

## **UNMIL Extols Judiciary For Judicial Complex & Discloses Continual Support To Justice Sector**

As part of efforts to ensure the simplest transition from the United Nation's support to Liberia's rule of law sector, the United Nation's Mission in Liberia, UNMIL, said that concrete plans are already in place through the UNDP Rule of Law Joint Program to support Liberia's justice sector.

The mission's Rule of Law Chief in Liberia, Walderman Vrey, disclosed that UNDP's Rule of Law Joint Program will support actions to address challenges in the Criminal Justice System of Liberia and urged relevant actors in the justice and security sectors to take advantage of the opportunity.

Mr. Vrey, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, DSRSG on Rule of Law, made the disclosure during programs marking the dedication of a modern Judicial Complex constructed in Tubmanburg, Bomi County, for use by the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.

At the March 2, 2018 program, Mr. Vrey on behalf of UNMIL congratulated the Liberian Judiciary for the construction of yet another modern judicial complex in western Liberia, precisely in Tubmanburg, Bomi County.

Mr. Vrey noted the dedication of the judicial complex marked a milestone in Liberia's efforts to entrench rule of law, enhance access to justice for its citizens and improve infrastructure in the justice sector. "This complex will surely make an invaluable contribution towards the realization of Liberia's quest to promote the rule of law culture amongst its citizenry as it offers residents of this county, as well as the criminal justice officials an environment befitting of the majesty of the law."

He expressed the hope that the new work environment will increase productivity and enhance the rights of persons who will seek justice from the courts housed in the modern facility which is the first ever constructed in Bomi County.

"While this great facility is a huge step forward, let us remember that it is only the supporting justice officials who will turn it into an efficient center of excellence in service of the people of Liberia and good citizenry of this country."

He mentioned the termination of UNMIL's operations in Liberia by the end of March 2018, but added that there was no denial that Liberia and the mission achieved a lot. "I am sure that you will agree when I say that the progress made by Liberia is irreversible. Therefore, I encourage every citizen and resident of this county to play his or her respective role to support the numerous efforts to enhance the rule of law in Liberia. It is only in such collective effort that Liberia will succeed."

The UNMIL DSRSG encouraged the Judiciary and the Justice Ministry to, "in close coordination" with the Legislature, continue to collaborate as a way of devising and implementing creative interventions to address and improve the challenges in the Criminal Justice System.

This, he said, is the surest way to ensure access to justice for all the people and to address pre-trial detention which he described as an "unfortunate manifestation of some of these challenges."

The DSRSG thanked Liberians working in the justice and security sectors collectively and individually for their support to UNMIL during its operations in Liberia.