

REPORT ON THE FIRST



**CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE FUTURE OF LIBERIA
CONVENED AT THE QUALITY INN AND SUITES HOTEL
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



OCTOBER 26, 2019

Introduction

The Grassroots Alternative Movement of Liberia (GAME-F) convened a consultative meeting on the future of Liberia in the Conference Room of the Quality Inn Hotel and Suites in Danbury, Connecticut on October 26, 2019. The Danbury meeting was the first in the series of consultations to be conducted across the United States of America by GAME-F. The meeting was hosted by two of GAME-F's members, Mr. and Mrs. Josiah F. Joekai, Jr. The Joekai's worked along with Mr. Ansony Sieh to organize the meeting. A total of 20 Liberians from the States of Minnesota, Washington, Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut participated in the meeting. The meeting had zero tolerance for political alignment, social and economic standing thus welcoming every Liberian to actively participate.

Participants from various States except for Connecticut and New York arrived on Friday, October 25, 2019 because of their long distances. On Saturday morning, October 26, 2019 the day of the meeting, the New York and Connecticut participants arrived in Danbury for the meeting. Participants met and greeted each other on Friday evening while the host, Mr. Joekai and Mr. Ansony Sieh made final rounds in preparation for the meeting. That same evening, the Conference Room was appropriately setup with everything necessary to facilitate the holding of a successful meeting. Tables were decorated, notepads, pens and copies of souvenir programs distributed to meeting participants. Coffee and snacks were served during the meeting. The meeting environment was quite enabling for fruitful deliberation.

Meeting Proceedings

The opening session of the meeting was characterized by speeches from several individuals and the one thing that stood out in those speeches was the need for a broader platform that will engender a concerted effort by Liberians to restore the country from its current state of degradation. Welcoming everyone, Mr. Joekai thanked GAME-F for choosing Danbury to host the first consultation which he described as historic and assured the meeting that the outcome will set the stage for a national discourse to put Liberia back on the trajectory of peace and stability. On behalf of his family, Mr. Joekai welcome everyone to Danbury, the "Hat City" and promised them a pleasant stay.

Mr. Laraamand Nyonton, one of the founding members of GAME-F heaped praises on the Joekai's and Mr. Sieh for hosting the meeting describing it as a success. He averred that the sacrifice made by the Joekais and Mr. Sieh will go long way in helping GAME-F realizes its vision of attaining a better and prosperous Liberia under a leadership of men and women with contemporary leadership knowledge and experience.

Mr. Laraamand furthered that Danbury meeting was the first in the series of several consultations that will rally Liberians predominantly of this generation to positively change the political narrative of Africa's oldest independent nation thus breaking grounds for new generation of leaders. He referred to this call as endeavor as a "generational revolution" that GAME-F has ignited for good of the Liberian nation. He thanked everyone for making the ultimate sacrifice to be in Danbury for the meeting.

The man who conceived the GAME-F dream, Mr. Vandalark R. Patricks was astonished and speechless for a moment. According to him, he couldn't easily believe what he saw exclaiming the meeting reality was a dream. Mr. Patricks told the meeting he was excited and very much appreciative of the organization of the meeting. Like Mr. Nyonton, He extended gratitude the Joekai's and Mr.

Sieh for the excellent organization. He also thanked all the participants for being in Danbury and assured them that their participation will not be in vain.

Speaking on the vision of GAME-F, Mr. Patricks underscored that the organization was conceived as broader platform that accommodates positive ideas for Liberia's socio-economic and political transformation. He said GAME-F was not established as a political party/institution, but one committed to the mobilization of Liberians irrespective of their political, social and economic statuses to collectively address the country's entrenched governance issues. Mr. Patricks encouraged everyone to actively participate in the meeting emphasizing that their views or proposals will be meaningful to the deliberations.

Speaking on behalf of the Pennsylvania Chapter of GAME-F was its co-chair, Miss Monuel Slueue She informed the meeting that the chairperson of the chapter was not in attendance due to prevailing circumstances at the time. Miss Monuel thanked the organizers of the meeting and reassured every one of her chapter's commitment to the vision of the people's movement. She also expressed concerns about the low turnout of women and indicated that would do everything possible to ensure an upsurge in women's participation in the next meeting.

For his part Mr. James Nuhan, the Executive Director of ONE PLACE ONE VOICE, a local media organization based in New York, the meeting was a dream come through. According to Mr. Nuhan, he has always looked forward to such time when Liberians from all sides of isle would rally to rescue the country from the current deteriorating state. He thanked GAME-F for inviting him to the meeting and pledge his full support to the organization.

Making special statement on behalf of the Millennium Men of Liberia was Mr. Klubosumo Johnson Borh. Mr. Borh thanked GAME-F for the invitation extended to his organization and informed the meeting that the Coordinator was unable to attend due to prior engagement at his job. Proxying for the Coordinator, Mr. Borh introduced the other two members of his delegation and assured the meeting of his organization's support to efforts such as GAME-F's that seek to address Liberia's longstanding economic and political instabilities. Mr. Borh divulged that there are several organizations like GAME-F with the same goals but according to him, he was certain that GAME-F was on the right path because of its strategy of seeking a broad base approach to rally Liberians. He concluded by declaring his support to GAME-F.

The final speaker was Amb. Mory Kouyate, President of the African Immigrants Commission of New York and Connecticut. Mr. Kouyate thanked GAME-F for the invitation extended him. He begun by underscoring the importance for Liberians to meet and dialogue about the issues affecting their country. The Ambassador was quick to note that Liberia was not the only country facing serious economic and political issues. He pointed out his own country, Guinea outlining the challenges confronting the people. The Ambassador commended GAME-F for her approach and encouraged the organization to continue the consultations emphasizing that instituting good governance in Liberia will have a positive impact on the subregion. The Ambassador concluded by officially declaring the meeting open.

Consistent with GAME-F's strategy of inclusiveness, a comprehensive presentation on Liberia's long history of political and economic instability was made by Mr. Joekai. The presentation was a full reflection on Liberia's entrenched culture of impunity, corruption and gloomy future.

The details of the presentation set the tone of the broader plenary discussion which recorded a collection of concerns, opinions and questions centered on the way forward for Liberia. Many of speakers expressed concerns about the current dissipating state of the economic and its implication to the stability of the nation. Some participants underscored the need to have GAME-F established in Liberia for work to start on the ground early. Others acknowledged that the GAM-F's strategy is timely but emphasized the need for broader consultations such as the one held in Danbury to take place in key states with huge Liberian populations as part of efforts to expand the movement's vision.

Generally, interventions made by participants were all positive as everyone expressed support for GAME-F's approach but were mindful that the consultations must move faster so more people will fully understand the significance of the movement.

Key Outcomes

The following were agreed upon and adopted by the Danbury Meeting as key outcomes:

1. Invitations for subsequent meetings should be served with sufficient notice to enable participants prepare adequately for said meetings;
2. Publicity should be robust and carried for a longer period to mobilize more people to attend various consultations;
3. Participants from various States who attended the Danbury meeting be officially requested to establish GAME-F chapters in their States; and
4. The next consultation should be held early before the winter goes into full swing.

Conclusion

The meeting ended with a great deal of excitement amongst participants indicative of the accomplishments made from the one-day frank and positive deliberation. Participants had the opportunity to further interact with each other at a dinner hosted at the home of the Joekai's. From all indications, the Danbury meeting was a resounding success, and everyone returned to their respective homes safely reenergized and motivated to work even harder.

Danbury Meeting Attendance

1. Josiah Joekai
2. Juana Joekai
3. Ansony Sieh
4. Laraamand Nyonton
5. Vandalark Patricks
6. Godwin Doe
7. Nathaniel Kaoh Sr.
8. Monuel Slueue
9. James Nuhaun
10. Lawrence Tuidar
11. Klubosumo Johnson Borh
12. Amb. Mory Kouyate

- 13. Tasha Nuhaun
- 14. Edward Johnson
- 15. Bishop Bestman Jr.
- 16. James Gooding
- 17. Mrs. Lawrence Tuider

Photo Gallery















