



Youth Alliance for Rural Development in Liberia

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASED

We call you here today to brief you on some pertinent issues bordering the educational sector of Margibi County and the Margibi Legislative Caucus.

Recent investigation conducted by us has revealed that most schools in Harbel, Cotton Tree, Unification City, are charging high fees for graduation in the midst of demandable economic challenges our country is faced with.

These schools, though WASSCE results are yet to be released, are charging fees ranging from US 150.00 to US 200.00 as a pre-requisite to graduation. These fees are wicked and counterproductive to government’s pro poor agenda for prosperity and Development.

We are calling on the government of Liberia through the Ministry of Education in collaboration with Margibi County educational officers to take action now, and no later than now! Though the ministry has said last week in a press conference that it cannot regulate fees for private institutions in the country, which we condemn in the highest term possible, we however call on the minister to retract such statement or risk being labeled toothless. One best thing the ministry can do now is to set a reasoning bench mark for all private schools like it did to all government schools across the country.

May we bring to your attention the names of some schools found in this act:

#	Name of Schools	Amount Charged
1.	Mother Artis School System	USD 195.00
2.	Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran School	USD 175.00
3.	Harbel AGM High School	USD 125.00
4.	Concrete Foundation High School	N/A
5.	Quest United Methodist High School	USD 180.00
7.	Harbel Extension High School	USD 200.00
8.	UT- YMCA Community High School	USD 150.00
9.	Robertsfield Baptist High School	USD 175.00
10.	St. Paul Ecumenical High School	USD 175.00
11.	Children Hope Community High School	N/A

We are also reliably informed that three public schools in District #2 are charging extra fees apart from government regulated fees. Harbel Multilateral in particular is charging thirty-five (35) USD plus Three Thousand Five Hundred Liberian Dollars (LD \$ 3, 500) stipulated by the Ministry of Education.

Fellow citizens of Margibi County.....

The next issue we like to bring to your attention member of the press and fellow Margibians is about the Margibi Legislative Caucus and some recent financial interplay amongst some county stakeholders.

A document in our possession confirmed on June 14, 2019, that county officials and Lawmakers including, Hon. Jerry Varnie, Superintendent, Margibi County, Hon. Tibelrosa S. Tarponweh, Representative, District #1, Hon. Ivar K. Jones, Representative, District #2, Hon. Ellen Attoh-Wreh, Representative, District #3, Hon. Ben A. Fofana, Representative, District #4, Hon. Clearance G. Gahr, Representative, District #5, Sen. Jim W. Tornonlah and some District Development heads signed a resolution for the allocations of One Million United States Dollars which came into the county as China Union's Social Development Funds.

Fellow citizens, among the Margibi Legislative Caucus and County officials, please be informed that based on the document in our possession, Senator Oscar A. Cooper is the only lawmaker who did not sign the resolution under discussion.

The caucus, in gross violation of the new budget law, convened a **SPECIAL COUNTY SITTING** in Montserrado County, where allotments were done by caucus members. We wish to emphasize that this act contravenes the new budget act of 2018/2019.

Amongst several missteps which characterized the recent sitting, may we bring to your attention, fellow citizens, distinguished members of the press, and the followings in consonance with the new budget act of 2018/2019 section nine (9) which speaks directly to the **MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS**:

1. The County Superintendent, in consultation with the County Legislative Caucus, shall convene, in the capitol city of the county, sittings of the county council any time after passage of the annual budget.
2. The superintendent shall ensure that extensive publicity, through all media platforms-radio and TV, print and social media-is given to the convening of a sitting to encourage maximum participation.
3. The county sitting shall be attended by an equal number of officials and opinion leaders from each of the electoral districts, to include traditional communities, statutory districts, administrative districts, and/or municipalities, whichever is considered most inclusive and broadest for consultative in the county by the County Legislative Caucus in consultation with the superintendent council or superintendent of that county.
4. Civil Society Organizations, preferably community based, shall play a more proactive monitoring role at the county sitting and ensure that the projects identified and other issues resolved are properly implemented.

Fellow citizens of Margibi County and Members of the press...

In this light, we are demanding the caucus to annul all agreements and resolutions passed on at the recent **“SPECIAL COUNTY SITTING”** in Monrovia, and reconvene another sitting which may bring all relevant sectors on board in the accordance with the **NATIOANL BUDGET LAW OF LIBERIA**.

We want for the County Legislative Caucus to capture the following in the reschedule sitting, the Disable Community, to empower clinics and our only referral hospital in the county which is CH Rennie Hospital.

Failure on the part of our County Officials and Lawmakers to adhere to these demands, we will stage a protest or court actions within not less than a month.

We want to use this medium to call on every Margibians to corporate as we flight to make Margibi County second to none in the Republic of Liberia.

God bless Margibi, long live Liberia.

Signed: 

Foeday Zinnah
Executive Director