

# Judiciary Convenes National Conference

By: P. Nas Mulbah



The Judiciary Branch of Government has convened its 4<sup>th</sup> National Judicial Conference as required by the Revised Rules of the Supreme Court of Liberia.

The Conference brought together hundreds of participants including Justices, Judges, Magistrates, lawyers, financial experts, and other relevant stakeholders to discuss burning issues affecting law, public policy and the Liberian economy.

The National Judicial Conference, which was held at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, outside Monrovia, from June 7-11, 2021, was under the theme: The Law, Public Policy and the Economy.

Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr., in his welcome remarks at the opening of the conference on Monday, June 7, 2021, said the last National Judicial Conference was held in March of 2010, more than eleven (11) years ago under the administration of the late Chief Justice Johnnie N. Lewis. "At the time, I served as the Chairperson of the Conference

Committee. As I have said before, law is much more dynamic and progressive than other fields of study.”

Chief Justice Korkpor said the Revised Rules of the Supreme Court of Liberia provides that the Court shall hold a National Judicial Conference at least once a year. However due to financial constraints, this has not been possible for a long time until now.

According to the Chief Justice, locally and internationally, new laws are constantly being promulgated, while existing laws are repealed or amended to suit the time, condition, and the needs of the people. “This means that we who are in the field of law must keep pace with the changes and developments”, he said

“We must meet from time to time to discuss trending issues in law and the administration of justice and harmonize views for the good of the public. We must continue to acquire/and or enhance knowledge in the law as a means of ensuring certainty in its interpretation,” He noted.

He said this is exactly the rationale for the rule of the Supreme Court which requires that a National Judicial Conference be held at least once every year. “Let me seize this opportunity to thank the administration of His Excellency George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia for making funds available for this Conference” the Chief Justice added.

The Chief Justice expressed hope that funds will be provided on a regular basis to make the Conference an annual event as envisaged by the Rules of the Supreme Court. He also extended thanks to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the American Bar Association (ABA) for also providing financial and logistical support to the Conference.

He lavished praises on his distinguished colleague, Madam Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chairperson of the Conference Committee and the other members of that Committee for the excellent job done in the planning and execution of the activities of the Conference.

Also making remarks at the conference, Swedish Ambassador accredited to Liberia, Madam Ingrid Wetterqvist said the independence of the Judiciary is a key factor in the application of the rule of law.

Ambassador Wetterqvist added that the independence of the Judiciary creates stability and predictability for foreign investment and anyone wishing to engage with the country.

“The legal system is depending on the three branches of government, Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary and the balance between them and the independence among them. We watched you; we see you and we are interested in working with you to continue the independence of the Judiciary and the application of the rule of law in Liberia”, she added.

Also speaking, the United States Ambassador accredited to Liberia, Mr. Michael McCarthy disclosed that the United States Government remains committed to protecting the country’s fragile peace.

Ambassador McCarthy further emphasised that the United States Government is also committed to maintaining the long-standing relationship between the two countries.

“We at the U.S. Embassy will continue to maintain our long history of standing beside Liberia to support the justice efforts directly or indirectly. We remain steadfast in our commitment to a peaceful and just Liberia,” Ambassador McCarthy said.