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**Women Legislators Press for 30 Percent Representation****The Inquirer** (Monrovia)

NEWS

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By Morrison O.G. Sayon

President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has called on female lawmakers in the country to support the work of Liberian women.

President Sirleaf wants the lawmakers to help improve the educational standard of women by providing them the opportunity that would enable them be competent and exposed in the society.

The Liberian leader also called on the female lawmakers to reach out to their constituents to ensure the total representation of women in government in the next term. President Sirleaf spoke over the weekend when she officially launched the Women Legislature Caucus (WLC) at the Monrovia City Hall.

At the same time, the newly launched Women Legislative Caucus said it would press for the minimum requirement of 30 percent women representation in the Liberian Parliament.

Following her induction as Chairman of the WLC, Montserrado County Representative, Alomiza M. Ennos-Barr, said that her organization would ensure that the 30 percent women representation in parliament be enacted into law by the 52nd Legislature.

Rep. Ennos-Barr noted that the present representation of women in parliament including the Liberian Senate and House of Representatives stands at 15 percent. She stressed that by 2011 the issue of women representation in the Legislature would be a matter of right and not privilege.

Stressing on the role of the Women Legislative Caucus, Rep. Ennos-Barr added that WLC's mission is to facilitate and to ensure a healthy well-empowered and peaceful Liberian society where the improvement and the promotion of the socio-economic welfare of women would be guaranteed and protected through appropriate legislation, policy and program of government.

Earlier, the President Pro Tempore of the Liberian Senate, Isaac Nyenabo, said the launching of the first ever Female Legislative Caucus in Liberia must be dedicated to the late William V.S. Tubman, the eight President of Liberia who he said declared suffrage to women something that was considered as a challenge to male domination in political decision-making.

Senator Nyenabo then admonished Liberian women to participate actively in present-day political reality and be fearless in seeking higher positions in the Legislature.

Those inducted as officers of the WLC include Rep. Alomiza M. Ennos-Barr, Chairman; Senator Hannah G. Brent, Co-Chairman on National Affairs; Senator Clarice A. Jah, Co-Chairman on International Affairs; Rep. Regina Sokan-Teah, Secretary-General; Sen. Gloria M. Scott, Advisor; and Rep. and Corpu Barclay, member.

Others include, Rep. Kuku Y. Dorbor, member; Rep. Maliam Jallabah, member; Rep. Nohn Kidau, member; Rep. Victoria Lynch, member; Rep. Haja Fata Sryon, member; Senator Joyce Freeman-Sumo, member; Senator Jewel Howard-Taylor, member and Rep. Elizabeth Williams, member.

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