



...Your wallet is safe

Withdrawals
made easy
and smooth

TipOut whenever you want.

Download Now

Available on  



The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

VOL.10 NO. 242

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

PRICE LD\$40.00

Advertise
Here For
Low Rate



From one first, to another



-Ellen congratulates Kamala Harris

**For as low as 60 USD,
you can own one of these!**

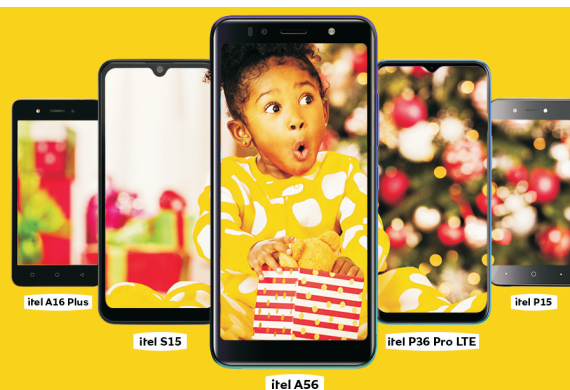
You also enjoy **1GB** free data every month for **6 months!**
Phone prices range between **60USD and above.**

Available at: **itel shop at Broad and Center Streets Intersection.**

everywhere you go

Ts & Cs apply.

Dial *187# to get 1GB free data after purchase.





Continental News

Tunisia youths warned over riots amid Covid curfew

Protesters who broke a coronavirus curfew to continue riots for a fifth night have been warned by Tunisia's prime minister to stop their violence.

More than 600 people, mainly between the ages of 14 and 15, have already been arrested after police clashes. Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi acknowledged their anger about a range of economic and social hardships. "The crisis is real... but we reject chaos and will confront that with the power of the law."

In a televised speech, Mr Mechichi appealed to the protesters to stop the looting and the vandalism: "Your voices are heard, your anger is legitimate, and my role and the government's role is to work on realising your demands." Tunisia faces severe economic problems and a third of its young people are unemployed.

The economic crisis has worsened under the pandemic - and a night-time curfew has been in place since October. The unrest came amid a four-day national lockdown to stem

the spread of Covid-19, which also coincided with the 10th anniversary of the revolution that ousted long-time leader Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, ushered in democracy and triggered the Arab Spring revolts across the region.

The riots have taken place mainly in densely populated and underprivileged areas, where the relationship between young people and the police is historically tense, the BBC's

Rana Jawad reports from the capital, Tunis.

Amnesty International has criticised the police's excessive use of force in dealing with the protests. Bouts of civil unrest in Tunisia are not new, but with each passing year, frustrations deepen over an ever-growing list of everything that appears wrong to Tunisians - from the ailing economy to the lack of

deeper reforms and development.

Restrictive health measures to combat the spread of Covid-19 has also deepened the crisis and heightened frustrations, leaving many here in greater uncertainty over how to make ends meet.

Days of protests in several parts of the country were addressed by the prime minister in a six-minute speech on state TV. He appeared to temper his stern warnings against further chaos by acknowledging the general "legitimate anger" brought on by the economic crisis.

Tunisians have not shied away from expressing their discontent or ills since 2011, but every year seems to end or begin with unfulfilled promises by successive governments to improve the

country's state of affairs or prospects for better livelihoods.

The night-time clashes, which began last Friday, have been followed this week by small day-time gatherings in capital, where activists have called for the release of those arrested. Some there revived chants from the 2011 revolution, calling for regime change.

Many Tunisians have lost faith in their elected politicians given the economic downturn of recent years, our reporter says. Mr Mechichi, who was appointed six months ago, announced a sweeping reshuffle to his cabinet over the weekend, which still needs to be approved by parliament.

In his speech he promised to "put in place an initiative" to allow young people's voices and suggestions to be heard. BBC



Security forces responded with tear gas and water cannon as crowds of mainly young demonstrators gathered

Zimbabwe foreign minister dies from Covid-19

Zimbabwe's Foreign Minister Sibusiso Moyo has died after succumbing to Covid-19, the government says.

Born in 1960, the former army general gained international prominence in 2017, when he announced the military takeover that ousted

long-serving President Robert Mugabe from power.

Zimbabwe has recorded a surge in Covid-19 cases since the festive season.

There have been 28,675 cases and 825 deaths since the virus was detected in the country last March.

More than half of the cases

have been since New Year's Day, Reuters news agency reports. The rise in infections has been blamed on people travelling from South Africa during the festive season.

South Africa has seen a spike in cases after a new fast-spreading variant of the virus was detected in the country in November.

South Africa has recorded the highest number of cases in Africa - more than 1.3 million - and the most deaths - more than 38,000. Mr Moyo is the second senior government figure to die from Covid-19 in Zimbabwe. Retired general and Agriculture Minister Perrick Shiri succumbed to the illness last July.

In neighbouring Malawi, President Lazarus Chakwera has taken personal blame for the recent rise in Covid-19 cases in the country.

There had been a "collective sense of relaxation in adherence to Covid prevention measures among many Malawians including

Tigray crisis: 'Thousands of Eritrean refugees need water'

Thousands of Eritrean refugees living in two camps in Ethiopia's Tigray region are in desperate need for basic supplies, the UN's refugee agency has told the BBC.

Many had fled conscription and political persecution in neighbouring Eritrea but then fighting broke out in Tigray in early November between federal troops and forces loyal to the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF). The UNHCR has regained access to two camps, Mai Aini and Adi Harsush, for Eritrean refugees in Tigray. Infrastructure in the camps was "almost intact; there are no shelters destroyed; the schools are still there... but there are no doctors, or teachers and the water system is not running", the UNHCR's Chris Melzer told the BBC.

He said there were currently around 25,000 Eritrean refugees in the two camps - significantly fewer people than when the conflict started two months ago. Many

myself", he said last week.

Malawi's Local Government Minister Lingson Belekenyama and Transport Minister Muhammad Sidik Mia died from the illness last week.

Mr Moyo died in a local hospital on Wednesday, President Emerson



are believed to have fled the area.

Providing food and clean water are priorities, Mr Melzer said.

"For the past two and half months they have been using water out of a river close to the camps for cooking, washing and drinking which is why diarrhoea is very common there," he said

These two camps are not in places that saw heavy fighting.

Despite repeated pleas, the UNHCR has not been granted access to two other camps, Shimelba and Hitsat, in the northern part of Tigray nearer to the Eritrean border.

Close to 100,000 Eritrean refugees were in the four camps before the conflict. BBC

Mnangagwa's spokesman George Charamba said in a statement.

Mr Mnangagwa described him as a friend and a "true hero".

"He fought his entire life so that Zimbabwe could be free," the president said. BBC



Sibusiso Moyo became foreign minister after ex-President Robert Mugabe was removed from office

EDITORIAL

Govt. should pay poll workers

IT IS SADDEN, disgraceful and very embarrassing that poll workers hired by the National Elections Commission for the December 8, 2020 special senatorial election and national referendum are crying and protesting for stipend owed them over a month since the polls were conducted across the country. We just can't comprehend that the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning would delay in providing money to the NEC to pay stipends such as US\$50, US\$75 or US\$100 to poll workers who served under very strenuous circumstances during the poll.

ON THE EVE of the election in December 2020 we vividly recalled that polling staff across Montserrado County demanded stipend before being deployed. The ugly situation they tried to avoid has now caught up with them: The elections are over but pay cannot come. When will they receive it? Only heaven knows.

NEC CHAIRPERSON DAVIDETTA Browne-Lansanah last week appealed to protesting polling staff to exercise patience as the Commission continues to engage the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to make funds available to complete payment for all poll workers throughout the country.

MADAM BROWNE-LANSANAH SAID Thursday, 14 January the Commission, through its Finance Section is in daily discussion with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to quickly disburse remaining Five Million United States dollars (US\$5 Million) to clear all debts it owns not only poll workers, but vendors who also rendered electoral related services, including car rentals, printing, and the media.

BUT CHAIRPERSON BROWNE-LANSANAH should have known ever since that when she sliced her US\$17 million budget for the 2020 special senatorial elections and the National Referendum by US\$4million, she was already running into trouble such as the one before the doorstep of the Commission, for none of her predecessors had conducted nationwide election on a meager budget of US\$13 million.

WE BELIEVE HER decision to have accepted to operate on such a low budget for the senatorial election, national referendum and two by-elections for the House of Representatives was a very big mistake that she might be difficult, if not impossible, to correct under this administration.

MADAM BROWNE-LANSANAH WOULD face a serious task in convincing both lawmakers at the Capitol and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to have an operational budget above US\$17 million for future election. She brought the bar very low for an important national endeavor that has left the Commission walloping in debts and strangled.

Apart from donor's support, we stand to be corrected, but the Government of Liberia's contribution to the December 8, 2020 senatorial election did not pass US\$5 million. We Liberians, including government always want others to do for us what ought to do for ourselves, as a nation.

THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT is faced with shortage of cash in banks, crucial issue like election should not be taken lightly. It requires adequate planning and funding to make outcomes successful, including payment to polling staff and vendors.

THE MINISTRY OF Finance and Development Planning should exert all efforts in providing money for the National Elections Commission to enable the electoral house meets its financial obligations to vendors, media houses and polling staff for services rendered during the election.

New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission.
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 /
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

By Barry Eichengreen

An Infrastructure Inoculation for America's Recovery

In weighing the options for additional stimulus, President-elect Joe Biden's \$2 trillion infrastructure investment plan has much to recommend it. If accompanied by a new independent commission to ensure that the money isn't wasted on pork-barrel projects, it is a better approach than sending more checks to every household.

BERKELEY - With the Democrats' stunning sweep of Georgia's two Senate run-off elections handing them control of both houses of Congress as of January 20, the idea of \$2,000 stimulus checks for every household is sure to be back on the agenda in the United States. But although targeted relief for the unemployed should unquestionably be a priority, it is not clear that \$2,000 checks for all would in fact help to sustain the US economic recovery.

One post-pandemic scenario is a vigorous demand-driven recovery as people gorge on restaurant meals and other pleasures they've missed for the past year. Many Americans have ample funds to finance a splurge. Personal savings rates soared following the disbursement of \$1,200 checks last spring. Many recipients now expect to save their recent \$600 relief payments, either because they have been spared the worst of the recession or because spending opportunities remain locked down.

So, when it's safe to go out again, the spending floodgates will open, supercharging the recovery. The Fed has already promised to "look through" - that is, to disregard - any temporary inflation resulting from this euphoria.

But we shouldn't dismiss the possibility of an alternative scenario in which consumers instead display continued restraint, causing last year's high savings rates to persist. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, some two-thirds of US households lacked the savings to replace six weeks of take-home pay. Having reminded Americans of the precariousness of their world, the pandemic is precisely the type of searing experience that induces fundamental changes in behavior.

We know that living through a large economic shock, especially in young adulthood, can have an enduring impact on people's beliefs, including beliefs about the prevalence of future shocks. Such changes in outlook are consistent with psychological research showing that people rely on "availability heuristics" - intellectual shortcuts based on recalled experience - when assessing the likelihood of an event. For those parents unable to put food on the table during the pandemic, the experience will establish a heuristic that will be hard to forget.

Moreover, neurological research shows that economic stress, including from large shocks, increases anabolic steroid hormone levels in the blood, which renders individuals more risk-averse. Neuroscientists have also documented that traumatic stress can cause permanent synaptic changes in the brain that further shape attitudes and behavior, in this case plausibly in the direction of greater risk aversion.

Though the pandemic is in some ways more akin to a natural disaster than an economic shock, natural disasters also can affect saving patterns: savings rates tend to be higher in

countries with a greater incidence of earthquakes and hurricanes.

This behavioral response is largest in developing countries, where weak construction standards amplify the impact of such disasters. One study of Indonesia, for example, found large increases in both the perceived risk of a future disaster and risk-averse behavior among people who had recently experienced an earthquake or flood. While the response to natural disasters may be more moderate in advanced economies - where individuals expect that their government will compensate them - some lasting impact will almost certainly remain.

The upshot is that we can't count on a burst of US consumer spending to fuel the recovery once the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines is complete. And if private spending remains subdued, continued support from public spending will be necessary to sustain the recovery.

But putting \$2,000 checks in people's bank accounts won't solve this problem, because unspent money doesn't stimulate demand. With interest rates already near zero, the availability of additional funding won't even encourage investment. Sending out \$2,000 checks to everyone thus would be the fiscal equivalent of pushing on a string.

Fortunately, there is an alternative: President-elect Joe Biden's \$2 trillion infrastructure plan would mean additional jobs and spending, which is what the post-pandemic economy really needs. Better still, under the prevailing low interest rates, this option would stimulate job creation without crowding out private investment.

Although Biden's plan will require more government borrowing, infrastructure spending that has a rate of return of 2% will more than pay for itself when the yield on ten-year US treasury bonds is 1.15%. By raising output, such expenditure reduces rather than increases the burden on future generations. The International Monetary Fund estimates that, under current circumstances, well-targeted infrastructure investment pays for itself in just two years.

Obviously, the "well targeted" part is important. President Donald Trump was right that the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was loaded with pork, not least his own "three-martini lunch" tax deduction for businesses. There's every reason to question whether Congress can do better when crafting an infrastructure bill.

In response to this problem, countries such as New Zealand have established independent commissions to design and monitor infrastructure spending initiatives. If COVID-19 changes everything, then maybe it can change the way the US government organizes infrastructure spending. Creating an independent infrastructure commission with real powers would go a long way toward reassuring the skeptics and insuring the recovery against the risks posed by the pandemic's lingering behavioral effects.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. www.project-syndicate.org

O-PED

By Daron Acemoglu

US Institutions After Trump

It would be a mistake for Americans to take comfort in the fact that their democratic institutions survived four years of attacks by Donald Trump, culminating in the January 6 insurrection at the US Capitol. In fact, most of these institutions have been failing and are in desperate need of repair and reform.

BOSTON - The storming of the US Capitol by Donald Trump's supporters on January 6 may be remembered as a turning point in American history. The insurrection, incited by the president himself, has raised profound questions about the kind of political institutions future generations will inherit.

Two narratives have come to describe this nadir of an already-tumultuous presidential transition in the United States. The first frames the Capitol insurrection as a singular failure of US institutions, which implies that the solution is to clamp down on right-wing extremists, social-media echo chambers, and their mainstream enablers.

But while such measures are long overdue, this narrative fails to capture the extent to which the Capitol attack was a direct result of Trump's presidency, or the economic hardship and social grievances that led to Trump's rise. In addition to leaving the country alarmingly polarized, Trump's single term also fundamentally damaged US institutions, and decimated political norms that a well-functioning democracy needs.

The second prevailing narrative is even wider of the mark. It celebrates those Republicans - like Georgia's Voting Systems Implementation Manager, Gabriel Sterling - who stood up against Trump's falsehoods and attempts to overturn the election. This narrative frames the failure of the MAGA coup as inevitable, owing to the fundamental strength of US institutions. And yet, this mythical institutional resilience has been notably absent for most of the past four years. Even after they themselves were attacked, a majority of congressional Republicans were happy - or at least willing - to go along with a presidential agenda that threatened the future of the Republic.

Likewise, while many have praised the judiciary for maintaining its independence, the courts were only partly effective in stopping Trump's unlawful decrees. The sheer scale of cronyism and corruption - with the Trump family routinely mixing government and private business - has yet to be fully investigated or appreciated. The Republican Party brushed off Trump's attempt to withhold \$400 million in military aid unless Ukraine launched an investigation into Joe Biden and his son.

Republicans were also silent when Trump fired Gordon D. Sondland, his ambassador to the European Union, and Lt. Col. Alexander S. Vindman, following their testimony in the impeachment proceedings. Nor did they speak out against the dismissal of the intelligence community's inspector-general, Michael K. Atkinson. Far from preventing the firing of inspectors-general for doing their jobs, US institutions were approaching a breaking point by the end of Trump's term.

It is unlikely that many US institutions would have survived another four years of Trump, considering that they were not particularly strong to begin with. Before Trump, polarization in Congress had already taken a toll on political effectiveness, and the executive branch had gradually been strengthened vis-à-vis the legislative and judicial branches of government.

To be sure, the framers of the US Constitution wanted a strong federal government. Because they did not fully trust the judgment of their fellow citizens, they institutionalized several non-democratic elements, not least a highly malapportioned voting system (especially for the Senate) and the Electoral College. But these features have become particularly problematic for the current age, because civil society and the ballot box were always going to be the only real defense against a politician like Trump.

It would thus be a colossal mistake to take comfort in US institutions' survival of what Trump wrought on January 6. To leave better institutions to future generations, we must acknowledge their weaknesses and start rebuilding them. This will not be easy. No society has ever devised a foolproof way to overcome deepening political polarization. How does one convince tens of millions of Trump supporters that they have been manipulated and fed lies for years?

One starting point is to address the economic hardships that many (though certainly not all) Trump supporters have experienced. Much more can be done to increase the incomes of workers who do not have a college degree. In addition to higher minimum wages, the US needs a new growth strategy to increase the supply of good jobs for workers at all skill levels. Of course, even with this, concerns within many communities about changing social and cultural dynamics would remain.

Beyond individual policy measures, we need to re-evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of institutions. Some institutions would be difficult to reform even if there were broad agreement on what should be done. Others are easier to fix. Most important, we need better independent monitoring mechanisms. The next Trump-like figure should not be able to fire inspectors-general for doing their jobs, nor should a president's family be able to profit from his or her office.

A greater degree of professionalism in the civil service is also important, and can be achieved in part by limiting the scope of political appointments and dismissals. In the case of expertise-based organizations with a clear mandate (such as the Environmental Protection Agency or NASA), it does not make sense for each new administration to install a contingent of cronies at every level of the hierarchy.

More fundamentally, US federal institutions have a public-trust problem that will need to be addressed through greater transparency. Yes, too much transparency in government deliberations and decision-making can lead politicians and civil servants to pander to voters. Yet the first priority for the federal government today must be to rebuild public trust after decades of growing estrangement. Shedding more light on relationships between corporate lobbies and politicians would be a good place to start.

Last but certainly not least, Electoral College reform must be on the agenda. Although a constitutional amendment seems unlikely in the current political environment, proposals such as the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact could open a path to bipartisan reform, making it harder for the next American populist to ride to power on the support of a disaffected minority of the electorate.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. www.project-syndicate.org

TRIBUTE

Tribute to the Liberian Woman (A response to congratulatory remarks)

By Sara Beysolow Nyanti

I am most thankful first and foremost to God for His grace and mercy upon my life; and I am ever so grateful for the generous feedback, love, and support from all of you since my appointment by the United Nations Secretary General. I am genuinely humbled. Getting to lead the United Nations' operational system (all of the agencies, funds and programmes) in Nepal as the Resident Coordinator at a time of multiple intersected crises is a major responsibility, but it is also a privilege that I do not take for granted. My first international post was a 4-month temporary contract in Nepal; and to return there to lead the entire UN team is uniquely special.

As I accept the overwhelming show of love and support from Liberians at home and abroad, my reflection over the last few days has centered on the strength, resilience, and excellent achievements of Liberian women contributing to making the world a better place at home and abroad.

I firstly celebrate trailblazers like Olubanke King-Aukerele and Thelma Awori who cleared the path and let us know that Liberian women can rise to this level in the United Nations. As I follow their footsteps, others are following mine. Denise Findley is the Country Representative for UNDP in Jamaica, and Nessie Golakai-Gould is the Deputy Country Representative for UNDP in Lesotho. My hope is that they will not only lead individual UN agencies in a country as Joyce Mendscole, Sharon Cooper and I did, but will become heads of the entire UN system in a particular country as I am right now. Maybe one of them will be Liberia's first Secretary General of the UN. Why not? #LiberianWomenStrong.

Other Liberian women are changing the world in various ways outside the UN. For example, two Liberian women won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011---her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Madam LeymahGbowee. Madam Sirleaf made history when she was elected as the first woman head of state in Africa. The Liberian women who stayed in the fields during the war praying and weeping for Liberia are most often forgotten, but they were key to our peace. I honor them today. Her Excellency Jewel Howard Taylor



is Vice President and the first-ever female Vice President in our history. Liberian women are trailblazing in civil society at leadership levels as well. I salute Faith Cooper and Massa Crayton, Country Directors of international NGOs in Liberia. #LiberianWomenStrong.

As diverse as Liberian women are in backgrounds, so we are in skillsets. We are market women, doctors, nurses, farmers, masons, and teachers. Liberian women have changed our society for the better. I want to recognize a few more persons in this non-exhaustive list. I am proud of Dr. FaciaBeysolow, Dr. Kondeh Greaves, Dr. IyabodeBeysolow and many female Liberian doctors, who continue to serve in the medical field in the USA, with some coming home regularly to contribute to the Liberian health system. Drs. Roxanne Browne, Benetta Andrews, Odell Kumeh, Bernice Dahn, MusuDuworko and Elsie Karmbor-Ballah are among a few female Liberian doctors who remained in Liberia, supporting crises including Ebola, and working in a challenging environment to serve our people. Doctors would not be successful without female nurses and other health care professionals who worked with them during Ebola and are now at the forefront of fighting COVID 19. We remember Ms. Cecelia Morris for her service and brilliance in strengthening the nursing profession in Liberia. I salute our women lawyers and their work through the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia. I hail Liberian women in the legislature and, specifically, Madam BotoeKanneh, who recently won the senate race in Gbarpolu County after surviving electoral violence in a race where she was the only woman competing against eight men. NyonbleeKarganga-Lawrence held her own alone in the Senate for years. #LiberianWomenStrong.

In the USA, I celebrate Liberia's Naquita Ricks, who broke into US politics winning a representative seat in the Colorado State Legislature. At home, female entrepreneurs are overlooked, but they are trailblazing and sustaining. For this I salute Yvonne Bright Harding, Patricia Cole Adadevoh and others.

I celebrate feminist activists who continue to elevate the non-negotiable demand for human rights in Liberia and globally by showing the intersectional nature of violence against women and girls, covering economic, political, and social causes and implications. I specifically recognize the work of the Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) and the Liberia Feminist Forum. I hail our female journalists and authors, and highlight the precarious spaces they navigate to bring truth to the people. In this regard, I hail the Female Journalist Association of Liberia and individuals like Maureen Sieh, Eva Flomo, Siatta Scott-Johnson, Korto Reeves and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Statement Honoring Vice President Kamala Harris



From one first to another. Me, the first woman democratically elected to lead an African nation, and you, today, 20 January 2021, the first woman, and woman of color, to serve as Vice President of the United States, I offer my congratulations to you, to your family, to the American people, and to women around the world who will stand tall in your image.

I remember well when we first met. It was on my last visit to Capitol Hill as president of the Republic of Liberia on September 25, 2017. I made this trek, one of many I had made over the 12 years of my presidency, to express my appreciation for the generous and essential support Liberia had received to enable our young nation to recover from decades of war and deprivation.

It has been the U.S. Congress, bipartisan and bicameral, that has stood with the Liberian people. And for this reason, I wanted to say thank you one more time.

New to your office, you were among the distinguished Congressional officials to welcome me, along with Senator Chris Coons (D-DE), Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Congressman Ed Royce (R-CA), and Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY).

You and your colleagues made it clear that Liberia and the United States were bound together by a shared history, shared values, and shared interests, and that these would endure well past any office holder in the United States and Liberia.

At that time, you were a junior Senator from California. A little over three years later, you are now the Vice President of the United States. It has always been my motto that if your dreams

do not scare you, they are not big enough. Just saying Madam Vice President.

President Biden, well done for selecting Kamala as your Vice President, and congratulations on your inauguration as the 46th President of the United States of America.

Mr. President, thank for your commitment to reengage the global community to build a world that stands stronger in the collective, that leaves no person or nation behind. That demands accountability of governments to the governed.

The world looks to the Biden-Harris team as we together face our many challenges and opportunities.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Finance, CSA clear fuss over police retirement

By Winston W. Parley

The Liberian Government through the Ministry of Finance and the Civil Service Agency (CSA) has told members of the 230 retired Liberia National Police (LNP) staff that their names, ages and dates of birth were

government's decision on retiring them.

Ahead of the official retirement program to be held for the retiring LNP staff pending conclusion of some crucial issues, Police Inspector General Col. Patrick T. Sudue along with CSA Director General James Thompson and Finance

the meeting with the retirees, Col. Sudue explains that the process started without the input of the Liberia National Police, saying the LNP administration was seated and presented a list of those due to be retired.

The LNP retirees were made to understand at the meeting Wednesday that 2,149 persons were retired across the government institutions in August 2020 based on information generated from the automated system.

According to Col. Sudue, when the information came about the retirement affecting the police, it was rumored that his administration at the LNP had singled out individuals for retirement.

However, Col. Sudue expresses delight that Mr. Dell Francis Wreh and the CSA Director General James Thompson were able to clarify at the meeting that the list was generated by an automated system in which one does not have to know who is due to be retired.

75 of the 230 retirees from the LNP are police officers,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



generated from an automated system set up during the harmonization process which informed

Ministry's Dell Francis Wreh met with the retirees at LNP Headquarters Wednesday, 20 January.

During an interview following

House summons NPA, APM Terminal and others -over tariff increment

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives has summoned authorities of APM Terminal, National Port Authority and other shipping entities to give reason why they have increased tariff on cargo services.

The House took the decision this week in plenary Tuesday following report by a specialized committee set up to investigate operations of APM Terminal and the role of the Management of the National Port Authority on the alleged tariff increment on cargo services by 90.7%.

During its regular session on Tuesday majority members of the House expressed disappointment over the increment of tariff and the repeated refusal of APM Terminal to live up to agreement signed with the Government of Liberia.

Lofa County Representative district#3

Clarence Massaquoi, who chairs the specialized committee disclosed that in Liberia, APM terminal has 100% ownership right while APM Ghana has 70% share and Ghanaians are awarded three percent with the Government of Ghana has the

opportunity to buy any of the remaining shares.

Rep. Massaquoi said handing total operation of the port to a foreign firm creates economic disadvantage and also has security implications.

Also members of the committee are calling for a review of APM contract and



MCSS remains committed to its priorities

-Superintendent Jacobs

By Lewis S. Teh

Barley few days after President George M. Weah expressed serious disappointment about poor conditions of public schools in Monrovia, the Superintendent of the Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS) Benjamin Jacobs, says he will uphold the dignity of all government-run institutions under the System.

"We the authorities at the MCSS, and all those government-run institutions remain committed to providing quality education to students across this country",

administrators to ensure a conducive learning environment in the county and rest of Liberia.

He says the MCSS, under his able leadership is well on course and supporting government's efforts towards providing safe atmosphere for students across the country, adding that based on needs some times transfers are done. "If you strengthen one school and set it up the way the module is done, than it puts you in a difficult position to do another."

Jacobs explains the MCSS is a consolidated school system that has its own structure of governance, management, and operation that include hiring process and administration,



Superintendent Jacobs vows, and adds, "We pledge our commitment to working with the Government of Liberia to put the education sector on the right path."

Appearing on OK Fm 99.5, early this week, Jacobs said he is deeply concerned about the President's disappointment, and disclosed authorities of the Ministry of Education and the MCSS are putting in serious measures to avoid a reoccurrence of what President Weah saw during a recent tour of several public schools in Montserrado County and its environs.

He says the leadership of the MCSS is working with all principals, including schools

among others, but says in the midst of all challenges the institution will continue to live up to its priorities by providing the enabling environment for students to acquire requisite knowledge.

It may be recalled here that President George Weah rebuked his Minister of Education and the head of the Monrovia Consolidated School System for the filthy and unsanitary conditions of public high schools across Montserrado County and further threatened to dismiss them when he sees it necessary.

The President, during a surprise tour to government-operated schools in Monrovia

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

WWW **Advertize Here!**
Subscribe to our website
 get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

submission of the company's financial statements to ascertain if it has invested

US\$100 million in Liberia as it claims. -Editing by Jonathan

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

GOL attends 45th ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council Meeting

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Amb. Dee - Maxwell SaahKemayah, Sr. along with the Minister of National Defense, Maj. Gen. Daniel Ziankahn on Tuesday, 19 January attended a day long Ministerial Level Meeting of the 45th Session of the

Kemayah lauded the support ECOWAS provided during the Special Senatorial Elections held on 8 December 2020 in Liberia.

"Let me use this time to commend all of the members of ECOWAS for the support rendered the Government and people of Liberia in the just -

President George Manneh Weah, the situation was brought under control.

In furtherance, Minister Kemayah says "we can say that Liberia indeed had very smooth and successful senatorial elections. And in fact we remain very much committed to the tenets of democracy as indicated always by President Weah."

According to him, for the first time in Liberia's history, President Weah, though the ruling party experienced some defeat, he was very quick in accepting the result, realizing that the elections were conducted by the National Elections Commission without any interference whatsoever from the government.

"Our President was very kind - heart in extending congratulations to those members from the opposition and independent candidates who were elected; that was indeed historic," Minister Kemayah says.

On the issue of maritime security, the Liberian Foreign Minister explains that as it relates to the report on maritime security, Liberia will like to encourage other sisterly countries who have not set up their maritime zones to please work in terms of ensuring that such zones are set up.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council (MSC) held virtually at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia.

A press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says while addressing the participants at the opening of the meeting, Minister

ended Special Senatorial Elections on December 8, 2020 to be specific", Foreign Minister mentions.

Ambassador Kemayah indicates that indeed there was an isolated and scudded semblance of violence, but with the able and astute leadership of

Physically challenged community disappointed in in Bong's PMC

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong County

Officials of the Association of Persons Living With Disabilities in Bong County have expressed frustration over the manner in which the renovation of their office was done by the Project Management Committee (PMC) of Bong County, alleging corruption as the focus of their disenchantment.

The Project Management Committee of Bong County on Tuesday, 19 January turned over a US\$10,000 renovated disabled office to officials of the disabled community in Gbarnga.

The PMC took the project from roof level to its current "completed" status which contains no floor tile and

handedly carried on by the PMC.

However, the NewDawn newspaper's Bong County correspondent has gathered that there is absolutely no open competitive bidding process for the project, but the PMC handpicked Wayben Enterprise Incorporation, a construction company from Montserrado County to do the job.

According to the two officials, the cost of the project is high for the level of work done on their office.

"We build this place through our contribution and support from others, we only needed something to complete but out of surprise, the PMC is telling us that they used \$10,000 USD which is far from the reality," Moses Tokpah alleges.



furniture.

Delegates at the 12 November 2018 County Council Sitting in Bong County allotted US\$10,000 to the disable community in the County, a money that was purportedly used for the renovation works.

Following the turnover ceremony on Tuesday, two officials of the association, Arthur Bondo and Moses Tokpah term as unrealistic, the cost attached to the project by the PMC Chair Mr. Stephen Jorquell Mulbah.

Bondo and Tokpah assert that the disable community was ignored and totally left out of the entire renovation process and was single -

"People who are in leadership should stop corrupting the minds of the citizens. How can the PMC Chair lie in such a manner that the entire \$10,000 USD [was used] on the building?" Tokpah ponders.

He calls on the PMC to be factual, saying it needs to tell them the truth instead of allegedly corrupting their minds every time they are asked to do a piece of job.

Meanwhile, the Project Management Committee Chair Stephen J. Mulbah has promised to shortly respond and to also release receipts of materials bought for the project.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Commerce Ministry begins inspection and compliance audit

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) will on Tuesday, January 26, begin nationwide general market inspection from 10 AM to 4:00PM daily.

The nationwide general market inspection, expected to be concluded on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, is being undertaken to remove all unwholesome products from the Liberian market and as well regulate pricing of commodities throughout the country.

According to a press release, the exercise will focus on businesses engaged in fresh and frozen food items, rice, flour, starches, petroleum products and automotive materials.

Other areas of focus include beverages, dairy and second-hand products, electrical, electronics and building materials.

At the same time, the

Division of Industrial Development and Compliance Support at the Ministry will conduct compliance audit along with the Inspectorate Division during the inspection exercise.

The Ministry is therefore calling on the general public and the business community to cooperate, considering the importance of the inspection exercise. -Press Release



Commerce Min. Mawine G. Diggs

**Read the
NewDawn everyday
&
Advertise with us!**

Français

Présidence Biden : quelle place pour l'Afrique ?

L'élection de Joe Biden à la présidence des États-Unis avait suscité des réactions majoritairement positives en Afrique. Mais à quels changements concrets faut-il s'attendre dans la politique américaine ? Pour l'instant, même si le propos reste général, de grandes lignes sont en train de se dessiner.

L'idée centrale pour Joe Biden est de restaurer les liens diplomatiques avec les institutions telles que l'Union africaine et les gouvernements du continent. C'est pour cela qu'il a promis d'organiser un sommet de chefs d'État africains, comme l'avait fait Barack Obama en 2014. Joe Biden veut manifestement tisser des liens directs avec ses homologues, à l'opposé de son prédécesseur qui, en quatre ans de mandat, n'avait

général pour le moment en matière de politique étrangère, la nouvelle administration a tenu très vite à parler d'un engagement « respectueux » à l'égard de l'Afrique. Le terme à lui seul contraste singulièrement avec l'attitude affichée par Donald Trump. « Ce qui est clair, c'est que l'approche de Washington va changer beaucoup et c'est à un changement de ton que l'on assiste pour le moment », estime Jeffrey Hawkins, chercheur à l'Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques (Iris) et ancien ambassadeur américain à Bangui. Il relève que le premier point important du programme du nouveau président tient à la diaspora africaine.

Joe Biden a en effet axé sa vision africaine dans un document de campagne dont le point principal tient à

universités américaines.

L'un des autres points importants développés par le nouveau président concerne les restrictions de visa pour les ressortissants du Nigeria, du Soudan et de la Somalie (trois pays dans le collimateur de l'ex-chef de la Maison Blanche). Joe Biden entend annuler purement et simplement ces mesures.

Le 46e président des États-Unis va diriger une administration qui fait une place importante à la diversité.

Si la numéro 2 du pouvoir, Kamala Harris, est d'origine jamaïcaine, l'Afrique ne sera pas en reste dans cette équipe. L'administration Biden comptera dans ses rangs deux enfants du continent, tous deux d'origine nigériane. Le premier d'entre eux, c'est Wally Adeyemo (39 ans). Ce natif du Nigeria, qui a grandi en Californie du Sud, sera le futur secrétaire adjoint au Trésor. Il fut, dans le passé, le principal conseiller économique de Barack Obama. C'est la première fois qu'un Afro-Américain est nommé à une aussi haute fonction au sein de ce ministère régalién. Autre nomination à retenir : celle d'Osaremen Okolo. Elle a 26 ans. Elle est née de parents nigériens, et sera conseillère dans l'équipe de riposte au Covid-19.

Que Trump déguerpisse... Afro-Américains, Kamala Harris, ça va renforcer les relations...

Investiture de Joe Biden: la population sénégalaise entre attente et désintérêt

Charlotte Idrac

Mais en réalité, ce sont surtout deux autres noms qui doivent retenir l'attention : Linas Thomas Greenfield, tout d'abord. À 69 ans, elle devient ambassadrice à l'ONU. Cette ancienne sous-secrétaire d'État pour l'Afrique fut aussi en poste dans plusieurs capitales africaines et notamment à Monrovia où elle fut ambassadrice entre 2008 et 2012. « Elle devrait, selon Jeffrey Hawkins, redonner un élan nouveau aux opérations humanitaires et de maintien de la paix, d'autant, rappelle-t-il, que Donald Trump, vu sa méfiance vis-à-vis de l'ONU, a cherché à maintes reprises à couper ces budgets. »

Samantha Power est

Grognes sociales : Les travailleurs du Sénat menacent de perturber l'adresse annuelle de Weah



Les membres du personnel du Sénat libérien menacent de manifester massivement pour réclamer des arriérés de salaire. Ces menaces risquent d'entraver le 4e message annuel du président George Manneh Weah au parlement la semaine prochaine.

Le Sénat libérien doit encore 16 mois d'arriérés de salaires en dollars libériens à son personnel, malgré les promesses répétées.

Lundi dernier, les membres du personnel ont rencontré le président par intérim du Sénat, Albert Chie, ainsi que certains membres du Sénat pour exiger le paiement intégral de leurs dus avant le message annuel du président.

En réponse, M. Chie a promis d'inviter les membres du personnel avant la session plénière du Sénat pour en discuter. Mais la session exécutive de mardi n'a rien fait pour arranger les choses, les membres du personnel n'ayant obtenu aucune réponse favorable du Sénat ou du président par intérim Chie. Ainsi ont-ils prévu hier mercredi 20 janvier d'envoyer un dernier message aux autorités.

M. Browne, qui est le porte-parole du groupe, a déclaré que si le Sénat ne se penchait pas sur leurs préoccupations, le président Weah serait empêché lundi prochain de livrer son message annuel à la nation.

Conformément à la Constitution de 1986, le Président doit s'adresser à la nation chaque année et annoncer l'agenda économique du pays pour les 12 mois qui suivent.

Au cours de leur réunion mardi dans la cour du palais de l'Assemblée nationale (The Capitol), l'aumônier général du Sénat, le révérend Michael Holder, a fourni 10 \$ US aux membres du personnel lésés et a promis de travailler en étroite collaboration avec eux et de faire en sorte que leurs préoccupations soient satisfaites conformément à la loi.

En août dernier, la direction du Sénat avait mis en place un comité dirigé par le sénateur du comté de Grand Gedeh, Alphonso Gaye, pour enquêter sur la question. Dans son rapport, M. Gaye avait soupçonné la masse salariale soumise d'être une arnaque.

La commission ad hoc avait constaté une disparité dans la masse salariale et la répartition des salaires des membres du Sénat. Il avait également découvert que le Sénat comptait plus de 800 employés.

Le sénateur Gaye a écrit : « Nous avons également observé des disparités dans la masse salariale où les employés de même statut gagnent plus que leurs collègues des autres départements. La chose la plus frustrante que nous ayons vue, c'est qu'il y a des chefs de cabinet des sénateurs qui gagnent plus d'argent que d'autres chefs de cabinet d'autres sénateurs. C'est quelque chose qui doit être revu.

Mais depuis ce rapport au Sénat, la question des salaires impayés des membres du personnel persiste jusqu'à aujourd'hui.



fait aucun déplacement en Afrique. « Donald Trump s'était signalé par son indifférence et avait tenu des propos particulièrement insultants à l'égard d'un certain nombre de pays africains », souligne l'historien Pap Ndiaye, professeur à Sciences Po Paris et spécialiste des États-Unis. Selon lui, le programme de Joe Biden s'inscrit avant tout « dans la continuité des relations construites par Barack Obama ». Il s'agit en premier lieu « de restaurer des relations normales en réaffirmant les engagements au niveau de la démocratie, du développement économique ou encore des questions sécuritaires ».

La priorité est donc de regagner une confiance perdue. Et même si, côté américain, le propos reste

l'importante communauté africaine installée aux États-Unis. « C'est la première fois que le président s'adresse directement à cette communauté », note Pap Ndiaye, pour qui « il est très significatif qu'un programme présidentiel américain parle spécifiquement à ceux qui sont originaires du continent africain ». « C'est une manière de leur montrer qu'ils sont considérés et respectés », estime Pap Ndiaye.

Dans ce même document de campagne, Joe Biden se soucie en particulier de la jeunesse africaine : il veut revitaliser le programme Yali (« Young African Leaders ») qu'avait créé Barack Obama et qui est resté dans un relatif sommeil ces quatre dernières années. Yali permet à plusieurs centaines de jeunes Africains d'obtenir une bourse et de séjourner dans des

Français

Présidence Biden :

l'autre figure importante pour l'Afrique de l'administration Biden. Cette ex-ambassadrice à l'ONU pilotera l'agence chargée de l'aide au développement (Usaid) dont le rôle sera renforcé. « Là encore, le contraste est saisissant avec la présidence de Trump, note Jeffrey Hawkins, Trump ayant tout fait pour réduire l'aide américaine, l'argent du contribuable devant servir, selon lui, d'abord aux

Américains ».

Dans l'équipe Biden, il y a bien entendu le futur secrétaire d'État Anthony Blinken, fin connaisseur de l'Afrique, lui aussi. Ce diplomate chevronné n'a eu de cesse de critiquer ces dernières années la diplomatie du président sortant. Enfin, la diplomate de carrière Dana L. Banks a, pour sa part, été nommée « Senior director » pour l'Afrique au sein du Conseil de sécurité nationale (NSC).

La CBL rejette les rumeurs sur l'impression d'argent

La Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) a rejeté les rumeurs selon lesquelles l'Assemblée législative aurait refusé l'impression de nouveaux billets de banque.

M. Nyemadi D. Pearson, Sous-gouverneur de la Banque Centrale du Libéria, lors d'un entretien avec les députés de la Chambre des représentants mardi 19 janvier, a déclaré qu'à aucun moment les législateurs n'ont rejeté l'impression de nouveaux billets de banque.

Le responsable de la CBL a expliqué qu'avant que la

ajoutant qu'au bon moment, elle ira à l'Assemblée législative.

La Chambre des représentants a convoqué la Banque centrale du Libéria suite à une communication du représentant du district 16 de Montserrado, Dixon Sebeo, qui a demandé à la Chambre d'inviter la CBL pour faire la lumière sur le statut du secteur monétaire du Libéria, en mettant surtout un accent particulier sur le plan de résolution du problème de liquidité qui a presque paralysé l'économie.

Selon Sebeo, au cours des



banque n'imprime de l'argent, il doit y avoir une proposition écrite à l'Assemblée législative, ajoutant qu'une telle proposition n'a pas encore atteint l'Assemblée législative. Pearson a indiqué en outre que la CBL a envoyé une communication au président pour l'impression des billets de banque,

huit derniers mois, le comité de la Chambre ainsi que d'autres comités spécialisés pendant leur pause, ont eu des rencontres avec la CBL pour comprendre ce qui était arrivé aux dollars libériens sur le marché. Il est important, selon lui, de savoir ce qui est arrivé aux dollars libériens et quel est le plan de dépôt de la CBL.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Barry Eichengreen

USA : plus d'investissements pour une meilleure reprise

BERKELEY - Grâce à leur étonnante double victoire électorale au second tour des élections sénatoriales en Géorgie, les démocrates vont contrôler les deux chambres du Congrès à partir du 20 janvier. Aussi la proposition d'un chèque de relance de 2 000 dollars pour chaque ménage va-t-elle sûrement revenir à l'ordre du jour. Si une aide ciblée de 2000 dollars pour chaque chômeur est incontestablement une priorité, il n'est pas sûr qu'un chèque de 2 000 dollars pour tous favoriserait la reprise économique.

On peut imaginer une reprise post-pandémique vigoureuse tirée par la demande, avec les gens qui se jettent sur les restaurants et les autres plaisirs dont ils ont été privés au cours de l'année écoulée. De nombreux Américains disposent de fonds suffisants pour mener grand train. Le taux d'épargne des particuliers a fait un bond après la distribution de chèques de 1200 dollars par adulte au printemps dernier. Et aujourd'hui, de nombreux bénéficiaires des récents versements de 600 dollars envisagent de les épargner, soit parce qu'ils ont échappé au pire de la récession, soit parce que les possibilités de dépenses restent limitées.

Aussi, lorsqu'il sera possible de sortir à nouveau sans prendre trop de risques, les consommateurs dépenseront-ils peut-être à tours de bras - ce qui stimulera la reprise. La Fed a déjà promis qu'elle fermerait les yeux sur toute inflation temporaire déclenchée par cette euphorie.

Mais il ne faut pas écarter une autre possibilité : les consommateurs vont continuer à faire preuve de restrainte, ce qui maintiendrait le taux d'épargne à un niveau élevé. Avant la crise déclenchée par le COVID-19, environ deux tiers des ménages américains ne disposaient pas de l'épargne nécessaire pour faire face à un mois et demi sans salaire. La pandémie a rappelé aux Américains la précarité de leur monde - précisément le type d'expérience susceptible d'induire des changements de comportement fondamentaux.

Le fait de vivre une crise économique majeure, peut avoir un effet durable sur la manière de pensée (notamment en ce qui concerne les jeunes adultes) et sur l'évaluation des risques de crise pour l'avenir. Ces changements de perspective sont conformes aux études psychologiques qui montrent que les gens s'appuient sur des "heuristiques de disponibilité" (des raccourcis intellectuels basés sur le souvenir d'expérience) pour évaluer la probabilité d'un événement. Pour les parents incapables de mettre de la nourriture sur la table pendant la pandémie, l'expérience établira une heuristique difficile à oublier.

Par ailleurs, des études neurologiques montrent que le stress économique, y compris celui dû aux crises majeures, augmente le taux d'hormones stéroïdiennes anabolisantes dans le sang, ce qui diminue la tendance à la prise de risques. Des chercheurs ont également montré que le stress traumatique peut provoquer des changements synaptiques permanents dans le cerveau, ce qui renforce encore les changements de comportement - ici probablement dans le sens d'une plus grande aversion au risque.

A certains égards, la pandémie tient davantage

d'une catastrophe naturelle que d'une crise économique, or les catastrophes naturelles peuvent également affecter les habitudes d'épargne : on tend à épargner davantage dans les pays où tremblements de terre et ouragans sont fréquents.

Cette réaction est plus marquée dans les pays en développement, où la faiblesse des normes de construction amplifie l'effet des catastrophes naturelles. Ainsi une étude réalisée en Indonésie montre que les personnes en ayant récemment subi une font preuve de davantage d'aversion aux risques qu'une population témoin et s'attendent davantage à en subir une nouvelle. La réaction aux catastrophes naturelles est sans doute plus modérée dans les pays avancés où la population s'attend à une aide de l'Etat - il n'en reste pas moins que les catastrophes naturelles ont des conséquences à long terme sur les comportements.

Autrement dit, aux USA il ne faut pas compter sur une explosion des dépenses de consommation pour alimenter la reprise une fois la population vaccinée. Et si les dépenses privées restent modérées, des dépenses publiques en continue seront nécessaires pour soutenir la reprise.

Distribuer des chèques de 2 000 dollars à tous serait sans grand effet sur l'économie, car l'argent non dépensé ne stimule pas la demande. Les taux d'intérêt étant déjà proches de zéro, ils n'encourageront même pas l'investissement.

Heureusement, il existe une alternative : le plan d'infrastructure de 2 000 milliards de dollars du président élu Joe Biden se traduira par des dépenses, mais aussi des emplois supplémentaires, ce dont l'économie post-pandémique a réellement besoin. Mieux encore, compte tenu des faibles taux d'intérêt en vigueur, cette option stimulerait la création d'emplois sans nuire à l'investissement privé.

Le plan Biden nécessitera davantage d'emprunts publics, néanmoins les dépenses d'infrastructure qui ont un taux de rendement de 2 % seront plus que rentables compte tenu du taux de 1,15 % des bons du Trésor américain à dix ans. En augmentant la production, ces dépenses réduiront sans doute le fardeau des générations futures. Selon le FMI, actuellement des dépenses d'infrastructures bien ciblées s'amortissent en deux ans seulement.

Il est évident que le ciblage des infrastructures est crucial. Le président Donald Trump a eu raison de critiquer la loi CARES (Coronavirus, Aide et Sécurité économique) qui inclut une déduction fiscale en faveur des repas d'affaires - une mesure qu'il avait lui-même voulue. Il y a lieu de se demander si le Congrès ne peut pas faire mieux lorsqu'il élabore un projet de loi sur les infrastructures.

Face à ce problème, des pays comme la Nouvelle-Zélande ont mis en place des commissions indépendantes pour concevoir et contrôler les dépenses d'infrastructure. Si le COVID-19 change tout, peut-être changera-t-il le choix et la gestion des dépenses d'infrastructure aux USA. La création d'une commission indépendante pour les infrastructures dotée de réels pouvoirs rassurerait les sceptiques et protégerait la reprise contre les risques liés aux effets persistants de la pandémie sur les comportements.

Advertise with us!



Republic of Liberia
CIVIL SERVICE AGENCY (CSA)

"Ensuring Merit and Efficiency in the Public Service"



Invitation for the Position of Auditor General of the Republic of Liberia

Background

Established by an Act of the National Legislature in 2014 ("the Act"), the General Auditing Commission (GAC) supports Legislative oversight of the management of public resources. As the independent constitutional external auditor of Liberia, the GAC serves the people of Liberia by conducting quality and timely financial, compliance and performance audits. Headed by the Auditor General of the Republic of Liberia, the GAC is mandated to periodically conduct professional audit of all government ministries and agencies, and reports audit results and recommendations to the Legislature with copies to the President.

According to Section 2.1.5, the Auditor General shall hold office for a term of seven (7) years and shall not be eligible for reappointment. Consequently, given the tenure of the current Auditor General is nearing expiration, the Government of Liberia, in compliance with Part 2, Section 2.1 of the ACT, is recruiting to fill the position of Auditor-General of the Republic of Liberia.

The Duties and Responsibilities of the Auditor General:

- a) The Auditor General shall be the auditor of the public accounts and public funds of the Republic of Liberia. Subject to sub-section (b) below, the Auditor General shall carry out such audits and inquiries as he/she considers necessary of public entities and funds owned or controlled by the Government to enable reporting as required by the General Auditing Commission Act of 2014.
- b) Notwithstanding the generality of sub-section (a) of this Section:
 - (i) the Auditor General shall carry out the annual audit of the Government's annual consolidated financial statements; and
 - (ii) the scope of audits by the Auditor General for the Judicial Branch of Government shall exclude matters relating to court decisions and for the Legislative Branch of Government shall exclude matters relating to the merits of legislation.
- c) The Auditor General shall have the right to determine which audits are to be carried out, to select the type of audit to be carried out, when to carry them out and report the findings.
- d) In the performance of his/her operational duties as set out in sub-section (c) above, the Auditor General shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority.
- e) The Auditor General and the staff of the General Auditing Commission shall carry out audits, but shall not be involved, or seen to be involved, in any manner, in management's responsibilities of the organizations being audited

Qualification for Selection and Appointment

A person shall be appointed as Auditor General only if:

- (i) the person is a Liberian citizen;
- (ii) the person possesses at least one professional certification such as a CPA, CA, or ACCA from a recognized professional accountancy body;
- (iii) the person possesses at least a Bachelor degree in accounting, audit, business, finance or a related field;
- (iv) the person possesses a minimum of fifteen (15) years of relevant work experience, including an understanding of the role of a Supreme Audit Institution; and
- (v) the person is of a high moral character, with integrity and impartiality, and who has neither been convicted of any criminal offence nor judgement or been declared bankrupt, in any jurisdiction.

SUBMISSION OF INTENT

To be considered for inclusion in the recruitment process, please submit your CV, Cover Letter, and all relevant Credentials to:

In Person Delivery: Civil Service Agency (CSA)
Ministerial Complex, Congo Town
Monrovia, Liberia

Via Email: agapplication@csa.gov.lr

Deadline for Application:

Friday, February 12, 2021 @ 4 0'Clock P.M. (GMT)

Tribute to the Liberian Woman

Cont'd from page 4

Helene Cooper. Liberian women are doing the unusual as well. I hail Wiahdee Cathleen Hearst, a professional bodybuilder, who has gone from trying to live healthy after giving her aunt a kidney to winning first place in national female bodybuilding competitions. I celebrate Jugbe Theresa Headen - a little Kru girl from Rocktown (Ashmun Street Snapper Hill) who is now on American television creating art with food.

Our potential is enormous, and we must work together to challenge and remove the systemic hurdles that keep us down. Liberian women are known for taking it higher and doing it better. What am I saying? I am saying thanks for recognizing me, but I am not alone. Many women laid the foundation for women like me to stand on; and I stand with all my sisters and mothers with whom together, we will continue to build the formidable Liberian woman's image. Whether you are a legislator or teacher or one of the young girls who just aced the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) like Blessing Jalieba, Alicia Wright, and Lela Wahpoe, Liberia should be proud of all of you, and stopping men from raping and destroying you.

You do not have to be recognized by the Secretary-General for us to know that you are a strong, determined, and achieving Liberian woman. I recognize and honor you today. I dedicate this honor to all the hard-working Liberian women across generations from both of my grandmothers who were widowed very early and raised their children alone, to Frances Hayes (Monki), my mother, who worked multiple jobs to support her children. Thanks to Big Ma, Martha Myers, and the many Liberian Big Mas who supported not only her children, but many others of no relation to her. I salute the woman frying kala for her children to go to school.

Thank you to Liberian men like my husband Stephen JoeboeNyanti, who stand by strong women and support them without ego or inferiority complex. For Liberian women to be all that we can be, we need for men to accept our God given space and cheer us on while we take it. Strong men support strong women!

Thanks to Winston E. Beysolow, my late Daddy who always said that I am an enigma and can do anything. He supported me in taking risks. Thanks to my family, the Beysolows, Hayes', Maximores and Newberrys, and the Liberia Baptist Missionary & Educational Convention (LBMEC), Zion Grove Baptist Church, Redeemed Christian Church of God, and Congress church families around the world. To my children and grandchildren, thanks for loving and supporting me. Thanks to all my siblings, aunts and uncles and cousin/siblings who support me. I thank all the men and women of God (my prayer partners) who stood with me in the hundreds and hundreds of days of fasting and praying that I have been doing through the years, especially when I faced Yemen. Thanks to Tanajah Nation (College of West Africa Class of '84), my Cuttington University friends, old friends, and new ones gained over the last few days. Thanks to my community change agents in Montserrado, Cape Mount and Margibi, the Social Movement for Change. Thanks to all of you for such an honor, but thanks most of all to you the strong, brilliant, beautiful and talented Liberian woman no matter where you are. #LiberianWomenStrong.

Death Announcement



This is to announce the death of Mrs. Joyce S. Noah. This sad event occurred at the St. Joseph Catholic Hospital after a brief illness.

The body has been deposited at the St. Moses Funeral Parlours. Funeral Service will be held at the St. Anthony Catholic Church in Gardnersville on January 30, 2021 and burial along the Roberts Field Highway.

She leaves to mourn several children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Mr. Andrew S. Noah, Mrs. Juliana Tantu Noah Johnson, Mrs. Margaret Noah Wessi. This announcement was brought in by Mr. Andrew S. Noah and Mrs. Juliana Tantu Noah Johnson on behalf of the family.

From one first, to another

Liberia's first and Africa's first female President, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has sent a message of congratulations to her sorority sister, Vice President Kamala Harris, the first woman, the first Black woman, and the first woman of Asian descent to serve as Vice President of the United States of America.

Kamala Harris was inaugurated into office on Wednesday January 20, along with President Joseph R. Biden. Weeks before her inauguration, she declared

President's ascension as a victory for women around the world.

"I offer my congratulations to you, to your family, to the American people, and to women around the world who will stand tall in your image, she said.

Mrs. Sirleaf recalled how she first met Kamala during her last visit on Capitol Hill as Liberia's president on September 25, 2017.

"New to your office, you were among the distinguished Congressional officials to welcome me, along with

A little over three years later, you are now the Vice President of the United States. It has always been my motto that if your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough. Just saying Madam Vice President, Mrs. Sirleaf explained.

The former Liberian President also thanked U.S President Biden, for selecting Kamala as his Vice President, while congratulating him on his inauguration as the 46th President of the United States of America.



that she stood on the shoulders of generations of women who had paved her path.

Mrs. Sirleaf, being a role model and inspiration to women around the world, was the first woman democratically elected to lead an African.

In her message to Kamala, her sorority sister, Mrs. Sirleaf whose Amujay Foundation is focused on women empowerment around the world sees the newly inaugurated U.S. Vice

Senator Chris Coons (D-DE), Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Congressman Ed Royce (R-CA), and Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY).

You and your colleagues made it clear that Liberia and the United States were bound together by a shared history, shared values, and shared interests, and that these would endure well past any office holder in the United States and Liberia.

At that time, you were a junior Senator from California.

"Mr. President, thank for your commitment to reengage the global community to build a world that stands stronger in the collective that leaves no person or nation behind. That demands accountability of governments to the governed.

The world looks to the Biden-Harris team as we together face our many challenges and opportunities," she concluded.

A Compromise

Starts from back page

million, threatening to protest if the senate failed to pay the amount.

Pro-Tempore Chie promised to meet with the workers next Wednesday to conclude on the stage of payment and how it will be executed.

Earlier, aggrieved staffers had threatened to protest on the day of President George Weah's Annual Message, which would have caused serious embarrassment for the first

branch of government.

Prior to the dialogue between the two parties, the spokesman of the aggrieved workers Charles Brown besieged the government's assigned motorcade of Pro-Tempore Chie on the grounds of the Capitol.

Spokesperson Charles Brown and two colleagues were seen lying under the motorcade of Pro-Tempore Albert T. Chie and vehicles of other senators.

- Editing by Jonathan Browne

Finance, CSA clear

Cont'd from page 6

and the rest are civilian staff.

According to Col. Sudue, the Finance and CSA team informed the retirees that during the harmonization process, the government put in place a regulation that made each of the employees, including those now being retired, to present their National Identification Card.

It was from the National ID Cards that Col. Sudue says the team from the Ministry of Finance and the Civil Service Agency generated the dates of birth, age and whatsoever that they used to single out those who are being placed on the roster for retirement.

"So they got that understanding and it was very clear to them because a lot of them were fussing with the administration, thinking that we singled them out for retirement," he narrates further.

The police chief says he is very happy that the retirement was not done on a selective basis, noting that the

Liberia National Police has a policy that before retirement, those that are to be retired should be informed six months ahead of time.

Col. Sudue says instead of the 230 LNP staff being retired in August, they were given letters to be retired in January 2021 based on the police administration's intervention with the team from Finance and the CSA.

"And because we were not in the know so that didn't happen. So immediately what we did was we started giving out letters for those who will be retired for January. They received their letters I think months back," he details.

Col. Sudue states that the LNP is trying to put in place a corrective measure, adding that the Ministry of Finance was not aware of the police's regulation initially.

He concludes that it has now been informed that retiring police without prior notice will be in breach of the LNP's regulation.

MCSS remains committed

Cont'd from page 6

and its suburbs, was shocked and in disbelief when he saw students attending classes in poor sanitary and impoverished environment. Some areas he visited had filthy bathrooms, leaky roofs, and unconducive classrooms.

"I am very disappointed in school authorities. I am so shocked to see students learning in such a poor state without the authorities doing anything about it. The education authorities are wrong to allow students to

attend class in such a poor condition.

They are wrong and, these issues are something that they should have taken care of. I wonder we can think about our own children seeing these things," President Weah said regrettably.

President Weah immediately ordered the Minister of Finance to purchase 1,000 arm chairs for public schools, saying it was unacceptable for students to sit on the floor in class. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Cont'd from page 7

According to Foreign Minister Kemayah, the countries concerned should not only set up their maritime zone but they need to work toward operationalizing such a maritime zone.

"We say that owing to our concern as it relates to the increase in piracy in particular

GOL attends 45th ECOWAS

the Gulf of Guinea, we think when the maritime zone is fully set up, it will go a long way in enhancing the security situation in the sub-region," says Minister Kemayah.

Presiding over the meeting, Mrs. Shirley AyokorBotchwey, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of the

Republic of Ghana and Chair of ECOWAS Council of Ministers, urges the Ministers and Representatives of Member States to conduct a thorough consideration of the recommendations from the Mediation and Security Council (MSC) at the Ambassadorial level and the various memoranda brought forward for approval.

She says the MSC would continue to focus attention on implementing the ECOWAS Action Plan Against Terrorism while redoubling the collective efforts in honoring the financial obligations made towards the implementation of the 2020-2024 Priority Action Plan to combat extremism in West Africa. *-- Press release*



**The NewDawn Newspaper
is on the Newsstand Daily.**

**Grab a copy of today's edition
or visit: <https://thenewdawnliberia.com/>**

A Compromise at Capitol Building



The leadership of the Liberian Senate headed by Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie and aggrieved staffers have reached a compromise that the 16 months salary arrears owed staffers will be duly paid thru three installments.

They reached the agreement Wednesday, January 20, following a

protracted meeting in the William Richard Tolbert Joint Chambers of the Liberian Legislature, where both aggrieved workers and Senate leadership debated, argued and later arrived at the terms of payment.

The leadership was represented by Pro-Tempore Chie, Senators Milton Teahjay of Sinoe County; NyonbleeKarnge Lawrence, Grand Bassa County;

Prince Moya of Bong County; Emmanuel James Nuquay of Margibi and Saah Joseph of Montserrado County, respectively. The aggrieved workers were represented by spokesman Charles Brown.

They have been demanding 16 months' arrears, which according to them have accumulated to over LRD1

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

For as low as 60 USD, you can own one of these!

You also enjoy **1GB** free data every month for **6 months!**
Phone prices range between **60USD and above.**

Available at: **itel shop at Broad and Center Streets Intersection.**

Features:
- 3G or 4G
- Fullscreen
- Powerful Battery
- Quality front and back cameras
- Fingerprint/Face Unlock

price range
\$60
and above
PLUS
1GB data
free every month for 6 months



Dial *187# to get 1GB free data after purchase.

everywhere you go
Ts & Cs apply.



Pogba fires Man Utd back to Premier League summit

Paul Pogba produced a moment of magic as Manchester United came from behind to beat Fulham 2-1 and reclaim the Premier League lead on Wednesday, ending Manchester City's short stay at the top.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's in-form team started the match third in the table after 24 hours of chopping and changing at the summit of the English top flight.

But United -- unbeaten on the road in league games for a year -- had to repeat their

regular party trick this season of recovering from a deficit.

Ademola Lookman punished the visitors for an untidy start before Edinson Cavani pulled them level with a poacher's goal from close range.

Pogba -- back in the starting line-up in recent weeks after a spell on the periphery of Solskjaer's team -- put United in front with a stunning left-foot curling effort from just outside the area in the second half.

The Premier League race is shaping up to be a thriller, with just eight points separating



United from seventh-placed West Ham and a number of teams hitting their stride at the same time.

United knew they had to respond after City beat Aston Villa 2-0 earlier on Wednesday to leapfrog Leicester, who topped the table after their 2-0 win against Chelsea the previous evening.

But the defensive discipline shown by the Red Devils in their goalless draw against Liverpool on Sunday was absent in the early minutes and they paid the price.

The NewDawn Press

2 colors Heidelberg printing machines



We Offer The Following Printing Services:

- Newspapers, Magazines
- Flyers, Posters, Calendars
- Brochures, Letterhead
- Receipts, Invoices
- Souvenirs, Gifts
- Designs, etc...