



SPOTLIGHT ON

NAYMOTE

PARTNERS FOR DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT 2001

NAYMOTE's Profile

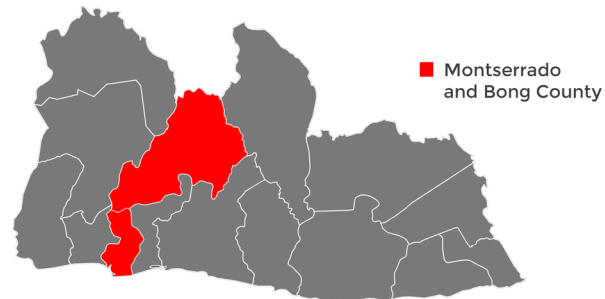
Naymote Partners for Democratic Development is a leading civil society organization working to promote good governance (transparency and accountability), human rights, rule of law and democracy in Liberia. The organization was founded on the backdrop that acute poverty and vulnerability in the country were as a result of entrenched social and economic inequalities and exclusion fueled by absence of citizens' participation, particularly youth and women in the governance of the country.

Since its establishment in 2001, Naymote has initiated several programs to foster political accountability to make elected leaders more accessible, responsive, and accountable to the electorates. It has also contributed to building the capacity of hundreds of local leaders to be more effective in the delivery of essential government services.

The institution has two offices located in Montserrado and Bong counties through which our programs are coordinated across Liberia.

Naymote has 18 full time staffers with 2 top managers who hold postgraduate degrees.

Naymote also has a pool of interns and volunteers across the country.



Naymote is governed by a Board of Directors as the highest decision-making body and is headed by Dr. Ibrahim Al-bakri Nye – a revere political advocate. The Board is also co-chaired by Cllr. Abraham Sillah – a top Liberian lawyer.

Naymote is guided by a five-year strategic plan and well-documented internal control policies and procedures to support organizational effectiveness as well a board policy.

Naymotes's annual budget ranges between US \$600,000 –US \$818,000. In fact, the organization's 2021 annual revenue is projected at US \$818,000.

Our core donor partners include: the National Endowment for Democracv. Open Society Foundation for West Africa, UN Women, UNDP Liberia Country Office, USAID/partners and the Carter Center.

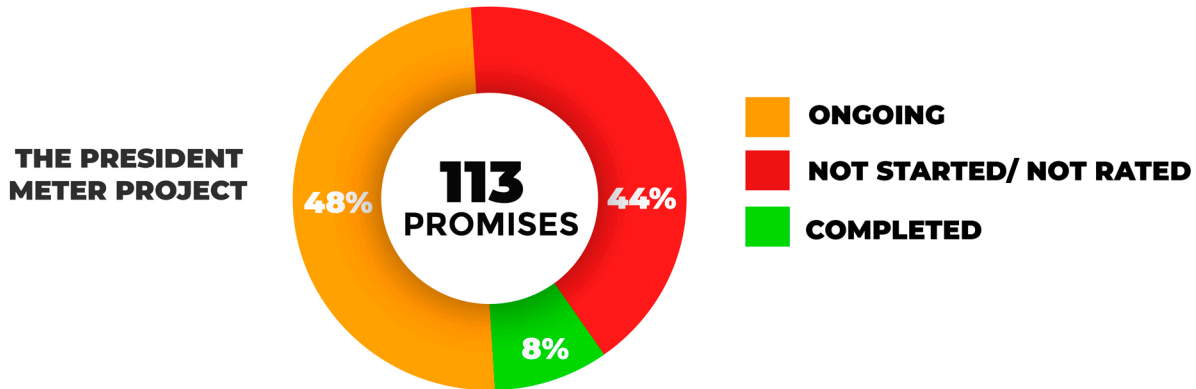
1. The President Meter Project

Naymote is pioneering an innovative democratic monitoring tool that measures the implementation of campaign promises made by President George Weah during and after the 2017 elections. The project matches those promises with delivery rates and reports findings back to the citizens in an effort to provide an independent assessment of the implementation of election promises.

This initiative seeks to promote transparency and democratic accountability to cement the social contract between Liberians and the presidency.

The aim is to inform citizens on the President's performance against promises made and to improve communication between the Executive Mansion and the people.

The program is designed to ensure that there is significant improvement in the quality of engagement between the governed and government and as a way of advancing democratic principles of accountability, inclusion, and participation as well as contribute to an increase accountability of government on their electoral campaign promises, increasing advocacy for better governance and providing spaces for citizen participation in public policy debates.



So far, only nine of the 113 promises made have been completed constituting 8% of all promises. Naymote plans to scale up this initiative but is faced with funding challenges.

2. The Young Political Leadership School Africa



The Young Political Leadership School Africa (YPLS Africa) is an annual capacity-building exercise for young leaders that encompasses five days of intensive classroom lecture and nine months of grassroots events including political activism, community organizing, working with parliament to host town hall meetings, monitoring the quality of public services, facilitating civic education, accountability, etc.



Accountability and transparency are vital to a robust governance system, as addressing and eliminating corruption are to economic growth. Youth participation in this process is axiomatic.



YPLS Africa seeks to build capacity of youth to develop into effective political leaders. Furthermore, youth are exposed to the information, network, and opportunities relevant to helping them transition successfully into political, governance and private-sector roles that contribute to sound decision-making for effective systemic change.



Currently 630 young leaders (45% females) have benefitted from the programs since it started in 2016 with some now taking up leadership roles in the government, political parties, private institutions, and elected public offices.

Naymote wishes to decentralize this initiative to accommodate more young leaders with emphasis on young women and girls to position youth for the upcoming 2023 general and presidential elections

3. Young Women Political Empowerment and Leadership

The project aims to address the barriers that limit women's full and effective political participation and representation in politics.

Through the project, 225 young women are being trained in topics such as



Beneficiaries of the project have established the “National Young Women Political Council” as a registered institution to increase effective participation and representation of women as political leaders at the local and national level to improve frameworks for the promotion of gender parity in politics.

They have also launched a campaign called “The Legislature is not for Men Alone” with the support of NAYMOTE and the UN Women.

4. Liberia - Access to Justice: Community Justice Advisor Project

As part of efforts to strengthen the rule of law in Liberia, enhance access to justice for marginalized citizens, ensure that citizens are more aware of and supported to protect their legal rights, NAYMOTE was awarded a one-year grant by the government of Sweden through Carter Center to implement the “Liberia - Access to Justice: Community Justice Advisor (CJA) Project” in Montserrado and Bong counties.

The project is helping resolved civil cases at the community levels using ADR thereby reducing the number of cases going to police or the court, strengthening relationship between community and the police, promoting social cohesion, promoting the rule of law, and enhancing citizens access to justice.

5. Local Government Strengthening and Local Accountability

Over the last eight years, Naymote in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs have organized several town hall meetings across the country to enable citizens to understand the importance of the Government's decentralization process. From the adoption of the national decentralization and local government policy to the establishment of the county service centers, the passage of the local government act of 2018 Naymote played a major role as part of the project.

Through the initiative Naymote has enhanced accountability in the counties by facilitating the establishment of the County Accountability and Advocacy Teams (CAAT) in three counties: Bong, Grand Gedeh, and Maryland. The CAAT was established in 2014 to monitor, track and advocate for the effective management of the CSDF as well as document and create awareness on county setting resolution. The membership of CAAT include the representatives for the DDC, Project Management Team, County Service Center, the County Treasurer, Civil Society, the Local Authorities, Teaching Association, Health Workers, the Women and Youth groups and Concession Companies, etc.

6. The Democracy Lecture Forum

The Democracy Lecture Forum is a Naymote program held monthly with diverse young people to inspire them to be committed to the principles of democracy, understand their roles and responsibilities in a democratic society – a sure hope to help them grow and adhere to democratic values, norms, and ideas for the common good of our country when they excel to leadership positions.

The forum is helping young leaders understand the fundamental principles of democracy including citizens participation, equality, political tolerance, accountability, transparency, human rights, Regular, Free and Fair Elections, rule of law, accepting elections results, etc. More than 800 active youth leaders have benefitted from the program. The Swedish Ambassador to Liberia, Urban Sjöström spoke to the eighth edition of the forum which was held in commemorating the International Day for Democracy.

NAYMOTE's Anticipated Elections

Liberia's democracy is too personality based; the profiles of the country's last two leaders and current members of parliament is proof. In other words, politics in Liberia is not based on issues; rather it is based on characters and personalities. This makes it difficult for civil society and the media to hold government to account.

Naymote is designing a project to leverage our existing President Meter Project to jumpstart the concept of transitioning the country to an issue-based mentality using the 2023 general and presidential elections. The idea is to get the three major political parties in the country to commit to a general framework document with major policy positions related to infrastructural development, agriculture, healthcare delivery/-improvement, and education, accountability for war crimes and crimes, and gender parity in Liberian politics. The framework document will form the basis for monitoring achievements/setbacks. Naymote and the media will use the information to hold the eventual winners of the elections to account after the elections.

Naymote will monitor five major government ministries (Agriculture, Education, Healthcare, Public Works, Justice, and Gender) for achievements.

Naymote will integrate the project to ensure that young people gain campaign and leadership skills in elections and local political processes to engage in activities that will rally/mobilize first time voters, young women, and women to register to peacefully participate in the 2023 general elections.