

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

LMDI / LRA / OSIWA Event...LMDI AND LRA CONDUCT LATEST SET OF TAX FOCUSED DIALOGUE FORUMS AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE POP QUIZZING COMPEITION AT BUCHANNAN In GRAND BASSA COUNTY AS PART OF THE LAST TOUR OF RURAL COMMUNITIES UNDER AN OSIWA SPONSORED PILOT VIGOROUS TAX EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT ROAD SHOW FOR RURAL DWELLERS....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/lmdilib.org](http://www.facebook/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...Tuesday June 5, 2018... The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) and the Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives (LMDI) have embarked on 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 is taking a joint team of the LRA and LMDI to Compound one and Buchanan and will see the conduct of two DIALOGUE forums and six quizzing games amongst the high schools of Grand Bassa.

The Grand Bassa tour by the LRA and LMDI Road Show team is the last of many tours of the countryside of Liberia in the last two months. The tax education and enlightenment campaign tour has taken a joint team of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) and the Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives (LMDI) to cities, towns and villages in Bong, Grand Bassa, Margibi Grand Gedeh and Nimba Counties.

First the tour began at COMPOUND No. 2 in Grand Bassa County, moved on to SACLEPEA in Nimba County and descended to Monrovia via GANTA, NEGBEIN, PALALA GBARTALA and TOTOTA, all tax paying sensitive settings in rural Liberia. The tour then resumed two weeks ago taking on Lower Nimba specifically Tapitta and then moved to Zwedru in Grand Gedeh County. This Grand Bassa tour is a completion of Grand Bassa in particular and the countryside in general.

Once completed, Montserrdao will be next, finishing up the entire first and pilot phase of the LRA-LMDI Rural Public Education and Enlightenment Road Show sponsored by the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA).

On the tax education trail, GABI AZZAM CATHERINE TUAH, LRA tax education officers are telling various gatherings of people under the LMDI People To People flagship platform, THE DIALOGUE that tax payment is not a matter of choice but a compulsion as 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 overall 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 informed 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 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](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 campaign are generally in association with the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA)..

Signed:

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DIRECTOR