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Liberia - Office

E-Newsletter

Working for democracy & making democracy work



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Study Investigation Mission on Extractive Industries

Liberia has many natural resources (iron, diamonds, gold, oil, wood, rubber) which are mainly exploited by foreign companies. It is important that the National Legislature receives first-hand information and has adequate expertise to fulfill its oversight and lawmaking functions regarding concession agreements, national revenues and the social responsibilities of those extractive industries. That is why the Legislature has formed a Study Investigation Mission on Extractive Industries, which is assisted by NDI.

Members of the Mission are three representatives, Fofi S. Baimba, Sekou S. Kanneh, and Clarence Massaquoi, and three senators, Sando D. Johnson, Isaac W. Nyenabo, and Frederick D. Cherue, the latter serving as chair of the Mission. The members of the House represent committees on Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Investment & Concessions and Contracts, Monopolies and Public Procurement Commission. The Senators the committees on Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Concession and Investment and Public Accounts & Audits.



such as the Ministries of Agriculture and Labor, the National Bureau of Concessions, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Liberian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia, the National Oil Company of Liberia, the Gold and Diamond Workers Union and BHP-Billiton. In February, the Mission will go up-country to visit some sites of extractive industries.

The findings of the Mission will be set forth in a report that will include recommendations for policy- and lawmaking. The draft report will subsequently be discussed at a policy seminar designed for relevant committee members and other key members of the Legislature to contemplate those policy- and law-making options. After that, the report will be vetted and discussed

During December, the Mission held meetings with important stakeholders

formally by committees of the House and Senate.



[Freedom Fone will connect rural Liberia with the Legislature](#)

Constituents from Liberia's 73 electoral districts will benefit in the near future from a new information-on-demand service, called *Freedom Fone*. Freedom Fone is a service that will enable radio journalists access to up-to-date legislative news and recordings with the use of a mobile phone.



In December, NDI hosted a training for fifteen community radio journalists and ten Legislative Press and Public Affairs staff in Gbarnga, to share ideas on how the Freedom Fone system can exchange information for the benefit of Liberian constituents. Later on, press officers from the Legislature participated in an additional training at which they learned how to manage and operate Freedom Fone to capture and store public hearings, debates, and regular sessions of the Legislature, to be shared with community radio stations over the Freedom Fone system. With Freedom Fone, constituents throughout rural Liberia, even without internet connections, will be able to receive information about what's happening in their Legislature. Rural radio stations will be able to use Freedom Fone to conduct phone-in programs, allowing their listeners to participate in discussions on important policy issues of the day.

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[Upcoming Events](#)

[Legislative Spotlight](#)

- Policy Seminar on Affordable and Adequate Housing
- Training for Legislative Staff on how to write, analyse and summarize bills
- Workshop with the Gender Committees of the House and Senate on strengthen oversight of the national budget on gender-related issues

2 January: Constitutional Reform
9 January: Code of Conduct of Public Officials
16 January: Health Reform/Social Welfare
23 January: Post and Telecommunications
30 January: Gender and Child Development

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

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