

JUDICIARY BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT
EXPENDITURE REPORT
FY-2016-2017

MR. CHAIRMAN AND HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE WAYS, MEANS, & FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE JOINT ASSEMBLY OF THE 53RD NATIONAL LEGISLATURE:.

I bring you greetings from His Honor Francis S., Korkpor Sr., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, the Associate Justices, Judges and the entire Judiciary family, and I wish to commend this August Body for the tireless efforts employed in trying to foster the level of accountability and transparency through these budget hearings, especially during this critical period of Government's announced austerity program.

The Judiciary remains grateful for the public support which guarantees the provision of improved judicial services to the Liberian people. The Judiciary has a combined total of 238 (TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY EIGHT) courts throughout the sixteen (16) Judicial Circuits in the Country. They are: Circuit Courts, Specialized Courts and Magisterial Courts operating within the fifteen (15) counties of the country, distributed as follows:

TABLE I: TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBORDINATE COURTS.

NO.	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OPERATIONAL	LOCATION
1.	CIRCUIT COURTS	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 – Montserrado County 1st Judicial Circuit Court: Criminal Courts "A", "B", "C", "D" & "E" 6th Judicial Circuit Civil Law Court (1 & 2) • 14 (One each) in remaining Counties
2.	SPECIALIZED COURTS		
(a)	PROVISIONAL MONTHLY & PROBATE COURTS	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3- Sinoe • 1-Maryland • 2 – Montserrado • 2 Grand Gedeh • 4 – Grand Kru • 1 - Gbarpolu
(b)	TRAFFIC COURTS	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 (2 each) in Montserrado and Margibi • 13 (1 each) in the remaining thirteen counties
(c)	REVENUE/TAX COURTS	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 in Grand Bassa • 3 in Sinoe • 4 in Grand Kru • 12 (one each) in the remaining 12 counties
(d)	DEBT COURTS	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One operating in each of the 15 counties
(e)	COMMERCIAL COURT	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One National Commercial Court in Montserrado with Three (3) Judges.
3.	MAGISTERIAL COURTS	151	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10- Montserrado • 141 – in remaining 14 Counties

FISCAL PERIOD 2016/2017 UNDER REVIEW:

1.0 EXPENDITURE REPORT.

During the period under review (FY 2016/2017) the amount of US\$19,347,206.00 was appropriated and allotted to the Judiciary.

- US\$3,122,435.00 constitutes basic salary which was disbursed directly to employees by the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning; and,
- US\$16,224,771.50 was received by the Judiciary. See below the breakdown of allotment according to budgetary allocation by major codes of expenditure.

TABLE II: ANALYSIS OF APPROPRIATION AND ALLOTMENT RECEIVED.

PROGRAM	APPROPRIATION F/Y 2016 - 2017	ALLOTMENT F/Y 2016 – 2017	BALANCE IN APPROPRIATION
Compensation /Employees' Benefits	\$14,493,148.00	\$14,493,148.00	-0-
Goods & Services	\$3,074,158.50	\$3,074,158.50	-0-
Capital Equipment	\$1,779,900.00	\$1,779,900.00	-0-
TOTAL	\$19,347,206.50	\$19,347,206.50	-0-
LESS BASIC SALARY		\$3,122,435.00	-0-
NET AMOUNT RECEIVED		\$16,224,771.50	-0-

TABLE III: ANALYSIS OF ALLOCATION RECEIVED, EXPENDITURE & BALANCE PAYMENT IN PROCESS.

PROGRAM	ALLOTMENT F/Y 2016 - 2017	EXPENDITURE F/Y 2016 – 2017	BALANCE (Committed June 2017)
Compensation /Employees' Benefits	\$11,370,713.00	\$9,965,313.00	\$1,405,400.00
Goods & Services	\$3,074,158.50	\$2,735,764.00	\$338,394.50
Capital Expenditure	\$1,779,900.00	\$875,000.00	\$904,900.00
TOTAL	\$16,224,771.50	\$13,576,077.00	\$2,648,694.50

TABLE IV: BALANCE PAYMENTS IN PROCESS FY 2016 - 2017.

PROGRAM	BALANCES
Compensations /Employees' Benefits	\$1,405,400.00
(a) Compensations	
i. General & Special Allowances	\$850,900.00
ii. Juror Payments (Feb. + March + May Terms of Court, 2017)	\$550,000.00
iii. Pension Benefits	\$4,500.00
Goods & Services	\$338,394.50
(a) Fuel (May + June 2017)	\$250,000.00
(b) Bal payment for electrical Panel for Temple of Justice	\$62,195.50
(c) Bal payment for painting of ToJ under civil works	\$29,199.00
Capital Expenditure	\$904,900.00
(a) Payment for Judicial Complex, Sanniquellie, 8 th judicial Circuit, Nimba County	\$300,000.00
(b) Completion of Court Complex, Tubmanburg, 11 th judicial Circuit, Bomi County.	\$230,000.00
(c) Renovation/Rehabilitation of Circuit Court Building, Fishtown, 14 th Judicial Circuit, Rivergee County	\$204,900.00
(d) Fencing around Circuit Court Building, Barclayville City, 12 th Judicial Circuit, Grand Kru County.	\$100,000.00
(e) Purchase of a 32 Seater Bus for Judicial Staffers at ToJ	\$70,000.00
TOTAL	\$2,648,694.50

NOTE: In addition to the US\$19,098,424.00 the Judiciary received US\$248,782.50.00 for the replacement of the entire electrical panel of the Temple of Justice building.

2.0 PERFORMANCE / ACHIEVEMENTS

In spite of the on-going austerity measures put into place by the Central Government, which greatly constrains the operational capacity of the Judiciary, the Judiciary is pleased to report to this Honorable Body that progress was made in the attainment of its statutory mandate as provided for by the Constitution and statutory laws of the Republic of Liberia. Please see below Court Performance Statistics.

COURT PERFORMANCE STATISTICS ALL COURTS COMBINED SUMMARY July 1, 2016 – March 30, 2017

#	Period	Cases Docketed	Cases Disposed	Cases on Appeal	Cases pending
1	1 st Judicial Circuit, Criminal Divisions :				
	1. Aug. 2016 Term	213	125	3	85
	2. Nov. 2016 Term	253	83	5	165
	3. Feb Term 2017	255	112	5	138
	4. May Term 2017				
	Sub-total	721	320	13	388
2	6 th Judicial Circuit, Civil Divisions :				
	1. Aug. 2016 Term	252	210	4	38
	2. Nov. 2016 Term	207	158	4	45
	3. Feb Term 2017	48	35	0	13
	4. May Term 2017				
	Sub-total	507	403	8	96
3	All Specialized Courts:				
	1. Aug. 2016 Term	64	36	0	28
	2. Nov. 2016 Term	56	22	0	34
	3. Feb Term 2017	309	148	0	161
	4. May Term 2017				
	Sub-total	429	206	0	223
4	Magisterial Courts:				
	1. Aug. 2016 Term	451	306	5	140
	2. Nov. 2016 Term	1668	820	92	756
	3. Feb Term 2017				
	4. May Term 2017				
	Sub-total	2119	1126	97	896
	Total:	3776	2055	118	1603
	Performance Indicators	100%	54.42%	3.13%	42.45%

2.1 Human Resource Capacity Development.

(a) Scholarship for Students at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law FY/2016 - 2017.

No.	# Of Students	# Of Graduates As Of Dec. 2016	# Of Students Recruited As Of 2017	# of Students Enrolled to date
1.	20	6	6	20

NOTE:

The Judiciary scholarship scheme which begun in 1998 at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law over a eighteen (18) year period has seen the graduation of more than 100 Law School Graduates.

- During the course of study, scholarship students receive quarterly stipends.
- Upon graduation, beneficiaries are placed throughout the court system as law clerks, magistrates, associate magistrates, public defenders, and others seconded to serve in other ministries and agencies of Government.

(b) Training by the James A. A. Pierre Judicial Institute (JI).

The Judicial Institute (JI) began its training exercise in 2010 and continues in-service training of judges, magistrates, public defenders, court clerks, bailiffs and college graduates as professional magistrates. The JI also conducts training for City Solicitors at the request of the Ministry of Justice.

No.	ACTIVITIES OF THE JI	SPONSORSHIP
1.	Completion of Training for the 2 nd batch of 60 College Graduates as Professional Magistrates	SWEDISH GOVERNMENT through the Justice & Security Trust Fund (JSTF)/Judiciary
2.	Completion of the Judges' 2 nd Quarterly Training for 60 participants	USAID /LPAC (Liberia Professional Anti-Corruption Project)/Judiciary
3.	Completion of Jury Management Training conducted for 18 participants	UNMIL/Judiciary
4.	Completion of Public Defenders' Training conducted for 32 participants	UNMIL/Judiciary
5.	Completion of Joint Training of Magistrates and City Solicitors covering a total of 113 participants	SWEDISH GOVERNMENT through the Justice & Security Trust Fund (JSTF)/Judiciary

2.2 Judicial Infrastructural Initiatives.

Based on the inspection conducted by the Project Team and the In-House Engineer (May 5 – 14, 2017) the following achievements were reported:

A. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED PROJECTS:

NO	COURT TYPE	LOCATION	LEVEL OF COMPLETION
1.	CIRCUIT COURT COMPLEX • Courts • Amenities	• Zwedru City 7 TH Judicial Circuit, Grand Gedeh County	60% Complete
		• Tubmanburg City 11 th Judicial Circuit, Bomi County	85% Complete
2.	JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT COMPLEX • Courts • Amenities • Judges' Residence • SGBV-Court	• Sanniquellie City 8 th Judicial Circuit, Nimba County	90% Complete

NOTE: It is worth mentioning that works on these Circuit Court Construction Projects continue as a result of the Government of the Republic of Liberia's commitment to financing these contractual obligations to their satisfactory completion.

B. Donor Supported Projects: Four (4) Magisterial Courts Project with support from the Justice & Security Joint Program (JSJP) thru funding from the Swedish Government.

With support from the Swedish Government through the JSJP under the management of the UNDP, the Judiciary received assistance in the amount of **US\$612,000.00** for the construction, equipping and furnishing of four (4) magisterial courts. The courts and their locations are as follows:

NO	COURT	LOCATION	LEVEL OF COMPLETION
1.	Omega Community Magisterial Court	Paynesville City Montserrado County	75% Milestones
2.	Kokoyah Magisterial Court	Botota 9 th Judicial Circuit, Bong County	75% Milestones
3.	Kahnplay City Magisterial Court	Kahnplay City 8 th Judicial Circuit, Nimba County	100 % Turned Over
4.	Vahun City Magisterial Court	Vahun City 10 th judicial Circuit, Lofa County	100% Milestones Pending Certification

3.0 PROPOSED PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FOR FY 2017 / 2018: USD\$ USD\$3,574,371.06

In consideration of the efforts by the Judiciary to deliver quality services to the people, we request this August Body to provide the necessary budgetary support to enhance its capacity. Please see the interventions in the following priority areas:

NO.	INTERVENTIONS	PROPOSED ESTIMATE
1.	Deployment of 2nd batch of Sixty (60) Trained Professional Magistrates	US\$671,520.00
	(a) General Allowance. 60PMT @ \$750.00/month @ 12 months - \$540,000.00	
	(b) Basic Salary. 60PMT @ \$141.00/month @ 12 months - \$101,520.00	
	(c) Deployment Package. 60PMT @ \$500.00 one-time payment - \$30,000.00	
2.	Completion of on-going infrastructure projects around the country.	US\$634,851.06
	(a) Nimba County, 8 th Judicial Circuit Court Complex : \$302,634.00	
	(b) Grand Gedeh, 7 th Judicial Circuit Court Complex: \$332,217.06	
3.	Renovation of Circuit & Magisterial Courts.	US\$43,000.00
	(a) 2 nd Judicial Circuit Court, Grand Bassa County. \$35,500.00	
	(b) Duo Magisterial Court, 8 th Judicial Circuit, Nimba County. 7,500.00	
4.	Construction & Furnishing of Circuit Courts	US\$1,850,000.00
	(a) 14 th Judicial Circuit Court, Rivercess County. 850,000.00	
	(b) 13 th Judicial Circuit Court, Margibi County. \$1,000,000.00	
5.	Construction & Furnishing of Magisterial Courts.	US\$300,000.00
	(a) Bahn Magisterial I Court, 8 th Judicial Circuit, Nimba County \$150,000.00	
	(b) Picniness Magisterial Court, 12 th Judicial Circuit, Grand Kru County. \$150,000.00	
6.	Purchase of a 32 Seated Bus for staffers at the TOJ	US\$75,000.00
	TOTAL PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	\$3,574,371.00

NOTE:

The aforementioned **Judiciary Priorities** in the additional amount of **USD\$3,574,371.00**, is required to augment the **BUDGET CEILING FY-2017/2018** in the amount of **US\$17,318,524.00** to an amount of **US\$20,892,895.06**.

3.1 BUDGET CEILING FY-2017/2018 AND NATIONAL DRAFT BUDGET FY -2017/2018 (DISPERITIES)

Honorable Chairman and Members of the Legislative Ways, Means & Finance Committee, the Judiciary received a budget ceiling of US\$17, 318,524.00 on which basis a submission was made to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP). But surprisingly, on May 29, 2017, we received a draft budget from the MFDP in the amount of US\$16,442,654.00. This constitutes a reduction of US\$875,870.00.

We should note that the reduction affects petroleum supply by 50% from US\$1,455,260 to US\$700,130.00; it also reduces telecommunication, internet, etc. from US\$121,980.00 to US\$60,990.00.

By July, 2017, the Judicial Complex in Sanniquellie, Nimba County and the Circuit Court Complex in Tubmanburg, Bomi County, will be dedicated for operations. These reductions will hamper the operations of our courts. In an effort to modernize the court system in the country, all of our circuits are now being electrified thus making it possible to computerize all court records. These services will not be continued, especially in respect of the new court complexes mentioned above which are soon to be dedicated in July, 2017, should the reduction in the costs of petroleum supply remain in effect.

The internet subscription of the Temple of Justice being provided by LIBTELCO which amounts to US\$34,500.00 per annum at a monthly rate of US\$2,875.00 will also be hampered. The Judiciary website launched and operationalized in March last year which donors are currently using as one of the indicators to monitor the performance of the Judiciary, will similarly be affected..

In closing, we wish to note that the Judiciary is cognizant of the prevailing economic situation the nation is faced with. However, we submit that the delivery of transparent justice to the people is a paramount task of the Government to which we are committed. We therefore respectfully appeal to the Legislative Branch of Government through you, to consider our request and make the appropriate budgetary allocations for the smooth running of our Branch of Government.

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT COMPLEX, SANNIQUELLIE CITY, NIMBA COUNTY, LIBERIA.

SLIDE 1. FRONT VIEW OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE GATES.



SLIDE 2. FRONT SIDE VIEW OF GATE WITH SECURITY BOOTH.



SLIDE 3. Back Lateral View Of Circuit Court Building.



SLIDE 4. Back / Side Lateral View Of Circuit Court Building.



SLIDE 5. Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Court: 7th Judicial Circuit, Nimba County.



SLIDE 6. Back Lateral View Of Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Court.



SLIDE 7. Front View of Circuit Judges' Residence.



SLIDE 8. Back View Of Circuit Judges' Residence.



PART II: SWEDISH GOVERNMENT FUNDED MAGISTERIAL COURT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

2.1 KAHNPLAY CITY MAGISTERIAL COURT, 8th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, NIMBA COUNTY



SLIDES 1-2. Front view of the majestic looking new version "Toe Town" Prototype Magisterial Court.



SLIDE 3. Full front view of the newly completed Kahnplay City Magisterial Court.



SLIDE 4. Accordion Steel Gate At The Main Entrance To The Kahnplay Magisterial Court Building.

