



PRESS STATEMENT

Naymote Releases Nationwide Findings on Legislative Constituency Break Monitoring, Calls for Mandatory Accountability Standards

(May 25, 2026) Monrovia, Liberia, Naymote Partners for Democratic Development has released the findings of its nationwide monitoring assessment of Liberia's 2026 Legislative Constituency Break, revealing significant gaps in legislative accountability, citizen engagement, and public reporting by elected lawmakers.

The constituency break, provided for under Liberia's amended legislative calendar and grounded in Article 32(b) of the 1986 Constitution, is intended to strengthen representative democracy by enabling Members of the Legislature to return to their constituencies, engage citizens directly, assess community priorities, and report on their legislative performance and national decision-making.

To assess how lawmakers utilized the 2026 first constituency break period, Naymote conducted the country's first structured nationwide monitoring exercise using its Constituency Accountability and Assessment Tool (CAAT). The assessment covered 69 of Liberia's 73 electoral districts across all 15 counties representing approximately 95% national coverage. Data collection was carried out between March 19 and May 8, 2026, by 75 trained county monitors deployed nationwide.

The findings reveal mixed levels of legislative engagement and accountability. While many lawmakers maintained a physical presence in their constituencies, meaningful accountability practices and structured citizen engagement remained weak, inconsistent, and largely dependent on individual initiative rather than institutional standards.

Among the 69 lawmakers monitored:

- 55 lawmakers (80%) visited their constituencies during the break period;
- 44 lawmakers (64%) conducted town hall meetings or community consultations;
- 32 lawmakers (46%) engaged citizens through local radio programs; and
- Only 18 lawmakers (26%) presented formal reports on their legislative activities, budget decisions, or constituency performance.

The assessment further revealed that many constituency activities centered largely on project inspections, dedications, donations, and ceremonial appearances, with limited emphasis on policy dialogue, legislative feedback, or structured accountability mechanisms.

Citizens participating in town hall engagements consistently raised concerns about poor healthcare delivery, inadequate roads and community infrastructure, limited access to quality education, unemployment, youth and women's empowerment, and broader local development challenges.

Commenting on the findings, Naymote stated that while lawmakers' constituency visits are important, visibility alone cannot substitute for accountability.

"Democratic representation must go beyond ceremonial appearances and political visibility. Citizens deserve regular access to information about how their lawmakers are performing, how public decisions are being made, and what actions are being taken to address local concerns," Naymote emphasized.

The report underscores that constituency accountability in Liberia remains largely informal, fragmented, and weakly institutionalized, undermining public trust and limiting citizens' ability to meaningfully evaluate the performance of elected officials.

Strong Policy Recommendations

In response to the findings, Naymote is calling for urgent legislative and institutional reforms to strengthen democratic accountability and citizen-centered governance in Liberia.

Naymote specifically recommends:

- The mandatory adoption of standardized constituency reporting requirements for all lawmakers during every constituency break, including public disclosure of legislative activities, committee participation, budget decisions, and constituency development interventions;
- The establishment of a formal Legislative Constituency Engagement Framework requiring lawmakers to hold structured town hall meetings and public consultations in their districts;
- The publication of constituency engagement schedules and post-break activity reports by the Legislature to improve transparency and public access to information;
- Increased utilization of community radio and local media platforms to expand citizen participation and public communication;
- Stronger collaboration between the Legislature, civil society organizations, media institutions, and development partners to institutionalize accountability standards and democratic oversight mechanisms; and
- The development of a national legislative accountability policy that sets minimum standards for citizen engagement, transparency, reporting, and responsiveness by elected officials.

Naymote further urged the leadership of the Liberian Legislature to move beyond voluntary practices and establish enforceable accountability measures that guarantee citizens regular access to information and meaningful participation in governance processes.


The organization reaffirmed its commitment to promoting democratic accountability, inclusive participation, and responsive governance through evidence-based monitoring, citizen engagement, and public policy advocacy across Liberia.

Media Inquiry

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