



LIBERIA MEDIA FOR DEMOCRATIC INITIATIVES

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Dialoging for Peace, Democracy & Development in Liberia

ZEE---MAANEH-----ZEE---MAANEH (PEACE AND ENJOYMENT)

LMDI / LRA / OSIWA Event...LMDI AND LRA END LATEST SET OF TAX FOCUSED DIALOGUE FORUMS AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE POP QUIZZING COMPEITION AT BUCHANNAN IN GRAND BASSA COUNTY AS THE CATHOLIC ST. PETER'S CLEVERS CAPTURE THE CONVENTIONAL AND ALL GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP OF GRAND BASSA SESSION OF THE LMDI ANUUAL GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZZING COMPETITION....LMDI/THE DIALOGUE/DUCOR DEBATES-ZEE-MAANEH---ZEE-MAANEH (PEACE & ENJOYMENT)...PLEASE VISIT AND VIEW OUR NEW WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE AT www.lmdilib.org AND www.facebook.com/lmdilib.org. PLEASE FOLLOW AND KNOW ALL ABOUT US AND LIBERIA AND ALL THAT WE DO TO SUSTAIN LIBERIA'S POST CONFLICT DEMOCRACY.

BUCHANNAN LIBERIA...Thursday June 7, 2018... The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) and the Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives (LMDI) have ended the last leg of their tour of parts of rural Liberia with the roll out of a combined set of tax focused interactive DIALOGUE forums and General Knowledge Pop Quizzes among high schools in Grand Bassa County.

Under their recently launched Public Education and Enlightenment Road Show, the latest tour of Grand Bassa took a joint team of the LRA and LMDI to Buchanan conducting two DIALOGUE forums and six quizzing games amongst the high schools of Grand Bassa.

First the six quizzing games conducted by the LMDI under the county level qualifying rounds of its National Annual General for the LRA School Tax Education Program (STEP), saw the conventional or central team of the Catholic ST. PETER'S CLEVERS maintaining its superiority and again snatching the championship for the second year running for Grand Bassa County.

The central team of the ST. PETER'S CLEVERS defeated all quizzing teams on its way in the three matches it played to the final and massively beat the W.P.L BRUMSKINE HIGH SCHOOL in the Grand Final 240 points to 115, capturing the championship for the special Tax rounds of the YEAR THREE of the LMDI General Knowledge Annual Quizzing Competition.

However the ST. PETER'S CLEVERS and the WPL BRUMSKINE, the two finalists showed exceptional strength in answering the tax related questions featured during their games.

The ST. PETERS ALL GIRLS team also took the first championship of the Grand Bassa session of the YEAR ONE of the recently launched ALL GIRLS version of the LMDI National General Knowledge Quizzing Competition.

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The ALL GIRLS of ST. PETER'S CLEVERS further proved their convention team's supremacy in academia with an overwhelming win of 335 over their only contenders, the ALL GIRLS team of the Bassa Public High School 105. Hence the ST. PETER'S CLEVERS are in total control of the championship of Grand Bassa County for both the ALL GIRLS and CONVENTIONAL competitions for this academic calendar year 2017/18. The quizzing games and DIALOGUE sessions were for two days, Tuesday and Wednesday.

The latest round of LMDI quizzing games under the county level qualifiers are part of the LRA-LMDI National Tax Public Education and Enlightenment Road Show launched two months ago with sponsorship from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA).

As all the quizzing games on the latest trail are tax focused, GABI AZZAM CATHERINE TUAH, LRA tax education officers are onboard, educating the games and all other gatherings of the LMDI People To People flagship platform, THE DIALOGUE that tax payment is not a matter of choice but a compulsion because taxes are required to run the nation and government.

To this extent AZZAM and TUAH inform their audiences that the government has vigorously launched the collection of REAL ESTATE TAX formerly called HUT TAX and SMALL BUSINESS TAX mainly for owners of land, houses and small businesses.

AZZAM and TUAH on one hand and the people on the other, facilitated by the LMDI moderation team, exchange views on the need for tax payment as their share of contribution toward Liberia's National Budget and general Nation Building. The people ask about why they must pay REAL ESTATE and SMALL BUSINESS TAXES and AZZAM and TUAH respond with explanations that taxes are the surest way of ensuring that progress is realized and sustained for over all National Development efforts.

There are also exchanges on the procedures in paying taxes. On this, GABI AZZAM and CATHERINE TUAH educate the people on the actual and legal ways of paying their taxes. They tell the gatherings that when they pay taxes, they must ask for what he calls the pink looking tax receipts with a silver looking batch in the lower left side and the colored engraved seal of Liberia on the upper right of the flag receipt. Short of the named features, paying taxes on flying sheets would be illegal and unacceptable.

The LRA team advises the people to ask for LRA official letters of assignment from any one claiming to be agents of the LRA.

AZZAM and TUAH also inform the people that taxes are calculated on percentages based on costs and profit or gross margins and not flat rates as the people claim is being done by revenue agents in rural communities.

In further frank exchanges, the people are asking questions ranging from why they must pay taxes and types of land, houses and businesses they should pay for. The forums are largely attended by

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elderly people showing interest in REAL ESTATE TAX discussions and young apparent market men and women showing interest in SMALL BUSINESS TAX conversations.

The LMDI facilitated LRA tax education and visibility campaign was started at Compound Number Two, Garcon District or District No. Two of Grand Bassa County recently followed by its soft launch by LRA Commissioner General ELFRIEDA TAMBA

The LMDI/LRA tax education and visibility campaign is a two month long set of activities supported by the Liberia office of the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA).

Deliberations from all LMDI programs are produced into media contents for weekly broadcast on a partner network of 45 National and Rural Community Electronic Media Outlets (Radio and TV Stations) across Liberia.

You may also follow us at our new website at www.lmdilib.org and also visit our face book page at Liberia Media for Democratic initiatives-LMDI. You can send comments to info@lmdi.org and john@lmdi.org THE DIALOGUE & DUCOR DEBATES at this campaign are generally in association with the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA)..

Signed:



John O. Kollie

DIRECTOR