

Liberia Celebrates 172nd Independence



THE LIBERIAN EMBASSY, U S A

Newsletter

Volume VI No. I

July - Sept 2019

Liberia at 172 : Africa's Oldest Republic



President

1848—1856 ; 1872-1876

On July 26, 1847, 172 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 guidance 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



H. E. George Manneh Weah , President:
2018-

administration the country was founded. The first Liberian Constitution was written at Harvard Law School.

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 is a founding member of the United Nations, and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), renamed the African Union (AU). Liberia is a founding member 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.

Liberia and Ethiopia are the two countries in Africa that were not colonized.

H. E. Dr. George Manneh Weah is the 25th President of the Republic of Liberia since independence.



H.E. George S.W. Patten, Sr. Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America

*On behalf of the President, Gov-
ernment, and People of Liberia,
Ambassador George S.W.
Patten Congratulates Liberians
on July 26, 2019, Commemo-
rating the 172nd Independence
Anniversary of the Republic of
Liberia*

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President George Manneh Weah Commissions Ambassador George S. W. Patten Sr. As Ambassador To The United States Of America



Above: Monrovia, Monday, December 31, 2018: President George Manneh Weah commissioned Ambassador George S.W. Patten, Sr, Liberian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary designate to the United States of America. According to a Foreign Ministry release, the commissioning ceremony took place on Saturday, December 29, 2018. President Weah encouraged Ambassador Patten to represent Liberia's best interest at his new assignment.

**(Left) Ms. Abratha P. Doe
Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy
of the Republic of Liberia
To The United States**

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Washington D. C., USA



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President Weah Stimulates the Pro-Poor Agenda in Liberia



Following his inauguration in January 2018 as President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah, hit the ground running in terms of the development programs being undertaken by the new government.

In order to ensure a rapid and sustainable development of Liberia, the administration of President Weah launched the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) in 2018. The Pro-Poor Agenda, which has four pillars, covers the period from July 2018 to June 2023.

The Pro-Poor agenda for Prosperity and Development is a framework for inclusion, more equitable distribution of Liberia's national wealth, and a rights-based approach to national development.

The Pro-Poor Agenda is focused on bringing growth back to the Liberian economy by increasing productivity through value chains with emphasis on agricultural processing and marketing. This includes the production of rice, cassava and vegetables using new and appropriate technologies.

Another major focus of the government under the Pro-Poor Agenda is the development of good quality infrastructure and a skillful labor force. This is why the Weah-led government intends to invest in high-quality infrastructure, including roads, affordable energy, air and sea ports, telecommunications/ITC, housing, water and sanitation.

In keeping with the Pro-Poor Agenda, the government has begun to undertake some major infrastructural programs across the country. Among the projects are the ongoing construction of the first military hospital in Liberia, which will provide medical services for members of the military and para-military and their families, as well as ongoing construction of the new Redemption Hospital in Caldwell outside Monrovia. President Weah has also dedicated new market places and has completed the first phase of the four-lane Somalia Drive, while the government is currently undertaking several road reconstruction projects as a means of connecting the entire country to enhance economic productivity.

A New Courthouse in Bomi County



Pres. Weah Drives a Tractor at Doe Community Road



President Weah Dedicates New Market in Paynesville



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Ambassador George S. W. Patten Presents Letter of Credence to President Donald J. Trump



His Excellency George S.W. Patten, Sr., Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia to the United States, presented his Letters of Credence to **President Donald J. Trump** on January 11, 2019.

During the ceremony, which was held in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C., Ambassador Patten conveyed President George Manneh Weah's assurance to the Liberian people and the international community of his commitment to democratic governance, human rights and the alleviation of poverty. "With this commitment, he has already begun taking measures to ensure the improvement of the living condition of the people," Ambassador Patten said.

Ambassador Patten, a seasoned Liberian diplomat, also used the occasion to inform President Trump of President Weah's desire to cultivate even deeper partnership and cooperation with the United States with emphasis on international policy issues, trade and investment.

Receiving the Letters of Credence, president Trump said he is committed to working with the Government to "advance our common agenda and deepen the strong and abiding friendship between our countries."

President Trump extolled the special relationship that exists between Liberia and the United States, which he says is "stronger now than ever." The U. S. President recalled that the "special bond" dates as far back as the foundation of the Republic of Liberia. He added that "since the end of the Liberian civil war in 2003, the country has improved security for its people and taken a difficult task of rebuilding its economy."

Prior to his appointment as Ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Patten, a career diplomat, served at various diplomatic missions, including Ambassador to Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda, as well as Permanent Representative to the African Union and The UN Economic Commission for Africa. He Previously serves as Charge d'Affaires, A.I, at Liberia's Mission to the United Nations in New York.

U. S. Presidents Who Visited Liberia

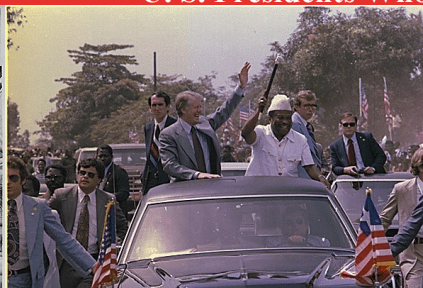


Photo left to right
Franklin D. Roosevelt
Jan. 26– 27, 1943

James Earl Carter Jr.
April 3, 1978

George W. Bush
Feb. 21, 2008



Liberians Applauds President Trump and the U.S. Government for Extending DED



The Government of Liberia has applauded President Donald Trump for extending the wind-down period for Liberians on Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED) for an additional 12 months, through March 30, 2020. The DED wind-down period was expected to expire on March 31, 2019.

In a memorandum on extension of DED for Liberians issued by the White House on March 28, 2019, President Trump said he has decided that it was in the foreign policy interest of the United States to extend the wind-down period to another 12 months because the overall situation in West Africa remains concerning, and that Liberia is an important regional partner for the United States.

“The reintegration of DED beneficiaries into Liberian civil and political life will be a complex task, and an unsuccessful transition could strain United States-Liberian relations and undermine Liberia’s post-civil war strides toward democracy and political stability,” President Trump said.

The United States President noted that extending the wind-down period will preserve the status quo while the U.S. Congress considers remedial legislation, adding that the relationship between the United States and Liberia is unique.

Reacting to President Trump’s memorandum of extension, the President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah, applauded President Trump and the U.S. government for this notable act, which is a manifestation of the special historical ties subsisting between Liberia and the United States.

President Weah reaffirmed that the bilateral relationship between both countries will continue to grow through those areas of mutual partnership.

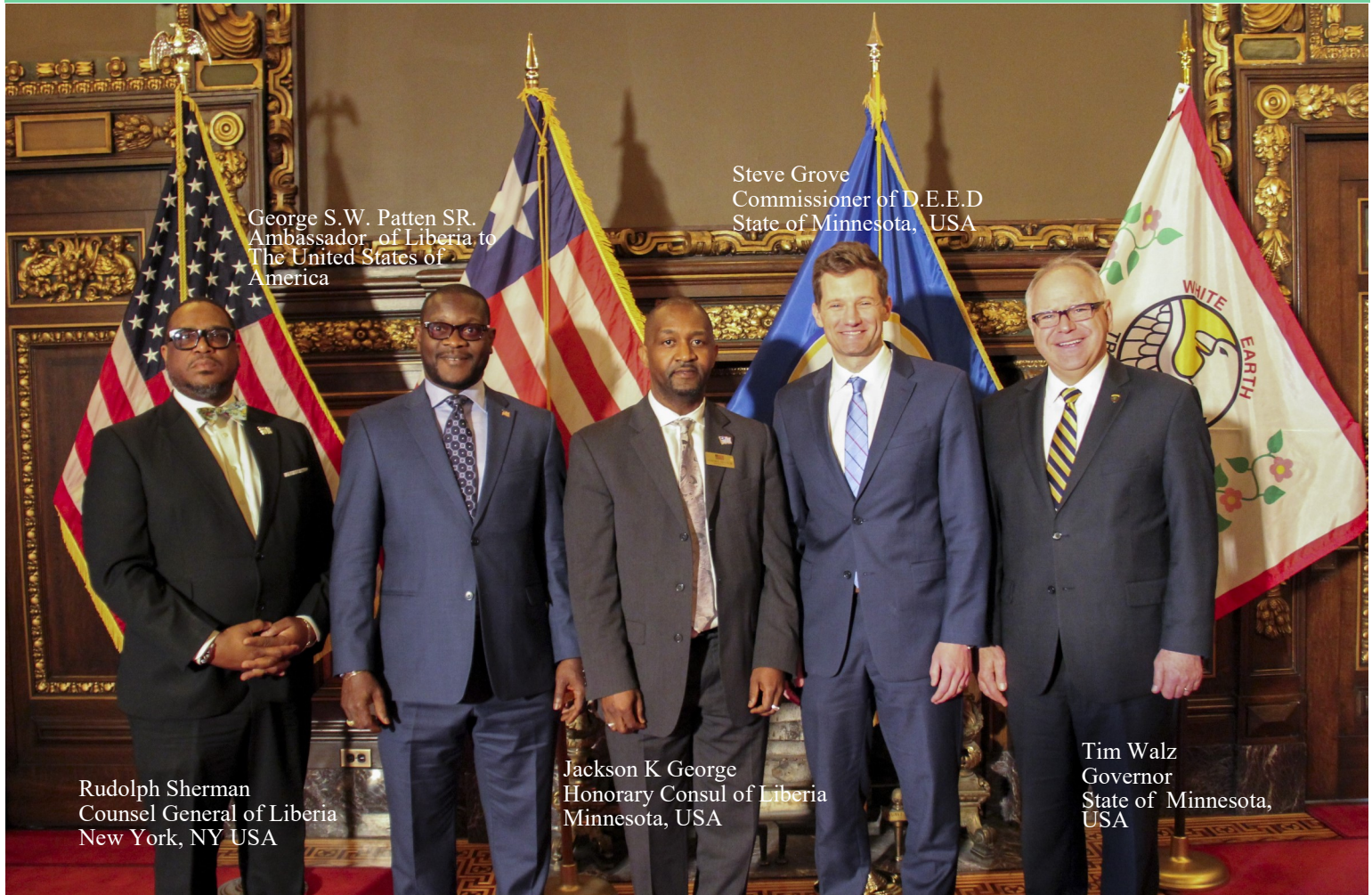


On March 14, 2019, members of the Liberian Diaspora community across the United States, under the auspices of the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA) and other collaborating organizations, held a day-long rally and lobbying on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. to seek Congressional intervention for the reinstatement of DED/TPS, so that Liberians who are beneficiaries of DED or TPS will not lose their legal status to reside in the U.S.

Following the rally on Capitol Hill, a large number of those who attended the rally, led by the leadership of ULAA, visited the Embassy and held a meeting with Liberia’s Ambassador to the U.S., H.E. George S.W. Patten Sr. The meeting was also attended by other senior staff at the Embassy.



Amb. Patten Calls for Strong U.S. Private Sector Engagement in Liberia



George S.W. Patten SR.
Ambassador of Liberia to
The United States of
America

Steve Grove
Commissioner of D.E.E.D
State of Minnesota, USA

Rudolph Sherman
Counsel General of Liberia
New York, NY USA

Jackson K. George
Honorary Consul of Liberia
Minnesota, USA

Tim Walz
Governor
State of Minnesota,
USA

Liberia's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. George S.W. Patten, Sr., has called for strong U.S. private sector engagement in Liberia. Ambassador Patten made the call when he visited the States of Minnesota and Georgia, respectively.

During a meeting with Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota on April 25, 2019, Ambassador Patten called on the State of Minnesota to undertake a trade mission to Liberia with a focus on health, education, tourism, agriculture, and job creation.

Ambassador Patten lauded the State of Minnesota and Gov. Walz for the strong support to the Liberian community, especially in the effort to finding a solution to the immigration challenges faced by many Liberians on Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED).

Also during a meeting with Gov. Brian P. Kemp of Georgia in Atlanta on May 15, 2019, Ambassador Patten called for strong partnership between the Republic of Liberia and the State of Georgia, especially in the private sector.

Ambassador Patten indicated that improving relations between the Republic of Liberia and the State of Georgia in the private sector would be mutually beneficial to both sides. He also called for the renewal of the sister-port agreement between the Freeport of Monrovia and the Port of Savannah in Georgia.

Ambassador George S. W. Patten Gets Around



Liberia



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Passports: www.liberiapassports.com

Do You have 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