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Happy 171st Birthday, Liberia



THE LIBERIAN EMBASSY, U S A

Newsletter	Volume V No. I	July - Sept 2018
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Liberia at 171 : Africa's Oldest Republic



Joseph Jenkins Roberts,
First President
1848—1856 ; 1872-1876


On July 26, 1847, 171 years ago, Liberia declared her independence, and became Africa's first republic.

Liberia's declaration of independence in 1847 was spearheaded by Joseph Jenkins Roberts, born in Norfolk, VA, U.S.A., who was then Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia, and became the first president of the new country. Liberia, which derives her name from "liberty," meaning "land of the free," was founded in 1822 by former slaves and free-born Blacks from the United States, under the auspices of the American Colonization Society (ACS). The ACS was a philanthropic organization chartered to find a new home in Africa for freed men and women of color from the United States. Among the founders of the ACS were many prominent early American leaders, including Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, Daniel Webster, Francis Scott Key, Henry Clay, and Bushrod Washington, an associate justice of the Supreme Court and nephew of George Washington. Liberia's capital, Monrovia, is named after James Monroe, the fifth president of the U.S. during whose administration the country was founded. The first Liberian Constitution was written at Harvard Law School. The country's three branches of government, the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary are modeled after the system of government of the U.S. (Cont'd on page 4)



H. E. George Manneh Weah
President: 2018-


A Message from Lois Cheche Brutus, Liberian Ambassador to the United States of America



On behalf of the President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency Mr. George Manneh Weah; through the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Gbehzohngar M. Findley; the Government and people of the Republic of Liberia; the staff of the Embassy of the Republic of Liberia join me in extending congratulations to all Liberians, on the 171st Independence Anniversary of our great and historically privileged nation.

As the Diaspora Community and friends of Liberia join in the celebration of our national independence, we remain grateful to the Almighty God for guiding our country through a period of peaceful democratic transfer of power from one administration to another. As Liberia continues on a course of sustainable peace and progress, we join our fellow Liberians to focus on our goal of nation building through constructive engagement .. Let us work together in our collective, for a shared ideal that promotes peace, harmony, stability, and prosperity for all Liberians. May the Lord continue to bless our country, the Government and people of Liberia. Happy 'July 26th.' Please enjoy the holiday.

Foreign Minister Findley Affirms the Weah Administration's Commitment to Promote U.S.- Liberia Relationship



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia, Honorable Gbehzohngar M. Findley, says the government of President George M. Weah will continue to promote the longstanding historical ties subsisting between Liberia and the United States.

Minister Findley was speaking on June 13, 2018, when he met with the Ambassador and staff of the Embassy of Liberia in the United States. He was on his first official visit to the United States as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Minister Findley noted that his visit to the United States was intended to familiarize himself in order to ensure that Liberia remains effectively engaged in further enhancing the special relations between both countries.

Reaffirming the new Liberian government's commitment to further cementing the ties between both countries, Minister Findley said: "the U.S. is a strategic partner of Liberia."

Minister Findley also noted that Liberia's foreign policy under the new government is focused on economic diplomacy, and he urged the embassy to encourage American business leaders and entrepreneurs to consider Liberia as an attractive business destination.

Minister Findley lauded Ambassador Lois C. Brutus and the staff of the Liberian Embassy near Washington for their dedication and sacrifices in the interest of Liberia.

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