



# SYNERGY

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## Vice President Joseph Boakai Moderates GC's Anti-Corruption Roundtable

Vice President Joseph Boakai recently moderated a high level Assessment Roundtable on Liberia's Anti-Corruption Strategy organized by the Governance Commission. The



Roundtable was to help provide a forum for public discussion on promoting integrity rather than merely fighting corruption in Liberia. Integrity is seen as cardinal in moving Liberia forward. The Roundtable was held at the local Bella Casa hotel in Sinkor on May 27, 2015.

VP Boakai moderates Anti Corruption Forum

In special remarks at the program, VP Boakai, among other things, emphasized the need for continuous improvement in reporting integrity issues in Liberia. VP Boakai mentioned the tendency of some audit reports published in local dailies to condemn the character of people even before the accused has the chance to review or submit their reaction to the report. He noted the need to respect the characters and rights of others and allow what he called “due process” to take its course. The Vice President urged every Liberian to see him or herself as agents of change.

In opening remarks, **Dr. Amos Sawyer, Chairman of the Governance Commission (GC)** highlighted efforts made by the Commission in the establishment of integrity institutions to address the issue of corruption in Liberia. Dr. Sawyer recalled that GC was given the task of formulating a national strategy and national policy action plan to assist in the fight against corruption, and build integrity. The Commission then mapped out the landscape with a four year strategic plan.



*“So we brought that mission to the strategic plan to its own assessment and that is how we got the support that we are very grateful for from the African Development Bank, ADB, to do an assessment of that plan, to look now at the enormous progress that have been made by the various agencies that are in this fight against corruption and perhaps, along with them, to see where there may be some gaps that need to be filled. Where we can strengthen the coordination dilemma and, as they say, “get the biggest bang for our buck,” that we can really spend our money wisely, and where there is a resource crunch, we can together join with the agencies, whether it is the LACC or the GAC to go out there and see how we can assist in raising the resources.”*

Though time has caught up with the anti-corruption strategic plan's deadline for implementation, significant progress has already been made, and much of what GC sought to accomplish had been accomplished, as far as setting up institutions are concern. The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, LACC, is up and running, a number of other agencies and

processes are underway, some Bills have been passed and the Code of Conduct has eventually been printed into handbills.

Because this strategy has been over taken by the successes of the various entities that are in the integrity business, GC thought it would be important first to see what has been accomplished and what kinds of gaps exists, being fully cognizant of the plans and the progress being made by the various integrity institutions. These institutions have put into place those things that address concerns pertaining to prevailing situations that need policy change and/or adjustments.

According to Dr. Sawyer, *“there have been all kinds of statistics showing how much we lose in our development agenda if at all we can just curve out little excesses here and there.”*

Dr. Sawyer reminded the public that GC’s role is to assist and ensure that there is effectiveness as the result of good coordination, removing overlaps where such overlaps might not be necessary, and to ensure that government benefits from the economies of skills.

Dr. Margaret Kilo, head of the African Development Bank Liberia Office, pointed out the need for government to shame those found guilty of corruption most especially those found in Liberia’s education sector. Dr. Kilo wants it known that not only is corruption shameful but that it is wrong. Her comments are against the backdrop that in Liberia public officials and others in leadership positions are usually admired after acquiring ill-gotten wealth, while those opting for integrity are described as fools.

Dr. Kilo urged government to pay particular attention to payroll padding and ghost names on government’s payroll, particular that of the Education Ministry. She urged government to involve the religious community in the national fight against corruption.



Cross session of participants

The Roundtable was graced by members of the Legislature, the religious community, public and private sectors, the Press Union of Liberia, local and international partners. For her part, Bong County Senator Jewel Howard Taylor wants those found guilty of corruption to be shamed

instead of hailed, described as smart or seen as heroes. She believes shaming those found guilty of corruption will serve as a deterrent for such acts, change mind set, and send a signal depicting zero tolerance for Liberia’s number one public enemy – corruption. It can be recalled that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has on numerous occasions described corruption as Liberia’s number one public enemy, declaring it “a vampire to national development”.

Press Union President Kamara A. Kamara wants government to take more drastic actions to curb corruption in Liberia. Mr. Kamara supports shaming corrupt public officials, strengthening of Courts to prosecute them, speedy trials, and sack corrupt court workers and other civil servants that receive or demand bribes.

Also speaking at the Anti-Corruption Roundtable was LACC Chair James Verdier. He wants the fight against corruption to be a national effort. Cllr. Verdier emphasized the need for all government Integrity institutions to work together and ensure that appropriate policies and legal regiments are put in place in order to win the fight against corruption. For her part, Chair of the Constitution Review Committee, Cllr. Gloria Scott observed that corruption has tainted the image of public officials in Liberia thereby creating distrust in government. Cllr. Scott noted that corruption is so endemic within the Liberian society and will need national collaboration, cooperation and a well-coordinated approach/strategy to ably address the issue.

The fight against corruption in Liberia needs well defined procedures including public awareness programs, address cultural expectations that support or justify corruption, nepotism and other issues that becloud integrity of institutions of government.

### **REACHING THE MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRY GOAL: THE HUMAN CAPACITY ISSUES**

The Governance Commission, In collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the National Commission on Higher Education (NCHE), held a Policy Dialogue and launch of its study on *“Reaching the Middle Income Country Goal: The Human Capacity Issues”*. The dialogue was held at the Bella Casa Hotel and Suites on 8 April 2015.



Dr. Togar McIntosh Moderates the Middle Income Dialogue

Vice President of ECOWAS (the Economic Community of West African States) and former Planning & Economic Affairs Minister, Dr. Togar McIntosh, moderated the discussions. The panellists included Dr. Emmett Dennis, President of the University of Liberia; Neto Zarzar Lighe, Minister of Labour; Dr. Marcus Slawon, Chairman of the National Commission on Higher Education; Anthony Nimely, Deputy Minister of Education; and Julia Duncan-Cassell, Minister of Gender, Children Protection and Development.

Numerous international reports, over the recent years, have put Liberia among the five most under-developed countries in the world. To counter these analyses, and assure economic empowerment of its people, Liberia, through the Governance Commission and collaborating partners, initiated a study to determine factors responsible for the present state of affairs in the country, and strategies needed to fulfil government’s efforts at reaching its middle income country goal.

The study recently launched named several factors responsible for Liberia's current state of underdevelopment, key among them is the weak and under-funded education sector which the report zoomed in on. The study also named some education related issues as major contributing factors that are capable of equally posing challenges to Liberia's efforts at reaching the middle income goal:

1. Poor/weak education system;
2. Limited access to quality education in leeward counties;
3. Lack of mechanisms needed to produce a trained workforce;
4. Minimal percentage of "Education graduates".
5. Policymakers reluctant to address gaps in education sector;
6. Tertiary education needs to be well-structured.



Cross session of participants

Therefore achieving Liberia's national vision 2030 - "*Reaching the Middle Income Country Goal: The Human Capacity Issues*" is more of a dream than reality if nothing is significantly done to reverse the present education and economic quagmire.

The National Vision 2030 and the Agenda for Transformation served as the backdrop against which the study on the human resource implications of Liberia's middle income vision was initiated. The theme running throughout Liberia's Agenda for Transformation is "*education must play a crucial role in the creation of Liberia's new workforce if the country is to achieve its desired goal of a middle income nation by 2030*", a view that is re-enforced by UNESCO's post-2015 paper which states that "**Education should not be understood as one development goal among many, but as the paramount goal**".



In opening remarks, **Commissioner Othello Gongar**, head of the Governance Commission's Monitoring, Evaluation, Research & Publications (MERP) Mandate Area noted that the study on human resource implications for Liberia's middle income aspirations, the Policy Dialogue, the National Vision 2030, and the Agenda for Transformation all stress the fundamental role that education plays in the transformation and development process. Dr. Gongar added that with regards to workforce requirements and access to education, **the Liberian education system was found to be wanting and yet to put into place the necessary mechanisms to produce the workforce needed for a middle income nation.**

For his part, **Senator Dallas Gweh, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education**, agreed that education plays a critical role in the drive to achieving middle income country status but emphasized that access to education is even more important. Senator Gweh urged Government to go a step further in making education a national security issue. He assured of legislative support for budgetary request that will enable education play a catalyst role in propelling the middle income country goal.



**Representative Matthew Zarzar heads the House Committee on Education.**



He spoke of the need for collaboration between the Executive and Legislative branches of Government, especially in ensuring that education gets the required funding for effective impact of this national priority – *“Liberia reaching its middle income country goal by 2030”*.

Representative Zarzar warned that the Legislature could make adequate appropriations to the education sector but that the Executive Branch may choose not to use the funding appropriated in which case the Executive Branch could find itself in violation of Article 6 of the Liberian Constitution.

The Governance Commission desk study report on achieving the middle income country goal: the human capacity implications focused on three areas: workforce requirements, education sector needs, and gender imbalance in access to education.

MERP’s program Manager Matthew Kollie emphasized that the output of Liberia’s education system was not in sync with the requirements of an economy on the way to achieving middle income status. He said *“the study found out that graduates in only three disciplines – sociology, management, and accountancy represented more than half of all graduates, those graduating in engineering were only 1% of all graduates, and that only 4% of all graduates majored in Agriculture, the nerve-centre of any developing country”*.

The research also showed a continuous decline in the number of graduates in Agriculture over the years. According to the report, in 2011, graduates in Agriculture were 4.61% of all graduates, 2012 recorded 4.37%, and statistics now indicate that agriculture graduates are currently hovering around 4% of all graduates. Worse still, those graduating in Education accounted for only 3% of all graduates.

A critical issue noted in the report is *“gender imbalance in access to education”*. There is now a consensus among development specialists about the pivotal role women play in economic development. Yet in Liberia, women accounted for only a third of all graduates between 2009 and 2013.

A further breakdown of those graduating within that period indicated that women account for just 4% of engineering graduates, 11% of agriculture graduates and not a single female

graduate in wood technology, physics, mining engineering, history and development studies. Women however accounted for 53% of science graduates because of the female bias towards the nursing profession. On the other hand, males accounted for 90% of all the graduates in civil engineering, electrical engineering, agronomy, geography, and political science.

The study indicates that policymakers did not prioritize these education gaps nor show any willingness to address them, as evidenced by their policy decisions. Foreign scholarships awarded by ministries, agencies and commissions (MACs) fell sharply from \$888,834 in the 2009/10 budget to a mere \$40,000 in the 2013/2014 budget, while the local scholarship budget for MACs dwindled from \$991,955.00 in the 2009/10 budget to \$266,280.00 in 2013/14. Of all the scholarships, 79% went to males and 21% to females, another indication of gender bias in access to education.



L-R Julia Duncan-Cassell, Dr. Michael Slawon, Dr. Emmet Dennis, Dr. Togar McIntosh, Neto Zarzar Lige, Anthony Nimely

#### **Panellists Presentation Highlight:**

Deputy Education Minister **Anthony Nimely** noted Government’s “free education” policy as the culprit for the poor quality of education nationwide, adding “this policy contributed to creating sub-standard schools”. However, efforts are now being made to reverse and revive Liberia’s education sector through initiating new policies and activities focused on “ensuring quality education”.

University of Liberia President **Dr. Emmet Dennis** said though there is “light at the end of the tunnel”, it was taking too long to get there. He noted that a number of reforms have contributed to an increase in university enrolment since 2009, aimed at “uplifting, strengthening, and enhancing of the university’s learning process, its profile and credibility levels.”

Minister of Labour **Neto Zarzar Lige**, Labour called for the speedy finalization of on-going efforts to conduct a comprehensive manpower survey to address the magnitude, components, and structure of the mismatch between human resource and demand in Liberia, after which tertiary institutions can then be called upon to deliver the necessary skills and knowledge for the job market.

Minister Lige stressed the importance of adequately preparing the capacities of tertiary institutions to produce the required manpower to fill the gap, the effective partnership between concessions and the private sector in the human capital formation process, and additional technical and vocational education for high school goers and school drop-outs tailored to the needs of the economy.

For his part, Chairman of the National Commission on Higher Education, **Dr. Michael Slawon** stressed the need for an acceptable “student-faculty ratio” in higher education institutions in Liberia. He said the ratio in Liberia was well below the internationally accepted ratio. Dr. Slawon argued that for quality and sustainability, every effort should be made to improve this ratio considerably. He recommended that the Liberian higher education system should not be built from outside, particularly if Liberia is to achieve the vision of reaching the middle income status by 2030.

Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, **Julia Duncan-Cassell** emphasized the need for sustained programs to address the gender imbalance in access to education. She recommended that policy makers and all other stakeholders be constantly reminded of the imbalance in the participatory rates between boys and girls in the education system. According to Minister Duncan-Cassell, “*women empowerment was an integral part of the development agenda and should be prioritized*”. As part of the strategy to closing the gap, the Minister called for urgent action to deal with those social, cultural and traditional norms that have constrained the growth of girl’s education and employment. She disclosed that targeted interventions, including scholarships and girl-focus programs, were now underway to address the situation, and called for greater collaboration to assure success.

The Study came up with a number of recommendations to address Liberia reaching the middle income country goal by 2030. These include:

- That budgeting for the education sector be made judiciously, bearing in mind an imperative to take education to the people within the national decentralization scheme;
- That Liberia puts in place a proper primary and secondary school system, and that Science, Engineering and technology are factored into the planning process;
- Make the College of Science & Technology tuition-free for females;
- That the NCHE implement the Higher Education Strategic Plan;
- That the Ministry of Education commence an annual National Science Fair and a National Career-week;
- That scholarships be provided for female secondary school students desirous of becoming teachers or pursuing disciplines consistent with the workforce requirements;
- Academic and needs-based scholarships be given to young mothers, female school drop-outs, females with special needs, or females from low-income communities;
- Improve working conditions, salaries, and image of female educators, health professionals, and those working in agriculture, forestry and the industrial sectors.

## **GC holds Policy Dialogue on “Mainstreaming Transparency and Accountability”**

The Governance Commission on Tuesday April 28, 2015 held a one day Policy Dialogue on “Mainstreaming Transparency and Accountability in the Deconcentration Framework”. The Dialogue was held in the James Fromoyan Conference room of the National Elections Commission, (NEC) in Sinkor.

The objectives of the deconcentration framework include:

- a. To provide citizens with immediate quality services;
- b. That the process embraces mechanisms that do not require long and elaborate processes of legal and political reforms; and
- c. That service such as banks, salaries, marriage certificates, licensing, insurance and driver permits are provided without having to travel to Monrovia.

Governance Commission's policy dialogue provided space for open, frank and fruitful discussions among stakeholders on the deconcentration framework. The dialogue, among other things, recommended an inclusive approach that assures transparency and accountability, and better collaboration, cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders in the deconcentration framework. The Policy Dialogue featured three panellists: Yusador Saadatu Gaye, the first female Auditor General (AG) of Liberia; Alexander Cuffey, Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of Liberia; and Paul Collins, Director General of Liberia's Internal Audit Agency (IAA).



Hightable: L-R Paul Collins-IAA, Yusador Saadatu Gaye- AG, Alexander Cuffey- FIU, Dr. Kpangbala Sengbe\_ GC

Panellists noted that to achieve a successful deconcentration process, government will need to provide skill training to improve human capacity in rural Liberia, assure of an effective auditing system that considers putting in place the right controls and accounting systems before funds are disbursed to the counties.

### **The way forward:**

#### **Panelist Yusador Saadatu Gaye recommended that:**

There must be annual audits to ensure that the system works while rules must be written and monitoring mechanisms functional to serve check and balance government's activities and determine the whether the system is functioning as expected; that it is imperative that those trained to work the system must be held accountable when they bridge written rules. Punishment should be meted out to those who violate the law.

#### **Paul Collins**

According to Mr. Collins, the Economic growth and national development can only be made possible if the internal auditing structure is incorporated into a deconcentration framework designed to curtail waste and abuse; In other words, that the IAA be mandated to serve at every stage of the deconcentration strategic and operational levels. He said in the deconcentration structure, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission should be mandated to investigate and prosecute suspected cases of corruption and that more courts are established and lawyers hired to hear and prosecute cases, and more prisons built and equipped to accommodate convicted felons.

## **Yusador S. Gaye**

Insuring transparency, accountability and a successful implementation of national policies at the local level requires capacity. The national government has capacity problems which is likely to filter down to the local level and considerably impact the output of personnel who administer the Service Centers and people in charge of documentation. A look at most of our audits reveals that documentation is often poor in the auditing process thereby making it tedious and requiring months to complete instead of a couple of weeks.

She noted that the system must also consider the right controls and accounting systems before funds are disbursed to the counties. She recommended annual audits to ensure that the system works while rules must be written and careful monitoring done to know whether the system is functioning.

*“It is imperative that those trained to work the system must be held accountable when they fail to perform or bridge written rules. In short, there must be consequences for violators in terms of punishment. Further, the deconcentration framework must consider the bonding of fiscal officers, those who handle money, in order to mitigate loss to government and transfer risks of corruption to insurance companies.”*

## **Alexander Cuffy**

For his part, Mr. Cuffey noted that in setting up service centers, there must be systems for recording and reporting suspicious financial activities. He said criminal prosecutions must provide for the freezing of assets and their subsequent disposal upon conviction. He warned that deconcentration requires proper planning for successful implementation. Mr. Cuffey questioned the deconcentration framework in terms of systems of accountability, transparency, monitoring and evaluation. He noted that there needs to be a lot of funding for mainstreaming accountability into deconcentration architecture in order to put in place systems and train personnel to manage service centers in a manner that mitigates waste and corruption.

## **GC HOLDS WORKSHOP ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Governance Commission on May 28, 2015, conducted a one-day workshop on the National Code of Conduct for local county officials in Tubmanburg, Bomi County to create awareness and its implementation throughout Liberia. The Code of Conduct, among other things, highlights the setting up of standards to maintain dignity at the work place.



The National Code of Conduct is a project of GC’s National Integrity System Mandate Area. Its **Program Manager, Attorney Bornor Varmah** said the workshop, which covered Region 1 (Bomi, Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpolu Counties), is the first of five to be held within the next six months. The project divided the country into five regions, with three counties making up a region.

The Code of Conduct (CoC) frowns on the abuse of public office by officials requesting favors, be they sexual, monetary, gifts or in kind, in exchange for employment or any other benefits intended for employees or employment.

The workshop enlightened County officials' (Superintendents) understanding on the importance of the CoC in building integrity in public institutions (government), and to ensure maximum cooperation with its implementation, dissemination and enforcement at the local level.

More than 30 local county officials from Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, and Gbarpolu (with ten delegates per county) attended the workshop including officials of the National Decentralization Implementation Secretariat at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, religious leaders and civil society organizations.

Making remarks at the official opening, host county Superintendent Samuel Brown welcomed all participants to Tubmanburg City on behalf of President Sirleaf and the people of Bomi County. Mr. Brown pointed out that the National Code of Conduct workshop for public officials is an important informative initiative intended to enhance awareness of the CoC and its implementation, as well as promote and protect the interests of employees.

Earlier, Atty. Varmah, GC's Program Manager of the National Integrity Systems Mandate Area gave a brief overview of the Code of Conduct, stressing its importance, how it relates to the Liberian Constitution, and the tenets of good governance in the creation of a disciplined corps of public officials and workforce.

The one-day workshop discussed the Code of Conduct in two thematic sessions and themes:



Code of Conduct with specific emphasis on the **Principles of Good Conduct; Maintaining Dignity of the Public Service; Conflict between Personal Belief and Public Duties**, facilitated by Cllr. Tiawon Gongloe, former Solicitor General of Liberia;

Code of Conduct with emphasis on the **Procedures for the Submission of Complaints; Rewards of Public Officials and Employees of Government for Good Behavior; Criminal Offense; Obligations of Government towards Public Officials and Government Employees** facilitated by Atty Kpoto Gissi, a graduate of the Louise Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia .

Heated debates followed the presentations mainly around issues of bribery, casual gifts and tokens. Participants argued that the Code of Conduct, to some extent, justifies corruption in public service by considering casual and token gifts given to public officials not exceeding the value of US250.00 as acceptable, especially if the gifts are not connected to the official duties of the public official(s) concerned.

Participants recommended that the Code of Conduct be taught in grade schools throughout the country in order to build a national system of integrity in governance, particularly at the local level.

The CoC workshop was supported by the Liberia Decentralization Support Program (AWP 2015; Action 2.2.5), a multi-donor financing program also supported by the Government of Liberia, European Union and the United Nations Development Program in Liberia.

### **GC Turns over 10,000 copies of Citizenship Curriculum to MOE**

The Governance Commission recently turned over 10,000 copies of the National Curriculum on Citizenship Education to the Ministry of Education, MOE. The official turn over ceremony was held on May 13, 2015, at the Ministry of Education in Sinkor. The Citizenship Curriculum, funded by the Liberian government, is expected to be used in all Liberian schools (K-12 grades), as a step toward the reintroduction of Civics in schools. The Outgoing Minister of Education (at the time) Etmonia Tarpeh received the curriculum on behalf of the Ministry.



[GC and MoE Staff holding the Citizenship Curriculum copy during the turning over ceremony at the Ministry of Education](#)

During the Ceremony, Vice Chair Elizabeth Mulbah noted the pending change of leadership at the MOE before the completion and launching of both Citizenship curriculum and the textbooks. Mrs. Mulbah also mentioned that the Commission had had several attempts at launching both projects but these were overtaken by other national activities and the Ebola outbreak in 2014.

The GC Vice Chair recalled that the genesis of the National Curriculum on Citizenship Education and textbooks project for primary and secondary schools in Liberia can be traced to the literary work “Beyond Plunder: Toward Democratic Governance in Liberia” by Dr.

Amos Sawyer (Chairman of GC), in which he highlighted the need to use education and citizenry enlightenment as the key to upholding democracy in Liberia. “Citizenship Education” is a critical mechanism that provides the most effective route by which Liberians can be prepared to practice our nascent democracy and demonstrate the necessary nationalism and patriotism.

The National Curriculum on Citizenship Education and textbooks project for primary and secondary schools designed by GC, the Center for Democratic Empowerment (CEDE), and MOE, and is to be implemented in four phases:

1. Development of a national curriculum on citizenship education for kindergarten to 12 grade in Liberia;
2. Writing of students’ textbooks and teacher’s editions;
3. Publication of these textbooks and teacher’s edition; and
4. Distribution of the textbooks and the training of teachers to use the materials.

Liberia Educational Development Support Services (LEDESS) implemented the writing of the curriculum in collaboration with other experts in curriculum design, professional and committed educationalists, education officers including teachers and school principals.



Receiving the consignment of books, then outgoing Education Minister Etmonia Tarpeh thanked GC for the presentation noting that it was long overdue. Minister Tarpeh said it was time Liberians take responsibility for what our children read. She wants more Liberian writers and historians to write books, if possible, in local languages, and make learning fun and easy.

[Outgoing Education Minister Etmonia Tarpeh in photo holding Citizenship Curriculum copy](#)

According to Minister Tarpeh, the training of teachers to use the textbooks in training students is another very important aspect of the project. She promised to turn over the Citizenship Curriculum and the Liberia history project (still in progress) to her successor.

The citizenship curriculum is an important tool essential to producing active Liberian citizens knowledgeable of their rights and responsibilities, and willingness to participate in democratic governance.

## **Commissioner Weh -Dorliae Earns Doctorate Degree**



**Yarsuo Weh-Dorliae, BA, MA, MPA, LLB, PhD**

Counselor Yarsuo Weh-Dorliae, Commissioner for Political and Legal Reform mandate area, has earned a Doctorate degree in Public Policy from the Walden University in the United States.

His dissertation is titled “The United Nation’s Training of the Liberia National Police: Effectiveness, Results and Future Implications”. The focus of this mixed methods research was to understand how UNMIL’s training affected effectiveness of performance and public confidence in the ability of the Liberia National Police (LNP) to maintain law and order. The study is the result of the Commissioner’s longstanding interest in security sector reforms in Liberia, particularly after years of civil war and the return to democratic governance.

Dr. Weh-Dorliae also graduated from the University of Liberia in 1976, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics (minor, Political Science), before he matriculated (in 1978) to the California State University, Sacramento (USA) where he earned a Master’s degree in Public Administration and another Master of Arts degree in International Affairs in 1980. In 1986, he earned a Bachelor of Law degree from the Louise Arthur Grimes School of Law in Liberia.

Dr. Dorliae currently heads the Governance Commission’s Political and Legal Reforms Mandate Area, of which Decentralization is the flagship program. He provides policy development leadership by engaging stakeholders nationwide in the development of key policies and legal instruments for the implementation of sustainable democratic political governance and decentralization reforms in Liberia. He is also member and Ex –Officio of the Constitution Review Committee, and Chairs the Political Governance Sub-Pillar, Agenda for Transformation (AFT).

Dr. Weh-Dorliae is an author and newspaper columnist. He has written extensively on politics, culture, socio-economic development administration, decentralization reforms and democratic governance in Liberia. He authored two books. The first book “Proposition 12 for Decentralized Governance in Liberia: Power Sharing for Peace and Progress” (is about how to build a participatory system of local governance in Liberia through decentralization reforms); the second is “Liberia, We are Alike, We are One! My Reading Lesson for Peace” (is on peace and state building at the grassroots, targeting Liberia’s elementary school children). Dr. Dorliae has two other manuscripts soon to be published: “You Are Entitled to My Opinion,” a collection of his newspaper articles which will be the equivalent of a “student companion” and “In My Father’s House”, (his autobiography).

Commissioner Dr. Weh-Dorliae is a career civil servant with more than thirty years successful professional experience as a public sector executive, manager, trainer, policy administrator, and legal practitioner.