



STATE OF THE
**AFRICAN
DIASPORA**

SOAD STATE NEWS

A GLOBAL STATE WITHOUT BORDERS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE 3



FROM THE DESK OF PRIME MINISTER
Louis-Georges TIN

WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEWSLETTER!

This is a special issue of our soad newsletter. It is totally devoted to two major events which happened since the november issue : the elections that took place within the parliament, and the cabinet reshuffle that was announced at the beginning of december. This is a new step in the development of soad. In these pages, the process will be described and analysed in all its political, economic, social and cultural implications.

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Interview with President **Nina
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Discover the new leaders of the
Parliament and of the
Government



Nina Womack, elected President of the SOAD Parliament



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ELECTIONS

Building the Panafrican Democracy



The State of the African Diaspora (SOAD) is building its own democratic model, and is proud to do so. General elections will happen in 2023, and all the citizens will vote, but for now, on December 1st 2020, the first elections did happen within the Parliament. Were to be elected:

- The President of the Parliament,
- The 6 Vice presidents of the Parliament (Africa, Asia and Pacific, South America, Central America and Caribbean, North America, Europe),
- The Presidents of national delegations (in all the countries where SOAD has 3 MPs or more)

« It will be a truly Panafrican election, an election where people from both Africa and the Diaspora will vote together, for the same objective, in more than 80 countries, and that is is totally unprecedented », the Prime Minister, Dr Louis-Georges TIN, stated.

THE CAMPAIGN

The campaign started on October 2nd, when the list of candidates was officially published by the government. Several debates and interviews were then organised online, with Deandrea Hamilton (MP of Turks and Caicos) and Dennis Philip (MP of UK). Deandrea Hamilton was in charge of interviewing the candidates, and Dennis Philip was in charge of the technical organisation of the meetings on zoom.

The debates and interviews were with the main candidates, the candidates for Vice Presidency of the Parliament (Africa, South America, Central America and Caribbean, North America, Europe, Asia and Pacific). And at the end of the campaign, the candidate for the presidency of the Parliament, Nina Womack, was also interviewed. For the record, she was interviewed in the middle of her action, while she was organising her weekly distribution of food to the community. She is definitely a woman of action !

The debates and interviews were recorded and then diffused to all the members of SOAD. Deandrea Hamilton then published a vocal message in which she declared: « *I Just came of another really fantastic interview, and you know, it hit me following the session with honorable Ivan Poli of Brazil. I wonder if we realise that we are about to change the world. It is just something to think about, to help our momentum, if we're feeling discouraged, if we're feeling a bit lost, we are really on going to something fantastic and revolutionary*». A few days before the election, the expression of interest and the posters of the candidates were diffused.



2020 ELECTION VOTE

JUSTINA OBAOYE-AJALA

FOR VICE PRESIDENT PARLIAMENT (ASIA PACIFIC REGION)

1ST DEC

Programs & Commitment

- ★ Work for greater diversity, establish recognized policies and facilitate the integration of our strategic plans
- ★ Formulate policies and projects that will bridge the gap between Africa and the Diaspora with a view to fostering creation of an enabling environment which nurtures creativity, intellectual and economic growth.
- ★ Committed to focus on policies that relate to all sectors that affects the mission and vision of State of Africa Diaspora.

STATE OF THE
**AFRICAN
DIASPORA**

Poster published by Justina Obaoye-Ajala, candidate for the vice presidency of the Parliament for the Asia and Pacific Region.



Deandrea Hamilton, MP from Turks and Caicos

ELECTIONS 2020



**ELECTIONS
1 DEC 2020**

VOTE MELVIN BROWN !



**VICE PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENT FOR
CENTRAL AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN
REGION**

Poster published by Melvin Brown, candidate for the vice presidency of the Parliament for Central America and the Caribbean.

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION



The Minister of Home Affairs, Edgar Ikombo

As scheduled, the elections took place on December 1st. The first MPs to vote were the ones in Japan and China, and the last ones were the MPs from Hawaiï and the West Coast of the USA. It was in fact a very long day. The votes were sent electronically to myvote@thestateofafricandiaspora.com, a mail specially designed for this circumstance.

Behind this mail was the electoral commission, which included Edgar Ikombo, minister of Home Affairs, Jasmine Rowe, ambassador for the African Union and for Ethiopia, and Moïse Kerekou, roving ambassador of SOAD.



Moïse Kerekou, Roving Ambassador

On December 2nd, the members of the electoral commission sat together, and counted the votes. Their analysis was based on the number of votes for each candidate, obviously, and on the electoral code, designed by the Minister of Home Affairs and his office a few months before. At the end of the day, the electoral commission published a press release to announce the results.



Jasmine Rowe, ambassador for the AU and for Ethiopia



Discover the new elected Leaders of the Parliament

On December 3rd, the Electoral Commission of SOAD published a press release with all the names of the elected leaders of the Parliament. Here they are:

- Presidency of the Parliament: **Nina Womack**
- Vice Presidency for Africa: **Josephat Moses Ochieng**
- Vice Presidency for Asia and Pacific: **Ajishola Ajiboye-Jacob**
- Vice Presidency for South America: **Ivan Poli**
- Vice Presidency for Central America: **Melvin Brown**
- Vice Presidency for North America: **Rodenay Joseph**
- Vice Presidency for Europe: **Gemma Vecchio**

Presidents of National Delegations:

Africa

- Ivory Coast: **Roland Olivier/Jonas Kouakou Bah**
- Democratic Republic of Congo : **Moses Bushiri**
- Ghana : **Akyeaw Owusu**

Asia

- China : **Felisters Mutsakani**
- India : **Sibiri Kassiana**

Central America and Caribbean Islands

- Dominican Republic : **Auclair Gourdet**
- Haïti : **Junior Moschino Remy**
- Honduras : **Daniel Martinez**
- Panama : **Gilma Camargo**

Europe

- France : **Romain da Costa**
- Italy: **Gaoussou Ouattara**
- United Kingdom : **Nnamdi Chukwu**

North America

- Canada : **Marie-Jennyne Mayard**
- United States : **Ozell Daniel**

South America

- Argentina : **Emmanuel Ntaka**
- Brazil : **Joao Monteiro**

Interview with Nina Womack, President of the SOAD Parliament



Nina Womack, elected President of the Parliament

All the citizens of the Diaspora need to know Nina Womack, the new President of the Parliament. She is a wonderful woman, MP from Los Angeles. In our previous issue, she was portrayed as she was helping the community with her food bank, working with Magic Johnson. But she is also an artist, she has expertise in reparation, and has many connections on the African continent. Definitely a great African American woman. We have asked Nina Womack to answer our questions.

Dear Nina Womack, you have been elected as the new President of the Parliament. What is your first reaction?

I am extremely thrilled and honored to accept this position. It's like a dream come true to become the representative of the African Diaspora because I am the Diaspora with a strong passion for connecting us to the Motherland so this role gives me the opportunity to connect us on a global scale.

-As you are now one of the main leaders of SOAD, people would like to know you more. Could you introduce yourself for our readers?

Sure, I'm from South Los Angeles and began my career in entertainment at 4 years old as a young, gifted actress and print model. At 19, I married my high school sweetheart, son of the late Motown singer, Mary Wells and nephew to Rock & Roll Hall of Famer musical legend, Bobby Womack. I graduated Cum Laude from Los Angeles City College with a degree in Theater and furthered my studies in public relations and Black history at Cal State Northridge.

As a multimedia professional pretty much my whole life, I direct and produce stage plays, film, music videos, documentaries, commercials and events under my company, Transmedia 360° LLC, a multimedia and branding agency. I've also spent many years working in the non-profit and corporate sector.

My biggest passion is helping others. I thrive on being of service as a leader. My philanthropic work includes years of volunteer service, creating health & wellness educational programs for underserved populations, food justice, and motivational speaking to encourage others to reach their full human potential.

-You have already done a lot of things for SOAD. Last month for example, we saw you distributing food for the community in Los Angeles with Magic Johnson. Could you tell us more about this food bank and your other commitments for SOAD?

I've been operating a food pantry program for the underserved in Los Angeles every week since 2018 and now since Covid-19, there's been an increase in the demand for food. Since becoming a part of SOAD, I have become the Chairwoman for our SOAD Global Food Bank and am laying the foundation to gather greater food resources, so we can collectively feed the Diaspora and Africa to ensure we have access to healthy food at all times.

My other commitments to SOAD are to ensure that the Diaspora unites with Africa and that our programs are properly implemented.

-How do you see your new mission as the head of the Parliament?

As the new President of the Parliament, my mission is to work together with the Parliament to develop laws and policies that will benefit people of African descent because we have been short-changed for far too long and it's time that a great deal of effort and energy be devoted to empowering us to greater heights and to receive the recognition we deserve.

-What will be your first task?

To recruit more Parliament members and citizens and write with my colleagues the by-laws of the Parliament.

-The Parliament of the State of the African Diaspora is an unprecedented institution. Could you present it to the audience? How many MPs ? Where are they coming from? Etc.

-The African Union defines the African diaspora as "people of native African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent". Our SOAD government is made up of members who also share that same goal and we're actively implementing programs that unite our brothers and sisters in the Motherland with our global community outside of Africa to work together on its development. Our global parliament is a legislative body of government with a primary purpose to represent the interests of people of African descent. We, as people of color, have complex needs so we need caring, concerned representation from various Parliamentarians around the world that will be a strong, effective voice for the people. To date, we have approximately 200 members of Parliament from Europe, North and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia. Our goal is to have 600 members around the world so that will be one of our first initiatives...to increase membership.

As the Parliament is representing the People, how do you want to create a link between Parliament and citizens?

Coming from a background in communications, my goal is to foster an atmosphere of two-way communication between our citizens and the Parliament in order to create a more democratic environment, whereby both parties can feel uninhibited to share their thoughts, ideas and



opinions. By building effective **two-way communication** and brainstorming solutions together, we can solve problems affecting the Diaspora and Africans more efficiently.

Interview with Ivan Poli, Vice President of the Parliament in charge of South America



-Ivan Poli, you have been elected, and you are now the Vice President of the Parliament in charge of South America. Until now, you were a simple Member of Parliament. What have you achieved in that position?

-I have been a Member of the Parliament since August 2020, so it's a recent mandate, but even so, I have produced and promoted some events to commemorate the second anniversary of the SOAD in conjunction with some startup agencies and big multinationals as IBM and another important cultural organizations in my country, in Brazil. I have also recruited and suggested names of Members of Parliament and Ministers, and I will continue to do so. I have also started to work on the University of the African Diaspora of which I am one of the founding members and I will keep a special attention to this during my mandate. Also, the Prime Minister invited me to help him on the coordination of a future project, the Pan African Digital Library. That's a challenging project that will require my efforts and dedication during this mandate to articulate educational institution in Africa and in the Diaspora. I will be helped by the fact that I am an author and have books and academic works in African and Latin America realities.

-Now that you are Vice-president of the Parliament, what are your plans?

-With the Lumi, we will move from the pure ideological positions to the Economic empowerment of the community. In Brazil only, the eligible people for the Lumi stimulus is around 100 millions of people. In South America, there are about 150 millions People of African Descent. So I want to help the central administration of SOAD and ECO-6 to promote the Lumi and the economic development in South America.

The Brazilian Afro Descendent populations who are more vulnerable are on both urban (favelas, cortices and communities) and rural (Quilombos and familiar agriculture cooperatives) contexts, so the idea is to establish agreements for economic development social in all these areas.

I also want to develop projects to create more connections between Africa and Diaspora, and that is why I have presented the following projects:

the Route of Orishas, for development of historical and religious tourism among Africa and Latin America as a way to preserve material and immaterial legacy in Africa,

The Laboratory of Vodou. It means to construct in Africa a Laboratory or production of allopathic medicine based on traditional medicine so as to create two centers in Nigeria and Benin for the formation of herbalists. That will generate employment and incomes, and we will create a research center to validate these traditional medicine for international certifications to export to all over the world;

The Cooperatives of Osun. The idea behind is to create cooperatives of women in Africa in Nigeria in Benin and in Brazil to produce traditional clothes.

During my mandate, I also aim to create from Brazil and South America the Groups Youth (in connection with this IT revolution) and Senior of SOAD.

Another important point of my administration is the articulation with political agents and civil society collectives in Africa and South America (as the Brazilian Federal Senate or the Federal and Provinces Congresses). We mean to combat structural racism, as is the aim of the African Renaissance that I am one author recognized by the Traditional Royal, Academic Community and Political Leaderships in some African Countries.



-Could you tell us more about the route of the orishas?

For this project, I'll partner with the Ministry of Tourism and the ministry of Culture of SOAD. The project means to create several cultural and religious tourism programs that will bring Latin Americans to seven Cities in Africa (Osogbo, Oyo, and Ile Ife in Nigeria and Ketou, Savè, Ouidah and Abomey in Benin), linked to the traditional cult of the Orishas and Vodouns (African Traditional Religions also present in Brazil, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Venezuela by Cultural Heritage, Argentina and another Latin American countries by influence) with competitive fares and providing unique cultural experiences based on the cultural Heritage Civilizing Values we heir from these African Myths of Vodouns and Orishas Gods and Goddesses of Yoruba and Fon Mythology also present in Latin America Countries.

-An agreement was signed between SOAD and the Quilombos. Your colleague, M. Monteiro and yourself, you were instrumental in that cooperation. Could you tell us what it is about ?

-This cooperation agreement between SOAD and the Quilombos will hep us to identify the genetic background and origin of some communities of Quilombos of Northeast Brazil by providing DNA tests for 500 people of these communities. It will reinforce the ties between the Quilombos and the African based Kingdoms and communities and also the valorization of the Afro-descendent identity origins in Brazil. We will also provide an important financial stimulus in lumis to the Quilombos to help them to develop their agriculture in the context of the Diaspora Agricultural Commodity Exchange we are going to build.

Interview with Gemma Vecchio, Vice President of the Parliament in charge of Europe



-Dear Gemma Vecchio, you are now the Vice President of the Parliament in charge of Europe. What are your goals ?

-My main goals are:

- 1) Preventing young Africans from crossing the desert, first of all by sending my documentary, GOD WHERE ARE YOU, to every country of Africa to persuade young people and their parents that the crossing of the Sahara, Libya and the Mediterranean Sea is deadly.
- 2) The liberation of Africans from prisons in Libya, where they are denied the most basic rights of freedom, and are exposed to COVID, forced to work without wages, subjected to organ trafficking, etc.



3) The right to an entry visa to Europe for Africans and others, instead of a system in which they pay astronomical figures to human traffickers. They should be able to buy a 500 euro return ticket like everyone else, and stay in hotels or B / B, and travel around Europe. If they don't find what they are looking for, they could simply return to their country with dignity! In this world, reception centers would have no reason to exist and profit from the misery of migrants.

-You have a strong focus on migration, which is great. Indeed, that it is a huge problem between Europe and Africa, especially in countries like Italy, where you belong.

-Yes. And I think we have to reinforce the Schengen Agreement. I will support the SOAD working group on Immigration and Reciprocity. If European countries put more limitations on African people, then African countries should put more limitations on European people, who are not « expats », as they say, but migrants like us. It is just a matter of respect and equality. So we need to involve African governments and the African Union to review the treaties with European States and achieve greater reciprocity. We demand the regularization of all immigrants who are in Italy and Europe, the right to work and domicile for laborers and others. To improve the conditions of migrants, institute training courses in arts and crafts.

-What have you done so far for migrants?

-I have created a food bank for my brothers and sisters. What I do is to involve friends and volunteers who in turn involve relatives and friends and acquaintances to contribute with what they have and can. The West produces one and a half times more than what it consumes, and produces tremendous waste and environmental harm instead of feeding the whole world. If there was an equitable distribution we would have multiple benefits, the well-being of peoples and a healthy environment. We would reduce climate change and the waste of public money.

We must help all immigrants and especially unaccompanied minors that are excluded from reception centers once they reach the age of 18. These children have no one and no money and end up on the street, where criminals are waiting to make them sell drugs or stolen or counterfeit material, etc.

We can help them! First of all, the state must protect these people by providing structures where they can be protected, and giving them training and scholarships and getting them to work! Our slogan from Casa Africa is Bob Marley's "Get up, stand up for your rights! »

CABINET RESHUFFLE

The Context of the Reshuffle

The State of the African Diaspora was launched officially on July 1st 2018, during the Summit of the African Union in Mauritania. The first Government was officially presented in Ivory Coast a few months later, on October. Many Kings came from different regions of the continent to support the new State and its leaders.



The Prime Minister, Dr Louis-Georges Tin, during the ceremony after the Council of ministers, swearing to respect the constitution, and holding in his hand the royal lance offered by the Panafrican Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa.

The first Government was made of 25 persons, Panafrican experts in all sectors of activity. They worked a lot. Among the achievements of this first government are:

Diplomacy

-The recognition of the SOAD by several nations like Mauritania, Liberia in Africa, or the Maroon States of Jamaica and the Quilombos of Brazil, in the Diaspora,

-The creation of Eco-6, the Economic Community of States, Nations, Territories and Realms of the African Diaspora,

Economy

-the launching of the process to build 25 smart cities in Africa and in the Diaspora, from Liberia to the USA, through Benin, Togo, Tanzania and the United Kingdom.

-the adoption of the Lumi, as a national currency for SOAD and Eco-6.

Justice

-the resolution voted in the EU Parliament, saying that the European countries and institutions need to make policies on restitution and reparation,

-a law on restitution, voted in France, in the National Assembly



The European Parliament

« We can be proud of all these achievements, the Prime Minister said, but we need to go even further. After the elections that took place in the Parliament, I want to renew and reinforce the team. That is why we need to organise a cabinet reshuffle », he concluded. The new team was composed by the Prime Minister, assisted by the Vice Prime Minister, Keturah Amoako.



The New Government of SOAD

On December 3rd, the results of the elections within the Parliament were published, and a few days later, on December 7th, the cabinet reshuffle was announced officially by a press release.

Prime Minister : **Dr Louis-Georges TIN**

First Vice Prime Minister : **Keturah Amoako**

Second Vice Prime Minister : **Hugh Johnson**

Security and Diplomacy :

Minister of Home Affairs : **Alice Nkom**

Minister of Foreign Affairs : **Kenyama Brown**

Minister of Defence : **Rodenay Joseph**

Minister of Justice: **Joaquim Xavier**

Economy and Technology

Minister of Economy: **Dr Joanes Louis**

Minister of Commercial and Corporate Affairs: **Sorviel Kyana**

Minister of Investments: **Elise Paraiso**

Minister of Digital Economy: **Telly Valerie Onu**

Minister of Family and Social Economy: **Sherill Chong**

Minister of Mines : **Tamuka Magwenzi**

Minister of Energy: **Frédéric Elusma**

Minister of Agriculture: **Dewayne Boyd**

Minister of Sciences and Technology: **Cheick Modibo Diarra**

Minister of Infrastructures: **Emmanuel Ngombet**

Minister of Tourism: **Dr Alyxandra Gomes Nunes**

Social and Cultural Affairs

Minister of Health: **Dr Frederick Denvers**

Minister of Traditional Medicine: **Thurston Bilal**

Minister of Education: **Sherri McFarland**

Minister of Gender Equality: **Rosa Campo Alegre**

Minister of Culture : **Emmanuelle Simoes Vidal de Fonseca**

Minister of Historical legacy : **Marie-Ange Thébaud**

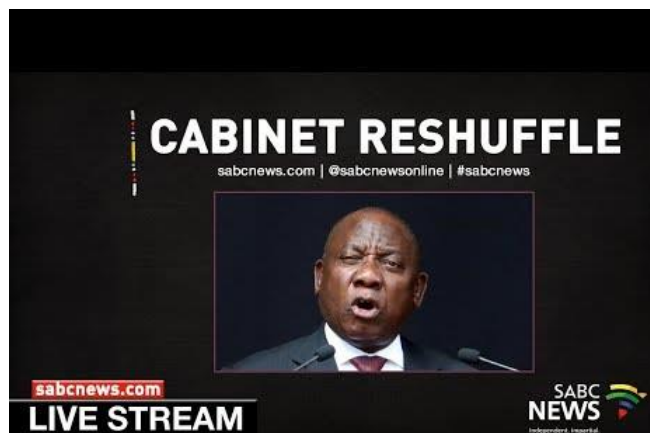
Minister of Communication : **Dennis Phillip**

Minister of Sports : **Thomas Sebwe Kojo**

Spokesperson : **Deandrea Hamilton**

The Philosophy Behind the Reshuffle

A reshuffle usually conveys a particular meaning. It reveals strategic choices and new political orientations. For whoever wants to analyse the new cabinet, it is clear that the Prime Minister and the Vice Prime Minister have chosen to do a profound reshuffle: out of the 28 ministers of the Government, 21 are new faces.



Cabinet Reshuffle in South Africa

However, many of the new ministers were in fact chosen among the Parliament. Hugh Johnson, for instance, Second Vice Prime Minister, was until then a MP for Jamaica ; Joaquim Xavier, the new minister of justice, was a MP for Brazil ; Sorviel Kyana, the minister of Commercial and Corporate Affairs was a MP for the United Kingdom ; Rosa Campo Alegre, the minister of Gender Equality, was a MP for Cuba ; Deandrea Hamilton, the spokesperson, was a MP for Turks and Caicos.

Some other ministers were not MPs, but they were ambassadors like Marie-Ange Thébaud, the minister of Historical Legacy, Sherri McFarland, the new minister of Education, Frederick Denvers, the new minister of Health, or Mr Kenyama Brown, the new minister of Foreign Affairs. Two ministers were previously advisors of the Prime Minister: Mr Emmanuel Ngombet, the new minister of Infrastructures, and Mr Tamuka Magwenzi, the new minister of Mines. In fact, the only new ministers who were not yet in the State are the minister of Defence, the General John Tshibangu, the minister of Tourism, Alyxandra Gomes, and the minister of sports, Thomas Sebwe Kojo



This reveals that though the Prime Minister and the Vice Prime Minister profoundly renewed the government, in fact, they chose most of the time people who were already in the State, people who already had the experience of SOAD, and whose capacities they had already tested personally. So, the reshuffle shows at the same time a desire to renew the government, and a desire to rely on the most active pillars of SOAD. Renewal and experience, this is the subtle alchemy of this reshuffle.

Also, the structure of the Government reveals that agriculture and food security have become a strong priority for the Prime Minister. There was already a minister of agriculture, Dewayne Boyd, but Dr Tin has recruited a Second vice Prime Minister, Hugh Johnson, who is known for being the Vice-President of the World Cacao producers. Mr Johnson will be in charge of the Diaspora Agricultural Commodity Exchange of SOAD that will be a mechanism based on the model of the West Africa Agricultural Commodity Exchange, of which SOAD is one of the co-founders.

Several other members of the cabinet are also specialised in agriculture, like Telly Valerie Onu, the Minister of Digital Economy, who has worked on the digital tools for agriculture ; Sherill Chong, the minister of Family and Social Economy, who teaches families how to make a business out of their day to day garden ; Emmanuel Ngombet, the minister of Infrastructures, who works among other things on agricultural infrastructures ; Joaquim Xavier, the minister of Justice, who has worked a lot with farmers. So, all these members of the cabinet will be able to create quite a momentum towards food security and self-sufficiency. As a symbol of this new strategic orientation, the first public action of the new government is to organise a conference that will take place on December 16th to launch a process of reflection around a major project of SOAD: the Diaspora Agricultural Commodity Exchange.

The desire to promote food security within the Government is in line with the new orientations of the Parliament. Nina Womack, the new President of the Parliament, who distributes food every week to those who are in need, is of course very committed to food security. So are Gemma Vecchio, Vice-President of the Parliament for Europe, and Melvin Brown, Vice-President for Central America and Caribbean, who all distribute food to the community every week. So, many people in the Government and in the Parliament will be able to work together on self sufficiency, which is so strategic for Africa and the People of African Descent.



Gemma Vecchio distributing food to the community

Among the new orientations is clearly the topic of Health, which is not very surprising in a time of pandemic. That is why on top of the minister of Health, the Prime Minister and the Vice Prime Minister have decided to recruit a minister for Traditional Medicine, Thurston Bilal. It is not very common, but it is a strong message, given the sanitary context. It means that the Government wants to promote African medicine. After all, in China, when people go to university, they can choose western medicine or traditional medicine, and both are equally respected. We do not see why African people should ignore and despise African medicine.

Also, there is now in the Government a minister of Infrastructures, something that did not exist in the previous cabinet. This shows that the increasing numbers of activities, building smart cities, dams, universities, solar energy farms, bringing water, etc., all of this requires a minister fully dedicated to these initiatives. Last but not least, there is now a spokesperson, which should increase the level of visibility of SOAD.

Alongside of these new orientations, it is also relevant to remark the constants as much as the novelties. For example, the importance of economy, which was one of the main priorities in the previous government is still very high on the agenda, as show the minister of Economy (Joanes Louis), the minister of Digital Economy (Telly Valerie Onu), the minister of Investments (Elise Paraiso) and two new ministers in this area, the minister of Commercial and Corporate



Affairs (Sorviel Kyana) and the minister of Family and Social Economy (Sherrill Chong).

Last but not least, the composition of the government confirms the desire to make sure that all the regions are represented, including Asia, with Elise Paraiso, minister of Investments, from Pakistan, who is confirmed in the government. The region which is now the most represented in the government is not Europe any more, but Central America and the Caribbean with the Prime Minister himself (Martinique), the Second Vice Prime Minister (Jamaica), the minister of Economy (Haïti), the minister of Digital Economy (Neville and St Kitts), the minister of Family and Social Economy (Jamaica), the minister of Gender Equality (Cuba), the minister of energy (Haiti), the spokesperson (Turks and Caicos). It is clearly a political sign given to this region of the world, too often neglected.

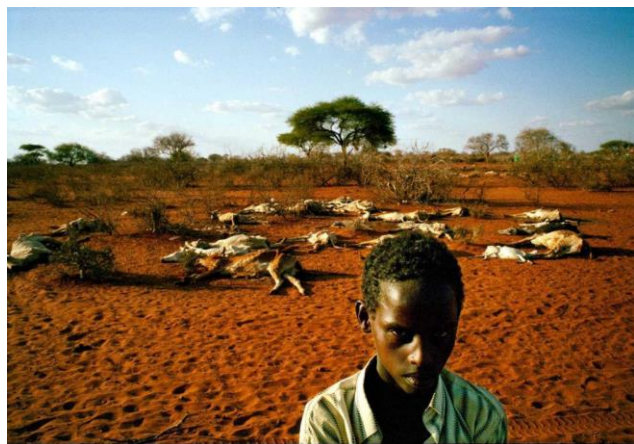
The Council of Ministers

On December 7th, the reshuffle was announced. Two days later, a Council of Ministers took place (on zoom, as usual), the first one under this new government. The Prime Minister, Dr Louis-Georges Tin, started the meeting welcoming all the new faces of the cabinet. The ministers had then an opportunity to introduce themselves to their colleagues.

The main orientations of the Government were then presented to everybody by the Prime Minister in his inaugural speech. No surprise : the first one is obviously Reparation. That is why the first Vice Prime Minister, Keturah Amoako, is the Minister for Reparation. And there is also the Minister of historical legacy, who is also working on this topic ; the Minister of Justice, who will work on this issue as well (there is no justice without reparation) ; the minister of Infrastructures, who will work on the smart cities (« repatriation is reparation »), not to mention the President of the Parliament, who is also very committed to that. In itself the State of the African Diaspora is a reparation, or a self reparation. Indeed, many people were deported from Africa, or had to leave the continent in exile, which resulted in this huge Diaspora -350 millions of people.

These people are scattered all over the world, but if you create a connexion among them, you repair the harms and the wrongs of the past, and you transform the injustices of the past into opportunities for the future -this is exactly what SOAD is about.

The second priority, as already explained, is agriculture. The Prime Minister emphasized the fact that though Africa is only responsible for 5 % of the global warming, 2/3 of the countries that are most exposed to global warming are in fact in Africa. This reality is also connected to the first priority, reparation, since it raises the issue of the climate repairs (Africa is going to pay for the wrongs done by others, as western countries refuse to take their responsibilities). Formerly, in many places of Africa, there was water, but no pipes to bring water to the people. Today, with the advances of infrastructure, in many places, there are pipes, but because of global warming, there is no more water in them. No water means no agriculture, no food, and then no life. The gains linked to development policies are jeopardized by the results of global warming. The famines of the past, that seemed to be history, might become our future. This is what we need to avoid. So the Prime Minister presented the objective (food security), the tools (the Diaspora Agricultural Commodity Exchange), and all the ministers who will have to work particularly on that objective.



Drought in Eastern Africa

After this presentation about the political philosophy of the government, there was a discussion between all the ministers, and in the second part of the meeting, the Vice Prime Minister developed the technicalities associated with the position of minister, such as the letters of nomination, the constitution, the code of conduct, finances, salaries, budgets, annual reports, the currency, the ID, security, the whatsapp groups, the relation with the Parliament, etc. The ministers had to get familiar with their new position, and many questions were also asked in this context.



At the end of the day, the Council of ministers was closed in a feeling of enthusiasm, hope, and a great desire to work together for the empowerment of African people on the continent and in the Diaspora. To strengthen Africa through the Diaspora, and the Diaspora through Africa, this is our motto.

Interview with Hugh Johnson, Vice Prime Minister of SOAD

-Excellency, in the context of the reshuffle, you have been nominated as the Second Vice Prime Minister of SOAD. What was your first reaction when you were proposed this position?

-I was humbled by the request, then excited by it, after it was soaked in and then got intimidated by the enormity of the work load to accomplish the task at hand, but happy to be a part of the team doing this great work.

-Could you introduce yourself for our readers and tell us more about your background?

-I am the youngest of eight siblings. My first profession was automotive engineer, motor vehicle examiner, motor vehicle assessor. Then segway into farming and Fertilizer manufacturer and distributing. I am a community leader, business leader, social advocate for the voiceless.



-You were already MP of SOAD for Jamaica. Could you tell us what you have done and achieved in that position?

-As a SOAD MP, I have started to rally the full support of many pan-africanist in my region from indigenous people to head of states. I have identified a second SOAD MP and roving Ambassador for Jamaica. I am getting other organizations teaming up with SOAD and ECO-6 to get our currency accepted and used on a broader level in Jamaica and the region and linking the Finance minister of Eco-6 with influential persons and organizations, included the world leading stock exchange for greater rolling out of our ECO-6 currency. I am rolling out of a Diaspora agricultural commodity exchange, and many other projects and programmes in enhancing the mandate of SOAD.

-As a Vice Prime Minister, what is your program of action? What are your priorities?

-My early priorities will be :

- 1 to establish a successful Diaspora Agricultural Commodity Exchange.
- 2 to get regional business persons with disposable income to place their funds in Africa and not in some Swiss bank.
- 3 to engender a more simbiotic relationship between main land Africa and the diaspora, doing business among ourselves.

-You are organising a conference on the Diaspora Agricultural Commodity Exchange on December 16th. Could you tell us more about it ?

-As part of the plan to roll out the Diaspora Agricultural commodity exchange and to begin with a wider stakeholder participation, we believe a virtual conference will allow us to give our stakeholders an opportunity to have a greater level of participation in crafting the policies and programs of the broader framework of this organization there by giving them a sense of ownership and greater involvement. This Diaspora agricultural commodity exchange is a vehicle to be used to bridge to gap between Agricultural producers and the end-users.

Thereby enabling the producers to earn more from their efforts and at the same time allowing the end-users to have greater access and price stability of supply. Thereby addressing many of the challenges affecting the food supply chain.



Commodity Exchange in Africa

-How do you envisage the relationships between SOAD and the citizens of the Panafrican Community ?

-I think we will have a great and exciting relationship between SOAD and the diaspora communities going forward because we have thousands of group of persons trying for many years now to forge their way back and develop relationships with the mother land, with varying degrees of challenges and success

I see SOAD as the all encompassing organization fit for purpose to accomplish this mission going forward, as seen in our many accomplishments in such a very short time since we have began.

Interview with Sherri Mcfarland, Minister of Education

-What is your personal philosophy about education?

-My love for teaching was birthed out of the desire to help others and my passionate interests in the continent of Africa and its people. For the past twenty years of my professional career, I have promoted teaching, research and scholarship regarding political, social and economic development in Africa. My academic and professional experiences in the field of African affairs has allowed me to teach from a global perspective which is central to my teaching philosophy. Interconnectivity demands a global perspective regarding the political, social and economic transnational issues that impact the African continent.



Like so many other educators, I strive to take advantage of the many opportunities that I have been given to shape the minds of young people of African descent who are our future global leaders. In many of the classes that I have taught in times past, I have always advanced the belief that the hallmark of global leadership is to understand yourself and your role as a global citizen. Educating and empowering peoples of African descent about their roles as global citizens advances an enriched understanding of their roles and responsibilities concerning the promotion of equity and social justice in the African world as well as throughout the greater international community.

-What is your program of action in this area?

-As Minister for Education, I plan to uphold the mission of the State of the African Diaspora by promoting Pan-African educational initiatives which will be the key to the restoration of the African mind and the rebuilding of the African world. I will oversee the development of education legislation, regulations and policies, funding and fiscal management. Specifically,



I will take charge of the overall planning, coordination and management of all forms of Pan-African educational initiatives at various levels of learning by ensuring equal access to teachers, students and other program beneficiaries. Additionally, I will develop strategic partnerships with educational institutions that focus on Africa-centered curricula as well as other learning institutions at both the lower and higher educational levels.

-Could you give some examples of the programs you would like to implement ?

-One such educational initiative is The Lane City project. This is a collaborative effort between the House of Ancestry and the State of the African Diaspora which targets students enrolled in grades pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and beyond. Such an effort is designed to promote educational exchange programs among African students living in North America and on the continent of Africa. Currently, I am also involved in developing the educational curricula for the courses that will be taught at The Digital University for Africa (DUA) which is one of the major educational initiatives that is being supported by the government of the State of the African Diaspora. DUA aims to provide flagship online educational programs and specializations that are relevant to the current job markets.

This learning institution desires to take advantage of multimedia teaching, research and advocacy that is pertinent to the African world with the intentions of developing strong African leadership. Future educational initiatives include The Digital Pan African Library and 13,000 scholarships that are available for African students.

-How are you going to transform education?

-As Minister for Education for the State of the African Diaspora, I hope to play an integral role in transforming education both on the African continent as well as its diaspora, by being an advocate for Africa-centered education that is advanced at the primary educational levels and beyond. As previously stated, I am committed to developing the next generation of lifelong learners, innovators and global citizens that will be tasked with the responsibility of developing creative solutions to the many complex problems affecting the African world and beyond.

Using digitized technologies to foster a greater understanding of Africa's cultural heritage and its historical and current global significance will promote both racial and ethnic pride among African people groups which will have a direct influence on the mental and physical well being of African communities on an individual and collective basis; thus furthering political, economic and social development.

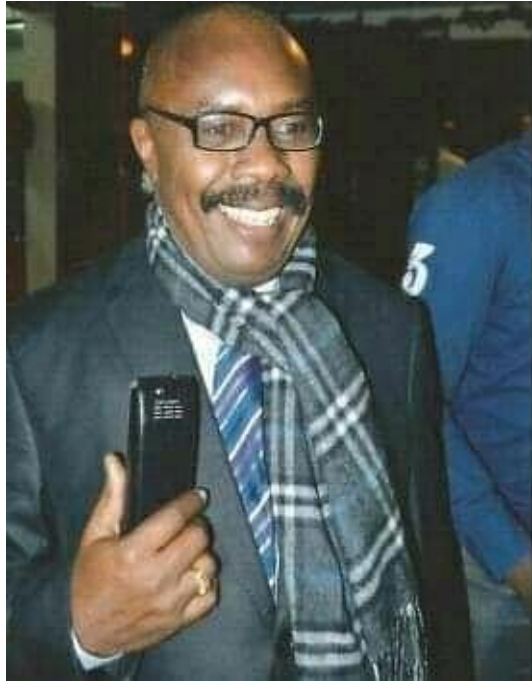
-How are you going to work with other ministers?

-My travels to various countries both as a student and as a working professional have enabled me to gain a tremendous amount of experience working in international environments that will serve me well in my efforts to build working relationships with other government officials at the ministerial level. Working in culturally diverse settings will provide me with innumerable opportunities for both personal and professional growth because of my willingness to be open and embracing of new perspectives regarding global issues that impact Africa and the world at large.

-How do you see the relationship between your ministry and the citizens of the Diaspora?

-The Ministry of Education will play a huge role in educating the citizens of Africa and its diaspora which will result in the spread of Pan-Africanism. Pan-Africanism aims to "unify and uplift" people of African descent and it is based on the belief that unity is vital to economic, social and political progress. At its core, Pan Africanism is a belief that African people, both on the continent and in the diaspora, share not merely a common history, but a common destiny.

Interview with Emmanuel Ngombet, Minister of Infrastructures



-M. Emmanuel Ngombet, you are the new Minister in charge of Infrastructures. Tell us about your background...

-Born May 14, 1957 in Pointe Noire, I am a civil aviation engineer and inspector for the ANS group. I worked in operations, particularly in the maintenance of air navigation equipment on behalf of ASECNA (Agency for the Safety of Air Navigation in Africa and Madagascar). As part of the airport certification and approval audits, from 2012 to 2017, I worked as a Communication, Navigation and Surveillance inspector.

-You were advisor to the Prime Minister, and he then appointed you as Minister of Infrastructures. How do you see your new task?

-I thank him for this mark of confidence, following the modest contributions of his advisor. My appointment as Minister of Infrastructures and Major Works is under the sign of creativity, enthusiasm, abundance. The ambition is to create a spurt of projects that make Africa the desirable future of humanity. This is a formidable force : 65% of young people on the African continent, it can neither be ignored nor unused.

Everything has to be done and the challenges are as great as our capacity to innovate, to build and to replace humans at the center of any human enterprise.

-Can you give some examples of the great infrastructures that you plan to put in place?

-The top priority for all of Africa is our freshwater project. Refining seawater and transporting it to the arid lands of the African continent, from Mauritania to the Mandingo plateau, from Kribi to Lake Chad, from Asmara to the arid lands of Ethiopia, from Maputo to Matébéland.

The twin project is the "Fruits and Vegetables" project, which will plant fruit trees and vegetables in quantity for food security, poverty reduction and increased purchasing power of farmers. The "Agri-food industries" project will help transform this enormous production of fruits and vegetables. Africa should no longer import fruits and vegetables from other continents.

We also want to promote private production of electricity, ecological, abundant, cheap, and multisource, on a human scale.

-You are therefore a great builder?

-We heirs of Imhotep,
I am Ditunga Otsaro
DITUNGA builder

But we have to build 2 to 10 university sites per African country. Africa must generate the knowledge economy, keeping the added value of universal health insurance on the continent through Medical Centers built near university hubs to offer quality medical care. Another priority is the business of civil aviation. We need to draft the regulation and pricing of the civil aviation sector on the continent; make a unique African sky ; put into orbit the SOAD satellite carried by my colleague Cheick Modibo Diarra, Minister of Science and Technology.

-How do you see Africa in the 21st century?

- Africa is the desirable future of mankind. Africa should not expect other continents to do with its own efforts
It must endow itself with an infinite capacity for innovation and awaken the dragon of creativity.