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## Liberia: Marylanders Extol Two Great Authors

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Citizens of Maryland County in Southeastern Liberia have lavished praises on two great sons of the county for their effort aimed at highlighting the rich culture and tradition of the Gedebo or Kleo people in a book titled: "Founder Yawah Toe and Paramount Chief Wrea Musu, Heroes of Gedebo or Kleo, a Subsection of Grebo Land in Liberia".

A book, written by two veteran Liberian school teachers, William Kpaye Kamma Reeves and Alphonsus Gbenon Nyenati Davis, has been published by the Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, USA. The book reveals the tale and folklore of the founder of the Gedebo Chiefdom, Chief Yawah Toe, narrating the history of members of the Grebo ethnic group living in Gedebo, Maryland County and an oral history of their famous Paramount Chief Wrea Musu who ruled the Gedebo Chiefdom from the 16th century, and the amalgamated Gedebo-Nye Nebo Chiefdoms from 1928 to 1965.

The novel which is adventurous and expeditious, also focuses on the process through which Yawah Toe founded the Gedebo Land; combating opposing forces while seeking a secure dwelling place and daily bread for his family in the jungles of the then unknown but fertile land.

News of the book has been joyfully received by thousands of Marylanders, particularly sons and daughters of the Gedebo Chiefdom including Senator Gloria Maya Musu Scott, granddaughter of the famous and venerable Chief Wrea Musu whose 43 year ruled strengthened and prospered the self belief and determination of the Gedebo or Kleo people.

Speaking a day after she received a copy of the historic book, Senator Scott described as overwhelming the joyfulness and appreciation of the Gedebo people and the entire population of Maryland County, especially the student populace to the two veteran school teachers (William Kpaye Kamma Reeves and Alphonsus Gbenon Nyenati Davis) for a job well done.

Senator Scott said, she was particularly moved by the patriotic courage of the two men to begin a process of digging out the historic facts about Liberia's rich culture and traditions, something which will go a long way in addressing some of the inconsistencies, misinformation, and disinformation that cloud the tribal, religious, cultural, traditional and political history of Liberia, she added.

She also promised to make a formal presentation of the book to the Ministry of Education upon receipt of the first consignment in the near future. "I am really elated, and I must say that we are elated. The people of Gedebo and the people of Maryland County as a whole, are grateful to these two great men who have taken their precious time, effort, and resources to prepare what I consider a solid treasure for all of us and the generations yet unborn.

We say hats off to them; may God continue to multiply their blessings. I am particularly grateful and appreciative because my family background is recognized and venerated in such an esteemed endeavor", she averred. Meanwhile, reports from Maryland County indicate that citizens, particularly the student community, are expressing thanks and appreciation to Teachers Kamma Reeves and Nyenati Davis for their effort aimed at enriching the libraries of schools in the county and beyond.

William Kpaye Kamma Reeves was born in Kablake, Gedebo, Maryland County. In 1955 he graduated from Our Lady of Fatima High School in Harper City, and the next year, started teaching in its elementary division. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from the Maryland College of Our Lady of Fatima in 1959.

Also, working as an administrator, he became Acting Principal of the Tubman-Wilson Institute (TWI) in Zwedru in 1965, vice-principal of TWI in 1969, Principal of TWI in 1973, and Principal of Bishop Juwle High School in Zwedru from 1978 to 1990. He fled Liberia's civil war in 1990 and now lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

Co-author Alphonsus Gbenon Nyenati Davis was born in Heweken, Gedebo, Maryland County. He graduated from Our Lady of Fatima High School in 1955 before studying at the Tubman National Institute of Medical Arts (TNIMA) School of Nursing where he earned a RN (Registered Nurse) diploma in 1958.

Teacher Nyenati Davis earned a French language certificate and a diploma in Anesthesia at the Institute of Anesthesiology. He also earned a B.SC. degree in education from the College of Our Lady of Fatima, Harper City in 1969. He served as a Nurse-Anesthetist at the J.J. Dossen Memorial Hospital in Harper and taught French. He left Liberia in 2000 and now resides in the U.S., in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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