

Constitution Review Committee

Journal

Quarterly Magazine

November 2013

Volume 01, Issue 01



Major Inside Stories

Message From The Chairperson

Know The CRC

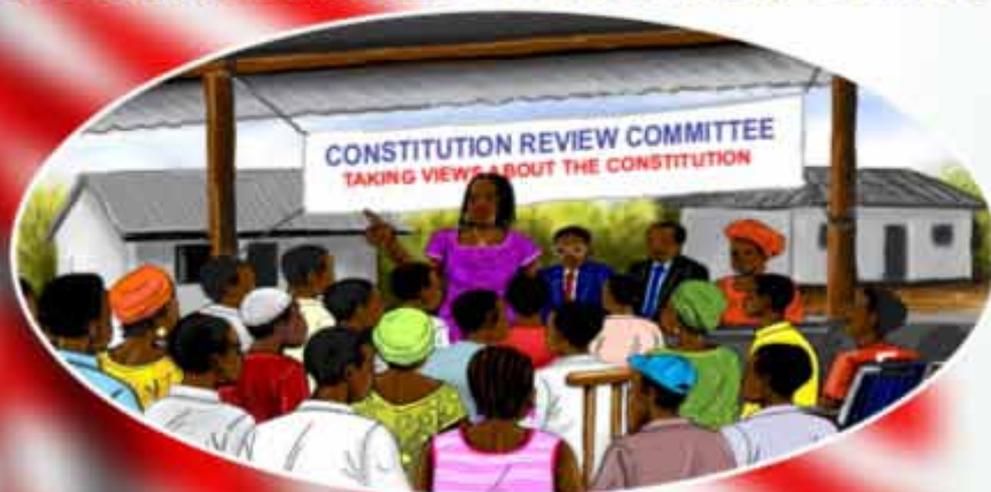
CRC In Profile

CRC NEWS

Special Features

What The People Say

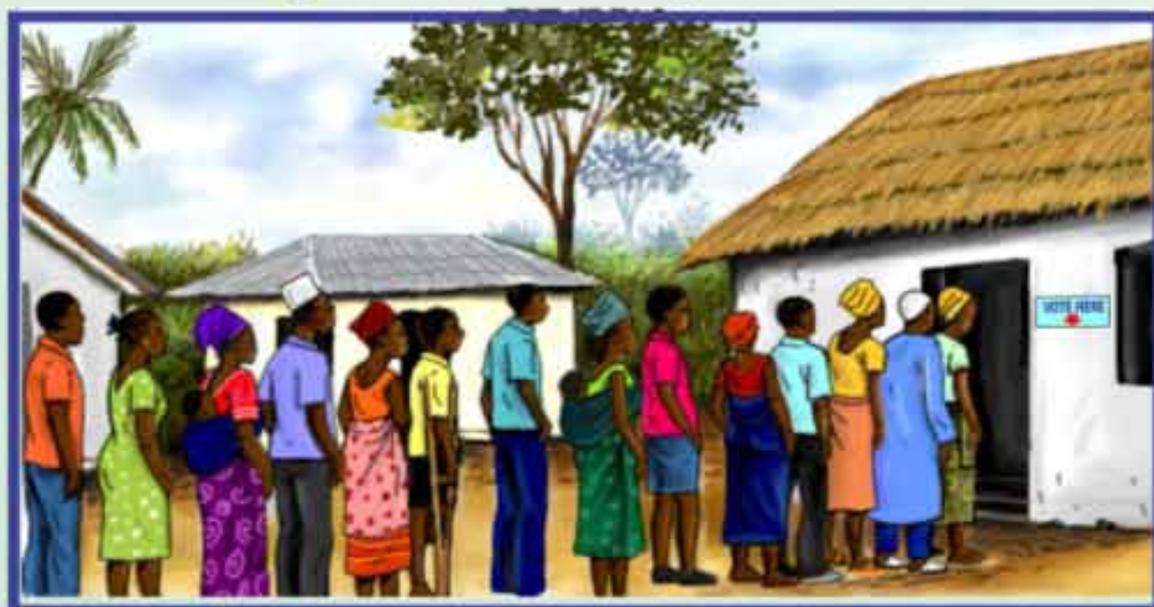
THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW ALLOWS ALL LIBERIANS TO SAY WHAT SHOULD BE IN THEIR CONSTITUTION.



Talking & giving views about the constitution



Looking at it at the Legislature and...



Voting on the constitution in a referendum

Send your views to the CRC: 08861986 / 051986

Published by CRC Civic Education & Media Section

Editorial Consultant:
Rev. Dr. Jasper S. Ndaborlor
Chairman, Media & Civic Education Committee
0886550943

D. Wa Hne, Jr.
Editor –In-Chief, Head
Civic Education & Media Section
0886943541

Throble Suah
Staff Writer

N. Dickson R. Tamba
Staff Writer

Morris H. Kromah
Layout & Graphic Designer



Civil society Organizations with CRC



Women Consultative Forum with CRC



National Muslim Council of Liberia with CRC



Cllr. Gloria Musu-Scott, CRC Chairperson



Liberia Council of Churches with CRC



Political Parties, UN Experts and CRC

CONTENT

- 4 Message from the Chairperson, CRC
- 5 Editorial
- 6 VP Boakai Statement
- 7 Message From The Speaker
- 8 Message From The Pro-Temp
- 9 CRC Members in Profile
- 15 Know the CRC
- 16 CRC News
- 30 Pictorial News
- 31 Special Features
- 35 Overview of the Liberian Constitution
- 36 What the People Say
- 38 CRC Secretariat

Message from the Chairperson



*Cllr. Gloria Maya Musu-Scott
Chairperson, CRC*

Constitution review is not an ordinary process. It commands the highest degree of integrity, accountability, legitimacy, transparency, accessibility, openness, and inclusivity. This is the process we have been called upon to drive. This opportunity is a noble one and a once in a while chance to have a say in the review of the nation's constitution. Some nations have existed for over hundred years without a single review. In our case, the 1847 Constitution existed a hundred and thirty three years without a single review process until it was abrogated and the 1986 Constitution came into being.

Regrettably events of the 1980s and the 1990s which extended to 2003 created constitutional debates and a need for reforms in our governance structures. As a result, the nation has been embarking on reforms in many sectors since the birth of post conflict Liberia under the leadership of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

In view of the fact that major reforms such as decentralization and local governance cannot be achieved without constitutional interventions, the imperative to revisit the constitution has never ceased to be a debate and a need.

The Governance Commission which is charged with the responsibility of conducting research on governance issues and to make appropriate recommendations to the Government of Liberia has recommended to the President the need to establish a Constitution Review Commission. That recommendation was accepted by the President of Liberia and a Bill to establish the Commission was forwarded to the National Legislature. In their wisdom, the National Legislature thought that there exist many commissions with high financial demands on the Government. Since indeed there would be no need for the proposed Constitution Review Commission to stay on after the review and referendum processes, it became advisable that it takes a committee shape and form.

On August 27, 2012, the President of the Republic of Liberia established the Constitution Review Committee to organize and to lead the process of constitution review. The mandate of the Committee is to "arrange public discourses and debates on provisions of the constitution; consider, among other things, national policies such as the National Policy on Decentralization and Local Governance; the establishment of principal administrative officers and other public sector reforms which can fully be implemented through constitutional reforms and to review the constitution and identify other provisions such as, without limitation, the terms of offices of the President, Vice President, Legislators, justices and judges to determine whether they require amendment." The Committee is further mandated to draft pieces of legislation pertaining to the constitution for approval and ensure adequate public participation in related public hearings and to also assist in ensuring the conduct of a referendum by the National Elections Commission on proposals for amending the constitution.

The Committee considers its mandate challenging; but achievable. We want a process that is credible, legitimate, and transparent. We have put in place a method of information gathering which emphasizes the BOTTOM TO TOP APPROACH. This method takes us to the people and gives them the opportunity to own the process with guidance from the CRC. As some of us may be aware, Article 10 of the Constitution provides that the Constitution be taught in our schools. This has not been done. What it does now is to impose a great challenge to the CRC to launch massive civic education programs which is indeed very costly.

We are hoping that the CRC financial difficulties will attract interventions. We are very grateful to the UN System, especially UNMIL, for the level of cooperation we have been receiving and for sending to us UN experts, Mr. Jason Gluck and Mr. Hassan Ibrahim who have been very helpful in designing our civic education approaches.

As you go through the pages of this Journal, it is my hope that questions lingering in your minds about the CRC would be answered. Welcome to the premier edition of "THE CRC JOURNAL," a quarterly publication of the CRC.

Editorial



Mr. D. WA Hne, Jr.
From The Editor's Desk

Constitution review is not an event. It is a process that involves people; because it prescribes the way, manner, and shape the nation is to be governed. Laws are enacted by the National Legislature based on constitutional prescriptions and/or provisions. The fundamental rights of the people, their social interactions, and their

economic well being are determined by the constitution. Thus, the constitution becomes the soul of the nation which generates strength, power, independence, sovereignty and prosperity for all Liberians irrespective of religion, tribe, occupation and status. It is a reservoir of hope and preserver of the destiny of the nation and its people.

The history of Liberia evolved from the Grain Coast, a name given by explorers because of its rich agricultural resources and the growth of grains which sprang from its rich soil. It later metamorphosed into a commonwealth with a constitution established by the American colonization society.

The Commonwealth Constitution governed the Liberian entity until 1847 when circumstances precipitated the convening of a constitutional convention to establish the Liberian state. Two documents emerged from the convention—a draft Constitution collaboratively written by black colonialists and their white American supporters, notably Simeon Greenleaf, and a draft Declaration of Independence. On the basis of these subsequently adopted documents Liberia became an independent state on July 26, 1847.

The original Liberian state was not an inclusive state. A long struggle for political and cultural integration has been the hallmark of the Liberian experience. The founding 1847 constitution attempted inconclusively to regulate the process of that struggle. The constitution, and the regime it spawned, was unable to address the clamor for inclusive gov-

ernance that reached fever pitch in the late 1970s.

A military coup d'état intervened on April 12, 1980 and the 1847 Constitution was cast aside. The Military Government of Samuel K. Doe established the Constitution Drafting Commission in 1981 headed by Dr. Amos Claudius Sawyer, Professor of the University of Liberia and Head of the Liberal Arts Department to chair the Commission. Consultations and research were done by the Commission and a draft constitution was produced. The Military Government received the Draft and established a Constitution Advisory Assembly headed by the late Dr. Edward Beyan Kesselly.

The Assembly produced a revised Constitution which was adopted and became the organic law of the state and has since been in force. Four years into the 1986 constitution, acute political tension resulted in an insurrection, which degenerated into a full-fledge civil war. The war continued intermittently through 2003 when warring and political factions resolved to peace settlement.

That settlement became the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which provided the roadmap from war to peace. Governance reform posited by the CPA enabled the holding of the first post-war elections in 2005 that brought to power President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Pursuant to governance reform, but also due to legislative wisdom, a Constitution Review Committee became necessary and acceptable.

This maiden edition brings to you the Constitution Review Committee—why it has been established; what its mandate is; who are its members; events since its establishment; principles to drive the process; objectives for constitution review; and what the people say including feature articles, among others. The CRC has begun a people oriented process—a process in which the people not only mirrored; but brings out the reflection of the very people.

With the collective inputs of all Liberians, the constitution review process promises to be an opportunity for all Liberians to chart a new course. Welcome to the first edition of the “CRC JOURNAL” and wish you pleasant reading.

Vice President Boakai Statement



Speech delivered by the Vice President on behalf of the President of the Republic of Liberia on October 5, 2012

Let me extend thanks for this invitation to us to be part of this Consultative and Interactive Forum, engaging political parties, civil society organizations, stakeholders and partners

The President, Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, will have me convey to you warmest greetings and good wishes for productive interactions with the stakeholders here assembled.

I do not doubt that you are very conscious of the herculean responsibility you have been given. With the caliber of citizen you are, manifested in the character and reputation that each of you has built for yourself over the years, we are convinced the Liberian people are looking up to quality of work that will defy suspicion and second guessing.

We were all witnesses of the rancor that accompanied this nation's most recent attempt at revising our organic law. Received by a huge overcast of apprehension, the lack of trust, and weighed down by deep suspicion, many of our compatriots failed to grasp the very genuine intentions that brought forth the concrete efforts at our first process to amend our Constitution.

Some of you may recall that nearly all of the Talk Shows had their telephone line buzzing with so many of our people clamoring to make their views heard. Many so easily found themselves paralyzed in their analysis of

conspiracy theories, leaving room for camaraderie in the art of comparing notes on national issues.

Be it as it was, we managed to emerge out of that not-so-pleasant exercise, with our body polity intact and our hopes still high. Also, nearly a year has elapsed since, and we all have cooled our heads and recollected ourselves. And even now, we can see that even long after that, there are still reverberations of the popular yearning for a more sober re-look at our Constitution.

It has been well established and there is no doubt in our mind, that the Liberian Constitution is an outstanding document worthy of serving as the road mat for any nation. But the reality is that times and conditions are compelling us to take a closer look at our current realities vis-à-vis our organic law. The aspiration of our people, we have reasoned, is that with the elections, and the accompanying effects behind us, we will now, more than ever before, find even more justifiable reason to sit and reason together as a people with a common destiny.

That is why, in her Annual Message delivered before the 53rd Legislature last January, our President saw it her national duty to rekindle the hopes of the Liberian people in the democratic course this nation has embarked upon.

And that accounts for why the President underscored the need for us to construct the pillars on which our new found peace and stability stand on a solid foundation grounded in our unshakable commitment to protecting and upholding our democratic principles, rather than solely relying on our armed forces.

President Sirleaf thus declared, and I quote, "This is why, in the years ahead, we want Liberia to become one of Africa's strongest democracies. To begin with, we will bring all voices together in a National Forum to reform our Constitution and reconcile our politics."

True to this optimistic desire of hers, the President in late August this year took the courageous step of enthusiastically announcing the constitution of this honorable committee.

After the speech by the Vice President, he launched the Constitution Review Committee (CRC) on behalf of Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia and plainly declared the session of the Interactive Forum formally opened.

Message From The Speaker



Hon. Alex J. Tyler
Speaker, Honorable House of Representatives

Words in the second line of the Preamble to the constitution almost chills the spine for their grandeur and grace: “Acknowledging our devout gratitude to God for our existence.....” and, going on further, it affirms “... that all of our people, irrespective of history, tradition, creed or ethnic background are of one common body politic.”

These two converging premises—the confession of the Divine goodness and mercy towards us and, the recognition of the oneness, unity and homogeneity of our people—must be now, and always, the defining matrix hymn of our national life.

Moreover, the elders—both men and women—of the National Constitutional Commission (1986), who were charged to be the architects of this document, were swift to point out the source of ultimate (human) power in the state to be formed, upheld and preserved by this Constitution. And, it is found in Article One, line one—seven; clear, concise words but infused with political TNT: “All power is inherent in the people.”

A little while earlier, the purpose of the training of the canon was broadly described: “.....promoting unity, liberty, peace, stability, equality, justice and human rights..... {and} rule of law.....” “Similar and parallel inspiration may be drawn from the awe-inspiring language in the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States of America (which informed both our 1847 and 1986 Constitutions).

Laying down the purpose of the government to be created for their people’s governance, it states: “to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of the liberty..”

Notwithstanding these lofty words enshrined in our Constitution (both the 1847 and 1986’s), the stark reality found on the ground did not allow either to abide. In the instance of the first (the 1847’s) the “Pioneer Hegemony,” manifesting itself in unfair restraint, monopoly and manipulation, proved in the end to be moribund and anachronistic; while in the latter case (the 1986’s), unmitigated tribalism, cronyism and abuses of state power brought same to tragic stand-off before external aid finally arrested the hemorrhage and carnage.

We have celebrated our one hundred six-sixth year of independence and reflect on the near-abyss from which we have been saved by divine intervention of the God of our fathers and the aid of our friends.

Also, this dispensation under which we strive is the Fourth Republic (First Republic---1847; Second Republic 1986; Third Republic-1997; and Fourth Republic—2006), having suspended and or changed the Constitution for a quarter time.

But we are also buoyed up by the hope that we as a people have learnt the lesson from the ugly past and are determined to chart a new and prosperous future, constructed on an edifice which “...promotes unity, liberty, peace, stability, equality, justice and human rights {and} the rule of Law.....” “realizing.... that all of our people, irrespective of history, tradition, creed or ethnic background are of one common body politic”.

In the maiden edition of the CRC JOURNAL, published by the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC)—an institution in which Liberians are entrusting their hopes and fears—I confidently pledge the Legislature’s commitment to continue its stance as defender and upholder of the Constitution in its present form and the future shape to which it should emerge, as servant of the people.

President Protempore of The Liberian Senate Message.

The Constitution of the Republic of Liberia is the supreme law. The Constitution establishes the form of government and defines the rights of the Liberian People. It also lists the aims of the government and the methods of achieving them.

The Constitution was written by our Founding fathers with the purpose of limiting government's power. In their wisdom, the founders created a system of checks and balances that makes Liberia unique by dispersing power. Throughout Liberia's history, politicians have recognized the genius of this system and respected its boundaries.

Today, Liberia pulses with the energy of a dizzying mix of cultures, races, religion, and languages. The people of Liberia are joined together, not by religion, race, or genealogy, but by a shared set of beliefs about freedom.

Every society has certain standards which ensure that its members' actions do not harm the same society. There are two types of standards, Verbal Standards and Written Standards. The Verbal Standards are not written down but are taken for granted and handed down from generation to generation. These can be applied differently depending on the case. The Written Standards are much easier to apply at which are the main set of rules called the Constitution.

The Constitution obligates the government to facilitate the real well-being of its entire people, but the complex, contingent, and unpredictable policies for facilitating any conception of well-being, together: balancing the need of the people involved in making concrete funding decisions, and the ultimate need for public support, place most of the responsibility on legislators and their voting constituents.

Also, by its language, the population must in principle be able to recognize the Constitution as an approximation of what it says it is, and that requires at least some evidence of progress toward its ends. The mandate of the Constitution Review Committee is to constructively examine the 1986 Constitution of Liberia and lead a process that will produce appropriate Constitution amendment

After the Committee has made its recommendations, it is important to consider whether all the detail into which the amendments go are necessary in a Constitution and provide the necessary flexibility, and whether details could instead be introduced through legislation, which can easily be altered according to circumstance.



*Hon. Gbehzongar M. Findley
President Pro Tempore, Liberian Senate*

Today, Liberia pulses with the energy of a dizzying mix of cultures, races, religion, and languages. The people of Liberia are joined together, not by religion, race, or genealogy, but by a shared set of beliefs about freedom.

CRC Members in Profile

The President of the Republic of Liberia has appointed a six person constitution review committee to organize and lead the process of reviewing the nation's constitution. We have the honor and occasion to present these eminent Liberians chosen to perform the herculean task. Meet the crc members in profile.

Cllr. Gloria M. Musu-Scott was born in Monrovia out of the body of Madam Gertrude Pudiayenneh New-



*Cllr. Gloria M. Musu-Scott
Chairperson,
CRC & Chairman, Sub-committee
on Administration*

ton who originates from Barrake, Maryland County and out of the body of the late Col. Lawrence A. Musu who originated from the Township of Warteken, Karluway District, also in Maryland County.

Cllr. Scott received her elementary education at the St. Peter's Lutheran Elementary School and a High school diploma from the College of West Africa in 1973. She entered the University of Liberia in 1975 and was awarded a Bachelors of Arts degree in Economics with minor in Management. In 1982, she entered the Louis Arthur Grime's School of Law and earned a Bachelor degree in Law in 1986.

As a teenager, Cllr. Scott had a thirst for education and excellence. In other to accomplish her life ambition, she took a job as a Bookstore Clerk at CWA to pay the cost of her tuition and later as a cadet at the Ministry of Public works while at the University of Liberia. Upon her

graduation from the University, she became a full time employee of the Ministry of Public Works in the position of Administrative Assistant in charge of managing logistics and supplies for the Road Maintenance Department of the Ministry of Public works and at the same time, she attended the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law in the evening session which lasted from 4:30p.m.-8:30p.m.

Upon graduation from the law school she started her legal practice as a Prosecutor at the Ministry of Justice. Her first major case was to prosecute defendants who gang raped and murdered the late Esther Parker, a resident of the Stephen Tolbert Estate. The government of Liberia obtained a guilty verdict in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Bomi County in 1989. In 1990, she was displaced as a result of the civil war.

Cllr. Scott returned to the Ministry of Justice in 1991 as Assistant Minister of Justice for Administration. She was later appointed as Judge of the Monthly and Probate Court for Montserrado County by Dr. Amos C. Sawyer, President of the Interim Government of National Unity (IGNU) in the same year. During her tenure as Probate Court Judge, she observed the legal discriminations against widows married under customary laws. This observation motivated her to invite other female lawyers to a meeting and conveyed the need to seek equality under the law for women, children and other vulnerable persons. Her colleagues accepted the thought and the Association of Female Lawyers (AFELL) was organized with Cllr. Scott elected as its First President in 1994.

After the April 6, 1996 fracas, Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott was appointed Minister of Justice and later that same year became Chairman of the Ad Hoc Elections Commission. In 1997, she was named member of the Independent Elections Commission which conducted the 1997 elections under the Chairmanship of Hon. G. Henry Andrews, now deceased.

After the elections and the restoration of the Constitution, Cllr. Scott was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia. She served in that position until October 2003. In 2005, she was elected Senator of Maryland County in the 2005 Presidential and legislative General Elections, a position she held until January, 2012. Due to her wealth of experience and the confidence reposed in her ability and integrity, she was appointed Chairperson of the Constitution Review Committee by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in August 2012.

Cllr. Scott has attended several international meet-

ings and conferences and served as facilitator. The conferences include African European Women Conference in Brussels in 2007; African women Conference in Abidjan, La Cote D' Ivoire in 2007; and UNEP Round Table Dialogue for Advancing the Millennium Development Goals held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2004.

She also served as participant at the 2nd All Africa Clinical Legal Education Colloquium in 2005; Conference on the Domestication of International Instruments relating to Women and Children sponsored by UNICEF and held in Austria in 2000; World conference on Good Governance and the Rule of Law sponsored by the Economic Commission for Africa held in Addis Ababa, and the International Visitors Program sponsored by the United States Information Service in 1995; among several other travels and conferences.

Over the years Cllr. Scott has lectured at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law from 1992-1996 as Instructor; 2001-2004 as Visiting Instructor; Adjunct Professor from 2012 to the present. Courses she taught include Property Law, Estates and Trust, Human Rights, Ethics and African Law. Cllr. Scott is a widow and mother to her three biological children including other children who are in her care as well as siblings, relatives and others. These persons affectionately call her, the Ol'Ma; Our Ma; Children Ma; Sister, Aunty, etc.

Dr. Elwood Dunn is a distinguished professor of Political Science with many years of experience in Foreign Policy, International Relations, African Studies and Diplomacy. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in International Studies from the American University; a Master of Arts Degree in International Relations from the



Dr. D. Elwood Dunn
CRC Member and Chairman, Sub-committee on
Technical Services, Drafting and Documentations

same University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the Cuttington College and Divinity School in, Suakoko, Bong County, Republic of Liberia, as well as a Certificate d' Etudes Politiques from the Université de Lyons, France.

Employment at the National Level

Dr. Dunn served as Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, 1979-1980. Prior to that, he served as Deputy Minister of State for Presidential Affairs/Director of the Cabinet. Dr. Dunn also served the Republic of Liberia as Assistant Minister /Special Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1974-1975 and as Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for American Affairs & Director of the Foreign Service Institute at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Employment at the Academic Level

- Instructor of African Studies at Seton Hall University and Adjunct Assistant professor at Essex County College in New Jersey from 1970-1973
- Adjunct Professor at the University of Liberia and Cuttington University College from 1975-1979
- Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Liberia from August –December, 1980
- Professor of Political Science at the University of the South from 1986 to present.
- Chair and Professor of Political Science at the University of the South from 2000 – 2004
- Dr. Dunn speaks and writes French with proficiency.

This well respected and accomplished writer has many books to his credit, among them: The Annual Messages of the Presidents of Liberia 1848-2010 (a compilation in three volumes), Liberia and the United States during the Cold War: Limits of Reciprocity, and Liberia and Independent Africa, 1940s to 2012: A Brief Political Profile, AHLP Occasional Paper, June 2012.

Dr. Dunn is married to Rev. Dr. Matilda E. Greene Dunn (Episcopal Priest). This union is blessed with four (4) adult children. Dr. Dunn hails from Grand Bassa County.

This illustrious son of Liberia, the retired Chair and Professor of Political Science at the University of the South served as national Orator for programs marking celebration of the 165th Birth Anniversary of the Republic of Liberia. The issues raised by Dr. Dunn triggered major national and international debates about Liberia's

value system and how there is a need to review the nation's National Symbols, Cultural Orientations, Constitution and Rights of each person.

Madam Ward is a Development Economist with many years of professional working experience. She was employed at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs at the age of 19. The Ministry was instrumental in guiding and shaping her for a career. From its sponsorship, she obtained a diploma in Statistics, Achimota College in Accra, Ghana in 1966; BSC Degree in Economics from the University of San Francisco, USA, in 1971



*Honorable Amelia Angeline Ward
CRC Member & Chairman on International Partners and Donors*

and an MSc Degree in Development Economics from the University of Idaho, USA in 1977. In 2003, the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters (Honoris Cause) was conferred on her by Cuttington University in Suakoko, Bong County.

Through the Ministry's programs, Honorable Amelia A. Ward also pursued specialized studies in Trade Promotion at the ITC in 1974 in Geneva, Switzerland and the World Trade Center, USA in 1975, respectively. She underwent Economics Policy and Management Training at the World Bank in 1982 as well as Investment Promotion, World Bank, in USA 1984. Others include Population Policy and Methodology by Rapids and Pathfinder Group of Washington, DC in 1985 and Management of Development Assistance, Kenya Institute for Administration, sponsored by the World Bank in 1987.

Madam Ward served in many positions at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs. These positions were the following: Director, Economic Cooperation and External Assistant Coordinator; Economic Cooperation and Integration; Senior Research Officer for Economic

Cooperation, Research Officer; Planning Officer, Statistician of the Miscellaneous Statistics Division, and Statistician for Coding and Verification, Foreign Trade Division.

It is worth noting that most of the early period of her life in the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs was centered on acquiring education and returning to the Ministry to handle greater challenges. She served as Governor or Alternative Governor for Liberia for the African Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, ECOWAS Fund etc. Madam Ward led many delegates to the Mano River Union (MRU) Ministerial Council meeting, ECOWAS Ministerial meeting etc. She rose from the level of technician to the level of Minister on the Ministerial council in the MRU and ECOWAS.

She also served as Focal Person for International Cooperation dealing with international partners, as well as the UN System, eg: UNDP, UNFPA, UNCEF, and UNIFEM now UN Women etc. she significantly contributed to raising the UNICEF Liberia from a program headed by a Program Officer under the supervision of UNICEF Ivory Coast to a full fledged UN Agency headed by a Resident Representative now referred to as Country Director.

Madam Ward is a strong advocate for women's rights and equality and was very instrumental in the establishment of various women organizations, including the Ministry of Gender and Development. She underwent several women leadership training including Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution, and Peace and Security and trained other women. She served as Focal Person for the Mano River Women Peace Network (MARWOPNET)-Liberia) for many years. She is presently 2nd Regional Vice President. Under MARWOPNET's election program, she participated and led observation teams in Election held in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. From training received she trained other women to participate in the electoral process. Her involvements in the process enable her to work closely with the National Election Commission (NEC) in the three countries, particularly Liberia. She was also invited on several occasions to share her experiences in the area of conflict prevention, conflict resolution and sustained peace and security.

She was also invited to share experiences of the Mano River Union (MRU) electoral processes as it relate to MARWOPNET and how it could benefit those entities or countries from preventing conflict during elections held in the countries, the most recent Kenya. Due to her diligence performance, Madam Ward was appointed to the position of Deputy Minister and Principal Deputy at the Ministry and later rose to the position of Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs during Liberia's most difficult and challenging periods under the Interim Government of National Unity led by Dr. Amos Sawyer, and the Transitional Government of Professor David Kpor-

makpor.

During the administration of Her Excellency, Ruth Sando Perry, she was recruited by the UNDP to serve as Technical Advisor. She also served as Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs during the brief period of Taylor's administration. She also served as Minister of Commerce and Industry.

When she was honored in Dakar, Senegal in July 2007 by the West African Women Association (WAWA), the caption used to describe her was "A Life Devoted to Government" for the many contributions she made to her country commencing from her early youthful days in government, including her active participation in programs and activities aimed at restoring peace to war torn Liberia, West Africa and Africa as a whole was highlighted.

She was married to the late Moses S. Ward in December 1971. The union was blessed with four (4) children. Madam Amelia Angeline Ward was born in Monrovia, Liberia unto the union of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Hooke, Sr. of Salala District, Bong County. Her late uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Crawford played a very major role in her upbringing and the shaping of her life. She grew up at an early age with reference for God, dedication, commitment and respect for hard work. She was honored by many organizations locally and internationally.

Mr. Soko V. Sackor is a student of politics with many years of experience in Local Government Administration and state craft. His initial employment in government dates back to 1977 at the Ministry of Education where he worked part time as a messenger/cadet in the Bureau of Instruction with Asst. Minister, Christine Tolbert Norman. He is also a junior in managing traditional affairs/matters within the Republic.

Following his graduation and having become a Clerk Typist, Secretary and Acting Administrative Assistant in the Bureau of Instruction, from 1979-1981, Soko joined the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development

and Urban Reconstruction as Administrative Assistant to Minister Edward Komo Sackor. The late Edward Komo, who is known to date to be a very powerful and popular people's Minister ended up having an established impact on the future growth and development of Soko V. today.

Soko V. as he is popularly known by family members and friends earned a BSc Degree in Government and Public Affairs from one of the historic Black Universities in America, USA, Tennessee State University, Nashville, in 1987. At Tennessee State, where Sackor earned his Bachelor Degree, he also proudly benefited from the US Air Force, Reserved Officers Training Corp Program during studies for his Bachelor. In 1988, Mr. Sackor also earned a Master of Arts Degree in Black Studies with specialization in African Politics from the prestigious Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, USA.

Additionally, Soko received several Awards of distinction, namely; National Political Science Award, Academic All-American and outstanding College Students of America in 1987 from the US. Achievement Academy in Lexington, Kentucky and was further recognized for Outstanding Service in the Ohio State University College of Humanities in Columbus, Ohio. It may be worth noting that these Awards are the highest young people can achieve in America for performance, academic excellence, and diligence in study of a variety of disciplines and superior in all - around performance.

- Two times Deputy Minister for Administration; Ministry of Internal Affairs 2006 and 2010 – 2012 April.
- Deputy Minister for Postal Operation; responsible to jump-start, restore credibility and confidence to Liberia's mailing system and developed a Postal Policy Framework. Also initiated and commenced the development of Liberia's Postal Address System.
- Director General of the Cabinet, Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs from 2003-2006, a critical time in Liberia's transition process.
- Assistant Minister of State for Administration from 1995-1997 and Executive Assistant to Vice Chairman El-Mohammed Sheriff of the Council of State at the Executive Mansion from 1993-1995.
- Assistant Minister and Political Officer at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Coordinator of the Special Presidential Crisis Committee of the Interim Government of National Unity from 1991-1993.
- Administrative Assistant to the Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Urban Reconstruction from 1981-1983 and Clerk Typist and Secretary in the office of the Assistant Minister for Instruction; Ministry of Education, from 1977-1980.



*Hon. Soko V. Sackor
CRC Member and Chairman, Sub-Committee on
Civil Society Organizations*

- Chairman of the Reformation Alliance Party (RAP) from 1992-2000 and Acting Chairman of the Inter-Party Committee of (opposition) Political Parties in Liberia from 1997-1999.
- Managing Editor, National Observer Magazine, and Executive Member of the National Muslim Congress of Liberia from 1990 to present.
- Chairman, Anti-Corruption Executive Task-force from 2005-2006 which continue the work started by the Tolbert Administration and have now developed into the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Professional Experience at the International Level

- Staff Assistant to the Chairman of the Tennessee Black Leadership Roundtable from 1984-1987 and Chairman of the Black Caucus of State Legislators.
- Consultant at the Institute for African and Caribbean Affairs at Tennessee State University from 1984-1987.
- Graduate Administrative Associate to the Dean of the Graduate Program and Graduate Research Associate to the Chairman of the Department of Black Studies, all at Ohio State University from 1987-1988.
- Participated with honors at several model OAU Conferences.

Others

- Soko V. Sackor has been happily married for over 20 years. He presently has seven children; and hails from Gbondoi Town in Bong County, Central Liberia and a multi-talented political, military and traditional strategist. He was born unto the Union of Lango Kollie and Mamadee Molly (Jekaawomen) Sackor.
- Sackor is very humble, understanding and gets along well with meetings of the mind. He is a hardcore negotiator with a humane sense to negotiate and manage conflict. He has been actively participating in peace and Reconciliation efforts in Liberia. Since the 1990's.

Rev. Kennedy G. Sandy was born on November 27, 1963 to the union of Mr. & Mrs. Jallah B. Sandy in the town of Keita, in Grand Cape Mount County, Republic of Liberia.

Work Experience

Rev. Sandy worked with the International Bureau of Investigation (IBI) in the USA, Washington D.C. and New York. As a result of his interest in the security service and diligence, he became a Special Investigating officer at that prestigious American Security entity. He also serves and works at the World Bank as a private con-

tractor helping with investigation in the daily activities / transaction to help the productivity of the World Bank.

Despite his engagements, he found time for God. Rev. Sandy served as Pastor, General Overseer, and Bishop of the St. Peter United Church of the Lord, Worldwide. He is' Founder of the International Organization for the Advancement of Humanity (IOAH) and also the Founder and President of the International Association of Pastors and Churches.

Furthermore, due to his interest in security, Rev. Sandy attended the Guardian Security Academy in Maryland, USA, where he specialized in Homeland Security. Apparently Rev. Kennedy G. Sandy has been a security expert and served as Senior Advisor and Security Consultant at the US Homeland Security. To name but a few, he served in various capacities in the following areas at the US Forensic Crime laboratory; US Treasury; US



*Rev. Kennedy Gebley Sandy
CRC Member and Chairman, Sub-committee on
Political Parties*

Center for Disease Control; US Science Foundation and the US Record Center.

Educational level

Rev. Sandy gained his elementary education at the Daniel E. Howard Elementary School and matriculated to the J.J. Ross High School on Ashmun Street in 1984 in the Capital City of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia. Rev. Sandy also has a Master of Divinity Degree from the Faith Bible College Seminary in Maryland, USA. He also obtained Bachelor of Theology Degree at the Light House Christian College, Beebe, Arkansas, USA. Rev. Sandy is commonly called among his kinsman as Reverend. Rev. Sandy also obtained a Certificate in Evangelical Studies from the Eastern Bible Institute of Newark, New Jersey, USA.

Private Life

In 1992 Rev. Kennedy G. Sandy single handedly painted the Liberian embassy in Washington D.C. Since this initiative, his passion for humanity has grown immensely over the years with different kinds of assistance,

especially scholarship to various nationalities, including Americans, Tanzanians, Gambians, Ghanaians, Sierra Leoneans and Liberians.

He has close to 25,000 Liberian students at all levels (Elementary, Junior High, Senior High & University) benefiting from his scholarship programs.

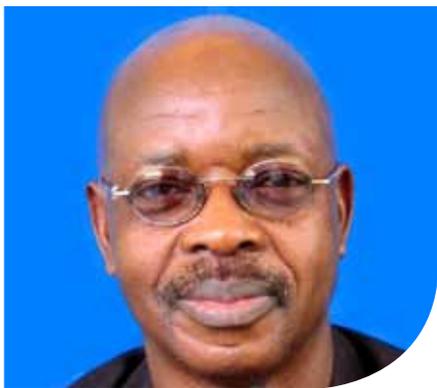
Marital Life

Rev. Kennedy G. Sandy married on November 27, 1993 to an ordained and faithful woman of God, named Rev. Mrs. Eugenia V. Sandy. She is also a humanitarian and serves as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), of the International Organization for the Advancement of Humanity (IOAH).

God has blessed this union with three (3) biological children and few adopted children.

Rev. Dr. Jasper Samuel Ndaborlor was appointed as member of the Constitution Review Committee by the President of the Republic of Liberia in October 2012. He is President of the Pentecostal Fellowship Union of Liberia and also Pastor of the Free Pentecostal Global Missions Church in Sinkor. He hailed from Lofa County and belongs to the Kissi Ethnic group of Liberia.

Rev. Dr. Ndaborlor has served in many capacities both in the Church and in Government. In his public life, he served as Principal and Teacher of the former Edward S. Peal Elementary School in Paynesville and Teacher at the Paynesville Community School from 1979-1982 respectively. Dr. Ndaborlor also served as Special Assistant to the People's Redemption Council from 1982 to 1984 and Administrative Assistant in the National Interim Assembly from 1985 to 1986. The Reverend further served his Country as Chaplain in the National Legislature from 1986 to 1995 and later became Political and Religious



*Rev. Dr. Jasper Samuel Ndaborlor
CRC Member and Chairman, Sub-Committee on
Civil Education & Media*

Advisor to the late Council man, Tamba Lamie Taylor of the Council of State from 1995 to 1996.

He was awarded a scholarship to do his Masters Degree Program in the United States of America at the As-

sociated Mennonites Biblical Seminary, Elthart, Indiana, USA from whence he graduated with a Masters Degree in Peace Studies. In 2012, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Theology by the Cypress International Bible Institute based in Texas, USA.

In 2006, Rev. Dr. Jasper Samuel Ndaborlor was appointed by Her Excellency to serve as Member of the Veteran Affairs Advisory Committee to draft an Act for the creation of the Bureau of Veteran Affairs which was passed into law by the National Legislature, signed by the President, and printed into Hand Bills by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and established. The Bureau is functional and active.

Besides the above, Rev. Dr. Ndaborlor served as peace broker in many capacities and was a strong radio orator who became a voice during the peak of the Liberian Civil War. He is a fearless Man of God who comes to the CRC with a wealth of experience. He is married to Mrs. Tewah Elizabeth Ndaborlor with children and dependents. He has travelled world-wide to represent Liberia at many conferences and international seminars and workshops. He was born on February 25, 1955.

Mr. Losine N. Sanyon is the Office Manager of the Constitution Review Committee (CRC). He supervises and coordinates work system, monitors and evaluates outcomes. He is the bridge between the Committee and the employees. He comes next to the Chairperson of the CRC in terms of the administrative structure.

Mr. Sanyon holds a Bachelor's degree in Management with emphasis in Human Resources Management from the University of Liberia. He is a prospective Masters program graduate come December 2013, with discipline in Public Administration from the University of Liberia.

Mr. Sanyon holds several professional certificates in Trauma Counseling, Management Consultancy, Decentralization, Journalism, Research Methodology and Training and Capacity Development. He taught Management at the sophomore level for two semesters at the University of Liberia. He brings a wealth of experience to the Constitution Review Committee.

Prior to joining the CRC, Mr. Sanyon worked as a Consultant for Training and Capacity Development at the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA). He did several training needs assessments and conducted capacity development trainings for superintendents and other local government administrators in the 15 counties.

As someone having interest in youth development, Mr. Sanyon introduced and coordinated MIA's first Management Training Program that witnessed the recruitment and training of 14 young university graduates for one year under the LDLD/UNDP sponsorship. Some of the trainees were later absorbed to enhance the human resource capacity of the Ministry.

Based on his performance in previous assignments,



Losine N. Sanyon
Office Manager, CRC

the Minister of Internal Affairs appointed Mr. Sanyon Coordinator of the Ministry's Personnel Re-Documentation Project to clean Central Office and the 15 counties payrolls of ghost names. He successfully coordinated this project that identified hundreds of ghost names on the payrolls of counties he and his team visited.

Mr. Sanyon served as Deputy Managing Director for Operations at the Liberia National Lotteries Corporation in the National Transitional Government of Liberia. He provided job opportunities to over 60 young Liberians when he hired them as sales agents.

He formally worked as a reporter at the Liberia News Agency, MICAT, Research Analyst, Ministry of State and Administrative Assistant, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. He also served as News Editor of the Analyst and New National newspapers respectively.

At the Ministry of posts and Telecommunications, he served as head of secretariat of both the Concept Document Drafting Committee of the National Postal Address System Project and Postal Policy of Liberia, respectively.

Know The CRC

What is the Constitution Review Committee?

The CRC is a presidential Committee of six (6) eminent Liberians tasked with the responsibility to lead, organize debates and manage the review process of the 1986 Constitution through consultations with all segments of the population of Liberia and make recommendations for amendments.

What is the Mandate of the CRC?

The CRC is mandated to carry out the following functions:

- a. Arrange public discourses and debates on pro-

visions of the Constitution;

- b. Consider, among other matters, national policies such as the National Policy on Decentralization and Local Governance, the establishment of positions of principal administrative officers and other public sector reforms which can only be fully implemented through constitutional amendments;
- c. Review the Constitution and identify other provisions such as, without limitation, the terms of office for the President, Vice President, Legislators and Justices and Judges to determine whether they require amendment;
- d. Draft specific pieces of legislation pertaining to the Constitution for approval and ensure adequate public participation in related public hearings; and
- e. Assist in ensuring the conduct of a referendum by the National Elections Commission on proposals for amending the Constitution.

At the end of the constitutional review process, the CRC will present to the President of Liberia a report of its findings, including the process it conducted and the inputs it received from the citizens and recommendations of amendment to the 1986 Constitution.

Why is constitution review necessary?

Liberia is reviewing its constitution to reflect changing realities and the dawn of a new era of peace and democracy after two decades of military rule, governance problems, political instabilities and civil wars and are now ready to come together and agree on a new charter that will define who we are as a nation and how we want to be governed.

The draft Constitution of 1983 was put together by Dr. Sawyer's Constitution Commission from which the 1986 Constitution was produced. The 1986 Constitution governed Liberia up to 1990. The Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2003 suspended parts of the 1986 Constitution to enable the holding of the first post-conflict democratic elections.

Having successfully conducted a second set of peaceful and democratic elections in 2011, Liberians are now emotionally and psychologically prepared to review the 1986 Constitution and amend it to respond to the needs and aspirations of the Liberian people.

The Goals of the Constitutional Review are:

- To promote and strengthen national unity
- To reach consensus on national principles, values and identity.
- To acknowledge the importance and contribution of tradition, culture and customs to Liberia.

- To deepen democratic principles, values and practices.
- To educate the people on principles and practices of democracy.
- To promote peace and reconciliation.
- **To achieve constitutional amendments that:**
 - a. Are nationally owned; deemed legitimate by the Liberian people; and reflect the needs and aspirations of all the Liberian people.
 - b. Protect the rights of all Liberians.
 - c. Express the will of the majority; but take into account the needs of minorities.
 - d. Promote democratic values, social justice and fundamental rights



Participants listening to views on the necessity of reviewing the nation's constitution

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

The principles that will guide the constitution review process are:

Inclusiveness: All Liberians, as individuals, communities, and interest groups, will have an opportunity to participate in the constitutional review and express their views.

Accessibility and public participation: The CRC will go to the people, first through education, and secondly, consultations, so that the review process is nationally owned.

Respect for divergent views: All Liberians are entitled to their opinions, and all views will be accorded equal respect and dignity.

Transparency: the constitutional review process will be opened so that the people will know what is happening and are informed at each stage of the process.

Accountability: the CRC will be accountable to its mandate and the Liberian people.

Good governance: the CRC will conduct its operations with utmost professionalism and integrity.

Building consensus: the CRC will endeavor to promote consensus on all issues.

National ownership: the people must own this process so that they can own their constitution and see it as a mirror through which they see themselves.

CRC News

P. A. Rib House Consultative & Interactive Forum

On October 5, 2012, about a month after the establishment of the Constitution Review Committee by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, members of the Committee galloped into action by extending invitations to stakeholders comprising political parties, civil society organizations,

business community, youth representative groups, women groups, members of the National Legislature, members of the Liberia Bar Association and dignitaries such as Mrs. Paula Vaquez, Representative of the European Union, Mr. Louis M. Aucoin, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General to attend a consultative and interactive forum on the review of the 1986 Constitution. Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai deputized for the President of the Republic of Liberia.

Professor, Dr. D. Elwood Dunn, Member of the CRC, welcomed the Vice President, dignitaries and stakeholders and expressed appreciation to them for honoring the invitation of the Committee.

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Dunn pointed out that constitution making and review take two forms which are the Top to Bottom method or the BOTTOM-TO-TOP method. He pointed out that the Bottom to Top method is the best and this was what the South Africans did during the making of their constitution. Dr. Dunn said the CRC has resolved to use the South Africa Approach. In view thereof, consultations would be conducted in that line with the Liberian people to inquire from them what they think went wrong with the 1986 Constitution.

Speaking on behalf of the Committee, Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott told participants that in September 2012, the Committee had introductory meeting with stakeholders and partners which included political parties and civil society organizations. At that meeting, it was agreed that the work of the committee should be thorough, substantive and non-superficial.

It was further suggested that the committee should not allow itself to be influenced, manipulated or controlled to ensure that the result of their (CRC) work have the trust and confidence of the public and that the committee should ensure there is sufficient consultation and participation of the citizens in every part of the country and the

Diaspora so that Liberians can own the process and outcome of the committee's work.

The CRC Chair said the committee is fully aware that its work could promote and contribute to national reconciliation and reaffirm the national consensus that Liberia shall know no more war. She emphasized that the committee would perform its task in such a way and manner that the public would have confidence in the process and its outcome because each of them has a reputation, image and credibility to protect.

Cllr. Scott reminded participants that Liberia is an old nation that has been governed by several organic documents such as the May 25, 1825 Constitution for the Governance of the African Colony by the American Colonization Society (ACS); the Plan for the Civil Government and the Digest of the laws which were in force in the Colony of Liberia and the 1820 Constitution which was adopted by the Board of Governors of the ACS on January 5, 1839 to govern the Commonwealth of Liberia. She further said that on July 26, 1847, delegates from the first three counties, namely, Montserrado, Bassa, and Sinoe assembled and signed the declaration of independence and subsequently on September 27, 1847, a Constitution for the Republic of Liberia was approved.

Relating Liberia's constitutional history, the CRC Chairperson said the 1847 Constitution was suspended on April 12, 1980 and later abrogated in Article 95 of the 1986 Constitution. Doing comparative analysis of the



Partial view of participants at the methodology symposium as CDC's SG Nathaniel McGill and NDC's SG Abraham Mitchell confers.

1847 and 1986 Constitutions, she said the Committee has noted some similarities.

For example, the 1847 constitution recognizes "natural and inalienable rights to life and liberty; the right to acquire and own property and the right to self government," while the 1986 constitution also recognizes the

"right to exercise inalienable rights including the right to self government for the purpose of equality and access to economic opportunities and social and cultural advancement. "

According to the CRC Chair, the restatement of these fundamental rights in the two constitutions conveys several messages:

- a. These rights remain eternally fundamental and so extremely important and must be maintained in each constitution; and
- b. These rights though enshrined in the 1847 Constitution were repeated in the 1986 Constitution because these rights were still out of reach of people even after more than 135 years of independence.

The CRC believes the repeat of these rights were more of the latter message. The question which confronts the nation today is what prevented the free exercise of these rights up to the 1980 coup? Analysts believe the tracing of Liberia's constitutional history by the Chair is a guide to the process and the activation of participants to determine the way forward.

The Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency Dr. Joseph Nyumah Boakai who represented the President of Liberia recalled that "we all witnessed the rancor that accompanied this nation's most recent attempt at revising our organic law. Besieged by a huge overcast of apprehension, the lack of trust, and weighed down by deep suspicion, many of our compatriots failed to grasp the very genuine intensions that brought forth the concrete efforts at our first process to amend our constitution."

Dr. Boakai went further to say that "be it as it was, we managed to emerge out of that not- so -pleasant exercise, with our body polity intact and our hopes still high. Also, nearly a year has elapsed since, and we have all cooled our heads and recollected ourselves. Even now, we can see long after that, there are still reverberations of the popular yearning for a more sober re-look at our Constitution."

His Excellency told members of the Committee that their task is a herculean responsibility; but with the caliber of citizens they are, manifested in their character and reputation they have built over the years, there is conviction that the Liberian people are looking up to them for quality work that will defy suspicion and second guessing. The Vice President lauded the Liberian Constitution as an outstanding document worthy to serve as road map for any nation; but the truth is times and realities of today make it compelling to take a relook at it.

Speaking on behalf Speaker Alex Tyler of the House of Representatives, Hon. Gabriel Buchanan Smith of Grand Bassa County said that "it is now necessary to review the constitution". He started by identifying article

six of the 1986 constitution which he says needs amendment. Hon. Smith informed participants that the review of the constitution will strengthen and provide education to the people of Liberia.

Making remark at the forum, the German Ambassador accredited near Monrovia and Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, Dr. Bodo Schaff thanked the CRC for the Forum and pledged support to the process. "The venture is key to Liberia's post conflict recovery and governance." Amb. Schaff noted.

Veteran Liberian Journalist Kenneth Y. Best, Publisher of the Daily Observer expressed his thoughts about the process saying, he wants the CRC to be independent, and distant from governmental and political parties influences and interferences and hopes that adequate resources would be made available to the CRC if its independence is to be secured. Mr. Best called for the entire constitution to be redone as "it was compromised in Gbarnga in 1986."

D. Maxwell S. Kemayah, President of the Liberia Business Association (LIBA), lamented on the isolation of Liberian businesses in the 1986 constitution. "A small and medium skill enterprise is the engine of growth but this domestic private sector has been left out of the 1986 constitution." He beckoned the CRC to look into that. The LIBA President further said that he wants land and natural resources ownership and the transformation of



CRC Chairperson Cllr. Gloria Musu-Scott addresses Audience at the Symposium

Peace in Liberia (CPPL) appealed to the CRC to remember the youths, persons with disabilities and civil society groupings during the process.

Representing the Congress for Democratic Change, CDC's Richelieu Urey advised the CRC to be careful during the review process and further urged that the process be extended to all Liberians so that they feel a part.



Dr. D. Elwood Dunn, CRC Member welcomes Vice President Boakai

the economy to place Liberians in the core of it among others to be addressed.

For his part, the President of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC), Mr. Roosevelt Gould said the term of office of the President, Vice President and legislators should be reduced and also suggested dual citizenship and the teaching of the constitution in schools; while Mr. Prince D. Kreplah of the Citizens to Promote



H.E. Vice President Joseph N. Boakai

Speech

Cllr. Gloria M. Scott, Chairperson, first public statement delivered during the Constitution Review Committee Consultative and Interactive Forum with Political Parties, Civil Society Organizations, Stakeholders and Partners held on October 5, 2012



Her Excellency, the President of the Republic of Liberia, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, His Excellency Joseph N. Boakai, the Vice President of Liberia and Officials of the Executive Branch of Government, the Speaker Honourable Alex Tyler and Members of the 53rd Legislature, His Honour Francis Korkpor and members of the Supreme Court of Liberia; Chairmen/Chairpersons of duly registered Political Parties in Liberia, Doyen and members of the Diplomatic Corps, the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations and heads of related agencies of the United Nations; the Country Representative of the European Union in Liberia, authorized Representatives of Local and International Non-Governmental Organizations, Religious Leaders, Traditional leaders, Members of the Press, distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Constitution Review Committee, I welcome you and extend our thanks and appreciation to

you for honoring our invitation to attend this occasion. After the opening session, we look forward to your full participation in the interactive consultative forum which we believe will contribute to the achievement of the mandate of the Committee.

This Committee, distinguish ladies and gentlemen was established on August 27, 2012 by the President of Liberia when she appointed five distinguished Liberians to constitute the Constitution Review Committee. It is therefore with distinguish honor that I present to you members of said Committee as follow: Reverend Kennedy Sandy- Member, Hon. Soko V. Sackor-Member, Madam Amelia Ward-Member, Dr. Elwood Dunn-Member, Cllr. Gloria M. Scott, Chairperson.

According to the President's letter, the Chairperson of the Law Reform Commission, Cllr. Jallah Barbu and the Chairman of the Governance Commission are Ex-officio members of the Constitution Review Committee. Also, the President's letter of appointment was accompanied by the mandate of the Committee which we shall here under quote: "The Committee is hereby mandated to review the 1986 Constitution and pursuant thereto make recommendations for the amendment of the Constitution".

In the execution of its task the Committee shall, inter alis;

- a. Arrange public discourses and debates on provisions of the Constitution with a view to ensuring that the Constitution is in conformity with Liberia's post-conflict democratic realities and aspirations, and craft proposals for amending the Constitution;
- b. Consider, as appropriate, among other matters, national policies such as the National Policy on Decentralization and local Governance, the establishment of positions of principal administrative officers and other public sector reforms which can only be fully implemented through Constitutional amendment(s);
- c. Review the Constitution and identify other provisions, such as, without limitation, the terms of office for the President, Vice President, Legislators, and Justices and Judges to determine whether they require amendment;
- d. Draft specific pieces of legislation pertaining to the Constitution for approval and ensure adequate public participation in related public hearing;
- e. Assist, as may be required, in ensuring the conduct of a referendum by the National Elections

Commission on proposals for amending the Constitution. “unquote”.

During the month of September, the committee held preliminary introductory talks with partners and stakeholders; including the Political Parties and Civil Society Organizations. From these discussions and interaction we gleaned the following:

1. The work of the committee should be thorough and substantive and not superficial.
2. The Committee should not allow itself to be influenced, manipulated or controlled to ensure that the result of the Committee’s work will have the trust and confidence of the public.
3. The Committee should ensure that there is sufficient consultation and participation of the citizens in every part of the country and in the Diaspora, so that Liberians can own the process and the outcome of the Committee’s work.

Distinguish Ladies and Gentlemen, the Committee has sat and deliberated on the task at hand. Each of us has internalized and processed the mandate of the Committee and the high expectations for the outcome of the Committee’s work.

The entire membership of the committee has concluded that this national duty and responsibility shall have impact and effect on posterity.

Because each of us has a reputation, image and credibility to protect, we have resolved that we shall perform this task in such a manner that the public will have confidence in the process and own the outcome. All of us have a sense of humility to have been selected to perform this critical national task, which if performed with the conviction and dedication to advance the national good, could give a positive direction to this nation and directly impact the happiness and wellbeing of its citizens for decades to come.

We are aware that our work could promote and contribute to national reconciliation and reaffirm the national consensus that “this nation shall know war no more.”

So, we are embarking on this venture armed with the mandate ...”to review the 1986 constitution and pursuant thereto make recommendations for the amendment of the constitution...”, the conviction that public participation and consultation is critical to the success of this process and our determination to perform this assignment in the best interest of this nation and its people.

Distinguish ladies and gentlemen, as you are well aware, Liberia is an old nation and consequently has experienced several organic documents for its governance. The American Colonization Society in May, 1825 published the Constitution for the Government of the African Colony at Liberia, the Plan for the Civil Government of Liberia and the Digest of the laws which were in force in the Colony of Liberia.

This Publication included the 1820 constitution. On January 5, 1839, the Board of Governors of the American Colonization society adopted the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Liberia. In all cases, these constitutions and laws were ratified by the citizens of the various settlements in Liberia, before becoming applicable and enforceable.

On July 26, 1847, delegates in convention assembled, representing the first three Counties of the Commonwealth of Liberia namely; Montserrado, Grand Bassa and Sinoe, signed the Declaration of Independence and subsequently on September 27, 1847 a Constitution for the Republic of Liberia was approved by the citizens of Liberia.

On April 12, 1980 the 1847 Constitution was suspended and subsequently abrogated in article 95 of the 1986 constitution. We have examined the 1847 Declaration of Independence and its accompanying constitution and the 1986 constitution and we note there are clear similarities. The 1847 organic documents recognize natural and inalienable rights to life and liberty, the right to acquire and own property and the right to self-government.

The 1986 Constitution asserts the right to exercise inalienable rights including the right to self-government for the purpose of equality and access to economic opportunities and social and cultural advancement.

Distinguish Ladies and Gentlemen; we believe the re-statement of these fundamental rights in the two constitutions convey several messages.

- (a) These rights remain eternally fundamental and so extremely important and therefore must be retained in each Constitution; and
- (b) These rights though enshrined in the 1847 Constitution were repeated in the 1986 Constitution because these rights were still out of the reach of people even after more than 135 years of independence.

The Committee believes it is more because of (b) that these rights were repealed in the 1986 Constitution. The question is what prevented the free exercise of these rights up to the 1980 Coup d'etat? We believe that the frequent abuse of the legislative power to remove from office a judicial official with a favorable vote on a joint resolution without due process and also the abuse of the power of the legislature to suspend the Writ of Habeas Corpus during periods of emergency undermined the independence of the Judiciary and hindered the exercise of fundamental individual rights.

Another major abuse under the 1847 Constitution was the amendment which allowed and permitted the unlimited term of office by the president and the Constitutional requirement that only persons who owned real property could vote. Citizens were excluded from participation in the political processes under the authority of the constitution; the abuse of fundamental rights and the threat to the independence of the Judiciary were also permissible by constitutional provisions.

All of these abuses were remedied under the 1986 Constitution. The legislative power which approved the removal of judicial officials thru Joint Resolution was excluded; the Writ of Habeas Corpus remains effective even during the periods of Emergency, and universal suffrage was granted to all persons 18 years of age and older. Also, a person elected to the office of President could serve not more than two terms of six years each. The 1986 Constitution provides that even if this constitutional provision was duly amended thru referendum, the incumbent President would be ineligible to benefit. Thus the unlimited stay in office was curtailed.

The logical question is if the 1986 Constitution has these safe guards and protections to ensure a free society, a regular transfer of power and universal suffrage, why is there a need to review this Constitution which was approved 26 years ago?

This is the Committee's response. You will recall that violence which engulfed the entire country started in December 1989. Between 1989 and 1997, extra Constitutional measures and actions were executed in the search to end violence and hostilities.

The Constitution was restored in 1997 and relevant portions of this document were suspended in October 2003 and restored again in January 2006.

The point is, during these periods of violence and hostilities, questions of other political and economic rights and other realities have become glaring.

For example, should further action be considered to limit the extensive Presidential powers of appointment? Is there a need to reform the Electoral laws? Should the equal participation of women in politics and national affairs be guaranteed in the Constitution?

Is there a need for educational qualifications for candidates vying for public office? Who is a Liberian citizen? Can a Liberian citizen have dual citizenship? Should the constitutional residency and domicile clause remain? Can persons of non Negroid descent become citizens and consequently own property? Should superintendents and other local government officials be elected and consequently become accountable to the people they govern?

Should constitutional procedures and mechanisms be instituted to hold Judges accountable for wantonly and flagrantly abusing the rights of party litigants thru total disregard for the law and its processes? Should traditional/tribal leaders be elected or selected? Should the role of traditional leaders in the governance structure be protected by constitutional provisions? Should private land owners be entitled to resources discovered on and beneath real property (ies) which they own?

These questions and many more are being discussed and debated. These questions are live and have daily implications on our lives. The undercurrents of many of these questions are equitable distribution and benefit from the resources of this country and the utility and availability of quality social services and facilities and durable infrastructure.

We therefore remind leaders of Political Parties and leaders of Civil Society that that all of us are now situated by providence and destiny to perform this national duty. All of us have to keep our ears to the ground and we must have the integrity to articulate the people's view. We also therefore call upon all Liberians to participate in this dispensation to review the 1986 Constitution and become a part of the process to ensure a more just society which facilitates equal access to economic opportunities. The Committee looks forward to your participation and your partnership in achieving its mandate.

Thank you for your attention and May God bless the work of your hands and all your endeavors.



H.E. Joseph Nyumah Boakai addresses Symposium on Methodology at the James Fromayan Conference Hall at NEC

CRC Releases Methodologies for Constitution Review

The Constitution Review Committee met with cross-section of Liberians on January 24-25, 2013 at a Symposium organized by the CRC in collaboration with the Law Reform Commission at the James Fromayan Conference Hall of the National Elections Commission under the Theme **“DEVELOPING AN APPROACH TO REVIEW THE LIBERIAN CONSTITUTION.”**

It can be recalled that the Government of Liberia established a constitution review committee on August 27, 2012 and appointed five eminent Liberians to organize and lead the process for the review of the 1986 Constitution. The President later increased the number to six by appointing Reverend Dr. Jasper Samuel Ndaborlor.

The Liberian Government believes the review has become necessary to up-grade the 1986 constitution so that it addresses current democratic realities and those of the future. In an effort to achieve success, the CRC has embarked on a “Buy In” process by which the people of Liberia would establish ownership of the process and decide on how they want their country to be governed.

Since 1847, Liberians had been governed by a Constitution framed by few persons to govern over a million people until the military coup of April 12, 1980 which gave birth to the People’s Redemption Council. Though the 1847 Constitution

was amended many times, the Military Government thought it was necessary to write a new constitution to reflect the aspirations of the people of Liberia. Thus, the 1986 Constitution was drafted by the Amos Sawyer Constitution Drafting Commission and revised by Edward Kesselley’s Constitution Advisory Assembly.

Under the operation of the 1986 Constitution, Liberians experienced disruptions of normal life which was climaxed by 13 years of civil war. The thoughts of many Liberians were directed to many governance issues which informed the need for reform processes in post-war Liberia.

The Chairperson of the CRC, Cllr. Gloria M. Musu Scott welcomed participants to the Symposium and told them that they were invited so that the committee would benefit from their expertise. She pointed out that the methodology of the CRC would be **BOTTOM TO TOP APPROACH** in order for all Liberians irrespective of social, economic, political, religious, and ethnic differences would own the process. Cllr. Scott allayed the fears of participants in that the process would lack independence and clouded by official interferences by informing them that the committee’s terms of reference require that they be independent in the execution of their mandate and that the determination of what constitutes the views of citizens on a particular article of the constitution or another value

for inclusion in the constitution would be without undue influence or manipulation and all such proposals and recommendations shall be submitted to the President for onward submission to the legislature; and if approved, submitted for referendum.

The Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, Dr. Joseph N. Boakai who declared the symposium opened told participants and Liberians that the Government of Liberia gives full support to the process and reiterated Government's commitment to the independency of the CRC.

The CRC says its independence cannot be compromised because constitutional review is based on the principles of legitimacy, transparency, integrity, honesty, and people. Critical minds might see the involvement of the Law Reform Commission and the Governance Commission as a road link to compromises. But Cllr. Scott says the two commissions' nature of technical and professional support will be determined by the CRC and assured. The committee believes the review of the constitution

will result in the citizens of this nation taking earth shaking decisions which could alter forever the foundation and face of our nation. During the review, Liberians will need to determine among other issues:

- a. Who is a Liberian?
- b. Can persons of other races, other than persons of the Negro race become citizens?
- c. Can dual citizenship be permissible?
- d. Should the powers of the President be reduced?
- e. Should the role of traditional leaders be given constitutional protection or guarantee?

The Chairperson of the Committee said if the process is fraught with confusion, the citizens would have no confidence in the outcome. Analysts and political parties including civil society agreed that independency is key in the credible outcome of the process.

At the symposium, issues bordering on constitutional provisions were raised. For instance, the civil society representative cited article one as lacking enforcement powers and therefore not protective of citizens; article 97 as violating article one; and article 11b not being enforced as far as women are concerned.

Political parties' representative Abraham Mitchell said article 54 contradicts article one while article 27b portrays Liberia as a racist state and that article 97 need not to exist in the constitution as it was only an exit strategy for the PRC.

The presentations created healthy democratic debates with views for and against. Both Justice Henry Reed Cooper and Veteran Journalist Kenneth Best voices were strong in support for article 27b with economic domination over Liberians and discriminations against Liberians by people of non-negroes race cited as the rationale for up-holding article 27b. The National Traditional Council Leader Chief Zanzan Kawor said the 1986 constitution does not operate in favor of traditional leaders and called for its re-visitation.

He also feels that many provisions of the constitution lack executing powers. For example, Chief Kawor cited article 34e which empowers the Legislature to establish claims court but up to date, no such court has been established. He wants executing powers that would compel the implementation of provisions. He further wants the Committee to review Article 77 with the hope of reducing the number of political parties to two or four.

The President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate who served as one of the panelists urged the CRC to conduct opinion survey and have the participatory involvement of districts, counties and the Diaspora. He



Chief Zanzan Kawor & some members of the Traditional Council of Liberia



Symposium participants listening to Vice President Boakai

wants a non-partisan approach and involvement of each citizen and hearing their opinion no matter what they are.

The Senate Leader urged the CRC to engage local languages and the media in the process and to carry out massive civic education as local people and many Liberians do not know what the constitution is. He wants the Judiciary and Bar Association to be involved since they deal with the constitution directly. For his part, the Indiana University Center for Constitutional Democracy (CCD) Professor David C. Williams who served as facilitator expressed appreciation that the symposium has been one of participation. He said if this spirit is followed, the constitution, when altered, would be stabled because the people themselves would have altered same and therefore would be loyal to it.

The Indiana constitutionalist observed that the Liberian Constitution concentrates more powers in the President than the Legislature. Some of those power are cultural and some constitutional. He spoke extensively on the unitary form and indicated that the federal system is best suited; but Liberians need not to engage the system in a hurry.

For his part, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of the Legal and Judicial Systems Division of UNMIL expressed appreciation to the CRC for organizing such an interactive forum. He however advised that the CRC would need to work out mechanisms to deal with conflicting positions and establish procedures on how the CRC would identify solutions and how an agreement would be formed on conflicting views. He promised UNMIL assistance in those areas. The views expressed at the symposium on many more constitutional issues and problems have generally laid the premise that Liberians are ready to review their constitution.

CRC ROBERTSPORT RETREAT

The Constitution Review Committee (CRC) on February 13-15, 2013 held a three day working retreat in Robertsport aimed at reviewing its mandate, strategizing approach methods, sharing views on constitutional provisions and other national documents associated with the constitution review process such as the National Policy on Decentralization, Agenda for Transformation, Road Map to Peace and Reconciliation, and the 1986 Constitution.

The Historic City of Robertsport located on hilly topographic terrain with its tourist attractive beaches and the beautiful Lake Piso provided the proper atmosphere and serenity for interactions. The Chairperson of the CRC, Cllr. Gloria M. Musu Scott said the purpose of the retreat was to have shared knowledge so that Committee Members would have understanding of the constitution and critical matters of governance that may be raised during nationwide consultations in other to speak with one voice on issues regarding the process since at one point or the other, they might be separated.

She further elaborated on the process saying the Committees' mandate is based on a participatory platform that would ensure appropriate decision making mechanisms that would lead to comprehensive recommendations to the President for legislative action.

The retreat took a retrospective look at the 1847 constitution and the 1986 constitution and did comparative analysis of events and conditions which led to their making. An over-



UNMIL's DSRSG Aeneas Chuma, Rep. Gayah Karmo and CRC's Chairperson Cllr. Gloria Musu- Scott at the Retreat in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County

view of both constitutions was done with focus on provisions contained in the current constitution. The overview chaired by Cllr. Willie Barclay of the Law Reform Commission critically analyzed the Preamble and 97 articles of the 1986 Constitution with inputs from participants who took note of troubling, contentious and ambiguous provisions. It was a whole day affairs. This section which was the first gave insight into the 1986 constitution and justifications for a review.

On day two, the Governance Commission represented by Cllr. Yarsuo Weh-Dorliae, Commissioner Elizabeth Sele Mulbah and GC Secretariat made a presentation on processes that would lead the nation to decentralization. The GC package contained recommendations for the election of superintendents, district commissioners, and county councils that would serve as local legislative bodies. The recommendations which have constitutional ramifications were discussed, debated, and a broader understanding as to the way forward was achieved. Specifically, the GC recommends amendment of articles 54 and 56 of the 1986 Constitution. These are expected to be issues that might be discussed by citizens of Liberia during nationwide consultations. Commissioner Elizabeth Sele Mulbah



UNMIL's DSRSG Aeneas Chuma, UNDP Dominic Sam, Rep. Gayah Karmo, CRC Members and Staff, in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County during the Working Retreat

also made a presentation on the 2030 National Vision Document which also has constitutional related recommendations and the need for the CRC to have a comprehensive understanding.

The Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Tiah Nagbe and Cllr. Dorliae told participants that some aspects of the decentralization policy need to be actualized as soon as possible since they would concentrate powers in the hands of the people. In their opinion, the amendment of the constitution to provide for the election of superintendents by 2017 is important. The Committee took note of the suggestion but drew attention to processes for impeachment, candidacy, and functions which also are key factors.

House of Representative Statutory Committee on Judiciary Chairman Cllr. S. Gayah Karmo was invited by the CRC as a lawyer and Member of the House of Representatives to speak on procedures, processes, and strategies to obtain approval from the Legislature for constitutional amendments. The notable lawmaker cited articles 91 and 92 of the 1986 Constitution as the guide to constitutional amendments.

However, he advised the CRC to take note of legislative agenda, calendar, and what he described as the super two-third majority. He further informed participants that the Legislature has an obligation to go back to their constituents for consultation and their constitutional responsibility of conducting public hearing. He cautioned that amendments must be based on popular initiatives of the people and not political actions and initiatives which by-pass normal legislative processes.

The retreat brought together dignitaries such as His Excellency, Aeneas Chuma, Deputy Representative of the UN Sec-



CRC members along with Cllr. Jallah Barbu of the Law Reform Commission at the Retreat in Robertsport

retary General in charge of the Consolidation of Democratic Governance and his entourage. In his remarks, the DRSG said constitution is meant to last the test of time and education is required in the process.

He advised that the people must see themselves in the constitution through inclusivity which brings about stability and adherence. He said the process is to build a new state and a kind of cohesiveness. He pledged UNMIL continue support to the CRC and assistance to access international goodwill. He commended the success of the retreat.

For her part, Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott, Chairperson of the CRC thanked all presenters and participants for the frank and exhaustive exchange of views under a democratic atmosphere. She emphasized the need for cordial engagements with all stakeholders and the National Legislature for the success of the process.

Other dignitaries who graced the Retreat were UNDP Representative Dominic Sam and Cllr. Jallah Barbu, Chairman of the Law Reform Commission. Committee Members present were: Cllr. Gloria Scott, Honorable Soko Sackor, Rev. Kennedy Sandy, Rev. Dr. Jasper S. Ndaborlor, and Dr. Elwood Dunn.

CRC Oversight Committees

In an effort to effectively carry out its mandate, individual members of the CRC have been provided with terms of reference. Upon their return from Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County, the CRC held a strategic Plenary Session on February 21, 2011 during which time the Committee was broken into six subcommittees with oversight responsibilities.

According to the Chairperson, the purpose for establishing subcommittees is to strengthen the CRC delivery capacities to assure the smooth execution of its mandate. The committees and heads are:

1. Subcommittee on Administration
(Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott)
2. Subcommittee on Technical Services, Documentation and Drafting (Dr. D. Elwood Dunn)
3. Subcommittee on Civil Society Organizations (Hon. Soko V. Sackor)
4. Subcommittee on Civic Education and Media (Rev. Dr. Jasper S. Ndaborlor)
5. Subcommittee on International Partners & Donors
(Madam Amelia Angeline Ward)
6. Subcommittee on Political Parties
(Rev. Kennedy Sandy)

The Chairperson of the CRC says all subcommittee heads are people of credibility, potentials, vast experience, education, and skills to do justice to their various oversight responsibilities. On the same day, the Plenary Session approved the appointments of two senior staff, Messrs. Losine Sanyan as Office Manager and D. Wa Hne, Jr., as Public and Media Relations Officer, now head, Civic Education and Media.

Liberian Women In Constitution Review

The women of Liberia have begun consultations with the Constitution Review Committee on what they want the Constitution to address.

Their participation under the theme Liberian Women: "Seizing the Moment for Constitution Review," brought together women from professional associations, women in gov-



Liberian Women Consultative Forum at P.A. Rib House

ernment, women religious organizations, rural women, women in the media, traditional women groups, women traders, women with disabilities, and women youth groups.

From April 9-10, 2013, the P. A. Rib House Conference Room was an encouraging scene of women standing out to ensure that their voices are heard and their views injected in the constitution as they joyously sang their song: “I cook you will cook; I wash you will wash; no longer men in the front and women in the back; no longer we will suffer for men to enjoy; together we will walk side by side; side by side.”

The song which depicts gender equality was sung over and over.

The Chairperson of the CRC, Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott told the women confab that the review of the constitution is the biggest opportunity given to Liberian Women and urged them to take advantage of it as such opportunity might not come again for about 50 years.

She told the women that originally the President had given a timeline of January 2013 to July 2014 in which the CRC was to submit its report so that referendum would be held at the same time of the senatorial elections in 2014.

But based upon calls from stakeholders across the country, the CRC had informed the President that the timeline was too



L-R, the then Acting NEC Boss Elizabeth Nelson, Cllr. Ruth Jappah & others at the Women Forum

short for civic education and consultations. In response, the President of Liberia extended the CRC timeline to 2015.

Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Gender through Minister Julia Duncan Cassell, the United Nations Mission In Liberia and the Women NGO Secretariat (WONGOSOL) for their cooperation, collaboration and hard work to make the women consultative forum a success. She further said the CRC is engaging the Government of Liberia and partners in discussions to seek and obtain the needed funding and resources to achieve its mandate.

Concluding, she explained to them that while discussions are ongoing, the members of the CRC are continuing their work to ensure that referendum is conducted before the last quarter in 1015.

According to a concept paper developed by the women, the forum is intended to create democratic spaces for women to articulate gender sensitive constitutional reform for the first time and hold discussions that would generate an outline that would inform the integration of gender perspective in the work of the constitution review process and foster greater cohesion among women constituencies in Liberia among others. The re-



CRC members with oversight responsibilities

sult of the forum did indeed foster greater unity among Liberian women.

The women forum did the overview of the Liberian Constitution for the women to have an insight of constitutional provisions; overview of international instruments, national laws and policies for the advancement of women’s rights in Liberia to enable participants to understand the scope of international support for women’s rights and laws that have been passed by the Republic of Liberia on the rights of women.

The forum also discussed gender-sensitive constitution making such as process, contents, and models and best practices from other countries. This presentation was made by Rtd. Justice of the Uganda Supreme Court, Mary Maitum.

After all presentations, the women broke into working groups to discuss and come out with recommendations on the following issues: governance and politics; administration of justice; citizenship; human rights and accountability. At the

end of the forum, a resolution was adopted with the below recommendations:

1. That relevant international protocols and conventions related to the rights of women be considered in the constitutional review process;
2. That the constitutional review of the January 6, 1986 constitution of Liberia take cognizance of the realities of the 21st century, particularly the human and equal rights of women, human capital development and youth empowerment;
3. Equal access to economic opportunities and ownership of real property;
4. Equal access to justice by the establishment of additional courts in the counties;
5. That a conducive environment be created to enable the constitution and the review process be brought to the citizens;
6. The constitution should be clearer on human rights for all irrespective of religion, gender, political or tribal affiliation and disability;
7. That all branches of government have codes of conduct to set standard for accountability and transparency;
8. That the government be decentralized to reduce concentration of power in Monrovia to ensure equitable distribution of wealth, resources and opportunities for all citizens;
9. That the constitution be gender sensitive, including the language "he/she";
10. That the process be adequately supported by government and international partners;
11. That all recommendations emanating from this forum that cannot be captured in the constitution but are relevant for national peace, reconciliation, and stability be considered by the Constitution Review Committee and sent to relevant ministries and agencies of Government for consideration and possible implementation.

The President of the Republic of Liberia, Her Excellency Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf graced the reading of the Resolution and in remarks urged the CRC not to fear anyone in the discharge of their mandate. Her Excellency thanked the women and challenged them to be active in the process.

Meanwhile, in reinforcing the independency of the CRC, the President of Liberia told the Committee Members to make sure they reach the people in the villages, towns, districts, and counties. She wants consultation and civic education to be thorough.

UN Experts Boost CRC Civic Education

A two man delegation of experts on constitution making and review from the United Nations Political Affairs Department, Mr. Jason Gluck and Mr. Hassen Ebrahim of the UN Standby Team on Mediation arrived in Liberia on Saturday, April 13, 2013 to assist the Constitution Review Committee in structuring its civic education and consultative agenda and to produce a set of recommendations on specific areas where UN could extend its support to the overall UN support to the constitution review process in Liberia.

The Experts accompanied by officials from the Political Affairs Office of UNMIL were received at the offices of the Constitution Review Committee by Cllr. Gloria M. Scott and Members of the Committee on April 15, 2013 at the hour of 1:00pm for consultations. The meeting which has been described as fruitful by them was most rewarding to the CRC.

In her welcome statement, Cllr. Scott praised the UN for its support to the review process and expressed the Committee's appreciation for the coming of the UN experts to assist the Committee in planning and structuring its civic education program. She informed them that the Government of Liberia has extended the mandate of the CRC to 2015 as a result of appeals from stakeholders that the 2014 mandate would be unattainable.

The CRC Chairperson pointed out that the UN has agreed to assist the process and have developed a Project Document which is before the Government for review. Pending approval from Government, the CRC has many activities such as civic education which needs urgent assistance. She said the Committee is glad that the UN has responded by sending the ex-



UNDP Experts, Political Parties and CRC members in a Consultative Forum in the CRC Conference Room

perts to assist in the CRC.

For their part, the delegation said that they were happy to be in Liberia and emphasize that constitution making and review must involve the people. They stressed transparency, integrity, and legitimacy. The UN experts informed the CRC that they are here to listen and discuss but not to write the con-

stitution for the people of Liberia. The experts told the Committee that constitution making and review is a technical and comprehensive process which must involve the people to give it legitimacy. According to them, review takes a more comprehensive approach than single amendments.

On April 16, 2013, the Committee led the experts to the Internal Affairs Ministry where discussions were held with Minister Nelson Blamo and officials of the Ministry. Counselor Gloria M. Scott introduced the Experts and briefed them on the mission of the UN Team.

Both Messrs.' Jason Gluck and Hassen Ebrahim thanked the Minister for his kind reception and said they were here to help guide and structure the CRC Civic Education Campaign. The Minister expressed appreciation to the CRC and the UN delegation and emphasized the need for the constitution to be reviewed as the Government is committed to reforms in the nation.

The CRC led delegation and Internal Affairs officials deliberated on important areas of the Constitution that need to be reviewed. The aspect of civic education and extensive consultation with every segment of society dominated the discussions.

Following the Internal Affairs meeting, the CRC held discussions with political parties and civil society organizations



UNDPA Experts: L-R, Hassen Ebrahim, Senior Mediation Expert in Constitutional Making; UNMIL Personnel Miriam Lang and Jason Gluck, Senior Political Affairs Officer in Constitutional Support

separately at the CRC Conference Room. The meetings were aimed at explaining the mandate of the CRC and its consultative and civic education plans; discussing the thoughts of political parties and civil society organizations as well as the roles they wish to play in the review process.

The meetings were held under the atmosphere of cordiality, honesty and transparency. The CRC took note of very important political, economic, social, and constitutional issues raised at the meetings and urged both groups to document their proposals comprehensively and have them submitted to the CRC. The Committee through its Chair promised to work with them and all Liberians to ensure that they own the process. The political parties and civil society organizations want the CRC to be independent to give it credibility and ensure confidence in the process.

On the 17 of April, 2013, the CRC and UN Experts met

with the National Muslim Council, Acting Senate President Pro-tempore Senator Clarice Jah and some members of the Senate and Deputy Speaker and some Members of the House of Representatives as well as the National Council of Traditional Leaders, the President of the Chambers of Commerce, and the Medical and Dental Association. The meetings brought on the table crucial national issues of constitutional ramifications and suggestions on how to proceed with the process. Discussions were frank and open. The CRC stressed the need for participation and said the review of the constitution is an opportunity for all Liberians to take ownership of the process.

European Union Expresses Interest in CRC Work

The European Union Ambassador and Head of Delegation, His Excellency Attilio Pacifici led an entourage to the Office of the Constitution Review Committee on May 8, 2013 at the hour of 2:00pm. The meeting was part of the EU efforts to strengthen relations between the EU Heads of Mission and the Constitution Review Committee.

The delegation which comprised H.E. Borje Matterson, Charge' d'affaires, Thomas Niklasson, Head of Section of the Political Office etc, was met on arrival by CRC's Office Manager, Mr. Losine Sanyon and welcomed by Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott, Chairperson of the Constitution Review Committee.

Cllr. Scott briefed the delegation on the mandate of the CRC and its timeline to submit a report to the President for onward transmission to the National Legislature. She intimated to them that the original timeline was readjusted from 2014 to 2015 to provide enough time for civic education and nationwide consultations. The CRC Chairperson explained that the 1847 and 1986 constitutional processes did not take the bottom to top method.

She reiterated that Liberia has had a history of exclusion on constitutional making and amendments. In an effort to involve the people and for the people to own the process and be loyal to it this time, the CRC has adopted the bottom to top approach so that the people become owners of amendments that go to the Legislature for approval and back to them for referendum.

The EU Delegation expressed appreciation to the CRC for receiving them and said the EU has taken keen interest in the work of the CRC, specifically on the questions of electoral laws reform and the views of the CRC on the Draft Elections Laws. They expressed keen interest on the role of the Legislature and CRC'S relationship. The CRC told the delegation that political parties had been engaging the National Elections Commission on what they think electoral laws reforms should be before the establishment of the Constitution Review Committee. The Committee said since the establishment of the CRC, political parties have been engaging the CRC and see it as a conduit to ensure that their views on electoral laws would be constitutionally framed while at the same time engaging the National Elections Commission.

The Committee Chair briefed the EU Delegation on the initiation of talks by the CRC with some leaders of the National Legislature and positive responses received thus far. She said the CRC has promised to work along with members of the legislature on county and district levels. She also told the delega-

tion of challenges of the CRC in the areas of civic education, funding, infrastructures during the raining season and the need for urgent financial and logistical assistance to achieve its mandate on time.

The Committee members expressed appreciation for the level of support from the UN and informed the EU Delegation of a Project Document developed by the UNDP and CRC to support the CRC which was pending approval. For their part, the EU Delegation promised to discuss the challenges of the CRC and determine areas where the EU might be of assistance.

In another development, the Project Board of the Constitution Review Committee comprising UNDP, UNMIL, Ministry of Planning & Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Law Reform Commission, Governance Commission, and the Constitution Review Committee met on May 9, 2013 in the Conference Room of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs to deliberate and approve the project document developed by UNDP in support of the work of the CRC.

The Project Document provides for logistical, financial and professional supports to the work of the CRC. Presentations on the project background, project outputs, and program objectives were done by CRC Office Manager, Losine Sanyon while the UNDP Assistant Country Director for Program, Nessie Golakai provided explanations on the project management arrangements and management structures of the Board. At the end of the meeting, the Project Document was approved and officially signed at a colorful ceremony.

The Chairperson, Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott, speaking on behalf of the CRC thanked the UNDP and UNMIL for the level of support the CRC continues to receive from them and assure them that with their continue support, the Committee would fulfill its mandate.



President Protempore of the Liberian Senate Gbehzohngar M. Findley; Chairman of the National Traditional Council of Liberia Chief Zanzan Karwor; and Council Elder Chief Flomo Gbaborlor.



Former Chief Justice Henry Reed Cooper commenting on citizenship at the January 24-25 CRC symposium at NEC.

CRC Pictorials



L-R, Professor Susan Williams; Professor David Williams of Indiana State University, School of Law; CRC member Soko V. Sackor and chairperson of the CRC at the symposium.



Law Reform Commission chairman, Dr. Jallah Barbu and CRC Chairperson, Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott listen attentively.

CRC Pictorials



UNMIL Mariam Lang and GC Commissioner Elizabeth Sele Mulbah in Concentration at Robertsport Retreat



CRC Members at a symposium with Indiana University Experts in Constitutional Law at NEC Headquarters



CRC member Rev. Dr. Jasper S. Ndaborlor posed with language Translators



Women in Consultation with at the Governance Commission



Liberian Women Consultative Conference held at the P.A. Rib House



CRC members & Staffs at Robertsport Working Retreat

Constitutionalism In Liberia and History of Exclusion - CRC Must Be Mindful

By *HON. ALEX CHERSIA GRANT*

The history of constitutionalism in Liberia dates as far back as Liberia's declaration of Independence. That is why Liberia's first constitution is referred to as the 1847 constitution or Liberia's independence document. From the Constitution Convention to that of the making of the Constitution, majority of Liberians-or may we refer to them as the aborigines-were intentionally and provocatively excluded from a process that would instruct their lives and traditions.

Researchers claimed that less than 500 persons forcefully captured the destiny of hundreds of thousands of indigenes even though they were excluded in the making of the constitution and in the process created a superior and inferior class. That decision was presumed to be based on bitterness and psychological reasons. In all fairness to the debate, the preamble of the 1847 constitution was indeed frightening and violated every principle of constitution making which includes but not limited to inclusiveness, transparency, legitimacy, and openness. This ought not to have been so. Unfortunately, there was no way it could have been known to the aborigines because none of them could read or write. They were in exclusion and above all, they were sailing in the darkness of a document upon which their future rested. Such error of exclusion should



Hon. Alex C. Grant
Grand Gedeh County District #3, Representative

never be contemplated in the history of constitution writing and reviewing in our country.

When writing a constitution or reviewing an old one, it is my view that issues, experiences or errors which necessitate the process should be brought on the table. This would help in developing a new approach that would make the constitution review process of Liberia acceptable to the people it would affect and especially, their representatives in the Legislature who are charged with the responsibility of voting the amendments before referendum.

In constitution review or constitution making, care must be employed in choice of words and articulations. For the debate, I shall recapture the 1847 preamble in this article which is not suggestive that I seek to promote division or acrimony. It is, on the other hand intended to help guide the process so that errors of the past which divided Liberia do not repeat themselves.

The Preamble read in part: "we the People of the Republic of Liberia were originally the inhabitants of the United States of America". In some parts of that country, we were debarred by law from all the rights and privilege of men. In other parts, public sentiments more powerful than law frowned us down. We were everywhere shut out from all civil office. We were excluded from all participations in government. We were taxed without our consent. We were compelled to contribute to the resources of a country which gave us no protection.

We were made a separate and distinct class and against us every avenue of improvement was effectually closed. Strangers from all lands of a color different from ours were preferred before us. We uttered our complaints, but they were unattended to, or met by alleging the peculiar institutions of the country. All hopes of a favorable change in our country were wholly extinguished in our bosoms and we looked with anxiety abroad for some asylum from the deep degradation. The western coast of Africa was the place selected by American benevolence and philanthropy for our future home..."

It was evident that such preamble of a constitution would not attract approval from the aborigines. The reason is as clear as the intent of the framers. The aborigines were excluded. They would not be a part of the Republic of Liberia nor granted citizenship rights. In that preamble, they made it obviously clear that they purchase land from the "Lords of the land" and this was the land they hope their constitution would govern.

But sadly, as time went by, the excluded lands and people were overcome and ruled by a constitution they did not institute nor intended for them. As a result, they were made a separate and distinct class. They were compelled to contribute to the resources of a land that gave

them no protection and opportunity. They were shut from participating in government. In essence, the very wordings of the preamble were implemented against them. When they complained, they were also told about the peculiar institution which we all got to know as “The People’s Thing.”

The 1847 Constitution went through about three amendments. Again, those amendments did not take the form and shape of consultations. They were done in darkness and attributed to the people. A nation is governed by a constitution. When it therefore excludes the majority and minority by a few powerful persons, it becomes illegitimate and the people cannot be loyal to it. The end result is its neutralization through means that breach principles of democracy. Liberia has had that experience which gave birth to a new constitution called the 1986 constitution.

The 1986 constitution is technically 15 years old as compared to the 1847 constitution which ruled Liberia for a century and three decades. So why are we reviewing it so early? There are debates for and against. The first part of the debate says, (a) a military government initiated the process; (b) the draft constitution known as the Sawyer’s Constitution is said to have been significantly altered by the Kesselley’s Constitution Advisory Assembly with all accusing fingers pointed at the military government of Doe; (c) others claimed that the process was carried out at the time there was ban on politics and fears were everywhere to freely discuss the making of a new constitution; and (d) that the military had vested interest.

The second argument is that: (a) the 1986 constitution does not adequately address the problems of Liberians; (b) there are new democratic realities that need to be addressed such as decentralization, agenda for transformation, vision 2030, land reform, property ownership, tenure of president, vice president, members of the legislature, land ownership and mineral resources on the land and dual citizenship; (c) the years of civil war and causative factors some of which are said to be constitutional; (d) the president seeks to use the means to alter the constitution for a third term, among others. This last debate is more troubling and might constitute a hindrance of the review process.

Contextually, these issues and political trend began the review of the 1986 Constitution in the minds of some Liberians before now. But one cardinal issue which cannot be ignored is the residency qualification clause in the 1986 Constitution which created resentment and laid the basis for civil upheaval in the country. Liberians in the Diaspora felt strong about this as a deliberate exclusion clause requiring anyone aspiring for the presidency to live ten years in the country prior to elections. History tells us that Liberia’s civil crisis generated from the Diaspora.

What this article seeks to project is that exclusion

is as dangerous as leaving an unjust law not reviewed. There are many issues of social and economic importance that need to be tackled constitutionally. Whatever a review is, the people’s interests are profoundly social and economic. They are bread and butter issues; protection of rights; transparency and accountability.

The constitution of Liberia is for all Liberians. It is for the senator and representative; the minister and deputy minister; the ordinary trader and farmer; the traditional people and the civilized; the poor and the rich; the Christian and Muslim; the women and youths as well as the student population etc. it is a profound document that should not target a particular group. It should be developed from the broadest of mind to deal with the broadest of issues that bring justice, development, and happiness to the people it affects.

The Constitution Review Committee strategy of bottom to top is deeply applauded. This means that the least person must be consulted. Their representatives and senators must be included in the process because the constitution mandates them to represent their interests. Above all, civic education on the constitution and consultations with every sector must be conducted to give the outcome legitimacy. A repeat of exclusion may neutralize the process.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alex Chersia Grant is a Member of the House of Representatives from District # 3 of Grand Gedeh County

Chairman:

House Committee on Liberian Refugees, Repatriation, Resettlement and Relief Services

Committee Member:

House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

House Committee on Banking and Currency

House Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Religions

International Statutory Committee

Member of the Pan African Parliament and Chairman on the Sub-Committee on Trade and Customs of that Body.



Liberia women interacting at the close of meeting with CRC.



UNDP Experts, National Muslim Council of Liberia and CRC members in a Consultative Forum in the CRC Conference Room



UNDP Experts, Liberia Christian Council Representative Rev. Kortu Brown and CRC members in a Consultative Forum in the CRC Conference Room

EX-OFFICIOS

The President of the Republic of Liberia has named two eminent citizens of Liberia and their institutions to serve as Ex-officios to the CRC. Their roles are to provide technical and logistical support to the CRC. They are:



Dr. Amos C. Sawyer
Chairman, Governance Commission
& Ex-Officio, CRC



Dr. Jallah Barbu
Chairman, Law Reform Committee
& Ex-Officio, CRC

A Third Chance



Mr. D. Wa Hne, Jr.

Liberia constitutional processes have not been adequate enough to capture the loyalty of Liberians because ownership has never been experienced by them in all of the processes. The 1847 Constitutional Referendum was voted as the nation's constitution by less than 500 Liberians who comprised the enclave state established at the time only for the settlers. There was no consultation held with the indigenous population of Liberia. The 1847 Constitution was therefore not understood and not contributed to by those who it later governed.

As a result, its contents bordered on principles of discrimination and prejudices which subjected the people of Liberia to many violations, bitterness, hatred, division, and finally its violent overthrow.

Like Reverend Dr. Jasper Samuel Ndaborlor would say on such an occasion which I am delighted to paraphrase as follows: constitution cannot be written with anger or with vengeance on mind. Such constitution, though written to ensure payback, may, at the end of the day, become counter-productive and a nemesis catching up on its makers.

The opportunity the first framers of the nation's constitution had to unify Liberia and make it a great country was lost in the midst of a daring preamble which demoralized the aborigines of the land the constitution exerted authority over.

Though some amendments were done to assimilate those that were disenfranchised, yet those amendments were effected without civic education and nationwide consultations. They were done in much the same way as the 1847 constitution was approved. Again, another glorious opportunity was lost in the shadow of "so say one; so say all."

On the 5th of October 2012 at the P. A. Rib House, a consultative and interactive forum was held by the CRC. The Chairperson, Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott made a signifi-

cant and thought provoking statement. She said both the 1847 constitution and the 1986 constitution have some similarities. Both recognized the natural and inalienable rights of Liberians.

The learned jurist said the fact that these rights are re-stated in the 1986 Constitution though written for about 133 years before its abrogation; they were yet still out of the reach of Liberians and therefore needed to be re-stated. The question is why?

Natural and inalienable rights to life and liberty, the right to acquire and own property and the right to self-government; or, as the 1986 constitution puts it, the right to exercise inalienable rights including the right to self government for the purpose of equality and access to economic opportunities and social and cultural advancement are all fundamental or foundational rights that are so significant to human existence.

If these rights are not extended literally and practically, there is indeed a time bomb.

The 1986 constitutional processes created a second chance to make Liberia a great nation. But issues raised before and after the civil war and even now suggest that Liberians lost a second great opportunity. Scholars, jurists, the intellectual society and non-educated folks have complained and continue to complain that military influences dominated the process and produced a constitution that has failed to address contentious issues and the new democratic realities of postwar Liberia.

This Constitution is now placed under review. In essence, it is our Third Chance to make Liberia great. The CRC has recognized this fact and have thus developed an approach that would accommodate the views and participation of every Liberian. The Bottom to Top approach which is the best in constitution making or constitution review has now become the CRC methodology.

The Committee Members are emphasizing transparency, integrity, openness, legitimacy, and participation. What makes the CRC unique is that it positioned itself as a listener, a guardian of the process and a leader. They insist that the people must own the process; determine what they want their constitution to say and to see themselves in the document. They want the result of the process to be the result of the people's inputs and decisions.

What this does is confidence achieved, loyalty committed to the results, and protection of the organic law of their land. The CRC wants the saying, "we the people of Liberia" to truly reflect the people and not placed in the Constitution by a few persons for the rest of all Liberians. This is a great opportunity for Liberians to grasp with enthusiasm and motivation. It's our third chance and the CRC is standing up tall to give this chance to Liberians. Together, let's make Liberia Great by being a part of this patriotic process.

Overview of the Liberian Constitution

The Liberian constitution is an open book. It is meant for all liberians to have access and to understand the laws which govern the nation. From the constitution, statutory laws are carved and liberia's penal code is written. These are the laws from which judgments are determined by the courts of liberia. It is therefore vital to all Liberians and the administration of rights.

In each edition of CRC Journal, the Liberian constitution will be carried in part until overview is completed. In this edition, we present the preamble of the constitution and the structure of the state in chapter one. Welcome to the Liberian constitution. When you read, please feel free to share your thoughts with CRC Journal.

PREAMBLE

We the People of the Republic of Liberia, acknowledging our devout gratitude to God for our existence as a Free, Sovereign and Independent State, and relying on His Divine Guidance for our survival as a Nation;

Realizing from many experiences during the course of our national existence which culminated in the Revolution of April 12, 1980, when our Constitution of July 26, 1847 was suspended, that all of our people, irrespective of history, tradition, creed or ethnic background are of one common body politic;

Exercising our natural, inherent and inalienable rights to establish a framework of government for the purpose of promoting unity, liberty, peace, stability, equality, justice and human rights under the rule of law, with opportunities for political, social, moral, spiritual and cultural advancement of our society, for ourselves and for our posterity; and,

Having resolved to live in harmony, to practice fraternal love, tolerance and understanding as a people and being fully mindful of our obligation to promote African Unity and International Peace and Cooperation,

Do hereby solemnly make, establish, proclaim and publish this Constitution for the governance of the Republic of Liberia.

CHAPTER 1

STRUCTURE OF THE STATE

Article 1

All power is inherent in the people. All free governments are instituted by their authority and for their benefit and they have the right to alter and reform same when their safety and happiness so require.

In order to ensure democratic government which respond to the wishes of the governed, the people shall have the right at such period, and in such manner as provided for under this constitution, to cause their public servants to leave office and to fill vacancies by regular elections and appointments.

Article 2

This Constitution is the supreme and fundamental law of Liberia and its provisions shall have binding force and effects on all authorities and persons throughout the Republic.

Any laws, treaties, statues, decrees, customs and regulations found to be inconsistent with it shall, to the extent of their inconsistency, be void and of no legal effect. The Supreme Court, in pursuant to its power of judicial review, is empowered to declare any inconsistent laws unconstitutional.

Article 3

Liberia is a unitary sovereign state divided into counties for administrative purposes. The form of government is Republican with three separate distinct branches; the Legislative, the Executive, and the Judiciary.

Consistent with the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances, no person holding office in one of these branches shall hold office in or exercise any of the powers assigned to either of the other two branches except as otherwise provided in the constitution, and no person holding office in one of the said branches shall serve on any autonomous public agency.

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY:

This column is designed to explore the thoughts of Liberians on various issues relating to the constitution and the process. CRC JOURNAL is pleased to present the below thoughts of Liberians transcribed from audio recording word verbatim.



Windell Miller
Student, University of Liberia

I have heard little and not much about the Constitution Review Committee or CRC headed by former Chief Justice Gloria Scott. Because its activities or work has not been publicized for one to know. I respect Gloria Scott, Elwood Dunn and others making up the Committee in that they will do their best for the country during this reform period. However, from my understanding the CRC was set-up by the government to review the constitution by reaching out to the people for their input into the process which will be put to a referendum.

But for the public to be informed about the CRC, the Committee needs to exert itself. By this, it would help to stimulate the people in getting their views on burning issues.

If I am to make suggestions, I will call for the reduction in the tenure of the presidency and legislators (Representative and Senator) because those people serve per their positions are too long.



Saydee Monboe
Civil Society Activist

I know that the Constitution Review Committee or CRC was set-up by government to reform our constitution.

I can remember when civil society organizations invited its chairperson Justice Gloria Scott to a forum but she did not show up rather she was deputized for by a proxy. However, the CRC is made-up of prominent people some of whom are politicians but despite of that I believe they will do a good job for the betterment of the country not only for today's generation but the future ones. Regrettably, not much is known in terms of its activities or work to have the public informed and I do not know whether or not this is border on budgetary allotment. Government must fund the project by making money available for the Committee to start its operation instead of delaying because it has been almost a year now since it was announced. Because we do not want for the Committee to sit in Monrovia and operate. We want it to go nationwide so as to get the best out of the people in terms of their input into the process. In so doing, CRC must reach out to every village and town throughout the country for the people to take ownership of the process. There are many things in the constitution that really need to be changed to make present day realities but that has to be done through a referendum. During this period, the tenure of the president, representative and senator need to be reviewed and put forward for debate. Furthermore, I am against the issue of dual citizenship because those campaigning for it should stay clear from the current undertaking. Because one person cannot be a citizen for two countries for which those Diaspora Liberians, who have lost their national identity are advocating for.



Jickson G. Freeman:
IT (Information Technology) Consultant

Though not much I know about the Constitution Review Committee or CRC but I understand it is headed by the former Senator of Maryland County, Gloria Scott. I hope that she and others appointed by the President will do a better job by reaching out to the people for their input into the process. Because getting the people involve will make them feel part of it as they want their input to be heard during the referendum on those issues affecting their lives. For suggestions, I want the presidential and representative terms be reduced to 2 or 4 years while the senator 6 years. Because one person should not over stay in office which is a recipe for confusion. Being that our constitution is a pattern or replica to that of the United States; we must follow that trend of governance. Four years is long for a leader to do much for his or her country.



J. Jerome Slojue
Executive Member LINU

I am aware of the existing of the CRC since it was set-up by the President almost a year now but not much is known in term of its activities or work to the public. However, CRC is being mandated to take a critical review of our current constitution and make those amendments were sole desire base on the people views which will be put to a referendum for acceptance or rejection. I belief review process is in the right direction and it comes at the time when we (Liberians) needed it most for the future of the country. I strongly hope that the process will address those key issues, such as the domineering of the presidency, tenure of representatives and senators, as well as that of the local officials. The new constitution must be in

conformity with present day realities but the people must take ownership of the process by getting them involve from the bottom to the top by reaching out to them.



Mrs. Linda Mamie Freeman,
Student of University of Liberia

I support the Constitution Review process because it is not only necessary but urgent to promote National Unity and Reconciliation. There are several provisions in the constitution that the CRC have to look at. Women are not protected by the constitution. There are no provisions on youth women empowerment. The country is deeply centralized in its governance structure. The terms of elected offices are too long. Our culture has been tampered with by the election of chiefs. We really need to revisit the constitution. This time, Liberians have to be involved with their own process. It should not be the few powerful or its outcome will be rejected. But I trust that Cllr. Scott and her team are credible and respected Liberians. They will not disappoint Liberians.



Miss Kartumu Nimely
Togba Community

Justice Gloria Scott is a well-respected and honest leader. I think she knows what to do. She and her committee members are distinguished Liberians of good character. I believe they will do a good job. Without adequate Government financial support, the partners will be hesitant. We cannot want international assistance when we ourselves do not show seriousness. The review must be taken serious by Government. It is in the best interest of Liberians. This will bring about confidence that has been lost.

Constitution Review Committee Secretariat



Losine N. Sanyon
Office Manager



Joseph Massaquoi
Finance Officer



D. Wa Hne, Jr.
Head Civic Education & Media Section



Eric D. Kpayea
Research Analyst



Solomon Boe
Research Analyst



Gripman Saytue
Procurement Officer



Throble Suah
Media Officer



N. Dickson R. Tamba
Media Officer



Wida N. James
Web Master



Alex Zinnah
Web Master



Morris Kromah
Secretary



Peter Newton
Office Assistant



Harriet Chea
Secretary



Matilda J. Hoff
Filing Clerk



Roland Johnny
Office Assistant



Joe Wilson
Driver



Safia Sambola
Driver



Joseph Delleh
Driver

THE LIBERIAN CONSTITUTION BELONGS TO **ALL LIBERIANS**



**BE PART OF THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW PROCESS
SEND YOUR VIEWS TO**

Tel: 08861986 / 051986



Headquarters of the Constitution Review Committee.
Nyakpee Town, Oldest Congo Town,
Monrovia, Liberia

Email: info.crcliberia@gmail.com | constitution.liberia@yahoo.com | crc20132015liberia@gmail.com
Cell: Lonestar:1986 | Novafone :1986 | Cellcom: 0776305715

Produce by: CIVIC EDUCATION AND MEDIA SECTION