



2015

**Governance Commission Legislative Monitoring for
Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (LEMTAIL)
Final Report**

Funded By:



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List of Acronyms

JLMP	Joint Legislative Modernization Plan
JLMC	Joint Legislative Modernization Committee
CC	Chief Clerk
SS	Secretary of the Senate
NDI	National Democratic Institute
HoR	House of Representatives
LMP	Legislative Modernization Plan
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
TH	Town Hall
EVD	Ebola Virus Disease
UNMIL	United Nations Mission In Liberia
CSO	Civil Society Organization
GC	Governance Commission
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
LEMTAIL	Legislative Monitoring for Transparency & Accountability in Liberia

I. INTRODUCTION

The operation of the Legislature in Liberia as a representation of the new democratic state, and the key role the institution is expected to play in peace-building cannot be overemphasized. The democratic governing system in any country must be supported by credible, transparent and a functioning democratic parliament. In light of this fact, the Legislature in Liberia has a key role to play in ensuring that its work affects the daily lives of the people and that it promotes accountability, transparency and inclusion.

The National Integrity System Mandate Area of the Governance Commission (GC) in late 2012, recognizing the important role of the Legislature in a young democracy such as Liberia, developed the Legislative Monitoring for transparency and Accountability in Liberia (LEMTAIL) project to help induce and ensure accountability, transparency and citizens' participation and appreciation of the workings of the Legislature. The Project was funded by the Open Society Initiative in West Africa (OSIWA) to the tune of United States ninety six thousand dollars (\$96,000.00) and had two components. Component I researched information from the Legislature and made available the information to the Liberian public for their consumption. Component II promoted public participation and encouraged broad based consultations in the work of the Legislature. In light of accomplishing the tasks involved in the two components, the LEMTAIL Project carried out the following various activities in the beginning and during the entire duration of the project:

- Meetings to establish working relationship with civil society organizations;
- Recruitment of staffs (Research Assistants) for the project;
- Meetings with key stakeholders at the Legislature including the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Secretary of the Senate, Chief Clerk, Chairs of selected Standing Committees, Chair of the Joint Legislative Modernization Committee (JLMC) and other influential individuals;
- Conducted training for RAs on how to research plenary and legislative committees and produce report;
- Assigned staffs to cover both chambers and committees;
- Established staffs reporting pattern;
- Established Facebook and twitter accounts for project;
- Collaborated with CSOs to identified and secured cities/districts and mounted bulletin boards;
- Published LEMTAIL reports on bulletin boards;
- Collaborated with CSO to identified and secure venues for Town Hall Meetings;

- Assisted CSOs in preparing for and conducting TH meetings with Constituents and Legislators;
- Collaborated with CSOs to identified radio stations;
- Assisted CSOs and Journalists in preparing for and hosting radio shows with Legislators, Legislative Experts and Journalists and allowed public to call-in to ask questions; and
- Identified two or three newspapers and published LEMTAIL monthly reports.

In this final report that covers the period March 2013 to December 2014, the LEMTAIL Project provides stakeholders, partners and donors with a summary of the findings during the above period. Explanations on key activities implemented in the two components of the project are also provided. Lastly, the report provides policy recommendations that are useful for the effective function of the Legislatures in the performance of its responsibilities to the Liberian people.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2009 a five-year Legislative Modernization Plan intended to modernize the functions of the Liberian Legislature and increase citizen participation was developed. According to sponsoring partners, throughout the implementation of the LMP, the Legislature will be able to adopt various strategies to ensure accountability, transparency and greater participation of the Liberian people in the affairs of the state. In light of achieving this goal, Pillar 2 and 3 of the plan recognized the need for publication of transcripts from plenaries, hosting of committees' public hearings for greater public participation and professionalized support from staff (central administration & personal) to enabled Legislators perform their jobs more effectively.

The National Democratic Institute (NDI), a Washington DC based NGO that implemented part of the modernization plan with funding from the USAID, ran a number of staff development trainings and established the committee support services for both the office of the Secretary of the Senate and the office of the Chief Clerk. The World Bank also sponsored the purchased and installation of voting machines in both chambers of the Senate and House of Representatives to ensure that voting records are published for citizen's consumption. Despite these efforts, information from the Legislature to the citizens is not forthcoming. As such, the GC LEMTAIL Project carefully structured on the recommendations of the LMP was intended to fill the gap between the people of the country and their government or elected representatives.

The Project was conceived in November of 2012 and initiated in March of 2013. With three Research Assistants attending Tuesdays and Thursdays plenary proceedings of both the House of Representatives and Senate, and following up on Committees hearings (held or not held), reports were published on a monthly basis. The LEMTAIL reports focused on discussions in plenaries on various social issues affecting citizens and the general populace of the country. However, given that committees meetings and hearings are rare occurrences in the Liberian Legislature, the LEMTAIL reports also focused on whether meetings and hearings were scheduled and if so, whether they were held.

As such, the partial aim of the LEMTAIL reports was to provide information to the Liberian public on whether the Legislature was performing its functions in a transparent, accountable and efficient manner. More specifically, the reports focused on the occurrences of secret meetings, issues discussed in plenary proceedings and committee meetings and hearings, the Legislator or Legislators

presenting the issues and the legislative actions decided on by plenary. As well, various discussions on the LEMTAIL reports that brought together Legislators, individuals from Civil Societies, Legislative Experts and members of constituencies were held at different venues.

The LEMTAIL Project reports found broadly that the following issues influenced almost all characteristics of the effective functions of the legislature:

- **Executive or Secret Sessions**

- **Senate**—during the reporting period, the Liberian Senate held a total of ninety four (94) plenary sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning the third working Monday in January and adjourning on the 31st of August of each of the year the project covered, except in instances where the President requested an extension as per the Constitution. Accordingly the LEMTAIL reports recorded that forty eight (48) of the sessions held by the Senate were Executive or Secret Sessions. Neither the leadership, nor the entire Senate provided any explanation to the Liberian people about these Executive or Secret sessions and in almost all instances, all staff including the Secretary of the Senate was asked to leave the chamber.
- **House of Representatives**— the House of Representatives also held Executive or Secret Sessions during the above reporting period. Out of a total of one hundred (100) plenary sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning the third working Monday in January and adjourning on the 31st of August of each of the year covered by the project, except in instances where the President requested an extension of the sitting of the Legislature as per the Constitution, there was a total of forty (40) Executive or Secret Sessions recorded by the LEMTAIL reports during regular sessions. Neither the leadership, nor the entire House of Representatives provided any explanation to the Liberian people about these Executive or Secret sessions and in almost all instances, even the Chief Clerk was asked to leave the chamber.

- **Lack of a Functioning Committee System**—while there are specific days designated for committee meetings and the rules of both the Senate and the House of Representatives requires that committees conduct hearings in various forms, no funding is allocated for committees' work in the budget for the legislature. As such, committees barely meet or hold hearings. If and when some committees meet, it is a secret meeting between the Chair of the committee and some members. However, confirmation hearings are common and are

usually open to the public, even though the members of the committee do not take their vote in front of the public to confirm the designated individuals. In light of the lapses, LEMTAIL reports could not confirm committees' hearings and meetings in a monthly report.

- **Absence of a Legislative Agenda**

- **Senate and House of Representatives**—Except for the President's Legislative Agenda presented to the Legislature in a joint sitting at the beginning of the year, both the Senate and the House of Representatives do not have any prepared formal legislative agenda. Agendas during plenary proceedings on Tuesdays and Thursdays are developed hastily on the same day and distributed to members one or two hours prior to the commencement of plenary. As such, the LEMTAIL reports found that issues discussed in plenary were not follow through to the end. In other words, many issues that were discussed in plenary proceedings were not follow-up and no concrete decisions were taken by plenary.

III. Component I. Information on the functions of the Senate, House of Representatives and Legislators for citizen's consumption

1) The LEMTAIL reports indicate that transparency in the work of the legislature is poor and not forthcoming. In the absence of a published legislative agenda, citizens and the general public have limited or no concept as to what issues their elected representatives are pursuing on their behalf. As well, it is not clear how the issues that get on the agenda during plenary proceedings on Tuesdays and Thursdays get there. As shown in the LEMTAIL report attached in Annex A, a number of issues discussed in plenaries of both the Senate and the House of Representatives and intended to be followed-up were not taken up again. One example is highlighted in blue.

2) A published yearly agenda from the Legislature would have helped citizens follow the work of the institution and find out if an issue was discussed to completion. Similarly, if an issue was not discussed to completion, citizens would have the opportunity to voice out their dissatisfactions and therefore required their elected representatives to pick up the issue again. In light of the absence of a legislative agenda, the LEMTAIL project provision of information from plenaries of both the Senate and House of Representatives was a means through which citizens were informed on health, economic, labor and other issues discussed by their elected representatives as reflected in the copy of the report attached in Annex A.

3) The overused of Executive or Secret Sessions resulted into what can be described as extreme secrecy in the work of the legislature. In both the Rules of Procedures of the House of Representatives and the Standing Rules of the Senate, there are no established legal bases for the overused of the Executive or Secret Sessions. Unfortunately, even the LEMTAIL report could not say anything about the Executive or Secret Sessions except record the number of times it occurs and how it occurs as shown in Annex A of this report. In light of the enormous secrecy, the LEMTAIL Project could not provide any information to citizens and the general public on what was discussed in these sessions and what the legislative actions were.

4) The LEMTAIL reports could not provide any substantial information to the public or citizens on committee meetings and hearings. As stated elsewhere in this report, committees in the Liberian Legislature are barely functional. In many instances where the LEMTAIL Project Research Assistants

reported meetings of some committees, they had to trust the words of the Chairs that a meeting was conducted with few members in secret. However, confirmation hearings were common and took place regularly during the period of LEMTAIL's research. Though the Senators never voted publicly in these hearings, the LEMTAIL report recorded that the results of hearings were always read in plenary without stating how many Senators voted in favor, against or abstained.

5) Despite the installation of voting machines in the Senate and the House of Representatives, the equipment is only used as a public address system in both chambers. The equipment also intended to be used to record attendance, so as to ensure that legislators are attending sessions on time is actually meant to provide records of how each legislator votes on an issue or a bill. In essence, it is an accountability measure intended to make the Legislature accountable to the Liberian people. The LEMTAIL Project could not gather any reason from the leadership as to why the voting equipment is not being used for its intended purpose.

a) LEMTAIL Monthly Report: Content, Distribution and Publication

Initially LEMTAIL project provided information from the Legislature in a narrative form. The narrative highlighted the "important" discussions and summarized the decisions that were taken in plenary. It also provided information on who were mandated to do what and so forth. Few months into the publication of reports, LEMTAIL evaluated its reporting format and adopted a style of reporting that highlighted the following: i) date of the meeting; ii) issue/s that was discussed in plenary or committee meetings or hearings; iii) the name of the lawmaker or committee that presented the issue/s; iv) highlights of the discussions on the issue; v) plenary or the committee decision/s on the issue/s and vi) whether the plenary or committee went into executive session.

The new style of reporting which lasted until the end of the project was done in a matrix form and allowed for all discussions taking place in both chambers to be captured. It also prevented the project from publishing bulky monthly reports.

The reports were distributed to Civil Society Organizations through an email listserv and hard copies forwarded to key Legislators at the Legislature. Thereafter, copies were published on various bulletin boards in districts where LEMTAIL had mounted boards. The

reports were also published on a specific face book page established for the project and published in one newspaper with wide circulation.

b) Town Hall Meetings

Due to the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease, all of the planned TH meetings could not be held. However, meetings that were held in Gbarnga, Bong County and Cheesemanville, Montserrado County were well attended by citizens. The participants welcomed the meetings and requested for more of the TH style of interactions between them and their lawmakers. According to almost all participants attending the meetings and the subsequent focus group meetings that were held to assess whether participants saw the need and were benefitting from the LEMTAIL project, there was a greater need for elected representatives to engage their constituents in these kinds of forums. As well, the participants asserted that through TH meetings, they would be able to learn about the issues that their elected representatives were discussing at the Legislature. These reasons according to them were why the LEMTAIL project reports and TH meetings were badly needed in their districts.

The Legislature does not allocate funding in its budget for constituency relations or simple TH meetings. All TH meetings held are usually done through the goodwill of CSOs or national and international NGOs working to build relationship between Legislators and their constituents.

c) Radio Talk Shows

Most radio talk shows were held in place of TH meetings that could not be held due to the outbreak of the EVD. The radio talk shows generated lots of concerns and questions about the operations of the legislature, from citizens and drew the attention of international partners including the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). During the radio shows, the Journalists used the LEMTAIL reports to questioned or ask for comments from Legislators who were invited for the show. Similarly, the Legislative Expert in studio was asked to talk about standard practice and share his or her views on the issue/s. The shows helped provide firsthand responses from invited legislators on issues that were captured by the LEMTAIL reports.

IV. Component II. Promote Public participation and Encourage Broad Base Consultation in the Work of the Legislature

6) As part of an effort to promote public participation and encourage broad based consultations in the work of the Legislature, the LEMTAIL reports were circulated to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other partners, printed and placed on bulletin boards in various districts including the Legislature, published in two widely read newspapers and published on face book. The reports were also discussed on interactive radio shows that hosted Legislators, Legislative Experts and Journalists and encouraged citizens to call-into the shows. Town Hall meetings in more than 2 electoral districts were held and the reports contents discussed between CSOs, the Legislators representing these districts and the constituents.

7) As part of the arrangement between the GC LEMTAIL Project and a partnering CSO during phases of the project, the CSO used the reports to question the Legislature about why it was not performing its functions in a transparent or accountable manner. As well, using the contents of the LEMTAIL reports, the CSO worked with citizens' groups in various districts where the TH meetings were held, to highlight important concerns from citizens and put these concerns forward to a Legislator during the TH meetings. A cover page of a report from one of LEMTAIL TH meetings is attached in Annex B of this report. The meetings were always moderated by the partnering CSO and GC LEMTAIL staffs were only observers during the process.

8) The TH meetings and radio shows were the only means through which ordinary citizens participated in the work of the Legislature during the duration of the LEMTAIL project. Though the GC LEMTAIL project hosted one policy dialogue, it was mostly attended by elite who themselves have been part of the system at one time or the other. However, in hosting the dialogue the LEMTAIL project intended to ensure that individuals from all spectrum of the society are provided the opportunity to engage Legislators and interact with them concerning their functions at the legislature.

9) Voting records from the voting machine would have been useful means through which citizens would have had the opportunity to evaluate their lawmakers and hold them accountable. The records would have also provided citizens the opportunity to questions the intentions of their lawmakers on important policy issues and legislations that went through the Legislature.

Unfortunately, as stated elsewhere in this report, the equipment is only used as a public address system in both chambers.

d) Workshops

Workshops held during the LEMTAIL project was mainly for staffs. Three workshops were held in total and were meant to provide introductory, intermediary and advance trainings for the staffs throughout the duration of the project.

e) Policy Dialogue

One policy dialogue was held under the LEMTAIL project. The dialogue, attended by lawmakers, international partners and expert in the legislative field, focused on some of the issues coming out of the LEMTAIL report and was intended to create a high level interactive discussion between the key stakeholders who initiated and have contributed to the modernization of the Legislature. The dialogue provided a platform that allows skeptics to question some of the practices that do not speak to transparency and accountability at the Legislature.

V. Conclusion

The Integrity Mandate Area of the Governance Commission (GC) developed the Legislative Monitoring for transparency and Accountability (LEMTAIL) Project, to research and provide information to the public on both the Senate and the House of Representatives, with the hope that the information will help make citizens knowledgeable of the functions of the institution of government that directly represent their interests. The project had also hoped to give citizens the opportunity to voice their concerns and issues to their representatives during TH meetings and radio shows. With informed knowledge of some of the activities taking place at the Legislature, citizens in various part of the country were provided the opportunity to question, appraise or commend the activities of their legislators.

Although it is difficult to measure in quantitative terms the success of the project due to the political nature of the activities, various comments from Legislators as well as citizens based on the LEMTAIL monthly reports reflects that the project have had some impacts on the functions of the Legislature. In light of the LEMTAIL reports on poor committee functions, most legislators have begun advocating for funding for committees' activities. Similarly, some senators were able to boldly tell their colleagues that conducting business in executive or secret sessions most times was not in the interest of the Liberia people. Most recently, there are reports that the newly seated Senate is in the process to train and use the voting machine to record how Senators vote on issues and legislations.

In light of the above developments, the LEMTAIL project is worth continuing so as to involve more citizens' participation in the work of the Legislature. With useful information and knowledge about the functions of the Legislature, constituents would be empowered to demand that those who represent their collective interests make the necessary change that the institutions so badly needs to play the role it is expected to play in rebuilding Liberia. The Liberian Legislature must play a key role in consolidating peace and contributing to the democratic development of the country. If the institution cannot perform these responsibilities for one reason or the other, the people must be empowered to ensure that the Legislature perform its responsibilities.

The Governance Commission as an entity set up to help streamline the functions of government, to become more efficient and fruitful, should engage the Legislature at the highest level. It will prove useful for the chairman and other commissioners of the GC to sit with the leadership of the

legislature to discuss possible ways forward based on the findings and recommendations of the GC LEMTAIL Project.

IV. Policy Recommendation

1. Secrecy of the Legislature

The secrecy by which legislative affairs are conducted is not healthy for Liberia's young democracy. The hallmark of a vibrant democracy is the openness by which a nation conducts its affairs, allowing for citizens' to make their inputs. Therefore, it is the GC LEMTAIL Project recommendation that secret sessions are held only when the Chief executive of the country pays a visit to the legislature and when discussions are those of national security which by necessity must be discussed in camera.

2. The capacity of the Legislature (Committee Work)

Legislative standing committees are the nerve centers of an effective Legislature. Their ability to effectively discharge their functions and support the entire Legislature in both chambers is undermined when they lack the ability and funding to do so. Standing committees at the Legislature needs to have permanent research officers and professional staffers. In light of the above fact, it is the GC LEMTAIL Project recommendation that the Legislature allocates funding in its budget for all standing committees' work. This funding would also allow the committees to hire at least one qualify permanent research officer. In the absent of permanent research officers and professional staffers, the Committee Support Staff trained by the NDI in both the offices of the Secretary of the Senate and Chief Clerk should be engage by all standing committees.

3. Constituency Engagement

Regular engagements with constituents must be a priority of the legislature. This is a driver of social contract between the governed and the government. Meetings with constituencies in whatever form allow citizens to engage their representatives on issues that are important to them in order for their voices to be heard at the national level. Democracy is not only about casting ballot but also about citizens participating in decision making that affects their lives. In light of this, it is GC LEMTAIL Project recommendation that the Legislature allocates funding in its budget for constituency work. That each member be require to conduct at least four TH meetings in a year using the funding allocated by the Legislature.

3. An Annual Legislative Agenda

The Legislature should be able to draw up its own annual agenda that takes into consideration issues affecting the country. Adopting an agenda every year would allow the Legislature to provide the opportunity for the public to follow through with the institution's program. In light of this, it is GC LEMTAIL Project recommendation that the Legislature develops and publish an annual agenda at the beginning of each year. Subsequent changes to the agenda may be carryout throughout the year.

ANNEX A

The National Integrity System Mandate Area of the Governance Commission

Legislative Monitoring for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (LEMTAIL)

February 2014 Report of the Legislature

The Governance Commission of Liberia with funding from OSIWA researches and provides information to the Liberian Public on Standing Committees and Plenary Proceedings of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia for transparency and accountability purposes. Due to the limited number of researchers, only a select number of committees are monitored.

The following summary table provides information on the number of times the Senate and the House of Representatives used the Electronic Voting System to Vote on Bills and the number of closed and opened sessions held in the respective Chambers.

	House of Representatives	Senate
Opened sessions	6	3
Closed sessions	2	5
Use of electronic voting system for accountability and transparency of vote	0	0

- 1) The project recorded no use of the voting machines to vote on Bills in both Houses.
- 2) The project record shows that the House of Representatives met in plenary eight times during the month of February. During these sittings, the House of Representatives recessed two times for closed-door sessions. The Senate met in plenary eight times. During these sittings, the Senate recessed five times to conduct business behind closed doors.

Kindly note that the LEMTAIL Project information is also placed on the GC website (www.goodgovernance.org.lr) and on bulletin boards in the following places:

The Capitol Building, Monrovia, Montserrado County, District #1 (Todee), District #17 (Cheesmanburg), Bong County, District #3 (Gbarnga, Administrative Building).

For more information on LEMTAIL Project, contact gcnationalintegrity@gmail.com or +231886425451

Committees' Meetings for the Month of February

House of Representatives

Governance Committee

Chairman: Rep. Acarous M. Gray

Number of meetings: 4

Closed to public, no record of issues discussed.

Labor Committee

Chairman: Rep. Christian Chea

Number of meetings: 1

Closed to public, no record of issues discussed.

Senate

Education Committee:

Chairman: Sen. Dallas A.V. Gueh

Number of meetings: 1

Closed to public, no record of issues discussed.

Lands, Mines & Energy Committee

Chairman: Sen. Cletus S. Wortorson

Number of meetings: 1

Public Hearing on LEC supply of electricity to the entire country.

Youth & Sports Committee

Chairman: Sen. Johnathan Banney

Number of meetings: No record of meeting.

Labor Committee

Chairman: Sen. Matthew Jaye

Number of meetings: No record of meeting.

Legislative Activities in the area of **Government and Administration** for Feb. 2014

Date	Issues	Law maker/Committee Presenting issue	Legislative Action
Feb 4, 2014	Communication from United People`s Party (UPP) conveying the Party`s support to the House of Representatives for its decision to allocate 73 million USD for direct district development.	House of Representatives Leadership.	House Plenary mandated the Chief Clerk to communicate with the (UPP) that Plenary received the party`s communication. Without exhausting the agenda, Plenary went into Executive/secret session and did not open to the public for further deliberation.
	Communication calling for intervention between workers of Liberia Domestic Airport Agency (LDDA) and management.	Rep. Munah E. Pelham Youngblood, Montserrado County, District#9.	House Plenary forwarded the communication to the Committees on Transport, Judiciary, Claims and Petition to report to Plenary within three weeks.
Feb 6, 2014	Communication calling for the Government of Liberia to have other employees on par with their counterparts in terms of salary benefits in the work place.	Sen. George Tengbeh, Lofa County and JSB Theodore Momo, Gbarpolu County.	Senate Plenary forwarded the communication to the Committee on Ways, Means, and Finance to report to Plenary within two weeks.
	1. The delay of printing and distribution of the 2013/2014	Sen. Dallas AV Gueh, River Cess	Senate Plenary forwarded the communication to the committees on

	<p>National Budget</p> <p>2. Issues of lack of Security, poor maintenance of bathrooms, no internet service, and lack of electricity at the Senate.</p>	County	Ways, Means, and Finance, and Rules, Order and Administration (no reporting period was stated).
	Committee report on Banking and Currency concerning monetary policy as it relates to the Central Bank of Liberia.	Sen. Isaac W. Nyenabo, Chairman Banking and Currency Grand Gedeh County	Senate Plenary noted the committee's work and mandated that action be taken in Executive session.
	Report on the confirmation hearing for Hon. Angelique Weeks, Chairperson Liberia Telecommunication Authority (LTA), Hon. Harry T. Yuan, Hon. Henrique Benson and Hon. Bayogar A. McCritty Sr, Members Designated.	Committee on Post and Telecommunication.	Senate Plenary received the communication and mandated that action be taken in Executive session.
	Firestone refused to do business with Small Rubber Farm Holders of Liberia based on Executive Order of President Sirleaf	Rep. Adam B. Corneh, Bong County, District#6.	House Plenary set up a Special Committee to probe into the issue and report within one week.
Feb 18, 2014	Enquiry on why a Nigerian, Ujah Bebe is still serving as Chief Pharmacist at John F. Kennedy Medical Center (JFK) when his contract expired in January 2014.	Sen. George Tengbeh, Lofa County.	Senate Plenary deferred discussion to the next sitting due to the absence of the Chairman of the Committee on Health, Sen. Peter Coleman.

Feb 20, 2014	Failure of Committees to submit report on several bills in Committees room on time.	Rep. Hans Barchue, Deputy Speaker, Grand Bassa County, District#1.	House Plenary mandated that the relevant Committees submit their reports on bills within one week.
	Report from the Committee on Rules Order and Administration on the last quarter of the Committee's work.	Sen. Lahai G. Lassana, Bomi County.	Senate Plenary deferred the Committee's report to its next sitting, Tuesday Feb.25, 2014 Plenary went into executive/secret session.
			The Committee did not report to Plenary on Tuesday Feb.25, 2014.
Feb 25, 2014	Request to Place moratorium on the creation of Agencies and Public Corporation in Government.	Rep. Bhofal Chambers, Maryland County, District#2.	House Plenary forwarded the communication to the Committee on Good Governance. No reporting period was specified.
	Request to invite Internal Affairs Minister for allegedly repealing an act passed by the National Legislature.	Rep. George S. Mulbah, Bong County, District#3.	House Plenary forwarded the communication to the Committee on Internal Affairs and Ways, Means and Finance to report within one week.
Feb 25, 2014	Discussion on the proposed Amendments to the Elections Law.	Sen. Jewel Howard Taylor, Bong County.	Senate plenary received the proposed amendments communication and action was taken in Executive session.
Feb 27, 2014	President Sirleaf travels to the Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Chad	Rep. Blamo Wesseh, Grand Kru County,	House Plenary noted the communication.

	District#2.	
Allege violation of the Liberianization) Policy by some non-resident foreign businesses by selling merchandise reserve only for Liberian businesses.	Rep Emerson V. Kamara, Grand Cape Mount County, District#3.	House Plenary forwarded the communication to its Committees on Commerce, Concession and Investment to report within a week.
The allege use of 9.1million United States Dollars by the National Elections Commission (NEC) for vehicle lease and rental for the Voters' Roll Update(VRU) excise	Rep. James P. Biney, Maryland County, District#1.	House Plenary voted to invite the Board of Commissioners of NEC and the head of the Public Procurement and Concession Commission(PPCC) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to show cause why (NEC) violated the function of the House`s Public Accounts Committee and 2. Whether Public Procurement and Concession law was followed in awarding leases and Contracts.
President Sirleaf`s travels to the Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Chad.	Senator Clarice A. Jah, Margibi County.	Senate Plenary received and noted the President`s communication.
Discussion on Proposed Amendment to Elections Law.	Senator Jewel Howard Taylor,	Senate Plenary discussed the Bill and deferred the rest of the

		Bong County.	discussion to next sitting for a final decision.
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Legislative Activities in the area of **Finance** for Feb. 2014

Date	Issue	Lawmaker/Committee presenting issue	Legislative Action
Feb 6, 2014	Bill for Senate to Concur with HOR to ensure that 73million United States Dollars is allocated in the 2014/2015 National Budget for direct district developments.	Bill forwarded to the Senate Plenary by the House of Representatives for its concurrence.	Senate Plenary forwarded the bill to Committee on Ways, Means and Finance. No reporting period was given.
Feb 13, 2014	Report from Committee on Banking and Currency on an Act to amend Certain Provision of the Act Authorizing the Establishment of the Central Bank of Liberia	Sen. Isaac W. Nyenabo, Grand Gedeh County.	Senate Plenary adopted the report to act upon it in Executive/secret session.

<p>Feb 18, 2014</p>	<p>Concurrence by the Liberian Senate engrossed bill No: 1 entitled, "An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of An Act Authorizing the Establishment of the Central Bank of Liberia." Any member of the board of Commissioners of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) who desires to contest elected Public office must resign three years before the election.</p>	<p>Bill forwarded to the House of Representatives from the Liberian Senate for Concurrence.</p>	<p>House Plenary concurred with the Senate and passed the bill with a vote of thirty seven in favor and seven against.</p>
	<p>Report from the Committee on Ways, Means and Finance on An Act to Provide Fifteen Percent of the National Budget for County development.</p>	<p>Sen. Sumo G. Kupee, Lofa County.</p>	<p>Senate Plenary deferred the report to its next sitting on Thursday Feb 27, 2014 for action. The Committee did not report to Plenary on Feb.27,2014</p>
<p>Feb 25, 2014</p>	<p>Report from the Committee on Ways, Means and Finance on the alleged misappropriation of the General Services Agency (GSA) Budget for 2011/2012.</p>	<p>Sen. Sumo G. Kupee, Lofa County.</p>	<p>Senate Plenary received the report and noted that all other agenda items be discussed in Executive Session.</p>

Legislative Activities in the area of **Health** for Feb. 2014

Date	Issue	Lawmaker/Committee Presenting Issue	Legislative Action
Feb 6, 2014	Communication submitting a bill named Controlled Drug Substances Act.	Sen. Jewel Howard Taylor, Bong County.	Senate Plenary forwarded the bill to the Committees on Health and Judiciary to report within one week.
	Causes of the occurrence of unnecessary deaths at various health Centers around the Country.	Rep. Richmond S. Anderson, Montserrado County, District#12	House Plenary mandated the Committee on Health and Social Welfare to probe the matter and report within one week.
Feb 18 ,2014	Health workers strike action for fifty five United States Dollars reduction in their salaries by the Health Ministry.	Sen. George Tengbeh, Lofa County	Senate Plenary mandated that a special session be held Wednesday Feb.19, 2014 with the ministers of Health and Finance to settle the matter.
	Compliant of bad sanitary condition and low water supply by the Water and Sewer Corporation in West Point.	Sen. Joyce Musu Freeman Sumo, Montserrado County.	Senate Plenary forwarded the communication to the Committee on Health and Social Welfare to investigate and report to Plenary.

			No reporting period was specified.
Feb 20, 2014	The omission of Ganta United Methodist Hospital budget line from the National Budget.	Sen. Thomas Grupee, Nimba County	Senate Plenary forwarded the communication to the Committee on Ways, Means and Finance to report during its next sitting Tuesday Feb.25, 2014. The Committee did not submit its report on Feb.25, 2014 to Plenary.

Legislative Activities in the area of **National Security** for Feb. 2014

Date	Issue	Lawmaker/Committee Presenting issues	
Feb 6, 2014	Police Director Apology to the Senate for taking huge contingent of Police officers on the grounds of the	Committee on National Security.	Senate Plenary received the communication, noted it and went into Executive/secret session.

	Capitol Building in September of 2013.		
Feb 27, 2014	An Act to Create A National Veterans Day.	Sen. Geroge T. Tengbeh, Lofa County.	Senate Plenary forwarded the bill to the committees on Defense and Judiciary.
	Joint Committee on National Security and Judiciary report on low presence of police officers in Lofa County and other parts of the Country.	House joint Committee on National Security and Judiciary.	Plenary voted to turn the report over to House Leadership for action.
Feb 27,2014	Low presence of Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) officers in River Gee County.	Rep. Johnson T. Chea, River Gee County, District# 1.	House Plenary forwarded the communication to the Committee on National Security.

Legislative Activities in the area of **Judiciary** for Feb. 2014

Date	Issue	Lawmaker/Committee Presenting Issues	Legislative Action
Feb 13, 2014	Briefing from the Constitution Review Committee (CRC) on the status of the Committee's work.	House of Representatives Leadership.	House Plenary mandated the Chairperson of the Constitution Review Committee (CRC) Cllr. Gloria M. Scott, to provide a written document to all

			Lawmakers to guide them during the review process.
Feb 18, 2014	Investigative report by the Judiciary Committee on unauthorized spending on Public Relations abroad.	Rep. Gayah Karmo, Bomi County, District#1.	House Plenary endorsed the Committee's request to hold public hearings with other government institutions involved with spending.

Legislative Activities in the area of **Local Government** for Feb. 2014

Date	Issue	Lawmaker/Committee Presenting Issue	Legislative Action
Feb 18, 2014	An Act to Create the Beo Administrative District within Nimba County.	Rep. Garrison Yealue, Nimba County, District #4.	House Plenary forwarded the bill to the Committees on Internal Affairs, Judiciary and Ways, Means, and Finance to report within two weeks.
	An Act to Create Miaplay Township within Zoe-Gbeh Statutory District within Nimba County.	Warlea P. Saywah Dunoh, Nimba County, District#7	House Plenary forwarded the bill to the Committees on Internal Affairs, Judiciary and Ways, Means, and Finance to report within two weeks.
	Report from the Governance and Internal Affairs Committees on	Senator Armah Jallah, Gbarpolu County.	Senate Plenary mandated that Hon. Morris Dukuly apologize

	<p>complaints about deleting the names of chiefs and other local official from government payroll, and a moratorium placed on Gbarpolu County Development Fund by order of Hon. Morris Dukuly, Minister of Internal Affairs.</p>		<p>to the committees on Governance and Internal Affairs and pay LD\$4,999.00 fine.</p>
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Legislative Activities in the Area of **Natural Resources** and **Infrastructure Development** for Feb. 2014

Date	Issue	Lawmaker/Committee Presenting issue	Legislative Action
Feb 25, 2014	<p>Communication from President Sirleaf submitting for ratification a loan Agreement between the Government of Liberia and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development for the Rehabilitation of the Greenville Port.</p>	<p>Rep Wesseh Blamo, Grand Kru County, District#1.</p>	<p>House Plenary forwarded the communication to the committees on Maritime, Public Utility, Judiciary, Concession, Ways, Means, and Finance to report within two weeks.</p>
	<p>Communication to invite the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy, Director of the National Port Authority and National Investment Commission (NIC) Chairma to explain why</p>	<p>Rep. Numene T.H. Bartewa, Grand Kru County, District#2.</p>	<p>House Plenary forwarded the communication to the committees on Energy and Public Utility to report within two weeks.</p>

	Arcelor Mittal Liberia is not living within its scope of limitation in term of land occupy by the Company.		
Feb 27, 2014	Public hearing on the Draft Rural Renewable Energy Act.	Joint Committees on Lands, Mines and Natural Resources and Autonomous Commissions & Agencies.	Senate Joint Committees on Lands, Mines, Natural Resources, and Autonomous Commission, and Agencies return to Committee room. No specific time given for action on the bill.

ANNEX B

**LEGISLATIVE MONITORING FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN LIBERIA
(LEMTAIL)**

Town Hall Meetings
District #1 Bong County and District #2 Grand Kru County



May 4, 2013