



# NDI-LIBERIA E-NEWSLETTER

*Working for Democracy  
and Making Democracy  
Work*



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**www.ndi.org**

## **Budget Summit of the House of Representatives**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of July, the House of Representatives convened a Budget Summit to better prepare itself by gathering information and exchanging views on the proposed National Budget. The Representatives benefitted from inspiring presentations by various experts, such as the Director of the Legislative Budget Office (LBO), Julius Caesar, LBO Deputy Director Othello Tarbah, NDI-Consultant David Pechefsky, and CSO representative Jasper Cummeh III from AGENDA. Representative Emmanuel Nuquay, Chair of the Ways, Means and Finance Committee, gave an interesting and thorough overview of 'The Role of the Legislature'.

Many of the lawmakers are newly elected. The Budget Summit met their need to learn about the content of the Budget and the ways the House might proceed in its consideration. The Summit also demonstrated to constituents the role being played by their Representatives in the budget process.

Visit the very informative website of the Proposed National Budget [here!](#)

## **In this E-Newsletter**

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*Rep. Mulbah (l) and Rep. Chambers (r)*

**NEW!!**

## **Legislative Spotlight**

Every Wednesday  
Truth FM – 96.1  
11:00 – 12:00 am





## 'Workshops provided new knowledge'

For one week from 18-24 July, NDI conducted workshops with Chiefs of Office Staff (COS) and Resource Officers (ROs) from each Member's office and with staff of the Legislative Information Service (LIS). These workshops built skills in policy analysis, writing policy papers, and writing legislative bill summaries. Improving the professional capacity of its staff is one of the main objectives of the Modernization Plan of the Liberian Legislature.

About 130 staff members participated. These staffers are critical to assisting Members of the House and Senate in their important work of oversight, lawmaking and representation. The skills are fundamental to their work on Capitol Hill and they enhance the quality work of Liberian Legislators. As one participant wrote in their evaluation: "These workshops provided new knowledge."

*Left above: Members of the House at the Budget Summit*



*Left below: Traditional dancers welcome the U.S. Congressional delegation in Klay, Bomi.*

## Collaborations between the Liberian Legislature and the U.S. Congress

In July, two activities took place building upon the partnership of the Liberia and U.S. legislatures. In early July a delegation of the U.S. House Democracy Partnership (HDP) visited Monrovia and Bomi County. U.S. Representatives and staff participated in a Town Hall Meeting in Klay hosted by Speaker Tyler, together with the Bomi Caucus. The following day, while senior U.S. Congressional staff worked with Liberian COSs and ROs, the six U.S. Representatives discussed progress toward the Legislative Modernization Plan with House Leadership and House members of the Modernization Committee. Challenges and opportunities of the Legislature's Modernization Plan were discussed.



*From left to right: Front: Rep. Francis, Sen. Nagbe and Rep. Gray - Rear: Rep. Karmo and Sen. Doe-Sherrif in Washington. (photo: Frontpage)*

Later in July, chairs of six Liberian Senate and House committees travelled to Washington, D.C. on invitation of the HDP. Together with colleagues from Kosovo and Macedonia they participated in a week of activities toward strengthening the functioning of the Legislature's committees. The Liberian delegation included Senators Nagbe, Whitfield and Doe-Sherrif and Representatives Francis, Gray and Karmo. Strengthening the functions of committees is one of the priorities in NDI's Legislative Strengthening Program.

## Useful Links

- [The Legislature Modernization Plan 2009-2013](#)
- [How Laws Are Made](#)
- [The Constitution of Liberia](#)
- [News from Senate and House](#)
- [Liberia National Policy on Decentralization and Local Government](#)
- [Find your Representative](#)
- [Find your Senator](#)

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