



**NDI-LIBERIA
E-NEWSLETTER**
*Working for Democracy and
Making Democracy Work*



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**Wednesday, 19th of September
Policy Seminar on Elections Law Reform**

In the now young tradition of NDI’s challenging policy seminars for legislators, NDI is organizing its next seminar on the topic of Elections Law Reform. Which reforms are needed to continue to improve Liberia’s elections and to contribute to a sustainable democracy? What steps should be taken by the National Legislature in preparation for the 2014 elections? These questions and related topics will be explored by the members of key House and Senate Committees. Among other experts, talks will be delivered by Representative Gabriel Smith (Chair of the House Committee Elections and Inauguration), Senator Jewel Howard Taylor (Chair of the Senate Committee on Autonomous Commissions and Agencies), an official of the National Elections Commission, and an international expert on electoral reform in post-conflict countries.

A second part of the seminar will be dedicated to the positions and opinions of political parties. The chairpersons of the six major political parties are being invited to share their views with legislators and other seminar participants.

If you like to participate, please send an e-mail to Nannah Seekey: nseekey@ndi.org.

Confirmed participants will receive a Reader with very useful background information on Elections Law Reform and the definitive seminar program.



**James S. Garway
1965 – 2012**

For seven beautiful years the NDI family was blessed to enjoy the warmth, friendship and professional service of James S. Garway. Many readers of this e-newsletter were also touched by James’ life and his humanity. James was NDI-Liberia’s Senior Finance Manager. We miss him dearly.

Legislative Spotlight

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

Rebroadcast in Liberian English and regional dialects by 31 rural community radio stations

Legislative Spotlight Beams on the Air!

In August, Legislative Spotlight started to brighten the Liberian ether. This radio program focuses on the work, views, and achievements of Members of the Legislature. Through a competitive process, NDI invited the Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives (LMDI) to produce and broadcast these programs.



In Kakata the Legislative Spotlight was formally launched with lawmakers Ballout, Cooper, Jah, Kogah and Tingbah.

Not only does Legislative Spotlight increase public awareness, but it allows the public to make its views heard on legislative and policy topics, by establishing a link between lawmakers and their constituents. Truth FM now broadcasts the Spotlight every Wednesday morning live at 11:00 o'clock.

But the special beam of Legislative Spotlight does not stop there! Every county will hear programs rebroadcast in 'Liberian English' and with call-ins from residents and questions to their lawmakers in their own regional dialects. Legislative Spotlight gives legislators the airwaves, but it gives their constituents the powerful voice.

Once every month Legislative Spotlight also goes on tour to broadcast live from venues in counties where lawmakers and the public meet each other in an inspiring and vivid dialogue. This is done through LMDI's special format known as "Legislative Spotlight on the Dialogue".

Investigation on Affordable and Adequate Housing

In September six legislators from key committees will embark upon a mission to investigate policy options for affordable and adequate housing in Liberia. The mission (Representatives Bardyl, Chea and Pelham and Senators Coleman, Cooper and Howard-Taylor) will visit Buchanan, Schiefflin Town and Tubmanburg to meet with stakeholders and to examine existing housing projects in those towns. Participants will also meet with relevant ministries, the National Housing Authority and potential housing investment partners, and will visit problem areas in Monrovia.

The legislators will be assisted by an African housing policy expert who is knowledgeable about the housing policy choices faced by other countries on the continent and elsewhere. To share their findings publically, participants will draft a report that will include recommendations on law- and policymaking, which will be submitted to House and Senate leadership and its committees.

Useful Links

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

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