



## INDEPENDENT NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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### **The Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) conducts Project Review of Palava Hut Program Pilot Phase**

**June 26, 2017**

The Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) is conducting a three day review of the pilot phase of the Community-based Truth Telling, Atonement and Psychosocial Recovery Project or Palava Hut Project in Gbarnga, Bong County.

The three-day event is aimed at reviewing and matching the achievements of the project against its objectives and generating recommendations for future intervention and improvement. A cross section of stakeholders drawn from implementing partners, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Peacebuilding Office, National Traditional Council of Liberia, Civil Society Council of Liberia, National Commission on Disabilities and the Office of the Liberian Peace Ambassador, are assembled to participate in the review.

Delivering a special message from the Board of Commissioners of the INCHR, the Acting Chairperson, Atty. Bartholomew B. Colley, admonished the participants to do their outmost best as the review will have significant impact on the peace and reconciliation process of Liberia. Atty. Colley, who is also a lecturer at the Kofi Anan Institute of Conflict Transformation at the University of Liberia Graduate School, further assured the participants that recommendations derived from the exercise would be implemented by the Commission. He stressed the importance of building and sustaining the country's peace through the Palava Hut approach. He said that issues related to the country's civil conflict will be resolved when such are identified and discussed rather than leaving them untouched.

Earlier during the opening ceremonies, the Project Manager, Mr. Sunny A. George, welcomed the participants and said that the review was meant to critically assess the project and recommend a way forward. As for the representatives of the National Traditional Council and the National Civil Society Council of Liberia, they in separate remarks thanked the INCHR for the invitation accorded them and hoped that the outcome of the review would prove useful for future application.

The project in review was funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund through the United Nations development Programme (UNDP) and the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery of the UNDP. The session concludes on Wednesday, June 28, 2017.

The National Palava Hut Program was recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to foster community-level healing, reconciliation and peaceful coexistence. The Program was officially launched by Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in 2013 in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County. The pilot concluded in 2016 with the conduct of two public hearings in Toffoi Town, Tchien District, Grand Gedeh County and Vezela Town, Voinjama District, Lofa County.