



**LIBERIA MEDIA FOR DEMOCRATIC INITIATIVES**

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*Dialoging for Peace, Democracy & Development in Liberia*

## LMDI POP QUIZZING PRESS RELEASE

**LMDI/UMOVEMENT Event...THE LMDI AND UMOVEMENT LAUNCH ALL FEMALES OR GIRLS VERSION OF ANNUAL NATIONAL GENERAL KNOWLEDGE POP QUIZZING COMPETITION, THE FIRST EVER OF ITS KIND IN LIBERIA AS VETERAN CATHOLIC EDUCATOR MARY LAUREN BROWN REJECTS LONG HELD NOTION THAT FEMALES ARE SLOWER AND LESS LEARNERS THAN THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS. SAYS ONLY AGE OLD PUSH FOR MALES OVER FEMALES HAS MARGINALIZED WOMEN IN LIFE IMPROVEMENT...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.**

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

Monrovia Liberia...Wednesday March 28, 2018...The Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives, the organizer of Liberia's first ever National all year round General Knowledge Pop Quizzing named and styled the National Academic Challenge Competition (NACC) in partnership with the Youth Movement for Collective Action (UMOVEMENT) has launched the FEMALE or ALL GIRLS version of the competition, 2018, the first of its kind in Liberia.

Launched on Monday March 26, 2018, the ALL GIRLS version of the Annual National General Knowledge Quizzing Competition aims to build the self confidence in conventional academic competitions that are targeted at igniting excellence in Liberia's problematic education dubbed messy by former president ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF just before her transition to current President, GEORGE MANNEH WEAH.

The launch on Monday was performed by Veteran Liberian Catholic Educator, SISTER MARY LAUREN BROWNE and graced by new Deputy Minister for Administer LATIM DA-THONG.

SISTER LAUREN BROWNE commended the LMDI for its general work through academic competitions in the country and particularly praised the launch of the ALL GIRLS version as a required and welcomed initiative that will help stimulate girls' interest in academic excellence based competitions, but encouraged the LMDI and its partner, the UMOVEMENT to also insist on the inclusion of girls on the conventional teams quizzing teams in the annual General Knowledge quizzing exercise.

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SISTER LAUREN said doing so would build the girls' competitive spirit even faster. She called on girls and women in general to come upfront so as to defeat what she described the myth that boys are better and faster learners than girls. LAUREEN said the situation with girls and boys in achievements was a result of a long time support for male improvement over female.

She argued there is and has never been any established research data anywhere that females are slower or weaker learners than males. “ Until that is proven, if it will, females must be given equal opportunities to explore their potentials which I believe are equally great, when tapped into as has been done in the case of the males for generations.” SISTER LAUREEN contended.

SISTER LAUREEN'S argument was buttressed by Deputy Minister LATIM DA-THONG who even went further to analyze that the thought of males over female and the male support for generations are largely African and must be discouraged to explore the potentials of women, noting that all women given great responsibilities in human history have proved capable and delivered to their fullest potentials.

DA-THONG as a part of the new education ministry team of leaders announced that they are in general support of extra curricular activities especially academic ones such as the general knowledge pop quizzing and Spelling-B being done annually on a national level by the LMDI now joined by its newest partner the, the Youth Movement for Collective Action (UMOVEMENT).

Earlier, LMDI Founder and Director JOHN KOLLIE told the AAL GIRLS QUIZZING launch witnessed by hundreds of school children that they have been forced to do the all girls version of the national quizzing competition, because of the desire to create a gender balance in igniting a spirit of academic competition and excellence amongst Liberian High School pupils.

Kollie says in the two years of the competition, his organization has seen less than 10 percent female participants and as such with the female version, the confidence of girls will be built for greater participation in academic competition and by extension enable the required excellence which now eludes the Liberian education system.

During Monday's launch of the female quizzing competition, three all girls quizzing games were played in honour of the launch alongside a special all girls edition of the LMDI debate style forum, “DUCOR DEBATES”

The all girls special DUCOR DEBATES edition featured the topic, “ ***WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT TO CLEAN A CITY OR TOWN, THE PEOPLE OR THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT...IF THE PEOPLE WHY AND HOW, AND IF THE MUNICIPAL GIVERNMENT, WHY AND HOW.***”

Details of all the games and the debate will be brought to you in subsequent press releases.

**BACKGROUND TO THE LMDI NATIONAL ACADEMIC CHALLENGE (QUIZZING) COMPETITION (NACC)**

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On May 12, 2015, the Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives, LMDI and partners, the Liberia Ghana Missions (L-GM) and the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI), launched the first ever all inclusive National General Knowledge Pop quizzing exercise with the aim to ignite the spirit of academic competition and by extension, excellence in the education sector for Liberian Children.

We rolled out YEAR ONE in 2015 for the first time in Liberia touring all 15 counties of Liberia, conducting the county level qualifiers. We the LMDI also completed the regional and National qualifications that led to the first GRAND FINAL on June 18, 2016 that saw MARGIBI COUNTY as the GRAND WINNER of YEAR ONE. We launched YEAR TWO of our rather ambitious annual activity on Wednesday October 19, 2016 at KAKATA CITY Margibi County.

### **WHAT IS THE NATIONAL ACADEMIC CHALLENGE COMPETITION (NACC)**

Named and styled the NATIONAL ACADEMIC CHALLENGE COMPETITION (NACC), we conduct weekly knowledge QUIZZING and SPELLING games for Liberian Primary and High schools under our Child and Youth Sensitive media and community outreach flagship platform, 'TOMORROW'S PEOPLE'. The games are uniquely broadcast weekly on our partner network of 45 National and Rural Community Radios across the nation.

The National Academic Challenge Competition is attempting to revitalize and reawaken the spirit of academic competition and excellence in our various schools through nationwide competitions with the participation of each county represented by a county team in the various activities ranging from, Quizzing to Essay Writing. The program aims to boost the academic morale and enthusiasm of students, as well as help improve their performances in public examinations and other academic works.

### **Overall Goal**

The overall goal of the program is to promote greater respect for knowledge, better learning standards and promote academic excellence through inter-school academic competition and increase academic performance in Liberia's annual calendars and beyond. This is an all year round annual event.

### **Specific objectives:**

- a. Test Students' accumulation and retention of knowledge in a real life situation.
- b. Encourage independent study and academic excellence
- c. Recognize and appreciate non-traditional venues for the competition
- d. Build self-esteem and school pride
- e. Empower students with a new understanding of what has been, what is now, and what can be
- f. Provide opportunities for faculty, students, parents and the community to work together.

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Meanwhile, the LMDI continues its appeal for financial and material support to enable it continue the national quizzing competition to ignite the lost competitive academic spirit among Liberian high School students for academic excellence.

LMDI Director John Kollie says his organization is grateful to the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment, LBDI for its initial partnership of partial funding in 2015 and Liberia Ghana Missions for its continuous provision of financial aids for good performing students in the competition. John Kollie however notes that the only direct financial support from the LBDI stopped in 2015 and the organization is finding it difficult to roll out the annual academic competition.

John Kollie says the LMDI needs of thousands of U.S. dollars annually to roll out the competition involving all 15 counties of Liberia and the LMDI would be further gratified to get generous donor support for this work aimed at improving the education sector.

Meanwhile, the broadcast of the games continues weekly on the LMDI partner network of radio and TV stations across Liberia and on our website at [www.lmdilr.org](http://www.lmdilr.org) and our face book page at Liberia Media for Democratic initiatives (LMDI)2. You can send comments to [info@lmdilr.org](mailto:info@lmdilr.org), [thedialogue.lmdi@lmdilr.org](mailto:thedialogue.lmdi@lmdilr.org) and [john@lmdilr.org](mailto:john@lmdilr.org) and [john@lmdi.org](mailto:john@lmdi.org)

Signed:



John O. Kollie

DIRECTOR