

Executive, Legislature Pledge to Work with Judiciary to Implement Recommendation from Conference

By: P. Nas Mulbah



Liberia's Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Cllr. Frank Musa Dean has said that both the Executive and Legislative branches of government are committed to working with the Judiciary in the implementation of recommendations coming out of the 4th National Judicial Conference.

Cllr. Dean, speaking as proxy for President George M. Weah, said the government with assistance from donor partners including UNDP, Swedish government, United States government and others executed several projects for the building of peace, justice and strong institutions.

Cllr. Dean outlined some achievements of projects; like the rule of law project, include increase in the number and capacity of public prosecutors, public defenders, judges, legal aid practitioners, correctional officials, social workers and the construction of several court houses.

"There is also the alternative dispute resolution project which is on the way and intended to enhance the access to Justice for all especially the most vulnerable. Two rapes courts have also been established in Bong and Nimba Counties and we will be replicated in the other counties," he stated.

The Justice Minister, who is also Dean of the Supreme Court Bar, praised the Chief Justice Francis S Korkpor, Sr. for organizing the conference to deliberate on the achievement, progress and challenges of the Judiciary.

He noted that at the center of the deliberation no doubt, will be the concept of the rule of law and those ideals, moral principles, systems and norms reflected in government institutions.

He pointed out that the deliberation will bring into focus the independence of the Judiciary. "The need to dispense justice in straight adherence to the principle of law without fear, favor and interference", stated the minister.

Minister Dean emphasized that under the rule of law a public office is a public trust. A public trust, he said, places an obligation on those holding public offices to reflect on the principle of the country's democratic system of government by exercising the authority within the confines of the law.

According to him, the rule of law is not only about the independence of the Judiciary and the obligation of those in position of trust. It is also about ordinary citizens respecting the law.

Minister Dean: "All persons, institutions and entities must be accountable to the laws that are publicly promulgated and equally enforce."

The Justice Minister referenced pillar (3) of the government of Liberia's Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development relating to sustaining the peace.

He said pillar (3) of the Pro-poor agenda defines a peaceful society as one in which the justice system works for all including the poor and the most marginalized. "The pillar identified injustice as one of the root causes of instability."