

REPORT FROM THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING HELD BY THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE WITH REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES IN BUCHANAN ON NOVEMBER 12-14 2013

INTRODUCTION:

On November 12-14 2013, the Constitution Review Committee (CRC) organized a consultative meeting with Liberia's registered political parties in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, which lasted for three days with funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Liberia).

The Opening Programme was graced by the United Nations Special Representative to the Secretary General (SRSG) to Liberia, Her Excellency Karin Landgren. In his opening speech, the CRC Sub-committee Chairman with oversight responsibility on Political Parties, Rev. Kennedy Sandy welcomed guests and participants and reminded them that the consultative meeting was a result of the CRC Consultative Strategy which emphasized the bottom to top approach in constitution making and review.

He told the gathering that the intent of the meeting was to obtain views from political parties through the interactive process that would constitute proposals for constitutional amendments. He however told them that proposals emanating from them do not constitute amendments as they would have the endorsement of the people of Liberia in referendum.

Counselor Gloria Musu-Scott told political parties leaders in her message that the Constitution Review Committee was established to organize and lead discussions on the 1986 Constitution with the object to derive proposals for amendment which would be submitted to the Legislature and subsequently to the population in referendum for approval.

She said the CRC determined, in the organization of its task, that registered political parties, individually and collectively, are administrations in waiting and one of the critical role players in the governance of the Republic and consequently implementers of the constitution.

The CRC Chair furthered that the "review process after several rounds of war, violence and chaos, brings the sober realization that our nation is at a cross road; that our country needs, irrespective of administration, fundamental legal framework that will direct us away from our ugly past and armed with lessons from our past, we will push forward to the future."

She urged the leadership and membership of each political party "to move beyond the surface and peripheral and begin to think deeply about the future of our nation and its people." Cllr. Scott stated that "discussions and debates within individual political party and between political parties shall not end at this consultative meeting." She said "the CRC stands ready to receive views and ideas hereafter and will continue to listen as the debate forms and instructs a consensus, we will make it public at the National Conference."

To summarize her message, Cllr. Scott said the consultative meeting was a result of the declaration made in October 2012 that political parties were critical to the successful review of the constitution. She welcomed and admonished them to take the process as their own.

Representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and speaking on behalf of the Government of Liberia, Dr. Augustine Konneh, who is the Director of the Foreign Service Institute said Government is committed to the constitution review process and that it is cardinal to peace, security and reconciliation. He called on Liberians, especially the political parties to be major players in the process by asking their membership to get involve.

For her part, the SRSB, Her Excellency Karin Landgren said constitution defines the relationship between state and its citizens. She said the review process is the time for Liberians to discuss whether the 1986 Constitution meets the needs for 2013 Liberia.

She told the participants that as the public discourse begins, some have called for the review to look closely at issues related with past conflicts. The SRSB said the exercise can be viewed as part and parcel of national reconciliation. She asked them to take the process seriously.

Issues for deliberation which totaled nine were derived by participating registered political parties at their plenary session. These were:

- a. The National Elections Commission
- b. Qualification of Candidates
- c. Citizenship
- d. Decentralization
- e. Land ownership
- f. Integrity in Government
- g. Property rights
- h. Gender
- i. Powers of the President

Out of the nine issues, the first six received the highest votes while property rights and powers of the president were absorbed by land rights and decentralization. The next two days were dedicated to active debates on these issues that political parties themselves derived, voted for, and agreed to be crucial and initial national issues for deliberation. They divided themselves into six thematic groups dealing with the below selected issues agreed upon:

1. National Elections Commission
2. Qualification for Elected Offices
3. Citizenship
4. Decentralization
5. Land Ownership
6. Integrity in Government.

Below are the recommendations of the Thematic Groups which received the endorsement of Plenary. Six Committee Members served as Oversight Persons to each Thematic Group.

Political Parties Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County from November 12-14, 2013.

GROUP I

No.	Name	Sex	Political Party	Position	Contact	Presentation of Group Work to Plenary
1.	David T. Togba	M	PRODEMP	Member	0886-531-060	<p>National Elections Commission</p> <p>Suggestion on Section : 2.19</p> <p>✓ Political Parties, Civil Society Organization, the Religious Community shall recommend 9 names of Commissioners to the President for subsequent appointment of 7 Commissioners; the Commissioners shall serve for 5yrs and shall be limited to serve for the period of two terms.</p> <p>Suggestion on Article 83(d)</p> <p>✓ The minimum bank balance for political parties shall be \$500.00(USD) in addition to their assets.</p> <p>Suggestion on Section 7.3 (i)</p> <p>✓ All other fees that were certified by the new election laws shall remain the same.</p> <p>✓ The day for elections shall be the second Tuesday in November of that elections year.</p>
2.	J. Tarplah Diggs	M	ULD	-0-	0777-449-847	
3.	G. Yelegar Kennedy	M	LEP	Chairman	0886-839-010	
4.	Sarwah Tegbeh	M	APD/UPP	Assist. General	0880-653-734	
5.	Ishamel Foday Keitta	M	NRP	Chairman	0886-581-561	
6.	Monica Dokie	F	VCP	Chairlady	0880-876-206	
7.	Jestina M. Nagbe	F	LRP	Acting Chairlady	0776-296-426	
8.	Denise S. Cooper	F	NUDP	Programme & Catering	0886-331-840	
9.	Robert B. Warnee	M	LTP	Secretary General	0886-221-410	
10.	Joseph B. Daniels	M	MPC	Chairman	0776-413-241	
11.	Jerome Billy Joss	M	LINU	Nat. Sec. General	0886-604-846	
12.	Frederick Gobewole	M	GDPL	Chairman	0886-935-734	
13.	Amara U. K. Sambola	M	CUP	Assist. Sec. General	0886-217-629	
14.	Rev. Washington S. McGill	M	NATVIPOL	National Chairman	0886-401-325	
15.	Jimmy B. Zinnah	M	LDP	National Chairman	0886-360-096	
16.	Lafayette Gould	M	ANC	National Chairman	0886-513-469	
17.	Julius Kwarbo Wesee	M	NPP	Vice Chairman/MD	0880-527-933	
18.	J. D. Hodo Merriam	M	NDPL	Ex-Member	0777-770-842	
19.	Wilfred Wade	M	FAPL	Chairman	0886-692-790	

20.	Mamie J. Morris	F	RPL	-0-	-0-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An election Court shall be constituted to adjudicate all electoral disputes. ✓ The National Election Commission shall have Financial Autonomy ✓ There shall be state funding for all registered political parties in Liberia ✓ Voter registration shall be done twice prior to the holding of General and Presidential Elections. ✓ The NEC Commissioners shall serve for 5yrs and shall be limited to the period of two terms. ✓ The NEC Commissioners shall be removed from Office for proven misconduct
21.	Roselyn Johnson	F	OCPL	-0-	0886-591-335	
22.	Rev. William N. T. Gibson	M	PPP	Chairperson	0777-719-921	
23.	Jerry Yarkpah	M	ALCOP	Co- Chairman	0886-949-584	
24.	Daniel O. Sando	M	LIBERTY PARTY	National Youth Wing	0886-677-282	
25.						

Political Parties Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County from November 12-14, 2013.



No.	Name	Sex	Political Party	Position	Contact	Presentation of Group Work to Plenary
1.	Mulbah K. Morlu	M	CDC	Vice Chair/Operations	0886-516-988	<p>Qualification: Requirements for electable public offices of the Presidency/ Vice Presidency, Senators and Representatives.</p> <p>Age: in order for a candidate to qualify to contest the electable public office of President/Vice President, He/She shall have attained the age of at least 35 years</p> <p>Reason:</p>
2.	Mabulu Palay	M	NUDP	Youth Chairman	0886--885-415	
3.	Mrs. Nuwoe A. D. Scott	F	LIBERTY PARTY	Asst. Sec. Gen. Political Affairs	0886-405-911	
4.	Andrew T. Gartor	M	FAPL	Youth Chairman	0886-606-005	
5.	Kamara Massaquoi	M	NATUIPOL	Asst. Secretary General	0886-652-412	
6.	James Jeasen	M	LTP	Ex. Member	0886-615-295	
7.	Joe K. Williams	M	VCP	VP/Admin.	0886-296-121	
8.	Morris Goll	M	NSDPL	Asst. Youth Chair	0886-688-353	
9.	Joanna Harris	F	PPP	Women Wing	0886-518-265	

10	Milton K. Dwana	M	CDP	Political Advisor	0886-651-394	<p>Given that the recent LISGIS report says about 60% of Liberians are in the youthful age.</p> <p>Citizenship:</p> <p>a) To qualify as a natural born Liberian to contest the \President/vice President, the candidate's parents shall have been Liberians citizens' at the time of the candidates birth with His/her parents belonging to a Liberian tribe, clan and chiefdom, provided that descendants of Americo-Liberian settlers who can trace their roots to a settlement will not be disenfranchised.</p> <p>b) Fully maintained</p> <p>c) Resident in the Republic ten (10) years prior to His/Her election provided that the president and Vice-President shall not come from same county and region of the Country.</p>
11	Masunoh T. Karuseaye	M	OCPOL	Treasurer	0886-919-488	
12	Matthew Kharwhen	M	LEP	Vice Chair/Operation	0888-352-404	
13	Isaac Sharpe	M	GDPL	Coordinator	0777-301-200	
14	Lawrence Gboyah	M	NPP	Chairman	0886-518-323	
15	Barbara F. Devine	F	CUP	Treasurer	0880-849-154	
16	Nathaniel Sawyer	M	PRODEMP	Member	0888-389-056	
17	Mary S. Barclay	F	RPL	Member	0886-976-406	
18	Benjamin Belove	M	MAPOL	Asst. Secretary General	0880-817-724	
19	J. Joseph Trinity	M	NDC	Youth Chair	0880-434-789	
20	Jenisha Ward	F	NDPL	Nat. Chairlady	0886-421-615	
21	J. Jerome Slojue	M	LINU	Nat'l V. Chairman/Adm.	0886-565-767	
22	Habbakkuk Gono	M	MPC	Youth Chair	0880-542-234	
23	Jonathan T. Dolakeh	M	ANC	Nat'l Dep. Secretary General	0886-635-024	
24	D. Poma Saydee	M	ALCOP	Secretary General	0886-378-229	
25	Solomon G. Khan	M	ULD	National Chairman	0880-840-436	
26	Abraham Rasululah	M	MOJ		0886-552-475	
27	Abraham G. Shannon	M	LRP	Youth Coordinator Zones-5	0777-012-649	
28	Bobbyson Sorboti	M	APD	ANVC	0777-743-812	
29	Thomas Z. Tiah	M	NRP	County Chairman	0888-494-518	

GROUP CHAIRMAN: Mulbah Morlu

CRC Oversight Person: Cllr. Gloria Musu-Scott

CRC Note Taker: Solomon Boe

Political Parties Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County from November 12-14, 2013.



No.	Name	Sex	Political Party	Position	Contact	Presentation of Group Work to Plenary
-----	------	-----	-----------------	----------	---------	---------------------------------------

	Mercy T. Jackpuah	F	LRP	Women Wing Chair	0886-263-244
	Patrick Guah	M	MPOL	Youth President	
	Philip N. Toe	M	PPP	Youth President	0886-601684
	S.A. Raymond Holder	M	PRODEMP	Member	0880-440836
	Maximillin Diabe	M	NRP	Chairman	0880-433435
	James M. V. Yougie	M	LP	Dept. S. G for Operation	0886-565827
	John D. Barlone	M	MPC	Assistant Chairman	0880-978310
	Margret K. Suah	F	ALCOP	Youth Secretary	0770-399209
	Felecia George	F	ULD	Women Wing	0880-840436
	Arthur Wah	M	OCPOL	Member	0776-041485
	Boakai J. Kromah	M	VCP	Acting Chairman	0886-566329
	Terrence Wedell	M	LDP	Member	0886-588929
	Nixon Gleo	M	LINU	Executive Member	
	Mougnumenton Scakor	M	APD-LPP	Executive Member and Youth Chair.	0886-407819
	Joseph L. Morseray	M	RPL	Chairman	0886-749159/ 0776-403626
	Robert T. Browne, II	M	NSDPL	Chairman	0886-524735
	Victoria Stewart	F	LTP	Chairlady	0776-525046
	Evelyn Hailay	F	NDPL		0886-941293
	Emmanuel McGill	M	NATVIPOL	Acting Youth President	0880-274707
	Dudley S. Dchois	M	FAPL	Secretary General	0880-664371
	G. Jackson N. Koitee	M	ANC	Acting Youth Chairman	0886-201273
	Janjay Baikpeh	M	CDC	Member of Youth League	
	Benjamin Y Wehye	M	NUDP	Assistant Secretary for Planning	0880-313898
	J. D Junnis	M	CRC	Legal Consultant	0886-517204
	Minerva Sackie	F	LEP	Member	0886-361593
	A. Sieh Tubman	M	NPP	NEC Member	0886-529746
	Momolu N. Freeman	M	CUP	National Chairman	0886-550943
	S. Ciapha Gbollie	M	NDC	Vice Chairman for Administration	0886-582291

CITIZENSHIP

Decision

By vote and consensus; the following were derived:

- I. That Article 27 (a) remains as it is. (consensus)
- II. That Article 27 (b) remains as it is. (Vote: 11 for; 3 against; 0 abstain)
- III. That Article 27 (C) remains as it is. (Consensus)
- IV. That Article 28 remains as it is. (Consensus)

Addition from plenary

- Dual citizenship refusal should be constitutional.
- There should be penalty for those who practice. Dual citizenship
- Dual citizenship is not allowed in Liberia.
- Deal with what is in the constitution-dual citizenship is not mentioned.
- No dual citizenship-consensus
- Spell it out in the constitution clearly.

Group Chairman: S. Ciapha Gbollie

CRC Oversight Person: Rev. Dr. Jasper S. Ndaborlor

CRC Note Taker:

Political Parties Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County from November 12-14, 2013.

GROUP 4

No.	Name	Sex	Political Party	Position	Contact	Presentation of Group Work to Plenary
1.	Andrew Peters	M	NPP	Chairman	0886-532123	<p>Decentralization Chapter-6(The Executive)</p> <p>Article 54(D): The Superintendent, District Commissioner, Paramount, Clan and Town chiefs shall be elected.</p> <p>Article 56 (B): The removal of local administration shall be through special petition by the eligible voters in their respective localities, not by the president and or legislative assembly considering the due process.</p> <p>Article 54 (C): The supreme court, the Chief Justice and Associate Justices shall appoint Court Marshalls, Deputy (ies), Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and other Court officers, not the president.</p>
2.	Mamadee K. Kaba	M	OCPOL	Secretary	0886-558313	
3.	J. Richard Holder	M	LTP	Young Wing	0886-548682	
4.	Patrick Faley	M	PPP	Acting Secretary General	0880-871265	
5.	Michael D. Tipayson	M	CDC	Member	0886-580052	
6.	Oscar B. Toe	M	LRP	Member	0880-965522	
7.	Aaron S. M Wesseh	M	LINU	Member	0777-059282	
8.	Simon Andrews	M	RPL	Member	0886-245087	
9.	Klybo N. Konie	F	NATVIPOL	Assistant Administration	0886-462774	
10.	Deborah Reeves	F	NDC	Member	0880-485937	
11.	Jerome Billy Joss	M	LINU	Nat. Sec. General	0886-604-846	
12.	J. Wilmot Dixon	M	ANC	Member	0886-658261	
13.	Lewis Davies	M	CUP	County Chairman	0777-570332	
14.	Alberta J. Bolo	F	GDPL	Member	0886-524423	
15.	William B. Whitefield	M	MPL	Secretary General	0776-177351	
16.	Amy Leno	F	LDP	Member	0880-414368	
17.	Martha Freeman	F	NSDPL	Assistant Chairlady	0776-672802	
18.	Anthony C. Dennis	M	NRP	Vice chairman for Mobilization	0777-334255	
19.	Catherine Toe	F	MPC	Chairlady	0886-780212	
20.	Theophilus S. Fallah	M	LEP	Secretary General	0886-470304	
21.	Susie B. Apenaker	M	ANC	Vice Chair/ Women Budget	0886-470304	
22.	P. Jaesue Brown	M	FAL	Elder	0886-430669	
23.	Irene Wilson	F	ULD	Chairlady	0763-45926	
24.	Sam J. Brown	M	NUDP	Deputy Secretary General	0886-561947	
25.	Joe T. Gbalah	M	NDPL	Executive Member	0886-443735	

26.	Maxwell Tody	M	VCP	Member	0777-631422	
27.	Theresa Torh	F	ALCOP	Member	0886-872757	✓
28.	Robert Azango	M	LP	Vice Chair for Mobilization	0777-880459	

Group Chairman: Andrew Peters

CRC Oversight Person: Hon. Soko Sackor

CRC Note Taker: D. Wa. Hne, Jr.

Political Parties Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County from November 12-14, 2013.



No.	Name	Sex	Political Party	Position	Contact	Presentation of Group Work to Plenary
	Rev. A. Kugmeh Brooks	M	PRODEMP	Acting National Chairman	0777-0707064	<p>LAND OWNERSHIP</p> <p>Article 22 (A): Should be amended to the right of customary ownership.</p> <p>Article 22 (B): Land owner should have the right to benefit from any minerals found beneath or on the land. Five (5) should be</p>
	Frances Francis	F	PRODEMP	Member	0886-442190	
	Henrietta Draper	F	PRODEMP	Member	0886-442-190	
	David Peabody	M	L CC	Secretary Bassa Chapter	077-842142	
	J. Momolu Ballie	M	LDP	Member	0886-518251	
	Julia Freeman	F	NRP	Member	0886-636000	
	Hawa Kiazolu	F	LEP	Member	0886-968223	
	Cynthia Jallah	F	GDPL	Advisor	0886-648450	
	Theresa G. Toe	F	AND	Member	0776-839720	
	Valerie B. Jackai	F	LRP	Coordinator	0886-794897	

	Tinas Nyenatue	F	VCP	Member	0886-766280	gigen on said land. Article 22 (C&D): Shall remain as it is, since its provisions have (have) protected the Republic of Liberia.
	Johnny O. Woryoun	F	NDPL	Executive	077-346141	
	G. Albert Jennie	M	LTP	Vice Chairman for Operations	0770-265828	
	Nathaniel McGill	M	CDC	National Secretary	0886-524899	
	Annie Logan	F	NATVIPOL	Vice Chairman	0886-388209	
	Victor Saylee	M	OCPOL	Chairman	077-7945172	
	Lasanna Keita	M	ALCOP	VIP	0776-391876	
	Victoria Williams	F	CUP	Chairlady	0886-639395	
	Kulah Morris	F	FAPL	Member	0886-371954	
	Linda Harmon	F	PPP	Women Wing	0886-104827	
	Frances Brown	F	LINU	BAWADA women	0886-616468	
	Hannah Dunn	F	MPC	Co-Chairman	0777-704446	
	Decontee White	F	RPL	Women Wing	0776-572552	
	Comfort Williams	F	LP		0777-815694	
	Levala Benjamin	M	GDPL	Co-Chairman	0776-792540	
	Mathew Wiles	M	ULD	Assistant Secretary	0886-368410	
	John Zahnmie	M	NPP	Chairman, River County	0886-556882	
	Kulah Turay	F	NUDP	National chairlady	0886-597324	
	Aloysius Heagbetu	M	LISGIS	Senior Statistician	0886-539562	
	Charles F. Johnson	M	NDC	Assistant Secretary/External Relations	086-201418	

Group Chairman: Masonnoh Monger
CRC Oversight person: Dr. D. Elwood Dunn
CRC Note Taker: Morris Kromah

Political Parties Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County from November 12-14, 2013.

GROUP 6

No.	Name	Sex	Political Party	Position	Contact	Presentation of Group Work to Plenary
	Augustine Fallah	M	VCP	Youth Chairman	0886-524499	<p>INTEGRITY</p> <p>Article 5(C): The Republic shall take steps by appropriate legislations and executive orders-to eliminate sectionalism and tribalism, and such abuses fo power as the mis-use of government resources, nepotism and all other corrupt practices.</p> <p>A): Nepotism:</p> <p>I. The President shall not appoint more than two of his or her relatives to public positions in the ex (Executive) branch and non in the other two branches of government.</p> <p>II. No other public official shall appoint his or her relatives to institution that they supervise.</p> <p>III. The President shall not appoint more than two members of the same ethnic background to senior ministerial positions.</p> <p>B) Corruption:</p> <p>I. No one convicted of acts of corruption under our Liberian laws appointed to public office.</p> <p>II. The Liberia Anti-</p>
	Catherine Togba	F	RPL	Member	077-7883834	
	MaaguioDiople	F	MPC	Member	077-215314	
	Grace Biah	F	LINU	Treasurer	0880-565874	
	Cllr. Freddie Taylor	M	Liberia Council of Churches	Executive Council Member	0886-510913	
	Jefferson Jarbo	M			0886-671039	
	Anthony Mulbah	M	GDPL	Member	0770-025347	
	Daagoa Fambu	M	ALCOP		0886-50683	
	Peace K Blamah	F	NSDPL	Chairlady	0886-47552	
	Emmanuel Palmilin	M	NATVIPOL	Elder	0880-875002	
	Decontee McGill	F	PPP		0886-459642	
	T-Wah Bedell	M	NPP	Executive	0886-524045	
	Comfort Chiebuo	F	OCPOL	Executive	0886-707749	
	Cynthia Tarplah	F	CUP	Co-chairlady	0886-840393	
	Wendy K. Seton	M	LDP	Chairlady	0886-559821	
	Fatu N. K. Kpasarbo	F	LTP	Chairlady	0886-518683	
	A Constance	F	NDC	Gender Affairs	0886-511504	
	J. Divine Diggs	M	APD	Elder	0886-468790	
	Fred B. S King, Sr.	M	ANC	Regional Coordinator	0886-475172	
	Foday A. Jallah	M	NDPL	Deputy Secretary General	0886-549861	
	Annie T. Gant	F	ULD	Chairlady	0880-925052	
	Gontee Meddrics	M	NUDP	Vice-political affairs	0886-462096	
	Faith Saywah	F	FAPL	Youth Secretary	0776-106994	
	Kla-Edward Toomey	M	LP	Assistant Secretary	0880-345727	
	Horace P. Nagbe	M	LRP	National Secretary General	0880-345727	
	Patrick Doe	M	National Defense	Policy Analyst	0776-044637	

						<p>Corruption Commission or LACC shall be given the constitutional mandate to immediately prosecute persons accused of corruption after investigation. The accused should be removed from his or her position while prosecution is ongoing.</p> <p>C) Exploitation: Any public official accused of acts of exploitation be it sexual or financial should be immediately prosecuted and if found guilty dismissed from said office.</p> <p>D): Mis-use of Public Asserts The General Services Agency or GSA should be given the constitutional mandate to recommend for prosecution anyone accused or caught misusing public asserts.</p> <p>Integrity is government has to do with the orderly respectable and professional manner in which the government conducts its activities for the public interest.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--	---

Group Chairman: Kla-Edward Toomey
CRC Oversight Person: Madam Amelia Ward
CRC Note Taker: Throble Suah