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VOL.11 NO. 007

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 02, 2021

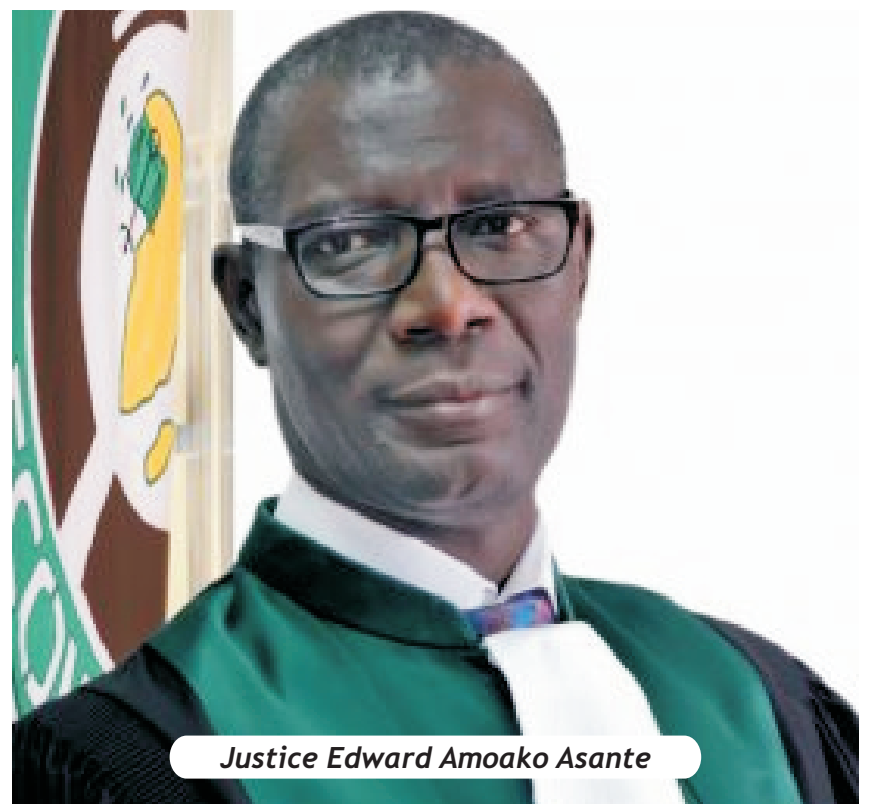
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# No show on Armed Forces Day

## -Officials cite Covid-19 protocol

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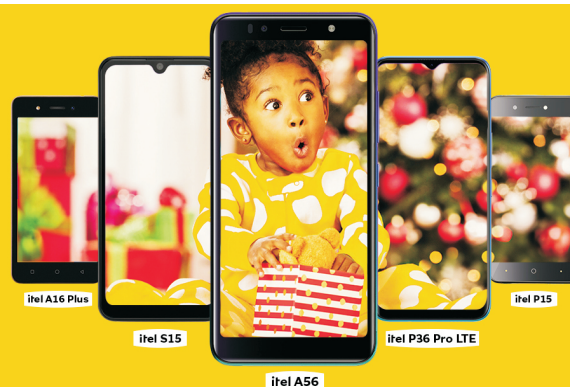
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# Continental News

## Five dead in Somalia hotel attack

A gun battle between militant Islamists and Somali security forces at a hotel in the capital, Mogadishu, is now over.

At least five people were killed in the attack at the Afrik Hotel, which began with a car bomb on Sunday.

Al-Shabab said it was responsible. The group, which is linked to al-Qaeda, regularly carries out attacks

against the government.

At least four attackers also died - according to AFP news agency three were shot and one blew himself up.

A car hit the hotel's front entrance and detonated before gunmen stormed the building, according to officials and others at the scene. "The blast made the hotel tremble as we sat inside and were talking. We were panicked, confused,"

eyewitness Ahmed Nur was quoted by Reuters as saying.

"The operation is over now. Nine people, including four attackers, died and over 10 civilians were injured. There is no electricity," a police spokesman told reporters from the scene and via Facebook.

Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble said in a statement that among those

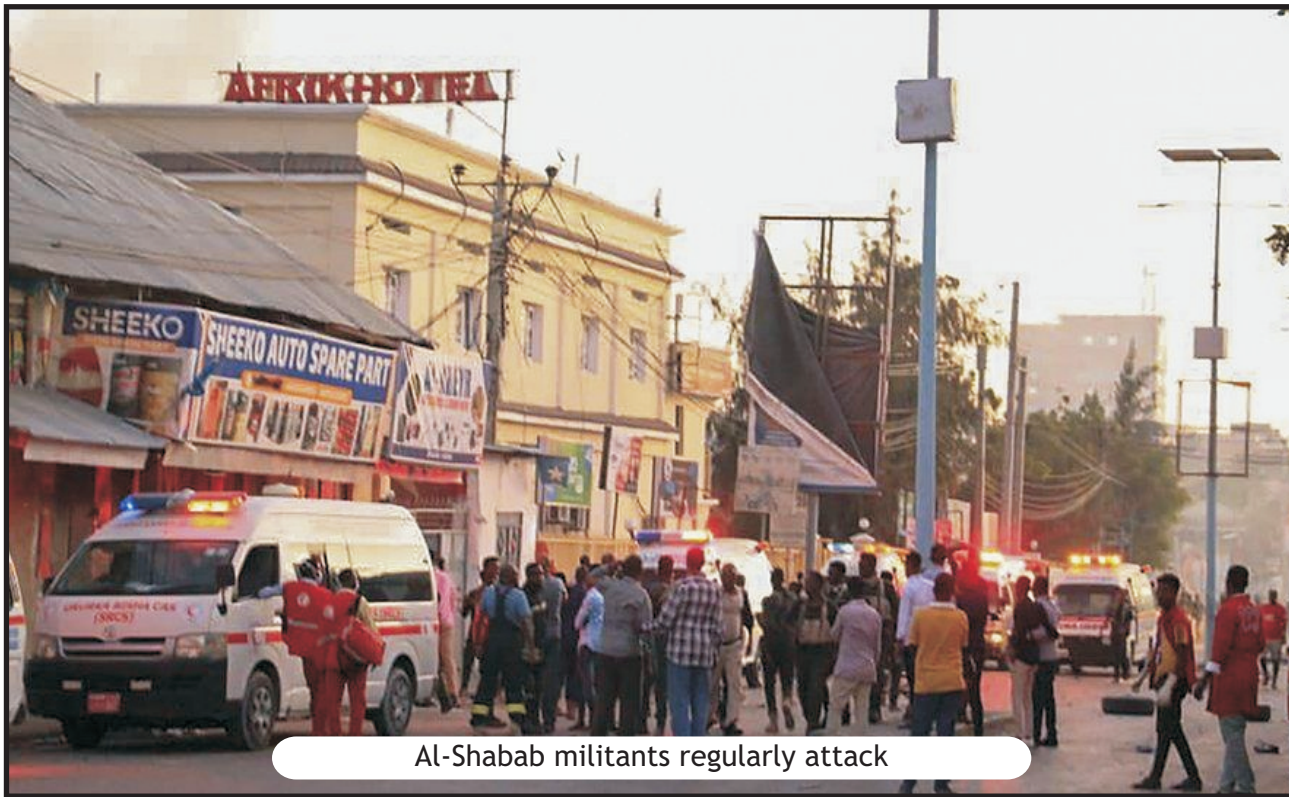
killed was a former military general, Mohamed Nur Galal. The militants targeted the Afrik Hotel despite the fact that it is in a heavily guarded area near the city's main airport, the BBC's Bella Sheegow reported from Mogadishu. The hotel is known to be a gathering place for Somali government officials. A local police captain said a number of lawmakers and senior military officials were inside at the time of the attack. Footage on social media showed large plumes of smoke rising across the city

earlier on Sunday.

Our reporter says it was one of the most devastating recent attacks in Mogadishu. Al-Shabab also targeted the beachside Elite hotel last year resulting in a seven-hour battle with police and security in which 17 people were killed.

The violent siege comes just weeks after former US President Donald Trump ordered the withdrawal of some 700 troops who had been supporting local security forces against militant groups, including al-Shabab.

There are fears the withdrawal could lead to further instability in the country, which is due to hold elections next month. BBC



Al-Shabab militants regularly attack

## SA church- and beach-goers protest over lockdown

Public patience over a lockdown aimed at curbing the spread of coronavirus in South Africa seems to be fraying.

Over the weekend, scores of people protested at beaches in Cape Town, calling for them to be re-opened.

The organisers accused the government of "being unconstitutional" for closing the beaches. Law-enforcement officers dispersed the crowds but did not make any arrests.

The group has threatened more gatherings, something that has concerned opposition

parties in the Western Cape.

Officials of the Economic Freedom Fighters party in the province have called for an investigation into the protests and for arrests to follow.

Meanwhile, two church associations have gone to court to sue President Cyril Ramaphosa and some of his ministers for the closure of churches.

They claim that the decision was unfair, especially since some businesses, such as cinemas, are still allowed to operate if they have safety measures in place.

Behind the scenes, Mr Ramaphosa's cabinet is trying to reach a consensus on the current health regulations to address concerns raised by various stakeholders on their economic impact.

The president is expected to give an address on those discussions on Monday evening - there is widespread speculation that this will include the lifting of the ban on alcohol sales. BBC



Demonstrators hold banners during a protest at a beach in Cape Town

## Malawians break Covid measures to mourn icon

Malawians set aside Covid-19 health protocols over the weekend to mourn music icon Wambali Mkandawire, who became the latest high-profile personality to succumb to the virus in the country.

Crowds, including senior government officials, breached the 50-person limit to mourn Wambali in the capital, Lilongwe.

The funeral event was broadcast live on local TV stations, with many people sending their condolences on social media. The 68-year-old singer lived a colourful life, starting out as a problem child who was often expelled from school but who later transformed into a statesman, a highly respected preacher and political activist.

Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo to Malawian parents, Wambali arrived in Malawi at the age of eight and lived with his grandparents in the northern Rumphi district.

As a teenager, he moved to the city of Mzuzu to improve his prospects of getting an education in an era when opportunities for education beyond primary school were limited.

But it was in secondary school in the 1970s when he developed a reputation for delinquency and drinking alcohol which earned him several suspensions.

Later in the decade his music career started in Malawi's commercial hub, Blantyre, where he teamed up with friends to start a band called Sounds Pentagon.

The band gained some popularity, but failed to raise



funds to sustain itself.

In a surprise turn of events, Wambali abandoned the band in 1978 and became a born-again Christian, changing his name from Greenwood to Wambali. He started singing gospel music, staging performances in schools around the country.

On one visit to his former secondary school, he returned textbooks which he said he had stolen from schoolmates when he was a student.

In the early 1990s, Wambali became involved in politics, calling for an end to dictatorship and was often at rallies where he demanded the unconditional release of political prisoners.

It was at the turn of the century that his gospel music career really took off.

In 2002 his song Zanimuone was nominated for the Kora Awards, given annually for musical achievement in sub-Saharan Africa.

The following year, the album was recognised by the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organization.

His most recent international accolade was the Black Entertainment Film Fashion Television and Arts Awards where he received the Best African Legend Award.

Wambali stopped performing to live audiences in 2011. He is survived by a wife and daughter. 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**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

# COMMENTARY

By James K. Galbraith

## Biden's Grand Opening

*With an economic rescue plan that is both ambitious and well targeted, US President Joe Biden and his team have demonstrated a clear understanding of the scale and range of action that the current situation requires. A broader reconstruction plan can and must come later; but crisis management remains the order of the day.*

**A**USTIN - In the space of less than three months, events have conspired to transform the American political scene. First, the COVID-19 pandemic defeated Donald Trump - not because public sentiment in this deeply polarized country changed, but rather because the virus forced open the gates of ballot access. Owing to a vast upsurge of early voting and mail-in ballots, the 2020 election's turnout surpassed that of 2016 by 20 million votes, and featured a greater share of the electorate than any US presidential election since 1900.

Second, thanks to ten years of local organizing by voting-rights activists led by Stacey Abrams, Georgia replaced both of its Republican senators with Democrats in the January 5 runoff elections, thus handing narrow control of the US Senate to President Joe Biden's Democratic Party.

Finally, Trump and some of his fellow Republicans incited a rabble to ransack the US Capitol. That catastrophic political miscalculation resulted in the death of five people (including a police officer), Trump's second impeachment, and the lasting disgrace of the defeated president's most aggressive would-be successors, Senators Josh Hawley of Missouri and Ted Cruz of Texas.

The moment was ripe for Biden to tell the country about his own economic plans. And when he spoke, it was with focus, precision, and a clear sense of the scale and range of action that the situation requires.

Biden has proposed a rescue plan that will advance a number of urgent objectives at once. His first priority is public health, a long-neglected issue that can be met in part by creating community vaccination centers and medical clinics, and by training and employing at least 100,000 new public-health workers in the basics of epidemic control. Essential elements of this plan will reach into low-income and minority communities, as well as into prisons and jails.

A second goal of the Biden plan is income support, which will take the form of extra cash for households below a certain threshold, extended and expanded unemployment insurance, emergency paid leave, grants to renters and small businesses, and tax credits for childcare costs.

Third, the Biden plan aims to stabilize federalism with some \$350 billion in support for state and local governments whose tax bases have imploded. Such funding is urgently needed to keep teachers, firefighters, police, and other essential public servants on the job - as is the additional \$20 billion that would go to keep public transit operating through the crisis.

Finally, the Biden plan has a fair-play element, proposing a long-overdue increase of the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour, which would raise wages for some 30% of all American workers.

Biden has correctly billed his plan an "American

Rescue Plan," rather than as a "recovery" or "stimulus" program. If successful, the package will stem the pandemic, stave off a variety of social calamities, and prevent the collapse of state and local government services. Economic reconstruction is important; but it is a separate objective that can be advanced in a second package. Biden has made sure to acknowledge this point: once the rescue plan has been implemented, the reconstruction can begin, with an emphasis on infrastructure, energy, and climate policy.

Among other things, this second phase can be used to put America's advanced sectors back to work in the service of public purpose and social need.

This sequencing is crucial, because these sectors will not simply revive and return to their previous positions in the economy. Now that the pandemic has upended aerospace, commercial and retail construction, the energy sector, and much else, a wide array of skills and resources will need to be reallocated. A second-phase economic program can guide the way.

Most important, Biden's plan made no mention of Wall Street shibboleths about budget deficits or the national debt. It does not propose merely temporary measures that will be reversed later, nor does it appeal to economic forecasts to cover a gap between the program's outlays and results. Given the orthodox cast of Biden's economic team, this is especially encouraging to see. Having committed to an ambitious agenda at the outset, it will be somewhat more difficult for his people to backslide later on.

Still, three things that are missing from the Biden package will need to be taken up in due course. First, neither the public-health programs nor the infrastructure, energy, and climate initiatives will provide enough jobs to offset the losses in America's vast services sector. Following the inevitable decline of office and retail work and the disappearance of a wide range of in-person services that could not survive the pandemic, middle-class Americans have retreated into their suburban homes. It is already clear that, sooner or later, a guaranteed public or non-profit jobs program will need to be put on the table.

Second, in order to return to viability, many services and small businesses will need to move to new ownership and cost-sharing arrangements, which can best be achieved through cooperative structures with appropriate local oversight and financing. And similar arrangements will be needed to sustain the work of artists, actors, musicians, and writers. As in the New Deal, America's creative people need (and deserve) support that the commercial economy will not be able to provide.

Lastly, once the immediate crisis has passed, emergency measures to defer rent, mortgages, health bills, and student loans will need to be submitted to a system that can write down, cancel, or settle unpayable debts in a fair and orderly fashion.



# OPINION

By Kaushik Basu

## This Decade's Growth Champions

*Which countries will be the big economic success stories of the next ten years? South Korea is a safe pick, while Vietnam and Mexico also are poised to prosper, whereas India's divisive politics put that country out of the running for the time being.*

**I**THACA - With 2021 still young, and hope in the air thanks to new COVID-19 vaccines and a new occupant of the White House, we can finally stop covering our eyes in horror and peer furtively into the future. As the decade unfolds, which countries are likely to be the biggest economic success stories?

My bet is on South Korea, Vietnam, and Mexico, three countries at markedly different stages of development. South Korea is an advanced economy, while Vietnam is what the World Bank calls a lower middle-income economy, like India or Bangladesh. Mexico, an upper middle-income country like Colombia, Botswana, or Indonesia, is somewhere in between. I predict that each of these economies will outperform others in its cohort over the next ten years.

South Korea is the safest pick of the three. Beginning in the late 1970s, during the last years of Park Chung-hee's presidency, its economy gathered steam and sustained a two-decade-long growth run, before hitting the roadblocks thrown up by the 1997 East Asian financial crisis.

Rich countries have less growth potential than poorer ones. But among rich countries, South Korea's prospects stand out - mainly because of its investment in human capital. With 3,319 patent applications per million population in 2019, South Korea is head and shoulders above other countries. Japan had the second-highest number, with 1,943, while China and the United States had 890 and 869, respectively. In April 2019, South Korea became the first country to launch a nationwide 5G campaign, and South Korean firms plan to capture 15% share of the global 5G market by 2026.

Moreover, South Korea has gone some distance toward solving a market failure that plagues all countries: teacher selection. As many studies, such as by Abhijit Banerjee and Andrew Newman, and Oded Galor and Joseph Zeira, have shown, schoolteachers are typically paid less than they should be, which I believe is because the effect of a good education cascades down to future generations. Good teachers are thus a bit like good climate policy: future generations benefit, but they have no influence over today's decisions.

South Korea has drawn some of its most talented people into teaching, and schoolteachers are among the country's richest people. The story of Cha Kil-yong, who earned \$8 million in one year teaching school mathematics online, has few parallels anywhere.

President Moon Jae-in's efforts to create a more equitable and inclusive society also augur well. Acts like moving the president's official residence from the palatial Blue House to a more ordinary government complex in downtown Seoul are symbolic but important gestures. My expectation is that South Korea's per capita income will overtake that of Japan within the next ten years.

Vietnam had a per capita income of just \$1,297 in 2010, when it was one of the world's three fastest-growing economies, along with India and China, both of which were richer. The country maintained its impressive growth rate since then, and its per capita income now exceeds India's.

This success story began in 1986, when the Communist Party of Vietnam's Sixth National Congress adopted the Doi Moi policy of moving away from a command economy to a more market-oriented model. In recent years, Vietnam has cut its tariff rates, opened its borders to trade and foreign investment, and invested heavily in human capital.

Vietnam's impressive management of the COVID-19 pandemic has given the economy an additional shot in the arm. The country's low crude mortality rate of 0.4 COVID-19 deaths per million people and 2.9% economic growth in 2020, a year when most economies shrank, are remarkable achievements. The steady inflows of foreign investment that Vietnam is now attracting could make it one of the world's leading manufacturing hubs.

Unlike Vietnam, Mexico is reeling under the pandemic, and President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO), the latest world leader to be infected, must take responsibility for some of the mismanagement. Nevertheless, since AMLO became president in 2018, there has been a resurgence of hope. He initiated what he called Mexico's "Fourth Transformation," a progressive economic agenda that aims to promote growth and remove some egregious elite privileges. To emphasize this, AMLO refused to live in the presidential mansion, Los Pinos, opting for a simpler residence.

Along with Vietnam, Mexico has the greatest potential to become a global manufacturing hub. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which entered into force last year, can further these three economies' integration. In fact, with the US and Canada providing capital and advanced technology, and Mexico marshaling its ample labor force, the region could experience a major resurgence and outcompete China. Now that US President Joe Biden has taken office, trilateral relations should improve. All three countries will benefit, but Mexico will gain the most, because it has more scope for catch-up growth.

Finally, there is the puzzling case of India. Until a few years ago, the country's rapid growth of about 9% per year made it a major global economic success story. But the economy has since slumped, with falling growth from 2016 to 2020 - the longest slide since independence.

Yet, fundamentally, India is one of the strongest emerging economies. It has a world-class information-technology sector, a strong pharmaceutical industry, and a small segment of highly educated workers. The stumbling block is the country's divisive politics, which have eroded trust and caused the investment rate to fall steadily over the last few years.

If India can clean up its political act, it can be a global growth leader. But that is a big "if." At least for now, it puts India out of the running when it comes to picking this decade's likely economic winners.



Republic of Liberia

**CIVIL SERVICE AGENCY (CSA)**

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## 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:

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Ministerial Complex, Congo Town  
Monrovia, Liberia

**Via Email:** [agapplication@csa.gov.lr](mailto:agapplication@csa.gov.lr)

### Deadline for Application:

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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*



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



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# US envoy renews partnership commitment with AFL

The newly-accredited U S AMBASSADOR to Liberia Michael A. McCarthy has renewed his governments' continuous partnership with the Armed Forces of Liberia in making the force more relevant to

to work along with a partner like you because it makes the work easier."

"It is an inspiration that Liberia has come so far in the understanding of peacekeeping that Liberia is today a

call on Liberia's Defense Boss, Major General Daniel D. Ziahnkahn, Jr. (Rtd.) the Barclay Training Center office.

For his part, Minister Ziahnkahn assured the U S Government of enhanced partnership in sustaining Liberia's Defense sector.

The Defense Boss appreciated the United States Government for her increased support to the Armed Forces of Liberia peacekeeping operations. He particularly praised the leadership role being demonstrated by the U.S. leadership, indicating "We will do everything possible to get to where we are to get as partners."

The Defense Minister indicated that the US Government continues to play a vital role in training, equipping and mentoring personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia and staffers of the Ministry of National Defense.

He said, "We are committed partners based on a deeper root with the United States of America.

The U S Government has been working on lots of projects that have rejuvenated the Armed Forces of Liberia to a 'force for good'."



the people of Liberia.

Ambassador McCarthy said his government will continue to partner with Ministry of National Defense and the Armed Forces of Liberia, stressing that "It is a pleasure

contributing nation to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations around Africa," he further indicated.

The Ambassador made the statement on Monday, February 1, 2021, when he paid a courtesy

# CBL breaks grounds for financial hub in Bong

The Central Bank of Liberia over the weekend broke grounds for the construction of a Four Hundred Thousand United States Dollars Regional Banking Hub in Gbarnga.

A financial hub, also known as a financial center by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), is a city or region where a large number and a variety of financial services institutions are headquartered.

According to CBL's Executive Governor, Aloysius Tarlue, the bank when constructed will promote the free flow of cash among business people and the entire citizenry of the central region.

Mr. Tarlue explained that the Regional Banking Hub will be the first to be established outside Monrovia, with a call for citizens of the central region to see the project as theirs.

He narrated that the hub will further relieve citizens of the challenges to travel to



Monrovia and other places and also stand in long queues to do transactions with the central bank.

The CBL Executive Governor revealed that the second phase of the project will affect counties in the south eastern region and other parts of Liberia.

For her part, Bong County Superintendent pledged the county's fullest commitment to working with the Central Bank of Liberia and the contractors for the timely and proper implementation of the project.

Madam Walker at the same time extolled the county

# MoA to hold Agriculture Fair at CARI

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) announces the holding of a National Agricultural Fair from February 12-14, 2021 at the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) in Suakoko, Bong County, Liberia after 12 years of dormancy.

The MoA is planning and executing the Fair in collaboration with the Ministries of Internal Affairs, State for Presidential Affairs, Gender, Children and Social Protection along with the Cooperative Development Agency.

Agriculture Minister

at the Fair to work out means of moving the sector forward.

"Taking Stock of What We Have", is one of the goals of Minister Jeanine Milly Cooper to transform the agriculture sector since as appointment as Minister of Agriculture a year ago.

The Fair will be an excellent forum to assess the food and tree crops grown in Liberia; there will be competition among counties on their locally grown products and prizes awarded.

Additionally, Liberian agribusinesses will also showcase their plant-based



Jeanine Milly Cooper has named Deputy Agriculture Minister for Administration, Honourable Precious Tetteh, to lead the coordination and planning of the Fair.

"Investing in Agriculture for Prosperity & Development" is the theme for this year's Fair as agricultural development is an essential component in current five-year Liberia's national development agenda, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

His Excellency, President George M. Weah, places enormous importance on driving Liberia's agriculture sector as a major engine of growth and he will interact with farmers and stakeholders

products -food, drinks and cosmetics -locally produced and are being exported.

Farmers, agro-processors, agriculture concessionaires, development partners, financial institutions and agro value chain producers will also attend the fair.

Entirely planned and executed by United Nations agencies and international partners, the last Fair was held in 2008 in the Tubmanburg, Bomi County, 70 km west of the Liberian capital, Monrovia.

Liberia's Agriculture Law, enacted in the 1970s, mandates the MoA to hold an annual National Agricultural Fair to showcase agriculture produce grown in the country. -Press release

Legislative Caucus for ensuring that Bong benefits from the first phase of the CBL's project.

Also speaking, Bong County District #3 Representative, Marvin Cole expressed delight over the CBL's decision to

choose Gbarnga as the base for the regional banking hub, which he believes will address some of the financial constraints faced by residents of the county. By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong County



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Opposition laments gloomy economy

By Winston W. Parley

The opposition Rainbow Alliance has branded President George Manneh Weah's fourth Annual Message as recitation of his previous Annual Messages, as it paints a gloomy picture of the Liberian economy of which it claims the government has no positive action to create hope for small and medium businesses.

Rainbow Alliance Acting Chairman Mr. Reginald Goodridge told a press conference

Further, Mr. Goodridge laments that Liberia has an overburdening tax regime which strangulates business and investment and impedes economic growth, besides statutory taxes that are drowning businesses and making Liberians poorer.

He criticizes the administration for introducing a draconian and shadowy taxation scheme in the name of Tracking Fees which supplanted internationally recognized shipping tracking services such as BIVAC.

"As a result, importers and

country should not suggest to any serious government that indeed this environment is stable." "You cannot have a stable environment when people are unemployed. Unemployment is 74 percent, according to the latest report from the United Nations Human Development report," he adds.

Mr. Goodridge describes this as scaring and requires any serious governmental institution to understand that having the bulk of the people unemployed and surviving on hand outs is deceptive.

He claims that three years following the inception of the government, it continues to say the same things it said in the first and second years, pondering on what hope is there that something better will happen in the remaining years. Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe, Political Leader of the Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT), says "this government has failed the Liberian people"

"To buttress his statement, we have provided indications that tell you that this government, what they have provided to the Liberian people is way far from the truth. In nutshell, this government has failed the Liberian people," says Dr. Whapoe.

The Rainbow Alliance also criticizes the president's Annual Message for being silent on the 8 December 2020 Referendum, mid-term senatorial and by-elections.

It calls on the government and Liberia's development partners to constitute a national constitutional review committee to rewrite the entire constitution to bring it in line with current social, political and economic realities of the nation.

businesses have redirected their shipments through neighboring Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ivory Coast thus depriving our economy of much needed revenue," he continues.

The Rainbow Alliance claims that unemployment is peaking at a record high of 74.2 percent particularly among the youthful population, while businesses are crumbling with no positive action or policy to create hope for small and medium businesses.

Mr. Goodridge suggests that "the absence of noise in this



Mr. Reginald Goodridge



Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe

Friday, 29 January that the bare truth is that President Weah's annual message is plastered with restatements of promises that have not been kept, and brought forward for new achievements that are hard to defend.

"Contrary to the President's statement that the country's development agenda is on the right path, international integrity institutions paint a different picture. For example, the World Bank Economic Freedom Report has ranked Liberia poorly 165 out of 186 countries surveyed," he said during the press conference at the Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) office in Sinkor.

The Rainbow Alliance fears that Liberia risks losing a whole generation of citizens who are increasingly becoming hopeless, claiming that the change for hope promise of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change is sadly not mainstreaming this generation of Liberians but conscripting them into suspicious nefarious groups such as the Cuba and Porcupine Warriors.

# "30 LNP Officers on Standby for UN Peacekeeping Missions"

The Inspector General of the Liberia National Police (LNP), Col. Patrick Sudue has disclosed that after sending four LNP officers to South Sudan on United Nations peacekeeping mission, about thirty Liberian police officers are on the standby for future deployment on UN peacekeeping missions around the world.

Making the disclosure on Monday, February 1, 2021 during a courtesy visit to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dee-Maxwell

peacekeeping missions, anytime they can be called upon; this is why we taught it wise to gown him because he was the one who made sure we met the UN deputy for peacekeeping head, and we had a fruitful discussion...this is the first of its kind in the history of Liberia for our police to be deployed on UN peacekeeping mission...if LNP is to get on the global map, it has to be done through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs", Col. Sudue intoned.

Col. Sudue further disclosed that the UN peacekeeping



SaahKemayah, Sr., Col. Sudue praised the Liberia's foreign minister for the pivotal role he played in New York during his service as Liberia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Col. Sudue noted that Ambassador Kemayah was very instrumental in making sure that officers of LNP are deployed on UN peacekeeping operation.

"The UN certified 34 LNP officers and 4 officers were selected to be deployed in South Sudan and 30 officers on the standby for future

office had requested the LNP to send in a Liaison Officer, who will serve between the UN and LNP, and is to be based in New York.

It can be recalled on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 the Liberia National Police conferred its highest honor on Ambassador as Honorary Chief of Police and gowned him in recognition of his immense contributions to the police force when he served as Ambassador at Liberia's Permanent Mission at the UN in New York.

# Standards Laboratory seeks autonomy

## -as contractors cry for pay

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Contractors at the government-run National Standards Laboratory, who have worked for the entity for about 11 years are requesting for permanent employment thru the Civil Service Agency.

The National Standards Laboratory, currently located at the Ministry of Public Works on Lynch Street in Monrovia, is under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. But

some 33 contractors there complained they have not been paid since October 2020, subjecting them to severe hardship without money to cater to their families, including providing for their children's education.

The Director of the National Standards Laboratory Stephen Y. Mambu, who spoke to the New Dawn on Wednesday, 27 January, explained that the entity was established

through support of the regional body ECOWAS during the administration of former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to test commodities entering the Liberian market from ECOWAS countries.

Mr. Mambu confirmed that since the NSL was established, all staffers have been working as contractors, including himself, as director.

According to him, he is not the appropriate person to speak on the workers' employment status and enumeration, instead

referring this paper to the Director of Human Resource at the Ministry of Commerce for relevant information on the status of the contractors.

However, he disclosed that since the NSL was formally turned over to the Government of Liberia, support has not been forthcoming, something, he said, that needs serious consideration.

Director Mambu also confirmed The National



# Français

## DÉSTABILISATION DE LA TRANSITION MALIENNE : LA TENSION MONTE ENTRE BAMAKO ET ABIDJAN

Chris Yapi vous avait indiqué que le Premier ministre Hamed Bakayoko s'était rendu clandestinement à Paris. Pas de communiqué pour annoncer le voyage et même les membres de son cabinet n'en savaient rien, comme s'il fallait absolument tout voiler.

À l'inverse, les autorités maliennes ont annoncé le déplacement du chef de la transition dans les médias, comme cela se fait dans les pays démocratiques. Venus sur le même vol que la Première dame, Hamed Bakayoko avait une mission autre !

En effet, un sujet bien plus grave l'obligeait à se rendre en France. Un conflit discret, mais féroce oppose la Côte d'Ivoire au Mali. Souvenez-vous : Alassane Ouattara a été très actif contre la junte militaire qui venait de déposer Ibrahim Boubacar Keita dit IBK. Il appelait presque à les envoyer au peloton d'exécution pour avoir perpétré un coup d'État, au moment où la Côte d'Ivoire dansait au bord du volcan. Il exigeait les



sanctions les plus dures, les plus inhumaines contre la junte et le peuple malien. N'ayant pas été suivi par ses pairs de la CEDEAO, il a décidé de prendre des mesures unilatérales contre le peuple malien, avec la complicité de l'Ivoirien Jean-Claude Brou, le Président de la Commission de la CEDEAO.

Ainsi, la Côte d'Ivoire a fermé toutes ses frontières

terrestres et aériennes avec le Mali et gelé tous les flux et transactions économiques, commerciales et financières en direction du Mali. Ni vivres, ni médicaments, ni transferts d'argent, même au profit des petits ménages, ne quittaient la Côte d'Ivoire pour le Mali. Pis, il a organisé la fuite des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Candidat aux Législatives, Alain Lobognon a-t-il lâché Guillaume Soro ?

Les élections législatives sont prévues pour se tenir en Côte d'Ivoire, le 6 mars prochain. Alors que GPS, mouvement politique de Guillaume Soro, a décidé de boycotter ce scrutin, Alain Lobognon, l'un des fidèles compagnons de l'ancien

Président de l'Assemblée nationale vient de voir sa candidature validée.

Alain Lobognon - Guillaume Soro, les prémices d'un divorce programmé ?

Tout est parti en vrille pour le GPS, Générations et peuples solidaires, le 23 décembre

2019, dans la foulée du retour manqué en Côte d'Ivoire de Guillaume Soro. L'ancien chef du Parlement ivoirien a en effet été contraint à l'exil, et bon nombre de ses compagnons don't Alain Lobognon, Soro K a n i g u i , Souléymané Kamaraté Koné alias Soul to Soul, pour ne citer que ceux-là, ont été interpellés et écroués dans des prisons à travers le pays.

L'ancien Président de l'Assemblée nationale, retranché quelque part en Europe après avoir été déclaré persona non grata en France, a appelé ses camarades de parti à boycotter les prochaines élections législatives, contrairement à la volonté manifestée d'autres partis d'opposition de présenter des candidats.

Cependant, Alain Lobognon, cadre de GPS, interpellé lors d'une

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Nwabudike doit partir

Si le fraudeur nigérian Me A. Ndubuisi, qui siège à la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria en tant que président, après avoir frauduleusement obtenu la citoyenneté libérienne, pense que les membres du Sénat libérien se sont réunis pour jouer du théâtre à propos de sa destitution, il devrait repenser. Nwabudike devrait être informé en termes clairs de ce qu'il n'a pas le temps en sa faveur et que la seule option est de démissionner immédiatement.

Il est tout à fait incompréhensible et honteux que l'administration Weah continue de garder un étranger comme Me Nwabudike à la tête de la LACC, un poste statutairement réservé exclusivement aux citoyens libériens. Et le président George Weah en est pleinement conscient, mais il continue de faire la sourde oreille sur la question.

La semaine dernière, les sénateurs de Capitol Hill ont débattu des raisons pour lesquelles l'exécutif garde toujours MeNwabudike à la tête de la LACC après avoir menti sous serment au sujet de sa citoyenneté libérienne malgré son rejet par le Sénat lors de l'audience de confirmation pour occuper la tête de la Commission électorale nationale.

Des rumeurs ont circulé à Monrovia selon lesquelles le fraudeur nigérian qui a utilisé un faux document de naturalisation libérien et s'est inscrit à la Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law de l'Université du Libéria en tant que citoyen libérien et obtenu un diplôme en droit devrait démissionner cette semaine.

Le sénat est résolu à faire en sorte que Nwabudike, qui porte des passeports libériens avec des incohérences dans sa date de naissance, ne continue pas à occuper une institution d'intégrité importante comme la LACC lorsque sa vie entière est entourée de triche et de malhonnêteté.

Le sénateur ConmanyWesseh du comté de River Gee lors de la session de la semaine dernière a noté que MeNwabudike a réussi son chemin de manière criminelle dans tous les secteurs du gouvernement libérien, y compris les pouvoirs judiciaire, exécutif et législatif, et a par la suite dupé l'Association nationale du barreau du Libéria pour en être un membre.

La LNBA a depuis lors expulsé Nwabudike après que ses actes laids aient été découverts et portés à la connaissance du public. Tant le Barreau que le Sénat n'ont aucune confiance en cet escroc étranger, cela n'a donc aucun sens de le garder dans le gouvernement libérien parce qu'il ne sert pas les intérêts du peuple libérien.

Avec le pouvoir investi dans le Sénat libérien en tant que représentants directs du peuple libérien, nous demandons instamment à cet auguste organe de veiller à ce que Nwabudike soit empêché de gérer « l'argent des contribuables libériens » à la LACC ou d'effectuer toute transaction au nom de la République du Libéria.

Le Sénat ne devrait pas se reposer tant que cet objectif n'est pas atteint. Il est dans l'intérêt du peuple libérien et de l'État de faire en sorte que ce fraudeur étranger, qui a envahi notre système de manière criminelle, soit expulsé et poursuivi conformément aux lois du Libéria.



# Français

## DÉSTABILISATION DE LA TRANSITION MALIENNE :

pontes du régime IBK vers Abidjan, où ils ont été installés avec leurs familles dans des hôtels, aux frais du contribuable ivoirien. Certains de ces réfugiés ont trouvé en la Côte d'Ivoire un terreau pour y mener leurs opérations de déstabilisation des institutions de la transition au Mali.

Récemment encore, comme je l'ai révélé dans une de mes publications, le Premier ministre Hamed Bakayoko avait envoyé discrètement à Bamako une section des Encagoulés pour faire de la subversion. Ceux-ci ont été arrêtés par les autorités maliennes et sont actuellement détenus. Soumis à un interrogatoire serré, certains ont révélé qu'ils avaient été envoyés par le Premier ministre - Ministre de la Défense pour faire de l'espionnage au sein de l'armée malienne, et si possible, procéder à quelques liquidations physiques de personnalités, comme ils le font déjà en Côte d'Ivoire.

Cette attitude inutilement belliqueuse d'Abidjan envers Bamako a fait monter la température entre les deux pays. Les autorités maliennes de transition indiquent qu'elles ne peuvent plus tolérer de tels agissements et se préparent à réagir fermement. Surtout que les Encagoulés ont révélé qu'il

existe bel et bien un projet d'assassinat planifié depuis Abidjan, du chef de la junte dissoute, le Colonel AssimiGoïta, Vice-président de la République. La tension monte entre les deux pays et la France est obligée d'intervenir pour éviter l'escalade.

Les deux parties ont donc été convoquées à Paris pour discuter et aplanir les différends. Considérant qu'il ne saurait être mis sur le même pied d'égalité qu'un chef d'État de transition, Alassane Ouattara s'est contenté d'y dépêcher son Premier ministre.

Hamed Bakayoko est arrivé à Paris avec des écoutes téléphoniques fabriquées, don't l'objet est d'embarrasser les autorités maliennes. Se sentant en position de faiblesse, suite à l'arrestation de certains Encagoulés à Bamako, il n'a trouvé d'autre parade que la manipulation. Ce sont donc ces dossiers que le Ministre de la Défense est allé défendre en France. Paris essaie de mettre en place un cadre de bon voisinage entre les deux pays.

Cependant, Chris Yapi demande aux autorités maliennes d'être vigilantes et de n'accorder aucun crédit à Hamed Bakayoko et à son commanditaire Alassane Ouattara. Ce sont des hommes qui ne respectent aucun accord et don't la parole ne vaut pas un kopeck cassé.

## Candidat aux Législatives,

conférence de presse au siège de ce mouvement politique, il y a plus d'un an, et incarcéré à Agboville, vient de fouler aux pieds la discipline de son parti en se portant candidat dans la circonscription de Dahiri - Fresco - Gbagbam pour rempiler en tant que Député. La CEI a d'ailleurs validé son dossier de candidature.

Dans un communiqué publié sur sa page Facebook, le député de Fresco a déclaré : « Ce dimanche 31 janvier 2021, la Commission électorale indépendante a rendu publique la liste des candidats à l'élection législative du 06 mars 2021 sur laquelle figurent le Ministre Alain Lobognon et

son suppléant Monsieur Nana Koffi, au niveau de la circonscription électorale 066 : Dahiri - Fresco - Gbagbam. » Avec son équipe « Lumière et Espérance », l'ancien ministre des Sports entend défendre bec et ongle son poste de parlementaire.

Cette candidature de Lobognon en tant qu'indépendant ferait-elle des premiers signes d'un divorce programmé d'avec Soro ? À noter qu'après leur sortie de prison, l'Honorable Mamadou Soro Kanigui et bien d'autres proches de Soro Kigbafori Guillaume ont viré au Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix (RHDP), le parti d'Alassane Ouattara. La reddition d'Alain Lobognon serait-elle en téléchargement

## COMMENTAIRE

Par James K. Galbraith

## Les débuts musclés de Biden

**A**USTIN - En moins de trois mois, les événements ont conspiré pour transformer la scène politique américaine. Premièrement, la pandémie de la COVID-19 a vaincu Donald Trump - non pas parce que le sentiment du public dans ce pays profondément polarisé a changé, mais plutôt parce que le virus a forcé les portes d'accès aux urnes. En raison d'une forte recrudescence du vote anticipé et des bulletins de vote par correspondance, la participation aux élections de 2020 a dépassé de 20 millions de voix celle de 2016 et a été la plus importante, en pourcentage de l'électorat, de toutes les élections présidentielles américaines depuis 1900.

Deuxièmement, grâce à dix années d'organisation locale des militants en faveur du droit de vote dirigés par Stacey Abrams, la Géorgie a remplacé ses deux sénateurs républicains par des Démocrates lors du second tour des élections le 5 janvier, confiant ainsi le contrôle étroit du Sénat américain au Parti démocrate du président Joe Biden.

Enfin, Trump et certains de ses camarades républicains ont incité une foule à saccager le Capitole américain. Cette erreur de calcul politique catastrophique a entraîné la mort de cinq personnes (dont un policier), la deuxième mise en accusation de Trump et la disgrâce durable des successeurs les plus agressifs du président vaincu, les sénateurs Josh Hawley du Missouri et Ted Cruz du Texas.

Le moment était venu pour Biden de parler au pays de ses propres projets économiques. Et, quand il a parlé, c'était avec concentration, précision et une idée claire de l'ampleur et de la portée des actions exigées par la situation.

Biden a proposé un plan de sauvetage qui fera avancer un certain nombre d'objectifs urgents en même temps. Sa première priorité est la santé publique, un problème longtemps négligé, qui peut être résolu en partie grâce à la création de centres de vaccination communautaires et de cliniques médicales, ainsi qu'en formant et en employant au moins 100 000 nouveaux agents de santé publique pour s'occuper des bases de la lutte contre les épidémies. Les éléments essentiels de ce plan atteindront les minorités et les communautés à faible revenu, ainsi que les prisons et pénitentiaires.

Un deuxième objectif du plan Biden est le soutien du revenu, qui prendra la forme de liquidités supplémentaires pour les ménages en dessous d'un certain seuil, d'une assurance chômage étendue et élargie, de congés payés d'urgence, de subventions aux locataires et aux petites entreprises et de crédits d'impôt pour les frais de garde d'enfants.

Troisièmement, le plan Biden vise à stabiliser le fédéralisme avec quelques 350 milliards de dollars de soutien aux gouvernements des États et locaux, dont les assiettes fiscales ont implosé. Un tel financement est nécessaire de toute urgence pour éviter le licenciement d'enseignants, de pompiers, de policiers et d'autres fonctionnaires essentiels - tout comme les 20 milliards de dollars supplémentaires qui permettraient de maintenir le fonctionnement des transports en commun pendant la crise.

Enfin, le plan Biden contient un élément de fair-play, proposant une augmentation attendue

depuis longtemps du salaire minimum fédéral à 15 dollars de l'heure, ce qui augmenterait d'environ 30% les salaires de tous les travailleurs américains.

Biden a eu raison d'appeler son programme « American Rescue Plan (plan de sauvetage américain) », et non « plan de reprise » ou « plan de relance ». En cas de succès, le programme enrayera la pandémie, conjurera une série de calamités sociales et empêchera l'effondrement des services gouvernementaux et locaux. La reconstruction économique est importante ; mais c'est un objectif distinct qui peut être visé par un deuxième paquet de mesures. Biden s'est assuré de reconnaître ce point : une fois le plan de sauvetage mis en œuvre, la reconstruction pourra commencer, en mettant l'accent sur les infrastructures, l'énergie et la politique climatique.

Entre autres choses, cette deuxième phase peut être utilisée pour remettre au travail les secteurs avancés des États-Unis, au service de l'intérêt public et des besoins sociaux.

Cet enchaînement est crucial, car ces secteurs ne pourront pas simplement revenir à leurs positions antérieures dans l'économie. A présent que la pandémie a bouleversé la construction aérospatiale et commerciale, le secteur de l'énergie et bien d'autres choses, un large éventail de compétences et de ressources devra être réaffecté. Une deuxième phase de programme économique peut en indiquer la voie.

Plus important encore, le plan de Biden ne faisait aucune mention des principes de Wall Street concernant les déficits budgétaires ou la dette nationale. Il ne propose pas des mesures qui ne seraient que temporaires et appelées à être annulées ultérieurement, et ne fait pas plus appel à des prévisions économiques pour combler un écart entre les dépenses et les résultats du programme. Compte tenu de la composition orthodoxe de l'équipe économique de Biden, cela est particulièrement encourageant à voir. S'étant engagé dès le départ envers un programme ambitieux, ce sera un peu plus difficile pour son entourage de reculer plus tard.

Pourtant, trois éléments manquent dans le package Biden et devront être incorporés en temps voulu. Premièrement, ni les programmes de santé publique, ni les initiatives dans les domaines des infrastructures, de l'énergie et du climat, ne fourniront suffisamment d'emplois pour compenser les pertes dans le vaste secteur américain des services. Suite au déclin inévitable du travail de bureau et de vente au détail, ainsi qu'à la disparition d'un large éventail de services en présentiel qui n'ont pas pu survivre à la pandémie, les Américains de la classe moyenne se sont repliés dans leurs maisons de banlieue. Il est déjà clair que, tôt ou tard, un programme d'emplois garantis publics ou à but non lucratif devra être mis sur la table.

Deuxièmement, pour retrouver leur viabilité, de nombreux services et petites entreprises devront modifier leurs accords de propriété et de partage des coûts. La meilleure solution pour cela est d'avoir recours à des structures coopératives, bénéficiant de supervision et de financement locaux appropriés. Des arrangements similaires seront nécessaires pour soutenir le travail des artistes, des acteurs, des musiciens et des écrivains. Comme dans le New Deal, les créatifs américains ont besoin (et méritent) un soutien que l'économie commerciale ne pourra pas fournir.



# Gov't wants judge off

By Winston W. Parley

The Liberian Government has requested the Chief Judge of the Community Court of Justice Edward Amoako Asante to recuse himself from any and all cases brought before the Ecowas Court by any applicant or a state party, now or in the future for making alleged prejudicial comments against the interest of the administration.

State lawyers including Liberia's Solicitor General Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus in a filing before the Community Court claim that Justice Asante made debasing comments against the Government of Liberia on the Voice of America (VOA), in which he accused the current Liberian Government of woefully "dismissing judges who will not dance to its tone."

Immediately following the Community Court's final

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

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

He was accused by lawmakers for abuse of power, using his influence as Associate Justice to secure a ruling in his favor at the Supreme Court to take possession of the land.

Ja'neh in filing his complaint before the ECOWAS Court had sought to be awarded general damages in an amount not less than US\$25,000,000.00 as compensation and an order directing the Republic of

because the Community Court is incompetent to review, interpret and apply the national constitution and domestic laws of Member States.

The government here says Justice Edward Amoako Asante is conflicted and should recuse himself from any and all applications to which the Republic of Liberia is a party for expressing a rather demeaning opinion about the government of Liberia on the VOA that it is "dismissing judges who will not dance to its tone" in contravention to the judgment delivered by the Community Court.

The Liberian authorities insist that the statement of such a grave nature is neither the opinion of the court as contained in the case Kabineh Muhammad Ja'neh versus Republic of Liberia, nor part of the responsibility of a venerated judge of the court.

Instead, the Liberian authorities indicate that the statement was perhaps triggered by personal or political considerations, gratuitous emotions exclusively designed, planned and unleashed against the Republic of Liberia by Justice Asante to satisfy a vested interest only known to him which is totally incompatible with the standard of judicial impartiality and neutrality.

"Movant/Respondent submits that Justice Asante has effectively incapacitated his own ability to preside over the Application for Judgment Review and should never preside over any matter to which the Republic of Liberia is a party now or in the future, because he has openly gambled and trampled underfoot the cool neutrality of the court and has convicted the Government of Liberia for "dismissing judges who will not dance to its tone" without any new application brought before the court," the Liberian government's complaint continues.

Going forward on the VOA, the Liberian government's complaint adds, Justice Asante also said "the Liberian Government has shown a certain posture that it does not actually respect the court's judgment."

"In the mind of the Movant/Respondent, this statement from the Justice clearly demonstrates that were Justice Asante to sit on the review panel during the

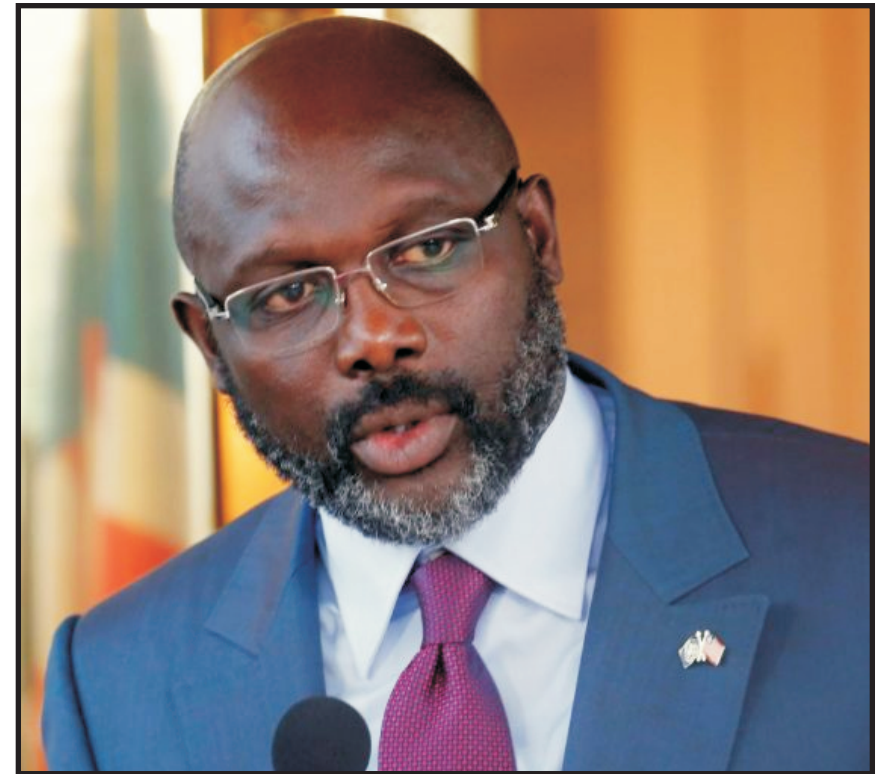
# Pres. Weah declares today Wetland Day

President George Manneh Weah has declared Tuesday, February 2, 2021 as "World Wetlands Day" and is to be observed throughout the Republic of Liberia as a Working Holiday.

The Proclamation calls on Liberians and foreign residents within the Territorial Confines of Liberia to join the Environmental Protection

healthy wetlands in reducing the impacts of extreme events such as flood, drought, and cyclones on the communities and in helping to build resilience, the Proclamation recounted further.

The Proclamation also stated that the purpose for observing the World Wetlands Day is to focus worldwide attention on the importance of wetlands,



Agency (EPA), to organize and execute appropriate programs to make the Day meaningful, in an effort towards the sustainable management of wetlands and water bodies.

The Proclamation noted that as contracting party of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Liberia will join countries around the world to celebrate the World Wetlands Day 2021, under the Theme: Wetland and Waters"

According to a Foreign Ministry release, the celebration will take place at the New Matadi Estate Community, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia.

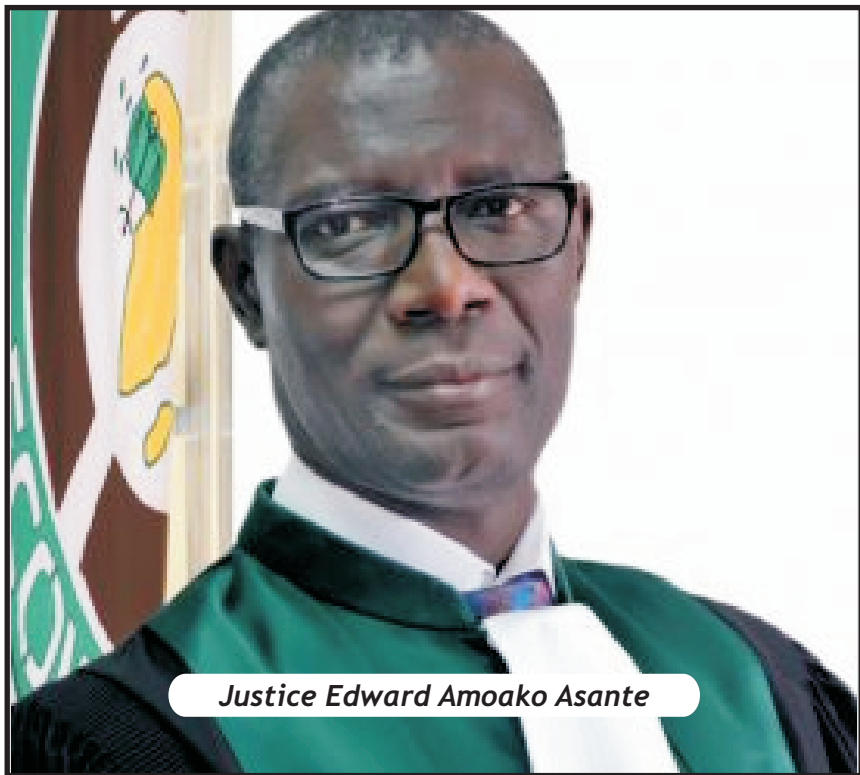
The celebration is intended to raise awareness and to highlight the vital roles of

their values and benefits in general, and the Ramsar Convention in particular, so as to stimulate political attention and action; to empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development.

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, known as Ramsar convention, was adopted in the Iranian City of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

As designed by the United Nations, the Day is observed on the 2nd day of February every year, as World Wetlands Day, the release added.

Since 1997, the World Wetlands Day has been celebrated by all UN member countries worldwide, the Proclamation stressed.



Justice Edward Amoako Asante

judgment delivered in the case: "Kabineh Muhammad Ja'neh, Applicant versus the Republic of Liberia, the state lawyers here complain that Justice Asante made comments that were profoundly prejudicial to the government's interest.

In November last year, the ECOWAS Court awarded impeached Liberian Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh US\$200,000 as reparation for moral prejudice he suffered for the violation of his rights following case he filed against the Liberian authorities.

Cllr. Janeh was removed as an Associate Justice of the Liberian Supreme Court through an impeachment process that he later challenged as unconstitutional and won at the Ecowas Court.

Liberia to restore him to his position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia.

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

But the Republic of Liberia represented by the Solicitor General Cllr. SaymaSyreniusCephus denied violating the human rights of Mr. Ja'neh and submitted that the impeachment was done through a political process which also followed the due process of law as laid down in Section 43 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia.

The State urged the Court to declare that Ja'neh's application is inadmissible

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process of judicial review, the Republic would not get a fair hearing because based on his interview, he has already presented a one-side view or formed an opinion when he is fully aware that there exists an opportunity pursuant to Article 92 of the Rules of

Procedures to file an Application for Judgment Review to review the judgment in the case: "Kabineh Muhammad Ja'neh, Applicant v. Republic of Liberia, Respondent, ECW/CCJ/JUD/28/20," the complaint says.



# No show on Armed Forces Day

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's Defense Ministry officials say this year's celebration of the Armed Forces Day on 11 February 2021, will be held without much of the traditional formalities including the elaborate military parade being observed to protect the soldiers' wellbeing against the coronavirus crisis.

Addressing a press conference Monday, 1 February at the Ministry of Defense, Assistant Defense Minister for Public Affairs Mr. Sam Collins said the Defense Ministry will not have an event that will gather up to 3,000 persons because it is concerned about the wellbeing of officers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL).

"We are also involved in peacekeeping missions

Town under the theme: "The Military in Sustaining Democracy."

While Mr. Collins announces Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) president, TiawonGongloe as keynote speaker for Armed Forces Day (AFD) symposium due Wednesday, the Defense authorities at the press conference say there will be no keynote speaker for the main ceremony that will be held on 11 February.

Meanwhile Minister Collins explains that in separate activities leading to the Armed Forces Day, the AFL will reach out to no more than 500 persons, disclosing that residents of Kpakpacon Town in Marshall, Margibi County will benefit this time around from free treatment of common sicknesses.

He says this is the Ministry of

County, and at the Barclay Training Center in Monrovia.

Giving an outline of the AFD symposium, Mr. Collins names Bong County Representative Moima Briggs Mensah, National Elections Commission Chairperson Davidetta Brown Lansanah, Governance Commission Acting Executive Director Madam Cecelia N. Flomo and Booker Washington Institute Principal Harris FumbahTarnue as discussants.

He also names Montserrado Representative Suacoco Dennis, Dr. J. Clarence Yaskey, Madam Sarah Walker, Cllr. Cyril Jones, Lt. Col. Matthew Alden of the US. Embassy and Montserrado Representative Jimmy W. Smith as discussants.

According to him, the symposium will be followed by a Jummat Service at the Mandingo Quarter Mosque in Kakata City, Margibi County on Friday, 5 February at 12pm.

He says on Saturday, 6 February, there will be a cleanup campaign and medical outreach taking place simultaneously which will be followed by the launching of a mini basketball court and football tournament.

On Saturday, 7 February, there will be a Thanksgiving Service at the New Water in the Desert in the VOA Community of Brewerville at 10am. On Thursday, 11 February, the Armed Forces Day celebration will kick off at 7am.

Major El-Dorado Jebboe, Director of Public Affairs, Armed Forces of Liberia, says on the usual program that is held under normal conditions that's where they bring keynote speakers.

"But on this day we have kind of downsized the program to an extent that the only person that's going to be speaking besides the Honorable Minister of National Defense is the Commander - in - Chief [President George Manneh Weah]," he says.

Major Jebboe notes that "there's no keynote speaker" for this year's Armed Forces Day celebration.

Defense and AFL's way of reaching out to the people as part of the civil - military relationship, making the people feel comfortable with their military.

"So lot of money is put into it, drugs have been purchased, high quality drugs ... and treatment [is] just free of charge," he adds.

He calls on residents of Kpakpacon Town to get together in their numbers on 6 February as the AFL will be there to treat common sicknesses like cold and malaria, among others.

During the treatment process, Minister Collins indicates that GSM Company Lonestar Cell MTN will be there to give gifts to the children.

While the AFL will be at Kpakpacon Town on 6 February, Minister Collins discloses that there will also be a cleanup campaign in Gbarnga, Bong



around Africa - Sudan, Southern Sudan and Mali," he says, adding that they also have a mission in Ethiopia and at the UN, among others, so they are concerned about the wellbeing of soldiers.

During a low-key program due 11 February, there will be no keynote speech to mark the official celebration of the 64th Armed Forces Day, but speeches are expected from the President and Commander - Chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia, President George Manneh Weah and the Minister of Defense Daniel D. Ziankahn, according to the defense officials.

Mr. Collins explains that the 64th Armed Forces Day celebration begins with a symposium on Wednesday, 3 February at 10am at the Ministerial Complex in Congo

# Standards Laboratory

Cont'd from page 7

Standards Laboratory has a total of 33 contractors whose role includes testing goods brought in by government, private businesses, and individuals.

He called on the National Legislature to give serious consideration to an Act currently before that august body that to establish the Liberia Standards Authority (LSA) as an autonomous institution.

He lamented that presently, the entity has no vehicle or motorbike to facilitate its daily operations which poses serious challenge.

He emphasized that due to the entity's current status, it has been unable to deploy staff at various border points and other areas in the country.

The NSL boss said if the Act to establish the Liberia

Standards Authority is hopefully passed by the National Legislature, the entity would have to employ additional workers because it needs at least 140 workers for its operations nationwide.

At the same time, several contractors of the NSL are calling on the government through the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) to regularize their status as permanent employees and pay them three months' salary arrears.

They expressed hope that the Ministry of Commerce would give immediate consideration to their plight by disbursing their wages, noting that they are going through serious constrains daily in reporting to work without pay. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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## Change of Name



I, Gerald Velentino Kpakay, Jr. am changing my current name to Gerald Myles, Sr. Hence, as of this publication, my name now is Gerald Myles, Sr.

BRANCH OF THE LIBERIA COURTS  
JANUARY TERM A.D. 2021  
JUDGE: SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

OF MOHAMMED DUKULY OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA PETITIONER PRAYING THIS HONOURABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE KNOWN, RECORDED AND CALLED, AS "DONZO MOHAMMED"

**COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME:**

MOHAMMED DUKULY filed a Petition through his legal counsel requesting this Honourable Court to order the change of his name to "DONZO MOHAMMED"

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the change of his name, requesting this Honourable Court is intended to reflect his true family name and render his identity more explicit and absolute. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the Change of his name proposed by him is therefore, it is adjusted as follows:

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on DECEMBER 20, 1992, in BAHN, NIMBA COUNTY, Republic of Liberia unto the union of MR. VABOLEE DUKULY and MISS. MASSIGBEH DOLLEY respectively, all of the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia and that the Change of name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish just identify more firmly, and being Satisfied that he has met all legal requirements for the Change of his Name in this Jurisdiction, it is therefore DECREED as follows:

That the PETITION having been heard he and same is hereby ordered granted and we now Reader that the name MOHAMMED DUKULY be changed to "DONZO MOHAMMED" Beginning this 27<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY A.D. 2021.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN OPEN COURT, THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY A.D. 2021

COURT SEAL: SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE(S) \_\_\_\_\_

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## FIGC opens inquiry into Ibrahimovic-Lukaku confrontation



Romelu Lukaku and Zlatan Ibrahimovic were booked following their exchange.

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) has opened an inquiry into the clash between Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Romelu Lukaku in Inter's Coppa Italia win over Milan.

The former Manchester United team-mates were involved in a heated exchange in which Ibrahimovic appeared to tell the Belgian forward: "Go do your voodoo s\*\*\*, you little donkey".

It was suggested Ibrahimovic was referring to comments made in 2018 by

Everton majority shareholder Farhad Moshiri, who said Lukaku had declined a contract extension because a "voodoo message" told him to move to Chelsea - a transfer that never transpired.

Some accused Ibrahimovic of racially abusing Lukaku, with the Swede responding by stating on Twitter: "In ZLATAN's world there is no place for RACISM." United midfielder Paul Pogba also tweeted to say his old team-mate was "the last person I'd think of as racist".

Both players were booked

following the incident before Ibrahimovic picked up a second caution for a foul in the second half of the game.

As part of the inquest, match referee Paolo Valeri has been summoned to explain his decision to book both players in the aftermath.

A statement read: "This morning, FIGC attorney Giuseppe Chine opened an inquiry into the verbal dispute between Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Romelu Lukaku in the Coppa Italia quarter-final between Inter and Milan on January 26.

"As part of this inquest, Chine has decided to summon referee Paolo Valeri, who will, in the next few hours, be called upon to give his statement regarding the sanctions that were handed out to both players during the game."

Lukaku had cancelled out Ibrahimovic's opener in the tie at San Siro before Christian Eriksen sealed Inter's progression to the semi-finals with a stoppage-time free-kick.

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## Liverpool complete £1.6m Ben Davies signing from Preston

The 25-year-old has signed a long-term deal with the Premier League champions on deadline day

Liverpool have completed the £1.6million (\$2.1m) signing of Ben Davies from Preston.

The Reds will pay an initial £500,000 (\$675,000) for the 25-year-old centre-back, with a further £1.1m (\$1.5m) in performance-related additions.

Davies underwent a medical on Monday morning

after Liverpool moved ahead of Celtic in the race to sign him over the weekend. He has signed a long-term contract and is expected to train with his new team-mates for the first time on Tuesday.

Liverpool are expected to follow up his purchase with the signing of Ozan Kabak, who is set to join on loan from Schalke, with the option of an £18m (\$23m) permanent move in the summer.

Sepp van den Berg, meanwhile, is to join Preston on loan for the rest of the season as



part of the Davies deal.

Speaking to Liverpool's official website, Davies admitted he was surprised to get the chance to join the current Premier League champions, but said he was desperate to make a good impression at Anfield.

He said: "I'm obviously delighted to be here. It's a huge opportunity.

"Obviously it came as a bit of a surprise when it first came but once you start to get your head around it, the opportunity that is in front of me is incredible.

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