

**TOPIC: NATIONAL IDENTITY AND UNITY**

Definitions:	
<b>national development</b>	A development package that affects a large spectrum of the 15 political sub-division ranging from economic to social to education, health care, agriculture, infrastructure, security, etc.
<b>national identity</b>	How a particular people see and consider themselves from the rest of the world. We in this part of the world are identified as Liberians. Our passport and identity card are used to identify us wherever we go.
<b>national unity</b>	A group of people acting together in oneness of mind with a single goal. I Cor. 12 speaks about a body with many parts working together with a common goal. All parts feel hurt when one is hurt and rejoice when one rejoices. Unity is to come together and stick together thus becoming inseparable and undefeatable. United we stand!

<b>THE ROOT CAUSES LACK OF NATIONAL IDENTITY AND UNITY</b>	1. Lack of balance between the traditional values
	2. Lack of community care and support
	3. Cultural invasion, lack of common language that connects the people
	4. Lack of national pride, discrimination between indigenous people and the elites or the settlers
	5. Lack of emphasis on the teaching of Liberian cultural values and customs
	6. Lack of community spirit, identity and ownership
	7. Distorted Liberian history
	8. Religious bias/cultural bias against tradition
	9. Appointment based on nepotism, tribalism and political affiliation
	10. Lack of national youth service program that integrates and unifies the people of Liberia
	11. Unfair distribution of proceeds of natural resources
	12. Lack of understanding of positive Liberian values

<b>LACK OF NATIONAL IDENTITY AND UNITY - CONSEQUENCES AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL</b>	1. Deterred personal development
	2. Negative self-image
	3. Selfishness
	4. Lack of love
	5. Dreams are not actualized
	6. No value of culture
	7. No clarity of your identity
	8. Lack of information

<b>LACK OF NATIONAL IDENTITY AND UNITY - CONSEQUENCES AT THE FAMILY LEVEL</b>	1. No progress
	2. Lack of vision
	3. Poverty stricken
	4. Lack of priority
	5. Lack of family identity
	6. Family set back
	7. Lack family direction

<b>LACK OF NATIONAL IDENTITY AND UNITY - CONSEQUENCES AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL</b>	1. Stagnation
	2. Indifferent in reasoning together
	3. Set back
	4. Lack of community interest
	5. No cultural respect for others
	6. Discrimination
	7. Lack of coordination and cooperation
	8. No shared values
	9. Misinterpretation

**NATIONAL IDENTITY AND UNITY: THE WAY FORWARD**

<b>LACK OF NATIONAL IDENTITY AND UNITY - WAY FORWARD AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL</b>	1. Openness of oneself to other cultures
	2. Breaking Tribal Barriers by learning other tribes
	3. Must have self-esteem(values, principles
	4. One must practice and appreciate one's culture
	5. Must seek to know his/her own history/constitution
	6. Must practice moral values

<b>LACK OF NATIONAL IDENTITY AND UNITY – WAY FORWARD AT THE FAMILY LEVEL</b>	1. Family members should learn and appreciate the culture of others
	2. Families must encourage inter-marriages with others from other ethnic groupings
	3. Families must encourage the learning of other tribes apart from theirs
	4. Families must teach their children their cultural values and customs
	5. Families must priorities educating their children formally
	6. Families head must be roll model to the rest of the family members

<b>LACK OF NATIONAL IDENTITY AND UNITY – WAY FORWARD AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL</b>	1. There must be cultural integration
	2. The community must have goal/aim
	3. There must be cultural respects
	4. To have regular community meetings
	5. Must protect and appreciate/take ownership of community resources
	6. Should utilize local resources to undertake sustainable development projects

<b>LACK OF NATIONAL IDENTITY AND UNITY – WAY FORWARD AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL</b>	1. National government should teach Liberian cultures and values in schools
	2. National government must identify one local dialect and teach it in primary schools, preferably Kpelleh/Bassa
	3. Must encourage cultural extravaganza
	4. Must re-write the History of Liberia
	5. Should promote justice, equality and fair distribution of natural resources

