

TIP ME

...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

Advertize Here For Low Rate

VOL.11 NO. 006

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 01, 2021

PRICE LD\$40.00



Pres. George M. Weah

# Pres. Weah predicts economic growth

*-Highlights Agriculture as key*

# Rivercess goes for another recount



Commissioner Boakai A. Dukuly reads the BOC'S Ruling Ordering Recount in 104 PP Rivercess county.

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

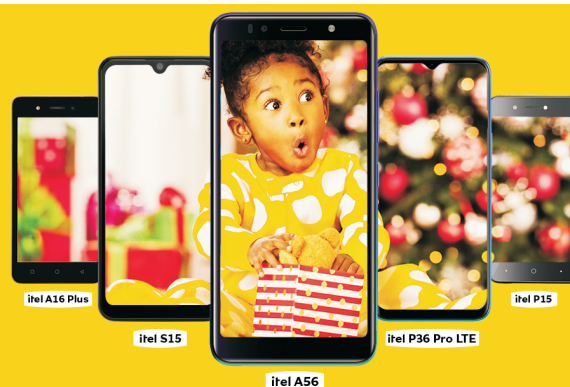
You also enjoy 1GB free data every month for 6 months! Phone prices range between 60USD and above.

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

everywhere you go

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

Ts & Cs apply.





# Continental News

## 'Genocide' in Ethiopia region - ex-Tigray leader

**E**thiopian and Eritrean forces have waged a "devastating and genocidal war" in Ethiopia's Tigray region, the region's ousted leader has said.

Debretsion Gebremichael urged the international community to investigate the alleged atrocities.

The Ethiopian government said his claims were "unfounded", and his forces were guilty of "horrendous crimes".

Conflict broke out in November after Mr Debretsion's forces captured Ethiopian government military bases in Tigray.

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy responded by ordering a ground and air offensive, which led to his troops capturing the regional capital, Mekelle, on 28 November

Mr Debretsion fled the capital with fighters from his Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), and vowed to resist federal control over the region. The conflict has led to about two million people, or a third of Tigray's population, being displaced. This was the first time in more than two months that Mr Debretsion

had spoken in public. An audio recording of his comments, lasting for about 20 minutes, was broadcast on a Facebook account run by a TPLF media outlet.

"A devastating and genocidal war was waged against the people of Tigray because they firmly fought for their right to self-determination and they held a democratic election. The invasion and massacre has

continued. So does the struggle of the people of Tigray," he said.

Mr Debretsion also alleged widespread incidents of murder, rape, torture and starvation.

It is unclear when the recording was made but he mentioned the killings of other TPLF leaders, which suggested it was recent. Mr Debretsion is wanted by the

government on charges of treason. The authorities in Ethiopia announced earlier this month that several senior TPLF members, including Ethiopia's former Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin, had been killed in the conflict.

Mr Debretsion said the TPLF had suffered setbacks because "four governments" were fighting against it in Tigray. "Abiy Ahmed invited forces, including the Eritrean army, and they are massacring the people of Tigray. The atrocities should be investigated and all legal actions should be taken against the invading forces," he said. The Eritrean and Ethiopian governments have previously denied that Eritrean troops are involved in

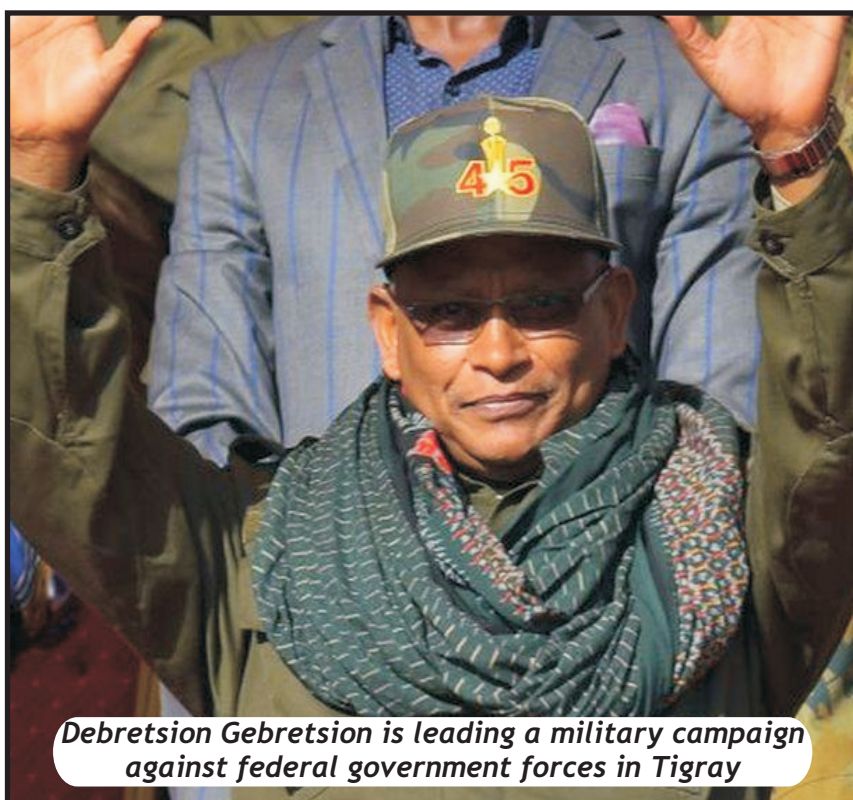
the conflict.

But the US state department said last week that Eritrean troops were in Tigray, and they should immediately withdraw.

"Credible reports" had emerged of their involvement in human rights abuses, including sexual violence and looting, the state department said.

Mr Debretsion did not name the other countries allegedly involved in the conflict. Somalia has previously denied that its troops have been fighting alongside Ethiopian forces in Tigray.

The TPLF had also previously alleged that drones from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were being used to strike at its forces, but Ethiopia denied that the Gulf state was involved in the conflict. BBC



Debretsion Gebretsion is leading a military campaign against federal government forces in Tigray

## Situation in CAR's encircled capital 'apocalyptic'

**T**he situation in the Central African Republic's (CAR) capital of Bangui is "apocalyptic" as rebels encircle the city, a former prime minister says.

Martin Ziguélé said there was daily fighting across the

country and that he couldn't leave Bangui without an armed escort. The UN says more than 200,000 people have fled their homes since the conflict erupted last month.

Rebel forces now control two-thirds of the country.

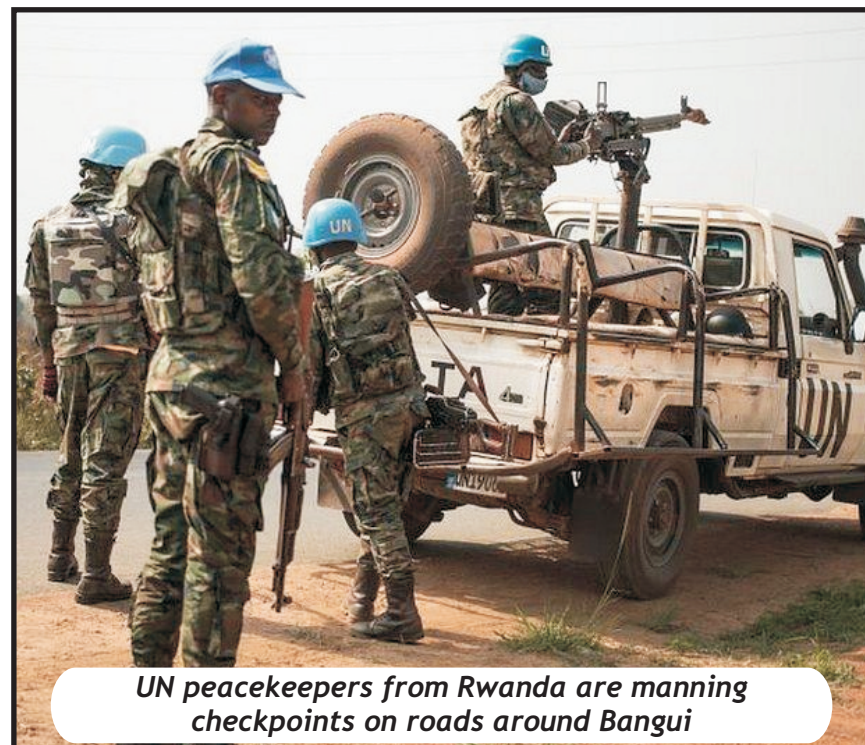
The CAR is one of Africa's

poorest and most unstable countries, even though it is rich in resources such as diamonds and uranium. The UN estimates that about half the population is dependent on humanitarian aid. Rebel forces now surrounding Bangui dispute the validity of President Faustin Archange Touadéra's re-election in December and want to see him ousted.

The city is being defended by government forces backed by UN, Russian and Rwandan troops. A state of emergency was declared earlier this month. Mr Ziguélé, who came third in the poll, said everyone's focus was on keeping the main supply route between Bangui and eastern Cameroon open.

"I cannot leave Bangui... without a heavily armed army escort," he told Reuters news agency by phone.

"Imagine, then, the population. Add the curfew and the state of emergency - it is really an apocalyptic situation," he added. Mr Ziguélé welcomed a UN request for more



UN peacekeepers from Rwanda are manning checkpoints on roads around Bangui

## 'Millions spent on illegal spy ops for Zuma'



Mr Zuma recently refused to co-operate with the inquiry - a move ruled unlawful by South Africa's top court

**S**outh Africa's spy agency has been accused of spending hundreds of millions of dollars on illegal undercover operations to protect former President Jacob Zuma from corruption investigations.

The allegations, made by whistle-blowers at a corruption inquiry, include attempts to influence judges and newspapers. The allegations are staggering.

Two whistle-blowers, and other witnesses, have given

details of a systematic plot to turn South Africa's state security agency into something almost like a private army for former President Zuma.

During his decade in power, Mr Zuma faced - and still faces - multiple allegations of corruption.

But a judge-led inquiry is now revealing the extent to which, it is alleged, Mr Zuma used state institutions to protect himself during his presidency. BBC

peacekeeping troops but said talks between all parties were urgently needed.

"A military surge is not the only solution to tackle the security, humanitarian and economic crisis that is threatening to put one of the world's least developed countries into a complete coma," he said.

At least 12,000 peacekeepers are already on the ground in the CAR.

The UN refugee agency

(UNHCR) said about 92,000 refugees had fled to the Democratic Republic of Congo and more than 13,000 had crossed into Cameroon, Chad and the Republic of Congo. It said the rest were displaced within the CAR. Speaking in Geneva, a spokesman for the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, told reporters that rebel attacks had hampered humanitarian access to Bangui and that many people were now facing "dire conditions". BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Nwabudike must go

**IF THE NIGERIAN-BORN** fraudster Cllr. A. Ndubuisi who sits at the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission as chairperson after faking his Liberian citizenship thinks members of the Liberian Senate are on a floor show over his removal, he should rethink. Nwabudike should be told in no uncertain terms that he has no time in his favor and the only option is to quite immediately.

**IT IS HIGHLY** incomprehensible and disgraceful that the Weah administration would continue to keep a foreigner like Cllr. Nwabudike as head of the LACC, a position that is statutorily reserved exclusively for Liberian citizens. And President George Weah is fully aware but has adamantly kept a blind eye on the matter.

**LAST WEEK, SENATORS** on Capitol Hill debated why the Executive still keeps Cllr. Nwabudike at the LACC after he lied under oath about his Liberian citizenship despite his rejection by the senate during confirmation hearing from heading the National Elections Commission following nomination by the President.

**RUMORS HAVE BEEN** circulating in Monrovia that the Nigerian fraudster who used fake Liberian naturalization document and enrolled at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia as a Liberia citizen where he graduated from with a Law degree is expected to resign this week.

**THE SENATE IS** resolved in making sure that Nwabudike, who carries Liberian Passports with inconsistencies in his date of birth, does not continue to occupy such an important integrity institution like the LACC when his entire life is shrouded in cheat and dishonesty.

**SENATOR CONMANY WESSEH** of River Gee County during session last week noted that Cllr. Nwabudike managed his way criminally through all sectors of the Liberian government including the judiciary, executive and legislative branches and later duped the Liberia National Bar Association into being inducted as a member.

**BUT THE LNBA** has since expelled Nwabudike from its membership after his ugly deeds were uncovered and brought to the public. And so with both the Bar and the Senate having no confidence in this foreign con-artist, it makes no sense in keeping him in the Liberian government because he does not serve the interest of the Liberian people.

**WITH THE POWER** invested in the Liberian Senate as direct representatives of the Liberian people, we urge that august body to ensure Nwabudike is prevented from presiding over Liberian taxpayers' money at the LACC or from conducting any transaction on behalf of the Republic of Liberia, as a Nigerian.

**THE SENATE SHOULD** not rest until this is achieved. It is in the interest of the Liberian people and the state to ensure this foreign fraudster, who has criminally invaded our system, is booted out and prosecuted in accordance with the laws of Liberia.

**The New Dawn**  
FULLY 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 Gail Whiteman

## The Arctic on the Frontlines

*It is comforting to imagine the Arctic as a snowy faraway place, populated by reindeer and polar bears. In fact, it is a cornerstone of the climate system that keeps our weather stable, our communities habitable, and our economies prosperous - and it is under immense pressure.*

**L**ANCASTER, UK - Climate scientists have known for years that the Arctic is warming far faster than anywhere else on the planet. But even those of us who follow the Arctic closely were shocked by the changes that occurred in 2020, a year of broken records, retreating glaciers, and shattering ice sheets. The alarm bells are ringing louder than ever: we must urgently and drastically reduce our greenhouse-gas emissions.

Last year, temperatures in the Arctic Circle reached their highest-ever recorded levels. A heat wave in Arctic Siberia brought temperatures of 38°C (100°F) - 18°C higher than the average maximum daily temperature in past years. Meanwhile, fierce Arctic wildfires released a record-breaking level of carbon dioxide and set a new pollution record for the region.

With the heat turned up, the Arctic landscape has been changing fast. For the first time since records began, sea ice in the Arctic's Eurasian sector had not yet begun freezing in October. The previous month, an ice sheet the size of Paris broke off from Greenland's largest glacier shelf, and in July, Canada's intact ice shelf - 4,000 years old - fragmented. As Arctic ice melts, sea levels rise, threatening countries worldwide.

Over the last year, scientists have also spotted worrying signs of future climate breakdown. As higher temperatures cause Arctic plants to grow taller, permafrost is thawing faster - a process that releases enormous amounts of carbon dioxide and methane (a far more potent greenhouse gas than CO<sub>2</sub>), accelerating the temperature rise. Last year, a 164-foot-deep crater or "funnel," one of many reported in recent years, was found in northern Siberia after an underground pocket of methane, formed by melting permafrost, burst through the tundra.

The consequences of climate collapse in the Arctic are wide-ranging. A fuel tank cracked open in the Russian Arctic after settling into softened permafrost, releasing about 150,000 barrels of diesel into a river. A Human Rights Watch report found that climate-related changes in animal migration patterns are making it harder for indigenous communities in Canada to find food or traverse previously frozen bodies of water. And coastal villages can be devastated when fish species migrate to escape warming waters.

These stories might seem distant, even

abstract, to most readers. But this will not remain true for long. If the events of 2020 have shown us anything, it is that what happens in the Arctic does not stay there. On the contrary, rising Arctic temperatures threaten to trigger a devastating domino effect that ends in global catastrophe.

The jet stream is propelled by the contrast between the planet's frozen poles and its hot equator. As that contrast is diminished, the jet stream slows and even stagnates. Scientists believe this change in the jet stream is behind a number of deadly weather events, including wildfires in California and Siberia, extreme winter storms in the Eastern United States, and record-high temperatures in the Mojave Desert.

The second way Arctic warming affects the rest of the world is by disrupting the polar vortex, a low-pressure weather system that sits above each pole and keeps cold air there. As the Arctic warms, the cold air contained in the polar vortex is thought to be displaced and moved to the south, leading to extreme and unusual cold weather in faraway places. This winter, Italy, Japan, and Spain experienced extreme snowfall.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, "build back better" has become something of a mantra. Measures to preserve the Arctic must be at the center of this effort. To aid in this process, Arctic Basecamp, which I founded, will be developing an open-access Arctic Risk platform this year, to highlight early warning signs of emerging risks caused by changes in the Arctic ecosystem.

Fortunately, a growing number of decision-makers seem to recognize the Arctic's critical importance. The World Economic Forum's recently released "Global Risks Report 2021" ranked extreme weather, weak climate action, and human-induced environmental damage among the most likely - and highest-impact - risks we face over the next decade. During the WEF's Davos Agenda week, I led a high-level panel aimed at accelerating progress toward protecting this critical region.

It is comforting to imagine the Arctic as a snowy faraway place, populated by reindeer and polar bears. In fact, it is a cornerstone of the climate system that keeps our weather stable, our communities habitable, and our economies prosperous. And it is under immense pressure. Relieving that pressure - especially by ending all mining for oil and gas - is a prerequisite for a more sustainable and equitable world.

# OPINION

By Elizabeth Drew

## Joe Biden's Surprises

*Notwithstanding a few head-scratchers among his cabinet and staffing picks, Joe Biden is being hailed as a paragon of conventionality after years of chaos and discord. But given his initial momentum out of the gate, Biden is already on track to effect radical change - and his team is actually competent enough to do it.*

WASHINGTON, DC - Joe Biden knows enough about the US presidency to understand that the first few weeks are the easiest and most pleasant. There inevitably will be setbacks and crises, particularly for a president who took office amidst a raging pandemic, economic collapse, and a climate crisis near to a tipping point.

In the early weeks a new president can accomplish a lot through executive orders, reversing previous administration policies and signaling a commitment to certain values without interference from Congress. Biden can use the powers of his office unilaterally to push his first priority: controlling the pandemic.

The new president also has a pretty free hand in naming his cabinet. When he first announced his choices to fill many top advisory and cabinet positions, many observers worried that Biden was turning to yesterday's names to handle today's most demanding jobs. Biden is gambling on experience as his key to success.

In any case, the Biden team's hyper-emphasis on cabinet diversity has sometimes made it seem that it was more important to be able to say that a nominee was "the first" of something, rather than that he or she was the best for the job. Nonetheless, Biden selected a competent cabinet overall; only after the usual shaking-out period will we really know which picks succeed.

The nomination of US Federal Appeals Court judge Merrick Garland to be attorney general seemed at first to be primarily an "up-yours" to Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell, who refused even to allow hearings for Garland when Barack Obama tapped him to fill a Supreme Court vacancy. To those who know Garland, however, he is an excellent choice: brilliant, calm, and fair - just the person to restore integrity and morale to a Justice Department battered by Donald Trump.

Similarly, Biden's chief-of-staff, Ron Klain, is almost as experienced as his boss, having served as chief-of-staff to Biden during his vice presidency and to Vice President Al Gore before that. This comfortable working relationship has helped Biden not put a foot wrong thus far.

The historical truth is that fresh faces in the Oval Office might be exciting, but they come with risks. Within three months of taking office, the relatively inexperienced John F. Kennedy, widely adored for his looks, charm, and eloquence, landed up in the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

George W. Bush, the son of a president and two-term governor of Texas, was probably the most experienced of recent incoming White House occupants. Nonetheless, he presided over two avoidable calamities early on: the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 (numerous warnings and clues went unheeded), and the invasion of Iraq (which, like Lyndon Johnson's Vietnam War, was based publicly on a lie).

Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, both former southern governors, were smart men with limited Washington experience. They, too, stumbled early on. And Obama had served for only three years in the US Senate before being elected; he neither enjoyed dealing with Congress nor had much of a feel for it.

Biden's relationship with Obama and his legacy are more complicated than appearances suggest. Whereas Obama frustrated many Capitol Hill Democrats with his innate caution and readiness to compromise with Republicans (liberal Democrats referred to him privately as "Mr. 50-yard line"), Biden deliberately describes his own proposals as "bold." His immigration proposals contradict Obama's policy of pursuing substantial deportations of illegal immigrants. The message seems to be that Biden will no longer dwell in Obama's shadow.

After serving four decades in the Senate before becoming vice president, Biden has a feel for Congress unmatched since Johnson. Still, it won't be long before we know if all of his talk about working with the Republicans is based on nostalgic naivete or is a clever way of setting up Republicans for obloquy if they try to obstruct his proposals.

And obstruction seems likely. McConnell may have seen eventually that Trump's denial of losing the election wasn't doing the Republican party any good, but that doesn't mean he's become a less fierce partisan.

Biden is also playing a sophisticated game with his party's left. He managed to form a government without giving jobs to Senators Elizabeth Warren or Bernie Sanders, both of whom sought to join his cabinet. Sanders's followers even threatened Biden if he didn't give the Vermont senator the job he wanted. Biden has explained his actions away by noting - conveniently but not unreasonably - that the Democrats' margins in Congress are too slim to risk a single open seat, although he did select three House members from relatively safe Democratic districts for top jobs.

Sanders didn't take long before carping at Biden's policy proposals. But that's part of the show. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and her "squad" could also keep up pressure from the left, while Joe Manchin of West Virginia, a state which went heavily for Trump in 2020, poses a problem from Biden's right. In a 50-50 Senate, with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking any tie, every vote counts. Still, Biden has adopted much of the left's agenda, and will try to sell these policies from the center, his political home.

One sign of this change is that, unlike all recent Democratic administrations, Biden's hasn't paid obeisance to Wall Street by giving bankers top jobs. The new Secretary of the Treasury, Janet Yellen, is a former Federal Reserve chair and academic who has made it clear that she understands the country's pressing social needs. Moreover, Biden consulted Warren on her economic views, and has named a former Warren adviser as Yellen's deputy. Yellen's appointment demonstrates that Biden shares the insight that enabled Trump's rise: that too many Americans feel that they cannot get a fair shake.



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:

- 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.
- Notwithstanding the generality of sub-section (a) of this Section:
  - the Auditor General shall carry out the annual audit of the Government's annual consolidated financial statements; and
  - 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:

- the person is a Liberian citizen;
- the person possesses at least one professional certification such as a CPA, CA, or ACCA from a recognized professional accountancy body;
- the person possesses at least a Bachelor degree in accounting, audit, business, finance or a related field;
- 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
- 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](mailto:agapplication@csa.gov.lr)

### Deadline for Application:

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



REPUBLIC LIBERIA  
THE FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
P. O. BOX 3010  
Whein Town, Mount Barclay  
Monrovia, Liberia

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) as an Implementing Agency received financial support from African Development Bank (AfDB) **under the Fund for Africa Private Sector Assistance (FAPA)** to promote the private sector by scaling up the participation of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) in the secondary wood processing industry to promote inclusive green growth, employment and economic diversification in the Republic of Liberia.

The FDA-AfDB-FAPA Project through its contractor institution Booker Washington Institute (B.W.I) is conducting capacity building training in line with the Six (6) Modules for selected carpenters and furniture makers in the three zones of Montserrado county for Seven (7) weeks at BWI and also, the other contractor institution ,Forestry Training Institute (F.T.I) is carrying out training on log and timber scaling and chainsaw milling operations in tree identification and timber scaling techniques. The ongoing training are in line with the Two (2) modules training conducted by Forestry Training Institute (F.T.I) and Six (6) Modules training conducted by Booker Washington Institute (B.W.I) at the Corina hotel in Monrovia in December 2020.

Carpenters and Furniture Makers in and around Monrovia are participating in the ongoing training after which the next stage of training and proposed foreign training would commence.

**The Cooperation of all members of the Liberia Carpenters, and woodworks association as well as Carpenter and Furniture Union Members selected for training are highly appreciated.**

**Fund for Africa Private Sector Assistance (FAPA) Project**  
*Project Coordinator*  
*Forestry Development Authority*  
*Whein Town, Bernard Farm*



REPUBLIC LIBERIA  
THE FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
P. O. BOX 3010  
Whein Town, Mount Barclay  
Monrovia, Liberia

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) as an Implementing Agency received financial support from African Development Bank (AfDB) **under the Fund for Africa Private Sector Assistance (FAPA)** to promote the private sector by scaling up the participation of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) in the secondary wood processing industry to promote inclusive green growth, employment and economic diversification in the Republic of Liberia.

The FDA-AfDB-FAPA Project through its contractor institution Booker Washington Institute (B.W.I) is conducting capacity building training in line with the Six (6) Modules for selected carpenters and furniture makers in the three zones of Montserrado county for Seven (7) weeks at BWI and also, the other contractor institution ,Forestry Training Institute (F.T.I) is carrying out training on log and timber scaling and chainsaw milling operations in tree identification and timber scaling techniques. The ongoing training are in line with the Two (2) modules training conducted by Forestry Training Institute (F.T.I) and Six (6) Modules training conducted by Booker Washington Institute (B.W.I) at the Corina hotel in Monrovia in December 2020.

Carpenters and Furniture Makers in and around Monrovia are participating in the ongoing training after which the next stage of training and proposed foreign training would commence.

**The Cooperation of all members of the Liberia Carpenters, and woodworks association as well as Carpenter and Furniture Union Members selected for training are highly appreciated.**

**Fund for Africa Private Sector Assistance (FAPA) Project**  
*Project Coordinator*  
*Forestry Development Authority*  
*Whein Town, Bernard Farm*

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Senate probes NPA and GTMS contract

**By Ethel A Tweh**  
**M**ontserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon has written the plenary of the Liberian Senate to probe the contract between the Management of the National Port Authority and the Global Tracking and Maritime Solutions (GTMS/CTN).  
 In his communication to

mandate of GTMS and to obtain a copy of the contract signed with the Government of Liberia, but to no avail.

He noted that there is a growing outcry among Liberian businesses about the additional financial burden and other challenges of doing business at the Freeport of Monrovia since the NPA contracted the GTMS.

He said the government

"From our understanding, no country in the world has both GTMS/CTN and pre-destination inspection. Liberia is the only country out of 195 countries to have both systems in place, which hinders trade." Dillon lamented.

The Montserrado County Senator added that real time container tracking is a free service already offered by all shipping lines, saying that any additional financial cost in this direction would be burdensome on the business community and it would run contrary to the interest of the people under the national program, the Pro Poor Agenda.

He also said that coupled with information that the award process of GTMS/CTN in Liberia did not go through the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) compliance and consultation processes. He said the Government of Liberia should decide which system should operate in the Liberian commerce, Pre-shipment Inspection or GTMS/CTN.

Dillon says that with the existing contract between the Government of Liberia and the BIVAC there should be no pre condition of obtaining GTMS/CTN numbers before loading of containers whilst using the Destination Inspection process. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

already has an active contract with BIVAC that is providing some of the very services GTMS/CTN has been contracted to provide, however imposing additional financial burden, terming the current climate as unnecessary and unfriendly in doing business at the Free Port of Monrovia.



plenary on Thursday, January 28, 2021, Sen. Dillon said since hearing about the application of the new system by GTMS, the business community has communicated with and engaged the Management of the National Port Authority to get clarification on the

# Senate to cancel financing agreements

**T**he chambers of the Liberian Senate has received bill from Grand Bassa County Senator NyonbleeKargna Lawrence seeking for the cancellation of both the EBOMAF and Eton financing agreement.

A communication proffered before the plenary of the senate, Thursday January 28, the Grand Bassa County lawmaker requested the body to cancel the Loan Financing Agreement between Eton Finance PTE Ltd and the Liberian government and the Loan Financing Agreement between EBOMAF SA and the government to avoid future embarrassment to the Country and future Government.

According to her, it is about time for the Senate to swiftly act and cancel them. But if the Body dose not takes the immediate action by cancelling these two agreements, they stand to be legal and binding on Liberia.

In her communication to

the Senate, she argued that On May 7, 1028, the President of the Republic of Liberia submitted to the Legislature for ratification a Loan Financing Agreement between the Eton Finance PTE Ld and the Republic of Liberia in the amount of Five Hundred Thirty-Six Million Four Hundred Thousand United

States Dollars ( US\$ 536,400.00) for the Financing of the Coastal Corridor Connection of County Capitals Road Project, the construction of vocational training center, and the construction of mini-soccer

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10**



# Women protest

*Starts from back page*

that she had with Deng De Bos on Messenger, including her nude pictures that were posted on the internet.

Though the sources didn't explain what exactly might have caused the victim to send her nude pictures to suspect Bardio, they said the nude pictures seen on social media have shocked the victim, as her situation has been widely discussed in the County, prompting them as family among the angry women to seek speedy trial, maintain that they won't rest until justice prevails in the matter.

"We as women, we can't sit and see our colleague going through this life time stigma and worry", they said.

"If justice can't be served then we as women of Maryland County will take the law into our own hands because the suspect is a child, and he was born by a woman, so he needs not to treat a woman in such manner", they stressed.

However, the protesters called on the Minister of Gender, Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, and First Lady Clar Weah to prevail on the Ministry of Justice to ensure

justice is served.

For his part, Mr. Alex Nelson, Administrative Assistant of the Tubman University College of Management and Administration said those in the habit of posting nude pictures of females on Facebook should stop or be prepared to face court action.

"We shouldn't be wicked to women because they are our mothers, wives, daughters and sisters; how do people feel if they sent nude pictures of women on social media?" Mr. Nelson asked.

Meanwhile, Police in Harper have charged suspect Raymond P.K. Bardio, Jr on multiple counts and placed him behind bars, pending trial for allegedly sharing nude pictures of a female on social media.

Similarly a nude video of a well known Rev. and Bishop has taken over social media without knowing the doer of the act.

While women in the county are demanding speedy trial in the case involving one of their colleagues, the Ministers of Full Gospel Churches in Maryland County are in prayers with the bishop in question. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# Speaker Chambers

*Starts from back page*

Senatorial Election.

Rep. Massaquoi lost to Cllr. Koffa 45 to 21 votes. But Koon argues that the action of Speaker Chambers will not go unpunished as their bloc awaits the speaker for the unwarranted sin against the opposition.

He also claims Speaker Chambers has failed to reconstitute statutory and standing committees of the House of Representatives which totally contravenes rules of the lower house at the Capitol.

According to the House's rules and order, the speaker, who is the presiding officer of the House of Representatives, shall reconstitute statutory and standing committees after every three years for professional and technical performance purposes.

Koon intimates that Chambers has failed to reconstitute those committees, adding that

opposition lawmakers are watching with eagle eyes, for the reconstitution exercise.

He argues that some lawmakers, are currently on strategic committees are performing poorly and that the CPP will not allow Speaker Chambers to reappoint them, warning that failure to do so, he (Chambers) should expect unspecified political consequences that could be a total embarrassment to his speakership post.

Meanwhile, Rep. Koon reveals his office has trained five professional nurses for the government hospital in that part of the county.

Making presentation to his people, he says during the period under review, he sent five professional nurses for further training and they are back and serving the community, while a public high school in Dixville Township is currently under construction. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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

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

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# First Lady's Office Rubbishes Debbah's Claims

The Office of the First Lady has condemned as baseless and reckless, a statement by former Liberian soccer star James Salinsa Debbah's on his social media post which claims that the First Lady, Mrs. Clar Marie Weah, gets more

towards personnel salaries and projects targeting the needy which she supervises.

"It must be noted that under her non-governmental humanitarian activities which she implements through the Clar Hope Foundation, the First Lady initiatives touch the lives of many young women,

packages of food rations for over two years to the elderly under the elderly feeding program; Livelihood support as part of covid-19 response, targeting several communities in the hardest hit counties, Montserrado and Margibi among other humanitarian outreach initiatives.

The statement continued that "while the First Lady



Flashback: First Lady Weah along with Grand Bassa County Authorities breaking grounds for the construction of the Oldfolks Home in Buchanan

budgetary allocations than the Monrovia Consolidated Schools System, (MCSS).

According to the First Lady's office, Debbah failed to substantiate his claims with the figures of the exact amount as he claimed were allotted to Mrs. Weah.

Mrs. Clar office has asked Debbah to desist from such unsubstantiated claims if he does not have the proof.

Mrs. Clar office, however, urged the public not to be misled but remain assured of the First Lady's commitment to continue to improve the lives of underprivileged Liberians in support of the government's Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.

The First lady's office noted that budgetary allotments to her office is properly legislated, goes

the elderly and youths in general," the statement added.

Mrs. Weah's office list some of her projects and initiatives as the full rehabilitation and refurbishing of many orphanages and schools in several counties; Regular food and non-food supplies to over 30 orphanages in Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Bomi among others; The construction of a modern home and full renovation of two residents of extremely poor elderly and disabled persons in Montserrado County; Scholarships for several young ladies including in various universities, elementary and high schools and the ongoing construction of a modern vocational training center for army wives.

Others are support to the National Female Soccer Team; Provision of nearly 80,000

remains appreciative of the limited resources made available to her office, it remains clear such amounts are inadequate, considering the huge humanitarian needs in the country.

Hence, out of her passion and affection for Liberians, Mrs. Weah established her own initiative, the Clar Hope Foundation, as a non-political and non-for profit organization aimed at enabling an equitable society in Liberia where women and children are educated, healthy and fully empowered to lead independent lives."

The Foundation, Mrs. Weah's office opined that it is funded exclusively by private individuals and organizations including Liberians who believe in the First Lady's work.

# Liberia ranks 137 in Corruption Index

**-CENTAL**  
By Lewis S. Teh

Barley a week after President George M. Weah delivered his Annual Message before the 54th Legislature, Liberia has sunk to 137th place among countries that are poorly fighting corruption globally, according to the 2020 Corruption Perception Index or CPI report.

Releasing the report in a news conference on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at the head office of the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) in Monrovia, Executive Director Mr. Anderson Miamen said since 1995, the Corruption Perception Index has been scoring and ranking countries based on how corrupt their public sectors are perceived.

Mr. Miamen said experts and business executives put the CPI range from 0 to 100, where 0 equals the highest level of perceived public sector corruption and 100 equals lowest level of perceived public sector

fallen thirteen (13) points since 2012, adding that since the country attained her highest score of 41 in 2012, it has failed to perform any better. Instead, the country has fostered a culture of corruption and bad governance, significantly undermining earlier gains made.

"It must be noted that Liberia's improved performance in 2012 was mainly due to passage of key laws and establishment of public integrity institutions", Mr. Miamen said but noted, the country has since failed to make these institutions and laws work, as the laws are not enforced/respected and public integrity institutions are not fully supported (morally and financially) to satisfactorily deliver.

He detailed that the CPI draws upon 13 data sources, which captured the assessment of experts and business executives on a number of corrupt behaviors in the public sector, including: bribery, diversion of public funds and supplies, use of public office for private gain, and nepotism in the civil service.



corruption. A total of 180 countries across the world were targeted in 2020, as in 2019.

Giving reports on Liberia's performance, he said disappointingly, Liberia's score remains constant at 28 from 2019, having dropped four points down from 32 in 2018, noting that the country now ranks 137/180 and remains further down the table, joining the list of countries significantly declining on the CPI since 2012 except Saint Lucia that has dropped fifteen (15) points worldwide.

He said only Liberia has

Miamen narrated that some of the sources also looked at frameworks, and mechanisms available to prevent and address corruption in a country, such as: the government's ability to enforce integrity mechanisms; independence of anti-graft institutions, the effective prosecution of corrupt officials; conflict of interest prevention; access to information; freedom of speech and the media, and legal protection for whistle blowers, witnesses, journalists, and investigators.

At the same time giving

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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

# Français

## Frontière guinéo-libérienne : le cri de cœur des transporteurs routiers

Dans le sud-est de la Guinée, les transporteurs don't les remorques sont bloquées à Baala, localité frontalière située à moins de 5 kilomètres de Ganta, deuxième ville du Libéria, se disent excédés par la fermeture des frontières décidée par les autorités guinéennes, a-t-on appris sur place.

De la ligne rouge marquée par le pont situé entre la Guinée et le Libéria, jusqu'à la douane, règne un silence de cimetière.

Des éléments des forces de défense et de sécurité postés le long des débarcadères pour filtrer les passages des quelques rares personnes autorisées à franchir la frontière. Au niveau de la douane des gros camions, des remorques, sont alignés.

Au-delà des contrôles douaniers, les transports évoquent des difficultés. Pour Morissara Kossia, transporteur effectuant des rotations entre le Libéria et N'Zérékoré, "les difficultés rencontrées en ce moment sont énormes. Mais ce qui nous fatigue le plus, c'est le nombre limité des passagers



qui nous est imposé. Il est prévu qu'un véhicule ait un chauffeur, deux apprentis et un convoyeur. Chose qui retarde généralement le débarquement. Ensuite quand le véhicule tombe en panne, on perd beaucoup de temps. Le plus dur c'est quand tu finis de déclarer tes bagages à la douane et que tu devrais payer de l'argent. Et si tu n'as pas tout

l'argent au complet, tu risques de garer ton camion", regrette-t-il.

Même son de cloche chez Amara Soumaoro et Sékou Camara, tous chauffeurs. Ceux-ci tout comme les populations vivant le long de la frontière déplorent la fermeture des frontières.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Voici les pays les plus corrompus en Afrique en 2021, selon Transparency

Le continent africain ne présente qu'une note de 32/100 contre 66/100 pour l'Europe. L'ONG Transparency International vient de publier son Indice de perception de la corruption en 2020. Ce baromètre, établi sur la base d'une enquête auprès des dirigeants et des citoyens de tous bords dans 180 pays dans le monde, laisse ressortir un continent africain encore miné par ce fléau.

Classement des pays africains dans l'IPC 2020 de Transparency International				
Rang Afrique	Pays	Score	Rang mondial	Places perdues ou gagnées /2019
1	Seychelles	66	27	---
2	Botswana	60	35	-1
3	Cap-Vert	58	41	---
4	Rwanda	54	49	2
5	Maurice	53	52	4
6	Namibie	51	57	-1
7	Sao Tomé-et-Principe	47	63	1
8	Sénégal	45	67	-1
9	Afrique du Sud	44	69	1
10	Tunisie	44	69	5
11	Ghana	43	75	5
12	Bénin	41	83	-3
13	Lesotho	41	83	2
14	Burkina Faso	40	86	-1
15	Maroc	40	86	-6
16	Ethiopie	38	94	2
17	Tanzanie	38	94	2
18	Gambie	37	102	-6
19	Algérie	36	104	2
20	Côte d'Ivoire	36	104	2
21	Egypte	33	117	-11
22	Eswatini	33	117	-4
23	Sierra Leone	33	117	2
24	Zambie	33	117	-4
25	Niger	32	123	-3
26	Kenya	31	124	13
27	Gabon	30	129	-6
28	Malawi	30	129	-6
29	Mali	30	129	1
30	Mauritanie	29	134	3
31	Togo	29	134	-4
32	Guinée	28	137	-7
33	Liberia	28	137	---
34	Angola	27	142	4
35	Djibouti	27	142	-16
36	Ouganda	27	142	-5
37	Centrafrique	26	146	7
38	Cameroun	25	149	4
39	Madagascar	25	149	9
40	Mozambique	25	149	-3
41	Nigeria	25	149	-3
42	Zimbabwe	24	157	1
43	Tchad	21	160	2
44	Comores	21	160	-7
45	Erythrée	21	160	---
46	Burundi	19	165	---
47	Congo	19	165	---
48	Guinée Bissau	19	165	3
49	RDC	18	170	-2
50	Lybie	17	173	-5
51	Guinée équatoriale	16	174	-1
52	Soudan	16	174	-1
53	Somalie	12	179	1
54	Soudan du Sud	12	179	---

## Côte d'Ivoire: Affi N'Guessan serait-il en harmonie avec le gouvernement au pouvoir

Sorti récemment de prison après plusieurs semaines déjà, Affi N'Guessan semble de plus en plus proche du pouvoir actuel en place. Pour preuve, il a été dernièrement l'émissaire du Président de la République

SEM Alassane Ouattara aux obsèques de l'ancien Président Ghanéen John Jerry Raylings.

L'opposition ivoirienne composée de plusieurs partis politiques don't le Fpi pro-Gbagbo n'a pas du tout apprécié le fait que Affi N'Guessan s'associe à certains

membres du gouvernement pour conduire une délégation ivoirienne au Ghana.

Ainsi, elle soupçonne le Président du Fpi, Affi de rouler désormais pour le président Alassane Ouattara, ce qui est considéré comme une grande trahison par une partie de l'opposition ivoirienne, surtout le FPI version GOR( Gbagbo ou rien ).

Rappelons que le Président du Fpi Monsieur Pascal Affi N'Guessan était le principal chef de file de l'opposition qui avait décidé de boycotter les dernières élections présidentielles à cause de la candidature du Président Alassane Ouattara qu'elle qualifiait d'illégal et donc inacceptable.

L'opposition ivoirienne qui a donc boudé ces présidentielles avait finalement décidé de mettre

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Triste constat: "Avec une moyenne de 32 et très peu d'amélioration par rapport aux années précédentes, l'Afrique subsaharienne est la région la moins bien classée sur l'IPC, ce qui souligne la nécessité d'une action urgente", selon Transparency International qui vient de publier son indice annuel.

En effet, l'IPC aboutit pour chaque pays à une note de 100, correspondant à l'absence totale de corruption perçue, à une note de 0, signifiant l'extrême dans la pratique de corruption. Or, si la moyenne des 54 pays du continent n'est que de 32 points/100, celle de l'Europe est de 66, celle des Amériques (nord et sud) est de 49 et celle de l'Asie Pacifique est de 45. Même la région de l'Europe de l'Est et de l'Asie centrale, connue pour être gangrenée par la corruption, devance d'une courte tête l'Afrique avec une moyenne de 34.

Si le continent affiche cette moyenne aussi faible, c'est qu'il y a trop de cancrs dans la classe. Entre la Somalie, le Sud Soudan, deux pays qui n'ont que 12 points, le Soudan (16), la Guinée équatoriale (16), la Libye (17), il est difficile d'améliorer l'image de l'Afrique. Surtout que seuls 15 pays africains au total ont réussi à être classés avant le médian mondial, à savoir l'Equateur 92e dans le classement global.

Parmi les mauvais élèves africains, il y a encore de grands pays du continent comme l'Algérie (36 points et 104e mondial) exaeqco avec la Côte d'Ivoire. L'Egypte, l'Eswatini, la Zambie font légèrement moins bien avec seulement 33 points.





# Français

## Frontière guinéo-libérienne :

Tous appellent les autorités à leur réouverture, afin de leur permettre de reprendre leurs activités à la normale.

Les douaniers, très méfiants, disent être dans l'obligation de respecter strictement la décision du gouvernement.

## Côte d'Ivoire: Affi N'Guessan

en place un Conseil National de Transition (CNT) quelques jours plus tard après le scrutin, parce qu'elle considère qu'il n'y a pas eu d'élections en Côte d'Ivoire et par conséquent, l'urgence serait de mettre en place un Conseil National de Transition qui sera conduit par le président Henri Konan Bédié.

Mais cette manœuvre a été un véritable échec vu que ces élections ont été validées par la plupart des missions d'observation présentes sur le terrain. Monsieur Pascal Affi N'Guessan, alors porte-parole de cette opposition déchaînée contre le régime du président Alassane Ouattara, en a subi la plus lourde conséquence, il a été arrêté et gardé dans un endroit tenu secret pendant plusieurs semaines avant d'être libéré tout récemment et placé sous contrôle judiciaire.

Ce supposé rapprochement du Président du Fpi Affi N'Guessan est donc vu par certains partis politiques de l'opposition comme une manière d'être désormais du côté du

pouvoir.

En tout cas, cette situation est devenue le principal sujet d'actualité ivoirienne et suscite diverses interprétations. Pour certains, cela est tout à fait normal qu'un ancien premier ministre comme Monsieur Pascal Affi N'Guessan se rende aux obsèques d'un ancien président dont le pays est voisin à la Côte d'Ivoire.

D'autres par contre, reprochent à Affi N'Guessan de n'être pas un homme de parole en sens qu'il a participé à la désobéissance civile pendant la période électorale précédente en tant que le principal leader, ce qui a occasionné de nombreux dégâts matériels et humains à Abidjan et à l'intérieur du pays.

En tout état de cause, il convient de noter que ce rapprochement du Président du Fpi, Monsieur Pascal Affi N'Guessan au régime ivoirien actuel, pourrait contribuer à baisser les tensions liées à la crise sociopolitique précédente et favoriser par ricochet le processus de réconciliation nationale déjà engagé.

## Litiges frontaliers : Conakry et Freetwon d'accord pour mettre en place un cadre de concertations

A Conakry, une délégation Sierra Léonaise et le ministre des Affaires étrangères de la Guinée ont convenu d'un cadre de concertations pour résoudre leurs préoccupations dans les plus brefs délais. Ces préoccupations sont notamment la fermeture unilatérale de la frontière guinéo-sierra léonaise par Conakry depuis septembre 2020 et le conflit frontalier à Yenga.

« Les deux parties ont réaffirmé leur engagement en faveur du renforcement des relations bilatérales entre les deux pays et souligner en outre l'importance de la libre circulation des personnes et des biens comme essentiel au développement de nos deux Etats », indique les deux parties dans une déclaration commune lue par le ministre guinéen des Affaires

Etrangères, Dr Ibrahima Kalil Kaba.

Il y a semaine, lors de la 58ème session ordinaire du sommet des Chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement de la CEDEAO, le Président sierra-léonais, Julius Maada Bio s'est plaint de la fermeture unilatérale de la frontière par la Guinée (il s'agit de l'une des deux frontières de la Sierra Leone) et a demandé à l'organisation intergouvernementale de se pencher sur le vieux conflit frontalier à Yenga.

A la suite de ce sommet, Maada Bio a dépêché à Conakry une délégation qui a été conduite par le diplomate et président de l'Assemblée nationale sierra-léonaise, Abass Bundu. A Conakry, la délégation sierra-léonaise a séjourné du 27 au 28 janvier et a discuté avec des représentants guinéens de la réouverture de la frontière entre les deux pays et de la

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Gail Whiteman

## L'Arctique en première ligne

LANCASTER, Royaume-Uni - Les climatologues savent depuis des années que l'Arctique connaît un réchauffement bien plus rapide par rapport à toutes les autres zones de la planète. Mais même ceux d'entre nous qui suivent de près l'actualité de l'Arctique ont été choqués par les changements qui se sont produits en 2020, une année de records battus, de fonte des glaciers et de destruction des calottes glaciaires. La situation n'a jamais été aussi alarmante : nous devons réduire de toute urgence et de manière drastique nos émissions de gaz à effet de serre.

L'année dernière, les températures dans le cercle Arctique ont atteint leurs niveaux les plus élevés jamais enregistrés. Une vague de chaleur en Sibérie Arctique a produit des températures de 38°C - soit de 18°C supérieures à la température quotidienne maximale moyenne de ces dernières années. Au cours de cette même période, des incendies de forêt en Arctique ont produit un niveau record de dioxyde de carbone et ont établi un nouveau record de pollution dans la région.

Suite à un dégagement de chaleur aussi important, le paysage de l'Arctique évolue rapidement. Pour la première fois depuis le début des records, la banquise dans le secteur eurasiatique de l'Arctique n'avait pas encore commencé à geler en octobre. Le mois précédent, une calotte glaciaire de la taille de Paris s'est détachée du plus grand plateau glaciaire du Groenland, et en juillet, la plateforme glaciaire intacte du Canada - 4 000 ans - s'est fragmentée. Alors que la glace de l'Arctique fond, le niveau des mers augmente et menace les pays du monde entier.

Au cours de l'année écoulée, les scientifiques ont également constaté des signes inquiétants de la dégradation du climat qui nous attend. Comme les températures plus élevées font augmenter la taille des plantes arctiques, le permafrost dégèle plus rapidement : un processus qui libère d'énormes quantités de dioxyde de carbone et de méthane (un gaz à effet de serre bien plus puissant que le CO2), accélérant ainsi la hausse des températures. L'année dernière, un cratère ou « entonnoir » de 50 mètres de profondeur, l'un des nombreux cas signalés ces dernières années, a été trouvé dans le Nord de la Sibérie après qu'une poche souterraine de méthane, formée par la fonte du permafrost, a explosé dans la toundra.

Les conséquences de l'effondrement climatique dans l'Arctique sont considérables. Un réservoir de carburant s'est échoué dans l'Arctique russe après s'être enfoncé dans du permafrost ramolli, libérant environ 150 000 barils de diesel dans une rivière. Un rapport de Human Rights Watch a révélé que les changements climatiques dans les modes de migration des animaux rendent plus difficile pour les communautés autochtones du Canada de trouver de la nourriture ou de traverser des plans d'eau qui étaient gelés jusqu'à présent. En outre, les villages côtiers peuvent être dévastés lorsque des espèces de poissons migrent pour échapper au réchauffement des eaux.

Ces récits peuvent paraître lointains, voire

abstraits, aux oreilles de la plupart des lecteurs. Mais cela ne va pas durer bien longtemps. Si les événements de 2020 nous ont appris une chose, c'est que ce qui se passe dans l'Arctique a des conséquences pour nous tous. Par exemple, la hausse des températures dans l'Arctique menace de déclencher un effet domino dévastateur qui va se terminer par une catastrophe mondiale.

Ce jet-stream, ou courant d'altitude, est propulsé par le contraste entre les pôles gelés de la planète et son équateur chaud. À mesure que ce contraste diminue, le jet-stream ralentit, voire même stagne. Les scientifiques croient que ce changement dans le jet-stream est à l'origine d'un certain nombre d'événements météorologiques mortels, notamment les incendies de forêt en Californie et en Sibérie, les tempêtes hivernales extrêmes dans l'Est des États-Unis et les températures records dans le désert de Mojave.

Deuxièmement, le réchauffement de l'Arctique affecte le reste du monde en perturbant le tourbillon circumpolaire, un système météorologique à basse pression situé au-dessus de chaque pôle et qui y maintient de l'air froid. À mesure que l'Arctique se réchauffe, l'air froid contenu dans le tourbillon circumpolaire est censé se déplacer et s'avancer vers le Sud, ce qui conduit à un temps froid extrême et inhabituel dans des endroits lointains. Cet hiver, l'Italie, le Japon et l'Espagne ont connu des chutes de neige extrêmes.

Pendant la pandémie de COVID-19, « mieux reconstruire » est devenu une sorte de cri de ralliement. Les mesures visant à préserver l'Arctique doivent être au centre de cet effort. Pour faciliter ce processus, Arctic Basecamp, le groupe que j'ai fondé, va développer cette année une plateforme de risque Arctique en libre accès, afin de mettre en évidence les signes précurseurs des risques émergents causés par les changements dans l'écosystème Arctique.

Heureusement, un nombre croissant de décideurs semblent reconnaître l'importance cruciale de l'Arctique. Le « Rapport sur les risques mondiaux 2021 », publié récemment par le Forum économique mondial, a classé les conditions météorologiques extrêmes, la faible action climatique et les dommages environnementaux causés par l'homme parmi les risques les plus probables - et les plus importants - auxquels nous serons confrontés au cours de la prochaine décennie. Au cours de la semaine de l'Agenda de Davos au Forum économique mondial, j'ai dirigé un groupe de haut niveau visant à accélérer les progrès en matière de protection de cette zone critique.

Il est réconfortant de s'imaginer l'Arctique sous la forme d'un lieu lointain et enneigé, peuplé de rennes et d'ours polaires. En fait, c'est la pierre angulaire du système climatique qui maintient nos conditions météorologiques dans un état stationnaire, qui rend nos collectivités habitables et nos économies prospères. Et cette zone subit en ce moment une pression colossale. Relâcher cette pression - en particulier en mettant fin à toutes les extractions de pétrole et de gaz - est une condition préalable à un monde plus durable et plus équitable.

# RPI trains eye technicians

A non-governmental organization under the banner Refugee Place International (RPI) has concluded an eye care training program for 20 Good Vision Technicians (GVTs).

RPI aims to address access to quality affordable health care that impacts maternal and infant mortality among poor urban and rural dwellers in Liberia.

The 20 new GVTs were recruited by RPI Clinic as community health workers (CHW) in Chicken Soup Factory Community, Gardnersville Township and have since been working with that health facility.

Speaking at program marking closure of the first training cycle, the Program Manager of the National Eye Health Program at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Joseph L. Kerkula, lauded RPI for

cardinal health issue.

“There is a need for motivation and equitable deployment. This is key, if we must promote eye health. It has been realized that nearly all of the eye health technicians are just right within Montserrado, specifically, Monrovia too. We must make a change,” he added.

Also speaking at the occasion via mobile conversation, the Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of RPI, Dr. Mosoka P. Fallah, said the vision is to screen 30,000 persons during the course of 2021.

“Eye problem is a serious issue and we want to tackle this mainly. Some of these minor eye problems need to be addressed at an early stage, because people who fall in this category could have been people that supposed to transform our society,” the former Director of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia noted.

different perspective and new ideas to implement the programs of RPI together with the staff on ground.

“I will be managing daily operations of RPI as well as finding new partners, developing new projects; we have idea to implement our agriculture projects, water projects, on top of the eye project, there is a clinic, and I will have to try to find grant for these projects. It will be a quite broad job to do,” explained the Frenchman, who also served as Executive Director of OneDollar Glasses in Burkina Faso.

Providing a statistical data, Madam Cecelia S. Howard, head of the Care Model Services division at the clinic, disclosed that since its establishment in 2014, the RPI clinic has treated 77,655 patients and carried out 2,024 deliveries without a single

# Senate to cancel

Cont'd from page 6

stadiums in seven counties. Accordingly, the construction period as set for in the agreement is 48 months from the day of commencement after the agreement was ratified by the Legislature and approved by the President.

She further noted that on May 31, 2018 the President of the Republic of Liberia submitted to the Legislature a Loan Financing Agreement between EBOMAF SA and the Republic of Liberia in the amount of Four Hundred Twenty Million, Eight Hundred Ten Thousand United States Dollars ( US\$ 420,810,000.00) for the financing of the design, construction, and supervision of road corridors in Monrovia ( Somalia Drive-Kesselly Boulevard to Sinkor ) and Northeastern Liberia - (Tappita-Zwedru Road, including To Town to La Cote D' Ivoire and Zwedru-Greenville with duration of the project period of 36 months from the day of commencement after the agreement was ratified by the Legislature and approved by the President.

Sen. Lawrence says 'since

the ratification of both Eton PTE and EBOMAF SA Loan Agreements by the Legislature and approved by the President of Liberia in June 2018, nearly 30 months ago, nothing has been heard of the commencement of any of the project, though Liberia has a commitment to repay the loans within a specified period.’

With 18 months and 6 months left respectively for the expiration of the two agreements and no action has been taken, she pleaded with her colleagues to cancel both agreements so that Liberia will not pay for nothing money.

The Senate has received her communication and forwarded it to the Joint Committee on Judiciary, and Ways Means and Finance for action in two weeks.

Meanwhile a motion was proffered by River Gee County Senator Conmany Wesseh that the communication be sent to the Judiciary committee for reviewing and findings be made available to plenary within three weeks period.-Press release



L-R: One of the trainees receives certificate from Dr. Kerkula and partial view of graduates at the occasion

initiating the exercise, stating that the program is in the right direction for early detection.

Dr. Kerkula pointed out that blindness has got negative impact on the family and the society at large, as it gives rise to poverty, and as such, it must be tackled at an early stage.

“I think the step taken by Refugee Place International is in the right direction in the promotion of eye health. We need more clinical refractionists to help in addressing our eye problems,” he said.

“If we must bridge the acute shortage in eye health technicians, we need to start now by training more people, and this is why I said this step is in the right direction. We will need to strengthen human resource capacity in eye health so as to make some improvements in this area.”

Dr. Kerkula also stressed the need for motivation and deployment of eye health technicians/GVTs in rural parts of the country.

He also urged the GVTs to deliver quality service to their people as eye health remains

“We want to mix screening with referral and basic care. We want to protect their eyes to live better lives. We want to make some extension to be able to provide surgical services for women,” he continued.

Like the guest speaker, Dr. Fallah also called on the newly trained GVTs to be passionate about the job they do because vision is critical.

“You must be able to give everyone access to good vision because vision is life,” he cautioned.

Mr. Thomas Remont, Executive Director of RPI, in an interview with this paper, vowed to execute the project plans that are on the plate of the organization to benefit Liberians.

Remont, a trained Optician, said he has brought new vision,

death, despite Liberia being the second country with the highest maternal mortality rate.

She recounted that the clinic has also been able to vaccinate 18,764 children and pregnant women through strong partnership with the Ministry of Health’s Immunization Program.

“Furthermore, we started a community health program in 2015. Through this, we recruited and trained general community health volunteers from our catchment community based on recommendation from the community leadership. Our catchment areas include: Bassa Town, Chicken Soup Factory and Gulf Community,” Madam Howard revealed.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Liberia ranks 137

Cont'd from page 6

global highlights on corruption, the CENTAL boss added that the 2020 CPI reveals that, globally, persistent corruption is undermining health care systems and contributing to democratic backsliding amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries that performed well on the index invest more in health care, are better able to provide universal health coverage, and are less likely to violate democratic norms and institutions or the rule of law.

According to him, results show that more than two-thirds of countries score below 50 on the CPI, with an average global score of just 43. Denmark and New Zealand are the highest performers, attaining a score of 88 respectively, while Finland, Singapore, Sweden, and Switzerland are next at 85 each.

He said at the bottom of the index are Somalia (12), South Sudan (12), Syria (14) and Yemen (15). Sub-Saharan Africa is the lowest-scoring region on the CPI with an average of 32, compared to 66 for Western Europe and EU; 43 for the Americas; 45 for Asia Pacific; 39 for Middle East and North Africa; and 36 for Eastern Europe and Central Asia respectively.

Meanwhile, CENTAL says to help improve Liberia’s rating and performance on the CPI, regionally and globally, and reverse the growing negative

trend and public perception about the fight against corruption in the country, President Weah and the CDC led Government should lead by examples and pursue a sincere and holistic fight against corruption that does not protect certain individuals and groups accused of corruption, especially high-ups in the government and their relatives, friends, and partners;

“Provide adequate funding and the required independence and latitude to anti-corruption institutions to effectively perform. Continuous limited funding and declining budgets of Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, General Auditing Commission, Public Procurement and Concession Commission, and other public integrity institutions do not show political will and commitment to the fight against Corruption in the Country”

He also calls on the government to fully implement the Code of Conduct for Public Officials, Freedom of Information, and other existing laws and policies governing the fight against corruption in Liberia, and to further prioritize passage of Whistle Blower Protection, Illicit Enrichment, Witness Protection, and other key laws to aid in the fight against Corruption. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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

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

# Pres. Weah predicts economic growth

Liberia's economic growth, which barely was at between 6 to 7 percent, showed up for two or three years during the administration of former President Sirleaf but took immediate nosedive due to the devastating shock caused by Ebola and has never recovered since.

Faint gleams of hope that were hovering over the horizon soon got quenched to

This, he said, was reflected by a decline in economic activity, largely due to prolonged lockdowns at home, restrictions on international travels, disruptions in supply chains and international trade, and the second wave of the pandemic now seen in several countries, including Liberia's major trading partners.

Although the impact of the pandemic on the mining and manufacturing sectors was

track global post-COVID recovery.

The President further said, during the course of the year, the policy of his government was significantly focused on protecting the purchasing power of our low-income population by aggressively fighting inflation, which reduced from about thirty (30%) percent at end December 2019 to about twelve (12%) percent at end December 2020.

"We continue to work aggressively on the goal of price stability so that our people will feel the benefits of macroeconomic reforms," the President averred.

The President called on all Liberians to go back to the soil, as he put it, "in order to utilize agriculture as a vital tool for the revitalization of the economy".

"We have the land, we have the labor, and we have the climate. So let us go back to the soil to grow what we eat, and eat what we grow, so that we can reduce our dependence on food imports, create jobs, and increase food security."

The President promised that the Ministry of Agricultural will be the focal point to lead and coordinate this drive that should transform the agricultural landscape in Liberia.

"This is a task that is already underway, and which will continue to receive the fullest support of this Government," the President said, assuring the people of Liberia that the activities in the agricultural sector will continue to receive his personal attention and the fullest support of Government, going forward.

He said Liberians will benefit from the full potential of agriculture as an engine of development, economic growth, and poverty reduction.



another shock, COVID-19, as well as other international trade factors. But all that now seems to be dissipating due to ingenious fiscal policies by President George Manneh Weah who is now predicting steady growth in the coming years.

In his state of the Nation address to the National Legislature recently, President Weah acknowledged that the year 2020 was challenging for the Liberian economy.

He said real GDP growth projection was further revised downward to negative three (-3.0%) percent for 2020, from the earlier projection of negative two point five (-2.5%) percent.

limited, the service sector, especially the hospitality sub-sector, was severely hit due to the lack of international travelers.

Then the President broke the good news, stating that this year (2021), the economy is projected to grow by three point two (3.2%) percent, on account of expected growth in all major sectors of the economy, as well as favorable global developments.

He, however, noted that recovery of the economy will depend on the persistence, or otherwise, of COVID-19, even thought recent news about production of vaccines for the prevention and treatment of the pandemic is a positive development which will fast



# Rivercess goes for another recount

The Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission (NEC) has ordered yet another recount in the disputed December 8, 2020 Senatorial election, this time in 104 polling places across the County.

But lawyers representing presumed winner Wellington Geevon Smith led by Atty. Francis Kabain accepting the latest NEC ruling announced an appeal to the Supreme Court of Liberia.

This is the second recount in the disputed election since NEC last declared Mr. Geevon-Smith the winner.

The NEC Board of Commissioners said in its ruling Friday, 29 January 2021, that it holds that a recount in the remaining 104 polling places in Rivercess County is necessary to remove the uncertainty.

the 104 polling places were ordered.

The Board of NEC took the decision Friday following the action of ruling into the bill of Information filed by Independent Candidate Steve Tequah against NEC and Independent Candidate Geevon-Smith.

The case grew out of the action Steve Tequah of Rivercess County, as Informant Verses National Elections Commission, as first Respondent and Wellington Geevon Smith as Second Respondent.

Commissioners Dukuly said its decision comes from the recount in 7 polling places in Rivercess County shows a significant change in the recount and votes tallied in Cestos City, Rivercess county.

Meanwhile, ruling in the case, CPP through its Secretary



Commissioner Boakai A. Dukuly reads the BOC'S Ruling Ordering Recount in 104 PP Rivercess county.

In the NEC Board of Commissioners ruling read by Commission Boakai A. Dukuly, the board said in addition to the partial recount having confirmed the witness Fanciah's testimony that he declared valid votes for invalid votes due to pressure, the BOC notes that the recount of 7 polling places out of 111 confirms that an appreciate number valid votes were counted as invalid votes on 8 December 2020 in the Special Senatorial Elections.

Commissioner Dukuly said "because it is essential to our democracy that ballot must be accurately counted, and when necessarily recounted", this BOC believes that in order to assure Rivercess voters that their votes were counted for their respective candidates on 8 December 2020, recounts in

General Atty. Aloysius Toe, Appellant verses the National Elections Commission, as First Appellee and CDC by and through SaahFonko, as Second Appellee in the Representative By-election in Montserrado County district number Nine has been reserved pending assignment.

The Chairperson of the National Commission Davidetta Browne Lansanah said on today Friday that after hearing arguments, ruling is reserved and that notice will be served and the case therefore is suspended.

The First respondent NEC was represented as by the previous records by Atty. Caphus Teewia, while the Second Respondent was represented by Cllr. Peter Howard in the action case of elections Irregularities.

# Women protest in Maryland County



By Patrick N. Mensah,  
 Maryland County

Days after 23-year-old Raymond P.K. Bardio, Jr was charged and sent to court in Maryland County for allegedly posting a nude picture of a female student of the Tubman University on social media, a group of women have paraded the principle streets of Harper City, demanding speedy trial. The women carried placards early Thursday

morning, January 28, 2021 along the streets and later moved at the Harper Police Station, where they demanded the living body of the alleged suspect, noting the alleged act has publicly disgraced womanhood.

The women's protest followed Police arrest of suspect Raymond PK Bardio, Jr, a son of a powerful prayer woman in Pleebo Sodoken District.

The 23 years old suspect is a resident of Pleebo, Maryland Electoral district#2 and a well

known facebooker under the pseudonym, Pretty-boy Raymond (HOPE Bardio).

According to sources, the arrest was executed after a tipoff by close colleagues, who have been following many of his posts on the social media in the district.

Speaking to this paper over the weekend, some of the aggrieved women disclosed that suspect Bardio, Jr had allegedly created a page with the name Deng De Bos.

They explained that suspect Bardio used the alleged page to communicate with the victim whose nude pictures were posted on the social media.

Although the victim herself hasn't spoken publicly concerning this worrisome and shameless act, but close family sources confirmed she and the suspect had communicated on social media.

The family sources continued that the victim has in her possession other confidential communications

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 6**

**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.

Lonestar Cell MTN

# Speaker Chambers betrays us

## -UP lawmaker laments

By E. J, Nathaniel Daygbor

Montserrado County Electoral District #11 Representative Richard Koon, from the opposition Unity Party says the opposition bloc in the House was betrayed by Speaker Bhofal Chambers of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change during the recent election for the deputy speaker post.

Rep. Koon explains that

Speaker Chambers ascended to speakership based on a Memorandum of Understanding reached between the ruling establishment and the opposition bloc that if the CDC takes the speaker post, the deputy speaker post should go to the opposition.

Speaking to this paper over the weekend during his annual district report in Barnerville, at the Jonathan Goodridge High School, he said Speaker



Chambers, fully aware of such arrangement, encouraged the CDC to present Grand Kru County Representative, Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa as its candidate against the main opposition CPP's candidate, Representative Clarence Massaquoi of Lofa County which led to the defeat of the CPP.

The seat was made vacant as a result of the election of Bong County Representative Prince Moye to the senate in the December 08, Special

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 6**

## 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...