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**United Nations Democracy Fund awards two grants to the Liberian Legislature**

*Monrovia, Liberia* – The Liberian Legislature yesterday received two grants from the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) to promote the involvement of the youth in the democratic process and to facilitate the formulation of an anti-corruption strategy.



President Pro Tempore Isaac Nyenabo; SRSR Alan Doss, Speaker of the House Edwin Snowe, DSRSG Jordan Ryan and Acting Exec. Dir. Of GRC David Kialian at UNDEF signing ceremony

Speaking at the signing ceremony held at the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Headquarters, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss, said the Legislative Study Grant Programme is important because it meets two needs: “first to strengthen the capacity of the Legislature and a strong Legislature means a strong Government, and second, to bring young people into the political arena.”

Referring to the project “Building a National Integrity Framework for Liberia” Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Recovery and Governance, Mr. Jordan Ryan, said “democracy requires that all of the public be outraged when there are examples of corruption; the public must have the ability to engage in the processes that put a check on issues of corruption.” Mr. Ryan congratulated the members of the Legislature and the Governance Reform Commission (GRC) and said “Liberia should be proud to have been awarded two grants from a fund that promotes democracy.”

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Edwin Snowe, expressed his appreciation for the continued efforts of the United Nations to bring peace to the country. “These grants demonstrate that peacekeeping is not only about ensuring security or silencing the guns but also about sustaining peace. By empowering our young Liberians, the UN is not only setting the pace for lasting peace but also ensuring that we can all live together and develop our nation as one people.”

The President Pro Tempore, Hon. Isaac Nyenabo, thanked the United Nations for the grants totaling nearly half a million US dollars and said “capacity-building is the essence of national development and this experience will help strengthen our society.”

The Legislative Study Grant Programme, for the amount of \$120,000 to last for two years, is intended to strengthen the professionalism of that body and encourage the participation of youth in the democratic process.

The project “Building a National Integrity Framework for Liberia,” which amounts to \$360,000 and will be implemented by the GRC, seeks to promote transparency, accountability and the rule of law, with the aim that corruption will be substantially minimised or eliminated.

UNDEF was established at the 2005 World Summit at the UN in New York and is funded through contributions of Member States for the promotion of democracy and human rights. Participation in the activities of UNDEF is a badge of achievement and signifies a high level of commitment to democratic values.

The signing ceremony was also attended by members of the Joint Legislative Modernization Committee and the GRC and senior UNMIL and UNDP officials.

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