



## LIBERIA MEDIA FOR DEMOCRATIC INITIATIVES

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*Dialoging for Peace, Democracy & Development in Liberia*

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

**LMDI / WAEC LIBERIA Event...“THE DIALOGUE”...AT THE LATEST EDITION OF THE LMDI “THE DIALOGUE “ WAEC DEMYSTIFIES THE MUCH FEARED WEST AFRICAN SENIOR SCHOOL EXAMINATION (WASSCE) TO HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS MONROVIA, REVEALING ITS BENEFITS FOR LIBERIAN STUDENTS...LMDI/THE DIALOGUE/DUCOR DEBATES-ZEE-MAANNEH---ZEE-MAANNEH (PEACE & ENJOYMENT)...PLEASE VISIT AND VIEW OUR NEW WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE AT [www.lmdilib.org](http://www.lmdilib.org) AND [www.facebook.com/lmdilib.org](http://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.**

**Monrovia Liberia...Monday January 8, 2018**... Hundreds of Liberian secondary or high school pupils across Monrovia, the capital of Liberia and authorities of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) have met at an interactive DIALOGUE forum for potential candidates of the much feared introduction of the West African Senior School Certificate WASSCE by the West African Examinations Council aimed at demystifying WASSCE, the fear surrounding its administration in Liberia.

The forum under “THE DIALOGUE” of the media and community outreach blended People To People flagship platform of the Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives (LMDI), sequel to the first held at the Tubmanburg regional Headquarters of the West African Examinations Council, heard the explanation of the administrative and beneficial details of the introduction of WASSCE to Liberian senior High schools.

DALE GBOTOE, the head of the Liberian National Office of the West African told at least 2000 high school students from across Monrovia that Liberia has long eluded WASSCE for fear of lack of preparation, but it was now time that Liberia got on pile with other WAEC member countries of the West African English speaking region to allow the introduction and administration of WASSCE, because DALE WAEC Liberia Head of National Office (HNO) says doing so will give Liberian high school graduates the equal status with all other nations of the World.

“Liberian students, parents teachers, school owners , administrators and even the Liberian government have all feared and resisted this simple but great testing procedure for Liberian schools, both public and private, claiming that the schools are not prepared for the introduction of the WASSCE and this is shameful”, said DALE GBOTOE. at the jammed packed forum under the LMDI “THE DIALOGUE” forum.

GBOTOE said WASSCE was introduced in 1998 decades after Liberia became a member of the West African Examinations Council in 1974, as a form of harmonizing the knowledge test examinations that are conducted in West Africa to enable standardization for all students in West Africa.

Allaying the fears of the thousands of students at the forum, GBOTOE said there is no cause to fear the WASSCE as all subjects under the Examination are universal subjects that are taught in line with prescribed curricula of member nations of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC).

Earlier in a recording played for the information of the hundreds of students in the audience, a WAEC regional testing staff, Mrs. Comfort Argwu told the students that WASSCE is far accommodating to the desire of students than the Liberian High School Certificate regime which Liberian schools have been taking. She explained that under

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WASSCE a passage in even one subject would still produce a certificate for a candidate as opposed to the Liberia High School Certificate regime which requires passage in all subjects for any certificate.

Mrs. Argwu told the students Liberia will take what she calls the altered version of WASSCE in consideration of Liberia's unpreparedness for the hardcore laboratory based testing experienced in other member countries until at a time Liberia shows that it's ready for the full fledged one, but hat Liberia cannot be allowed to endlessly stay out of the required education order of the WAEC established norms.

Mrs. Felicia Doe Somah, the Liberian Government deputy minister in charge of early education told the gathering that Liberian students are largely doing well compared to colleagues of other nations and thereis no cause for fearing WASSCE, narrating that examinations malpractices reported in other countries in the region are not compared to Liberia. Somah said practices such as in impersonation and double crossing are unheard of in Liberia, making Liberia a better case in the region. She urged the students to be encouraged by that and to forge ahead with taking the test when introduced in March this year.

The WASSCE sensitive forum sat at the Monrovia Christian Fellowship Center at 9<sup>th</sup> Street Sinkor near the Headquarters of the National Elections Commission (NEC) recently and brought face thousands of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, as immediate and subsequent candidates and school administrators and teachers one hand and WAEC Liberia authorities and the Liberian government on the other. They discussed the introduction and administration of WASSCE and its benefits for Liberian high school pupils.

At the first forum at Tubmanburg Bomi County, preceding the Monrovia one, a virtual whole day of hard and frank discussions at an agreed trial version of THE DIALOGUE for possible partnership between the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) and the Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives (LMDI) for urgently needed national public education on the introduction of WASSSCE hundreds of students teachers, parents and WAEC talked about Liberia's unpreparedness, but the urgent necessity to join the WASSCE exercise. .

As ever the deliberations from this forum and the series in coming weeks and months will be broadcast on our partner network 45 National and Rural Community Radios around Liberia.

Please also follow us at our new website at [www.lmdilib.org](http://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](mailto:info@lmdi.org) and [john@lmdi.org](mailto:john@lmdi.org) THE DIALOGUE & DUCOR DEBATES at this time are generally in association with the WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL (WAEC) across Liberia.

Signed:



John O. Kollie

DIRECTOR