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# I am not responsible

## -Tweah roars



P11

Minister Samuel Tweah



Sen. Abraham Darius Dillon



Sen. Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence



Senator Prince Moye



Emmanuel Nuquay

# Dark cloud over 10 senators

## -As NEC certifies five senators

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# Continental News

## Experts: Report of China Hacking African Union HQ Fits Larger Pattern

A recent report that Chinese hackers secretly redirected surveillance footage from the African Union headquarters so it could be viewed abroad is part of a larger pattern by Chinese networks to electronically infiltrate key communication channels in Africa, experts say.

"I'm not particularly surprised," Joshua Meservey, senior policy analyst on Africa at the Heritage Foundation, told VOA. "We know China operates this way all across the world, including in Africa. They clearly have a particular interest in the AU headquarters."

The report in December by the Reuters news agency alleged that prior to the 33rd AU Summit last February, a Japanese cybersecurity firm alerted AU technicians of the security breach.

Meservey said the alleged hacking is part of a larger effort. He conducted a study that alleges Chinese companies have built at least 186 government buildings in Africa and 14 "sensitive intragovernmental telecommunications

networks."

There have also been recent reports of governments such as Uganda and Rwanda targeting dissidents and their supporters by hacking into their WhatsApp and Skype accounts with the help of Chinese tech giant Huawei. China has been accused of spying on the AU before. In 2018, the French newspaper Le Monde reported that China had installed listening devices in the

headquarters. The report alleged that servers in the AU headquarters were secretly sending data to a computer system in Shanghai each night between midnight and 2 a.m. Meservey said private Chinese companies are "legally obliged" to help the Chinese Communist Party gather intelligence. In the alleged February 2020 attack on the AU, Meservey said the

strategic importance of the video footage is unclear.

"I'm a little bit perplexed about why exactly they would want CCTV footage because ... as far as I know, there's no audio associated with it," Meservey said. "So all you really can do is track people's physical movements, I guess. But clearly they felt that was worthwhile."

One possibility, Meservey said, is that China is seeking to build artificial intelligence capabilities by compiling video and other data and feeding it into systems that can learn facial features and other identifying information.

"They're gathering immense amounts of data on their own citizens, feeding

those into A.I. systems and then refining them in that way," he said. "So that's one thing that I think potentially they're after."

Reuters cybersecurity reporter Raphael Satter said the AU was alerted by Japan's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) on Jan. 17, 2020, after it saw unusual traffic between the AU and a Chinese hacking group known as "Bronze President." AU technicians then set about tracing the source of the activity.

"When they investigated, they found that a group of servers in an annex of the AU was communicating with a website that was associated with the Chinese hacking group," Satter told VOA.



The logo of the African Union (AU) is seen at the entrance of AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## Democratic Republic of Congo Says China Has Granted Pandemic-Linked Debt Relief

China has granted some debt relief to Democratic Republic of Congo to help it overcome economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, the Congolese Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

As a result, Congo will not

have to repay its interest-free loans from China that matured at the end of 2020. The ministry did not say how much this amounted to.

China has extended debt relief worth over \$2 billion to developing countries under a G-20 framework aimed at giving

those hammered by the COVID-19 crisis some financial breathing space.

The latest deal was announced at a joint press conference in Kinshasa with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. "As Congo's most reliable friend, China wishes to continue to make its contribution to Congo's development," Wang was quoted as saying in the Congolese ministry's statement. According to data gathered by the Johns Hopkins China Africa Research Initiative, Chinese entities have extended 53 loans to the Democratic Republic of Congo between 2000-2018, amounting to a total of \$2.4 billion. Most of the lending was focused on the power, transport and mining sectors.

The major cobalt and copper producer has attracted billions of dollars in investment from Chinese miners in recent years. Congo's exports to China surged 30% in 2020 compared with the previous year. VOA



China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi waves as he leaves a news conference

## 'Children drown' after boat capsizes on Lake Kivu



At least two children and a woman have drowned after a passenger boat capsized on Lake Kivu in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, regional government spokesman Claude Basila has been quoted by Reuters news agency as saying.

A total of 46 passengers had been rescued, while two were still missing, he added.

The overloaded boat had been traveling to the main city in eastern DR Congo, Goma, when it capsized overnight on Tuesday, Mr Basila said.

A survivor, Mubatiza Mukanirwa, told Reuters that his wife and children had drowned.

"It hurts so terribly," he said.

Other survivors said the death toll was likely to be higher, as the boat was carrying between 100 and 250 passengers.

"A big wave knocked it over and there was nothing more but screams," survivor Daniel Mutukura told Reuters.

Many people travel by boat in DR Congo because of a poor road and rail network BBC

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# EDITORIAL

## Weah's Executive Order#103 and Liberia's economic woes

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH WEAH at the close of 2020 issued Executive Order No.103 in what the Executive Mansion in Monrovia says is aimed at stimulating economic growth in the country without explaining clearly how.

THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE Order#103 slashes taxes here and there, and effects series of waivers but stops short of detailing how the Liberian economy, that has nose-dived, would experience a turnaround and hit growth that had diminished in the last three years.

FOR INSTANCE, THE President's Order declares that the Commissioner General of the Liberia Revenue Authority, in consultation with the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, may set forth a schedule of Waivers, in Regulation, to be reviewed annually for the granting of relief from assessment of penalties and interest related to Real Estate Taxes, Customs Duties and Related Levies including those under Administrative Review, Judicial Review, Audits or Examinations as a result of either or both failure to file or failure to pay such Taxes, Duties and Levies when due.

"FAILURE ON THE part of a Taxpayer to take advantage of a Waiver offered during an annual period shall preclude the Taxpayer from taking advantage of future annual Waivers for a period of 5 (five) years, during which period the Taxpayer is to be subject to sanctions, including the seizure and forfeiture of assets," noted the President's Executive Order.

BUT HOW CAN citizens and foreign business people remain faithful to paying taxes regularly when the economy is plummeted due to serious cash shortage and poor sales? The President failed to address the key issue of depleting the Government Consolidated Account with the Central Bank of Liberia that has led to borrowing from commercial banks without paying thus, affecting banks' liquidity.

WE ALSO WONDER how reducing taxes on air travel tickets from 10 percent to 7 percent and extending Work Permits to five years amid a heightened global pandemic stimulate growth in an economy that is heavily consumption-based.

"COLLECTION OF WORK and Residence Permits Fees: All fees for Work and Residence Permits shall be paid directly to the Liberia Revenue Authority for deposit into the Consolidated Account of the Government of Liberia."

THE EXECUTIVE MANSION also failed to address the critical issue of confidence crisis in the banking sector that has been characterized by restricting daily withdrawal which has inversely discouraged depositors from banking.

IF THE ECONOMY is to be resuscitated, restoring confidence in the banking sector is very critical to generating liquidity to avoid speculation and capital flight.

ADHERENCE TO TRANSPARENCY and accountability are similarly important to having a predictive economy that can stimulate forecasting and reliability. But when billions of local banknotes are printed and brought into the country, but never put in circulation without any explanation it leaves room for uncertainty and apprehension.

PRESIDENT WEAH AND his Economic Management Team should go back to the drawing board and carve a realistic economic plan that would give Liberians hope both for the short and long-term that they would get out of the current quagmire that is leaving many family heads with serious hypertension and early death.

# COMMENTARY

By Joseph S. Nye, Jr.

## How Will Biden Intervene?

*Broadly defined, intervention refers to actions that influence the domestic affairs of another sovereign state, and they can range from broadcasts, economic aid, and support for opposition parties to blockades, cyber attacks, drone strikes, and military invasion. Which ones will the US president-elect favor?*

CAMBRIDGE - American foreign policy tends to oscillate between inward and outward orientations. President George W. Bush was an interventionist; his successor, Barack Obama, less so. And Donald Trump was mostly non-interventionist. What should we expect from Joe Biden?

In 1821, John Quincy Adams famously stated that the United States "does not go abroad in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own." But America also has a long interventionist tradition. Even a self-proclaimed realist like Teddy Roosevelt argued that in extreme cases of abuse of human rights, intervention "may be justifiable and proper." John F. Kennedy called for Americans to ask not only what they could do for their country, but for the world.

Since the Cold War's end, the US has been involved in seven wars and military interventions, none directly related to great power competition. George W. Bush's 2006 National Security Strategy proclaimed a goal of freedom embodied in a global community of democracies.

Moreover, liberal and humanitarian intervention is not a new or uniquely American temptation. Victorian Britain had debates about using force to end slavery, Belgium's atrocities in the Congo, and Ottoman repression of Balkan minorities long before Woodrow Wilson entered World War I with his aim to make the world safe for democracy. So, Biden's problem is not unprecedented.

What actions should the US take that cross borders? Since 1945, the United Nations Charter has limited the legitimate use of force to self-defense or actions authorized by the Security Council (where the US and four other permanent members have a veto). Realists argue that intervention can be justified if it prevents disruption of the balance of power upon which order depends. Liberals and cosmopolitans argue that intervention can be justified to counter a prior intervention, prevent genocide, and for humanitarian reasons.

In practice, these principles are often combined in odd ways. In Vietnam, Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson argued that the US military was countering North Vietnamese intervention in South Vietnam. But the Vietnamese saw themselves as one nation that had been artificially divided on the basis of realist Cold War balance-of-power considerations. Today, the US has good relations with Vietnam.

In the first Gulf War, President George H.W. Bush used force to expel Iraq's forces from Kuwait to preserve the regional balance of power, but he did so using the liberal mechanism of a UN collective security resolution. He considered himself a realist and refused to intervene to stop the shelling of civilians in Sarajevo, but after devastating images of starving Somalis on US television in December 1992, he deployed troops for a humanitarian intervention in Mogadishu. The policy failed spectacularly, with the death of 18 US soldiers under Bush's successor, Bill Clinton, in October 1993 - an experience that inhibited US efforts to stop the Rwandan

genocide six months later.

Because foreign policy is usually a lower priority than domestic issues, the American public tends toward a basic realism. Elite opinion is often more interventionist than that of the mass public, leading some critics to argue that the elite is more liberal than the public.

Nonetheless, polls also show public support for international organizations, multilateral action, human rights, and for humanitarian assistance. As I show in *Do Morals Matter?* Presidents and Foreign Policy from FDR to Trump, no one mental map fits all circumstances. There is little reason to expect the public to have a single consistent view.

For example, in the second Gulf War, American motives for intervention were mixed. International relations specialists have debated whether the 2003 invasion of Iraq was a realist or a liberal intervention. Some key figures in George W. Bush's administration such as Richard Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld were realists concerned about Saddam Hussein's possession of weapons of mass destruction and the local balance of power; but "neo-conservatives" in the administration (who were often ex-liberals) stressed the promotion of democracy and the need to maintain American hegemony.

Outside the administration, some liberals supported the war because of Saddam's abominable human rights record, but opposed Bush for failing to obtain the institutional support of the UN, as his father had in the first Gulf War.

Broadly defined, intervention refers to actions that influence the domestic affairs of another sovereign state, and they can range from broadcasts, economic aid, and support for opposition parties to blockades, cyber attacks, drone strikes, and military invasion. From a moral point of view, the degree of coercion involved is important in terms of restricting local choice and rights.

Moreover, from a practical point of view, military intervention is a risky instrument. It looks simple to use, but it rarely is. Unintended consequences abound, implying the need for prudent leadership.

Obama used force in Libya, but not in Syria. Both Trump and Hillary Clinton said in 2016 that the US had a responsibility to prevent mass casualties in Syria, but neither advocated military intervention. And there was remarkably little discussion of foreign policy in the 2020 election.

Some liberals argued that the promotion of democracy is America's duty, but there is an enormous difference between democracy promotion by coercive and non-coercive means. Voice of America broadcasts and the National Endowment for Democracy cross international borders in a very different manner than the 82nd Airborne Division does.

In terms of consequences, the means are often as important as the ends. Where will Biden land on the spectrum of interventions intended to promote security, democracy, and human rights? We may find an encouraging clue in his history of good judgment and contextual intelligence. But we must also bear in mind that sometimes surprises occur, and events take control.

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## O-PED

By Koichi Hamada

## Preventing "Trump 2024"

*Republicans and Democrats shouldn't agree on everything, but they should be operating from a shared reality. Only then can they devise policies in good faith, find broadly beneficial compromises, and protect US democracy from would-be authoritarians eager to exploit Americans' cognitive divide.*

**N**EW HAVEN - In his victory speech in November, US President-elect Joe Biden promised to reach across the aisle, work with Republicans, and unite the country. Two months later, outgoing President Donald Trump still has not conceded, and some of his loyalists reportedly plan to vote against the counting of Electoral College votes this week. The effort won't prevent Biden from being inaugurated this month, but it does demonstrate just how polarized the United States is - and the threat this poses to America's democracy.

To be sure, the US Constitution has proved hardy over the last four years. Since the presidential election two months ago, Trump and his Republican allies have filed more than 50 lawsuits challenging the results. They have lost all of them, with even the Supreme Court - which Trump has packed with right-wing justices - ruling against them.

Nonetheless, the lengths to which Trump loyalists have been willing to go to for him, together with the support he still enjoys among voters, raise serious questions about the state of American society. After all, polarization in America today is not fueled by disagreement over, say, which tax policies would do the most good for Americans and their economy. Such debates are the lifeblood of democratic politics. But they seem to have been abandoned in favor of disputes over reality itself - with deadly consequences.

Consider the COVID-19 pandemic. From the beginning, Trump played down the severity of the coronavirus, despite knowing better. Moreover, he has repeatedly endorsed unproven treatments, while refusing to support the mandatory use of proven preventive measures, like mask wearing. Over 350,000 Americans have died.

Yet many of Trump's supporters remain as loyal as ever. More than 74 million Americans voted for Trump in November, compared to 81 million for Biden. And, though Trump and his allies have put forward no evidence of electoral fraud, only one-quarter of Republicans say they trust the results of the recent vote.

Yet this should not be particularly surprising. From asserting that special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election "completely and totally exonerated" him to claiming that water-conservation restrictions force people to flush their toilets 10-15 times instead of once, Trump's go-to strategy throughout his political career has been simply to make things up. Republicans have willingly echoed his lies, and conservative media have amplified and built on them.

For the last four years, that job has fallen primarily to Fox News, Trump's number one cheerleader and megaphone. More recently, however, Trump has lashed out at the network, which he believes has been insufficiently loyal in its election coverage, and embraced even more extreme outlets, such as Newsmax and One America News Network.

Such media allies could pave the way for a political comeback. Trump has already discussed running for president again in 2024, and there is speculation about his daughter Ivanka Trump's political ambitions. But it doesn't have to be a Trump who takes up the mantle of right-wing populism, nationalism, and authoritarianism in the US; a figure from outside the family could also emerge to fill this role, possibly much more deftly than Trump.

The best way to mitigate this risk is to close the cognitive gap that is distorting US political discourse, returning Americans to a shared reality. The question is how. After all, plenty of existing media outlets - including legacy newspapers like The Washington Post and The New York Times, as well as mainstream American television networks like CNN - already provide fact-based, data-driven journalism. Many simply don't listen.

Instead, Trump and his supporters decry the "mainstream media" for pushing a "liberal agenda," which includes, for example, recognizing and exposing racial injustice and other forms of discrimination. But this approach is only as radical as democracy itself, and has contributed significantly to American social progress, particularly since the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

Even so, a significant share of people - especially those who benefit from biased systems - will resist social progress, regardless of how strong a case the media make for it. And they will embrace political leaders and news sources that provide an alternate reality in which their position is rationalized, defended, and shared.

This is hardly a uniquely American phenomenon. In Japan, progress toward gender equality has been slow, despite the obvious benefits of increasing female labor-force participation amid rapid populating aging. Nearly eight years ago, then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made policies aimed at reaping those benefits - dubbed "womenomics" - a pillar of his "Abenomics" strategy for economic revitalization. But Japan still has a long way to go, owing largely to social resistance.

Overcoming such resistance to progress - in the US, Japan, and elsewhere - will require not just information, but persuasion. Communication must be painstaking, non-threatening, and people-oriented, aimed not at telling people they are wrong, but at influencing how they perceive the issue.

Biden cannot do this alone. It must be a bipartisan effort, led by America's most senior political leaders. Fortunately, the latest COVID-19 relief package, which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support despite Trump's objections, offers reason for hope that this is possible. Whether such compromises will continue into Biden's presidency remains to be seen.

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## OPINION

By Sigmar Gabriel

## Europe After Brexit

*While remaining wary of geopolitics, Germany has been carrying its weight on internal EU political matters, pointing to a potential division of labor between itself and France in the future. The question, as always, is whether Europe can find ways to preserve both its own autonomy and its close partnership with America.*

**B**ERLIN - "The UN was not founded to take mankind to heaven, but to save humanity from hell," the United Nations' first secretary-general, Dag Hammarskjöld, once said. The hell he had in mind, of course, was World War II and the Shoah, next to which most of today's challenges pale in comparison. Nonetheless, disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic and Britain's withdrawal from the European Union have called into question many beliefs that Europeans previously took for granted.

Thanks to German Chancellor Angela Merkel's leadership within the EU, Europe survived 2020 relatively unscathed. In fact, her stint in the European Council's rotating presidency during the second half of the year will probably be remembered as one of the great political masterstrokes of post-war European history.

When the pandemic erupted last spring, it looked as though it would be every EU member state for itself. Germany, for example, temporarily banned exports of medical aid and equipment, despite the horrific, rising death toll in nearby Italy. But since then, Europeans have shown impressive solidarity in facing down the pandemic.

More recently, the emergence of a highly contagious strain of the coronavirus in the United Kingdom gave Britons and Europeans a small taste of what would have happened had a final Brexit deal not been agreed on Christmas Day. Border crossings between Europe and the UK were suddenly closed, leaving trucks lined up for miles on decommissioned airfields.

The EU-UK trade agreement that did emerge can be described as the best of a set of bad options. That it was reached at all owes something to the US presidential election. Having cozied up to Donald Trump (and having previously insulted US President Barack Obama in racist terms), British Prime Minister Boris Johnson knows that the Biden administration will not be eager to do his government any favors. In the absence of a deal with Europe, the UK would have found itself utterly alone.

For their part, EU leaders welcomed the agreement because they understand that Brexit has already damaged the Union. Given the UK's considerable geostrategic experience and capabilities (not least its nuclear arsenal), it was crucial for Europe to avoid a full rupture.

But, Brexit aside, the EU is also divided internally over economic policy, the rule of law, and the separation of powers. And as if these challenges were not great enough, developments in recent weeks have revealed a deepening divergence between France and Germany. These two traditional motors of European unification pushed through the EU's new recovery fund, thereby securing cohesion between southern and northern member states. But the EU's ongoing debate about foreign and security policy, led primarily by French President Emmanuel Macron, has opened a rift over the question of Europe's strategic position.

Calling for "strategic autonomy," Macron is reacting to America's disengagement from Europe and its re-orientation toward the Indo-Pacific and China. He is right to conclude that an American withdrawal from the neighborhood will force Europe to assume significantly more responsibility for its own security. The implication for Germany is that it is approaching a moment of truth. Though it is the EU's economic powerhouse and its most populous member state, Germany - mindful of its responsibility for the unimaginable suffering of WWII - has refrained from acting strategically for 75 years.

To be sure, German strategic abstention is what enabled the European project in the first place. But things have changed since the end of WWII, and the fact is that the EU cannot become a credible geopolitical force without Germany contributing its full economic, political, and, yes, military weight. The problem, of course, is that too many Germans themselves remain suspicious of "geopolitics" - or are clinging to a sense of moral superiority that leaves them disinclined to defend European interests.

In this context, the French were fully justified in initiating a debate about European strategic autonomy. The ball is in Germany's court. Would a future German government consisting of the conservative Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union and a pacifist Alliance 90/The Greens grouping respond to pleas from a Libyan government of national unity asking Europe to use force to dismantle the human-trafficking camps that have been set up in militant-controlled areas there? France would certainly answer the call, but it would expect Germany and others to join in.

With his push for European "strategic autonomy," Macron is vying to fill the geopolitical leadership gap that has been created by the UK's departure and Germany's ongoing refusal to engage with geopolitical issues. As Europe's remaining nuclear power and permanent member of the UN Security Council, France is obviously the most appropriate candidate for the job; but it cannot go it alone.

Germany has at least pulled its weight when it comes to internal political issues, particularly concerning the preservation of European unity. Merkel demonstrated this recently by brokering a compromise with Hungary and Poland, which had threatened to veto the recovery fund and the seven-year EU budget over a new "rule of law mechanism" for the disbursement of EU funds. The German government has also repeatedly stressed that any push for "strategic autonomy" must complement and strengthen, rather than jeopardize, the transatlantic partnership.

Brexit raises long-dormant strategic questions about Europe's internal unity and external position, and few of these are likely to be decided quickly. As such, France and Germany must seek out common paths for Europe, seizing on the opportunities that autonomy offers while remaining mindful of the limits. Even the most starry-eyed Euro-optimists cannot reasonably claim that Europe can succeed in the twenty-first century without a close strategic partnership with the US.

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## SPECIAL

## ARTICLE

# 21st Press Conference by Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Xinjiang-related issues in Beijing

CONT'D FROM LAST EDITION

Local workers in Xinjiang also voluntarily went to cotton producing areas to help the picking. They worked together and cared about each other, building strong bond of friendship. Picking cotton is totally the farmers' voluntary choice: a month-long work can bring them about 10,000 yuan of income. Isn't it a wise decision?

As you mentioned about "visit factories and farms", we have no problem with as long as the factories and farms agree. Xinjiang is an open area, we welcome friends from all over the world to visit Xinjiang and learn about the real situation on the spot. In October this year, there were 20 Arab ambassador to China and envoy of the League of Arab States in China visited Xinjiang Aksu Huafu Color Spinning Co., Ltd. They said that "the company operates very well, the employees live and work happily here, they totally enjoy their rights", "the employees here enjoy comfortable and stable lives, and are adequately provided with working clothes, food, accommodation and commuting service and skills training. "When it comes to cotton picking season, I'd like to take you to the cotton field and to hear what will cotton farmers say.

Ilijan Anayat labeling Uyghurs as "a persecuted people" has no support of facts or evidence. China is home to 56 ethnic groups, Uyghurs are an equal member of the Chinese nation. The Chinese Constitution and the Law on Regional Ethnic Autonomy prescribe that "all ethnic groups in China are equal and the state protects the lawful rights and interests of ethnic minorities." People of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang including Uyghurs enjoy equal legal status, the right to vote and to stand for election, and all other rights, such as to participate in the administration of state affairs, freedom of religious belief, to receive education, to use and develop their own spoken and written languages, and to preserve their traditional cultures and customs.

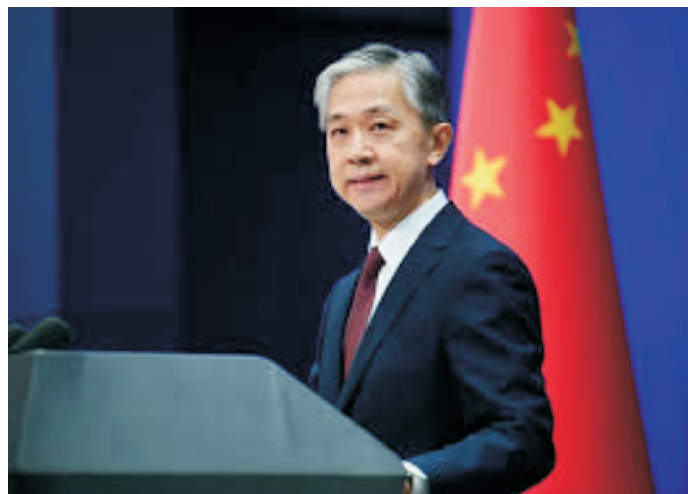
Meanwhile, all ethnic groups in Xinjiang enjoy full rights to subsistence and development. Xinjiang allocates 70% of the general annual fiscal revenue to guarantee and improve the people's livelihoods through an array of benefiting people projects in employment, culture, education and medical care. In terms of employment, a dynamic mechanism has been put in place to ensure at least one member of zero-employment families get employed. In terms of education, we are pushing for integrative development of rural-urban education and the enrollment rate of schooling children in compulsory education hovers at 99.9%. Nine-year compulsory education covers the whole region, while southern Xinjiang enjoys 3-year free preschool education and 12-year free elementary education. In terms of health and medical care, free physical examination has become popularized to all residents in Xinjiang, with the participation rates of basic medical insurance, old-age pension and major illness insurance for impoverished people reached full coverage. All the poverty-stricken rural population has been lifted out of poverty by current standards, making the historical extreme poverty to an end in Xinjiang. All Uyghurs have shared the fruits of development and fulfilled their dream of living in peace and contentment, which is reflected on their faces and rooted in their hearts. You can visit cities and countryside in Xinjiang to take a look at what we Uyghurs eat and wear and how we live. Come and see whether they are going through the so-called "persecution" or not.

Spanish EFE: 1) Recently, about how many trainees in the "re-education camp" in Xinjiang? Is the number of trainees over one million? 2) Evidence showed that there's hardly anyone in the mosques in Xinjiang because many surveillance equipment are

near the gate of the mosque, people who goes to mosque will be penalized. Is this true? In Xinjiang, is there corresponding penalty to people who goes to mosques, conducts Islamic religious activities in public or in private?

Ilijan Anayat: We have firmly emphasized for many times that there has been no so-called "re-education camps" in Xinjiang. The vocational education and training centers legally established in Xinjiang were actually schools with the character of deradicalization, which were no different in essence from the "community corrections" enforced in the US, the DDP (Desistance and Disengagement Programme) in the UK, and the deradicalization centers in France, all being conducive attempt and proactive exploration for preventive counterterrorism and deradicalization, complying with the principles and spirits of United Nations Global Counter-terrorism Strategy and other anti-terrorism resolutions.

The white paper Vocational Education and training centers in Xinjiang issued by the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China expounded in detail the urgent needs, legislative authority, teaching content, management measures and remarkable results of education and training efforts. On August 24, 2020, CCTV released a special document on this matter named Lies and Truth: Vocational Education and training in Xinjiang, vividly presenting to the public the real stories and scenes in



the centers.

The numbers of trainees were dynamic. In October, 2019, all the trainees on the vocational and training program (learning the national common language, law and skills and receiving deradicalization education) graduated. As for the rumors created by some US and Western media outlets that "a million of Uyghurs were detained in the centers" are nothing but slanders and smearing. The Grayzone, an independent news website once published articles to expose that such ridiculous conclusions were fabricated and spread by the US government supported non-governmental organizations and anti-China forces: firstly, Chinese Human Rights Defenders drew a conclusion that among the 20 million people of Xinjiang, 10% were detained in the reeducation camps based on the interviews of eight Uyghurs. Secondly, the pseudo researcher Adrian Zenz also who forged such lies has admitted that "he is not certain about this estimate." On July 25 this year, Max Blumenthal, an award-winning journalist and the author of several books, spoke at an international symposium No to New Cold War that many media reports alleging an astonishing number of a million Uyghurs being detained are based on shaky sources of information that don't stand up to examination. I hope friends from the media could sharpen your eyes and do not be blinded.

Hatip Obulhasan Tursunniyaz of the Jama Mosque in Hotan City: On your second question: Respecting and

protecting freedom of religious belief is a fundamental policy of the Chinese government. China's Constitution stipulates that citizens are entitled to freedom of religious belief. No state organ, public organization, or individual may compel citizens to believe in, or not to believe in any religion; nor may they discriminate against citizens who believe in, or do not believe in, any religion. The State protects normal religious activities.

In Xinjiang, normal religious activities, such as recitation, praying, Koran teaching, fasting, and celebrating Islamic festivals, conducted by Muslims at home or mosques are all believers' voluntary activities and protected by law allowing no interference. The well-equipped Jama Mosque where I serve in Hotan City is in nice condition and has good surroundings. Though Xinjiang was struck by Covid-19 this year, normal religious activities were not affected much by the epidemic and nearby Muslims came to the mosque to pray largely as usual, thanks to our effective prevention and control work.

Installing cameras in the region's mosques is to protect the safety of our clerics and believers, and to prevent and fight terrorist activities. In 2014, Senior Mullah Juma Tayir, vice president of Xinjiang Islamic Association and Imam of the Id Kah Mosque, was brutally killed by terrorists on his way home after morning Fajr prayer. I am sure you are aware of the incident, which was also featured in the documentary Fighting Terrorism in Xinjiang broadcast by CGTN. Without the footage recorded by cameras, cracking the crime would have become more difficult, not to mention make the brutality of terrorists known to the world!

Some people falsely accuse that installing cameras in mosques is to make them under surveillance and to punish Muslims. It is totally a malicious smear, with a sinister intention to sow discord in the relations between China and Islamic world, to create contradictions between Muslims and Non-Muslims, and to disrupt Xinjiang's religious harmony and our happy life.

Radio France International (RFI): 1) What are the security policies and measures Xinjiang has taken in 2020? 2) Whether trips to Xinjiang will be arranged for member states of UN Security Council and diplomats of EU countries to China?

Xu Guixiang: On your first question, I need to point out that, for some time, Xinjiang was plagued by terrorism and religious extremism, which gave rise to frequent violent terrorist incidents. According to incomplete statistics, the "three forces" (terrorism, extremism and separatism) had conducted thousands of violent terrorist attacks in Xinjiang and other parts of China, causing the deaths of a large number of innocent people and hundreds of police officers, as well as damage to immeasurable property. Facing complex and grave circumstances, Xinjiang, upholding the principle of fighting and preventing terrorism at the same time while earnestly implementing The Counter-terrorism Law of PRC, has been taking aggressive action against violent terrorist crimes, and at the same time, addressing the problem at its source. It has been making every effort to protect the fundamental human rights of citizens from violation by terrorism and extremism. Specific measures include improving public wellbeing, promoting knowledge of the law through education, and offering education and aid through vocational education and training centers in accordance with the law. It has been proved that these measures suit the conditions in Xinjiang and have produced notable results. No violent terrorist attacks have occurred in the past four years in a row, and extremism has been effectively contained. Public security has substantially improved with people's happiness, enhanced sense of gain and security.

TO BE CONTINUED

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Trained, disciplined and fit for service

**-UN Chief describes Liberian troops in Mali**

The Director of the United Nations Office of Peacekeeping Strategic Partnerships (OPSP), Major General Jai Menon, has described Liberian

service.

Major General Menon said he was greatly impressed and exceedingly proud of their skills and alertness, particularly as he carried out a tactical military

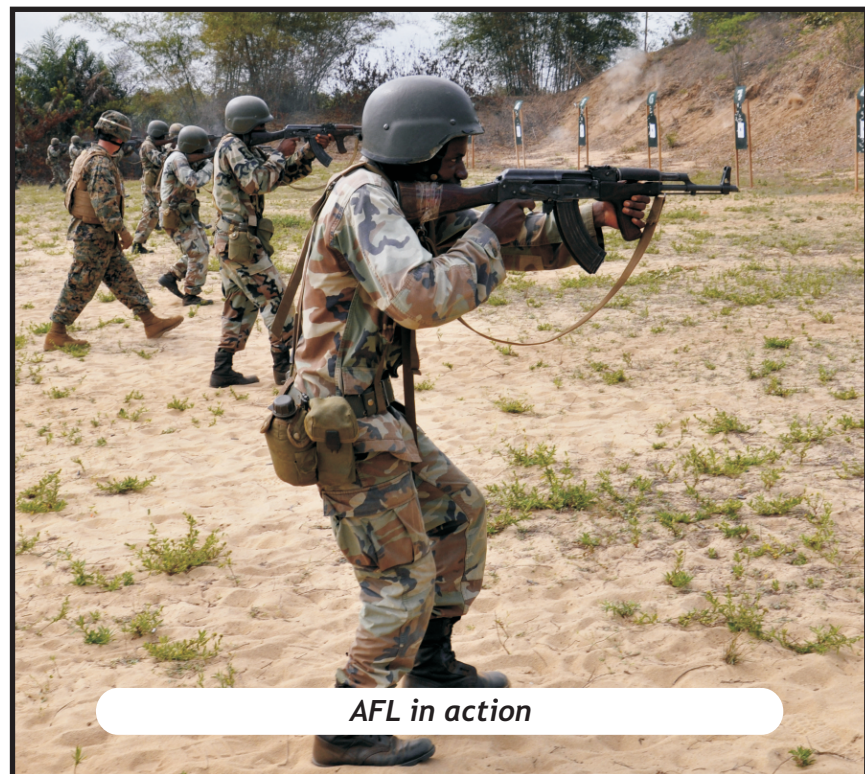
meeting with the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations, Mr. Israel Choko Davies.

Major General Menon requested Mr. Davies to convey his special gratitude to the Government of Liberia, and in particular, the Liberian Troops serving in MINUSMA for their splendid act of duty. He expressed the hope that the troops will continue to maintain such great character wherever deployed.

Major General Menon then encouraged the Liberian Government to fast-track the deployment of the additional one hundred five (105) military personnel that were pending deployment prior to the outbreak of the Corona Virus (COVID-19).

In response, Chargé d'affaires Israel Choko Davies said he was pleased with the commendations from Major General Menon but was not surprised, as Liberia has had a good record of a disciplined and trained military, especially prior to the civil war. Mr. Davies expressed great joy that Liberia was rebuilding its shattered fabric, evidenced by a

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



AFL in action

peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) as trained, disciplined, and ideally fit for

drill with the Liberian troops intended to test their proficiency and vigilance in line with their scope of duty.

The Major General made the assertions during a recent

# Justice Minister Deploys Security Team to Gbarpolu for Thursday's Election

Justice Minister Frank Musah Dean has assured a coalition of women advocacy groups of his commitment to protecting all candidates and their supporters in Thursday's election in Nomadatonau, Gbarpolu County, near the Sierra Leone border.

Minister Dean gave the assurance on Tuesday when coalition members headed by former foreign Minister Olubanke King Akerele met with him to discuss security and other concerns related to Botoe Kanneh, the female candidate who barred from entering Nomadatonau on December 13, 2020 to prepare for the rescheduled election in the town.

When Liberians in all 15 counties went to the polls on December 8, 2020, citizens in Nomadatonau did not get to vote because the Paramount Chief Magill Wuluah seized the ballots and election materials.

The National Election Commission rescheduled the

Nomadatonou election for December 15, 2020, to allow the town's 2,021 registered voters to exercise their voting rights.

Two days before the election, Kanneh and some of her supporters were barred from entering the town, attacked by security forces in the area, threatened by the

country devil, forcing them to run for their lives. Some of Kanneh's supporters are in detention in Bopolu and 10 of them had their voting cards seized by immigration officials on grounds that they were Sierra Leoneans.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Justice Min. Dean with prominent Liberian women

# Refuge Place Int'l gives to less-fortunate people

Refuge Place International (RPI) a not for profit organization hugely investing in affordable healthcare services for Liberians has identified with several persons with disabilities and less-privileged families in various communities in Montserrado and Lofa counties, respectively.

In the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Corporation (LPRC) neighborhood, visually-impaired school administrator and his staff and students expressed gratitude to RPI for providing them Christmas gifts.

Rev. Wilfred Gewon, President of United Blind Association (UBA) said food items and other gifts received from Refuge Place International came in at the appropriate time, owing to the fact that there was no money to have afforded food and other important household items.

"We hardly get any support from anyone or organization since we came into existence. We are thankful to the Refuge Place International family for giving us over 10 bags of rice, and other things we can use to even cook the rice with. They have done extremely well and we will forever remain grateful to them for their love shown us and commitment to be our good friends not only when it is Christmas, but at all times," Rev. Gewon said.

The UBA executive, who also runs a school, said he has also made requests to RPI to help physically-challenged men, women and children at the institution.

"There is no water on campus and it is causing us so much challenge. We are visually impaired and having to travel all around the community in search of water during the dry season is painful. We have poly-tank with the capacity of 500 gallons but it is not in use now because there is no connection," he said.

Another request Gewon said he has presented to RPI is that the buildings he and his dependents reside in are dilapidated and leaking, so he would be happy if Refuge Place International could also extend their helping hand to do the repairs.

He added that children enrolled in the school, most of whom are visually-impaired pay little in terms of fees that can't meet their needs, but as a calling, he and his team have seen themselves as guardians who must do all that is right to

help the children.

"A lady that I know personally has five children but one of them is blind. She brought this child to our school and sent the other children to Cathedral, B. W. Harris and St. Theresa Convent. She is spending huge sums of money for them but does not bring any money for the care of the child she brought to us. All she could tell me when I asked her why, she said she is spending on those she feels will benefit her tomorrow," Gewon narrated, as he took deep breath.

Bill Passaway and John Larmin, residents of Nyama Town and Low Cost Village (rural parts) near Bentol, administrative capital of Montserrado, also expressed gratitude to Refuge Place International for identifying with them during the festive seasons.

"Refuge Place International has almost completed building a very low cost clinic for us here. So far, what has remained is the palaver hut for people to sit and wait for their loved ones who will come for treatment and a few things, like furnishing the clinic," Bill Passaway, RPI's project manager said via telephone.

John Larmin, RPI's coordinator residing in Low Cost Village said the services at RPI's clinic are still in full swing and residents are directly benefiting without any worry of having more money before receiving better and quality healthcare services.

"We are immensely grateful to Dr. Mosoka Fallah for this great vision and we will at all times continue to support this endeavor for the benefit of our people whom we serve," Larmin said.

Mrs. Franzetta Fallah Nyanford, head of RPI's delegation distributing food and non-food items to targeted groups, said she was amazed to have seen joy in the faces of people they served.

"An old lady who has for many years relied only on selling dry firewood to make living broke down in tears when we met her and handed over to her a bag of rice, cubes, salt and other things for her Christmas. She told us that our outreach was the first ever to have given her anything, most especially during festive seasons," Mrs. Nyanford explained.

She said residents in Quassanda, a town in Lofa County also received rice and other items for Christmas.

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# Rep. Gray inaccessible

**-Rufus Neufville**  
By Lewis S. Teh

The executive director of People Action Network or PAN, a local group, Mr. Rufus Neufville, accuses Montserrado County Electoral District# 8 Representative

disrepute by abandoning his district", he said.

Speaking in Monrovia Wednesday, January 06, 2021, Mr. Neufville, who headed the district prior to incumbent Gray, attributed recent defeat of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change in Montserrado County

abandon the peace-loving people of electoral district# 8, who took him out of abject poverty, from a pedestrian to somebody, but yet you choose to abandon them, such act is disturbing and alarming; it's against this backdrop that I call this conference."

Neufville, who served a lawmaker for two terms, warned that if Representative Gray fails to speak and reconcile with his people, he (Rufus Neufville) will begin to speak with them, instead, in a more transformative manner and will give them several options.

He pointed issues surrounding the district development fund, noting for three years now the people have not received any information about the money, which is disturbing.

According to him, he has information that government has released district development fund to all 17 districts in Montserrado County, but the people of district#8 have no knowledge about said money.

"Now, I'm not saying he's collected the money and put it in his pocket, but the best thing one can do is to call a meeting and inform the people about events that are unfolding", he concludes.

*Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Moses Acarous Gray of being inaccessible to his constituents.

"Today, I call this press conference to [remind] Representative Gray that he has brought himself to public

to officials of the party, noting that Representative Gray is one of the factors responsible for the CDC defeat due to his inability to properly manage affairs of his district.

"Let me say this; you can't

# About 600 informal businesses to benefit from UNDP cash transfer

Approximately 6,000 informal businesses, comprising of mostly petty traders (women and youth), are expected to benefit from a cash transfer of US\$100.00 each from December 2020 through January 2021. This initiative is part of UNDP COVID-19 support for protecting the vulnerable in Liberia's informal sector.

The intervention is supported by UNDP Liberia, Canada Fund for Local Initiative (CLFI) and the Embassy / Consulate-General of the Federal Republic of Germany.

This support is informed by a recent (2020) Rapid Assessment on the socio-economic Impact of COVID-19, commissioned by the United Nations Country Team in Liberia, with technical lead of the UNDP, which reveals that more vulnerable populations are expected to be poorer than their non-vulnerable counterparts.

The report shows that

while the COVID-19 impact does not spare anyone, the reality is that the 'new poor' are mainly working in the self-employed services sector (46.2%). Livelihoods of those that are in vulnerable employment are therefore expected to be the hardest hit.

It is estimated that the poverty rate will increase by 2.5% for vulnerable workers in comparison to 1.9% for the non-vulnerable employed. Further, 90% of the new poor households have at least one member working in vulnerable employment.

These households have higher absolute rates of poverty, estimated at 63% in contrast to 55% for the non-vulnerable employed.

With 42% of the population living in extreme poverty and subsisting on less than US\$1.90 per day, the COVID-19 response has necessitated an urgent and immediate need to protect vulnerable groups, including those living in extreme poverty and areas mostly affected by COVID-19.

The overall goal of the intervention is to provide emergency livelihood assistance to informal businesses, mostly women and youth, by enabling them to fulfill the basic needs of their families and to absorb the economic shocks to informal businesses during the pandemic.

UNDP, through this intervention, in responding to the livelihood needs of vulnerable populations is supporting the Government of Liberia to achieve Objectives 5 (minimize socio-economic impact, including through multi-sectoral partnerships) of the National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan.

The beneficiaries were selected through a computer-based random sampling from a database of more than 10,000 petty traders and small businesses surveyed from the counties mostly impacted by COVID-19 in Liberia.

# SIS will continue to dux WASSCE

**- School principal vows**

The Principal of the Seku Ibrahim Sheriff Arabic and English High School in JJY Community, Somalia Drive, Mr. Vamunya S. Sherif says his school will continue to dux the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) because it has competent and qualify teaching staff.

He said this is evidence by the fact that out 25 candidates that successfully passed all five WASSCE subjects in the

make a mark in the Liberian educational sector, no matter what.

Principal Sherif spoke over the weekend during program marking the fourth graduation ceremony held at the school campus in JJY Community, outside Monrovia.

He commended parents and guardians as well as Parent-Teacher Association for their support and encouragement over the years, stressing, the Seku Ibrahim Sheriff Arabic and English High School will always remain number one in



Principal Vamunya S. Sherif

2019/2020 school calendar, 10 came from the Seku Ibrahim Sheriff High School; five from the Firestone Liberia School System; three from St. Teresa's Convent High School, and two from St. Peter's Clever Catholic high school, amongst others.

According to him, the SIS school sent a total of 42 candidates for the WASSCE with 37 students making a past, noting that though with no support from any source, the school will continue to

any public test both in Liberia and any part of the world.

For his part, Assistant professor of Law at the Louise Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia, impeached Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh commended the administration and teachers of the school for their effort in providing quality education to Liberian youth, which he said will prepare them for future leadership in the country.

*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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# Français

## Le Ministre de l'éducation exhorte les enseignants à aimer leur métier

Le ministre libérien de l'Éducation, D. AnsuSonii, a exhorté les enseignants à aimer leur métier, estimant que certains enseignants n'embrassent l'enseignement que pour gagner de l'argent, « ce qui nuit au secteur de l'éducation ».

« Vous êtes un enseignant et vous resterez un enseignant, et votre vocation en tant qu'enseignant est de développer une nation », a souligné le ministre Sonii.

Il a récemment lancé cet appel dans une allocution au Complexe ministériel à Oldest Congo Town lors du lancement officiel du plan de relance pour les enseignants des écoles privées du Libéria.

Le ministre a également exhorté les enseignants à respecter l'éthique et la déontologie de la profession de l'enseignant, car « les enseignants sont des personnes qui jettent les bases de toute nation et servent de modèles pour les générations futures ».

Selon le chef de l'éducation, si les enseignants du Libéria continuent d'extorquer de l'argent aux élèves ou d'exiger des rapports sexuels en échanges

des bonnes notes, c'est l'éducation du pays qui reste menacée et l'avenir des élèves sacrifié.

« Ce sont les enseignants qui forment les médecins, les ministres, y compris les présidents, mais ils n'ont pas de maison ni de vélo, tandis que ceux qu'ils ont formés possèdent tous des gratte-ciels. Mais, qu'à cela ne tienne, c'est notre vocation et aujourd'hui, je suis venu dire qu'aucun enseignant ne devrait s'attendre à vivre comme un

banquier ou un pilote. Si vous n'êtes pas appelé à enseigner, ne prenez pas la craie », a dit le ministre.

La ministre Sonii a poursuivi en disant que l'enseignement est une profession de sacrifice. « C'est donner sa vie à une profession qui ne rapporte pas nécessairement en retour, mais c'est cette vie à laquelle nous sommes tous appelés. »

S'exprimant également, le vice-ministre des Finances

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## Prince Johnson en tenue militaire, la classe politique se dit inquiète

« Quand le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, ancien chef de guerre et chef du Front patriotique national indépendant du Libéria se met en tenue militaire pour parcourir les principales villes du comté de Nimba, il y

a lieu d'être vigilant », s'inquiète le représentant Larry Younquoi de la circonscription électorale no 8 du comté de Nimba.

Le représentant Younquoi, féroce critique du sénateur Johnson, a déclaré lors de

l'émission Truth Breakfast Show sur la radio Truth Fm 96.1 le mardi 5 janvier 2021 que le sénateur Johnson s'était récemment habillé en tenue militaire à Nimba et avait visité Yekepa, Gborplay et Buutuo et autres villes provinciales envahies par les rebelles lors du déclenchement de la guerre civile libérienne le 24 décembre 1989.

Younquoia rappelé également que Johnson, maréchal des rebelles de l'INPFL, n'a jamais été démobilisé après la cessation des hostilités, en tant que chef de l'un des groupes rebelles libériens les plus féroces. « J'étais membre du processus de désarmement », a-t-il ajouté.

Grâce au processus de désarmement, démobilisation, réhabilitation et réintégration (DDRR), des milliers de combattants et de milices ont été désarmés et

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Sen. PYJ during the heat of the Liberian civil war

## Qui sont les meilleurs jeunes scientifiques d'Afrique récompensés par le NEF Fellows ?

KIGALI, Rwanda, Le 30 Décembre 2020, -/African Media Agency (AMA)/-Le programme NEF Fellows (programme de boursiers du NEF) récompense les meilleurs jeunes scientifiques et technologues d'Afrique. Ces innovateurs et dirigeants en devenir, tous âgés de 42 ans au plus (don't 40% de femmes) sont choisis pour leurs parcours scientifiques, l'intérêt que présentent leurs recherches, l'innovation don't ils font preuve, ainsi que leurs aptitudes au leadership. Découvrez la promotion 2019-2021 des boursiers du NEF qui a été dévoilée lors de l'édition virtuelle du NEF Global Gathering (NEF-GG) 2020 qui vient de s'achever. Sélectionnés dans toute l'Afrique et la diaspora, leurs domaines de recherche vont de la médecine, la prévention du cancer, la santé publique à la vie urbaine, la conservation de l'environnement et le développement durable. Rencontrez la promotion 2019-2021 des « NEF Fellows »

Dr Vidushi Neergheen-Bhujun (Maurice)

Vidushi a enseigné la biochimie appliquée à des étudiants de premier et de troisième cycle pendant plus de 10 ans. Professeure Associée depuis avril 2019, elle dirige actuellement le département des sciences de la santé de l'université de Maurice et est affiliée au Centre de recherche biomédicale et sur les biomatériaux de la faculté des sciences. Ses recherches portent sur l'utilisation d'aliments fonctionnels et de plantes médicinales autochtones à Maurice pour prévenir plusieurs types de cancers en Afrique.

Dr Badre Abdselam (Maroc)

Badre axe principalement ses recherches sur les politiques publiques de l'enseignement supérieur et de l'économie sociale qui s'adressent à trois groupes sociaux - les femmes, les migrants et les jeunes - en particulier en Afrique. Il est actuellement Professeur Associé de Sciences sociales à l'Université Mohammed V de Rabat au Maroc et a été Ambassadeur du NEF pour son pays entre 2016 et 2018.

Dr Ademola Adenle (Nigeria)

Ademola a près de 20 ans d'expérience cumulée dans l'enseignement et la recherche au niveau international et a travaillé au croisement des sciences

naturelles et des sciences sociales. Interdisciplinaires, ses recherches sont axées sur les questions de développement durable liées à la biotechnologie agricole, la sécurité alimentaire, les changements climatiques, l'innovation en matière de santé, la conservation de la biodiversité, les énergies renouvelables et l'esprit d'entreprise. Il a obtenu un certain nombre de subventions compétitives pour ses recherches et ses travaux ont été présentés dans plusieurs médias locaux et internationaux.

Dr Fanelwa Ajayi (Afrique du Sud)

En 2017, Fanelwa Ajayi a créé deux organisations à but non lucratif où les écoliers des communautés marginalisées peuvent s'initier aux Sciences, aux Technologies, à l'Ingénierie et aux Mathématiques (STIM) avant d'entrer dans l'enseignement supérieur. Ama Qawenge Mfundu s'emploie à fournir des expériences STIM sur site aux apprenants, tandis que Kasi Maths, cofondé avec quatre autres personnes, est un HUB (centre) de mathématiques économique et évolutif pour les apprenants. Ces deux organisations ont été créées après que Fanelwa a remporté le premier prix du prestigieux programme TechWomen dans la Silicon Valley. Le Dr Ajayi est actuellement Maître de conférences au département de chimie de l'université du Cap-Occidental (UWC) et Responsable de la recherche au laboratoire de capteurs enzymatiques, SensorLab, où elle est spécialisée dans la recherche impliquant le développement de médicaments (en particulier pour le traitement du VIH et de la tuberculose).

Dr Daniel Akinyele (Nigeria)

Daniel est l'un des six bénéficiaires des petites subventions de l'Institut africain des sciences mathématiques (AIMS) dans le domaine de la science des changements climatiques et il travaille actuellement sur les options d'énergie propre visant l'approvisionnement durable en électricité des régions éloignées. Maître de conférences au département de génie électrique, électronique et informatique

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# Français

## Le Ministre de l'éducation

chargé de la planification économique au ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Augustus Flomo a exprimé ses sentiments au nom du ministre des Finances Samuel Tweah aux enseignants qui ont fait preuve de patience depuis la publication du plan de relance du président George M. Weah.

Il a promis l'engagement du gouvernement à travailler avec les enseignants des écoles privées et publiques à travers le pays vu leur rôle capital en tant que formateurs des jeunes, « qui sont considérés comme la future génération ».

« L'avenir de ce pays est entre vos mains en tant qu'enseignants, et votre objectif est de vous assurer que la nation se développe ; c'est pourquoi on vous appelle enseignants ».

Pendant ce temps, la présidente de l'Association nationale des enseignants du Libéria, Mary Mulbah, a remercié le président Weah et le gouvernement pour avoir répondu à l'appel des enseignants des écoles privées. Selon elle, le lancement du programme de relance des enseignants des écoles privées témoigne de l'engagement du gouvernement à travailler avec des enseignants à travers le pays.

« Nous, enseignants de tout le pays, voulons applaudir le président et son gouvernement pour leur soutien continu », a déclaré Mme Mulbah.

Le gouvernement du Libéria a annoncé un plan de relance de 1000000 USD pour les enseignants des écoles privées après que les écoles privées ici aient fermé leurs portes en 2020 en raison de l'épidémie de la pandémie de la COVID-19.

## Prince Johnson en tenue militaire,

démobilisés sous la supervision des Nations Unies.

Mais le représentant Younquoi a indiqué que Prince Johnson n'était pas dans le pays lors du processus de désarmement.

Le député Younquoi, qui dit s'être lancé « dans une mission de démythification du sénateur PYJ qui continue de se présenter aux Nimba comme une divinité », décrit ce dernier comme un homme

imprévisible et incohérent, « qui, à un moment donné, critique le président George Manneh Weah pour sa mauvaise gouvernance et l'instant d'après, fait son éloge ».

Récemment, Le député Younquoi avait accusé le sénateur Prince Johnson d'être celui qui a tué le plus de Nimbaïens (originaires du Nimba) que tout autre chef de faction en guerre au cours des 14 années de guerre civile libérienne.

## Qui sont les les meilleurs jeunes scientifiques

de l'Université de technologie de Bells à Ota, au Nigeria, il peut se targuer d'une expertise qui couvre les énergies renouvelables, la conception et la planification de micro-réseaux, l'efficacité énergétique, l'analyse de l'impact du cycle de vie et la durabilité.

Dr Zaheer Allam (Maurice) Zaheer travaille à l'accélération de l'intégration des technologies dans la vie urbaine et les villes, dans le but d'améliorer la gouvernance et de permettre des prises de décisions éclairées, sans compromettre pour autant la résilience. Son approche a été largement présentée dans des publications scientifiques et adoptée tant dans la sphère politique que dans la sphère législative. Il contribue également aux travaux de nombreuses organisations

internationales, animé par le désir de contribuer à la construction d'un monde plus humain.

Dr Cecil Ouma (Kenya) Titulaire d'un doctorat en physique, Cecil travaille sur des technologies hors-réseau abordables et à petite échelle, destinées aux implantations rurales et périurbaines en Afrique. Il a reçu plusieurs prix qui récompensent ses conférences basées sur ses recherches et les résultats de ses bourses. Cecil a également entamé plusieurs collaborations avec des chercheurs expérimentaux et théoriques de différentes régions du monde, il a encadré des étudiants de troisième cycle et a supervisé les travaux de doctorants. Ibrahim travaille au département de physique du MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) depuis janvier 2014.

## COMMENTAIRE

By Joseph S. Nye, Jr.

## Quel sera le degré d'interventionnisme de Joe Biden ?

**C**AMBRIDGE - La politique étrangère américaine a tendance à osciller entre une orientation intérieure et une orientation extérieure. Le président George W. Bush était interventionniste. Son successeur Barack Obama l'était moins. Donald Trump s'est montré pour l'essentiel non-interventionniste. À quoi pouvons-nous nous attendre avec Joe Biden ?

En 1821, John Quincy Adams déclare dans un célèbre discours que l'Amérique « ne s'aventure pas à l'étranger en quête de monstres à détruire. Elle souhaite la liberté et l'indépendance de tous. Elle n'est le défenseur que de la sienne propre ». Mais l'Amérique possède également une longue tradition interventionniste. Même un réaliste autoproclamé tel que Teddy Roosevelt reconnaît que dans les cas extrêmes de violation des droits de l'homme, une intervention « peut se révéler justifiable et appropriée ». De même, John F. Kennedy appellera les Américains à se demander ce qu'ils pourraient faire non seulement pour leur pays, mais également pour le monde.

Depuis la fin de la guerre froide, les États-Unis ont été impliqués dans sept guerres et interventions militaires, dont aucune n'était directement liée à la compétition des grandes puissances. Dans sa stratégie de sécurité nationale de 2006, George W. Bush proclame l'objectif d'une liberté incarnée par une communauté mondiale de démocraties.

Par ailleurs, l'intervention libérale et humanitaire n'est ni une nouveauté, ni une tentation exclusivement américaine. La Grande-Bretagne victorienne débatta ainsi de l'usage de la force pour mettre fin à l'esclavage, aux atrocités commises par la Belgique au Congo, ainsi qu'à la répression ottomane contre les minorités des Balkans, bien avant que Woodrow Wilson n'entre dans la Première guerre mondiale avec pour objectif de rendre le monde plus propice à la démocratie. La problématique de Biden n'est donc pas sans précédent.

Quelles mesures devraient prendre les États-Unis au-delà de leurs frontières ? Depuis 1945, la charte des Nations Unies limite l'emploi de la force à des démarches d'autodéfense ou à des actions autorisées par le Conseil de sécurité (au sein duquel les États-Unis et quatre autres membres permanents disposent d'un droit de veto). Pour les réalistes, une intervention peut être justifiée si elle prévient la perturbation de l'équilibre des puissances dont dépend l'ordre mondial. Pour les libéraux et les cosmopolites, une intervention peut être justifiée en réponse à une précédente, pour prévenir un génocide, ou pour des raisons humanitaires.

En pratique, ces principes sont souvent combinés de manière étrange. Au Vietnam, Kennedy et Lyndon B. Johnson ont fait valoir que l'armée américaine contraindrait l'intervention nord-vietnamienne dans le sud du Vietnam. Or, les Vietnamiens se considéraient comme une seule et même nation, qui avait été artificiellement divisée en fonction de considérations réalistes d'équilibre des puissances pendant la guerre froide. Aujourd'hui, les États-Unis entretiennent de bonnes relations avec le Vietnam.

Pendant la première guerre du Golfe, le président George H. W. Bush a employé la force pour chasser du Koweït les forces irakiennes, et ainsi préserver l'équilibre régional des puissances, après avoir toutefois usé du mécanisme libéral de la résolution collective de sécurité de l'ONU. Se considérant comme un réaliste, il refusera en revanche d'intervenir pour stopper les bombardements menés contre des civils à Sarajevo. Face aux images terribles de Somaliens affamés à la télévision américaine en 1992, il déploiera ses troupes pour une intervention humanitaire à Mogadiscio. Cette intervention se soldera par un échec cuisant, avec la mort de 18 soldats américains sous la présidence du successeur de Bush, Bill Clinton, en 1993 - une expérience qui inhibera les efforts des États-Unis face au génocide

rwandais six mois plus tard.

La politique étrangère constituant généralement une problématique moindre que les questions nationales, l'opinion américaine a tendance à pencher du côté d'un réalisme basique. L'opinion de l'élite est souvent plus interventionniste que celle du grand public, ce qui conduit certains détracteurs à faire valoir que l'élite serait plus libérale que l'opinion.

Pour autant, les sondages indiquent par ailleurs un soutien du public en faveur des organisations internationales, de l'action multilatérale, des droits de l'homme, ainsi que de l'aide humanitaire. Comme je le développe dans mon livre *Do Morals Matter? Presidents and Foreign Policy from FDR to Trump*, aucune cartographie mentale ne correspond à toutes les circonstances. Il y a peu de raisons d'attendre du public qu'il possède une seule vision cohérente.

Lors de la seconde guerre du Golfe, par exemple, les motivations américaines autour de l'intervention étaient mitigées. Les spécialistes des relations internationales ont débattu de la question de savoir si l'invasion de l'Irak en 2003 avait été une intervention réaliste ou libérale. Certaines figures clés de l'administration de George W. Bush, telles que Richard Cheney et Donald Rumsfeld, étaient des réalistes préoccupés par les armes de destruction massive détenues par Saddam Hussein, ainsi que par l'équilibre local des puissances ; de leur côté, les « néoconservateurs » présents dans l'administration (souvent des ex-libéraux) insistaient sur la promotion de la démocratie et la nécessité de préserver l'hégémonie américaine.

En dehors de l'administration, certains libéraux soutenaient la guerre en raison des antécédents abominables de Saddam sur le plan des droits de l'homme, mais critiquaient l'échec de Bush dans l'obtention de l'appui institutionnel de l'ONU, reçu par son père lors de la première guerre du Golfe.

Dans sa définition élargie, intervenir signifie agir pour influencer les affaires intérieures d'un autre État souverain, que ce soit sous la forme de diffusions, d'une aide économique, d'un soutien aux parties de l'opposition, ou encore d'embargos, de cyberattaques, de frappes de drones, et d'invasion militaire. D'un point de vue moral, le degré de coercition mis en œuvre est important dans la restriction des choix et des droits sur le plan local.

Par ailleurs, d'un point de vue pratique, l'intervention militaire constitue un instrument risqué, qui paraît simple à utiliser, mais qui l'est rarement en réalité. Les retombées involontaires peuvent être nombreuses, ce qui souligne la nécessité d'un leadership prudent.

Obama a usé de la force en Lybie, mais pas en Syrie. Trump et Hillary Clinton ont affirmé en 2016 que les États-Unis avaient pour responsabilité d'empêcher des pertes humaines massives en Syrie, mais aucun des deux n'a proposé d'intervention militaire. Quant à la période de l'élection en 2020, les discussions autour de la politique étrangère ont cruellement manqué.

Si certains libéraux affirment que la promotion de la démocratie constitue un devoir de l'Amérique, il existe une différence majeure entre moyens coercitifs et non coercitifs dans cet exercice. Les diffusions de *Voice of America* et du *National Endowment for Democracy* traversent les frontières internationales d'une manière très différente de la 82e Division aéroportée.

Sur le plan des retombées, les moyens sont souvent aussi importants que les fins. Où Biden se situera-t-il sur le spectre des interventions destinées à promouvoir sécurité, démocratie et droits de l'homme ? Son passé de jugement éclairé et d'intelligence contextuelle constitue à cet égard un indice encourageant. Gardons néanmoins à l'esprit que des surprises peuvent parfois survenir, et les événements échapper à tout contrôle.

# Dark cloud over 10 senators

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

To the dismay of many who had turned out Wednesday to witness the certifications of those who won the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Election, the National Elections Commission (NEC) only certificated five elected senators due to a political dark cloud hanging over the results of the remaining 10 senatorial seats.

A total of 15 senatorial seats were contested last month across the country, but results for nine of the seats are being challenged by rival candidates while voters in Gbarpolu County are due to cast ballots for the tenth seat in a particular area where

Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence, former Deputy House Speaker, now Bong County Senator Prince Moye, former House Speaker, now Margibi County Senator James Emmanuel Nuquay and former Liberian soccer star, now River Gee County Senator Jonathan Boycharles Sogbie.

The National Elections Commission is expected to rerun some electoral precincts in Gbarpolu County due to the electoral violence and reported intervention of the Poro and Sandi Societies on the day of voting.

The rest of the counties including Nimba, Lofa, Maryland, Sinoe and Rivercess are yet to see their newly elected senators certificated due to legal disputes against results from those counties.

There is no way that the votes from Districts 4 and 5 can overturn my victory, when I have already won the Lower Nimba belt, which comprises ... districts 6, 7, 8 and 9 and also two districts in the Upper Nimba belt," Madam Gongloe - Weh laments.

Also in Maryland County, six candidates from the senatorial race including sitting Senator H. Dan Morias filed a complaint to the National Elections Commission, alleging the poll was marred by fraud.

Mr. Morias along with candidates Eric Wlea Giko of the Collaborating Political Party (CPP), John A. Ballout, an Independent Candidate; Dr. E. Wollor Topor, Rainbow Alliance; Richard Emmanuel



Sen. Abraham Darius Dillon

Sen. Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence

Senator Prince Moye

Emmanuel Nuquay

voting was stalled due to political violence on Election Day, 8 December.

The National Elections Commission was therefore unable to certify at once all of the 14 candidates it had declared as winners of the senatorial race on Wednesday, 6 January as it awaited the outcome of the challenges brought by rival candidates.

At the ceremony, NEC Chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah says of the 15 winners, 10 winners are facing challenges before the hearing officer of the commission and the Supreme Court for some allegations levied against them by their respective major contenders.

She narrates that the commission being a law-abiding institution which also believes in the rule of law, it has placed preliminary hold on the certification program until the matters are concluded legally.

Those certificated by the commission include Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon, Grand Bassa County Senator

Other counties affected by legal disputes from the senatorial election results include Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Bomi, Grand Gedeh and Grand Kru.

These counties will have to wait until the NEC's presiding officer Munah Ville or the Supreme Court can decide finally on the outcome of these disputed results.

It can be recalled that in Nimba County, senatorial candidate Madam Edith Gongloe-Weh accused the National Elections Commission of reportedly manipulating election results to favor her political rival, Rep. Jeremiah Koung.

In her allegation, Gongloe-Weh, who contested on the ticket of the opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), explained that the vote tallying process was allegedly conducted in a fraudulent manner to deprive her from winning the race.

According to her, the current NEC results that place her rival ahead of her are unacceptable and unbelievable because she won districts, especially populated ones.

"It is sad that they are trying to overturn the election results.

Wilbert Yancy, Independent Candidate; and William Philip Anderson, Independent Candidate, are seeking redress to their claim of election fraud in Maryland.

Adding his voice to the allegation, the national chairperson of the opposition Liberia National Union has alarmed that the 8 December Special Senatorial Election was reportedly infiltrated by foreigners from neighboring Sierra Leone.

Mr. Blama, a former government official, said it is terribly wrong for foreigners to intrude in the electoral process of the country, adding that Liberians are the ones to decide their leaders, not foreigners. He calls on the government to promptly investigate the matter and make findings available to the public for timely actions to avoid a repeat of such ugly act.

Blama says that the party has sufficient evidence to substantiate its claim that seals of ballot boxes were allegedly broken and remarked ballot papers stuffed.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

# Sen. Wesseh sees

Starts from back page

offices of the president and vice president will face a general election that will decide Liberia's next leadership.

Speaking further, Sen. Wesseh, a stalwart of the opposition Unity Party, a constituent party of the Collaborating Political Parties says 14 senators sought reelection, but only two returned to the Capitol Building.

According to Sen. Wesseh, this is a strong signal and message to the legislators about planned actions and deals for 2021.

Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon and Grand Bassa County Sen. Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence have been reelected to the Senate.

"Basically there are high expectations on the part of the voters about the Legislature," he says, lamenting that the

people vote in a certain way that gives a message.

"So this time around they will keep political issues that I think will influence the votes like question of economy, issue of justice, corruption and ... issue of the removal of Justice Kabineh Ja'neh. The illegality that was associated with that report went throughout the country in the election," Sen. Wesseh explains.

He believes that all of these things influence the voters against incumbent senators who were seeking reelection, while allowing two people coming back with the expectation of not running the senate as business - as - usual.

He intimates that the only expectation [of the people] is lawmakers and national leaders must do better and make the Legislature and the government different.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

# First Lady inspects

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when completed, while urging women across the country to continue to support and work with the President Weah-led government for more of such initiatives across the country.

Speaking on behalf of the Army Wives, Mrs. Afrelida Nmah commended Mrs. Weah, stressing that her assistance would go a long way in building

environment which impeded the smooth running of their vocational program.

She noted that with the facility, they would increase the number of enrollment, add additional disciplines especially business management and would no longer have to wait until students of the junior high school session daily before



the capacity of hundreds of Liberian women and girls not only at the barrack but surrounding communities.

Mrs. Nmah, the Association's Secretary General, said when completed, the facility would ease their constraint of adequate infrastructure and conducive learning

accessing the classrooms.

Meanwhile, the AFL Deputy Chief of Staff, Col. Geraldine Janet George along with other ranking officers of the army conveyed profound gratitude to the First Lady as they accompanied her on a guided tour of the vocational training center project.

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# I am not responsible

By Othello B. Garblah

**F**inance and Development Planning Minister Samuel Tweah was emphatic on Wednesday when he told listeners who want him held for everything wrong within the Liberian economy that he is not responsible for the country's monetary policy.

"I am responsible for the fiscal policy and expenditure side. I am not responsible for the monetary policy," Tweah told host T-Max Jlatoh on his 50/50 show Wednesday January 6.

Tweah has been blamed for most of the monetary decisions under the George Weahs regime. Prominent is the USD25 million mop up money that was intended to

But Tweah noted that it was unfortunate that many of the people who have accused him of his personal involvement have failed to read the Kroll report, a report which details how the money was infused and those directly responsible: "All they say is Samuel Tweah took money to distribute."

He explained that what many of his critics have failed to understand is that the Central Bank which is part of the EMT had advised that when the money goes to the commercial bank it won't have yielded the desired result, which was to get it out there into people's hands, rather it would have required debit and credit processes for depositors and that would have defeated the purpose.

Therefore Tweah opined that

explanation in his capacity as a patriotic citizen and not taking upon himself the role of a Monetary Policy chief, which is the Central Bank Governor.

Tweah had claimed that no money was missing and that the money was outside the banking sector. The money, he noted was infused into the economy by the CBL through the commercial banks.

He declined to say people were hauling the money into their homes, rather he said it was due to fears that a business person who would need his/her money urgently won't be able to get it in time.

However, he said the situation could change though when people begin to rebuild confidence in the banking sector as government work to reset the order.

He was quick to point out that the level of confidence will soon be back because there are some level of fiscal discipline in place and government is now putting in place the physical structure to manage the money.

### On the bread and butter issues

Tweah said government is reducing the deficit and is trying to solve the structural problems. "We are working on salaries being current," he said.

Over all he noted that the Liberian economy is rebounding after some very difficult period-coronavirus and the macro-economy shocks.

But he also conceded though that Liberians have legitimate concerns about not being able to access money from the bank, the prices of commodities still being high despite a drop in the exchange rate.

To this he explained that government is working towards ensuring that the prices of commodities on the local market drop as well. "Inflation is coming down and we know the prices have to come down too."

The IMF recently credited the government for making some economy strides and project 3% growth rate for the country under these difficult circumstances.

# Trained, disciplined

Cont'd from page 6

military that is performing to international standards.

Mr. Davies said he was further proud that Liberia, once a nation that played host to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions, is now a proud benefactor of peacekeeping and troop-contributing country.

Mr. Davies then assured Major General Menon that the compliments shared by him about the Liberian Troops serving in Mali will not only be cherished, but disseminated as requested, with the

authorities in Liberia, beginning with His Excellency, Dr. George Manneh Weah, the President of the Republic of Liberia, the Ministry of National Defense, the Chief of Staff of the Liberian Army and the men and women in arms.

Mr. Davies concluded by thanking Major General Menon for his great observation and compliments of the Liberian Troops and assured the General that Liberia will do all in its power to increase its presence in MINUSMA.

# Justice Minister Deploys

Cont'd from page 6

Kanneh, one of nine candidates, leads the Gbarpolu senatorial race by 449 votes (4722/25.68 percent); followed by Rep. Alfred Gayflor Koiwood of the ruling party, the Coalition of Democratic Change (4,273/23.24 percent). Madam Kanneh beat Koiwood and incumbent senator Armah Jallah in their own districts. Nomodatonau is Kanneh's stronghold.

Tuesday's meeting was a follow-up to previous discussions with Minister Dean regarding the safety of Kanneh and her supporters and investigation into the circumstances that led to the disruption of the election.

The group had asked Minister Dean for the status of the investigation and prosecution of all those who were involved in disrupting the election and attacking Madam Kanneh and her supporters; the suspension of traditional leaders accused of disrupting the election; return the voter cards belonging to Kanneh's supporters; beef up security during the rescheduled election; and investigate the rape of one of Kanneh's female supporters.

During the meeting, Minister Dean said a security team from Monrovia was scheduled to be deployed to Gbarpolu County on Tuesday. Minister Dean said he has had series of conversations with the Minister of Internal Affairs Varney Sirleaf. Sirleaf assured him that the Country Devil will not be involved in the election on Thursday.

"I pointed out to him that the traditional people exacerbated the situation by bringing out the Country Devil," Minister Dean said. "The Country Devil came out to intimidate people. I told him that was unacceptable and make us look very primitive in the 21st Century."

The women said they also

wanted assurance that the Paramount Chief and other local leaders will not be involved in the election because they were the ones who threatened Kanneh's supporters and disrupted the election.

Minister Dean told the women that Minister Sirleaf said the Paramount Chief will have limited role to play during the election. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has put safeguards in place to curb any disruption of the process, Minister Dean said. "Any administrator who interferes in the electoral process will be dealt with by our security," he said.

He also promised to investigate the status of Kanneh's supporters who are detained and the voter cards that were seized by immigration officials.

"What we are concerned about now is completing the electoral process and ensuring that everybody is protected and exercise their voting rights," he said. "Let us ensure that the environment is safe."

Madam King Akerele and her team thanked Minister Dean for listening to their concerns and addressing them. She said the government needs to listen to citizens.

"Government must listen to its people," said Madam King, who represents the Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC).

Organizations representing the coalition of Liberian women include Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC), YWCA, African Women Leaders Network (AWLN), Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL), Young Women in Leadership and Knowledge Institute, Team for One Liberia, Forum of Liberia Women Elders, Collaborating Political Parties Women's Movement, Coalition of Political Parties Women of Liberia, Movement for One Liberia and Liberian Women Can Lead.



bring about some stability between the Liberian Dollar which was in a free fall against the United States Dollars as prices skyrocketed.

Though he has in the past provided several explanations about his role and the role of the Economy Management Team (EMT), which he did chaired many still believe that he personally went about allegedly distributing the money through the non-traditional channels instead of the commercial banks and therefore took upon himself the role of the Monetary Policy Chief.

The infusion of the USD\$25 million is still being regarded here as a flop.

the CBL Board advised the EMT to use these money exchange bureaus that were within communities for the infusion process, which intent was to take the physical cash from the homes. "Samuel Tweah saw no physical money other than reports," he said claiming that the result have seen a drop in the exchange rate.

### On the 16 billion

Regarding the "missing 16 billion" Tweah explained that he took upon himself to explain to the Liberian people that the money wasn't missing because the allegation was causing too much confusion in the country and had the potential to undermine his own government.

He said he provided the

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# Sen. Wesseh sees 2021 as critical year



By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

River Gee County Senator Conmany B. Wesseh has termed 2021 as a critical year in the body politics of Liberia, noting that Liberians will be expecting a lot from their national leaders in terms of performance, accountability,

fight against corruption and bad governance.

Speaking to this paper recently in Monrovia, Senator Wesseh said Liberian politicians, especially national leaders should leave back 'business-as-usual' and put the interest of the people first.

According to him, the year

2021 is the year every national actor has to improve themselves before the Liberian people because by 2022, the citizenry will know exactly who stands for the people's interest or not.

"We are into the year 2021 which is going to be very, very critical. I'm speaking from a political standpoint. But I just want to wish you well. We've gone three years into the Weah - led government and now we have begun the quarter half of the second half of the six years term," he says.

The River Gee Senator suggests that it is in the quarter half for everybody - both in the Legislature and the Executive, therefore leaders have to do something to prove for the people to take them seriously.

In 2023, the entire 73 seats of the House of Representatives, along with 15 of the 30 senate seats, the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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# First Lady inspects project for Army officers Wives

First Lady Clar Marie Weah has praised the ongoing construction of a modern vocational training center for the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) Wives' Association.

The 100- thousand US Dollar-project, initiated by Mrs. Weah is situated at the Edward Binyah Kesselly Barracks in Schieffelin, Margibi County and is 90 percent complete.

Touring the facility

Tuesday, January 5, 2021, Mrs. Weah said seeing the project progress, made her extremely proud.

The Liberian First Lady disclosed that the initiative is part of her flagship program, the She's You Movement, which seeks to promote women and girls empowerment among others.

Mrs. Weah said she was keen on leaving a positive and indelible mark on the hearts of Liberians as First Lady and



First Lady Weah along with ranking army personnel and wives of soldiers pose for a picture at the vocational training center project site.

Mother of the Nation.

According to the First Lady, her assistance was prompted by the women's courage to single-handedly initiate a vocational training program to help fellow women and girls learn various skills to enable them earn a living and support their families.

The Liberian First Lady then challenged the women to make the most out of the facility

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