



**The NewDawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT  
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

www

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

# The NewDawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

VOL.11 NO. 140

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021

PRICE LD\$40.00

## Erratum:

We inadvertently captioned the photograph of Cllr. Wesseh A. Wesseh on the front page of our Tuesday, August 17, 2021 Edition of the paper as Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin. Management regrets all inconveniences the publication may have caused Cllr. Wesseh.



Cllr. Wesseh A. Wesseh

P11  
SEE STORY



Justice Min. Musa Dean



Mr. Nanborlor F. Singbeh Sr.

## In Singbeh, others' trial: Court suspends hearing

# PLP expels Chairman Paye and others



Mr. Wilmot Paye



3G good

Dial \*352#



4G better





# Continental News

## Hichilema faces task of reviving Zambian economy after landslide win

Zambian President Edgar Lungu conceded defeat on Monday, after a landslide election win by opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema, who will face the challenge of reviving an economy in turmoil.

With all but one constituency counted, Hichilema had won 2,810,777 votes against Lungu's 1,814,201, and the electoral

commission declared him president. It marked the country's third peaceful handover of power to an opposition party. "I will comply with the constitutional provisions for a peaceful transition of power. I would therefore like to congratulate my brother, the president-elect, His Excellency Mr Hakainde Hichilema," Lungu, 64, said in a short televised address to the nation. When the celebrations

die down, Hichilema, 59, a former CEO at an accounting firm before entering politics, will need to focus on resuscitating a flagging economy.

Zambia became Africa's first pandemic-era sovereign default in November after failing to keep up with its international debt payments. [read more](#)

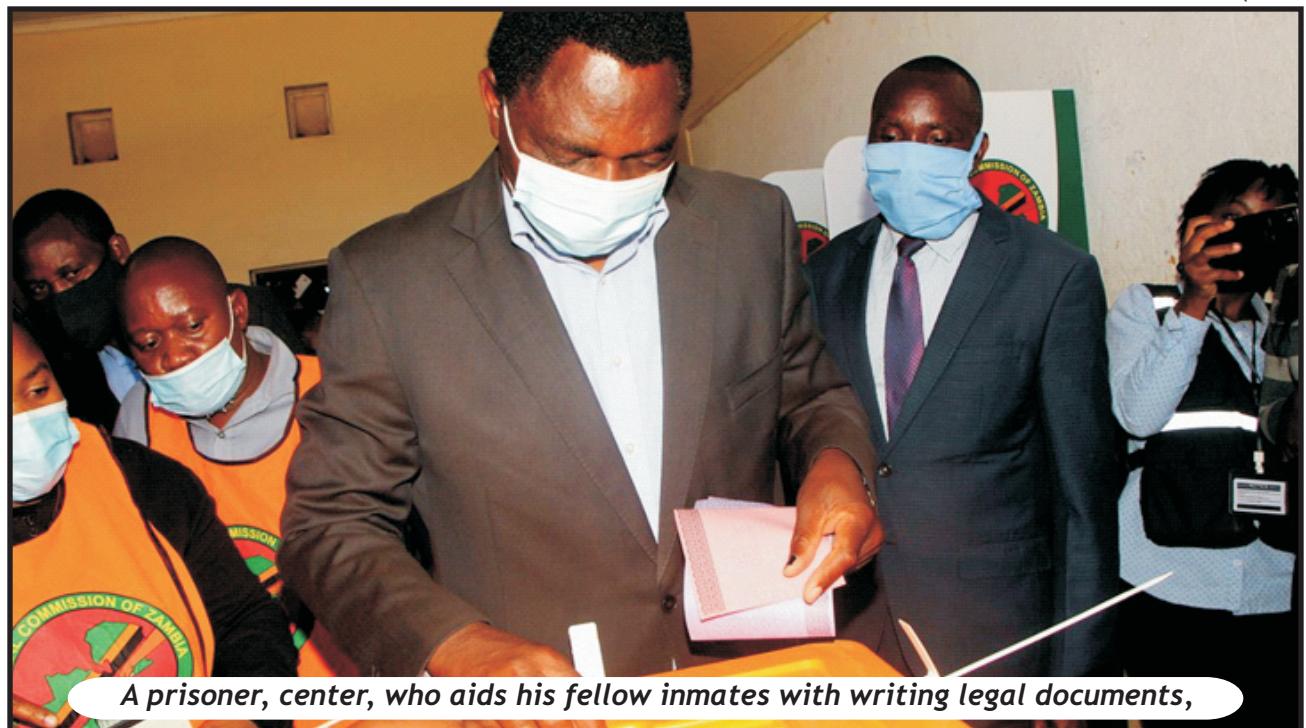
"It is in no doubt what the instruction is to all of us (that

you) ... elect us to office at a very difficult time," he said, hinting at the task ahead as he addressed supporters in the capital, Lusaka. "We will not let you down."

The default was driven by depressed commodity prices - which had pushed Zambia into recession well before the COVID-19 pandemic - worsened by the pandemic itself. He has some room for manoeuvre as the economy has been buoyed slightly by more favourable copper prices this year - now hovering around decade highs, driven partly by the boom in electric cars. Last year, Zambia, Africa's second biggest copper

miner, produced a record output of the metal. Nonetheless Hichilema urged Zambians to put aside divisions, condemning attacks on property, after a mall named after the ex-incumbent was looted. "For years we were victims of retribution. We are not about to .... start a new wave of violence," he said. "If you want to show higher moral ground... do not attack them."

The election is the culmination of an acrimonious rivalry between the two that in 2017 led Lungu to arrest and imprison Hichilema for refusing to make way for his motorcade. This is Hichilema's sixth attempt at the presidency since 2006. Reuters



A prisoner, center, who aids his fellow inmates with writing legal documents,

## Uganda to welcome refugees fleeing the Taliban

Uganda is to take in 2,000 refugees who have fled Afghanistan after Taliban militants took power on Sunday.

The first group of 500 Afghans are expected to arrive at Entebbe Airport later on Tuesday.

The deal was agreed following a request from the US government, Refugee Minister Esther Anyakun told the BBC.

Uganda has a long history of welcoming refugees - and is currently home to around 1.3 million people who have fled conflict or other disasters.

The East African nation has

the largest number of refugees in any country in Africa - and the third largest in the world. The new Afghan arrivals will be tested for Covid-19 before they are sent to isolation centres, Ms Anyakun says. The US is to cover these costs. The Taliban have returned to power 20 years after a US-led intervention ousted them in 2001.

The Islamist group was able to seize control after most foreign troops pulled out.

The lightning advance of the Taliban over 10 days prompted tens of thousands of people to flee their homes, many arriving in the Afghan capital, Kabul, others heading for neighbouring countries.

Kabul was the last major city to fall prompting Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to flee the country on Sunday.

Many desperate residents then headed to the airport where US troops were organising evacuations for foreigners and vulnerable Afghans. More than 90% of Uganda's refugees come from



Hundreds of Afghans managed to scramble on to a US military aircraft on Sunday as it left Kabul for Qatar

## Army to spend another month on South Africa's streets



*It's the biggest deployment since the end of apartheid*

Soldiers are to spend another month on the streets of South Africa, after the widespread unrest and looting that followed ex-President Jacob Zuma's jailing in July. In response to the violence 25,000 troops were deployed - the biggest number since the end of white-minority rule in 1994. Their numbers will now be scaled down, President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced, with 10,000 troops remaining on the streets until mid-September. This month-long extension will cost \$17m (£12.4m), the president wrote in a letter to the head of the national council of provinces, Amos Masondo. Mr Ramaphosa said the South African National Defence Force will work with police across the country "in the prevention and combating of crime and preservation of law and order". BBC

**OFFSET** Printing

**The NewDawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

Refugees live in

settlements or villages alongside local residents and some are given plots of land and allowed to work. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## So the suspended port managers have fled the country

WE HAVE LEARNT reliably that the suspended manager of the Port of Buchanan in Grand Bassa County Charles McArthur Gull and Chief Statistician Amara Kamara currently facing investigation for diverting over US\$300,000.00 of port fund to a private account have absconded. How this happened we are not interested but one thing that should be clear is they did not act alone.

THE LAST INFORMATION we gathered from the management of the National Port Authority last week is that the suspended officials, who reportedly confessed to diverting the amount were being forwarded to the Liberian Anti Corruption Commission for thorough probe.

NOW WE ARE hearing that they have absconded to the United States of America. To have them brought back to Liberia to face justice would require serious legal battle, including extradition request that might drag for months or years.

IN FACT, WE also gathered that the actual amount of money diverted into private account in Monrovia is US\$900,000.00, contrary to what the NPA management had reported. But if the NPA management claimed to have conducted preliminary investigation with the suspended officials at which they confessed to diverting the public money, then it ought to know their whereabouts.

WE ARE ABSOLUTELY flabbergasted that the two officials, having been suspended for alleged impropriety which they admitted to, were never apprehended whatsoever even as they were said to being transferred to the LACC. We clearly see a connivance or complacency here.

SOMEONE NEEDS TO account how possible was it when the guys, already being investigated though without any formal charge would escape the country without trace. Someone, probably a mole within the government could have been keeping them abreast of happenings and eventually helped them to run away.

SUCH BEHAVIOR PORTRAYS the government negatively and sends wrong picture about many people's motive for coming to public service. They see government job as an opportunity to steal and amass wealth quickly.

WE RECOMMEND THAT ANY future investigation on how Charles McArthur Gull and Amara Kamara, under investigation left Liberia for the United States should include the management of the NPA to help with said investigation.

HONESTLY SPEAKING, THE handling of public funds under the Weah administration leaves much to be desired, particularly in the face of a health pandemic and serious economic challenges. Those responsible should not go with impunity.

SIMILARLY, THE PUBLIC is watching with eagle's eyes on development at the National Transit Authority (NTA) where millions of dollars are been reportedly siphoned by its managing director, Harbie Macauley, evoking employees' protests and calls for his dismissal.



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. Garibah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

# COMMENTARY

## Biden Was Right

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - It has been excruciating to watch the Taliban roll across Afghanistan, undoing in a matter of months two decades of efforts by the Afghan people and the international community to build a decent, secure, and functioning state. The Taliban effectively wrapped up its stunning sweep of the country on Sunday, moving into Kabul and prompting President Ashraf Ghani to flee.

The Taliban's virtually uncontested takeover over Afghanistan raises obvious questions about the wisdom of US President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw US and coalition forces from the country. Paradoxically, however, the rapidity and ease of the Taliban's advance only reaffirms that Biden made the right decision - and that he should not reverse course.

The ineffectiveness and collapse of Afghanistan's military and governing institutions largely substantiates Biden's skepticism that US-led efforts to prop up the government in Kabul would ever enable it to stand on its own feet. The international community has spent nearly 20 years, many thousands of lives, and trillions of dollars to do good by Afghanistan - taking down al-Qaeda; beating back the Taliban; supporting, advising, training, and equipping the Afghan military; bolstering governing institutions; and investing in the country's civil society.

Significant progress was made, but not enough. As the Taliban's speedy advance has revealed, even two decades of steady support failed to create Afghan institutions capable of holding their own.

That is because the mission was fatally flawed from the outset. It was a fool's errand to try to turn Afghanistan into a centralized, unitary state. The country's difficult topography, ethnic complexity, and tribal and local loyalties produce enduring political fragmentation. Its troubled neighborhood and hostility to outside interference make foreign intervention perilous.

These inescapable conditions ensured that any effort to turn Afghanistan into a modern state would fail. Biden made the tough and correct choice to withdraw and end a losing effort in search of an unattainable goal.

The case for withdrawal is also buttressed by the reality that even if the United States has fallen short on the nation-building front, it has achieved its primary strategic goal: preventing future attacks on America or its allies from Afghan territory. The US and its coalition partners have decimated al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The

same goes for the Afghan branch of the Islamic State, which has demonstrated no ability to carry out transnational attacks from Afghanistan.

In the meantime, the US has built a global network of partners with which to fight terrorism worldwide, share relevant intelligence, and jointly boost domestic defenses against terrorist attacks. The US and its allies are today much harder targets than they were on September 11, 2001. Al-Qaeda has not been able to carry out a major overseas attack since the bombings in London in 2005.

There is of course no guarantee that the Taliban will not again provide safe harbor to al-Qaeda or similar groups. But that outcome is highly unlikely. The Taliban has been doing just fine on its own and has little reason to revive its partnership with the likes of al-Qaeda. The Taliban will also want to maintain a measure of international legitimacy and support, likely quashing any temptation to host groups seeking to organize terrorist attacks against foreign powers. Moreover, those groups have little incentive to seek to regroup in Afghanistan when they can do so more easily elsewhere.

Finally, Biden is right to stand by his decision to end the military mission in Afghanistan, because doing so is consistent with the will of the American electorate. Most of the American public, Democrats and Republicans alike, has lost patience with the "forever wars" in the Middle East. The illiberal populism that led to Donald Trump's election (and near re-election) emerged in part as a response to perceived American overreach in the broader Middle East. Against a backdrop of decades of economic discontent among US workers, recently exacerbated by the devastating impact of the pandemic, voters want their tax dollars to go to Kansas, not Kandahar.

The success of Biden's effort to repair American democracy depends principally on delivering domestic investment; the infrastructure and social policy bills now moving through Congress are critical steps in the right direction. But foreign policy also matters. When Biden pledges to pursue a "foreign policy for the middle class," he needs to deliver by pursuing a brand of statecraft that enjoys the backing of the American public.

Afghanistan deserves the support of the international community for the foreseeable future. But the US-led military mission has run its course. Sadly, the best the international community can do for now is help alleviate humanitarian suffering and press Afghans to look to diplomacy, compromise, and restraint as their country now searches for a peaceful and stable political equilibrium.

# OPINION

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

## Blood in the Sand

**N**EW YORK - The magnitude of the United States' failure in Afghanistan is breathtaking. It is not a failure of Democrats or Republicans, but an abiding failure of American political culture, reflected in US policymakers' lack of interest in understanding different societies. And it is all too typical.

Almost every modern US military intervention in the developing world has come to rot. It's hard to think of an exception since the Korean War. In the 1960s and first half of the 1970s, the US fought in Indochina - Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia - eventually withdrawing in defeat after a decade of grotesque carnage. President Lyndon B. Johnson, a Democrat, and his successor, the Republican Richard Nixon, share the blame.

In roughly the same years, the US installed dictators throughout Latin America and parts of Africa, with disastrous consequences that lasted decades. Think of the Mobutu dictatorship in the Democratic Republic of Congo after the CIA-backed assassination of Patrice Lumumba in early 1961, or of General Augusto Pinochet's murderous military junta in Chile after the US-backed overthrow of Salvador Allende in 1973.

In the 1980s, the US under Ronald Reagan ravaged Central America in proxy wars to forestall or topple leftist governments. The region still has not healed.

Since 1979, the Middle East and Western Asia have felt the brunt of US foreign policy's foolishness and cruelty. The Afghanistan war started 42 years ago, in 1979, when President Jimmy Carter's administration covertly supported Islamic jihadists to fight a Soviet-backed regime. Soon, the CIA-backed mujahedeen helped to provoke a Soviet invasion, trapping the Soviet Union in a debilitating conflict, while pushing Afghanistan into what became a forty-year-long downward spiral of violence and bloodshed.

Across the region, US foreign policy produced growing mayhem. In response to the 1979 toppling of the Shah of Iran (another US-installed dictator), the Reagan administration armed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in his war on Iran's fledgling Islamic Republic. Mass bloodshed and US-backed chemical warfare ensued. This bloody episode was followed by Saddam's invasion of Kuwait, and then two US-led Gulf Wars, in 1990 and 2003.

The latest round of the Afghan tragedy began in 2001. Barely a month after the terror attacks of September 11, President George W. Bush ordered a US-led invasion to overthrow the Islamic jihadists that the US had backed previously. His Democratic successor, President Barack Obama, not only continued the war and added more troops, but also ordered the CIA to work with Saudi Arabia to topple Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, leading to a vicious Syrian civil war that continues to this day. As if that was not enough, Obama ordered NATO to oust Libyan leader Muammar el-Qaddafi, inciting a decade of instability in that country and its neighbors (including Mali, which has been destabilized by inflows of fighters and weapons from Libya).

What these cases have in common is not just policy failure. Underlying all of them is the US foreign-policy establishment's belief that the solution to every political challenge is military intervention or CIA-backed destabilization.

That belief speaks to the US foreign-policy elite's utter disregard of other countries' desire to escape grinding poverty. Most US military and CIA interventions have occurred in countries that are struggling to overcome severe economic deprivation. Yet instead of alleviating suffering and winning public support, the US typically blows up the small amount of infrastructure the country possesses, while causing the educated professionals to flee for their lives.

Even a cursory look at America's spending in Afghanistan reveals the stupidity of its policy there. According to a recent report by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, the US invested roughly \$946 billion between 2001 and 2021. Yet almost \$1 trillion in outlays won the US few hearts and minds.

Here's why. Of that \$946 billion, fully \$816 billion, or 86%, went to military outlays for US troops. And the Afghan people saw little of the remaining \$130 billion, with \$83 billion going to the Afghan Security Forces. Another \$10 billion or so was spent on drug interdiction operations, while \$15 billion was for US agencies operating in Afghanistan. That left a meager \$21 billion in "economic support" funding. Yet even much of this spending left little if any development on the ground, because the programs actually "support counterterrorism; bolster national economies; and assist in the development of effective, accessible, and independent legal systems."

In short, less than 2% of the US spending on Afghanistan, and probably far less than 2%, reached the Afghan people in the form of basic infrastructure or poverty-reducing services. The US could have invested in clean water and sanitation, school buildings, clinics, digital connectivity, agricultural equipment and extension, nutrition programs, and many other programs to lift the country from economic deprivation. Instead, it leaves behind a country with a life expectancy of 63 years, a maternal mortality rate of 638 per 100,000 births, and a child stunting rate of 38%.

The US should never have intervened militarily in Afghanistan - not in 1979, nor in 2001, and not for the 20 years since. But once there, the US could and should have fostered a more stable and prosperous Afghanistan by investing in maternal health, schools, safe water, nutrition, and the like. Such humane investments - especially financed together with other countries through institutions such as the Asian Development Bank - would have helped to end the bloodshed in Afghanistan, and in other impoverished regions, forestalling future wars.

Yet American leaders go out of their way to emphasize to the American public that we won't waste money on such trivialities. The sad truth is that the American political class and mass media hold the people of poorer nations in contempt, even as they intervene relentlessly and recklessly in those countries. Of course, much of America's elite holds America's own poor in similar contempt.

In the aftermath of the fall of Kabul, the US mass media is, predictably, blaming the US failure on Afghanistan's incorrigible corruption. The lack of American self-awareness is startling. It's no surprise that after trillions of dollars spent on wars in Iraq, Syria, Libya, and beyond, the US has nothing to show for its efforts but blood in the sand.

# O-PED

By Brahma Chellaney

## Pax Americana Died in Kabul

**N**EW DELHI — The terrorist takeover of Afghanistan, following President Joe Biden's precipitous and bungling military exit, has brought an ignoble end to America's longest war. This is a watershed moment that will be remembered for formalizing the end of the long-fraying Pax Americana and bringing down the curtain on the West's long ascendancy.

At a time when its global preeminence was already being severely challenged by China, the United States may never recover from the blow this strategic and humanitarian disaster delivers to its international credibility and standing. The message it delivers to US allies is that they count on America's support when they most need it at their own peril.

After all, the Afghanistan catastrophe unfolded after the US threw its ally - the Afghan government - under the bus and got into bed with the world's deadliest terrorists, the Taliban. President Donald Trump first struck a Faustian bargain with them, and then the Biden administration rushed to execute the military exit dictated by the deal, even though the Taliban had been openly violating the agreement.

The dramatic collapse of the Afghan defenses and then the government was directly linked to the US betrayal. Biden admits Trump "drew US forces down to a bare minimum of 2,500" in Afghanistan. By refusing to retain that small military footprint and by ordering a rapid exit at the onset of the annual fighting season, Biden pulled the rug out from under the Afghan military's feet, thus facilitating the Taliban's sweep.

The US had trained and equipped the Afghan forces not to play an independent role but to rely on American and NATO capabilities for a host of battlefield imperatives - from close air support, including drones for situational awareness, to keeping US-supplied weapon systems operational. Biden's calamitous troop pullout without a transition plan to sustain the Afghans' combat capabilities unleashed a domino effect, with 8,500 NATO forces and some 18,000 US military contractors also withdrawing and leaving the Afghan military in the lurch.

As former CIA Director General David Petraeus has explained, ever since US combat operations in Afghanistan ended on January 1, 2015, Afghan soldiers had been bravely "fighting and dying for their country" until the US suddenly ditched them this summer, mortally compromising Afghan defenses. This assessment is reinforced by the number of military deaths: Since the US combat role ended more than six and a half years ago, Afghan security forces lost tens of thousands of soldiers, while the Americans suffered just 99 fatalities, many in non-hostile incidents.

This is not the first time the US has dumped its allies - or even the first time in recent memory. In the fall of 2019, the US abruptly abandoned its Kurdish allies in northern Syria, leaving them at the mercy of a Turkish offensive.

But in Afghanistan, the US sowed the wind and reaped the whirlwind. Its self-inflicted defeat and humiliation have resulted from a failure of political, not military, leadership. Biden, ignoring conditions on the ground, overruled his top military generals in April and ordered all US troops to return home. Now, two decades of American war in Afghanistan have culminated with the enemy riding triumphantly back to power.

Whereas 58,220 Americans (largely draftees) were killed in Vietnam, 2,448 US soldiers (all volunteers) died over the course of 20 years in Afghanistan. Yet, the geopolitical implications of the US defeat in Afghanistan are much more significant globally than the American defeat in Vietnam.

The Pakistan-reared Taliban may not have a global mission, but their militaristic theology of violent Islamism makes them a critical link in an international jihadist movement that whips hostility toward non-Sunni Muslims into nihilistic rage against modernity. The Taliban's recapture of power will energize and embolden other violent groups in this movement, helping to deliver the rebirth of global terror.

In the Taliban's emirate, al-Qaeda, remnants of the Islamic State (ISIS), and Pakistani terrorist groups are all likely to find sanctuary. According to a recent United Nations Security Council report, "the Taliban and al-Qaeda remain closely aligned" and cooperate through the Pakistan-based Haqqani Network, a front for Pakistani intelligence.

The unraveling of the effort to build a democratic, secular Afghanistan will pose a far greater threat to the free world than Syria's meltdown, which triggered a huge flow of refugees to Europe and allowed ISIS to declare a caliphate and extend it into Iraq. The Taliban's absolute power in Afghanistan will sooner or later threaten US security interests at home and abroad.

By contrast, China's interests will be aided by the Taliban's defeat of the world's most powerful military. The exit of a vanquished America creates greater space for China's coercion and expansionism, including against Taiwan, while underscoring the irreversible decline of US power.

An opportunistic China is certain to exploit the new opening to make strategic inroads into mineral-rich Afghanistan and deepen its penetration of Pakistan, Iran, and Central Asia. To co-opt the Taliban, with which it has maintained longstanding ties, China has already dangled the prospect of providing the two things the militia needs to govern Afghanistan: diplomatic recognition and much-needed infrastructure and economic assistance.

The reconstitution of a medieval, ultra-conservative, jihad-extolling emirate in Afghanistan will be a monument to US perfidy. And the images of Chinook and Black Hawk helicopters transporting Americans from the US embassy compound in Kabul, recalling the frenzied evacuation from Saigon in 1975, will serve as a testament to America's loss of credibility - and the world's loss of Pax Americana.

## FEATURE

## FEATURE

# Liberia: She Can't See, But She is Baking Breads & Cakes

**—The Story of Visually impaired Liberian single mother supporting Family through her culinary knowledge**

Madam Christine M. Vanjah at work on Tuesday, June 15, 2021. In the background:

Two of her elder children—Precious and George

By Samuel G. Dweh—freelance Development Journalist—+231

(0)886618906/776583266/samuelosophy@yahoo.com/samuelosophy1@gmail.com

**S**he showered praises on former First Lady, Jewel Howard-Taylor (now Vice President of Liberia), for establishing an NGO that took her from the "street" and put her into a baking school....

This story has four phases: At the Bakery, the only provider of Family's needs, educational backgrounds, and Beginning of Disability, and Challenges

#### AT THE BAKERY

Between 11am and 1pm of June 15, 2021, visually impaired Christine MameyVanjah—born on the 14th day of December of 1972—stood behind a wooden table hosting these items: a stack of three 15-liter butter buckets (one with butter; two with flour); 20-liter plastic bucket with various plastic parcels of different baking materials; different shapes and sizes of aluminum baking pans; two large kitchen pans; one tin of baking powder; one made-in-Liberia metallic grating machine (hand-operated); and three transparent plastic bags containing granule sugar, nutmegs, and salt.

Under the table was a white 20-liter gallon with clear water.

She was scrapping one of the nutmegs against the grating machine and the grinded portions of the nutmeg dropping into a kitchen pan containing six cups of flour and half cup of sugar.

Behind her was her bakery: A wall-less structure made of palm thatch (roof) standing on four sticks (pillars) and old ice-producing cabin (Freezer)—now transformed into a baking device—with compartments to host aluminum pans with the pastry mixtures she was preparing. Charcoals were at the base of the "oven" (Freezer)

The "bakery" was at the side of a three-bedroom house (painted green) she occupies with her three biological children, one grand daughter, and two of her relatives' male children (each below age 13) she has absorbed into her nucleus family. The house is situated three meters off the junction of Mickey Gray community, about five meters off Duport Road in Paynesville City, outside Liberia's Capital.

"Because of my visual impairment, or blindness, my children assist me with bringing out my baking materials from inside the house, set the mixture table, and set the oven, but I do all the other parts alone," Madam Vanjah responded to question from this writer.

Two of her three children—Precious VanjahDahn, age 25 (married); and George Zinnah (age) 24—were assisting with preparations. The third child, BeverlyZinnah, age 22, was away.

During taking of photo for this story, the baker couldn't remove her Coronavirus (COVID-19) mask and head tie, for full view of her face for readers of the story, on health reasons.

"The rule of pastry production says, a baker should always cover his or her head when preparing foods. For the face mask, you know the World Health Organization hasn't declared Liberia free of the coronavirus," the professional woman responded to the journalist's comment about her "half facial visibility."

Responding to question about rent for where she lives, Madam Vanjah stated:

"I'm not paying rent for this house, but I'm not a permanent resident. The house is for my biological sister, who came to my rescue after my husband abandoned me with our children in a rented house, due to my disability."



Every six cups of flours produce thirty pieces of bread, each sold for twenty Liberian dollars (less than USD 0.20), Madam Vanjah said, and educated the journalist about her culinary arithmetic. "To every six cups of flour, I add half cup of butter, two spoonful of powdery form of nutmeg, and half cup of sugar."

"Many of my customers have been telling me and my sales children that my bread is sweet and too big for the price, twenty dollars, but I can't increase the price now, due to current economic condition with most people, and my desperate need for money to support my family," she said.

At a two-day Workshop (16-17 February, 2021) on "work-related issues" of persons with disabilities (venue: Liberia Chamber of Commerce, Capitol Bye-Pass, Monrovia): Madam Christine M. Vanjah promoting one of her culinary productions (rice bread) free to participants (offering it free) Workshop sponsored by Association Friends of Raoul Follereau (AIFO), an Italian humanitarian organization, in partnership with International Labour Organization (ILO), the National Union of Organizations of the Disabled (NUOD), Liberia Labour Congress (LCC), National Commission on Persons with Disabilities (NCD), other partners.

Madam Vanjah told me during the interview at her business center she yearns to impart into other people the culinary knowledge she got prior to her visual impairment.

"I want to open a pastry school to impart into other people what somebody had imparted into me at a pastry school," Madam Vanjah said to the visiting journalist, and showed a 'training pamphlet'—six sheets of white A4 stationery papers stuck together by an office pin. Each of the sheets contained name of a different pastry production and methods of preparation. Some of the names in the Lessons Pamphlet were: Cinemon Roll, Garri Cookie, Coconut Tie and Pie, Cake Bread, Pineapple Up Side Down, Plain Cake, and Corn Bread.

"Each course will run for nine months, and each student who stayed throughout the entire course will be given a free teaching pamphlet," Madam Vanjah explained. On her personal production ability, Madam Vanjah bragged: "I can mix and bake two different foods in one hour!"

She said her usual daily production time is once. "But, I can bake two times—in the morning and in the evening—when there's pressure on me to settle my daily savings, or Susu, obligation with the Susu leader, or when my children are being threatened with expulsion from their schools on school fees problem," she stated.

The school fees-related obligations are for George Zinnah (in 12th Grade) and BeverlyZinnah (11th Grade)—both of Nathan E. Gibson High School, situated along Parker Paint Community Road, which joins with the street (Duport Road) that passes through the community hosting Madam Vanjah's home.

The eldest child, Precious, graduated from High School and

is searching for job in the media—after graduating from the International School of Journalism, in Liberia, in 2017. "I also want to learn writing," she told this writer, after he introduced himself as president of Liberia Association of Writers (LAW)

#### THE ONLY PROVIDER OF FAMILY'S NEEDS

Madam Christine MameyVanjah became the only provider of her family after her husband, Mr. Zinnah, left in 2020—abruptly "terminating a marriage that had lived through nineteen unbroken years," the jilted woman, who had resorted to using her father's surname, said in a plaintive tone.

"Without a man as husband, or boyfriend, I'm the only person providing the needs for myself, my biological children, and other children living with me. The major needs are: foods, school feeds, and medications, and sometime clothes for the children," she enumerated.

Her regular sales persons are Aaron Dolo (age 12) and Samuel Dahn (age 11)—restricted to selling within the community.

"The senior ones assist in the selling after their school time and during weekends," the single mother and sole family's needs provider revealed to the interviewing journalist.

Because of the presence of her children during this writer's interview with her, questions about Madam Vanjah's later-turned-sour-marriage were postponed to another day—when the children would be absent. However, she had spilled it out in the previous year (2020) during this writer's exclusive interview with her at the 2020's White Cane Safety Day celebration, held in Grand Bassa County. (This journalist covered the celebration on hire by the National Union of Organizations for the Disabled—NUOD—an independent Liberian advocacy and capacity-building organization, led by physically challenged Madam Naomi B. Harris as president)

This writer's attraction to Madam Vanjah at the White Cane Safety Day celebration was based on her "motivational comments" to the body of PWDs at the indoor segment of the program. She had said to the disabled people during the questions/comments segment of the celebration's indoor segment: "We, blind people, should use other parts of our body to get our needs and wants, instead of always begging on the street or complaining to the Government. I'm using my hands to bake various kinds of bread and I know how to make wedding cakes on the knowledge I acquired several years ago."

After the White Cane Safety Day program, this writer engaged the motivational speaker and a role model of economic self-reliance in the Liberian Disability Community.

"I was in a relationship with a man who is the father of my only child, a female, born in June, 1997. But he left me in the twenty-eighth year of relationship, in January, 2020," she had revealed.

#### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUNDS

Ms. Christine Vanjah's academic education halted when she was in the 8th grade, caused by her Country's civil war, she admitted. "This happened in 2005, when the war has intensified. The school is in Marysbury, Arthington, a place many people call 'Congo people settlement'. I forgot the school's name now," she said.

When the war ended, she enrolled into another Elementary school, owned by a Nigerian, in Monrovia, but dropped out weeks later, due to visual problem. "I always used to see the letters on the black board moving like images on a computer's screen. My blindness was starting," she said.

When her slightly condition was deteriorating, Madam Christine Mamey enrolled into an Adult Literacy School, named ALFALIT, established by a Liberian Clergyman, Rev. Emmanuel J. Giddings, in 2006. She entered in 2008.



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Bong County: "I will call on Weah to dismiss Varney Sirleaf"

## Rep. Cole Tells Bong Citizens

**B**ong County Electoral District #3 Representative Marvin Cole said beginning this week, he will call on President George Weah to dismiss Internal Affairs Minister Varney Sirleaf for what he called undermining

the plenary of the House of Representatives is counterproductive to the development of Bong County.

Rep Cole said it is contradictory for Minister Sirleaf to have told the plenary that US \$5500 was withdrawn from Bong

Minister Sirleaf and Bong County Superintendent Esther Walker provide information about an alleged mismanagement of over US \$80,000.

Cole alleged that Superintendent Walker and the Chairman of the Project Management Committee Stephen Mulbah who are both signatory A2 and B1 have been wrongfully withdrawing monies from the County's account in conspiracy with the Minister of Internal Affairs Varney Sirleaf who signs clearance cheques before monies are released by the bank.

Representative Marvin said Minister Varney Sirleaf statement contravene his function as minister of Internal Affairs who is to monitor the activities of employees of the ministry through the county superintendents and report to the president.

Cole told the gathering that minister Sirleaf diverted the real intent of the discussion only to protect Sup. Walker and Stephen Mulbah, adding that the Minister doesn't deserve the job he has in the Weah's led government.

Cole assured citizens of the county that he will work with his colleagues at the Legislature and the Executive in making sure that Minister Varney Sirleaf is dismissed.



Rep. Marvin Cole

the development of Bong County.

Speaking over the weekend at the Bong Athletic Social and Intellectual Center in Gbarnga Representative Cole said statements made by Minister Sirleaf during his recent appearance before

County's account for the renovation of the Administrative Building on grounds that the money was given to an individual instead of a vendor.

Recently Representative Marvin Cole through a communication to the House of Representatives requested that

## LERC issues 5 years distribution license to Jungle Energy Power

In accordance with the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia (ELL), the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) on 13th August issued a five-year Large Micro Utility Distribution License to Jungle Energy Power (JEP) in Nimba County.

The Large Micro Utility Distribution License now allows JEP to distribute electricity without discrimination to customers and residents within the Nimba Distribution Area and in accordance with the license terms and conditions.

LERC's Chairman Dr. Lawrence D. Sekajipo speaking during the licensing ceremony said the expectations of Liberians in respect of accessing reliable and affordable electricity is high and the Commission would like to send a clear and



Chairman Lawrence Sekajipo presents the distribution license to JEP CEO Floyd S. Tomah

distinct message that Liberia is open for the critical investment required to cover the infrastructure deficit of the electricity sector.

"The Commission has developed the Tariff Regulations and the Technical Codes which will further define the rules for ensuring

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Senate committee

*Starts from back page*

ensure tracking in case of distress, and that the NPA itself never had record of people onboard.

Presenting findings to the Senate during session in chamber on Tuesday, August 17, Zargo lauded the Defense committee for a job well done, noting that through its intervention they were able to rescue some people that were onboard the vessel.

He quotes the Minister of Defense Daniel Ziankan as saying it was difficult for them to locate the vessel during the rescue mission due to lack of an Automatic Information System.

He says if it wasn't the invention of the Army thru the National Coast Guard, the situation would have been worse.

"We need to empower the Defense team because they have been doing a great job; a lot of people come through our water because our water is not policed", Sen. Zargo notes.

He reveals that as a result of the disaster, Maryland and Sinoe counties in the southeast where the vessel was headed when it sank about six (6) nautical miles off the coast of Marshall City in Margibi County, are experiencing hike in prices of commodities because vessels that usually transport goods to both counties are currently halted by the government in Monrovia, in the wake of ongoing investigation by the Liberia Maritime Authority.

Zargo details that during the investigation, the

Maritime Boss didn't turn out on grounds that he (Commissioner Nagbe) received the communication late, while the Managing Director of the National Port Authority Bill Tweakay had little or no knowledge of the vessel or how many persons were onboard.

However, the NPA management last week announced the suspension of the Pier Supervisor at the Freeport of Monrovia George D. McGill for allegedly authorizing the sail of the vessel. The NPA said Mr. McGill has been turned over to the Ministry of Justice for further interrogation.

"George D. McGill is the Pier Supervisor at the Port of Monrovia, he, without approval and notification of the management, allowed the sailing of the wrecked vessel. And so the NPA constituted an internal committee and the committee has established that he did that without the approval of the NPA", said the director of public affairs at the NPA, Malcom Scott in a news conference last Wednesday.

On July 19, the Liberia Maritime Authority announced that at least 15 passengers were missing and 11 others rescued from the sinking vessel in Liberian coastal waters.

Neither the Maritime Authority nor the NPA management seems willing to accept responsibility for the disaster that led to loss of lives and indefinite suspension of the 2021 West African Senior School Certificate Exam by the WAEC Monrovia Office. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

smooth operation and the sustainability of the electricity sector", Dr. Sekajipo told the audience at the licensing ceremony.

"What the Commission and consumers require of JEP is - distribution equipment reliability that will enhance customer service and confidence in the electricity supply industry" he averred.

The LERC's Chairman Dr. Sekajipo said the Commission's expectation is that JEP will commit to achieving these goals within the established targets and benchmarks as outlined in the terms and conditions of the license.

Responding, JEP's CEO Flody Tomah challenged the Commission to remain steadfast and diligent in the issuance of licenses as experienced during JEP's process. "We hope the Commission will not end up being another Liberian institution to accommodate other institutions", he said.

The Liberia businessman explained that JEP's engagement within the electricity sector was a pilot project on how a private entity can operate a public entity and described it as being a success story and have learnt several lessons over the years.

Mr. Tomah said JEP inherited the distribution system from the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) with 700 postpaid customers and 29 transformers but now has over 7000 customers with smart meters and now installed 44 new transformers across its operational areas.

Currently, JEP is expanding to other larger cities and towns in Nimba County, the JEP CEO revealed to LERC and guests at the licensing ceremony.

He said JEP is providing services to nearly all public and private institutions operating within the county including major concessions.

"JEP is ready and willing to work with the donor community to provide affordable electricity

► CONT'D ON PAGE 11

# Français

## Le ministre adjoint de la justice aurait-il sollicité des pots-de-vin?

**L**e ministre adjoint de la Justice, Me Wesseh A. Wesseh, a-t-il vraiment demandé des pots-de-vin pour les jurés afin d'inculper les accusés ? C'est la question qui se trouve sur toutes les lèvres dans l'affaire MHM EKO Liberia qui implique M. J. Nanborlor Singbeh, secrétaire du Sénat, et un ressortissant étranger qui aurait des liens profonds avec M. Musa Dean, actuel ministre de la Justice.

Dans un enregistrement audio dont ce quotidien a eu copie, Me Wesseh A. Wesseh sollicitait un montant de 200 dollars américains à un ressortissant étranger, connu comme Hans Armstrong, pour payer les membres du Grand Jury Spécial. L'audio date de février 2021.

L'argent était destiné à encourager les membres du jury à mettre en accusation M. Singbeh et ses coaccusés.

M. Singbeh et Hans Armstrong - le second serait soutenu par le ministre Musa Dean, son ancien avocat - se disputent l'appartenance de

deux tracteurs d'une valeur de près de 350 000 dollars US devant les tribunaux. Les équipements en question sont actuellement loués par Arcelor Mittal Liberia.

Sur l'enregistrement, on entend M. Hans Armstrong dire qu'il faut publier l'acte d'accusation contre Singbeh et que les membres du jury seraient pris en charge après.

M. Armstrong, toujours sur l'enregistrement, se vante

d'avoir des liens d'amitié avec l'actuel ministre de la Justice. Il a aussi dit n'avoir aucune intention d'insulter l'intégrité des membres du jury car à les juger par leurs costumes, ils n'ont pas l'air démunis. D'où la nécessité de mettre le paquet afin qu'ils soient satisfaits une fois l'acte d'accusation publié.

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Cllr. Wesseh A. Wesseh

## Les fonctionnaires ont désormais deux mois pour déclarer leurs biens, sinon...

Le président de la Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption (LACC) a accordé aux agents de la fonction publique une période de grâce de deux mois pour déclarer leurs actifs, à compter du 1er septembre 2021.

Me Edward Kla Martin, s'exprimant lundi 16 août au siège de la LACC à Congo Town lors d'une importante conférence de presse, s'est

engagé à éradiquer la corruption. Pour y arriver, il va poursuivre chaque fonctionnaire et organisme gouvernemental qui sera soupçonné de corruption et de détournement de fonds publics.

Le nouveau patron de la LACC a souligné que la commission veillera à ce qu'il n'y ait plus de place pour la corruption, notant que chaque institution gouvernementale et individu soupçonné de corruption fera

l'objet d'une enquête approfondie et sera puni pour détournement de fonds publics s'il est reconnu coupable.

À propos de la saga de corruption présumée en cours, Me Martin a indiqué lors de la conférence de presse que la LACC a ouvert des enquêtes et que des audits sont actuellement en cours au niveau de la National Transit Authority (NTA), au port de Buchanan, à Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) et à Liberia Aviation Authority (LAA).

Il a ajouté que les enquêtes seront bientôt terminées et que les personnes qui seront soupçonnées dans le rapport seront invitées pour être interrogées.

« Nous avons hérité de 73 affaires de corruption, y compris les rapports d'audit dont nous sommes saisis. Cependant, nous voulons assurer le peuple libérien que nous veillerons à ce que justice soit rendue et que tous ceux mentionnés dans le rapport soient jugés », a déclaré Me Martin.

« S'ils ne sont pas dans le pays,

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Cllr. Edward Kla Martin

## Editorial

### Un déficit persistant de leadership dans le Libéria de Weah

L'absence d'un leadership proactif dans la structure gouvernementale nuit gravement à l'administration de George Weah qui est au pouvoir depuis près de quatre ans maintenant. La mauvaise gouvernance alimentée par la corruption, les violations constitutionnelles, le favoritisme politique et l'incompétence, entre autres, est visible partout, depuis le plus haut échelon du gouvernement jusqu'aux fonctionnaires subalternes.

Les récentes vagues de protestations de masse des citoyens lésés à travers le pays démontrent un manque total de leadership dans l'administration.

Les expériences désagréables ont montré leurs têtes laides d'abord à Grand Cape Mount, en particulier à Robertsport, où des citoyens lésés sont descendus dans la rue parce que leur sénateur élu, Simeon Taylor, n'a pas encore pris son siège au Sénat en raison de contestations judiciaires qui durent presque un an, leur privant ainsi une représentation, en dépit du fait d'avoir fait leur choix dans les urnes le 8 décembre 2020. Une manifestation similaire s'est produite à Lofa où les citoyens veulent que leur sénateur élu, J. Brownie Samukai, qui fait face à une bataille juridique, siège au Sénat.

À Margibi, des commerçants ont barricadé la rue parce qu'on veut les relocaliser de force. Monrovia a été témoin de deux manifestations violentes et sanglantes, ayant fait plusieurs blessés. Des étudiants de l'Université du Libéria dirigés par le Student Unification Party (SUP) protestaient contre les cours en ligne, un programme mis en place par l'administration. Mais ils ont été violemment dispersés par la police anti-émeute à l'aide de grenades lacrymogènes. Il y a eu plusieurs blessés parmi les étudiants.

Pas plus tard que la semaine dernière, des citoyens lésés, dont pour la plupart des malinkés, ont marché de la Japan Freeway au temple de la justice et au siège de la police nationale dans le centre-ville de Monrovia, réclamant la dépouille mortelle d'un des leurs, qui serait mort du fait de la brutalité policière.

Toutes ces réactions distinctes des citoyens se sont produites en raison de l'absence d'une chose : le leadership. De Lofa à Cape Mount en passant par Margibi et Montserrado, les dirigeants n'ont pas fait preuve de leadership pour rassurer les citoyens que leurs intérêts étaient protégés. À l'Université du Libéria et le long de la Japan Freeway, si les dirigeants avaient été proactifs, les citoyens ne seraient pas descendus dans la rue pour protester.

Il faut rappeler à ceux à qui l'on a confié le pouvoir qu'ils sont placés à ces postes pour régler les problèmes avant qu'ils ne tournent mal, une responsabilité élevée qu'ils ne devraient jamais minimiser, comme l'indiquent ces expériences désagréables.

Il est temps que les dirigeants, de la Présidence au cabinet, en passant par la police, la justice et le surintendant du comté, rassemblent leurs actions pour diriger comme les dirigeants qu'ils devraient être pour rendre notre société stable et unie. Il ne faut pas qu'ils soient des leaders uniquement par le nom, mais par le fait qu'ils font preuve d'un leadership proactif pour maintenir la confiance des personnes qu'ils dirigent.

Cela empêcherait les citoyens de descendre dans la rue pour exprimer des griefs uniquement pour subir des blessures de la part des agents de police cruels et brutaux qui sont fidèles non pas au peuple et à l'État, mais à des dirigeants insensibles et corrompus qui gouvernent de manière égoïste.

# Français

## Le ministre adjoint de la justice

Le ministre adjoint de la Justice a confirmé qu'il s'agit de sa voix sur l'enregistrement lors d'une interview qu'il a accordée à ce journal le lundi 16 août 2021. Mais il a insisté sur le fait que l'argent n'était pas destiné à soudoyer les membres du jury. Il a expliqué que lors des séances du Grand Jury spécial, c'est le ministère de la Justice qui paie les services des jurés et que le ministère n'avait pas le montant total à l'époque pour payer leurs services. Le montant réel dont le ministère de la Justice avait besoin, selon lui, était de 700 USD, mais il n'avait que 500 USD. C'est pourquoi il avait demandé à Hans Armstrong, qui est une partie dans cette affaire, de compléter l'argent.

Me Wesseh a en outre expliqué que le montant dont il est question dans cette affaire est supérieur à 500 000 USD. Alors, il n'aurait pas demandé seulement 200 dollars s'il avait besoin de pots-de-vin.

L'explication du ministre adjoint Wesseh est peut-être compréhensible, mais l'offre de M. Armstrong concernant les jurés soulève des interrogations quant à l'intention de l'argent.

En tout cas, à la suite de la fuite de l'enregistrement, M. Nanborlor Singbeh, qui est l'accusé dans cette affaire, a

écrit au juge en chef Francis Korkpor, pour se plaindre de Me Wesseh A. Wesseh comme quoi son comportement est contraire à l'éthique. Selon lui, la sollicitation des pots-de-vin pour les jurés a entraîné une action qui a non seulement détruit sa réputation durement gagnée, mais lui a également causé des dommages psychologiques. Le juge en chef n'a pas encore répondu à cette plainte.

Mais, alors que l'on attend toujours une réponse à cette plainte, une audience devrait débuter ce matin au tribunal pénal sur la base d'un rapport de la Commission générale d'audit (GAC) dans la même affaire.

Le rapport de la GAC émane également d'un précédent rapport compilé par la Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption (LACC) accusant Singbeh et d'autres de sabotage économique et de fraude, alors même qu'ils n'ont pas témoigné devant les enquêteurs de la LACC en tant que responsables de cette société privée.

La société MHM EKO Liberia Inc. a été constituée en mai 2013 et enregistrée en tant que personne morale en juin 2013. Six mois après son enregistrement, Singbeh a été rejoint par deux partenaires étrangers, Pavel Miloschewsky et Martin Miloschewsky. Singbeh était président et chef de la direction avant que la controverse actuelle ne s'ensuive.

## Les fonctionnaires ont désormais deux

nous utiliserons toutes les relations diplomatiques et internationales pour les ramener ici afin qu'ils rendent des comptes au peuple libérien, car nos partenaires ont assuré qu'ils nous aideraient dans la lutte contre la corruption", a déclaré Me Martin.

Abordant la question de la déclaration de patrimoine, Me Martin a expliqué que 59 personnes ont déjà déclaré leurs actifs, 15% d'entre eux sont des femmes et 84% des hommes.

Selon Martin, La LACC entamera une solide campagne de déclARATION

des actifs en septembre de cette année, et que le délai de grâce pour la déclaration d'actifs est prolongé en raison du déclenchement de la pandémie de Covid-19.

Par ailleurs, Me Martin a indiqué qu'un montant de 18 000 USD a été restitué par l'intermédiaire du tribunal dans l'affaire Munah Sieh et d'autres accusés. Il a fait savoir que la somme totale s'élevait à 199 800 USD.

Le patron de la LACC a appelé chaque Libérien à se joindre à la lutte contre la corruption et à signaler chaque cas de corruption, tout en les assurant de la protection de la commission.

**Watch out for our classified Advert page  
Coming Soon!**

**Advertise your business for small money!**

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Charles A. Kupchan

## Biden a eu raison

WASHINGTON, DC - Voir les talibans prendre le contrôle de l'Afghanistan, anéantissant en quelques mois deux décennies d'efforts déployés par le peuple afghan et la communauté internationale pour construire un État intègre, sûr et opérationnel, a été une expérience particulièrement pénible. Les insurgés ont achevé leur mainmise fulgurante sur le pays le week-end dernier, occupant Kaboul et poussant le président afghan Ashraf Ghani à fuir à l'étranger.

La prise de contrôle quasi incontestée de l'Afghanistan par les talibans soulève évidemment des questions au sujet du bien-fondé de la décision du président américain Joe Biden de retirer les forces américaines et de l'Otan de ce pays. Mais paradoxalement, la rapidité et la facilité de l'avancée des insurgés ne fait que confirmer que Biden a pris la bonne décision - et qu'il ne doit pas faire marche arrière.

L'inefficacité et l'effondrement des forces gouvernementales et des institutions afghanes justifient en grande partie le scepticisme de Biden quant au fait que les efforts déployés par les États-Unis pour tenir le gouvernement de Kaboul à bout de bras le rendraient un jour capable de voler de ses propres ailes. La communauté internationale a consacré près de 20 ans, des milliers de milliards de dollars et sacrifié des milliers de vie pour venir en aide à l'Afghanistan, en éliminant Al-Qaïda ; en repoussant les talibans ; en soutenant, conseillant, formant et équipant l'armée afghane ; en renforçant les institutions gouvernementales ; et en investissant dans la société civile du pays.

Des progrès considérables ont été réalisés, mais ils sont restés insuffisants. Comme l'a révélé l'offensive éclair des talibans, même deux décennies de soutien constant n'ont pas suffit pour créer des institutions afghanes viables.

La raison en est que la mission était, d'entrée de jeu, vouée à l'échec. C'était se bercer d'illusions que de croire qu'il serait possible de transformer l'Afghanistan en un État unitaire centralisé. La topographie complexe du pays, la multitude des groupes ethniques, et les liens de loyauté tribaux et locaux sont à la base d'une fragmentation politique pérénne. L'environnement régional précaire et l'hostilité de l'Afghanistan à l'égard de toute ingérence extérieure rendent n'importe quelle intervention étrangère périlleuse.

Ces conditions incontournables ont garanti que tout effort pour transformer l'Afghanistan en un État moderne échouerait. Biden a fait le choix juste et difficile de se retirer du pays et de mettre fin à la tentative futile de parvenir à un objectif illusoire.

Les arguments en faveur du retrait sont également étayés par le fait que, même si les États-Unis ont échoué à mettre en place un processus d'édification d'une nation afghane, ils ont atteint leur principal objectif stratégique : empêcher de futures attaques contre l'Amérique ou ses alliés depuis le territoire afghan. Les États-Unis et leurs partenaires de la coalition ont décimé Al-Qaïda en Afghanistan et au Pakistan. Il en va de même pour la branche

afghane du groupe État islamique, qui n'a démontré aucune capacité à mener des attaques transnationales depuis l'Afghanistan.

Dans l'intervalle, les États-Unis ont construit un réseau mondial de partenaires avec lesquels combattre le terrorisme à l'échelle internationale, partager les renseignements pertinents et conjointement renforcer les défenses nationales contre les attentats terroristes. Les États-Unis et leurs alliés sont des cibles beaucoup moins vulnérables qu'ils ne l'étaient le 11 septembre 2001. Al-Qaïda n'a pas été en mesure de mener des attaques majeures à l'étranger depuis les attentats à la bombe contre les transports publics à Londres en 2005.

Il n'existe bien sûr aucune garantie que les talibans n'offrent pas à nouveau un refuge sûr à Al-Qaïda et à d'autres groupes similaires, même si cela paraît très peu probable. Les talibans s'en sortent très bien tous seuls et n'ont guère de raisons de renouer des partenariats avec des groupes islamistes radicaux. Les talibans souhaiteront également conserver une certaine légitimité et un certain soutien au niveau international et seront donc peu enclins à céder à la tentation d'héberger des groupes susceptibles de mener des attaques contre des puissances étrangères. En outre, ces groupes ont peu d'intérêt à chercher à se regrouper en Afghanistan quand ils peuvent le faire plus aisément ailleurs.

Enfin, Biden a raison de persister dans sa décision de mettre fin à la mission militaire en Afghanistan, parce qu'elle est conforme à la volonté de l'électeur américain. La majorité des citoyens américains, démocrates comme républicains, est lassée des « guerres interminables » au Moyen-Orient. Le populisme illégal qui a conduit à l'élection (et de peu à la réélection) de Donald Trump, est en partie apparu en réponse à ce que les citoyens considèrent comme une présence démesurée américaine au Proche-Orient. Dans le contexte de décennies de grogne des travailleurs américains face aux difficultés économiques, récemment exacerbées par les conséquences dévastatrices de la pandémie, les électeurs veulent que l'argent de leurs impôts aille au Kansas et pas à Kandahar.

Que les efforts déployés par Biden pour réparer la démocratie américaine réussissent dépend principalement de la réalisation d'investissements au plan national. Les projets de loi sur les infrastructures et la politique sociale qui sont actuellement examinés par le Congrès sont des étapes essentielles dans la bonne direction. La politique étrangère conserve toutefois son importance. Lorsque Biden s'engage à mener une « politique étrangère pour la classe moyenne », il doit tenir ses promesses en adoptant une politique gouvernementale qui bénéficie du soutien de l'opinion publique américaine.

L'Afghanistan mérite d'être soutenu par la communauté internationale dans un avenir prévisible. Mais la mission militaire dirigée par les États-Unis a fait son temps. Malheureusement, le mieux que la communauté internationale puisse faire pour l'instant est d'aider à soulager la détresse de la population civile et de pousser les Afghans à privilégier la diplomatie, le compromis et la retenue alors que leur pays est à la recherche d'un équilibre politique pacifique et stable.

# FEATURE FEATURE

## Understanding the Budgeting Process in Liberia

By S. Karweaye

The nation's attention has once again been captured by controversy over the budget formulation and implementation after an interview conducted by President Weah in Kakata, Margibi County on August 16, 2021. During the interview, a journalist asked the President about the Liberia National Fire Service complaining about the agency low budgetary allotment. The President responded by saying "I am from the Executive; I don't create a budget."

In the past several years, we have analyzed national budgets; their context, content, effectiveness, and relevance to critical development challenges. We came across wasteful spending, wrongful priorities, and the absence of clear-cut developmental visions and plans for the nation's whole. While the Government has a statement of intentions for 2018-2023 encapsulated in 157 pages "The Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD)" and a dodgy Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), most of the counties did not even attempt that, and certainly had no articulated visions, plans and medium-term programs to anchor their annual budgets.

Development theory and experience support the proposition that budgets need to be predicated on long-term visions, economic strategies, and plans to be effective instruments of societal progress. Unfortunately, this is not the case for Liberia. Either the government budgets are not anchored on coherent visions and plans or where there are development plans, the budgets are at variance with the visions. Worse still, besides policy incoherence and perhaps in consequence of implementation discontinuities. Audit reports from the General Auditing Commission (GAC) on County Development Fund (CDF) and the Social Development Fund (SDF) indicate Liberia has been plagued by the phenomenon of abandoned projects. Similarly, the National Oil Company of Liberia is alleged to have wasted over US\$32million and the institution became virtually insolvent, with the departure of the former heads Robert Sirleaf, Randolph McClain, and other top officials leaving with hefty severance pay. Former President Sirleaf is on record to have publicly said she took responsibility and no one was brought to book. The 2019 GAC report on the US\$25 million used to mop-up excess Liberian dollars on the market shows many discrepancies between what the Central Bank reported and what the investigators found. These and other examples point to a fundamental malaise - our failure to articulate a national vision, coherent economic strategy, national development plans, and annual budgets to translate these into concrete outcomes and progress.

The importance of focusing on the national visioning and development planning process and their link to the budget cannot be over-emphasized. Unfortunately, this is not always the case in Liberia. In the last fifty years, a handful of countries have transformed their countries from low to middle and high-income through careful visioning, sound development planning, and focused implementation under competent leadership. China has not only grown at more than 10% per annum on average for 30 years but lifted more than 400 million people out of poverty since the leadership began implementing economic reforms in 1978.

The President's statement of "I am from the Executive; I don't create budget has generated lots of debates on social media with some saying his statement was correct while others are saying his statement was wrong. For the sake of the ongoing debate, we will first describe the Liberian government budgeting process. How are budget priorities determined and who does? How are budgets prepared, reviewed, and implemented? What does sound budgeting mean for our political



economy and progress as a nation? What can we learn from the past when things worked slightly better? And what country experiences are available for Liberia as lessons for the future? We intend to spend the next couple of articles explaining budgeting and addressing some of these questions. We hope that our citizens will be better enlightened about the subject and demand accountability from those in power.

The first step in our budget preparation is the President issuing directives to the Minister of Finance and development planning and proposing a budget in line with his government vision for Liberia (The PAPD). This is followed by producing a Medium-Term Fiscal framework (MTFF), mandated in the Public Financial Management Law of 2009. The MTFF shows projected expenditure and revenue plans for a few years in advance. Next in the budget preparation process are stakeholders' consultations. This entails consulting with the international financial institutions, donors, and legislative leadership on the broad budget direction, size, and proportions. Then Ministry, Department, and Agencies (MDAs) expenditure ceilings are set; that is each MDA is given an envelope - a maximum amount available for its recurrent and capital expenditure needs for the following year. The medium-term sector strategies for MDAs are then prepared by the Department of Budget within the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, which translates into Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for presentation. After all the above is done, the Minister of Finance then issues a budget call circular which is like a framework for the MDAs to prepare their budget proposals, but within their 'envelopes'.

When the MDA budgets have been verified to comply with the requirements, the draft is forwarded to the President for his approval. The President then forwards it to the Two Houses of the National Legislature. The budget is a 'money bill' which is required by our constitution to be passed by the Two Houses, but the House with its 73 members and more representative of the Liberia population, has the upper hand in event of disagreements with the Senate. Our constitution gives the Senate a greater say in presidential appointments but confers inherent superiority to the House concerning the appropriation of public funds.

Like every bill, the Budget - referred to as Appropriation Bill or Supplementary Appropriation Bill - goes through a First (or Introductory) Reading and debate in plenary

sessions. It is then referred to the Appropriation and other sector committees for more detailed review and scrutiny to move the Bill to the Second Reading. At this point, the various MDAs are invited to justify and defend their draft budgets in a way similar to "public hearings". For instance, the Minister of Information and his staff defend the budget of his ministry and its parastatals before the legislative committees on Information or Media and so on. And it is at this point, MDAs 'lobby' legislative committee to increase their allocations, re-introduce projects that may have been screened out or rejected by the Executive Branch, and promises of financial "quid pro quo" for budget distortions negotiated and agreed. The respective projects and numbers which constitute the revised budget are now referred back to the two houses for debate and passage in plenary sessions. It is unlikely that the two houses will come up with the same list of projects and numbers which make up the budget for presentation to the president for approval. If some degree of harmonization is necessary; the two houses usually appoint a committee to undertake this with equal membership from each. In the unlikely event that the Committee fails to agree, the two houses go into a joint house to vote on the budget - a process that ensures that the House version of the Money Bill is passed for approval. As soon as the budget has been harmonized, the finalized Appropriation Bill is sent to the President for his approval. In the event, the President fails to approve, the Bill lapses unless passed by a two-thirds majority of the legislature thereby no longer requiring presidential approval. Once enacted the budget becomes a national law that cannot be changed or modified in any way without recourse to the legislature.

In conclusion, the Constitution of Liberia places the power of the purse with the national legislative branch. Article 34 states: "no monies shall be drawn from the treasure except in consequence of appropriations made by legislative enactment and upon warrant of the President . ." The legislature passes legislation, including decisions about taxes and spending (although the President must agree for it to become law). The President, who heads the government's executive branch, is required to submit an annual budget, but that is merely a statement of proposed priorities. The national legislature may or may not consider some of those proposals. The President can veto spending bills or tax legislation (although the legislature can override the veto). The President implements the budget decision.

# In Singbeh, others' trial: Court suspends hearing

The Criminal Court "C" at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia has suspended the trial of Senate Secretary Nanborlor F. Singbeh Sr., and former National Investment Commission (NIC) boss George W. Wisner and several others, pending the issuance of a regular notice of assignment.

Presiding Criminal Court "C" Judge Ousman F. Feika said Tuesday, 17 August 2021 that the case was being suspended because prosecution failed to properly serve the defendants in the case.

The other defendants including Alex Saramek, Karel Socher, Sylvester Selevkoh, Barry F. Tequah and Patrick Siaphie have not been served with the indictment, issued a writ of arrest and brought under the jurisdiction of the court.

"I have also observed that the counsels for Co-defendants Afriland Bank, Cllr. Darku Mulbah, and Ecobank, Cllr. Albert Sims, were not served with the Notice of Assignment

are locked up in a legal battle over the rightful ownership of two yellow machines.

The machines include one caterpillar excavator with model 325 DNL valued at USD120, 000.00 and one Atlas Copco Jackhammer valued at USD 225, 000, 00, belonging to the MHM EKO Liberia Inc. The equipment in question is currently being rented by ArcelorMittal Liberia.

In the wake of the legal battle between Singbeh and Justice Minister Dean's longtime client Armstrong, this paper reported Tuesday, 17 August over a leaked audio in its possession which purports to be the voice of Assistant Justice Minister for Litigation, Cllr. Wesseh A. Wesseh soliciting payment of US\$200.00 dollars from Armstrong in the same case.

The audio which dates back to February 2021, suggests that the US\$200.00 was to pay members of a Special Grand Jury.

The Company MHM EKO Liberia Inc. was organized in May 2013 and registered as a legal entity in June 2013. Six months after



upon which today's hearing is being held," the Judge noted.

He further noted the trial can only be assigned provided the prosecution will do the needful to guarantee speedy trial for the defendants who are presently before court.

"Wherefore, and in view of the foregoing, the trial of these proceedings is hereby suspended pending the issuance of a regular notice of assignment, provided that the prosecution will do the needful to guarantee speedy trial for the defendants who are present before court. And its hereby so order." The judge said

The accused are standing trial for alleged economic sabotage, theft of property and criminal conspiracy.

Judge Feika emphasized that the proceedings cannot be continued as in keeping with the requirement and provision of the Criminal Procedure Code.

In his ruling, he added that it's a cardinal requirement under the Criminal Procedure Law here that defendants who have been indicted be served with indictment along with a writ of arrest to bring them under the jurisdiction of the court.

Defendant Singbeh and the complainant Hans Armstrong who is backed by Justice Minister Musa Dean

its registration, Singbeh was joined by two foreign partners-Pavel Miloshevsky and Martin Miloshevsky. Singbeh served as President and CEO before the current controversy ensued.

However, some lawyers representing a party in the case informed the court that prosecution is in the receipt of a motion for severance or separate trial filed on behalf of the Co-defendant Jan Holask.

They, however, asked the court to deny, reject and dismiss the motion for severance or separate trial.

They also argued that co-defendant Jan Holask is not hostile to the defense of the others co-defendants, noting that when the court grants severance from the rest of the co-defendants, the Republic of Liberia will be prejudiced.

However, the court said Co-defendants Ousman Fofana, Patrick Saah Siaphie, Ecobank Liberia Limited and Afriland bank were also being served with the indictment and the writ of arrest and brought under the jurisdiction of the court. But the counsel said Ousman Fofana, Patrick Saah Siaphie, Ecobank Liberia Limited and Afriland bank were not in court because notice of assignment for Tuesday's hearing was not served on them.

These development come at the time the prosecution has repeatedly argued that the defendants had been failing to attend court proceedings.

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
MONTSERRADO COUNTY)



IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW  
MONTSERRADO COUNTY SITTING IN ITS  
JUNE TERM, A.D. 2021.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR: YAMIE QUIQUI GBEISAY, SR. ....ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

IN RE: LUCILLE WOLO & SON., CHARLES WOLO,  
BY AND THRU THEIR ATTORNEY-IN-FACT,  
RUTH JAPPAH, PAYNESVILLE, MONTSERRADO  
COUNTY, LIBERIA.....MOVANT  
VERSUS  
T. MAX MASSAQUOI, REBECCA WILLIE, HARRY GISSI,  
ET AL OF G. S.A. ROAD PAYNESVILLE, MONTSERRADO  
COUNTY, R.L.....RESPONDENT

MOTION TO DISMISS  
MOTION TO ENFORCE  
ARBITRATION AWARD  
EJECTMENT

## NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT

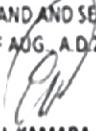
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA: TO SHERIFF/DEPUTY MONTSERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA,  
GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO NOTIFY THE ABOVE NAMED PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSELS TO APPEAR BEFORE THIS COURT ON THE 19TH DAY OF AUGUST, A.D. 2021, AT 9:00 A.M./P.M/NOON FOR CONFIRMATION OF ARBITRATION AWARD.

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED TO MAKE YOUR OFFICIAL RETURNS ENDORSED ON THE BACK OF THE ORIGINAL COPY OF THIS NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT AS TO THE MANNER AND FORM OF ITS SERVICE AND FILE SAME IN MY OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE ABOVE MENTIONED DATE.

COURT'S SEAL:

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT  
THIS 12TH DAY OF AUG. A.D. 2021.

  
ELLEN HALL-KAMARA  
CLERK OF COURT

JONES AND JONES LAW FIRM/CELL \_\_\_\_\_

CLLR. ROONEY P. KUOW/CELL \_\_\_\_\_

CLLR. RUTH JAPPAH/CELL \_\_\_\_\_

COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF

T. MAX MASSAQUOI FOR HIMSELF/CELL \_\_\_\_\_

COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT

August 17, 2021

## SURVEY NOTE

Based upon the request of Mr. John J. Norris the undersigned Registered Land Surveyor and Resident County Surveyor has been duly Authorized to re-survey one Acres of (1.70) land in St. Francis Road Paynesville, Montserrado County.

The land to be resurveyed is lying and situated in Paynesville, Community Montserrado County. The resurveyed will commence on Saturday, August 21, 2021 at the hour of 11:00AM.

Therefore, all adjacent property owners are ask to be present on the site with their deeds, diagrams and other relevant documents with their technical representative (surveyor) to verify their claims to avoid future land dispute.

This notice should claim the following persons or properties owner:

1. K.B.R
2. J.B.D.
3. C.A.A
4. Yaya
5. Gew Mayai
6. Community Chairman
7. Who It May Concern

Signed: 

Richard B. Smith  
Authorized Surveyor  
Cell# 0770787127

SURVEYOR'S LICENSE

Name: Moses T. Reba

Lic.#002

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Approved: 

 REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
Liberia Land Authority



August 16, 2021

## INVESTIGATIVE SURVEY NOTICE

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT THE LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY HAS DULY AUTHORIZED SURVEYOR TOM W. NIMELY #097 TO REPRESENT THE LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY IN AN INVESTIGATIVE SURVEY BETWEEN CECILIA IRENE BLACKSTON, THE KING WALTER ESTATE AND OTHER ADJOINING PARTIES.

THOSE WITH CLAIMS TO THE DISPUTED LAND ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- CECILIA IRENE BLACKSTON WITH CLAIM TO SEVENTY – ONE (71) ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.
- THE KING WALTER ESTATE WITH CLAIM TO ONE HUNDRED (100) ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.

GOVERNMENT SURVEYOR (TOM W. NIMELY #097) WILL COVER ANYONE WITHOUT A SURVEYOR BUT HAS A CLAIM TO THE DISPUTED PROPERTY.

THIS SURVEY TAKES PLACE ON SATURDAY AUGUST 21, 2021 AT 11:00 AM.

THE LAND IN QUESTION IS LYING AND SITUATED AT BEN TOWN, LOWER MARGIBI COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

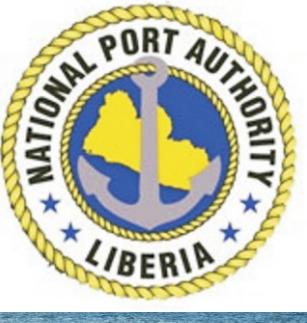
ALL ADJACENT PARTIES AND THOSE CONCERNED ARE ASKED TO BE PRESENT WITH THEIR DEEDS, DOCUMENTS, DIAGRAMS AND TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE DAY OF THE SURVEY TO VERIFY THEIR CLAIMS. LET THIS SURVEY NOTICE CLAIM THE ATTENTION OF THE BELOW LISTED:

- ✓ MR. ALFRED CHEA
- ✓ MADAM JANET LORPU KENNEDY
- ✓ THE SDA UNIVERSITY
- ✓ CORNER MARKERS T.S / S.S & R.I / P.C.V & P.T.V
- ✓ MADAM MARY DORAH
- ✓ OFFICE OF THE MARGIBI COUNTY LAND ADMINISTRATOR
- ✓ OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR OF MARSHALL
- ✓ LIBERIA NATIONAL POLICE
- ✓ ALL CONCERNED PARTIES

SIGNED:   
Mr. Paul A. Tolbert  
Coordinator  
Liberia Land Authority



# Senate committee indicts NPA -in sinking vessel probe



By Ethel A Tweh

The Chair for the senate committee on Defense, Security, Intelligence and Veterans Affairs, Senator

Stephen J.H. Zargo, blames the Management of the National Port Authority for poorly handling circumstances surrounding the sinking of the vessel Niko Ivanka in Liberian waters on July 17,

2021, leaving about a dozen persons drowned, including eight staff of the West African Examination Council (WAEC) Monrovia Office.

The Liberia Maritime Authority in collaboration with Liberia National Cost Guard rescued about 11 persons, including the two Chinese captains that led the voyage.

But the committee, which conducted its own investigation, says the NPA "blundered and didn't do its job well."

Its chair Senator Zargo explains the vessel, which Liberia's Maritime Commissioner Lenn Eugene Nagbe said was never registered or authorized to sail, did not have Automatic Information System (AIS) to

► CONT'D ON PAGE 7



3G good  
**4G better**



Dial \*352#



...Your wallet is safe

Withdrawals  
made easy  
and smooth

Download Now

Available on



**THE NEW DAWN PRINTING PRESS**

## OUR SERVICES

*Newspapers & Magazines  
 Flyers, Posters, Calendars  
 Brochures, Letterhead  
 Receipts & Invoices  
 Souvenirs, Branded Gift Items, Graphic Designs,  
 Bank slips, Receipt books  
 Books, Manuals and etc.*

(+231)-886484201, 77007529,  
 886978282, 775407211

E-mail: [info@thenewdawnliberia.com](mailto:info@thenewdawnliberia.com)

