

Happy 171st Birthday, Liberia



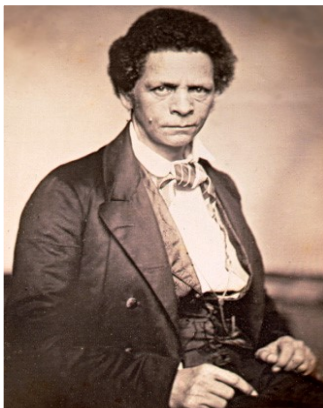
THE LIBERIAN EMBASSY, U S A

Newsletter

Volume V No. I

July - Sept 2018

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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Amb. Lois C. Brutus Presents Letters of Credence to U. S. President Donald J. Trump



Her Excellency Lois Cheche Lewis Brutus, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia to the United States, presented her Letters of Credence to President Donald J. Trump on November 29, 2017.

The ceremony took place at the Oval Office of the White House.

In remarks, Ambassador Brutus said Liberia and the United States are bound together by a unique relationship deeply rooted in common values and traditions, buttressed by a firm commitment to mutually beneficial objectives.

“I am here to assure you, Mr. President, that Liberia remains steadfast in her determination to strengthen, uphold and solidify this important relation on the basis of goodwill and mutual respect,” she noted. Ambassador Brutus also outlined some areas which could be beneficial to both countries, such as security, health, agriculture, trade and infrastructure development, education, and human development.

In response, President Trump recalled that the United States and Liberia share a special bond that dates to the first days of Liberia’s republic, and today the bond is stronger than ever.

President Trump said since the end of the Liberian civil war in 2003, the country has improved security for its people, and taken on the difficult tasks of rebuilding its economy and strengthening its education and health systems.

“As your steadfast and longtime friend, the United States and the American people remain committed to partnering with you to create a healthy, peaceful, and democratic future for Liberia,” President Trump noted.

Prior to her appointment as Liberia’s Ambassador to the United States, Madam Brutus served as Liberia’s Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa. While in South Africa, she also served respectively as Deputy Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in South Africa, Dean of the ECOWAS Ambassadors in South Africa, and Dean of the Female Ambassadors and High Commissioners in the Republic of South Africa.

Ambassador Brutus is a seasoned diplomat and an accomplished legal expert with more than 30 years of experience in Public International Law. She is a former president and founding member of the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia, a leading organization that advocates for the rights of women in Liberia.

February 22, 2018: Students from Ohio State University, which represented Liberia in the 16th annual International Model African Union Conference involving several universities, visited the Liberian Embassy and were lectured on major political, economic and security issues related to Liberia and Africa. Photo shows Ambassador Lois Brutus, left, and Minister Counselor Gabriel Williams lecturing the students.



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Government of Liberia Prioritizing Partnership with Private Sector for National Development and Job Creation



The Minister of Finance and Development Planning of the Republic of Liberia, Hon. Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., says the government of President George M. Weah is prioritizing the private sector to achieve the aims of its new Pro-Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity.

Minister Tweah was speaking on April 18, 2018, at the Africa Finance Forum, held under the auspices of the Corporate Council of Africa (CCA) in Washington.

Minister Tweah was in Washington at the head of a high-level Liberian Government Delegation at the annual Spring Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG), being held in Washington, April 16-22, 2018. Members of the Liberian Government Delegation include Hon. Milton A. Weeks, Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia; Hon. Mogana Flomo, Minister of Agriculture; and Hon. Augustus J. Flomo, Deputy Minister for Economic Management, MFDP.

Addressing a large gathering of business leaders and those involved with African policies on the topic: "Investment Opportunities in Liberia," Minister Tweah said Liberia's economy and jobs pillar of the new Pro-Poor Agenda will aim to significantly address constraints to investments and improve the general business climate in the country.

Hon. Tweah indicated that over the past 12 years, Liberia has seen investment flows in mining, agriculture, forestry and financial services. Over the next several years, he added, the country looks to attract even bigger investment flows to sustain medium to long term economic growth.

Minister Tweah outlined several critical areas of reconstruction and economic development in which the Liberian Government would promote partnership with the private sector. Those areas of priority in which the government seeks private sector partnership or investment include, transforming roads and bridges throughout the country, investment in Liberia's potentially lucrative energy or electricity infrastructure, and investment in the infrastructure of the four ports of Liberia, among others.

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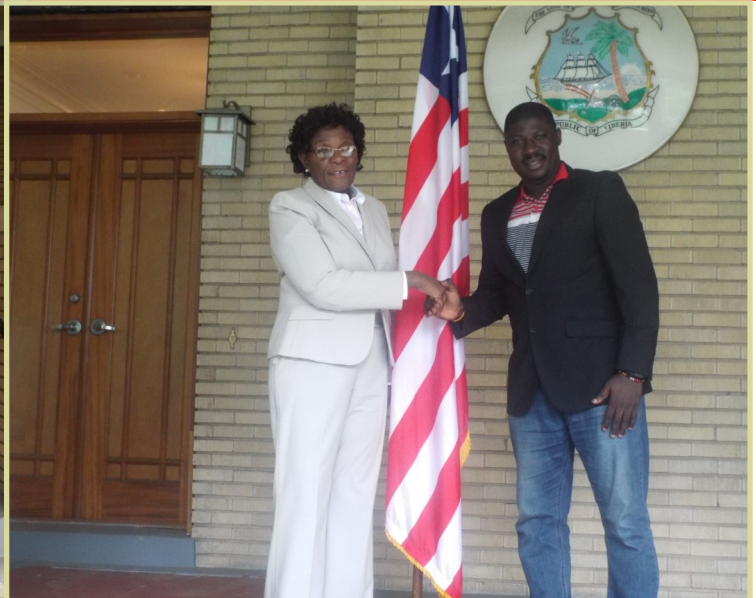


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Assistant Information Minister on Tour to Explain Pro-Poor Agenda



The Assistant Minister for Information Services at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism, Hon. Samuel Worzie, says the new administration of President George Manneh Weah does not intend to arbitrarily dismiss government employees from their jobs.

Minister Worzie was speaking on June 26, 2018, when he met with Ambassador Lois C. Brutus and staff of the Embassy of Liberia in the United States. He was in Washington at the beginning of a tour of several Liberian embassies and missions abroad to inform the staff about the Government of Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda.

Minister Worzie indicated that the Weah administration is not interested in taking government employee from their jobs. However, he added, President Weah would like for all those employed by the Government of Liberia to demonstrate commitment to duty and patriotism to country.

"The CDC Government is not interested in taking people's jobs," he said, adding: "there will be no witch-hunting; with the elections over, it is time for all Liberians to join hands in rebuilding our country."

Minister Worzie noted that the government's Pro-Poor Policy, which is being formulated, is based on four pillars as follows: economic development and job creation, security, infrastructure development, and governance.

He emphasized that the government has decided to prioritize the construction of roads throughout the country, and he added that plans have begun to construct a coastal highway that would connect various parts of Liberia.

Minister Worzie pointed out that the Pro-Poor strategy is to increase employment and job security, as well as domestic food production, among other programs intended to lift the Liberian people out of poverty. Above, photos show Amb. Lois Brutus and Assistant Minister Samuel Worzie with Embassy staff.

Liberia at 171 : Africa's Oldest Republic (cont'd from page 1)

..., and its national flag of red, white and blue bears close resemblance to the American flag.

Ten of Liberia's past presidents, including Mr. Roberts, were American-born. It is in view of this historical linkage that there are places in Liberia named after states and cities in the U.S., such as Maryland, Virginia, Louisiana, New Georgia, Lexington, Greenville, among others.

With a population estimated to be 4.6 million, Liberia is endowed with abundant natural resources, and is home to 43 percent of the remaining tropical rain forest in West Africa, with unique plant and animal species, including the pygmy hippopotamus. The country is a potential tourism haven with 360 miles coastline along the Atlantic Ocean lined with white sandy beaches, coconut and palm trees. Liberia is also blessed with lakes, waterfalls, mountain ranges, and other natural attractions.

Liberia and Ethiopia together championed the cause of the liberation of the entire African Continent from colonial rule to self-determination. Liberia is a founding member of the United Nations, which played a critical role in the creation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), renamed the African Union (AU). Liberia also played a leadership role in the establishment of the 15-nation Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as well as the Mano River Union (MRU), which groups together Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire.

Along with Ethiopia, Liberia is one of only two modern countries in Sub-Saharan Africa without roots in the European scramble for Africa. H.E. George Manneh Weah is the current president of the Republic of Liberia .

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Our Embassy Gets a Facelift :

Engineer, Proprietor, William Mends-cole presents upgraded conference room to Ambassador Lois C. Brutus at the Embassy in Washington, D.C.



A view of the Embassy grounds before improvement



A view of Embassy grounds after improvement



Washington, D.C. has been undergoing a facelift since the beginning of the year. The plan to give the Embassy a facelift started under the auspices of Ambassador Lois C. Brutus, who believes that the outlook of the embassy must reflect the best of what Liberia represents.

Located on 5201 16th Street, N.W., the Embassy is ideally situated on a piece of property that has accommodated up to 10,000 people who have converged on the Embassy grounds in the past to participate in the yearly cultural extravaganza and family day as part of the celebrations to commemorate the July 26 independence anniversary of the Republic of Liberia.

Because of its large size and attraction, the Liberian Embassy grounds have often been selected as the venue for picnics and other outdoors summer events jointly hosted by African embassies.

The transformation of the physical appearance of the landscape is being undertaken by Scenic View Landscape Company, a Liberian-owned and managed entity with operations in the greater Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia metropolitan areas.

The facelift includes installation of a state-of-the-art irrigation system, as well as new ornamental planting of trees, shrubs flowers, and turf carpet grass.

Scenic View Landscape is owned and managed by Mr. Solomon Hedd-Williams, a Liberian agronomist with extensive practical experience in the ornamental horticulture industry. A U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Licensed Chemical Application Specialist, Mr. Hedd-Williams is a graduate of Lumumba University in Moscow, Russia with a Masters in Agronomy, specializing in soil and crop science. He is also a former deputy Minister of Agriculture for Technical services at the Ministry of Agriculture in Liberia.

As part of the on-going efforts to give the embassy of the Republic of Liberia a facelift, a state-of-the-art video and audio conferencing equipment has been installed in the Embassy's conference-room. (cont'd on page 7)



Embassy of Liberia Joins in Celebration of 'Africa Day' in Washington



On Thursday, May 24, 2018, the 55th anniversary of the foundation of the African Union was celebrated in Washington, D.C. The well-attended event was hosted under the auspices of the African Ambassadors Group and the African Union Mission in Washington.

H.E. Lois C. Brutus, Ambassador of the Republic of Liberia to the United States and staff of the Embassy of Liberia fully participated in the event, which highlighted entertainment and other activities showcasing Africa.

Even though the celebration took place on May 24th in Washington, the actual date commemorating "Africa Day" was May 25, 2018. The Organization of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union (AU), was formed and established on May 25, 1963, to inter alia, rid the continent of the remaining vestiges of colonization and apartheid; to promote unity and solidarity among African States; to coordinate and intensify cooperation for development; to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States and to promote international cooperation within the framework of the United Nations.

Liberia played a very important leadership role in the establishment of the OAU now the AU

This year's Africa Day was celebrated under the theme: "Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation."

Comprising 55 Member States, the AU continues to provide an effective forum that enables its Members to adopt coordinated positions on the international stage, on matters of common concern to the continent; it also defends the interest of Africa effectively.

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Ambassador Brutus Heads Delegation to State Department on DED



(L-R): Nyanda F. Davis*, Lucy Kear, 'Rudolph Sherman, Ambassador Lois C. Brutus*, Jackson George, Spohia T. Mawlue*, Nadia S. Kamara*, Vamba Fofana, Vickie E. Ward*, Decontee Clements*, Josiah K. Domah*.
* Staff, Liberian Embassy, Washington D.C.

On March 27, 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump issued a memo directing the Department of Homeland Security to begin a 12-month wind-down period of Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Liberians covered by this status in the United States, starting April 1, 2018, and running through March 31, 2019.

In the wake of this development, Liberia's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Lois C. Brutus, led a delegation of embassy staff and Liberian community leaders to the U.S. State Department to seek further clarification regarding the DED wind-down period.

Please check www.liberianembassyus.org for any update regarding DED. Photo shows Ambassador Lois C. Brutus and delegation to the U.S. State Department.

Embassy Gets Facelift (cont'd from page 5)

The set of equipment, which has full conferencing capabilities, includes two display screens, a camera, two speakers, and a touch panel. With the new state-of-the-art equipment, the embassy will be able to conduct meetings, as well as video and audio conferences anywhere in the world with the connectivity.

The set of equipment was donated to the embassy by Advanced Audio-visual Service Inc., which specializes in providing high quality audio visual equipment and services.

Located in Springfield, VA, the company is owned by Mr. William D. Mends-Cole, who is of Liberian origin. Mr. Mends-Cole, who has nearly 30 years of experience in audio-visual technology, said the donation of the audio-visual equipment, is a way of giving back to the country by helping to enhance the embassy's functions.

Liberia's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Lois C. Brutus, applauded Mr. Mends-Cole for the donation to the embassy, and hoped that video conferencing technology would be widely available in Liberia and utilized by government agencies and other entities to enhance operations.

Liberia



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Passports: www.liberiapassports.com

You've Got Questions???

*We've Got Answers ******

Q. *What is the address and telephone Number of the Embassy???*

A The address of the Liberian Embassy in Washington D.C is 5201 16th Street N.W , Washington D.C., 20011. (202)723-0437

Q. *How do I apply for a new Liberian Passport?*

A Apply online @ www.Liberiapassports.com and follow instructions; apply in person at the Embassy in Washington, D.C. or the Liberian Consulate in New York.

Q. *Why do I have to fly all the way to Washington, D.C. to complete my passport application process?*

A Because the equipment to collect the required biometric data is available only at the Embassy in Washington, D.C. and the Consulate in New York.

Q. *What documents must accompany my application for a new passport?*

A An old Liberian passport, a Liberian birth certificate, or a certificate of citizenship/naturalization.

Q. *Why is the Embassy of Liberia not renewing old Liberian passports?*

A Because the Government of Liberia has officially changed its passport to the new ECOWAS BIOMETRIC passport. Old passports are no longer renewable.

Q. *How long does it take to receive the passport after application*

A 30 Business days after the interview

Q. *How do I apply for a Visa to travel to Liberia?*

A Go to the Embassy's website at www.liberianembassyus.org. click on the consulate tab. On the bottom of the page you will find the visa application with full instructions. Download it from there

Q. *What are the Requirements for Visa?*

A When you access the Embassy's website and download a visa application, you will find all requirements Attached.

Q. *How long does it take for visa processing?*

A (10) business days.

Q. *What must I do if I did not submit my application form with the proper prepaid trackable return envelope ?*

A Mail a fully addressed trackable return envelope to the embassy. Then call the Embassy to look for your return envelope in the mail. If you will be traveling soon, then arrange an express pick up by one of the mail carriers: FEDEX, USPS, DHL, or UPS.

You must call the embassy to verify that your passport is ready before finalizing your pickup arrangement

Q. *Who is required to obtain Visa to travel to Liberia?*

A Passport holders of all foreign countries that are not members of ECO-WAS are required to obtain Visa to enter Liberia