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German Group To Support Democratic Institutions --In Liberia

An official of a Germany-based pro-democracy group has said that no society can be developed and sustained without supporting and building democratic institutions.

He said democracy can be nurtured if civic education is introduced and taught in schools as well as in communities.

Klaus D. Loetzer, who heads the Programme For The Promotion of Democracy In West Africa (PPDWA), a German pro-democracy group based in Berlin, said it was important for individuals involved in the building of democratic institutions in Liberia to engage in political education.

This, he noted, was significant in nurturing democracy from the grass roots. Mr. Loetzer, a German national, made the comments recently during a visit to the Country.

He told The NEWS that he was in the country to assess the possibility of establishing a branch of the organization in Liberia in order to support democracy institutions in building democracy.

Loetzer who said his group operates in more than 11 countries in West Africa, emphasized that his organization would support and empower women in the building of democracy in Liberia, added, "they have a saying in political issues."

The German stressed that Liberia needs democracy and that the preparation for the general and presidential elections in 2005 should begin now. Loetzer said he was impressed that within a such time Liberians are coping with the reality of the day, adding that the need for security should be paramount.