

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS PRESENT VIEWS TO CRC IN KATATA, MARGIBI COUNTY

DECEMBER 5-7 2013, MONROVIA, LIBERIA: Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from around Liberia have submitted to the Constitution Review Committee (CRC) their initial proposals in Kakata, Margibi County on the 5th and 7th of December 2013. The CSOs converged in Kakata in response to invitation extended by the CRC.

The Chairman of the CRC Subcommittee on Civil Society Organizations Hon. Soko Sackor welcomed civil society delegates and said the invitation to them is a result of the commitment of the CRC to have a people's driven process in the review of the 1986 constitution and that the civil society organizations being major stakeholders are pivotal to the successful conclusion of the process.

It can be recalled that civil society organizations have been meeting with the Constitution Review Committee to determine their role in the review process as well as to submit their proposals for constitutional amendment.

The CSOs deliberated on a number of national issues and through a democratic process narrowed their proposals to 10 major items which they believe constitute demanding national solutions. They are: currency, qualification, issues of disabilities, citizenship, tenure of elected officials, land and property ownership, gender, separation of powers, culture, and presidential powers.

For her part, the Chairperson of the CRC Cllr. Gloria Musu-Scott told participants that decisions derived and proposals submitted by them would not constitute the finality of the process as there are more consultations to be conducted by the CRC; and as the process goes on, individual civil society organizations are expected to submit proposals.

Through the guidance of the CRC, the CSOs broke themselves into ten thematic groups to discuss each item and submitted their proposals to plenary. Among the proposals submitted, the thematic group on Gender proposed that there should be a provision in the constitution to give 30% inclusion to women in all aspect of governance as well as the right of women to inherit land and other properties. They also proposed the inclusion of "She" when referring to the presidency instead of only "He".

The group on currency has proposed that the power to issue currency and mint coins should be given to the Central Bank instead of the National Legislature. They want Liberia to abolish dual currency and that all financial transactions in Liberia should be done in Liberian currency. Also, the thematic group on citizenship has also proposed that to become a Liberian citizen, a person

must denounce his citizenship of any country within the world. The proposal is in opposition to dual citizenship. Each of the thematic groups presented their reports/proposals to the body.

Meanwhile, the Constitution Review Committee leaves Monrovia today for Gbarnga, Bong County for a consultative meeting with chiefs, elders and traditional leaders. The meeting brings together all traditional leaders from around Liberia to the administrative building in Bong County to comprehensively look at issues affecting them. The objective of the meeting is to provide the forum for these traditional leaders to interact with each other and submit proposals to the CRC on how they think the nation is to be governed.

Civil Society Organizations Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Kakata, Margibi County from

December 5---7, 2013. GROUP #1: CURRENCY

No.	Name	Institution	Contact
	Andrew A. Kobio	LCF	0886-552933
	Joe Kalaplee	Youth	0886-236228
	Varfee Kromah	LNTIC	0886-655566
	Alex Balo	COAH	0886-662646
	Omasco Z. Kamara	CAFH	0886-886951
	Justice C. Gaddeh	Radio Gee	0886-633239
	Saama E. M Swaray	Radio Inc.	0886-790675
	Gotolo Massaquoi	WIPNET	0777-665482
	Hannah J. Slocur	Marwoda	0886-424649
	Albertus S. Toe	CWA	077-292025
	Ora S. Gbanyon	Youth	0880-835244
	Sunny M Wannie		0880-476174
	Fatu Finda Jalloh		0886-204923
	John Y. Juku		0886-524189
	Moses B. Kiadii	GASP	0886-372509
	Mathew G. Glasco		0886-790387
			<p>Group work presented to plenary.</p> <p>Article 34(d):The power of the legislature is to issue currency and mint coin should be changed.</p> <p>Legislature shall give approval to the central bank to print Liberian currency and mint coins.</p>

			<p>Abolish dual currency and recognize only Liberian currency and coins.</p> <p>All financial transaction should be made in Liberian currency (payment of salaries, toils, taxes and etc.)</p> <p>Mutilated notes must be accepted provided the # or #s are not cut off.</p>
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Group's Chairman: Moses B. Kiadii

Secretary: FatuFindaJalloh

Civil Society Organizations' Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Kakata, Margibi County from December 5--7, 2013. GROUP #2: QUALIFICATION

No.	Name	Institution	Contact
1.	Musa Bamba	IRCL	077-7004283
2.	George F. Dowah	CMA	0880-887252
3.	Potiphar Togbah	NYUTA	0886-591223
4.	Hawa A. Sonii		0880-877355
5.	Agnes F. Kortima	ZODWOLA	0886-565263
6.	Otis Jolo	Amu-wulu	0886-830769
7.	Ruth B. Myers	NARDA	0776-052933
8.	SiahKeah	Gangbayah Women	0886-891592
9.	Derrick P.T. Chea	RGYE	0886-690199
10.	Roosevelt Gould	JPC	0886-551415
11.	Renee N. Gibson	RICCE	0886-8770075
12.	Alexander T. Wornie	RAL	0880-897524
13.	Stephen J. Mulbah	REFUND	0886-586568
			<p>Group work presented to plenary</p> <p>Presidency: Age-35</p> <p>Senator : Age-35</p> <p>Representative: Age-30</p>

			<p>The above must have good moral standing. Property valued Presidency---L\$ 100.000.00 Senator-----L\$ 50.000.00 Representative- L\$ 400.000.00</p>
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Group’s Chairman: Musa Bamba

Secretary: Derrick P. T. Chea

Civil Society Organizations’ Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Kakata, Margibi County from December 5--7, 2013. Group #3: LAND

No.	Name	Institution	Contact
1.	Agatha S. Kennedy	LICHRD	0880-837208
2.	Meima Hoff	ADFI	0886-421821
3.	Bendu F. Peeci	ADFI	0886-210227
4.	Olivia J. Weetol	BCWO	0886-426308
5.	Mary G. Wilson	Concern Women	0880-555614
6.	Bindu A. Lansana	Sinje Women Inaction	0886-111988
7.	George S. Johnson	NCSCS	0886-545307
8.	Bendu N. Jah	Gbarpolu County	0886-599114
9.	Emmanuel Toe	Choice FM	0776-414135
10.	Naomi B. Harris	NUOD	0886-331485
11.	Albert T. Gaye	NAYULA	0777-490442
12.	Joseph Z. B. Kollie	NEC	0880-287486
			<p>Group work presented to plenary.</p> <p>Article 22(a): No citizen should occupy a land space for the period of ten(10) years without development, that land should be sold to another citizen that</p>

			<p>is prepare to develop it.</p> <p>No citizen should own more than five acres of town or city lot.</p> <p>All land issue should be handle by one agency of government.</p> <p>No citizen should own more than 25 acres of land, especially for farming purposes. Every resources found in a private property or community, town or village, owners should be a part of the negotiate or agreement for them to benefit 15% from that resources.</p> <p>Any land owners(s) caught selling one land to more than one person; the penalty should be 15 years in prison.</p> <p>Article 22 (C) and (d) should stand as prescribed in the constitution, because it protect the citizen.</p>
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Group's Chairman: George S. Johnson

Secretary: Joseph Z. B. Kollie

Civil Society Organizations' Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Kakata, Margibi County from December 5--7, 2013. Group #4: CITIZENSHIP

No.	Name	Institution	Contact
1.	Heavenly Leo		
2.	Paye D. Gbatu		
3.	L. Moses Kwehar		
4.	Abraham B. Tarnue		
5.	Christian Dolo		
6.	Julie Opoku		
7.	Momo S. Bondo		
8.	Owandar M. Dunor		
9.	Domoi F. Polson		
10.	Mohammed Kanneh		
11.	Joseph Charles	Margibi County	
12.	Regina David	Bong County	
13.	Morris H. Barley		
14.	Patrick Anderson		
15.	Freddie M. Zayzay		
16.	Jerome Allison		
17.	Stanley Stubblefield		
			Group work presented to plenary. All persons becoming citizens of Liberia must have an origin/ settlement of any part of the country (a).

			<p>Tenure for declaring citizenship through naturalization, one must have live in the country for at least six (6) years.</p> <p>Any person becoming citizen by birth or naturalization must deny his/her citizenship of any country in the world.</p> <p>Recommendations All persons appointed to position must be a citizen by birth or naturalization.</p> <p>All people eligible for elected position must be natural born citizens.</p>
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Group's Chairman: OwandarDunor
Secretary: Freddie Zayzay

Civil Society Organizations' Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Kakata, Margibi County from December 5--7, 2013. Group #5: TENURE

No.	Name	Institution	Contact
1.	Eugene Elliott	Concern Youth For Education Association	08880024200
2.	Nelson W. Kammoh	FLY/Sinoe	0888-215203

3.	Sara K. Dahn	MPROSE	0886-767284
4.	NewsonGontee	Choice FM	0880-849859
5.	Esther Doe	FFA/Grand Kru	0886-606596
6.	Irene Dadzie	LWCOA	0886-312105
7.	Apha Mali	Group of 77/Bomi	0886-915015
8.	T. Eddie Gray	Judiciary	0886-618886
9.	Gabriel Soh	Nimba Disabled Community	0880-449547
10.	Dianna Dickson	Search Nimba	0888-643343
11.	Michael Johnson	UPU(BOCA)	0880-529183
12.	Mariah C. Phelps		
13.	Amara V. Dukuly	MIYUD	0777-906709
14.	Melvin S. Sarh	MRU Youth Parliament	0886-649996
			<p>Group work presented to plenary.</p> <p>Presidential term: Chapter 6 Article 50 reduced to four (4) years.</p> <p>Senator term of office: chapter 5, article 46 shall be reduced to six(6) years</p> <p>Representative term: Chapter Article 48 shall be reduced to four (4) years.</p> <p>Chieftaincy, as indicated in Chapter 6: Article 56 (B) shall be reduced to four(4) years.</p> <p>Reasons: Because, they</p>

			<p>fell complacent, and relaxed.</p> <p>For effectiveness and efficiency, the time or tenure shall be reduced.</p>
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Group's Chairman: Michael Johnson
Secretary: Gabriel Soh

Civil Society Organizations' Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Kakata, Margibi County from December 5--7, 2013. Group # 6: Economic and Social Rights

No.	Name	Institution	Contact
1.	Benjamin Tarnue	NACCSOL	
2.	PitarNynmon	BWA	
3.	Alexander S. Stephen	WNW	
4	SonsonWeah	AEL	
5.	Alice Teah	Buah Women Assoc.	
5.	James P. J Enders	LCP	
7.	Juluis W. Gobie	LY	
8.	Musu Kardamie	GCW	
9.	Theresa D. Cheddah	RW	
10.	Abel Jaye	PBW	
11.	ShethaKarnah	Respect Liberia.	
			<p>Group work presented to plenary:</p> <p>Article five (5): Health practitioners, government employees and citizens trained by government upon signing a(MOU), should be allowed to render all necessary services and government should provide good housing facilitates and payroll negotiation.</p>

			<p>Teachers trained by government wages should be increased so as to promote quality education.</p> <p>Article six (6):Government should provide good budget allocation to provide sanitation sites and promotion of hygiene.</p> <p>Government should decentralize the promotion of equal access to educational opportunities amongst its citizens.</p> <p>Government should provide scholarships within the 15 counties.</p> <p>Every social corporate responsibility must be paid to the county's account.</p> <p>Article seven (7): Government should provide needed career development to its citizens.</p> <p>Government should foster Liberians in their field of special specifications.</p> <p>Trained Liberians should be eligible to work and serve as public servants where needed.</p> <p>Article eight (8): Government should improve health facilitates and job security.</p>
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			<p>Government should improve basic social welfare.</p> <p>Government should improve budget allocation for old folks home and the mentally challenged.</p> <p>Government should provide free, compulsory and quality education for all well-being Liberians.</p> <p>Article ten(10): Government should promote teaching of the constitution in all its institutions of higher learning, and both primary and secondary school.</p> <p>Job securities must be provided for Liberians based on a first come first served level.</p> <p>Government should prioritize its citizens in all of its economic section.</p> <p>Government should improve capacity buildings and train its citizens for sustainability.</p>
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Civil Society Organizations' Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Kakata, Margibi County from December 5--7, 2013. Group #7: PRESIDENTIAL POWERS

No.	Name	Institution	Contact
1.	Albert M. Colee	Village Dev. Fund	0886-533354
2.	Elijah M. Kwayteh	Lofa Net	0886-314349
3.	Kebeh Monger	Rural Women/ Grand Bassa	0886-286434
4.	G. Patrick S. Seitua	Agriculture Relief Service	0886—889215
5.	Betty Breeze-Doh	WOCDES	0777-004826
6.	Joseph Suakollie	DEN-L	0886-655782
7.	Joyce P. Bryant	IVA	0886-697670
8.	MomoKpartipah	MIA	077-127877
9.	Musah A. Siron	MIYUD	0886-958454
10.	Pewee K. Lake	R & R F	0886-138704
11.	Djue Williams		0777-807196
12.	R. LuackieWaiyondeh	Rural Women	0886-344870
13.	Mawatta V. Siron	Nothery Youth Assoc.	0886-657547
			<p>Group work presented to plenary.</p> <p>Article 54: The Chief Justice and Associate Justices be elected by the registered voters.</p> <p>Their qualification and tenure remain the same.</p> <p>The Chief Justice appointment should be with the consent of the senate, judges of subordinate courts (See article 69).</p>

			The Superintendent and development superintendent be excluded from the list of presidential appointees and be elected.
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Group's Chairman: Albert Colee

Secretary: R. LuockieWaryondeh

Civil Society Organizations' Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Kakata, Margibi County from December 5--7, 2013. Group #8: GENDER

No.	Name	Institution	Contact
1.	Boima Q. Sando	Youth for Environment	0886-813995
2.	Esther J. S. Clarke	Rural Women	0886-296149
3.	Gondai K. Seton	Bong Youth Assoc.	0886-653490
4.	Bendu S. Johnson	Bomi- Women Care Initiative	0886-887198
5.	Daniel B. Wehyee	Rights & Rice Foundation	0886-468338/ 0776-817009
6.	Leonard T. Forleh	LIW	0886-270136
7.	Leniel K. Sitta	YAI Inc.	0886-286289
8.	D. NyandehSieh	Grand Kru-FOFI	0886-983574
9.	Jeffery S. Cartu	FLY(Gbarpolu County)	0880-714806
10.	Victor Bartlay	Disabled Kakata	0776-768082
11.	Philip Sai Toe, Sr.	River Gee County Disabled	0886-461286
12.	Benetta V. Davies	NAYMOTE	0886-637027
13.	Zinnah B. Cassel	Radio Bomi	0886-682301
			Group work presented to plenary.

			<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>He/she must be used when referring to the president, rather than 'he' only.</p> <p>There should be a provision in the constitution that gives women the right to inherent land and other property.</p> <p>There should be a provision in the constitution giving women 30% inclusion in every aspect of government (Executive, Legislative and Judiciary)</p>
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Group's Chairman: Daniel B. Wehyee
Secretary: Benetta V. Davies

Civil Society Organizations' Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Kakata, Margibi County from December 5--7, 2013. Group #9: CULTURE

No.	Name	Institution	Contact
1.	Jacob S. Ramsuar	VDWO Fund	0888-366199
2.	B. Abraham Smart	MOPROSE	0886-630568

3.	Jude M. Cooper	Bassa Youth Caucus	0886-639230
4.	YawahJaivey	Radio Kakata	0886-315757
5.	D. Mongar Y. Grigsby	YWA-Liberia	0886-112455
6.	William Darpoh	Teacher Association	0880-639100
7.	Urias W. Brooks, Jr.	LIYONET	0880-618261
8.	Marcus S. Quenneh	WAQ Enterprise	0886-839851
9.	J. Willie Forkpa	NTAL	0886-321032
10.	NeascZiama	UYA	0777-444595
11.	Zoe T. Ross	Rural Women	0886-650626
12.	FatuNyen	Gboukuma	0880-206838
13.	William B. Quiwea	SAMFU	0886-429192
14.	Alexander Y. Barleh	Grand Gedeh Youth	0886-330929
15.	Frank S. Suku	FLY-Sinoe	0886-533684
16.	Angeline K. Togba	Potential Women	0886-611461
17.	Tina Scott	Citizen For Progress	0886-848362
18.	Chealy Brown Dennis	ECPGDA	0886-264611
			<p>Group work presented to plenary.</p> <p>That a bureau of culture affairs be established to preserve, protect and promote positive Liberian culture In accordance with chapter 2 general principles of national policy.</p> <p>Article 5 Section B of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia.</p> <p>With the following terms and conditions, but not limited to; (a) an identification of one local language (dialect)</p>

			<p>if the sixteen(16) tribes of the Republic of Liberia to be spoken. That the bureau of culture affairs shall be responsible to identify national attire (dress code).</p> <p>That the bureau of culture be responsible to discriminate information in Liberia through traditional methods.</p>
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Group’s Chairman: Urias Brooks, Jr.
Secretary: B. Abraham Smart

Civil Society Organizations’ Working Group Presentation of Group Work to Plenary on the 1986 Constitution done in Kakata, Margibi County from December 5--7, 2013. Group #10: Physically Challenged

No.	Name	Institution	Contact
1.	Emmanuel C. W. Aggrey	Maryland Dev. Assoc.	0886-439507/ 0776-897901
2.	Junior Cokie	YAPA (Gbarpolu County)	0888-318989
3.	Nathaniel Dean	Maryland Dev. Assoc.	0886-499111
4.	c. D Weah Wesseh	Cheapo United Assoc.	0886-945330
5.	Bakiru M. Sonii	NTA	0886-634371

6.	Bill Kromah	Cape Mount Youth	0880-556983
7.	Prince B. Kreplah	CUPPADL	0886-533015
8.	Laykarba V. Vaye	MARWOPNET	0886-379851
9.	Esther Mulubah	GAPOLU	0886-950996
10.	Nelson O. Kaydor		0880-334434
			<p>Group work presented to plenary Provisions for consideration.</p> <p>To facilitate participation, a formative action should be adopted by the state to ensure seat(s) /Representative legislation for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The state employ technology and architecture that facilitate persons with disabilities access quality education, healthcare, improve water and sanitation, transportation and infrastructure and basic services should be adopted in social security and social service should be policies.</p> <p>The state should take measure to improve the infrastructures, welfare and well-being of persons with disabilities within the 15 counties of Liberia.</p> <p>All persons are equal before the law and are therefore</p>

			<p>entitle to the equal protection of the law.</p> <p>To ensure full fulfillment, the judiciary must adopt special measure and establish mechanism to ensure that people with disabilities and other vulnerable have access to justice.</p>
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Group's Chairman: Emmanuel C. W Aggrey
Secretary: Prince B. Kreplah