

Judiciary Gets More Female Judges

---As Chief Justice Yuoh Tells Newly- Commissioned Judges to
“Uphold & Support the Constitution of Liberia”



Cllr. Golda A. Bonah Elliot
Relieving Judge, R. L.

Cllr. Mameita Jabateh Sirleaf
Resident Circuit Judge, Criminal Assizes “D”,
1st Judicial Circuit

The ascendancy of women to high offices in Liberia is a leap forward for the equal rights of women to participate in politics and to hold public office.

Noting that women constitute approximately 49.7 % of the country’s total population, it is crucial that women participate and be represented in all spheres of the public and private sectors in Liberia, to ensure adequate protection of the rights of women.

Pursuant to the above-mentioned, the President of the Republic of Liberia, through a communication, designated the Chief Justice of Liberia Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh to perform the commissioning ceremony of the appointed female judges along with a male Judge.

In consonance with Section 3.6 of the Judiciary Law as amended, it is the prerogative of the President of the Republic of Liberia, following his/her appointment of a judge, to commission said judge. Thereafter, the Chief Justice of the Republic of Liberia officially seats the appointed judge, an exercise which is the final step to enable the judge to officially commence his/her duties and responsibilities.

Performing the ceremony on Thursday, April 13, 2023, Chief Justice Yuoh remarked: *“Today, I am again authorized to commission three Judges, viz.: Cllr. Mameita Jabateh Sirleaf, Resident Circuit, Criminal Assizes “D”, replacing retired Judge SiKajipo A. Wolloh; and Counselors Golda A. Bonah Elliot and Wesseh Alphonsus Wesseh as Relieving Judges of the Republic of Liberia to complete the total number of relieving judges in keeping with the aforementioned law.”*

Administering the Oath, She said: *“therefore, by the authority of the power vested in me as Chief Justice of the Republic of Liberia, I hereby now officially induct you, and have you, Judge Mameita Jabateh Sirleaf, seated as Resident Circuit Judge, First Judicial Circuit, Criminal Assizes “D”; Judge Golda A. Bonah Elliot, and Judge Wesseh Alphonsus Wesseh, seated as Relieving Judges of the Republic of Liberia.”*

The High Court Chief Jurist told the judges that it is the expectation of the Bench and the entire Judiciary that they will sacredly uphold and support the Constitution and laws of the land, consistent with the Oath they have taken.

“As tradition demands, I pass each of you a gavel of authority to officially commence your duties as Resident Circuit Judge and Relieving Judges respectively with the knowledge that you are now master of your court, in the case of Judge Sirleaf, and as to both of you, Judge Elliot and Wesseh, to whichever court you may be assigned,” she concluded.

In a special response on behalf of the three Judges, Her Honor Golda A. Elliot, Relieving Judge, Republic of Liberia thanked President George Weah for giving them the opportunity to serve the Judiciary and the country.

Judge Elliot said they do not take the confidence reposed in them for granted. She assured the Chief Justice and the President that the appointment is no mistake and same shall not be regretted.

“We are all aware about the challenges facing the Judiciary; the public perception about the Judiciary and the conduct of Judges and lawyers.

We come to these offices with our own experiences in different fields of the law. We come with our reputation established over the period of our practice. We assure you Madam Chief Justice and the Supreme Court, that we will remain courageous and studious in the law.”

“We endeavor to uphold the Oath taken. We are aware that even as a judge, the practice of the law is a continuous process. We will continue to grow our knowledge in the law; be abreast with the changes in the law and the situation and circumstances of Liberia,” Judge Elliot averred.

Also speaking, the President of the National Association of Trial Judges Her Honor Nancy Finda Sammy expressed appreciation on behalf of her association to the President for nominating and subsequently appointing two females to serve as Judges in Liberia.

Judge Sammy believes that the appointment by the President signifies women’s empowerment in high positions. But she quickly pointed out that for women to be empowered; they have to exert all efforts.