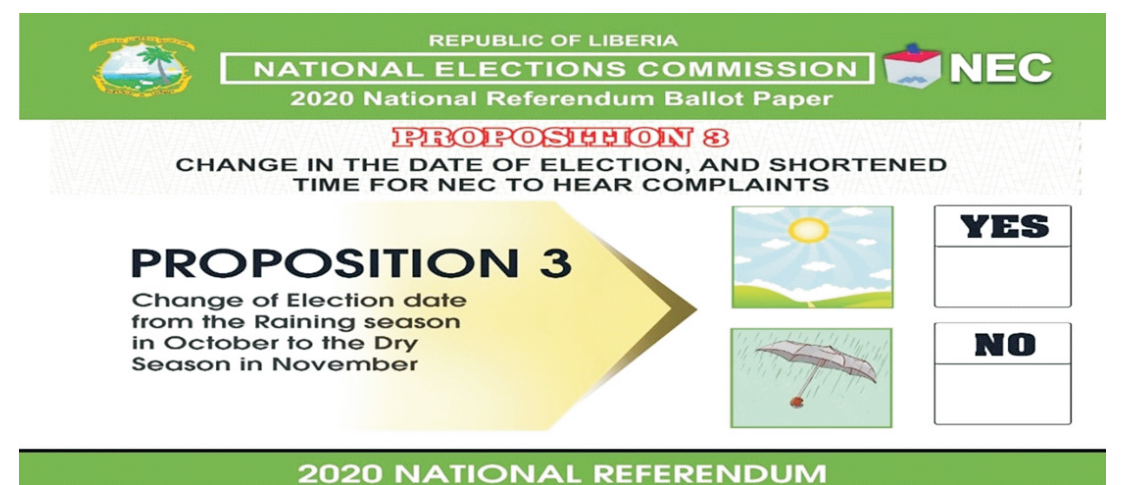
The Kakata city hall recently hosted a gathering of voters who expressed similar concerns. Among them, women and first time voters appealed to the NEC for more time and better explanation on what the three propositions mean, and how do people go about voting for them.

While they disagree on holding the national referendum on December 8, there seems to be agreement that Liberian who have dual citizenship should be allowed to run for elected office.

The Liberian Women Can Lead (JWCL), a movement of Liberian women politicians and organizers, as well as advocates who are leading the postponement of the referendum to next year in March, are also concerned about the status of Liberians in the Diaspora who are making significant contributions to the growth and development of the country.

"Denying Diaspora Liberians the opportunity to occupy key positions in the country would keep it underdeveloped on grounds that it could hold back investment plans," the Chief Campaigner of the LWCL, Julia Duncan Cassell expressed.

The founder and executive director of United Student Organization (USO), Peter D. Kerkula, representing the Margibi youth, said that young voters may likely understand proposition two and three, but said the first proposition is a huge debate in the county. "The young people of Margibi county do not really understand what we mean by natural born Liberian, we need proper explanation from NEC before participating but again we are looking at the timeframe" Kerkula added.



Proposition 3 asks voters to check "yes" or "No" on the change of the election date from October to November, in the dry season. Source: NEC.

The suggested amendment to Article 28 of the Constitution reads, "A natural-born citizen of Liberia may hold the citizenship of another country but shall not qualify for elected positions and the following appointed positions: Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Liberia; Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers; all heads of Autonomous Commissions, Agencies and Non-Academic and Research Scientific Institutions and Ambassadors."

This means that any person whose one, or both parents has or had Liberian citizenship at the time of that person's birth, shall be a natural born citizen of Liberia; a natural born citizen's right to citizenship of Liberia is inherent and inalienable; and no law shall be enacted or regulation promulgated which alienates or deprives a natural born citizen of Liberia their citizenship right. The proposed amendment allows for a natural born citizen of Liberia to hold the citizenship of another country, but they are not qualified to hold these official offices.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

India donates medical supplies to Liberia

The Government of the Republic of India has made a donation of 441 cartons of medical supplies to the Government of Liberia to aid in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wednesday, 25 November in Monrovia, the Indian Government, through its Ambassador to Liberia,

that the Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Na-rendraModi and Foreign Minister SubrahmanyaJaishankar, took the bold step to happily open up India's pharmaceutical industry to the world when the pandemic hit hard and many countries re-stricted their exports. India has supplied medicines to combat covid-19 to over 150 countries including Liberia.

SaahKemayah, Sr., welcomed the Indian Ambassador to Liberia and commended him on his trip in the midst of the second wave of the Co-vid-19. Minister Kemayah, on behalf of the Government and people of Liberia, extended profound thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of India for the donation of the lifesaving drugs.

"This donation is in time as indicated by the Health Minister. This donation comes at a time when the second wave of the covid-19 is sweeping across the world with Liberia being of no exception," he says.

"It is a reality that as countries including Liberia, battle Covid-19, there is a challenge in addressing other illnesses, so these drugs will go a long way in helping the Ministry of Health that is [charged] with the primary responsibility of our health needs," says Minister Kemayah.

Minister Kemayah expresses happiness in receiving the drugs and assured the Government of India that the donation will be used for the intended purpose.

The Foreign Minister states that Liberia and India have come a long way spanning decades and it is no surprise that India is making this donation. He reiterates that during their earlier bilat- eral discus- sion, Ambassador

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Y.K. SailasThangal, made the donation on Tuesday, 24 November in the C. Cecil Dennis, Jr. Auditorium. Ambassador Thangal, in his presentation, expresses great pleasure and honor in handing over the lifesaving drugs from India as a token to the Republic of Liberia. The Ambassador stresses

The Indian Ambassador emphasized that the medical supplies given is part of the medicines which have already been handed over to the Liberian Government earlier this year, bringing the donation to 641 cartons of medical supplies. For his part,, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dee-Maxwell

Prosecutors end training on forest laws

In a bid to get abreast with forest related issues and new laws in the sector, several lawyers, most of whom are prosecutors of the Ministry of Justice from across the country have completed a day-long training in forest crimes and civil offenses.

The prosecutors' training was held Monday, November 23, 2020 in Monrovia organized by Heritage Partners Associates (HPA) with support from the Multistakeholder Forest Governance and Accountability Project (MFGAP). In support of Liberia's objectives for strengthening forest governance, MFGAP is contributing di-rectly towards FGMC's outcome to bring about

conversation about laws governing our forest sector. There are changes in the labor sector and the forest laws and so it's important to be abreast with some of those changes as lawyers," he stated.

Also speaking earlier, Cllr. Lucia D.S. Gbala of HPA, explained the entity is among a consortium working together to improve the forest of Liberia.

"We are providing capacity building support to communities in the forest sector as well as governing agencies, including the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Liberia Revenue Authority LRA through capacity building," she said.

"Today is one of those activities that have been approved by MFGAP. This is to



Participants at the one-day training

governance and market reforms that reduce illegal use of forest resources and increase benefit for poor people.

MFGAP also contributes to Forest Governance Markets and Climate (FGMC) impact to improve management of forests for poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation, and climate protection.

Speaking at the start of the training session, the head of HPA, Cllr. T. Nagbalee Warner said, the purpose of the exercise is to make lawyers and people in the legal practice to be abreast with legal dynamism in the forest sector. "This training is intended for us to have a frank

get everyone on board to make the sector accountable in governance. We will be discussing relevant laws that go-vern the sector."

Cllr. Gbala pointed out that the main objective of the workshop is to provide summary of the fore-stry laws and relevant laws and forest related crimes, including basic violations in the sector.

"This gathering is meant for us to share our experiences, especially from you people that are in the field," she added. Liberia's forestry is the fourth largest contributor to the economy after services, agriculture, and fisheries, mining, and panning, according to the World Bank.

Kparblee women go for reunion

Women from Kparblee Administrative District in Nimba County, residing in Monrovia and other parts of the world are expected to hold a reunion and fundraising program here Saturday, November 28.

Organized under the auspices of the Kparblee District Development Association (KPADDA) Women Wing, the program will be held at Twins Hotel, near the Monrovia Vocational Training Center (MVTTC) in Paynesville, outside Monrovia.

Making the disclosure Tuesday, November 24, 2020, KPADDA Women Wing's acting chair, Madam Annie Gaylah-Ziatie, said the gathering is intended to reawaken the spirit of unity among citizens of the district.



Mrs. Annie Gaylah Ziatie, KPADDA Women Wing's acting chair

"Until recently, we have not been meeting due to the corona virus. This time, we want to bring ourselves together so that we can see what to do for ourselves," she said.

Madam Gaylah-Ziatie said the gathering is necessary because it will also be used to raise funds for to embark on

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

AMEU graduates urged to be innovative

By Bridgett Milton

Former Foreign Affairs Minister Olubanke King-Akerele has cautioned graduates of the African Methodist Episcopal University to constitute themselves into organization and render service to their country. Serving as Guest Speaker for the 20th commencement convocation

technical services to the Government of Liberia.

She says the graduates do not have to wait for government jobs, adding that each of them need to use their talent to come out with innovation.

"You have to invest in yourself to be able to contribute to national building," King-Akerele notes.

She says further that leaders

The former Foreign Minister calls on the graduates to listen to the radio, read the newspaper and they will learn the many good things Liberians are doing.

Also speaking, the president of the African Methodist Episcopal University Rev. Dr. Alvin E. Attah says the graduates have done their work and it is time for them to give to society what they have learned.

He says this is the class that has survived the storm, saying there was no indication that the storm was coming, but the group of university students have survived the storm. According to Dr. Attah, the graduates as they received their diploma in various areas, they should remember that the world is for them to make it better.

A total of 587 students graduated from various colleges to include the Bryant Theological Seminary, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Alexander B. Cummings School of Graduate Studies, College of Education and College of Business and Public Administration.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley



of the AME University Wednesday, 25 November, Amb. King - Akerele said it is time that the graduates offer

are needed at all levels in the society here, challenging the graduates to be prepared for that leadership.

Emmanuel Dahn Foundation launches skill training program

By Lewis S. The

Former Montserrado County district#7 representative aspirant Emmanuel Dahn's foundation has provided free technical, and vocational skills training to several residents of the district and surrounding districts in Montserrado County.

Mr. Dahn said the skills training will strengthen and build the capacity of young people especially, high school graduates, who are desirous of acquiring technical, vocational, and educational skills for future endeavor.

Addressing scores of guests and students at the formal launch of the District# 7 Skills Training Center or (DSSTC) Wednesday, November 25, 2020, Mr. Dahn, who also operates Joy FM in the district, said the launch of the Center is a dream comes true, not only for him and his



family, but young people, who need basic skills.

"This institution is not a political institution; we had a very difficult path to reach this level, and we will remain as a non-political institution that is

interested in impacting young people, who are consider the future leaders".

According to him, the Center is to give back to society, saying, the way some of us struggle to get

Make public education inclusive, affordable

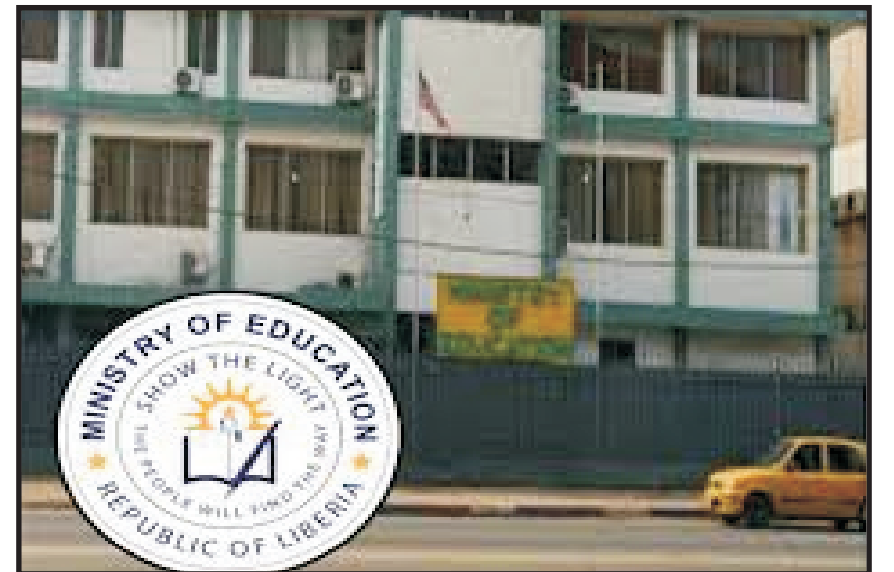
-COTAE urges government

The Government of Liberia has been urged to make public education inclusive, accessible, and affordable, as well as gender sensitive and responsive in the best interest of the people of Liberia rather than privatization of the sector.

Anderson Miamen, National Coordinator of the Coalition for Transparency and Accountability in Education (COTAE) said the right to education is a fundamental human right guaranteed under different international, regional and national framework documents, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the African Chapter on Human and People's Rights, the

advance different tools to promote, support, protect and defend the right to education in Liberia as well as need to consolidate efforts aimed at increasing support for education by the state. The Abidjan Principles came into being as a result of a group of human rights experts from around the world who adopted the instrument on the right to education. It seeks to strengthen existing efforts to ensure that everyone's right to education is protected in the context of growing and often unregulated private actor involvement in education.

In remarks, Liberia's Deputy Education Minister for Planning and Research, Alton V. Kesselly said there is need for education stakeholders, policymakers and citizens to



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) and the Constitution of Liberia.

Speaking at the opening of a two-day training workshop to increase stakeholders' knowledge about the Abidjan Principles and key issues related to fulfilling the right to education in Liberia, he said government should ensure that education, especially public education, is affordably provided to every citizen irrespective of tribes, locations, economic statuses, sex, genders, and religions, and that similar qualities and standards, as in private schools or even better. He noted the Abidjan Principles seek to

avoid mixing politics with education, saying, "If we continue to mix politics with education then our education sector will continue to go backward," Min. Kesselly said. He indicated that with the progress made by Liberian students in the 2019-2020 West African Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (WASSCE), it was important for policymakers to prioritize the education sector for the future of school-going children, who are considered future leaders.

Also, the Coordinator of the Civil Society Human Rights Platform of Liberia, Adama Dempster said, the gathering was important as it provided journalists with the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

education, we don't people coming after us to do the same; I could have opened a night club, but I thought to give back to the society for the development of our country, says Mr. Dahn.

"With this atmosphere here today, we will do all we can in

our powers to make DSSTC second to none among every vocational, and technical schools here in Liberia."

The former chairperson of the ex-ruling Unity Party, Wilmot Paye, who graced the ceremony, extolled the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Français

Sénatoriales 2020 : « La victoire de la Démocratie contre la dictature », le sénateur Dillon

Le candidat de l'opposition à l'élection sénatoriale du comté de Montserrado, Abraham D. Dillon, a décrit le scrutin du 8 décembre 2020 comme une bataille de la démocratie contre la dictature.

«Le 8 décembre, les Libériens se batront contre le président George M. Weah, il s'agit aussi de lui demander des comptes pour les nombreux citoyens pacifiques qui sont morts sans qu'on ne sache ce qui leur est arrivé. Ce sera aussi le combat de la lumière contre les ténèbres», a-t-il dit.

Le sénateur sortant est défié par la Coalition pour le changement démocratique, coalition au pouvoir, pour le siège qu'il a remporté lors d'une élection partielle en 2019, arrachant le comté riche en voix à l'establishment au pouvoir.

Il a fait cette déclaration au cours du week-end en s'adressant à des centaines de militants et amis lors d'une cérémonie organisée à l'honneur de l'ancien juge associé KabinehJa'neh, qui avait séjourné au Nigéria.

Le juge Ja'neh a contesté

sa destitution par le Sénat libérien devant la Cour de la CEDEAO au Nigéria et a eu gain de cause avec un dédommagement de 200 000 dollars américains, entre autres avantages pour les blessures qu'il a subies en tant que juge.

Dillon a également décrit le retour de Ja'neh comme une victoire retentissante, non seulement pour lui, mais aussi pour tous les citoyens désenchantés dont les droits ont été violés, notant : «

aujourd'hui il ne s'agit pas du sénateur Dillon ni de l'ancien juge Ja'neh; c'est un jour pour remercier Dieu pour la victoire ».

« Nous sommes heureux de la victoire de l'Etat de droit contre la tyrannie téméraire, cette victoire montre que les moindres personnes dans les lieux publics ne seront jamais violées », a-t-il ajouté.

Fervent critique de la coalition au pouvoir, il a déclaré que « les citoyens ont

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Sen. Darius Dillon

Le message du Président George Weah à la 3ème Rallye de l'espoir de la FPU

La Fédération pour la paix universelle (Fpu) a organisé le dimanche 22 novembre 2020, son troisième rallye de l'espoir de l'année par visio-conférence sur le thème « Construire un monde céleste unifié grâce à

l'interdépendance, à la prospérité mutuelle et aux valeurs universelles ».

Réunissant des chefs d'État, des Premières dames, des parlementaires, des leaders religieux, des professionnels des médias, des universitaires et des experts commerciaux et

financiers dans les secteurs économiques, le Rallye de l'espoir a tenu ses promesses avec une participation de plus de 100 millions de personnes à travers le monde, afin d'appeler toutes les nations du monde à la paix.

À l'entame, de cette assise, la co-fondatrice de la fédération pour la paix universelle, Dr HakJa Han Moon a indiqué que les monuments commémorant le 70ème anniversaire de la guerre de Corée devraient être érigés dans les 63 nations qui ont fourni des troupes, des fournitures militaires, un soutien médical ou une aide humanitaire à la Corée au moment du conflit il y a 70 ans.

Selon le, Dr HakJa Han Moon, la clé pour parvenir à un bel avenir est de reconnaître et d'accueillir le Parent Céleste (Ndlr : Dieu).

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Mali : une double attaque à Minimakanda prolonge le cycle de violence dans le cercle de Bankass

Le village de Minimakanda, dans le cercle de Bankass, dans la région de Mopti, a été doublement attaqué lundi et mardi par des hommes armés. Une attaque meurtrière qui réactualise le cycle de violence dans lequel est plongée la zone depuis plus d'un mois. Le village de Minimakanda a été assailli deux fois en deux jours. Selon de nombreuses sources locales, il y aurait entre quatre et huit morts. La plupart parle de sept morts. Contactés par RFI, ni l'armée, ni le ministère de la Défense n'ont apporté de précisions. Et selon plusieurs témoignages, aucun soldat ne s'était rendu sur les lieux

où une vingtaine de villageois, tous Peuls, avaient été tués et le village incendié à la fin du mois dernier. La région en plein cycle de violences

Des élus locaux et des associations de défense des droits de l'homme ont accusé l'armée malienne, aidée par des chasseurs traditionnels dogons. Ce que l'armée dément fermement.

L'attaque de Minimakanda, et ses victimes dogons, serait donc une réponse à celle de Libbé, avec ses victimes peules. L'attaque de Libbé avait elle-même eu lieu après celle de Sokoura, dans la même zone, il y a plus d'un mois. 11 militaires maliens et



avant ce mercredi matin. Toutes les personnes contactées - habitants ou élus locaux - confirment la violence de ces attaques. Outre les personnes assassinées, une partie du village a été brûlée et du bétail a été emporté. Une centaine de familles s'est depuis réfugiée dans des localités voisines. Aucune revendication n'a été faite, mais les sources locales désignent unanimement les groupes terroristes jihadistes et les milices d'auto-défense peules présentes dans la zone. Toutes les personnes contactées estiment qu'il s'agit de représailles après les exactions commises dans le village de Libbé, tout proche,

13 civils avaient alors été tués. Une attaque multiple revendiquée par le Groupe de soutien à l'Islam et aux musulmans, lié à al-Qaïda au Maghreb islamique.

Depuis plusieurs semaines, la zone subit un nouveau cycle de violence avec des attaques qui se répondent et des tensions entre communautés. Certains sont accusés de suppléer les jihadistes, d'autres les militaires. Des conflits liés à des vols de bétail alimentent également ces tensions entre communautés avec un risque majeur : susciter de nouvelles tragédies. C'est en tout cas l'inquiétude des habitants.

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Français

Sénatoriales 2020 :

le pouvoir, en vertu de la constitution, de punir les fonctionnaires corrompus, et le temps est révolu où les autorités privilégient leurs intérêts personnels pour se débarrasser des ennemis présumés au détriment des masses populaires ».

« Vous ne pouvez pas continuer à ruiner la vie des gens pour satisfaire votre désir personnel, le retour de l'ancien juge Ja'neh indique clairement que le Libéria recherche le bien contre le mal, et cette victoire doit être considérée comme une

victoire pour chaque citoyen », a-t-il déclaré.

Dillon a continué en disant : « personne ne devrait penser que l'élection sénatoriale imminente dans le comté de Montserado sera une course facile pour la CDC au pouvoir ».

Il a appelé les citoyens à prendre la bonne décision lors du scrutin. « Notre message à tout le monde est clair: transparence et plaidoyer; Le développement des comtés est une chose à laquelle nous nous engageons depuis notre ascension au Sénat libérien, et c'est notre objectif ».

Le message du Président George Weah

La co-fondatrice de la Fpu a profité également de l'occasion pour annoncer la création d'une association internationale d'artistes pour la paix dans le monde qui consistera à créer une culture de gratitude, de paix et d'harmonie, en commençant par élever des fils et des filles de piété filiale qui vivent pour le bien des autres.

Dr George MannahWeah,

Si nous travaillons ensemble, nous pouvons faire une différence et nous pouvons réaliser le grand espoir de paix que les peuples du monde désirent et méritent », a conseillé le chef d'État libérien. « Sans la paix, nous ne pouvons pas atténuer le changement climatique. Nous ne pouvons pas lutter contre la pandémie Covid-19 ni même penser à lutter contre la pauvreté dans le monde.

L'environnement de conflit



président de la République du Libéria, a pour sa part exprimé toute sa gratitude au Dr HakJa Han Moon pour son implication dans la recherche de la paix et ses efforts dans les résolutions des problèmes liés à la pauvreté, à la sécurité alimentaire, au développement économique, à l'éducation et au renforcement de la famille. « Nous vivons des temps difficiles.

perpétuel est le principal ennemi du progrès humain. Nous savons tous que la guerre draine les ressources matérielles et humaines et détourne l'attention des priorités nationales actuelles et elle empêche les pays de réaliser leur potentiel. Redoublons d'efforts pour parvenir à un monde pacifique en nous unissant contre les guerres », a conclu Salva KiirMayardit président du Soudan du sud.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Anne-marie Slaughter & Alexandra Stark

Bâtir une politique étrangère américaine de « la diplomatie d'abord »

WASHINGTON, DC - Le président américain élu Joe Biden a clairement fait savoir que la diplomatie s'inscrit au cœur de la politique étrangère de son administration. Biden s'est engagé à rejoindre l'accord climatique de Paris dès le premier jour de sa prise de pouvoir, à renouer avec les alliés de l'OTAN, à revenir à l'accord de 2015 conclu par les États-Unis sur la question nucléaire iranienne, ainsi qu'à convoquer un « Sommet pour la démocratie », destiné à « redynamiser l'esprit et le destin commun des nations du monde libre ». Comme l'a écrit Biden dans Foreign Affairs au mois de mars, « la diplomatie doit constituer le premier instrument de la puissance américaine ».

La reconstruction des traités et alliances de l'Amérique fera du bien après quatre années d'une approche purement transactionnelle du monde sous la présidence Donald Trump. La politique étrangère de « l'Amérique d'abord » appliquée par Trump a mis à mal les relations du pays avec ses alliés, et entravé sa capacité à affronter un certain nombre de défis de plus en plus complexes, tels que la pandémie, le changement climatique, la prolifération nucléaire, le recul de la démocratie, ou encore les pratiques commerciales inéquitables.

Face à ces problématiques, l'élaboration d'une politique étrangère avant tout axée sur la diplomatie dépendra d'autre chose que des choix politiques de la nouvelle administration au cours de sa première année, aussi importants soient-ils. Elle exigera une profonde refonte des institutions américaines, afin de faire de la diplomatie le cœur permanent de la politique étrangère et de sécurité nationale.

Ces efforts devront commencer par repenser ce que signifie la sécurité, et à qui elle se destine. Les praticiens et politologues définissent traditionnellement la sécurité comme ayant pour étroite signification la défense de l'intégrité territoriale d'un État-nation et de son indépendance politique, ce qui aboutit naturellement à placer l'accent sur les capacités militaires.

Or, la sécurité nationale doit également être synonyme de protection de la population contre les menaces - de la maladie jusqu'aux violences, en passant par les incendies et inondations - qui impactent sa vie quotidienne. Le fait que ces menaces touchent en particulier les communautés les plus vulnérables est le fruit des mesures politiques, pas le fruit du hasard. La sécurité doit par conséquent débiter par l'élaboration d'un ensemble d'outils nationaux et mondiaux de réduction des risques auxquels ces groupes sont confrontés.

Dans cette conception, la diplomatie doit commencer à l'intérieur du pays. Si par exemple la pandémie menace la sécurité nationale, alors les États-Unis devront investir dans un système de santé plus solide, tout en renforçant significativement leur engagement dans le cadre d'institutions internationales telles que l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, afin d'être prêts face au prochain virus.

Si la violence politique menace la sécurité des Américains - et New America a démontré que le terrorisme d'extrême droite avait fait plus de morts parmi la population américaine que le terrorisme islamique depuis les attentats du 11 septembre 2001 aux États-Unis - alors le pays devra investir davantage dans des outils de surveillance à l'intérieur comme à l'étranger. Nous devons également investir pour rebâtir la confiance dans nos institutions démocratiques, y compris dans notre système électoral, tout en travaillant avec nos partenaires du monde entier pour stopper le recule de la démocratie, et lutter contre la propagation de la désinformation.

De même, si les inégalités dans l'accès à Internet

empêchent certains Américains de suivre des études et de bénéficier de soins de santé, ainsi que d'un nombre croissant de services publics et privés, alors le gouvernement américain devra œuvrer pour rendre la connectivité digitale aussi disponible que l'électricité à travers le pays. Dans le même temps, il s'agira de travailler avec d'autres gouvernements et organisations internationales afin de créer un univers digital beaucoup plus équitable et accessible.

Il s'agira également pour l'administration Biden d'élaborer un plan de réinvention du département d'État américain, à commencer par le service diplomatique. Comme l'a récemment observé le journal Democracy, la conception du service diplomatique au XXIe siècle, celle qui y voit un corps de haut fonctionnaires de carrière, « prive les États-Unis du talent, des connexions et de l'agilité dont nous avons besoin pour défendre les intérêts nationaux et affronter les défis mondiaux efficacement au XXIe siècle ». Un corps diplomatique ouvert au talent de professionnels par exemple issus d'ONG, d'universités, et de groupes religieux, serait mieux armé pour appréhender des problèmes transnationaux complexes, qui exigent des effectifs aux profils divers, forts de tout un éventail d'expérience et d'expertise.

Enfin, une politique étrangère américaine de la diplomatie d'abord accorderait un rôle beaucoup plus important au développement, domaine qui requiert sa propre diplomatie. Idéalement, l'administration Biden travaillerait avec le Congrès sur une refonte de la loi de 1961 sur l'aide extérieure, et sur la création d'un nouveau département gouvernemental chargé du développement mondial. Même sans aller jusque là, la promotion du directeur de l'Agence des États-Unis pour le développement international (USAID) à un poste de niveau gouvernemental enverrait un signal selon lequel les États-Unis considèrent le développement économique comme un outil majeur dans leurs efforts d'amélioration du bien-être humain à travers le monde.

D'autres pays pourraient de la même manière repenser leur stratégie diplomatique, ainsi que leur définition de la diplomatie et de la sécurité. Le pouvoir législatif de ces pays aurait alors un rôle à jouer. Aux États-Unis, le Congrès décide des fonds alloués à chaque agence fédérale et programme. Pour l'exercice 2019, la défense a représenté environ la moitié des dépenses discrétionnaires totales du gouvernement fédéral, tandis que l'ensemble du budget consacré aux affaires internationales en a représenté moins de 4 %.

Le Congrès peut contribuer à la reconstruction de la capacité diplomatique américaine, en allouant davantage de ressources à la réforme ainsi qu'à un plus grand financement du département d'État et de l'USAID. Par ailleurs, via son rôle de supervision, il peut empêcher l'exécutif de recourir avec excès aux outils militaires. À son plus haut degré d'affirmation, le Congrès peut révoquer les autorisations d'emploi de la force militaire, bloquer les ventes d'armes américaines, et restreindre ou imposer des conditions au financement de la coopération en matière de sécurité.

Confrontés à une pandémie mondiale et au changement climatique, les dirigeants politiques à travers le monde doivent se pencher précisément sur ce qui fait que leurs concitoyens vivent plus ou moins en sécurité. Ils découvriront alors qu'investir dans la résilience nationale ainsi que dans la diplomatie et le développement au niveau mondial revêt davantage de sens qu'insister sur les budgets militaires. À l'heure où Biden se prépare à prendre ses fonctions, nous avons besoin d'une poussée collective de nouvelle diplomatie mondiale, propice à une plus grande coopération face aux menaces communes.

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India donates medical

Cont'd from page 6

Thangal provided him update on efforts being made to the supply of CT Scan for JFK Medical Center, and that significant progress has been made to the point of order being placed.

Foreign Minister Kemayah assures the Government of India that under his administration as Minister of Foreign Affairs, he will leave no stone [untouched] in strengthening the bilateral relations between India and Liberia.

"As we receive these drugs today, the Government of Liberia is positive that your government will exert all efforts to bring into reality the Mahatma Gandhi Conference Center or "Bali Island" as we formally call it; as well as, the road project which is intertwined with the Bali Island," he adds.

"I am very much pleased with our level of discussion in that direction and look forward to a successful next step in terms of progress," Minister Kemayah continues.

Minister Kemayah also thanks the Government and people of India for the partnership in relation to the 14th Military hospital.

"Today that hospital is the place, I can refer to as a place of life, where those who are affected by Covid-19 are taken and come from there with hope [being] restored," the Foreign Minister indicates.

Speaking earlier at the donation ceremony, General Services Agency (GSA) Director General and Chair on

Liberia Incident Management System on Covid-19, Madam Mary Broh expresses profound gratitude to the Government and people of India for the immense contributions to the development of Liberia through the Indian Consulate in Liberia.

Madam Broh references the contribution of the Indian Honorary Counsel to Liberia, Shri Upjit Singh Sachdeva commonly known as Jetty, during the peak of the Covid-19 when he fed hundreds of Liberians. She also thanks the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its hard work in coordinating with international partners for support to Liberia.

Also speaking, Health Minister Dr. Wilhelmina S. Jallah, says the donation comes in handy during the second wave of the Covid-19. Dr. Jallah notes that Liberia's weekly curve has been increasing from October, and every week Liberia has seen higher figures which she attributes to outgoing travelers.

"Today, [Liberia's] cases stand at 1507 with an additional death last night bringing Liberia to 83 deaths total from Covid-19. These medications will be used wisely," Minister Jallah assures.

She mentions that the Ministry of Health has embarked on a home-based health and routine care, committing that the Ministry of Health will make sure that almost every Liberian feels the impact of the Indian medical donations. She thanks the Government and people of India for the goodwill.--**Press release**

Emmanuel Dahn Foundation

Cont'd from page 7

leadership of the DSSTC for providing technical, and vocational skills training to people of district#7 and its environs.

Mr. Dahn once vied on the ticket of the UP in the district under the leadership of ex-chairman Paye.

Mr. Paye described the initiative as laudable, and asked every well-meaning

do not prepare them to earn a livelihood.

He quoted slain Liberian president Dr. William R. Tolbert as saying, 'a diploma, or certificate that is in a hand of a school leader that does not prepare him or her with any employable skill that will make him or her prepare to earn a living is worthless.'

Paye continued that what Liberia needs is an educational

key to nation building, because its prepare people for the future.

Senator Dillon, who is seeking re-election, said it is essential that leaders especially, policymakers should look at skills training and take it into consideration, because the human development capacity of Liberia is being threatened by increasing numbers of



Liberians across the country to follow the footsteps of Mr. Dahn's.

"Any initiative that will contribute to the livelihood of people is laudable, I'm excited to see a Liberian embarking on such initiative, because we all know to establish such an institution in this country at this time is difficult", he added.

Mr. Paye urged students coming to enroll to take full advantage of the opportunity that has been provided them, saying, "what we need in this country is an education that empowers citizens to liberate themselves."

He noted that huge numbers of people were graduating from high schools, and universities with certificates and degrees that

system that prepares people to create a livelihood, noting that people don't get rid of poverty by accident or mistake, and cautioned students the ball was in their court to make use of the opportunity being provided by thru the Emmanuel Dahn Foundation.

"As you can see the cry, and hardship are everywhere if you don't take your destiny in your own hands; if you are hoping that magic will be performed to change your situation than you are day-dreaming".

Meanwhile, incumbent Montserrado County Senator Diarus Dillon, who also attended the ceremony, praised leaders of the institution for their efforts in providing young people such opportunity, underscoring that skills training in any society is

underprivileged and wayward youths, who are commonly called zogoes.

Every one of us are somehow a relative to those underprivileged youths, either a former classmate, friend, or an immediate relative, and if we do not see the growth or do something to reduce their number, this country will run out of human capacity on grounds that they might take over, he cautioned.

The District Seven Skills Training Center offers skills such as Compute Studies, Cosmetology, Pastry, Soap Science and Journalism, among others. The launch of the institution brought together several officials of government, visitors and students. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Kparblee women

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self-empowerment initiatives.

According to her, about 300 persons, including K P A D D A members, representatives from other organizations, other citizens of Nimba, government officials as well as developmental, philanthropic and humanitarian personalities, are expected to grace the historic occasion, saying, "We expect to raise US\$3,000.00 (three thousand United States dollars) to US\$4,000.00 (four thousand United States dollars) during the program."

Madam Gaylah-Ziatie explained that proceeds from the program and other related activities will be used

to construct women empowerment centers; something she said will begin in Montserrado County before extending to Kparblee District.

"We want to build women's training centers in our District; but we want to encourage our members in Montserrado County by training ourselves before extending the program to the District," she further noted.

She said Mrs. Mai SaydeeGardea, President of Grand Gedeh Women in Montserrado County, is expected to serve as guest speaker for the occasion.

Meanwhile, Madam Gaylah-Ziatie is appealing to all Kparblee District citizens, other patriotic citizens of Nimba and Liberia at large to grace the event.

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relevant pieces of information on human rights issues. Mr. Dempster indicated that Liberia has signed a number of international conventions, but implementation of these protocols is still poses challenge for the Government of Liberia. "In order to show commitment as a country, we have to consider the implementation of the different protocols, especially the Abidjan

Make public education

Principles," he said. The Country Director of ActionAid Liberia, Lakshmi More made presentation on: 'Understanding privatization and its implications for fulfillment of the right to education in Liberia, especially for women, youths, children, minority groups and persons with special needs.'

Beneficiaries of the training lauded COTAE for providing what they referred to as an 'insightful' training and vowed to amplify ongoing advocacy

efforts by COTAE and others for the betterment of the country's education sector. The day-long training workshop brought together over fifty (50) journalists from several print and electronic media institutions as well as civil society organizations in Liberia. It was organized by the Coalition for Transparency and Accountability in Education (COTAE) with support from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA).

Complete slaughter!

-Ja'neh's lawyer says Judiciary will take years to recover

By Winston W. Parley

One of the lead lawyers who fought unsuccessfully through the court and the Legislature to prevent former Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh's impeachment, Arthur T. Johnson says the impeachment is an onslaught and a complete slaughter of the judicial system that will take years for that system's recovery. "I told you here first, I say it was an onslaught, it was a complete slaughter of the judicial system, that impeachment proceedings. And it will take years for the Supreme Court and the entire judicial system of Liberia to recover from it," Cllr. Johnson told local broadcaster OK FM on a live talk show

come on track to correct the past by respecting the rule of law "and never to repeat that mistake that was made."

"Let me give you one example. The impeachment of Justice Ja'neh it was like the government shooting itself in the leg," he says.

Cllr. Johnson argues that President George Manneh Weah's administration should not have attacked the Supreme Court, saying they should have left the impeached Justice Ja'neh "because we knew the consequences that will follow."

One of the cases which triggered Associate Justice Ja'neh's impeachment trial in Liberia related to a land dispute involving him and one Madam Annie Yancy Constance.

court, it's finished," Cllr. Johnson says, noting that similar thing happened when Sierra Leone had to beg its vice president who had been awarded millions of dollars by the ECOWAS Court following his removal by the government in that neighboring country.

Further, he recalls that the Chief Justice of Gambia was taken out of office the same way Ja'neh was removed.

In relating the current situation in the country to what he saw during imprisoned former President Charles Ghankay Taylor's rule, Cllr. Johnson argues that the slaughtering of the Dokie family gave the reason for all of the other stakeholders to start finding their way immediately when Taylor won the election.

According to Cllr. Johnson, one of the major mistakes of Mr. Taylor that ex-President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf decided not to make was to allow Ecowas peacekeepers to leave Liberia.

He explains that in her administration, Mrs. Sirleaf knew that Liberia's peace was fragile and so she declined to let the peacekeepers leave, unlike Mr. Taylor who in his time, made such a mistake.

In the end, Cllr. Johnson recalls that former President Taylor was only fighting to be able to pay government workers' salaries which according to him, could sometimes take 18 to 20 months without being paid as Liberia had become isolated by the international community.

"International community isolated us, Liberia, we were here. We know what was happening. People were working 17, 18 months no pay," he adds.

"So is the situation with the government now. When they won first of all, they should never have attacked the Supreme Court. They should have left Justice Ja'neh because we knew the consequences that will follow," he says.

Prior to Cllr. Johnson's comments, Bomi County Rep. Edwin Snowe became one of the first top officials to call on the Liberian government to negotiate with Ja'neh and solve the problem to avoid ECOWAS sanctions, barely a week after the ECOWAS Court awarded the impeached Associate Justice US\$200,000 as reparation for moral prejudice he suffered for the violation of his rights.

Delivering judgment on Tuesday, 10 November, the

ECOWAS Court also ordered the Republic of Liberia to restore, calculate and pay to Ja'neh all his withheld entitlements, including salaries, allowances and pension benefits as from the date of his impeachment to the date of notification of the Court's judgment.

It further ordered his reinstatement as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court or in the alternative, to grant him the right to retire from service on the date of notification of the judgment of the Court with full pension's benefits as if he had retired at the normal retirement age for justices of the Supreme Court.

Ja'neh in filling his complaint before the ECOWAS Court had sought to be awarded general damages in an amount not less than US\$25,000,000.00 as compensation and an order directing the Republic of Liberia to restore him to his position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia.

He also asked the court to declare that the entire impeachment trial, conviction and replacement on the Supreme Court constitute violations of his rights to fair hearing, dignity of his person and work under equitable and satisfactory conditions, among others.

But the Republic of Liberia represented by the Solicitor General Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephus denied violating the human rights of Mr. Ja'neh and submitted that the impeachment was done through a political process which also followed the due process of law as laid down in Section 43 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia. The State urged the Court to declare that Ja'neh's application is inadmissible because the Community Court is incompetent to review, interpret and apply the national constitution and domestic laws of Member States.



Wednesday, 25 November.

Prior to taking up a task with the Government of Liberia as a special prosecutor, Cllr. Johnson led legal efforts to stop the impeachment proceedings against Ja'neh, but he did not continue with the case at the ECOWAS Court following his client's removal by the Legislature as he had become engaged with the administration here.

Having left the government job several months prior to Ja'neh's recent victory at the ECOWAS Court, Cllr. Johnson suggests that "if we fail to correct our wrong of the past," that's where Liberians have problems.

Cllr. Johnson notes that he did not represent Ja'neh at the ECOWAS Court, but he is part of those who started the crafting of the pleadings for the ECOWAS Court, recalling that by the time, he had already started helping the government of Liberia as a prosecutor.

He believes that the current government can also

He was accused by lawmakers led by the ruling party Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) legislators for abuse of power, using his influence as Associate Justice to secure a ruling in his favor at the Supreme Court to take possession of the land.

But Ja'neh's lawyers maintained that the claim that their client allegedly manipulated the Supreme Court to rule in his favor in the property case questioned the credibility of Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor who served as the head of the Supreme Court and also signed the ruling.

Chief Justice Korkpor sat on Ja'neh's trial at the Legislature despite protests by the impeached justice's lawyers, and the accused was finally impeached and removed by lawmakers.

However Cllr. Johnson thinks the best thing the government can do now is to call Justice Ja'neh to a dialogue, suggesting that it's left to the impeached justice to agree.

"If Justice Ja'neh says look, I am going by the opinion of the

President Weah

Cont'd from Back page

for at least four percent of every 100 able body employees of any given public entity in Liberia to be people with disabilities and to form part of an inclusive work environment of the Liberian civil workforce.

Mr. Jask noted that his call on the Liberian leader is also in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, UNCRPD, that mandates every State's Man to create the enabling environment for all persons with some form of disabilities and as well provide equal opportunity including empowerment, employment and income earning for persons

with disabilities throughout the world.

He said, the training and capacity building of the would be qualified and professional disable re-cruits is something that he is willing to be a part of in assisting The office of the Liberian leader and the agency responsible for such task.

By this the disabilities resource mentor assured members of his community of the development of a number of accelerated modules on Computer Mediated Communication, CMC, to help them enhance their respective core competencies for the job they would be chosen for.

GoL issues new COVID-19

Cont'd from Back page

mandatory for all travelers to complete a symptom tracker form, the wearing of mask (including for those in transit and arriving), and the payment of the US\$75.00 fee.

The new Travelers protocols also require that the National Public Health Reference Lab tests all non-exempt travelers for COVID-19. Exempt travelers who do not have a valid negative COVID-19 test result will also be tested.

The Ministry of Health says travelers who test PCR positive

for COVID-19 will undergo treatment based on Liberia case management guidelines while travelers who test negative are to self-quarantine and monitor their symptoms via the Liberia Travel App for a period of 14 days, beginning the day after their arrival in Liberia. The government encourages all travelers to fully read the entire guidelines in order to be abreast with these measures as a prerequisite for traveling in and out of the country.

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President Weah & the Disable Community



Alvin Jask: Advocate For People With Special Needs & Resource Expert For People With Disabilities, PW, MSM-iT, BA, ATS, BSTS & Apple iOS Specialist

The Liberian leader, President George M. Weah has been called upon to prioritize the inclusion of disable persons into the current job arrangement of his government.

Alvin Jask whom himself is among a considerable number of qualified and highly experienced disable professionals currently living

with some form of disabilities, made the call on the Liberian President in an interview with media people recently from his Bernard's Farm-FDA community home near Monrovia.

Mr. Jask said, as much as he appreciates the President and a number of his Cabinet members such as the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Minister Nathaniel F. McGill for making efforts toward the inclusion of

Liberian youths to form part of ongoing presidential appointments, he wants qualified disables both in the country and abroad to also make the list of upcoming Presidential appointees during this half way term of the ruling party.

He further stated that putting qualified and professional disable people to work, and facilitating skills building opportunities for people with special needs in the country, will not only reduce the very huge unemployment and joblessness amongst Liberian disables professionals, but will as well put the country on record for adhering to good international treaties, but equally to best global practices.

The Liberian media and access technology professional went on to remind President Weah of the 2005 act of the National Commission on Disabilities, NCD, which calls

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GoL issues new COVID-19 protocol for travelers

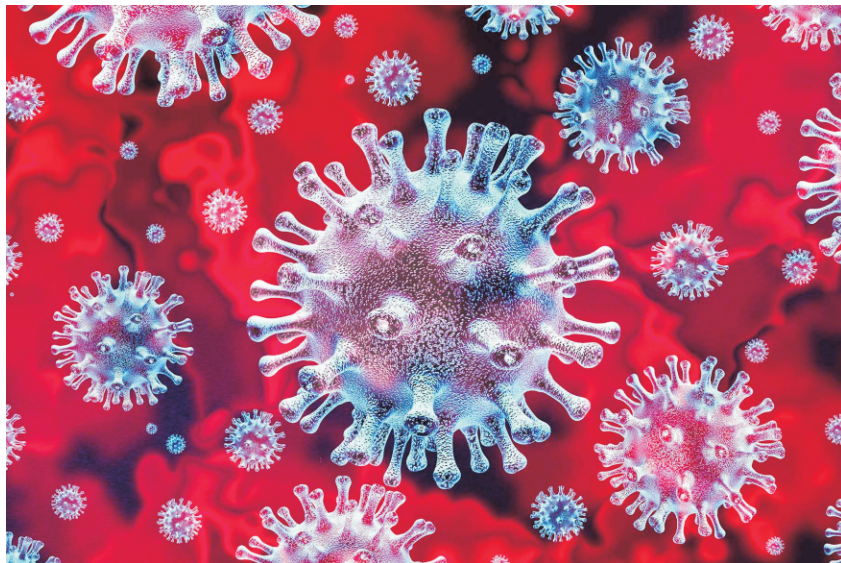
The Government of Liberia has released new Covid-19 testing protocols for travelers intending to depart or arrive in the country, as it steps up efforts to prevent further local transmission of the virus.

As of December 1, 2020 all travelers will be required to pay a fee of US\$75.00 as testing fee in order to have their samples taken.

All travelers are to

download and complete a Health Screen from the Liberia Travel Application App on either Google Playstore or the Apple Store link to access the form.

The guidelines, published by the Ministry of Health, require all "non-exempt" incoming and outgoing travelers to be tested for the disease. These measures also require the "exempt" travelers to present a negative PCR COVID-19 test result from an accredited lab within 96



hours of testing. The new drive comes in the wake of the latest uptick of transmission in other countries, otherwise referred to as the "second wave". The Government of Liberia is taking proactive steps to ensure that the new rate of spread does not affect normal activities as it did during the early stages of the pandemic.

The new travelers' protocols, released on Monday, November 23, 2020, make it

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