## Governance Entities Election Reports Marbon& Darblo Clans

## Gola Koneneh District, Grand Cape Mount County, Region # 1

**Held April 24, 2021, at Mecca Town Square**

**Ref: G. Alvin Roberts**

Senior Extension Officer (**SEO**)

Community Forestry Department

Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

The legal and controlling requirement for organizing community governance entities for community forestry are out lined in the CRL. However, a community cannot organize itself authoritatively in any structure of governance institution until it reaches steps eight. The governance institution that are required under the CRL include, community assembly **(CA**), an executive committee **(EC)** and a community forest management body **(CFMB)**

**Elections Procedures followed in Marbon Applicant Community for leaderships:**

With provisions from the CRL, delegates comprised of men, women, youths and members of various ethnicities who are 18 years /above were drawn from thirty nine (39) towns / independence villages to elect their code of officers in Mecca town, Darblo clan, Grand Cape Mount County. All delegates proceeded at the town square for roll call and verifications and as well relate the names to the face. Henceforth, the process went on with the weed out of others who intended to fraud or sit in on behalf of absentees. The attendance were eight four (**M-69, F-15)** persons made of youth, women, elders etc.

Following the verifications, sixty (**Males-55, Females-5**) persons were confirmed as citizens of the affected forest communities and villages by the honorable Clan Chief **Mr. Taweh Sherman**. Subsequently, an oath of office was administered by the Regional Forester (RF) (**Madam Ruth K. Varney**) for the delegates thereby confirming their statuses as community assembly members. To assist the CA understand the roles and responsibilities and procedures leading to electing the executive committee EC, **Mr. Joseph Kamara (FDA Extension Officer)** explained the process and further informed them of the voting process which is done by secret ballots. In addition, ample time was provided for the audience to question for clarifications on the vacancies for various executive committees’ positions. The community assembly (CA) was required to review the roles and responsibilities of the EC and nominate candidates and then hold elections for these positions. Subsequently, a motion was filed from within the membership of the CA in favor of the below listed individuals. Meanwhile all ascended to various positions through white ballots.

**Structure of the Executive Committee**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Names** | **Sex** | **Position** | **Town/ comm.** |
| 1 | Momo B. Samah | Male | Chairman | Jawajeh |
| 2 | Morris Ville | Male | Co-chair | Marbo Dorley |
| 3 | Alfred Sherman | Male | Secretary | Mecca Town |
| 4 | Bob Gray | Male | Finance Officer | Jenneh Brown |

After electing these above officers and inducted into offices, they all committed themselves to work for the common good of their constituent. An established forum (first general meeting) of the CA to determine the criteria for the election of the community forest management body was called to order and presided over by the Executive committee Chairmen (**Momo B. Samah)**. Doing the course of the meeting, the below are five basic criteria set to select interest position holders/ candidates.

* Incumbent **MUST** be a citizen of both clans (Darblo & Manna) and residing within.
* Must be 18 yrs and above.
* Must be married and holder properties in any of the two clans at least valued **$ 50,000** Liberian dollar and above within the clan
* Must be a secondary school graduate or above.
* Must have experience in community forest management.

The second meeting of the CA to elect the five members CFMB was approved by the members of the community assembly in accordance with the above listed criteria. From among the five, nominations were required for the various positions. Motions were raised by different individuals for all three positions and won on white ballots.

As new officials, they offered themselves to provide all their best services for the benefit and development of the community

**Below are the names of the Community Forest Management Body Officials/ Members**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Name** | **Sex** | **Position** | **Community** |
| 1 | Mohammah K. Daramie | Male | Chief Officer | Mecca |
| 2 | Rufus Boikai | Male | Secretary | xxxxxxxxx |
| 3 | Musa Perry | male | Treasure | Marbon wanga |
| 4 | Meima T Zinnah | Female | Member | Weasay |
| 5 | Siah Moyiah | female | Member | Marbon Zingbaku |

The team( FDA) briefed these newly elected **CA, EC, CFMB** officials/ members doing the second plenary about the legal requirement for bylaws/ constitutions using the standard templates of the Authority. In developing the bylaws / constitutions, they **(CA, EC, & CFMB**) were advised to adapt the constitutions so that it matches with the community’s customs and wishes.

For the closing formalities, the clan chief encouraged the new CF governance members and officials to place their people’s interest above and work for the common good of the county. For his part, the **CSO** representative (**Mr. Emmanuel Kollie**) credited the process as free and fair and therefore encouraged the community to work along with the newly elected officials. He also underscored that no one individual or community can use force to remove them on the bases of unproven allegation except term expires or two third majority of the community assembly convene session to cast vote of no confidence.

On the other hand, the Authority also encouraged them to respect the process and abide every count in the CRL and they must remained united for one cost..

**Observations;**

* Majority member of the CA are youthful with little knowledge in the workings of community forestry.
* Dominance Islamic religion/ cultural influence disallowed female to official position.
* Forest cover under threat by chain saw operators based on understanding reached b/w chain sawyers and community stalk holders.

**Recommendations:**

* Awareness / training be conducted for forest governance entity members
* Field based staff assist the CFMB to establish bylaws and constitution using the standardized template.

**Team Members:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Names** | **Position/ Title** | **Duties Station** |
| Patrick Wehyie | NRMO (Team Lead) | Gbarpolu / Region 1 |
| Joseph N Kamara | Extension officer | Gbarpolu / Region 1 |
| Daniel K Martins | Extension officer | G. Cape Mount Co. |
| Aaron Buahn | Regional Extension officer | Region 1 |
| Ruth K. Varney | Regional Forester | Region 1 |
| Darlington Marcar | Extension officer | Central office |
| Sam Myers | Driver | Region 1 |