



Liberia Dujar Association-Sweden

# Nyhetsbrevet

Nr 1, februari 2024

## Bästa LDA-vänner!

Välkomna tillbaka från jul- och nyårsledigheterna och hoppas att ni har haft en underbar vilotid med familjen. Detta är Liberia Dujar Associations första nyhetsbrev för 2024. Vi är tillbaka med nya krafter och nya idéer för ett nytt spännande år, om bara Barnmorskekurserna kommer igång i år!

LDA:s styrelse för 2024 är på plats och de har haft sitt första möte, då det bl.a. beslutades att skicka pengar till verksamheten i Liberia.

Vi tackar alla medlemmar som förnyat sitt medlemskap och välkomnar samtidigt alla nya medlemmar under året 2023.



Lois Hemgren, Generalsekreterare

Ny ledamot i styrelsen är Dennis Forsberg. Så presenterar han sig:

Mitt namn är Dennis Forsberg och bor tillsammans med min fru och dotter i Stockholm. Jag jobbar på Järfälla kommun som budgetchef. Ofta får jag höra att jag som person är målinriktad, driven, snäll och har nära till skratt. Det känns väldigt bra att få vara en del av LDA.. Tidigare har jag varit med i olika

föreningsstyrelser och ser med tillförsikt som ny ledamot i LDA att kunna bidra till att organisationen fortsätter att utvecklas.

Tilläggas kan att jag har varit i Liberia flera gånger och är väl förtrogen med hur LDAs verksamhet fungerar.



Dennis Forsberg

## Ord från ordföranden

Det har varit en kall vinter här hos oss, den kallaste och mest snörika på länge. Men nu tilltar ljuset och vi ser fram emot våren.

I slutet på 2023 efterträdde jag Bertil Oskarsson som ordförande, sedan Bertil haft uppdraget i fem år. Ingen lätt uppgift för mig. Det är andra gången jag väljs till ordförande, första gången var 2015/16. Då hade jag möjlighet att besöka Liberia och LDA:s skolor tillsammans med min fru Yvonne, Lois och Per Hemgren.

Upplevelsen av skolorna var mycket positiv. Grassfieldskolan sjöd av liv, alltifrån de små förstaklassarna till avgångsklassen på gymnasiet. Lois hade med fotbollskläder till skollaget.

På Technical College var det examensdag, en högtidlig ceremoni inför fullsatt aula, som vi fick ta del av. Som ni säkert vet har TC upphöjts till University College sedan dess.

Vi stärktes verkligen, Yvonne och jag, i vår tro att skolan är den kanske viktigaste vägen att lyfta ett samhälle från fattigdom till välfärd och demokrati. Därför är era gåvor till Liberia Dujars verksamhet så viktiga! Vi behöver fler medlemmar och fler partners – sprid kunskapen om vår verksamhet. Värva medlemmar! Mot ljusare tider!



PO Sporrang, ordförande

**Kom ihåg  
medlemsavgiften 2024  
Individ 295 kr; familj 495 kr  
Pg eller Swish: 90 1847-4**

## Ny president i Liberia



Som vi tidigare meddelat har Liberia fått en ny president, Hon. Joseph Boakai. Vi har förhoppningar om att denne ska göra mer nytta än tidigare presidenter. Läs här hans första tal till nationen:

<https://www.liberianobserver.com/full-text-president-boakais-first-annual-message>

I talet nämner han bland mycket annat följande om sina planer för landets skolsystem:

### “Education

Education remains a beacon of hope, but our educational system has seen a downward spiral over the years, leaving countless Liberian children without the tools they need to build a better tomorrow. It is a problem we must confront head-on. Education is not a privilege; it is a fundamental right. We cannot turn a blind eye to the fact that a significant portion of our population is struggling with a lack of access to quality education. And there is no other way that we can genuinely seek to successfully fight poverty without the provision of quality education for our people.

Starting now, my Administration is making a steadfast commitment to revitalize our educational system. We will invest in education infrastructure and provide adequate resources. In this, we crave your support.

**Honorable Legislators**, our commitment to good governance is unwavering. Transparency, accountability, and the rule of law will guide our actions. We will fight corruption and build institutions that serve the people's interests. A government that is accountable to its citizens is a government that can truly serve the needs of its people.

**Mr. Vice President and President of the Senate, Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature**, our justice system which is meant to protect the innocent and punish the guilty, has been marred by inefficiency, corruption, and lack of public trust. I am counting on this honorable Body to pass effective legislation and support financial appropriations that will help us win the fight against corruption. Anyone caught in the act of corruption will face the full weight of the law, with swift and non-discriminatory enforcement.”

“The time for a mindset shift is now. We must be selfless in our service to bring about the change the Liberian People are yearning for. Again, I challenge you to join me to Think Liberia, Love Liberia, and Build Liberia.

Thank you. May God bless the works of our hands and save our state.”

**Familjen Roström**  
Enskild partner

**Eva Hollström**  
Enskild partner

**Anita Sundin**  
Enskild partner

## News about Liberia

Liberia's democracy was enhanced on January 22, 2024, when a smooth transfer of power took place in the country. Following elections that took place in October and November respectively in 2023 which saw the emergence of Unity Party's Joseph N. Boakai as the winner, the former president of Liberia, George M. Weah peacefully handed power to President Boakai. President Boakai who has worked in government for over 40 years was a former vice president under former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

In his inaugural address, President Boakai promised in the presence of international dignitaries to tackle corruption which is seen as a serious menace to society. He noted that there will be no more "business as usual" and will do everything legally required to fight it to the core. He also promised to pay keen attention to education, health and the roads as part of his development initiatives.

The President, however, didn't end his speech due to exhaustion from the wave of heat that precipitated the event.

For the second time in history, the Liberian Senate elected a woman to head that post. She is Senator Nyonblee Karnga of Grand Bassa County. She was unanimously elected and replaced Senator Albert Chie of Grand Kru County who had served in the position for the last six years. Senator Karnga is from the Liberty Party but formed a collision with the Unity Party.

At the lower house, Representative J. Fonati Koffa heads that body as Speaker. Speaker Koffa of the Collision of Democratic Change went head-to-head with Richard Kun of Unity Party whom he defeated 35-31 votes in a fiercely contested election.

There seems to be a bit of controversy in statements made by former President George M. Weah and President Boakai. In his farewell statement former President Weah informed the nation that his government was leaving in the consolidated account

an amount of \$40M. But in an address to the nation on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, President Boakai reported that figures available to him showed that \$19.5m was left in said account. The issue sparked debate over the country prompting the Public Account Committee of the Senate to launch an investigation. In its report the Senate said the Central Bank balance as shown to it was \$40m but concluded by calling for an audit of the account to authenticate the true balance.

A day after the report from the Senate and in accordance with his promise to execute an audit of the past government, President Boakai has asked the General Auditing Commission to audit the Central Bank of Liberia, the National Security Agency and the presidential elite force Executive Protection Service. The audit according to the government will cover the period from 2018-2023. The Audit Commission is expected to report in three months.



*Vice President Hon. Jeremiah Kpan Koung*

# Liberia Dujar University College

## Nursing School

There were several students from the Lois Hemgren School of Nursing who did not sit the final exams due to financial constraint. They were asked out of class until their fees were paid.

There is a growing wave of economic constraints in Liberia. Most of these students' parents are jobless while others could not get pay from the former government. Some of them that are working earn a minimum wage of less than USD\$100.00 per month. These students need urgent assistance.

Each semester, many students encountered the problem of fees payment.

Anyone desirous of helping our needy students, please do.

## Midwifery program

The long-awaited midwifery school is gradually picking up. Several of things that happened were an MOU with the authorities of ELWA Hospital in the outskirt has been signed. This is a recognized hospital where the students will do their clinical practice.

Additionally, B-Kay (an Indian businessman who runs a pharmacy) has accepted to supply our list of demo lab medicines and other items.

The Liberia Board for Nursing and Midwifery is presently conducting a workshop for the senior students which are one of the final requirements before they go on affiliation.

## Semester 2, 2023

Gender	# of Students
Male	15
Female	123
Total	138

The profile of the gender composition of the students shows that our student body is dominated by females.



Stora lektionssalen på University College

Tegner Konsult AB

Per Hemgren Ark. SAR/MSA  
[www.brygghusetarkitekter.se](http://www.brygghusetarkitekter.se)

HOS Arkitekter AB  
[www.hosark.se](http://www.hosark.se)

### Student “rescued” by a Swedish family

Very close to the end of semester 2, 2023, another batch of students were capped as a recognition and acceptance into the nursing program. One of them is **Hawa Keita**, the 17 years old girl whom her father was forcing into marriage and was rescued by Liberia Dujar Association. She is now attending the Liberia Dujar School of Nursing and being sponsored by Torbjörn Andersson and his wife Elisabeth Ahlström. Photo to the right.

Thanks to Torbjörn and Elisabeth for given a chance to Hawa to live her dream.



*Ms Hawa Keita being “capped”  
during Capping Ceremony*



### School supplies

During the course of the second Semester, we received a 20 ft container from Liberia Dujar Association-Sweden, filled with school supplies including chairs, tables, demo lab, beds, etc. We are grateful to our Founder Mrs. Lois B. Hemgren for her tireless efforts.



Love,  
care  
&  
share

*Under förra årets “Oath and Honor Day” utdelades ett pris till skolans allra bästa elev, som korades av Lois Hemgren och University Collegets President Mr. Nathan Mahteh.*

PO Sporrong Ark MSA  
po.sporrong@telia.com

IBM-personalens  
U-hjälpsförening

Trampolin Arkitekter AB  
www.trampolin.se

# Liberia Dujar High School

## Report on 2022-2023 School Year by Director General Dennis Toe

The Liberia Dujar High School is gearing up to have its mid-year exams. According to the Vice Principal of Instruction, Mr. D Lassanah Fahnbulleh, the exams will be taking place from February 10-16, 2024. He noted that thereafter, the students will take a one week break to return on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. However, the Vice Principal noted that student sitting the National Exams (6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders) will remain in school to adequately prepare them for the exams that are expected to take place in May of this year.

The Principal of the School, Rev James S. M. Gbolumah has organized a one-day meeting amongst high school principals in the Gardnersville Community at the Liberia Dujar High School. The meeting which took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February brought together Principals from Noah Arks, Jimmy Jolocun, St Philips, Larmodia, Sekou Sheriff among others discussed the usage of drugs and other harmful substances by students in school.

There is an increase in the use of drugs and other harmful substances amongst the youthful population in Liberia and this has gradually extended into the classrooms.

Given the prevalence of the substances in the country, the new President of Liberia Joseph N. Boakai has described it as an issue of emergency and declared that the country will treat it at such. The school principals in their one-day deliberation agreed to stiffen control on the usage of drugs in their various schools with the view of expelling students caught in the taking of them.

### Student's politics

In an effort to enhance democracy in Liberia and its schools, Liberia Dujar High School held its student's election on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 on the school's main campus in Grassfield, Gardnersville. The Students Unification Party (SUP) that held power for the last three years was challenged by the Students Democratic Party (SDP). The elections were preceded with three days of campaigning and a debate. Student Jusu Sanoe for the SDP won over SUP. The elections were deemed peaceful and credible by both the students and observers from other schools. The new leadership is expected to be inducted into office early March 2024.



*Jusu Sanoe,  
President for the  
Students  
Democratic Party*

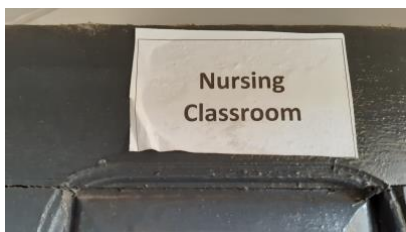


*Magally Kamala,  
Cchairlady for the  
Students  
Democratic Party*

**Molind AB**  
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**Lars Olson**  
**Arkitektkontor AB**  
[lasseolson@icloud.com](mailto:lasseolson@icloud.com)

## Midwifery Education



Allt är klappat och klart för att starta utbildningen av barnmorskor. Men ackrediteringen från liberianska myndigheterna låter vänta på sig.



### Utveckling i Liberia

*Vägen till internationella flygplatsen Robertsfield byggs ut och blir fyrfilig.*

Jolanta och Natalia  
Tellström

Stefan de Vylder

Göran & Linda  
Häss

## UTBILDNING...

...är vägen till **fred frihet utveckling**

**Kära Liberiavänner och läsare,**

*Att ge barn och ungdomar utbildning är en av de viktigaste insatserna för att ett land ska utvecklas.*

Därför kämpar LDA för att alla barn och ungdomar ska få gå i skola.

Tillsammans förändrar vi barns och ungdomars liv varje dag.

Med ditt stöd kan Liberia Dujar Association bidra till att skapa en framtid för Liberias barn och ungdomar genom utbildning.



*On January 31, 2024, the United Methodist University confers Honorary Doctorate Degree on President Boakai.*

### MEDLEMSAVGIFTEN

295 kr för enskild medlem;  
495 kr för familj.

Swisha  
med  
QR-kod.



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**90** SVENSK  
KONTO INSAMLINGS  
KONTROLL

[www.insamlingskontroll.se](http://www.insamlingskontroll.se)

**Anna Hellerstedt**  
Enskild partner

**Torbjörn Andersson**  
**Elisabeth Ahlström**

**Yvonne Tillman**  
**Secondhand Clothes**