

*The*  
**LIBERIAN**



**JUDICIARY**  
**AUGUST 2025**



# **JUDICIARY ROADMAP TO REBRANDING & HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING**



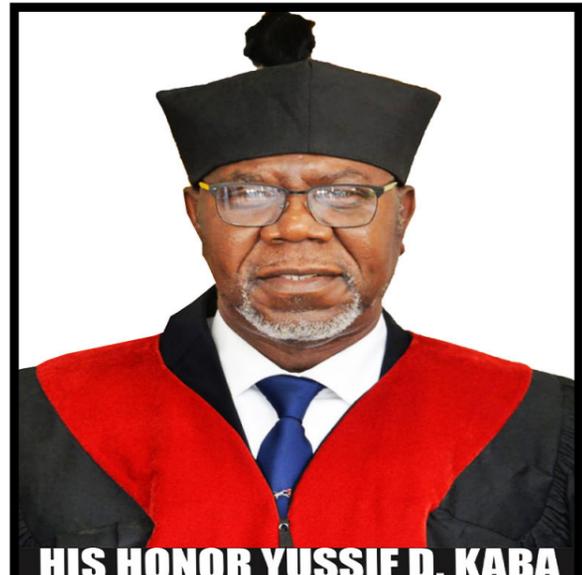
**THE VISION OF CHIEF JUSTICE SIE-  
A-NYENE G. YUOH BEGAN FROM THE  
DAY OF CONFIRMATION AS CHIEF  
JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT  
OF LIBERIA**



**HER HONOR SIE-A-NYENE G. YUOH**  
CHIEF JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



**HER HONOR JAMESETTA H. WOLOKOLIE**  
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



**HIS HONOR YUSSIF D. KABA**  
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE  
SUPREME COURT, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



**HIS HONOR YAMIE QUIQUI GBEISAY, SR.**  
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE  
SUPREME COURT, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



**HER. HONOR CEAINEH D. CLINTON JOHNSON**  
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

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# THE VISION IS BIRTH BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



*Her Honour Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Yuoh  
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Liberia*

Our national efforts as Liberians continue to be dedicated to reconstructing our constitutional order, public institutions, and the operation of statutory laws, all of which had been destroyed by bitter years of violent conflict. The Liberian judiciary is equally dedicated to playing its part as witnessed in 2018 when the Supreme Court of Liberia was moved to guarantee that democratic elections for presidential office occurred peacefully and in compliance with the rule of law. Looking ahead, the Liberian Judiciary now recognizes that demand from Liberians for more efficient, effective, and improved judicial services can only be expected to increase and very likely at a rapid pace.

Under the Constitution of Liberia (1986), the responsibility of stating what the law is in Liberia rests on the Supreme Court of Liberia and other subordinate courts of law established by statute. A central maxim of the rule of law is that “judicial power is exclusively exercised without impediment by an independent Judiciary”. Our mandate to impartially hear and decide upon the legal disputes brought before the courts buttresses the predictability and impartiality of the law and thereby enforces human rights and other legal entitlements. For the rights of Liberian men and women to come at the forefront of the rapid political, social, and economic changes confronting Liberians, the Judiciary must be prepared to act and serve as their bulwark and protector, of fundamental rights.

There is an intrinsic relationship between the rule of law and human rights on one hand, and effective administration of judicial services on the other. Under our Constitution, the Chief Justice has the responsibility to oversee the administration of judicial services in Liberia. Limited resources, lack of infrastructure, human capital considerations, and inadequate financial allocations have perennially undermined the capacity of the Liberian Judiciary to effectively administer the justice system. This Revised Strategic Plan (2025 – 2029) is to ensure persistent perennial challenges are systematically addressed to optimize durable successes of judicial functions.

Over the next five years, the Judiciary will strengthen its constitutional mandate. We will enhance the accessibility, responsiveness, and effectiveness of judicial services and operations in a cross-cutting approach. The desired result is that courts become easier, quicker, and friendlier to access by court users including persons with disabilities, and other users whose needs for judicial relief are acute. Accompanying action plans set out the benchmarks and responsibilities for implementation. Even as we are committed to its implementation, it is recognized that the action plans will require budgetary estimates and allocations, hence the plan also serves as a guide for coordination with governmental and donor support for the judiciary. Achieving judicial excellence is not an isolated exercise or goal; it is an integral part of broader national development initiatives guided by our shared values and norms.

The Judiciary seeks to achieve its constitutional obligations over the next five (5) years, through the rebranding of the Judicial Services for efficiency and effectiveness. The Judiciary rebranding effort is aimed at enhancing efficiency, effectiveness and professionalism in judicial service delivery as well as heightening public trust and confidence in the work of the judiciary. The rebranding strategy is based on a two-pronged approach, internal and external. The internal rebranding focuses on infrastructure enhancement, legal and administrative reforms and redirecting the behavior of judicial employees on the manner and form of engagement with party litigants and other court users, while the external branding focuses on marketing and promoting the judicial Brand through massive public awareness of the functions of the Liberian Judicial system by using the various communication methods and tools to ensure that the Liberian people and other nationals residing in this country are fully educated on the workings of the Judicial system, and its decision-making process.

Rebranding the Liberian Judiciary is expected to produce behavior change in judicial employees and other judicial actors that will lead to efficiency, effectiveness, and enhanced productivity, better engagement with party litigants and other court users thereby building confidence and public trust in the judicial system of Liberia.

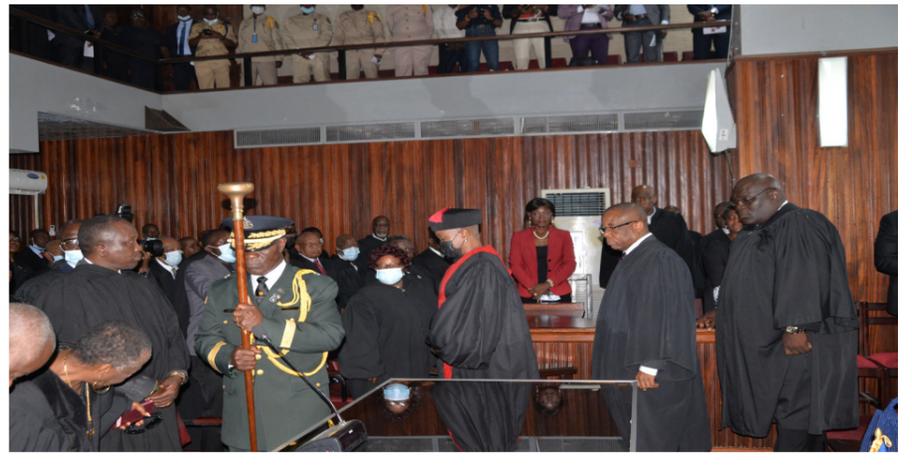


*Chief Justice and Associate Justices of  
the Supreme Court of Liberia*

# IN PICTURE CONFIRMATION & COMMISSIONING OF HER HONOR SIE-A-NYENE G. YUOH



# SEATING OF HER HONOR SIE-A-NYENE G. YUOH AS CHIEF JUSTICE



# LIBERIA'S JUDICIARY ON AN IRREVERSIBLE PATH TO TRANSFORMATION AND MODERNIZATION



The Liberian Judiciary is actually on an irreversible path to transformation and modernization. Since the launch of its Strategic Plan, the Judiciary, within its limited capacity, has taken tremendous steps towards the actualization of the vision contained within the plan.

Towards this end, at the formal opening of the October 2024 Term of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia, Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh in an opening address on Monday, October 14, 2024, announced that a technical working team has developed complete proposals (technical and designs) for the construction of a new Supreme Court Building, the remaining seven (7) Judicial Circuit Complexes and twenty (20) Magisterial Court buildings, all of which are to be constructed within the next five years.

***“We have already agreed as a Government of Liberia to construct the first of the seven (7) Circuit Court Complexes in Maryland County and we are pleased that funds have already been allotted for the construction works to begin within ninety days,”*** Chief Justice Yuoh joyously stated.

She further explained that significant steps have been taken for the acquisition of suitable land space in the 12th Judicial Circuit, Grand Kru County, 13th Judicial Circuit, Margibi County and the 15th Judicial Circuit of Rivergee County.

The Chief Justice averred that efforts are being pursued towards securing suitable land space (a minimum of 5 acres each) in the 2nd Judicial Circuit, Grand Bassa County, 5th Judicial Circuit, Grand Cape Mount County and the 10th Judicial Circuit, Lofa County for the construction of Judicial complexes.

She solicited the support of the local Bars of these counties along with their Executive and Legislative authorities in helping the Judiciary achieve this goal, that is, the acquisition of land.

The world today has made unimaginable advancement in technology to the extent that Liberia as a nation either accelerate its pace to catch up with the rest of the world or be

thrown back into stone-age whilst others are advancing. This is why the modernization and digitization of all judicial infrastructures and systems of operation is a cardinal Strategic Objective of the Judiciary’s Five (5) year Strategic Plan.

The overall objective of this plan is to begin the migration of all process of the Liberian Judiciary (both judicial & administrative) from manual (paper-based) processes to fully digitize (automated) processes within 5 years, thereby enhancing the quality of judicial services delivery by (i) minimizing, if not eliminating direct person to person contact in the delivery of judicial services, thereby curbing the potential for corruption, (ii) ensuring the speedy adjudication of cases (iii) ensuring security of court records, and (iv) ensuring a high standard performance evaluation system for all judicial officials.

In this endeavor, Chief Justice Yuoh said, the Judiciary has again taken significant steps towards achieving this very ambitious goal.

She revealed that the first phase of the digitization plan, which includes the building of the primary digital infrastructure, development of the E-Justice Digital Platform, and the migration of the first five (5) courts onto the platform, was agreed upon.

She named those courts to begin with as: the 6th Judicial Circuit, Civil Law Court, Montserrado County, the Commercial Court, Montserrado County, the 1st Judicial Circuit Courts, Montserrado County, the Monthly and Probate Court, Montserrado County, and the Honorable Supreme Court.

Hence, the Chief Justice noted, execution of this process is to begin in January 2025 and the testing of the system by the third quarter of 2025.

According to the Chief Justice, it is also the anticipation of the Supreme Court Bench that the five (5) courts listed supra will begin the transformation process, beginning 1st January, 2025 with other Judicial Complexes migrating onto the system over the span of another five years.

Chief Justice Yuoh expects that upon completion of the digitization plan, the courts will be more adept at speedily adjudicating cases especially those pertaining to land tenure, business & commercial interest, investment, SGBV, pretrial detention, and other offenses involving danger to the person across Liberia.



# MY ASCENDENCY TO SUPREME COURT BENCH “LIKE A DREAM”



**HIS HONOR YAMIE QUIQUI GBEISAY, SR.**  
**ASSOCIATE JUSTICE**  
**SUPREME COURT, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

On Friday, January 27, 2023 at program marking his official seating as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, His Honor Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay, Sr. remarked: “I am being seated as an Associate Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia which seems to me like a dream. Obviously this is a joyous moment for my family for which words are inadequate to express.

That is why, I have invited, especially my aged mother who in my opinion is the architect of this success story to witness and participate in the fruit of her labor. Every mother suffers for the success of their children, but I’m particularly grateful to my mother who played a pivotal role that led me to where I am today.”

Justice Gbeisay recalled that in 1989 his late father who was then a Justice of the Peace played a pivotal role in making him to develop interest in the legal profession and as well enrolled at the law school.

Justice Gbeisay indicated that he has come to the high seat of honor with the vision to support Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Youh’s Bench to maximize its efficiency and productivity to administer justice and enhance the rule of law.

He said a credible judiciary instills trust and confidence and encourages citizens and residents to seek redress in the court of law, rather than engage in violence.

According to him, a trusted judiciary, therefore promotes security, stability, peace and encourages both local and foreign investors to invest in Liberia’s economy and develop the country. This goes to say that a trusted and credible judiciary is a sin-quanon to national development. The Associate Justice intoned judges or justices are battlefield’s commander of the judiciary and must be prepared to take the bullets. He divulged that the first characteristic of a judge is to be brave, knowledgeable, disciplined, courageous,

have passion for the job and be dedicated to the task.

He further expressed that promotion is tied heavily to an individual intellectual ability and performance; that is to say, your analysis and understanding of your function, and most importantly, your integrity. Perhaps, your integrity is the most significant element that a judge or justice ought to possess.

The Associate Justice also focused his remark on the obedience to the law; something which he says has become a challenge for this generation in Liberia.

“Liberia is making history as a lawless country, where for instance, almost every government official has their own siren; drive on any lane, be it opposite, drive cars on the street without license plate, motorbike riders are law unto themselves,” he mentioned.

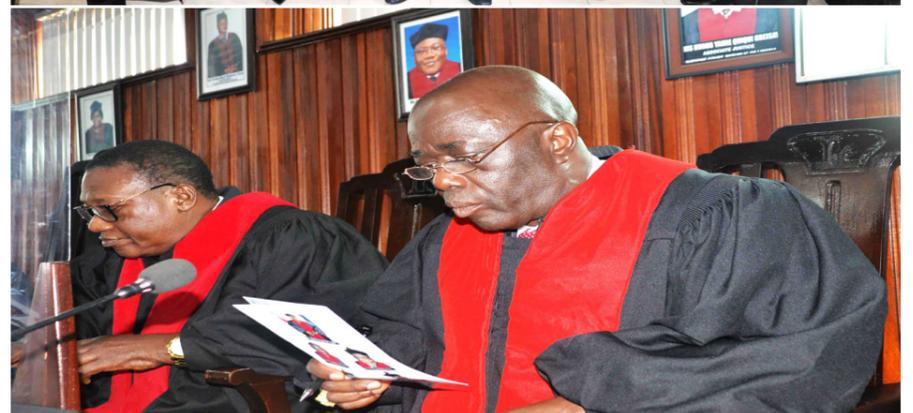
He continued: “such behavior from the echelon of our Government to the common person in society ultimately posts challenge to the interpretation and enforcement of the law and endangers judges and justices.”

It is a known fact that in Liberia, everybody wants crimes to be penalized and corruption to be eliminated.

In response to the aforementioned, he said, when crimes are being tried in court, the accused usually has a cheering squad who may be beneficiary of the crime, chanting slogans for him/her before the courtroom.

The Justice informed the public that when somebody is convicted of corruption by a court, such person kinsmen and supporters vilify the judge and set roadblocks.

“But, for a judge or justice, this is the job we have to do for the good of society. Justice Gbeisay will do it even at the peril of his life. Our God and our conscience shall remain our guide,” he concluded.



# PICTORIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE SUPREME COURT



# PICTORIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE SUPREME COURT CONT..



## LIBERIA'S SUPREME COURT GETS MORE FEMALE JUSTICES



*New Associate Justice Her Honor Ceaineh D. Clinton Johnson on the immediate right*

On Thursday, August 29, 2024, at an impressive ceremony during the formal closing of the March 2024 Term of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia, Her Honor Ceaineh D. Clinton Johnson, took seat as Associate Justice on the country's Supreme Court Full Bench.

The seating of Judge Ceaineh D. Clinton Johnson as Associate Justice completes the vacant post on the Full Bench of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia, which was created, following the passing of former Associate Justice, His Honor Joseph N. Nagbe.

The Full Bench of the Honorable Supreme Court is now female dominated with three females and two males. The females include Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice; Her Honor Jamesetta H. Wolokolie, Associate Justice; and Her Honor Ceaineh D. Clinton Johnson, Associate Justice. While the male Associate Justices are His Honor Yussif D. Kaba, and His Honor Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay, Sr.

The seating ceremony took place in the Supreme Court. At the start of the program, the Chief Justice ordered the Marshall to escort His Honor Yussif D. Kaba from the Seat of Honor on the Extreme Right to the Seat of Honor on the Immediate Left of the Chief Justice.

The Marshall was further mandated by the Chief Justice to escort His Honor Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay, Sr., from the Seat of Honor on the Extreme Left to the Seat of Honor on the Extreme Right of the Chief Justice.

Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice, then ordered the Marshall to proceed, along with the Minister Justice/Dean of the Supreme Court Bar and the President of the Liberian National Bar Association, to the Robin Room from whence he will escort Her Honor Ceaineh D. Clinton Johnson to the Seat of Honor on the Extreme Left of the Chief Justice. Chief Justice Yuoh said as justice Clinton Johnson has taken her Seat of Honor at the Court; she is welcome with open arms.

Chief Justice Yuoh noted that justice Clinton Johnson is not a stranger to the Liberian judiciary because she served as one of the two resident circuit judges of the First Judicial Circuit Criminal Court "E" for Montserrado County.

She expressed the Supreme Court Bench delight in the ascendancy of justice Clinton Johnson from the ranks and files of circuit judges.

The Chief Justice used the occasion to encourage all cir-

cuit judges to work hard and conduct themselves in a manner that will earn them recognition and elevation.

In remarks, the new Associate Justice Ceaineh D. Clinton Johnson said her ascendancy to the Honorable Supreme Court Bench was not by coincidence or error but an event that was ordained by the Almighty God.

Justice Clinton Johnson said her appointment to the Supreme Court Bench comes at the time the 'Re-branding of the Judiciary' is at a higher stage. She averred that the Judiciary must be seen as the mutual arm of government that makes decisions by law and not by negotiation.

Justice Clinton Johnson pledged to soberly reflect and conscientiously make decision on all cases at the Supreme Court.

She wants residents of Liberia particularly the ordinary people to understand that the Judiciary provides equal protection to all under the law. Also speaking at the occasion, Cllr. N. Oswald Tweh, Dean of the Supreme Court Bar and Minister of Justice prayed God's guidance and wisdom upon the new Associate Justice; and assured of the Bar's continuous support towards the Court.

Justice Minister Tweh expressed optimism about the Supreme Court's capacity to do more in upholding the rule of law and dispense justice, especially at the time; the Court Bench is fully constituted.

Cllr. Sylvester D. Rennie, president, of the Liberian National Bar Association conveyed the LNBA's pleasure to have one of its members (Associate Justice Clinton Johnson) elevated to the Supreme Court Bench.

Cllr. Rennie believes that Associate Justice Clinton Johnson have more works to do on the Supreme Court Bench, as compare to the previous position she held as Judge of Criminal Court "E".

After taking seat, the new Associate Justice Clinton Johnson immediately began work as the next chambers-justice of the Honorable Supreme Court until the Court opens for its October A. D. 2024 Term, the second working Monday in October 2024.

# SUPREME COURT MANDATES MAGISTRATES TO RESOLVE CASES OF PERSISTENT NON-SUPPORT WITHIN A MAXIMUM OF TWO (2) DAYS



The Supreme Court of Liberia has embarked upon a strict implementation and monitoring mechanism to ensure that magisterial courts adhere to the prescribed time limits for cases; mandating the court to resolve cases of persistent non-support within a maximum of two (2) days.

In a special statement from the Bench delivered at the National Convention of the Liberian National Bar Association, on Friday November 29, 2024, Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice, Republic of Liberia, said in particular, the Court has cautioned magistrates against the frequent deferral or granting of continuances in cases of persistent non-support.

Chief Justice Yuoh notes that any practicing lawyer will recognize that such actions by magistrates are not only unjustifiable but ultra vires.

*“Accordingly, magistrates are now mandated to resolve cases of persistent non-support within a maximum of two (2) days,”* the Chief Justice declared.

She added: *“Taking judicial cognizance of the Supreme Court’s Constitutional Mandate as the custodian of the law and practice in Liberia and pursuant to the legislative intent for the creation of magisterial court include inter alia, expeditious disposition of disputes vis-à-vis the Rules and Regulations for the Governance of the Magisterial and Traffic Courts, the Supreme Court finds it unacceptable for cases to linger before the magisterial courts for period longer than prescribed by law simply because of the shenanigans of some lawyers appearing with the acquiesce of some magistrates and their staff before magisterial courts.”*

The Chief Justice asserted that Rule 9 of the Rules and Regulations for the Governance of the Magisterial and Traffic Courts states: *“No civil case shall be postponed and continued for more than two (2) weeks, except for good reasons in the discretion of the Magistrate. Neither shall a civil case be continued from month to month without speedy determination. No criminal case in the Magisterial Court, nor might any case in the Traffic Court, remain pending and not disposed of for more than thirty (30) days after arrest.”*

Chief Justice Yuoh reminded Magistrates of the following: *“(i) that they are month to month courts; (ii) that they have limited territorial and subject matter jurisdiction; it is mandatory that they expeditiously dispose of cases; (iii) that the legislative intent of the establishment of magisterial courts is to keep*

*the peace within their respective magisterial jurisdiction.”*

She intimated that the Supreme Court also notes instances where magistrates grant continuances for up to six (6) months to allow a defendant to obtain their deeds in an action of summary proceedings to recover possession of real property; this is absolute travesty of justice.

She explained that any practicing lawyer is also aware that even if the defendant returns with a deed, the magisterial court would lose jurisdiction over the case, as the issue of title would then arise, making the matter cognizable only before circuit court through an action of ejectment.

Therefore, the chief justice stated, it is most appropriate that a magistrate should expeditiously issue judgment in favor of the complainant in such summary proceedings to recover possession of real property cases, as if and when the defendant appears with a deed, has remedy at law.

For the efficient functioning of the magisterial courts, is the appointment of Stipendiary and Associate Magistrates. Section 7.5 of the New Judiciary Law states thus: *“the President shall appoint for each magisterial court a Stipendiary Magistrate, who shall act as chief magistrate of the court, and such associate stipendiary magistrates for each court as he deems necessary and expedient to dispose of the judicial business within the magisterial area covered by each court. A stipendiary magistrate shall hold office for a period of four years and shall be eligible for reappointment; but he or she may be removed from office by the President, for a cause established and based on an investigation conducted by the Judiciary Inquiry Commission.”*

Hence, on April 16, 2024, the Supreme Court submitted to the Office of the President of Liberia, a listing of Stipendiary and Associate Magistrates whose appointments have expired and required renewal. She hoped that the Court latest move will inspire magistrates to perform at their best in the administration of justice in their respective jurisdictions.

To conclude, the Chief Justice reiterated the Supreme Court’s vested constitutional authority to administer the law transparently, expeditiously, and fearlessly to all citizens and residents alike, with a strong resolve to discourage by appropriate penalty the act of filibustering by some lawyers and their clients, determined to procrastinate cases in the courts through unnecessary legal technicalities just to frustrate the ends of justice.



# JUDICIARY BRANCH CONDUCTS ONE DAY IMPARTATION TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR JUDICIAL SECURITY OFFICERS



The Judiciary Branch of Government on Wednesday, January 1, 2025, conducted a one-day impartation training workshop for more than forty officers of the Judicial Security Service (JSS) aimed at strengthening the professional and mental capabilities of the officers as they do their jobs.

The over forty officers including males and females were taken from the various security details of the courts in Montserrado County. They were trained in several security topics to include patrol method, access control, disciplines and courtesy, report writing and code of conduct for the Judicial Security Service.

Col. Wuo G. Dolewon, Director, Judicial Security Service told the participants (security officers) that patrol “is the back bone of security” the majority of security officers are assigned to patrol, and in that, deliver bulk of security service to the public.

Col. Dolewon informed the officers that discipline and courtesy are necessary to promote; mutual respect among officers/security guards for better understanding of accepted norms or rules for smooth administrative actions.

He explained that access control is an act of permission, denial of an item (s), vehicles, human being, goods, packages etc. in and out of a location particularly the Judiciary. He stated that arms should not be allowed to enter unless special permission from the higher ups.

The director disclosed that the Judicial Security Services in collaboration with the Judicial Training Institute (JI) and the Liberia National Police have written a proposal for the training of officers of the Judicial Security Service at the Liberia National Police Training Academy. He anticipates that such massive training will start anytime soon if it is approved by the administration of the Judiciary Branch of Government.

The director noted that despite the training, there are other enormous challenges facing the Judicial Security Service. He named the issue of adequate vehicular mobility to properly supervise the officers assign on duty and the lack of communication (security mobile phones) which he described as the basic essential tools for security operation globally, etc.

Also speaking, Mr. Clarence Freeman, a security officer (patrolman), said he learned a lot from the workshop because at first when he was enlisted into the Judicial Security Service he had no formal training on how to do the job.

Mr. Freeman said upon completion of the training, his mind has been enlightened on several security techniques like patrol method, access control, disciplines and courtesy, report writing and code of conduct for the Judicial Security Service.

He craved for more training, adding that if there are more trainings, they (officers) will be professionally prepare to provide maximum security service to the Judiciary Branch of Government.

Debra R. Nebo, a female security officer (supervisor), for her part, described the training as very important because it has improved her knowledge on so many security approaches.

Miss. Nebo said this is the first of its kind to benefit from such training since she started working with the Judicial Security Service. She appreciated the Supreme Court Bench, the Court Administrator, Judicial Institute and the Directors of the Judicial Security Service for organizing such a meaningful training.

At the same time, a female patrol officer identified as Joanna J. Freeman through a self-initiative provided to the Judicial Security Service four pieces of security cone to be used for movement and parking of vehicles in the compound of the Judiciary. Officer Freeman explaining the reason for her good gesture towards the Judiciary Security Service said during the opening of the November Term of Court A. D. 2024, rocks was used as security cone to control the movement and parking of vehicles in the Judiciary Compound.

Officer Freeman revealed that a lady who has just returned from the United States of America but was attending the Court’s opening ceremony accidentally stumbled on one of the rocks near her car and fell to the ground and sustained a cut in her hands.

The officer said upon seeing such unfortunate and embarrassing situation, she decided to save some of her salaries in other to provide the locally made security cone to control the movement and parking of vehicles in the Judiciary Compound.

Receiving the items on behalf of the Judiciary Security Service, Col. Wuo G. Dolewon, Director, Judicial Security Service said Joanna J. Freeman is a female patrol officer who takes her assignment very seriously and have passion for the job.

Director Dolewon thanked patrol woman Freeman for the gift, promising to use the donation for the purpose intended. He added, *“What can you do for country and not what your country can do for you.”*

# STIPENDIARY & ASSOCIATE MAGISTRATES RECEIVED APPOINTMENT LETTERS FROM PRESIDENT JOSEPH NYUMAH BOAKAI



*Stipendiary and associate magistrates receiving reappointment letters from Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia*

Liberia's President His Excellency Joseph Nyumah Boakai has reappointed two hundred and fifty nine (259) stipendiary and associate magistrates for the efficient functioning of the magisterial courts throughout the country. The President, through Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, on Thursday, January 16, 2025 presented the reappointment letters to stipendiary and associate magistrates at the grounds of the Temple of Justice in Monrovia.

President Boakai ordered that the reappointed magistrates immediately declare their assets and liabilities with the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission upon receiving the letters of reappointment.

Her Honor Chief Justice Yuoh in remarks offered special thanks to His Excellency President Joseph Nyumah Boakai for his close collaboration with the Supreme Court Bench in the reappointment process of the stipendiary and associate magistrates.

Chief Justice Yuoh asserted that the significance of the program symbolizes the transformation currently taking place within the Judiciary. The Chief Justice said out of two hundred eighty-eight (288) names submitted to the President for retention as stipendiary and associate magistrates, two hundred fifty-nine (259) were reappointed to serve for four years, starting January 2, 2025 and ending January 2, 2029.

She added that out of the remaining twenty nine (29), seven (7) were appointed to the executive branch of government, some joined the public defense team at the Judiciary, while others ignored their assignments. The Chief Justice recalled that during Liberia's civil unrest there was a flight from the country of legal luminaries and other academicians that led to a brain drain affecting the overall function of every public and private institution in Liberia.

She said to ensure continuity and the smooth operation of all branches of government and other related institutions certain aspect of some laws pertinent to their respective branches and institutions of government were relaxed.

The Chief Justice thanked the Almighty God for His blessings and protection upon the lives of magistrates and other guests to see the fulfillment of the day and witnessed the program marking the issuance of appointment letters to stipendiary and associate magistrates.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, stipendiary magistrate His Honor Lavalah Ben Barco thanked President Joseph Nyumah Boakai for the trust he had placed in them.

Magistrate Barco said their appointment is evidence of the saying "that whatever you do someone is watching" while pledging his colleagues' commitment to helping the Chief Justice in rebranding the Judiciary.

His Honor Roosevelt Z. Willie, Resident Judge, Criminal Court "A" in a brief statement encouraged stipendiary and associate magistrates to be hard-working if they are to be maintained or get promotion on the job. Judge Willie stated that the maintenance and promotion of a magistrate on the job depends on a positive recommendation from people monitoring the work he/she does. Similarly, a magistrate demotion also depends on the negative report.

Judge Willie recalled few years ago, he delivered a statement for the opening of the Circuit Courts in Montserrado on the topic, "someone is watching you;" adding that the positive thing an individual does on the job will always speak for itself.

Cllr. William B. Kollie, Assistant Court Administrator for his part thanked Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Liberia and the Judiciary Branch of Government for organizing the program to issue the appointment letters to magistrates.

On April 16, 2024, the Supreme Court submitted to the Office of the President of Liberia, a list of stipendiary and associate magistrates whose appointments had expired and required renewal.

Section 7.5 of the New Judiciary Law states thus: *"the President shall appoint for each magisterial court a Stipendiary Magistrate, who shall act as chief magistrate of the court, and such associate stipendiary magistrates for each court as he deems necessary and expedient to dispose of the judicial business within the magisterial area covered by each court. A stipendiary magistrate shall hold office for a period of four years and shall be eligible for reappointment; but he or she may be removed from office by the President, for a cause established and based on an investigation conducted by the Judiciary Inquiry Commission."*

# CLLR. BESTMAN D. JUAH, SR. ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC DEFENDERS OF LIBERIA

## *PLEDGES TRANSFORMATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY*



*Cllr. Bestman D. Juah, Sr.; President of NAPDOL  
Speaking to Public Defenders of Liberia*

The public defense lawyers of Liberia have overwhelmingly elected Counsellor Bestman Darward Juah, Sr. as president of the National Association of Public Defenders of Liberia (NAPDOL) by delegates in attendance at the Seventh Annual Convention held at the Temple of Justice, Capitol Hill, Monrovia.

Consequently, he (Juah) and other elected officers including Cllr. Sennay Carlos II, as vice president; Alfred B. Holmes as secretary general and Edwina D. Vakun as treasurer were recently inducted into office by the president of the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA), Counsellor Bor-nor M. Vamah to lead NAPDOL for the next two (2) years. In his inaugural address to delegates of the convention, Cllr. Juah vowed amongst other things to provide transformational and accountable leadership during his tenure.

He further guaranteed that adequate legal representation of indigents and welfare of public defenders will be the hallmark of his administration. Besides, he assured delegates that his administration will constructively engaged national government through the Judiciary for additional budgetary support to the Public Defender's Program in addressing the challenges faced by public defenders including the lack of vehicles and harmonized salaries.

Unlike judges, county attorneys and state prosecutors, public defenders on a daily basis use commercial motorbikes as a means of transportation to courts.

Cllr. Bestman Darward Juah, Sr. is a Liberian and duly licensed to practice law in the Republic of Liberia.

As a member of the Supreme Court Bar and the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) respectively, he actively practice before the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia, specialized and circuit courts, magisterial courts and administrative agencies.

Cllr. Juah worked with the Supreme Court of Liberia as research officer and was assigned to the Chambers of Justice Jamesetta Howard Wolokolie, Senior Associate Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia where his primary duties were to conduct comprehensive legal research and assist in the drafting and preparation of opinions and judgments of the Court. Also, he worked as an associate of the erstwhile Brumskine & Associates, a renowned corporate law firm in Monrovia, Liberia.

He now works as a public defender or criminal defense attorney assigned in Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia providing general legal services to indigent criminal defendants.

In 2019, Cllr. Juah was appointed member of the Legal Aid Committee of the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) by Cllr. Tiawan S. Gongloe, former president of the LNBA where he provided pro-bono legal service to indigents through the legal aid clinics of the Bar in Montserrado and Bong Counties in both criminal and civil cases.

As a staff of the Division of Probation, Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Ministry of Justice, Cllr. Juah provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice in operationalizing Chapter 33 of the Criminal Procedure Law of Liberia on suspended sentence or probation after forty years (40yrs) of dormancy of said statutory provision.

As a proactive and acclaimed criminal defense lawyer, Cllr. Juah has represented indigent criminal defendants before various criminal courts and law enforcement institutions in Liberia.

He is also a member of the African Bar Association (ABA). Besides, he served as secretary general of the Bong County Bar Association of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, Bong County, Liberia.

Since the ascendancy of the past leadership of the LNBA headed by Cllr. Sylvester D. Rennie, Cllr. Juah has served as secretary general of different steering committees of Bar Assemblies, Law Days and National Bar Conventions.

In furtherance of his commitment to serve humanity, he serves on a number of boards of charity organizations as well as civil society platforms including the Board of Trustees of Street Child Liberia, a UK-based international charity registered under the laws of Liberia that is providing sustainable future to underprivileged Liberian children and school-aged students in the country.

He is also co-founder of the Global Initiatives for Social Change, Incorporated, a local not-for-profit organization duly incorporated under the laws of the Republic of Liberia providing access to justice to indigent clients. Cllr. Juah is a graduate of the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia with a degree of Bachelors of Law (LL.B). In 2003, he graduated from the Cuttington University, with a degree of Bachelor of Science (BSc.) in Accounting. Besides, he holds several professional and specialized certificates from various reputable institutions including the International Law Institute, Washington, DC, United States of America.

# PRESIDENT JOSEPH BOIAKAI PLEDGES SUPPORT TO JUDICIARY'S INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA



---Dedicates 14 Judicial Circuit Court Complex in Rivercess County

Liberia's Chief Executive, President Joseph Nyumah Boakai Sr., at program marking the dedication of the newly constructed 14th Judicial Circuit Court Complex in Rivercess County, have pledged his government unwavering support to the infrastructure development agenda of the Judiciary Branch of Government.

President Joseph Boakai in special remarks as guest of honor during the dedicatory ceremony on Monday, August 12, 2024 said the purpose of the dedication of the judicial complex reinforcing the rule of law, uplift the governance system and strengthen the nation's democracy.

"I therefore, look forward to more of these judicial complexes with a particular hope that they will indeed be temples which justice will reign supreme and into which; injustice will find no place," Liberian President, Joseph Nyumah Boakai said.

The Liberian leader reiterated the Executive Branch's commitment to working closely with the Judiciary Branch to empower and support the judicial system; emphasizing, the importance of a just and equitable dispensation of justice within the realm of the rule of law.

The Judiciary over the years has been plagued with a major challenge of poor infrastructures. This challenge has affected the overall performance of the Judiciary as a system.

He said it is demeaning to hear that judges are working in court houses that are not representation of the country. "So, I promise you that we will support the Judiciary in order to make Liberia proud," the President stated.

He added, "We want to reassure you of our commitment to working with you to ensure that complexes similar to the one been dedicated are established in each of the fifteen political subdivisions of the country.

As we open this new complex, we do so with a renewed commitment to put the nation on a new tra-

jectory of governance and nation building. We must instill in this nation a new mindset about getting development in every sphere of our nation.

....We at the Executive Branch are fully on board with the Judiciary in the quest for better infrastructure development. Let me assure you Madam Chief Justice that we fully share your concern about the judicial system of our country."

The President called on the three branches of government to coordinate, collaborate and cooperate to address critical areas such as travesty of justice, corruption and abuse of power.



# DEDICATION OF 14TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COMPLEX, RIVERCESS COUNTY



# JUDICIARY BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT LIGHTS CHRISTMAS TREE



Chief Justice Yuoh Expresses Joy about the Gospel of Christ

The Judiciary Branch of Government on Friday, December 19, 2022, has officially lit its Christmas tree at the grounds of the Temple of Justice in Monrovia, wishing all employees a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Liberia in a brief Christmas message to employees of the Judiciary said, *“my colleagues (Justices) and I are happy at this time because after delivering thirty one (31) opinions today, we can take a rest until January 6, 2025.”* Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh preaching the gospel to judicial workers said Jesus Christ is the reason for the Christmas season which Christians celebrate on December 25.

Chief Justice Yuoh expressed joy in sharing the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to the Jews and Gentiles. The Chief Justice explained that to be a part of the celebration of Christmas, one must know who the Christ is. She added, knowing Christ allows all Christian to get the full benefit both spiritual and physical from the Almighty God.

*“So, you could be moving around during this Christmas season and if you don’t know Jesus Christ, you will be doing yourself a grave injustice,”* the Chief Justice expressed.

According to her, Jesus Christ is the

Prince of Peace; the giver of everlasting peace beyond human understanding.

She asserted that Jesus Christ is also the mediator of the new covenant. She continued, *“the word of God says that life is in the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus shared His blood by dying for us so that we can be safe. And with salvation, we have access to all of the blessings of God.”*

*“So, if you don’t know Christ Jesus, I will urge you to know Him and you will see how wonderful your Christmas will be. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is now seated at the right hand of God to intercede for us. Look, if you want someone to intercede for that situation or problem, we have Jesus Christ but you have to get to know Him. If we confess to the Lord Jesus and believe in our hearts that He was raised from the dead for our blessings, you are safe. It is written that who so ever shall called upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,”* Chief Justice Yuoh expounded.

The Chief Justice at the same time encouraged employees from the Judiciary Branch of Government to confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and let Him take over everything.

Rev. Joel Gould, Chaplain of the Supreme Court of Liberia in a word of prayer gave thanks to the Almighty God for the blessing upon the Judiciary Branch of Government.

Rev. Gould reading from the scripture of Luke in the Bible stated that the angel said to Mary do not be afraid for I am here with good news about the birth of the savior Jesus Christ who is the light of the world.

# LNBA NEW LEADERSHIP INDUCTED AND ADMINISTERED OATH OF OFFICE



*Let Your Leadership be marked by Positive Conduct and Activities'--- Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, the Inducting Officer, Urged Newly Inducted LNBA's Officials*

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh on Friday, January 31, 2025 at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, Monrovia, performed the induction ceremony and administered the Oath of Office to elected officials of the Liberia National Bar Association, encouraging the newly inducted LNBA's leadership to mark their stewardship of the Bar with positive conduct and activities.

Chief Justice Yuoh said the occasion marks a change in the leadership of the LNBA for the next three years, but what is worth noting with respect to the change or transition in leadership is that the change envisions must be based on the law.

The Chief Justice posed these rhetorical questions she believes will resonate with the leadership of the Bar for the next three (3) years: How much is the new leadership going to show or give back to the legal community, and the country; and what will be the symbol or legacy of the leadership? The Supreme Court Chief Justice expressed that the newly inducted officers of the LNBA leadership will be nothing unless it is actualize by some positive conduct and activities.

She observed that in recent times there are several emerging legal issues in the legal jurisdiction to include, but not limited to tenure of public officials appearing in their respective employment contracts; digitization of the court system; revision of some of the laws to reflect current realities; i. e., certain provisions of the civil and criminal procedure laws which engender prolonged litigation, or are archaic.

In the same vein, she asked about the new dimensions members of the Bar are bringing to the practice. She noted that the question was necessary because it seems that the practice of law in the jurisdiction is "stuck in time", even though the current dispensation globally sees lawyers venturing into new fields of the law, viz. : Intellectual Property Law; Environmental Law (especially given the increasing wave of natural disasters due to global warming and excessive pollution of the environment; energy Law; Cyber security Law and etc.

***"I therefore implore you, the new corp of officers of the LNBA, to ensure that the change that has brought you to leadership will translate to a LNBA that is progressive, in terms of attainment of the highest of education, especially training on contemporary legal issues, intellectual soundness, and the promotion of ethical legal practices, while being receptive to legal innovation,"*** the Chief Justice stated.

Chief Justice Yuoh congratulated the newly inducted officers of the Bar and hoped that their tenure be marked by success, progress, and a deep impact on the legal profession and the nation at large.

His Excellency Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai President of Liberia serving as guest speaker at the formal induction ceremony of the Liberia National Bar Association encouraged members of the Bar as custodian of justice to maintain their independence, rise above partisan politics, and serve as a pillar of accountability and transparency.

***"As you mark a new chapter in leadership, I encourage you to focus on ensuring that justice is accessible for every individual in Liberia regardless of the person's economic and political status, strengthen legal education and equip the next generation of lawyers with skills and everything needed to sustain Liberia's legal and democratic space and promote transparency, accountability and good governance,"*** President Boakai stated.

The President quickly pointed out that the task ahead of the leadership is daunting but expressed optimism and confidence that the new officials of the Bar will rise to the challenge in achieving such a task.

The President reaffirms his government's commitment to working with the Liberia National Bar Association with a share objective of ensuring that the principles of justice, equality and fairness are upheld in the country. He stated that together everyone can build a Liberia in which the rule of law is not just a concept but a living reality. The President said he count on the Bar to stand firm on the side of justice, remain professional, ethical and independent in rendering service to the nation.

In a special remark from the Government and people of the United States of America His Excellency Ambassador Mark C. Toner notes the unique and valuable role the legal profession plays in democracy. It upholds justice, protects rights and ensures rule of law.

Ambassador Toner urged the Liberian National Bar Association to continue effort to increase transparency and accountability in the justice system. He reaffirmed the United States of America's commitment and support for the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court in Liberia. He stressed that for so many Liberians, the establishment of the Court is long overdue and justice is been delay.

Cllr. Sylvester D. Rennie former president of the Bar in a special statement extended thanks to everyone including the three branches of government, local and international NGOs, the press, lawyers and civil society organizations for the support given him to serve as president of the Bar for the past three years. Cllr. Rennie appreciated the Government for the gradual replacement of Judges Salaries that was harmonized by the past administration of former President George Weah and purchased of new vehicles for judges and state prosecutors to uplift their pride, dignity and to enhance their work across the country. Cllr. Rennie meanwhile appealed to the President Joseph N. Boakai to look in the direction of magistrates and public defenders that are children of the government but are yet to benefit from the benevolence of the government. He pointed out that the magistrates salaries were negatively impacted by the harmonization policy of the past administration and as such, it was prudent enough that they too received gradual salary replacement. Cllr. Rennie asked the President to prioritize public defenders in various counties in the procurement of vehicles to enhance their work as they have yet to receive vehicles since ten (10) years ago.

Cllr. Bornor M. Varmah national president of the Liberia National Bar Association, in an inaugural speech delivered at the induction of the new leadership of the Bar said the induction marks not just a transition in leadership but a renewed commitment to the ideas that define the profession. Cllr. Varmah said the task ahead is great, but so is their resolve. He rally lawyers to be fearless in defending justice, relentless in pursuit of excellence, and unwavering in their duty to Liberia.

The LNBA president called on lawyers to move forward united, courageous, and determined to build a Bar that is respected, impactful and truly representative of the highest ideals of justice and professionalism.



# LNBA INDUCTION



# LAW'S DAY



# AFELL INDUCTION

**CHIEF JUSTICE RALLIES FEMALE LAWYERS TO CHAMPION THE RIGHTS OF MARGINALIZED WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SOCIETY**



The Chief Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh has rallied female lawyers to champion the rights of marginalized women and girls in society.

Chief Justice Yuoh speaking Friday, May 30, 2025, at the induction ceremony of officers elect of the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) said women and children problems are always current in any society; as such, She is encouraging all female lawyers not to sit supinely but volunteer in working to resolve the problems.

She named child marriage, child molestation, alarming rate of trafficking of young Liberian women, rape, persistence non-support and devolution of estate rights to women married under customary laws as some issues facing women and girls in the society.

*“There is a whole lot of work to do for women and children in our nation. And it is so disheartening to see those of us female lawyers who even have the time but we are not taking such time to go to AFELL where we can make a difference,”* the Chief Justice decried.

Chief Justice Yuoh asserted that there is always international support for female lawyers to legally represent in court women and children who are ignorance of their rights and as well come in conflict with the laws.

*“We need to go to these magisterial courts to legally defend those females in the most vulnerable areas like West Point, New Kru Town, Clara Town and Soniewein. Female lawyers should be the legal arm for the rural women, marketing association and Female Journalist Association (FeJAL). These organizations are depending on us. So let us unit and be more active. We have so much to give,”* the Chief Justice noted.

According to the Chief Justice, AFELL was founded in response to the urgent need for legal advocacy and protection of the rights of women, children and indigent persons.

The Chief Justice recalled that she served as first vice president of AFELL during the presidency of Cllr. Elizabeth B. Nelson now Court Administrator of the Supreme Court of Liberia.

Chief Justice Yuoh congratulated all the female lawyers who were elected in various positions at AFELL to serve for the next two years.

**OFFICE OF THE CLERK, SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA**



**Cllr. Sam Mamulu  
Clerk, Supreme Court**

The office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court is responsible for managing the court’s case docket, ensuring documents comply with rules, accepting or rejecting filings, disseminating court orders, and scheduling oral arguments. The Clerk maintains the official record of cases, including docketing appeals and petitions, ensuring documents are properly filed and in compliance with court rules.

- The Clerk is responsible for maintaining the court’s record, including original documents and transcript
- Ensures that court orders, decisions, and opinion are properly distributed to parties involved and the public.
- Schedule arguments by the directive of the Chief Justice and other proceedings, ensuring proper notice and coordination with parties involved.
- Perform other administrative duties as assigned by the Chief Justice or the court.

During the administration of Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia with the vision “Rebranding The Judiciary”, the followings were achieved by the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court.

- Drastic reduction of the number of cases on the Docket of the Court.
- Categorization of cases for assignment and speedy disposition of cases.
- Improved end-of-term report highlighting cases heard, pending decision and decided case.
- Adherence to the Rules of Court.
- Removal of dormant cases from the active docket of the Court
- Actions taken to have lawyers whose cases have been “settled” out-of- court to file the appropriate papers to reduce the number of case before the court.
- Ensuring that minutes are up to date and readily available.



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION / STRATEGIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



***Cllr. Darryl Ambrose Nmah, Sr.  
Director***

The department of Public Information was established as the communication and image building arm of the Liberian Judiciary and the Supreme Court of Liberia with its core function to craft, design and disseminate information of and about the Judiciary through various media and communications channels.

Upon the assumption of the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Her Honor Chief Justice Yuoh, in line with her strategic vision for the Liberian Judiciary, restructured the department by extending its duties and responsibilities, hence the redesignation as the Department of Public Information / Strategic Planning & Development with the following responsibilities:

1. Conduct its public information functions as mentioned above,
2. Work on the formulation of the 5 Years Strategic Plan of the Judiciary.
3. Lead the Execution and Implementation of the Strategic Plan
4. Supervise the affairs and functions of the ICT Unit.
5. Supervise the affairs of the Resource Center (Library)
6. Supervise the affairs of the Protocol Unit

The Department set its Public Affairs Unit which focused on continuing the duties of communication and media relations. This unit also oversees the activities of the Resource Center and Protocol.

The Department has also assumed effective oversight of the ICT Unit working with its team in preparation of the Judiciary's Digital Transformation. The Department has the Strategic Planning Unit which now oversees the execution and implementation of the approved 5 Years Development Plan of the Judiciary. Activities initiated under the Plan are as follows:

1. Strategic Objective One: Quality and Expanded Infrastructure for Improved Access to Justice

Under this Strategic Objective, the department is currently pursuing the following activities:

- a. Designed the prototype of the New Supreme Court with its technical drawings nearing completion.
- b. The Construction of the 4th Judicial Circuit Court Complex in Maryland County
- c. The Construction of the Brewerville and Gardnesville Magisterial Courts in Montserrado County.
- d. The initiation of Phase One of the E-Courts Digitization Project.

## 2. Strategic Objective Two: A more Professional and Competent Judicial Personnel

Under this Strategic Objective, the department is currently supervising and monitoring the following:

- a. The effective implementation of the Restructured Administrative Organogram.
- b. Monitor the initiatives of the Department of Administration and Personnel to professionalize the Liberian Judiciary by training staff, recruitment of highly competent staff and ensuring productivity is enhanced at the Judiciary.

These two strategic objectives are being implemented out of the five currently couched in the 5 Years Strategic Plan of the Judiciary.



***Zito F. Slebah  
Deputy Director for Public Affairs***



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Information Officer/Media Relations***



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***Jandy P. Okai  
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## JUDICIARY BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT PRESENTS BRAND NEW TOYOTA LAND CRUISER JEEPS TO JUDGES ACROSS LIBERIA



The Government of Liberia has purchased and presented brand new Toyota Land Cruiser Jeeps to the Judiciary Branch to be used by Judges to uplift their pride, dignity and enhance their work at various courts across the country.

Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia presented the vehicles to judges on behalf of the Government of Liberia on Saturday, February 1, 2025 at the grounds of the Temple of Justice. Chief Justice Yuoh in a brief conversation with judges recalled that years back the Judiciary was not given adequate budgetary support because the government in the past treated the Judiciary not as a Branch of Government but an institution within the Executive Branch.

Chief Justice Yuoh explained that through intense dialogue and negotiation with both the Executive and Legislative Branches of Government, there has been restoration in the level of coordination and collaboration thus resulting in the appropriate budgetary support to the Judiciary. The Supreme Court Chief Justice thanked the Government for the returned of Judges Salaries that was harmonized, purchased of the vehicles and financial support for the construction of the fourth (4th) Judicial Circuit Court Complex in Maryland County.

Her Honor Nancy Finda Sammy, president, Association of Trial Judges of Liberia (NATJL) extended thanks and appreciation to the Government of Liberia and the Chief Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court for providing vehicles to judges.

Judge Sammy explained that most of the judges work outside Monrovia in the rural areas, a very rough terrain, and so, if there are no good vehicles to get to courts it makes it very difficult for them to perform their jobs as judges.

***“These brand new vehicles will help enhance our mobility from one court to another. As Circuit Judges, we do not just go to our assigned courts; we also have the responsibility in keeping with the mandate of the Supreme Court to visit other magisterial courts under our jurisdiction. So, if you do not have good car to get to those magisterial courts that are situated in very tough terrain than there is a problem. With the availability of these vehicles, it will help us perform our duty as judges in dispensing justice to the Liberian people,”*** Judge Sammy averred.

The President of the National Association of Trial Judges said the vehicles did not come at an easy cost; it took a very serious and long advocacy to the relevant authorities before the cars can be made available.

She showered praises on the Chief Justice Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh whom she said give listing ears to the NATJL’s advocacy thus lobbied with the Executive Branch of Government to make funds available for the purchased of the vehicles.

The president of NATJL cautioned her colleagues (judges) to be very careful in the usages of the vehicles and take good care of said cars given by national government because the vehicles are government properties. ***“If you do not take good care of your vehicle and it gets damage, you are not going to get another car anytime soon. So, the question is, if you don’t have a car how are you going to perform your duty? Now that the government has given us these vehicles that cost lots of money, let us utilize them with care and caution,”*** she told her colleagues.

According to her, the vehicles will be service and maintain on a regular basis by the Government of Liberia through the Judiciary Transport Department. She thanked the Judiciary for ensuring that the vehicles given to judges are maintained to the best level.



# A DREAM COME TRUE



## *Judiciary Branch Begins Construction of Million Dollars Judicial Circuit Court Complex in Maryland County --Speedy Infrastructure Development Imminent*

Monday, January 20, 2025 marked a dream come true and historic moment for the people of Maryland County as Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia unveiled and broke ground for the construction of a multi-million dollar Judicial Circuit Court Complex in Maryland County.

The unveiling and groundbreaking event, held at the Little Welbebo Road, Happer City, Maryland County, underscores the Government's commitment to the transformation and modernization of the Judiciary through speedy infrastructure development.

Addressing a diverse audience of citizens, friends and partners, Chief Justice Yuoh described the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of the Fourth Judicial Circuit, Maryland County as a 'dream come true.' The Chief Justice expressed her optimism about a transformed Judiciary, as captured in the Strategic Plan, beginning with the construction of Judicial Complexes in all the remaining circuits and at least twenty (20) Magisterial Courts as a start, over the next five (5) years.

She asserted that the ground breaking ceremony marks another momentous day for the Judiciary Branch of Government giving the fact that funds have already been allotted for the construction work to begin.

The Chief Justice said she has for so many years yearned to see the construction of a Judicial Circuit Court Complex in Maryland where the people will adequately experience the rule of law.

She asserted that a country without law or adherence to the rule of law, is a country going down for destruction.

Accordingly, Chief Justice Yuoh and the entire Judiciary remained thankful and extend heartfelt appreciation to President Joseph Nyuma Boakai and the Legislature for the level of coordination and collaboration in governance through appropriate budgetary support to the Judiciary. His Honor Nelson B. Chineh, Assigned Circuit Judge of the fourth (4th) Judicial Circuit Court in Maryland County in an introductory remarks said the people of Maryland County have long dream of a Judicial Circuit Court Complex.

Judge Chineh noted that the construction of the fourth (4th)

Judicial Circuit Court Complex means that the three branches of government will now be structurally represented in the county.

Hon. Henry B. Cole superintendent, Maryland County said Maryland County has produced more Chief Justices on the Supreme Court Bench but the county has not benefited from the construction of a Judicial Circuit Court Complex like other counties until now.

Hon. Cole expressed joy about the construction of the court. He noted that the fourth (4th) Judicial Circuit Complex will now have its own structure and will no longer be hosted in the Administrative Building of the Executive Branch of Government.

***"Many at times people in this county spew misinformation that the county administration has control over the court because of the fact that the court is been hosted in the County Administrative Building. I want to dispelled that today. The court has its own jurisdiction, separate from the local government and the court has been working independently from the local government. For those of you who have had that thought, we are solving the problem. The court will now be built and justice actors will now have the opportunity to apply the law for the people of this county to have justice,"*** the major stated.

Cllr. E. Gidu Johnson-Savice, president, Maryland County Bar Association pledge her organization commitment to offering a pro bono legal service to the people of the county.

She pleaded with the Chief Justice for an office space within the Judicial Complex to enable the association provide pro bono legal service every year in other for the people of Maryland to have access to justice.





## SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF COURT COMPLEX IN MARYLAND & OTHER COURTS IN MONTSERRADO



Construction workers currently building the 4th Judiciary Circuit Court Complex in Maryland County, and three Magistrate Courts in Montserrado County have made significant progress towards the construction projects, signifying the Judiciary's commitment to transformation and modernization through speedy infrastructure development.

The multi-million United States dollars court construction projects in the two counties were initiated early this year 2025 by Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia.

The Circuit Court Complex in Maryland is on five acres of land situated on Little Wellebo Road, Happer City, Maryland County. While, in Montserrado County, construction workers are on the Brewerville Magistrate Court, Gardnersville and Paynesville Magistrate Courts respectively.

The Judiciary Branch of Government directed an assessment team headed by Cllr. Darryl Ambrose Nmah, Sr. Director of Public Information, Strategic Planning and Development to tour the both counties and ascertain first hand observation and information on the level of work done so far on all of the projects.

Abu Sheriff, construction supervisor of Bittar Construction Company told the Judiciary's assessment team that he supervises eighty (80) workers on the construction site and most of the workers - skill and unskilled laborers were recruited locally from Maryland County.

Mr. Sheriff said the contractors work throughout the week from Monday to Saturday. He noted that the huge number of contractors and more work hours have led to the speedy construction in a relatively short time.

Mr. Sheriff shared the people of Maryland County joy for the construction of the court complex because the ongoing project has created job opportunity, bring infrastructure development, and promote access to justice and the rule of law.

Mr. Sheriff noted that even though the Judiciary has given the company eighteen (18) months to complete such a gigantic project; but with the significant progress made on the project so far, they are optimistic about completing the project before the timeline.

"We are hoping that before the eighteen (18) months expire, we will be finished. Trust me, I can say for sure be-



fore the 18 months, we will reach substantial completion by May of Next year 2026," Mr. Sheriff confidently stated.

Mr. Francis K. Dadzie, Sr. Architectural Director at the Judiciary Branch of Government said the visit was to do a comprehensive assessment of the level of work done so far. He added that all of the construction projects in the both counties began this year; expressing satisfaction with the work done so far. Mr. Dadzie puts the level of work done to 50%. He pointed out the construction of the magistrate courts in Montserrado County are intended to replace the old ones previously build by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) quick impact project.

Mr. Dadzie asserted that UNMIL's Quick Impact Project has outlived its usefulness and said courts could no longer serve the growing population and current day realities of a modern court structure.

He said Judicial Court Complex in Maryland County have a main court room (Circuit Court), jurors quarters, subordinate courts, three magistrate courts, specialize courts to include Tax court, Debt Court and Criminal Court "E", Information Technology Center, Library, City Solicitor Office, cafeteria and public defense office.

During the assessment tour, the Judiciary team observed the near completion of construction work on the concrete fence, the casting of the tide bins, the roofing; as well as the casting of the columns to receive the creative steel grill for the front fence.

Other areas to include the Judge's residence has been roofed and plaster with cement; the door frames put in place, the wooding ceiling completed and the generator house is done with steel gate. The outdoor kitchen is also roofed, and the contractors have built concrete kitchen table and installed fabricated steel gate on the Judge's apartment.

The Architectural Director is convinced that the materials currently in store at the warehouse will complete the project. The ceiling tiles, wall and floor tiles, two generators, the plumbing and electrical materials are all in Maryland County. He lavished praises on the Bettar Construction Company for the level of work done thus far.

Expression of Gratitude  
His Honor Ernest F. B. Bana, Stipendiary Magistrate of the Brewerville Magisterial Court expressed gratitude to the Chief Justice Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh for the development.

Magistrate Bana said the construction of the Brewerville Magisterial Court is what the people of the Township of Brewerville have envisaged over the period of time. He noted that it has been their hope of a requisite court structure for the administration of Justice.

According to the magistrate, prior to the construction of the court, it was near impossible for magistrates to hear cases simultaneously. He explained that around the afternoon hours, the entire court building because of lack of ventilation produced heat to the extent people in the courthouse took off their coats due to bodies sweat generated from the heat.

He further mentioned it was one day Chief Justice Yuoh on her normal tour of courts across the country visited the Brewerville Court but noticed the deplorable condition of the court. She immediately requested the demolition of the old court to make way for the construction of a new court edifice.

He described the construction of the new court as an honored not only for those working in the court but also the people of Brewerville Township. "I can tell you that this court structure is worth to last for the next fifty (50) years," he added. The magistrate said the people of the Township continue to shower praises on the Chief Justice for initiating the construction of a new court structure in other to alleviate them from constrains face while accessing the court.

"In the demolished old court structure, we had only one court room. If you have one magistrate seated in section, the other magistrates have to wait. But now, the construction of the new court house will create enough court spaces for all three magistrates to hear cases concomitantly. This will help to boost the court's performance in terms of effectiveness. The caseload for adjudication will increase and pending cases might decrease; for these reasons the township people have so much joy," The magistrate averred.

Whilst the construction work is ongoing at the Brewerville Magisterial Court, the Judiciary also rented a new building for the operation of the court to provide access to Justice for the people of Brewerville Township. He praised the Judiciary for providing a court structure that will be serviceable for the people and the administration of justice.

Mr. Martin Garlo, a construction worker, speaking on behalf of his colleagues expressed joy about the construction of the Judicial Court Complex in the county.

Mr. Garlo conveyed that the construction of the Judiciary Circuit Court Complex has created hundreds of job opportunities for the local in the county to put food on their tables, pay school fees and settle other financial obligations.



# PHOTO OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



## MEETING WITH IDLO



## MEETING WITH UNDP

# PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT



**Cllr. Andrew Nimly**  
*Personnel Director*

The Personnel Department is responsible for the development and management of the human capital of the Judiciary. As a result of the rebranding process initiated under the administration of Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, the Department experience great transformation in its structure, functions, and capacity over the last two (2) years.

From her induction as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, her administration achieved significant advancements. The Chief Justice, while primarily focused on legal matters, accomplished notable successes within the Personnel Department, particularly in managing the Judiciary Branch and its personnel.

Demonstrating a commitment to promoting the highest level of professionalism within the Liberian Judiciary, Chief Justice Yuoh initiated and implemented the Judiciary Rebranding Policy, which initiatives contribute to a more efficient and equitable judicial system, benefiting both the Judiciary and its employees.



*Personnel Department Staffs*

Key personnel achievements under the stewardship of the Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh

- During the Chief Justice administration, she was instrumental in the development and updating of policies related to hiring, dismissal, benefits, and other personnel matters, ensuring compliance with the Civil Service Standing Orders, the Code of Conduct, and other relevant regulation.
- Introduction of an organogram that provides the Personnel Department with extensive supervisory responsibilities, ensuring that the Judiciary aligns with international standards.
- Promulgation of Judiciary Employees Handbook, serv-

ing as a comprehensive guide for all Judiciary employees to understand their roles and responsibilities within the courts and various administrative divisions.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

- Implementation of risk management strategies within the judicial system includes workplace safety programs and policies designed to protect employees and the court. For instance, qualified employees received training to become First Aid Providers, which contribute to creating a healthy work environment and promotes diversity and inclusion within the judicial system.
- Counselling services were provided for employees who received repeated complaints from supervisors or other staff members. These initiatives aim supported the physical and mental health of employees.
- Pavement was constructed at the entrance of the Temple of Justice to facilitate access for staff and court users with specific needs.

## **RECRUITMENT AND HIRING**

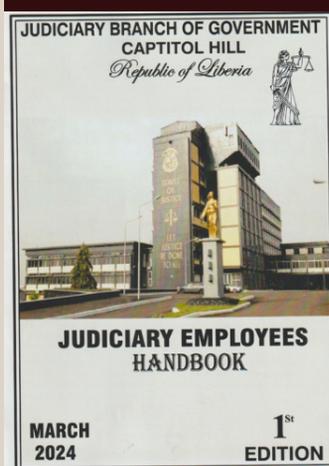
- Through the rebranding policy, the Chief Justice underscored the necessity of a standardized procedure for the hiring process of key judicial positions, ensuring the recruitment of qualified and diverse candidates.
- The rebranding policy led to the establishment of a fully standardized recruitment, employment, and hiring procedure, incorporating a professional panel or Vetting Committee to guarantee that all applicants meet the qualifications for the positions they seek within the Judiciary.

## **INVESTMENT IN EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT**

- In collaboration with the James A.A. Pierre Judicial Training Institute, continuous training programs were established to enhance staff performance, skills, and overall efficiency. Employees are now have the access to training and development opportunities. Computer Training is now available to all personnel within the Judiciary.
- With full implementation of the rebranding policy, the Personnel Department concentrates on optimizing employee performance while aligning the Judiciary's goals with workforce advocacy, conducting various training sessions to improve employee capabilities and productivity.
- The Chief Justice collaborates closely with the Personnel Department to identify needs and align Human Resources objectives with broader judicial priorities.
- Leadership development programs were initiated to prepare future leaders and establish a succession plan that will ensures continuity of work in adverse circumstances.
- The rebranding policy established a mechanism (Investigative Committee) to address disputes and conflicts within the workplace, fostering a fair and respectful working environment for all employees. The investigation conducted are documented to resolve issues and complains.
- The Department emphasizes the importance of physical and mental health, fostering a culture of respect, trust, and collaboration to enhance employee engagement and retention.

In the implementation process of these improvements, the Personnel Department has enhanced its effectiveness and efficiency and has become a strategic partner in assisting the Judiciary in achieving its objectives.

## JUDICIARY BRANCH LAUNCHES FIRST EVER HANDBOOK FOR EMPLOYEES



In order to achieve its Vision and Mission, the Judiciary Branch of Government located on Capitol Hill, Monrovia, on Friday, May 23, 2025 launched its first ever Judiciary Employees' Handbook which is intended to serve as a guide to all employees of the Judicial Court System in understanding their roles and responsibilities in the courts as well as in the various administrative divisions and units.

Cllr. Andrew N. Nimely, Jr. Personnel Director of the Judiciary, launching the Handbook in front of hundreds of employees said the handbook outlines the policies and rules that each one within the employ of the Judiciary Branch of Government is expected to abide by as an employee. Cllr. Nimely averred that the handbook will also provide each one with an appreciation of the roles and responsibilities in the courts and the various administrative departments, sections and units, and originates out of the Human Resource Policy known also as the Personnel Policy Manual, which constitutes the Administrative Personnel Policy Manual for Administration of Judiciary personnel.

He encouraged all employees to read, understand and acquaint themselves with the handbook in order to abide by every rules and regulations. He informed the employees that the handbook will be implemented to the fullest by authority of the Judiciary. Cllr. Nimely said confidentiality is one of the polices formulated in the handbook. ***“As a judicial employee, you may have access to confidential information. The disclosure or dissemination of confidential information in any form (e.g., documentation, oral communication, electronic data), without express authorization, is prohibited,”*** the personnel director warned.

He asserted that employees shall neither engage in nor encourage the practice of lateness at work, meetings and official functions; irregular attendance at work; being lazy and idle at work; and sexual harassment among others.

He divulged that employees' failure to perform satisfactorily could be linked to and/or associated with improper behavior in the workplace, thereby resulting into a demonstrated failure to follow instructions and/or abide by the basic personnel rules. Under this situation, administrative actions ranging from: (a) warning letters; (b) notice of suspension without pay; and (c) dismissal instituted against consistently non-performing employees consistent with the Civil Services Administrative procedures.

The personnel director mentioned that the policies and procedures formulated in the handbook are in consonance with the Decent Work Act (2015); and the Standing Order for the Civil Service (2012), containing the revised regulations for the Civil Service which remain consistent with international best practices.

Cllr. Elizabeth J. Nelson, Court Administrator, Supreme Court of Liberia, in a message placed within the handbook expressed confident that each employee will perform his/her duty and carry out responsibilities with enthusiasm and professionalism.

Cllr. Nelson stated that as employees of the Judiciary branch of government, each one plays important role in achieving the mission; each employee has the ability and the capacity to assist the Judiciary find new and improved solutions to the many problems court administration and management bring, and through contributions and suggestions, the Judiciary can achieve its goal of “delivering transparent justice and protecting the rights and dignity of all” who appear before the courts in expectation of finding justice among other kinds of relief.

Cllr. Nelson informed employees that The Judiciary Branch of the government of Liberia has the constitutional mandate ***“To protect the rights and dignity of all citizens and those residing within the territorial confines of Liberia”***.

According to the Court Administrator of the Supreme of Liberia, the Judiciary has a major role to play in the attainment of the aspirations of the people of Liberia by having a focus on strengthening governance through restoration of the Rule of Law.

Towards this end, she noted, the Judiciary pursues a Vision of remaining: ***“...an independent and credible judiciary, delivering transparent justice and protecting the rights and dignity of all”***.

She said additionally, the Judiciary has a mission- “...to interpret the law to ensure the protection of the rights of all as guaranteed under the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia”.

The Court Administrator conveyed the Judiciary's delight that employees have chosen service in the Judiciary as their career.

## MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT



The Maintenance Department is one of the largest departments with more manpower within the Judiciary, headed by director and two (2) deputies with many supervisor. The primary responsibility of the Department is to ensure a clean and sanitarly conducive working environment within the compound of the Temple of Justice and all the courts around the country.

Over the past two (2) years of Chief Justice Yuoh's administration and in line with her vision of rebranding the Judiciary which served as a driving force for capacity building, some staff of the Department were recommended by the Director and names forwarded to the James A.A. Pierre Judicial Institute to undergo training after which some staff were promoted and assigned to serve as Bailiffs, Supervisor, and Recorder in various courts at the Temple of Justice.

This landmark initiative wouldn't have been achieved without the instrumentality of Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia who desire was to build the capacity of employees of the Judiciary with her vision, rebranding the Judiciary to meet current day standard of judicial system. We therefore acknowledge her administration for the level of transformation brought to the department and the Judiciary at-large.

## JAMES A.A. PIERRE JUDICIAL INSTITUTE



In 2008, the Supreme Court established the James A.A. Pierre Institute to address the training needs of all judicial officers and staff. The Institute was established pursuant to Section 21.1 of the Judiciary Law of Liberia with the goal to promote the highest level of professional standards of integrity, competence, and leadership within the Liberian Judiciary.

### *Mandates/Functions*

The mandates of the Department is to provide continuous professional judicial training to judicial personnel and other justice sector actors. The mandate was chaptered Supreme Court dated March 2008 establishing the Institute which provides that the functions and responsibilities of the Institute shall be to undertake the coordination of all judicial training programs in Liberia. This is to ensure that the contents of curricula for the training of judicial personnel are not only standardized, but that they also conform strictly to the training policy goals set by the Institute.

Over the past two and half years from 2022-2025, the Judicial Institute, in the implementation of the rebranding process initiated by Chief Justice Yuoh, trained nine hundred eighty-seven (987) Judiciary employees from various departments, other judicial actors and social workers from the fifteen (15) counties of Liberia. This effort is geared towards having the Judiciary to meet international standards which enhance citizens confidence in the Liberian Judiciary.

In order to establish merit-based in the rebranding process of the Judiciary the Judicial Institute prepared and rolled out the Judiciary Personnel Appraisal form to evaluate employees of the Judiciary. The Institute conducted the final revision and production of the Judiciary Employees Handbook which outlines the policies and rule that each one within the employ of the Judiciary Branch of Government is expected to abide by as an employee. The Handbook also provides each one with an appreciation of the roles and responsibilities in the courts and the various administrative departments, sections and units, and originates out of the Human Resource Policy known also as the Personnel Policy Manual, which constitutes the Administrative Personnel Policy Manual for Administration of Judiciary personnel.

In meeting the objectives of the rebranding process which provides for professionalism and building the capacity of judicial actors, the Judicial Institute embarked again on the training of additional Professional Magistrates (PMTP) Cycle V. The objective of program is to recruit college graduates who have professional background to serve as magistrate in the various magisterial courts in various counties.

## COURT INSPECTORATE UNIT (CIU)



The primary function of the Court Inspectorate Unit at Judiciary Branch of Government is to provide services relating to judicial supervision, monitoring, evaluation, and report to the Chief Justice through the office of the Court Administrator on the status, activities and performances of all courts of Law within the Republic of Liberia, with specific aim to ensure that these courts have developed the requisite capacities to dispense justice line with the Rule of Law and to enhance access to justice for party litigants at all times.

In line with said function, the Unit in ensuring the implementation of the rebranding process initiated under the administration of Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, vigorously engaged in intense monitoring of courts around the Country to ensure employees conform to professional work practice and also ensure that those with the requisite skills are placed into position to increase productivity in the Judiciary; as a result of the exercise, the Judiciary achieved the below outcomes:

- Massive improvement in employee's attendance and performance at work due to the intense monitoring of all courts by the Court Inspectorate Unit. With respect to this endeavor, the flow of communication between employees and administration raised to a quality level in that every excuse requested by employee is expressed through a written communication and approved by administration before said employee is granted to leave.
- The Inspectorate Unit ensured that detail profiling (to include but not limited to date of birth, date of employment and qualification) of judges, magistrates and staff in all court were actualized.
- Improvement in the quality of quarterly reports of clerks; especially in the calculation of the number of cases on the dockets.
- As the result of the monitoring periodic monitoring process conducted by the Court Inspectorate Unit, more court remitted courts cost, fees and fines.



## CASE MANAGEMENT UNIT



The Case Management Unit was launched on May 27, 2022, at the Temple of Justice Building after the conduct of a 2-week comprehensive training for 25 clerks and Assistant clerks for 14th courts, 12 magisterial and 2 specialized courts. The launch brought together stakeholders and partners, including the Chief Justice and Associate Justices, magistrates and judges, the Ministry of Justice, the Liberia National Police, and UNDP. During the launch, UNDP donated 26 e-tablets as its initial contribution to the Case Management pilot project.

The Judiciary Case Management Information System (JCMIS) is a modern Web-Based System that is accessible through a web browser, which provides an Android-based application that allows the use of smartphones and tablets. The JCMIS is used for case registration, tracking/monitoring, and reporting on the status of both Civil and Criminal case proceedings from the various courts based on each court's statutory jurisdiction applied to it.

The Unit was established with the support from UNDP as a pilot project based in the 1ST Judicial Circuit to register and track cases for entry into the court system and follow up on the proceedings of those cases until they exit with aim to identify and report barriers hindering the smooth flow of cases in the system. With support from UNDP, the Judiciary, assisted by a technical consultant, developed and upgraded the case management software that was piloted to facilitate registration and tracking of cases in the 1st Judicial Circuit. Thirty-one e-tablets were deployed with clerks at circuits, specialized, and magisterial courts within the 1st and 6th Judicial Circuits, Montserrado County.

The Unit Objective is to enhance Judicial Efficiency and Effectiveness in the handling of courts cases; aims to reduce case resolution time; eliminate procedural bottlenecks; and enhance its effectiveness in legal proceedings. This objective includes the implementation of automated case tracking mechanisms, real-time data synchronization, and comprehensive reporting functionalities to facilitate informed decision-making and promote a more accountable and efficient Judiciary, especially with the Case Management Information System.

Under the administration of Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia the third batch of training was conducted for 54 clerical staff, which includes both the First and Sixth Judicial Circuit courts.



## JURY MANAGEMENT



Cllr. Alice Sirleaf

In an effort to strengthen the jury system for an effective mechanism in trial process, in 2012 an act was passed by the Legislature thereby creating the Central Office of Jury Management in the Judiciary Branch of Government which the head is appointed by the Supreme Court. During the administration of her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh from 2022-2025, the Central Office of Jury Management selected eight thousand seven hundred fifty-four (8,754) prospective jurors from various government ministries and agencies within Montserrado, Bong, Lofa, Grand Gedeh, Bomi, Grand Bassa, Margibi, Grand Cape Mount and Nimba counties. These prospective jurors were summoned for the purpose of orientation in order to acquaint them with their functions and duties as jurors. The OJM provides oversight supervision to those counties pending the roll out of the office of jury management to the remaining six counties. A total of one hundred thirty nine (139) jury trials were held during the period under review in Circuits under the Jury Management supervision. The OJM oversaw five jury sequestrations from 2023-2025.

In an effort to strengthen and increase citizens' participation in the jury process, the jury system under the administration of her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G, Yuoh, the Jury Management disseminated information about the jury system as well as acquaint government ministries and agencies of reform taking place within the jury system. The OJM continues to provide awareness to the general public through various means to include presentation on the New Jury Law with students from the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia, as well as roundtable discussion with Human Resource Directors from government ministries and agencies and other methods to be employed shortly.

All of these would not have been possible without the tireless effort of the Chief Justice, Her Honor, Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh who her vision is intended to rebrand the Judiciary through the building of human capacity of judicial actors. It is therefore the department distinct honor to serve the Chief Justice, and we wish her all the best in her retirement.



## JUDICIARY PROJECT OFFICE



The Judiciary Project Office is an annex of the Office of Court Administrator under the direct oversight and supervision of the Administrator. The Office supports the formulation, implementation, supervision and reporting on all judicial projects, which have attracted national and international financing and partnerships geared towards the achievement of the constructional mandate of the Judiciary.

Following the ascendancy of Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh to the Office of Chief Justice, Republic of Liberia, the Judiciary Branch of Government embarked upon a process of rebranding the Liberian Judiciary to reflect efficiency and effectiveness aimed to make the court system accessible to court users and the general public. Her rebranding vision was been elaborated in the Judiciary's five-year strategic plan covering 2025-2029 aligned with GOLARREST Agenda for inclusive Development. (AAID)

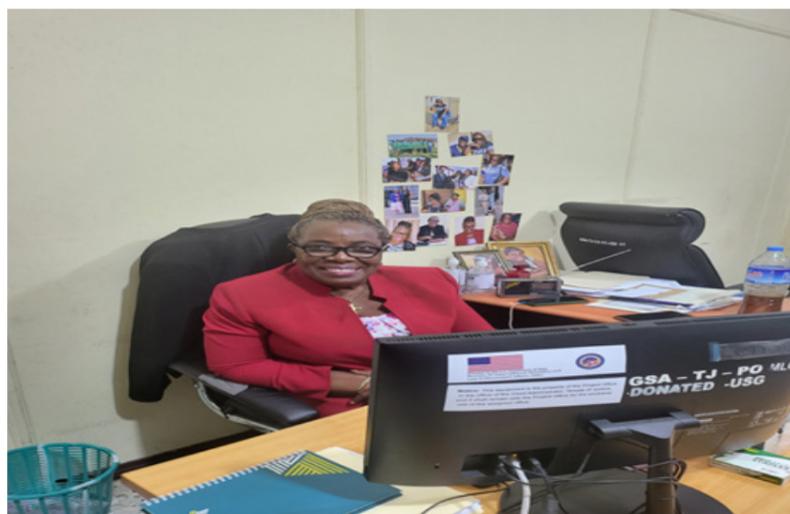
The Strategic Plan articulates the process of building and strengthening the judicial system by establishing a clear court structure and rules and procedures of courts, ensuring judicial independence, improving the competency of judges, implementing efficient procedures, and promoting public trust in the legal system, through reforms aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability within the courts as well as erecting adequate court infrastructure across Liberia. All of which is intended to strengthen the service delivery capacity of the court system in order to deliver on its mandates and to respond to the judicial needs of Party Litigants and the Liberian people.

In line with the implementation of this vision, the Project Office provides cross-cutting support to departments in the Judiciary in achieving the following:

- Official launched of the Judiciary Strategic Plan 2024-2028 during the First Quarter of 2024 aiming to ensure that perennial challenges affecting the courts including limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, human capital capacity limitations and inadequate financial allocations are systematically addressed. The plan period was later changed to 2025-2029, aligned to GOL ARREST Agenda for inclusive Development. The Judiciary plan seeks to strengthen the court service delivery capacity.
- In line with the Judiciary Strategic Plan, a proposal to digitize the Judiciary Court System was prepared and presented to the African Development Bank (AfDB). Judiciary proposal to AfDB was approved by the Board of Directors of AfDB for funding support to the Judiciary digitization through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP). In order to kick-off the digitization process, the Chief Jus-

tice authorized a technical team to conduct a learning visit with the court/justice system in the Republic of Rwanda and Zimbabwe to learn lessons for the digitization experiences from these countries that could provide enlightenment for the Judiciary of Liberia technical team driving the digitization of the Liberia Court System. The process seeks to equip the Supreme Court of Liberia and all Judicial Court Complex with digital infrastructure required for modernization of court processes aimed to improve case processing. Judicial Institute will facilitate training for more than 100 court staffers including clerks being end users for the Digitized Court System, intended to enhance service delivery quality; to improve adjudication of cases including some of the critical cases relating to land tenure, business & commercial interest, investment, SGBV, pretrial detention and violent Crimes.

- The Project Office completed proposal for support to the Supreme Court Judicial Review Committee (12members) on the revised rules of all Courts, the Code of Professional Ethics for Lawyers, and the Judicial Cannons being critical for increasing efficiency, effectiveness and access to the courts. The general objective of the proposal was to enhance timely delivery of transparent justice to party litigants and the general public through the efficacy of the court system in order to strengthen rule of law and access to justice in Liberia. The proposal was funded by International Development Law Organization (IDLO)



## CHIEF JUSTICE SIE-A-NYENE G. YUOH HOLDS INTERACTIVE FARWELL MEETING WITH JUDGES AND MAGISTRATES ACROSS LIBERIA



The Chief Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia Her Honor, Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh has embarked on a three-day tour of the fifteen counties in Liberia holding interactive meetings with magistrates and judges ahead of her retirement from the Judiciary Branch of Government. Cllr. William B. Kollie, Assisting Court Administrator, in a welcome remark on June 12, 2025 at one of the meetings in Monrovia said the purpose of the gathering is for magistrates and judges to interact with Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, Chief Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia as she prepares to retire.

Cllr. Kollie said two days ago, Chief Justice Yuoh held similar meeting in Tubmanbury, Bomi County with Judges and Magistrates from the Western Region of Liberia. “Yesterday, the Chief Justice was again in Gbarnga, Bong County, central Liberia where judges and magistrates from Nimba, Bong and Lofa counties converged to interact with her,” he stated.

Cllr. Kollie continued; *“today, we are here in Monrovia to interact with Judges and Magistrates from Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa and Rivercess Counties. As you all may be aware that, few years ago, the Chief Justice took over as head of the Judiciary Branch of Government, she started with visitation of courts throughout the country.”*

The Assisting Court Administrator noted that the Chief Justice sees the visitation as a way of getting first-hand information on what obtains in the courts and how the judges and magistrates are executing their duties. “So the meeting today is part of the regular meetings with judges and magistrates. What makes the meeting interesting and different is, it coincides with the Chief Justice’s retirement,” the assisting Court Administrator stressed.

According to him, when the Chief Justice got appointed she said the Judiciary must never be the same under her stewardship. She introduced the slogan “Rebranding the Judiciary”. Since then, she has never stopped working to rebrand the Judiciary until today when she is preparing to leave the stage. He recalled when Chief Justice Yuoh took office she shared her ideas with the central administration of the Judiciary to understand her direction and vision and a team was subsequently set up to develop a document to articulate her vision for the Judiciary.

*“That document has since been developed and launched under the title “Rebranding the Judiciary,” which is a five year strategic plan beginning 2025 to 2029. The strategic plan covers the vision of the Chief Justice for the Judiciary,”* he emphasized.

The Assisting Court Administrator averred that now the Chief Justice is about to leave the stage, it is very important that she gives her last instructions to all employees of the Judiciary;

what is expected when she leaves, and how to continue those reforms efforts that have been put in place upon her departure.

Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, for her part, give thanks and appreciation to all judges and magistrates for working tirelessly to uphold and maintain the rule of law in the Republic of Liberia.

Chief Justice Yuoh said as a practicing lawyer for many years, she has been saddened by the unfavorable court structures and facilities judges and magistrates were working in. She stated most of the courts structures in deplorable conditions were built through UNMIL Quick Impact Project. *“We are custodian of the law, we are the ones who hold civilize government in check. So, where we work must show how dignify and serious we are in upholding and maintaining the rule of law in this nation,”* the chief justice declared.

The Chief Justice mentioned that when she took over, she embarked on a process of adherence to the budget law advocating that the Judiciary receive its full budget in accordance with the budget law.

She clarified that the intent of her staunch advocacy for the Government of Liberia to adhere to the Financial Autonomy Acts of the Judiciary was not to get salaries increment for justices, judges and magistrates but to get a budget that is in compliance with the law regarding the Judiciary which in time past has not been followed.

She recounted how the Judiciary has been unfairly treated for many years by the other two branches of government when it came to budget allocation and appropriation amongst the three branches. The Chief Justice stated that although she may be leaving but through intense negotiation and advocacy, the Judiciary is now able to make its own budget; judges have new vehicles and the government has agreed in each budget year to build a Judicial Complex along with two magisterial courts in each county.

Meanwhile, she warned Judges of reassignment of magistrates without approval or notice to the Supreme Court. She pointed out that the Supreme Court likes the idea of Judges rotating magistrates but said action should be taken with the knowledge and consent of the Supreme Court to avoid problems.

Also, the Chief Justice frowned at several judges and magistrates who have failed to make quarterly reports about the works they have done in their respective courts dating as far back as 2024.

She noted that why reporting may be seen as so simple; it’s very important because that’s where the Supreme Court gets informed about the working of the Judiciary both administratively and operationally.



## LIBERIA'S CHIEF JUSTICE CHARGES MONROVIA CITY MAYOR TO CLEAN MONROVIA CITY OF PLASTIC WASTES & GARBAGE USING THE LAW



The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh has charged the Lord Mayor of the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) Hon. John-Charuk Siafi to fully apply the City Ordinance Law without fear or favor in order to clean Monrovia and its environs of plastic wastes and other garbage.

Chief Justice Yuoh speaking Monday, June 16, 2025 during the formal opening of the Civil Law Court in Montserrado County said there are laws on the book governing city ordinance and the Lord Mayor only need to make the laws effective.

***“We have laws on the book called littering and loitering and these laws go with penalty, if violated. If you see a marketer selling water on the streets and there are plastic or dirt all around them; you must apply the law if said marketer refused to clean their environment,”*** the Chief Justice stated.

She informed the Monrovia City Mayor who was a guest at the opening ceremony of the court that the court will compare individuals to pay fine for littering the streets of Monrovia.

She stated; ***“I am sure the mayor of Monrovia and other mayors across Liberia know that there are laws against littering and loitering. So Mr. Mayor, do your work; that’s all I can say. There is a law that can back your action. If you stay within the confines of your authority and apply the law against littering, if anyone brings you to court, we at the court will back you.”***

Chief Justice Yuoh noted that the Supreme Court has never sided with anybody when the Ministry of Public Works prohibits individual from building on an alley.

According to her, the court always ordered the demolition of buildings in alleys. ***“If the Ministry of Public Works as a professional entity says this is an alley don not build in it; the Court will listen to the Ministry, ruled in its favor and order the demolition of said property,”*** she maintained.

The Assigned Judge of the Civil Law Court in Monrovia, Cllr. George W. Smith in a brief remark to the Lord Mayor of Mon-

rovia Hon. Siafi said the Environmental Sanitation Law in Liberia was created to make Liberia, Africa’s oldest Independent nation, the cleanest and an example for others to follow.

Judge Smith also charged the City Mayor to distribute garbage buckets all around the communities and other public areas so that there will be no excuses for the court to apply the law on anyone who violate the Environmental Sanitation Law.

The Judge called on the Lord Mayor to plead with President Joseph N. Boakai to put enough money in the national budget for the cleaning of the cities.

The Judge is of the belief that President Boakai will fully support the cleanliness of Liberia because sanitation is part of the President’s ARREST agenda.

For his part, Cllr. Scheaplor R. Dunbar presiding Judge of the Civil Law Court annex, delivering the charge for the opening of the court frowned on the construction of large commercial buildings on wetlands and waterways which have contributed greatly to continuous flooding in various communities.

He stated that the Environment Protection Agency Act of 2002 gives the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) the power to identify projects, activities, policies and programs for which environment impact assessments must be conducted and review and approve environmental impact statements and environmental impact assessment submitted to it pursuant to the Act.

Judge Dunbar maintained that the EPA Act defines environmental impact assessment as a systematic examination of a project or activity that may have adverse and/or significant impact on the environment.

***“Very too often, we see large construction activities going in areas that are clearly wetlands or on waterways. We wonder whether the EPA conducts environmental impact assessment studies before such projects are allowed to proceed. Whenever construction activities are permitted on waterways and wetlands, we are obviously creating the necessary condition for flooding whenever it rains heavily. Why should the EPA and other line agencies allow people to build huge commercial structures on wetlands and waterways when they know the minute it rains, the whole area will be flooded,”*** the Judge stated.

He urged the EPA and other line agencies to be vigilant in their statutory duty of protecting the environment and taking the necessary actions to prevent flooding.

The Judge was primarily on the challenges the court and the Liberia Land Authority continue to face in conducting investigative and cadastral surveys in ejection cases pending before the court.

The Judge stated that it is an ordered to submit all ejectment cases to an investigative survey to be conducted by the Liberia Land Authority.

He noted that under the Liberia Land Authority Act of 2016, the LLA has the power, among other functions, to adjudicate land disputes and to conduct investigative surveys ordered by the court.

He asserted that the first step the court has employed in deciding ejectment cases is to order the LLA to conduct an investigative survey on the disputed property to determine the relation of the parties' survey report, along with other evidence adduced during trial, and is used by the trial jury to bring an informed verdict in ejectment cases.

The judge explained further that in recent times, the court has been faced with the issue of party litigants, sometimes a whole community, obstructing the conduct of investigative surveys that are ordered by the court.

The Judge asserted that in many instances, surveyors, police officers, and court officers have been attacked by some party litigants and community members who have opposed the conduct of an investigative survey in their area.

***“This act of using mob violence to obstruct the conduct of investigative surveys must stop,”*** Judge Scheaplor Dunbar said.

The Judge noted that investigative survey reports are technical reports that greatly aid the court and jury in the final determination of an ejectment action, as such; no party litigant or community members should obstruct the exercise.

Another challenge the judge says associated with the conduct of investigative surveys or arbitration surveys is the costs.

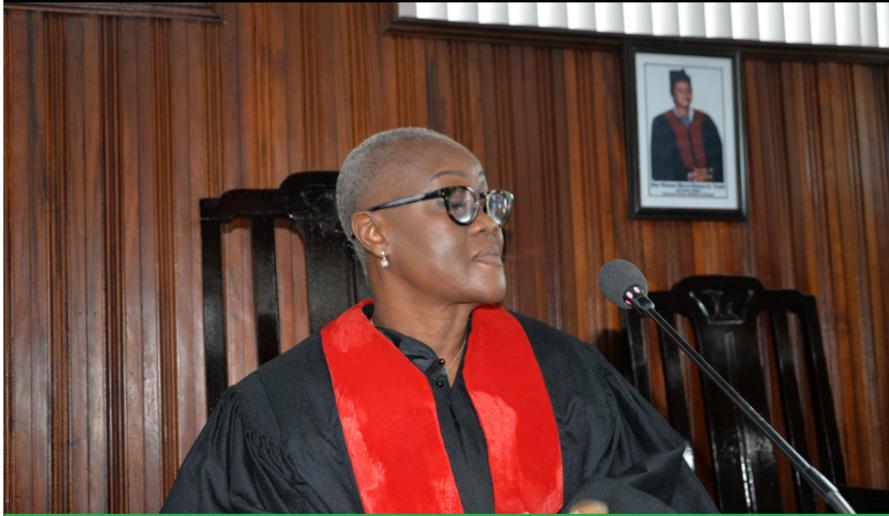
Quoting the law, he says, ***“Section 8.1 (m) of the LLA Act mandates the Authority to issue and publish in the Gazette from time to time notices prescribing the fees to be paid for the Authority’s services.”***

Judge Dunbar; ***“the LLA needs to come up with standard fees for the conduct of investigative and arbitration surveys ordered by the court. The fees will take into consideration the quantity of land involved, and the volume of work required. The fees should not be left with surveyors who are designated by the LLA to carry on court-sanctioned surveys. The fees should be reasonable and affordable. This will enable party litigants to quickly pay the fees required for the conduct of surveys.”***

He continue; ***“we must advise our people, especially party litigants, that it serves no useful purpose to obstruct surveys ordered by the court, or to attack court and police officers who are only assisting the court-appointed surveyors to do their work. If you obstruct a survey, you are making it difficult for the court to hear and speedily decide your case.”***



# SERVING AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF LIBERIA WAS A HUMBLE & GREAT EXPERIENCE



## ***Cllr. Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh Shares Experience on Occupying the Highest Seat at the Judiciary***

Liberia's outgoing Chief Justice Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh has shared her experience about occupying the highest seat at the Judiciary Branch of Government with a summed-up statement that serving as chief justice of Liberia was a humble and great experience.

In an interview with the Public Affairs Section of the Judiciary, Cllr. Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh a lawyer, a Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, a career woman, a mother and a devote Christian said serving as chief justice also meant a great deal.

“Every lawyer out there will be more than happy to be the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia and the administrative head of the Judiciary Branch of Government. So, even though I was happy but the position as Chief Justice humbles me. I had to understand as Chief Justice, I must demean myself as a lawyer and an honorable person and live according to the rules and laws of the court. I have to remain honorable in every way,” Chief Justice Yuoh stressed.

The Chief Justice of Liberia heads the Judiciary Branch of the Liberian government. She was nominated by former President George M. Weah and confirmed by the Senate before taking office in September 2022.

Chief Justice Yuoh came to the job with a high degree of integrity, accountability and a clear vision of where the Judiciary should be in the next five years as evident by the agenda she has set forth to bring development to the third branch of government. This mission is conveyed in the now ever-popular rallying call slogan, “Rebranding the Liberian Judiciary.”

Having practice law for twenty-five years (25 yrs.) before assuming the role as an associate justice and subsequently becoming Chief Justice of Liberia, Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh has an understanding of the Judiciary's age-old problems and was set to chart a new course and put the Judiciary on the right trajectory.

“I was in the practice of law for 25 years before been appointed as Associate Justice and subsequently Chief Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia. I have been to every court: to include magisterial, specialize and circuit courts. I had the opportunity to observe these various court levels during my practice of law. So besides defending my clients in court, it was also a time for observations. I always said, if I ever became a Chief Justice, I will want to just do it differently; because for me, this is the branch of government that holds the nation together; be it political, social and economically. So, when I became Chief Justice, the first thing I had to do was to put all these observations about the Judiciary into one phrase called “Rebranding the Judiciary,” the Chief Justice stated.

The dawn of a new Judiciary was never going to be business as usual

according to Chief Justice Yuoh. It will be a period characterized by adherence and application of the rule of law in the Republic of Liberia.

Some major reforms and policy decisions already been put into motion by the outgoing Chief Justice include the reduction of case backlogs, increase public access to justice and promotion of judicial independence.

The Chief Justice noted, “the Supreme Court had about twenty (20) bill of information cases but since my ascendancy as Chief Justice, the number has drastically reduced to six (6) cases. If you look at our dockets now, it is as flat as it can be. But back then, it was so huge. There were lots and lots of cases on the dockets. The Supreme Court put into place so many good policies that significantly reduced it dockets. For example, it is the rule of court that if a case is called and the parties don't appear, the Court places said case at the bottom of the docket and as well penalize the lawyers in the case.”

In a quest for a better Judiciary, the Chief Justice held vital engagements with current President Joseph N. Boakai for increased financial support to the Judiciary as well as the adherence to the Judiciary Financial Autonomy Act (2016), as there was low budgetary allocation and underdevelopment of the court system.

Her engagements with the President and the leadership of the Legislative Branch, yielded fruitful result as the Liberian Judiciary has received marginal increase in its 2025 fiscal budget. The Chief Justice noted that the Judiciary has presented payroll for retire justices, judges and the smooth running of the Judiciary and the Ministry of Finance is always in compliance with the Judiciary Financial Autonomy Act (2016). “We are grateful for that because we are no longer begging or citing the Minister of Finance as was done in the past”.

Madam Justice Yuoh spoke about the building of two magisterial courts in Montserrado County; hoping that the remaining three magisterial courts yet to be built will be done in the soonest possible time based on the availability of funds from national government.

She notes that the government has already advanced money for the building of the 4th Judicial Complex in Maryland County.

“Some of the reforms will be painful and their benefits may not be immediately understood or felt, but as time goes by the sacrifice made will be realized and appreciated”, she said.

Madam Justice Yuoh notes that she is aware of the sacrifices judges and magistrates make especially the lack of adequate relieving judges. According to her, every year judges are presiding over courts in the various counties but those judges have not been able to go on vacation or even get a rest.

She further said the only time those judges leave their jobs to rest are when they have gotten ill. “If we have many relieving judges to release some of those judges whom we know need rest especially in the areas of assignment, it will be very helpful. We hope that will happen and we thank the judges for holding on and doing their jobs even in these difficult times,” she emphasized.

The outgoing Chief Justice thanked the people of Liberia for trusting the Supreme Court to peacefully handled cases of national concern. The Chief Justice asserted that even before she became member of the Supreme Court Bench, the Liberian public always waited patiently for judgment from the Supreme Court.

“Thanks to the Liberian people. It was a great and awesome time serving Liberians and other residents in the country”.

# 70 YEARS BUT STILL LOOKS VIBRANT AND STRONG



*The Legacy of Cllr. Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh as a Lawyer, a Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, a Career Woman, a Mother and a Devout Christian*

A person in their 70s can absolutely be strong and vibrant. While age-related changes are natural, maintaining physical and mental activity, a healthy lifestyle, and engaging in activities that bring joy and purpose can lead to a fulfilling and energetic person at age 70.

The outgoing Chief Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Yuoh celebrated her seventieth birth anniversary (70th) on June 26, 2025. The Chief Justice though 70, still looks vibrant, strong and energetic. The Liberian Constitution (1986), mandates that the Chief Justice serves “during good behavior” and must retire at the age of 70, hence the tenure of Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Yuoh has come to an end.

One cannot begin to espouse the legacy of the outgoing Chief Justice without knowing the foundational principles that drives her; hence, Madam Justice Yuoh enlightens us about who she really is.

## WHO IS SIE-A-NYENE YUOH?

Madam Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh is a Liberian lawyer and a spiritual person. She is a strong believer and a born again Christian. She obtained high school education from the St. Theresa Convent Catholic High School in Monrovia. She is a strong believer that her life now and even at the beginning of her birth is all by the divine purpose and plan of God. Chief Justice Yuoh has three biological children and other adopted children.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL DAYS

Chief Justice Yuoh was born to two parents who were different in some way. Her father was a highly educated and a God-fearing man. In fact, he was schooled in Ghana and returned home. He was born in the Grebo tribe of Maryland County and desirous of being better, he decided to travel to Ghana to get an education.

Chief Justice Yuoh’s mother was not educated at all but was able to groom her daughter into becoming more productive and assertive in life. Madam Yuoh and her siblings found themselves growing up in a home where their father taught them how to pray and study. For each Sunday, they went to their father’s church at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Camp Johnson Road. They would go to mass at 7: 00 am and returned home early to get prepare for family prayer. The Chief Justice was raised in a home where it’s God first and study, and she found herself to be lucky to have these disciplines (spiritualism, education and assertive responsible lady).

## BEGINNING OF A PROFESSIONAL LAWYER CAREER

The over three decades law career of the Chief Justice was an instant beginning. It was a choice of first being a doctor but upon realizing that she could not stand the sight of blood and needles, she opted to become the next best lawyer in the Republic of Liberia. “Being a lawyer didn’t require disserting a frog; it just needed you to prepare yourself and read a lot”. So, she chose the lawyering profession by changing her curriculum at Cuttington University from Biology to Political Science and Economics. Those where courses she felt were necessary for her as a lawyer. Her plan was either to be a doctor or lawyer. Chief Justice Yuoh has always felt that certain profession being pursued in developing countries like Liberia could not be applied to the socio, economic and political life of the country. As a doctor, you will contribute to the overall health of the nation and as a lawyer, you will contribute to the pursuit of law in every aspect of the nation.

## CHALLENGES FACED IN PURSUIT OF THE STUDY OF LAW

As the Chief Justice would say, there were no second thoughts in her pursuit of the study of law. It was just moving on from there. She became one of the student leaders of her class (senator). Justice Yuoh recalled being arrested on campus due to students protest. She was investigated by the Ministry of Justice and later released. So, for her, it was no brainer, no looking back in wanting to be a lawyer. She emphasized that she has no regrets from the day she decided on becoming a lawyer and including this time as a Chief Justice, there are still no regrets.

CJ Yuoh’s Professional life as a lawyer; the stages from where she came and to where she is currently seated. Madam Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh completed her high school from the St. Theresa Convent Catholic School. High school is a trip. It’s where parents are on their heels to ensure that their children have better upbringing. If you missed your child upbringing at that stage, then; you missed a whole lot. All thanks to God Almighty who kept her focus during her educational journey. It was a rule for the Chief Justice and her siblings that from Monday to Thursday only study and no playing. When they came from school, they had dinner; the next thing was prepared their uniforms for the next day school and by the evening hours Mr. Yuoh (father) would come and they all went in for study. This was their daily routine. Madam Yuoh and her siblings went through said discipline without any argument. So, growing up, they had to know about prayer, study and be the best in education and spiritual life. After her undergraduate study, she didn’t waste any time to enroll at the law school. She was aware of the requirement which is high school, college and then law school.

Upon graduation from the law school, then Atty. Yuoh and one of her classmates opened a law firm. Thereafter, she joined the David A. B. Jallah law firm. It has not been a walk in the park in the professional journey of Chief Justice Yuoh. She recalls the many days she would walk from her home in Mamba Point to the David A. B. Jallah law firm on Johnson Street before going to court. Unfortunately, she did not have a car at the time. So, whether rain or shine, she found herself strolling between home, office and court to attend to clients’ cases.

The legal career of Cllr. Sie-A-Nyene Yuoh span both in her private and public capacities with stings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she served as the coordinator for African Affairs;

the Central Bank of Liberia, where she worked as Corporate Secretary; the Ministry of Justice, where she first worked as a legal counsel and later elevated to Assisting Minister for Legal Affairs and then to the Law Reform Commission, where she worked as the Executive Director and then a Commissioner, before joining the Supreme Court Bench as Associate Justice and now Chief Justice.

**WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA?**

In September 2022, former President George M. Weah appointed Associate Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia following the retirement of former Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr.. Madam Justice Yuoh believes that her ascendancy to the position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia meant a great deal. Some of the people who served as Chief Justices might hide their joy but from the onset when she was even told by former President George M. Weah when he called to say he wanted to nominate her to be the next Chief Justice and his question to her was whether or not she will accept it? She immediately responded in the affirmative, yes!

“There is no lie that every lawyer out there will be more than happy to be the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, the administrative head of the Judiciary Branch of Government”. The Chief Justice recalled a conversation that she had with some female lawyer friends telling them about her ambition of being a Chief Justice in the future. So under the regime of President Weah, when her name was announced, she reflected on the discussion with her colleagues back then. She had to understand as Chief Justice she must demean herself as a lawyer, as an honorable person and live according to the rules and laws of the court. The position as Chief Justice has put her family on the map of the world stage nationally, regionally and internationally. “The position as Chief Justice requires traveling to many places that one never dreamt going as lawyer”. The Chief Justice noted that without the position, she could never have dreamt of sitting in certain company whether nationally, internationally or regionally and meeting certain people of power. Some people who occupied similar position might not speak but if there is one person in the Judiciary who does not bite her tongue, that person is the outgoing Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia. Some people may say everything was alright; but a self-critical Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh said NO: everything was not alright because she had decisions to make and she made those decisions. “It has been my focus to do my job and not to protect a title which will soon be gone”.

**GOALS FOR THE JUDICIARY**

“Goals give a clear sense of purpose, align team efforts and create a framework for measuring success. That is why a good leader should set goals to provide direction, enhance motivation, and drive performance”. When the Chief Justice got appointed she said the Judiciary must never be the same under her stewardship. She introduced the slogan “Rebranding the Judiciary”. Since then, she has never stopped working to rebrand the Liberian Judiciary till this day when she is leaving the stage.

Chief Justice Yuoh, upon taking office shared her ideas with the central administration of the Judiciary to understand her direction and vision and a team was subsequently set up to develop a document to articulate her vision for the Judiciary. That document has since been developed and launched under the title “Rebranding the Liberian Judiciary,” which is a five-year strategic plan beginning 2025 to 2029. The strategic plan covers the vision of the Yuoh’s Bench for the Judiciary Branch of Government. In this vein, the Chief Justice has made some commendable progress in strengthening the rule of law, rehabilitating and rebuilding physical courts infrastructure.

Over the past years, the Chief Justice has assiduously worked to ensure the drastic reduction of case backlogs, increase public access to justice and promote judicial independence.

To add on the gains attained at the Judiciary, the Chief Justice and her colleagues on the Bench ensured improvement in the financial position of the Judiciary through increased budgetary allocations and adherence to the Financial Autonomy Act (2016), resulting in significant infrastructural and human resource development within the Judiciary over the past two years.

**SUSTAINABILITY OF THE JUDICIARY’S STRATEGIC PLAN**

Sustaining a strategic plan means ensuring it continued relevance and effectiveness over time, allowing it to adapt to changing circumstances and deliver long-term value. It involves more than just creating a plan; it requires actively managing and monitoring its progress, making necessary adjustments, and fostering a culture that supports its implementation. Madam Justice Yuoh is hopeful that the Judiciary’s five years strategic plan created during her stewardship as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia will be sustained. “Even though, the Chief Justice might be on her way out of the Judiciary but there are other justices who fully participated in the rebranding process. In fact, the five years strategic plan was signed by all of the associate justices although they knew that the Chief Justice will be exiting from the Bench of the Supreme Court”.

“I will be leaving before the strategic plan expires. I am certain and convinced that my colleagues who are still on the Supreme Court Bench will work in line with the policy. Even if we have a new Chief Justice who is not selected from within the Supreme Court Bench; it will be very hard for said individual to go against the policy already in place and working.”

**THE FEELING OF NEARING RETIREMENT**

“Nearing retirement can evoke mixed emotions; from excitement and relief to anxiety and uncertainty. While some anticipate the freedom and new opportunities, other grapple with the loss of identity, routine, and social connections associated with their career. It’s common experience a sense of both anticipation for the future and apprehension about the unknown”.



For Chief Justice Yuoh, she sees retirement as a prospect of a less stressful life, more leisure time, and the ability to pursue personal interest. Chief Justice Yuoh had this to say about her retirement: “I thank God that I have never and will never utter words of regret as to why I was not appointed Chief Justice for a long time. I am not going to question God why He gave me three years as Chief Justice. I know that by God’s divine plan, this is when He wanted me to be in the position and when He wanted me to leave the position. I have no regrets because I have been lifted to a position where other people, in all their lives might not even get. So, why should I be ungrateful to the free gift from God. This job is a tough one.”

**Life after Retirement as Chief Justice**  
 “I will always be a lawyer but I don’t see myself going to court. To come again at the magisterial court or specialize court; no, I don’t see myself doing that. I am going to rest. I am 70 years and I got grandchildren that I have bonded with. They come to visit me during and week days and weekends I will love to spend some time with them. I see myself resting for about two years and within that time I may be called upon to serve as an adviser.”

**HABITS OUTSIDE OF WORK**

Having habits outside of work is crucial for overall wellbeing and can significantly impact performance at work. These habits contribute to stress reduction, improved mental health, enhanced creativity, better work-life balance, and personal growth.

They also foster discipline, self-control, and facilitate the achievement of long-term goals.

This is what the Chief Justice had to say about her habits outside of work: “when I am not working I watch my tennis sport. I am a big tennis fan. I also watch movies series like Telemudo/ Telenovela and as well as Spanish and Turkish Soap operas.”

**WORDS OF GRATITUDE**

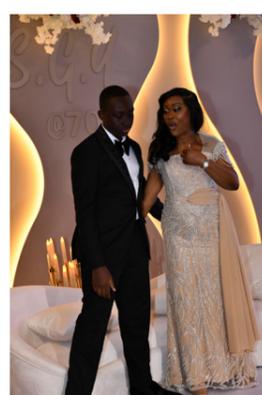
The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court thanked God for her parents, children (sons and daughters) both biological and otherwise. These people have been there all through her journey as Chief Justice. “I want to thank my colleagues on the Supreme Court bench, some of friends from the law school. We have always supported each other when it comes to the practice of law”.

The Chief Justice believes her ascendancy as a lawyer to the Supreme Court Bench could not have been possible without the support of former and current Presidents of the Republic of Liberia.

“I just want to say thank you to former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for listening to the voice of God and appointing me as Associate Justice. And I hope I did not disappoint her that indeed the law remains the law whether or not you nominated or confirmed me. The former President attempted appointing me as minister of Labor Ministry but she told me that upon the announcement of my name she got certain feedback that made her believe that I would be more effective as associate justice than minister”.

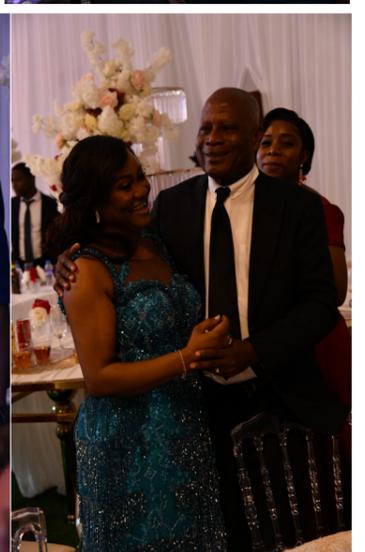
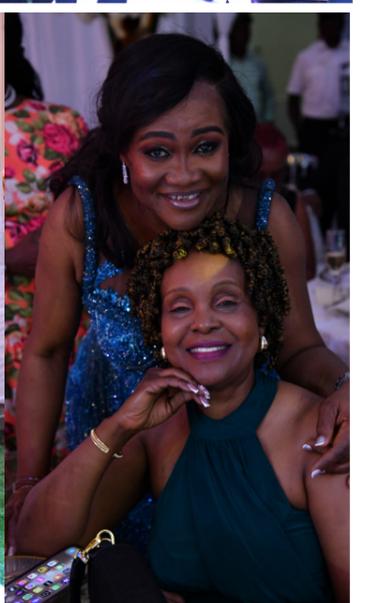
“Similarly, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to former President George Weah for appointing me as Chief Justice. In the same regard, I am most grateful to President Joseph Nyuma Boakai for the overwhelming support accorded me during my tenure as Chief Justice”.

“Thanks to the Liberian people! It was a great and awesome time serving Liberians and other residents in the country”.



# HER HONOR SIE-A-NYENE YUOH 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION





# LIBERIAN JUDICIARY ON COURSE FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



**Clerks of Courts in Montserrado County Benefit from Integrated Digital Case Management Training**

In a collective effort and significant step to modernize and strengthen the Liberian Judiciary through digital transformation, the Judiciary Branch of Government in collaboration with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has completed ten days intensive digital case management training for sixty (60) clerks and assisting clerks of the 1st to the 6th Judicial Circuit Courts in Montserrado County.

Cllr. William B. Kollie, Assisting Court Administrator, speaking on behalf of the Central Administration of the Judiciary at the closing ceremony on Friday, July 11, 2025 underscores the importance of the training because it is captured in the Judiciary's five years strategic plan.

Cllr. Kollie said during the launched of the strategic plan, the African Development Bank (AFDB) took interest in supporting the Judiciary to implement the training program. Cllr. Kollie noted that all over the world court systems are becoming digital but in Liberia, the Court System is stay done manually. The Assisting Court Administrator asked, "how can we achieve speedy trial with a manual court system? Around the world now, a lot of developments are taking place through automated system." He asserted that the new case management system will help keep good record system, improve the trail process and do away with human to human interactions that are often marked by corruption.

He stated that the Judiciary can't achieve the automated system without the help of the clerks and assisting clerks of the court; stressing, the Judiciary places premium on the case management system for which it initiated the training of clerks of court.

The Assisting Court Administrator explained further that the digital infrastructure is captured in the plan of the Government of Liberia. "The message to this is that we are on an irreversible path to reform. I can assure you that we are not going back. We must all be ready to embrace change. Anyone who stands in the way of the reform of the Judiciary will be removed," he warned.

Cllr. Kollie thanked the UNDP for its support, noting that the international organization is a strategic partner to the Judiciary. It has supported the fast track program at the Monrovia Central Prison, the Professional Magistrate Training Program (PMTP) and the case management program. Most of our partners have suffered donor fatigue but it's only UNDP that continues to stand by the Judiciary in support.

Cllr. Kollie described the newly trained clerks as agents of change and reform. He encouraged the clerks to go out and

take advantage of all the trainings that will be administered by the Judiciary and as well access other trainings from outside of the Judiciary for their own personal development.

The Assisting Court Administrator averred that the digital system the Judiciary Branch of Government envisioned will require lots of preparation and as such, the digital system will be rolled out before the end of 2029. Mr. Stanley M. Kamara, team leader and deputy for program at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) delivering a message on behalf of Mr. Aliou Mamadou Dia, Resident Representative, UNDP, expressed honor and pleasure for the important occasion — the closing ceremony of the training on the upgraded Judiciary Case Management System.

"On behalf of UNDP, I extend warm congratulations to the 60 Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Courts who have completed this training over the past two weeks. Your dedication and active participation are vital to the future of justice delivery in Liberia," he added.

According to him, the closing ceremony is more than a formality. It represents a significant step in the collective effort to modernize and strengthen Liberia's Judiciary through digital transformation.

As part of its institutional mandate, UNDP has long supported efforts to improve access to justice, promote the rule of law, and strengthen the efficiency and accountability of legal institutions. In Liberia, one of the core pillars of our partnership with the Judiciary has been the digitalization of court processes — a strategic priority identified in the Judiciary's own Strategic Plan, which we were proud to support in its development.

UNDP understands that for justice to be timely and fair, it must also be efficient. Reducing court dockets, removing operational bottlenecks, and shortening case processing time are critical goals. To achieve these, systems must be modernized, and personnel must be empowered. This is precisely what the Judiciary Case Management System aims to do.

Mr. Kamara recognized that over the past years, UNDP has supported the design, development, and piloting of this system, working hand-in-hand with the Judiciary to ensure that it is responsive to the real operational needs of courts across the country. Based on lessons from the pilot phase, consultants were brought on to refine and upgrade the system — making it fit for purpose and aligned with current realities in Liberia's judicial system.

Mr. Kamara said the training has now prepared 60 Clerks and Assistant Clerks — the very custodians of case records — to implement and manage this digital platform with confidence. You are the backbone of court administration, and your role in the successful rollout of this system is indispensable.

In addition to training, he stated that UNDP has provided digital tools, such as tablets and data support, to ensure that the implementation of this system is practical, accessible, and sustainable — even in remote locations. When systems are digitized and people are trained and equipped, access to justice becomes more efficient and equitable for all. Liberia joins Nigeria and Ghana that are making progress in digital case management. He emphasize that this is not a one-off event. It is part

of a broader journey of transformation — one that UNDP remains committed to. Whether through continued technical assistance, strategic planning support, or capacity-building, our partnership with the Judiciary remains strong and focused on one shared goal: making justice work for the people of Liberia. The UNDP Deputy for Program believes that the Rule of law is one of the foundational pillars of his institution work globally, and here in Liberia, it is central to their support to state institutions. We see justice not just as a legal matter, but as a cornerstone of peace, stability, and inclusive development.

Mr. Kamara encouraged the participants — especially the clerks and assistant clerks — to return to their respective courts with a renewed sense of purpose. The tools are in your hands. The knowledge is now yours. The responsibility to drive change and deliver results lies with each of you. You are now the vanguard of a digital, efficient, and modern Judiciary.

Mr. Patrick Karmon of the Information Communication Technology department (ICT) who proxy on behalf of Cllr. Darryl Ambrose Nmah, Sr. Director of Public Information, Strategic Planning and Development said it was an honor to witness the closing ceremony of the ten days intensive training exercise on the updated electronic case management system.

Mr. Karmon said the closing ceremony marks not just the end of a training exercise but the beginning of a renewed commitment to strengthen justice delivery through digital innovation and efficient service.

Mr. Karmon praised the UNDP for the continue support and partnership in helping build a more capable and modern Judiciary. He said to guide the digital transformation; the Court Administrator of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Cllr. Elizabeth J. Nelson deemed it necessary that Liberia learn from other countries implementing digital system in their courts. He further explained that a delegate from the Judiciary's Strategic Planning and Development Committee visited both Rwanda and Zimbabwe to learn how these countries transitioned from a paper based system to an electronic case management system.

According to him, these countries experiences highlighted a proper planning toward a digital process, capacity building of judicial staffers to adapt the new innovation, strategy on how to implement chain management and most importantly, the need to visit the rules of court to align with digital realities.

“To the clerks of court, for the past ten days you have gone through an intensive hands-on training exploring both the existing system and new features in the updated case management system. These training sections were not theory but practical. These trainings also prepared you to use the system effectively in your daily work,” stated Mr. Karmon.

He noted that at the beginning of the journey, the case management system was the first. But over the years, the Judiciary and its partners decided to update the system to meet necessary standard requirements. So, currently you are been train to work with the case management system. He informed the clerks that there is a difference in working with the integrated case management system. The system which has been envisaged by the Chief Justice will have an enhance future on the existing case management system.

Currently, the Judiciary has duo processes in handling cases wherein, the clerks deal with the manual process and at the same time upload information in the case management system.

Mr. Karmon pointed out that with the new system, lawyers and party litigants will file cases without coming to court. Judges, lawyers and party litigants will access from anywhere at any time.

“There will be tracking of cases through the integrated case management system. Both the lawyer and party litigant can track their case to know if the lawyer had paid certain money require by the court to register the case. So, with the integrated system of case management; lawyers and party litigant will have the opportunity to pay court fines and fees online either through mobile money or bank card. Another feature to be added to the system will be a virtual hearing as it is done in countries like Zimbabwe and Rwanda. A pre-trial detainee does not need to come to court every time for hearing. The detainee can stay at the prison facility and join the trail through virtual means. So, there will be virtual court establish at the prison compound. Lawyers can also join from the comfort of their law firms and attend court hearings,” Mr. Karmon explained some features the new system brings.

He stated that the program will give the Judiciary the ability to have real time notification of court activities. So, when a case is filed, the clerk of court will receive a notification through the court system or email that a case is filed. What this does is to alleviate the burden that court staffs currently endure to file cases on behalf of lawyers.

He called on the participants (clerks) to see themselves as more than just record keepers; they are the operation heart of the courts. The clerk serves as a bridge between the public and the judge or magistrate.

Mr. Karmon emphasized that with the beautiful knowledge acquired from the training, the clerks must serve as a key driver in the Judiciary. He noted that the new integrated digital case management brings in some changes but these changes are designed to make the work of the clerks easier, faster and transparent.

Mr. Karmon divulged that the ten days training equipped clerks of court with the tools to adopt smoothly and there is a trust in the ability of the newly trained clerks to lead the transformation in their respective courts. Mr. Karmon encouraged the clerks to take ownership of the knowledge learned and apply it diligently; share knowledge with colleagues and give feedbacks to enhance the system and be an ambassador to the new system. Let's continue to build a Judiciary that is responsible, efficient and future ready, he concluded.

Mr. McCarthy S. Hne, Jr. Clerk of Debt Court speaking on behalf of the participants conveyed thanks and appreciation to the Judiciary and its donor partner (UNDP) for funding the new digital case management system. Mr. Hne assured the Judiciary and UNDP that the knowledge learned will be used for the intended purpose. To our judges and magistrates rest assure that we can exercise all the knowledge acquired from this training. We will not let you down.

The Clerk of the Debt Court used the occasion to call on authorities of the Judiciary to improve the salaries of clerks throughout the country. He mentioned that his called for salaries increment is in line with the recent knowledge acquired and the rebranding process of Judiciary.

# JUDICIARY BEGINS TRAINING OF COLLEGE GRADUATES FOR DEPLOYMENT AS MAGISTRATES



The Judiciary Branch of Government has recruited sixty (60) college graduates from across the country to be trained and subsequently deploy as Associate Magistrates at various magisterial courts in Liberia.

Her Honor Jamesetta H. Wolokolie, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court and Chairman of the Board of Governors and Recruitment Committee of the James A. A. Pierre Judicial Institute, on Friday, July 11, 2025 formally presented the successful candidates who have emerged from a vigorous and transparent selection process for admission into the James A. A. Pierre Judicial Institute.

Madam Wolokolie noted that these individuals have demonstrated not only intellectual aptitude and a firm grasp of legal principles, but also integrity, moral character, and an unwavering commitment to public service qualities essential to the esteemed office of Magistrate.

“We are confident that upon completion of their year-long intensive training, these candidates will serve with distinction in promoting justice, protecting rights, and contributing to peace, stability, and the rule of law across our beloved country. Accordingly, it is with great pride and unshakable confidence that I respectfully present these sixty (60) candidates for your kind consideration and endorsement,” Madam Wolokolie stated. Madam Wolokolie wished that the candidates’ service bring honor to the Judiciary and further the cause of democracy and justice in Liberia.

In 2008, pursuant to Section 21.1 of the Judiciary Law of Liberia, the Honorable Supreme Court established the James A. A. Pierre Judicial Institute to address the professional development needs of judicial personnel across the country. The Institute was envisioned to uphold the highest standards of integrity, competence, and leadership within the Liberian Judiciary. The Associate Justice speaking during the orientation program of the James A. A. Pierre Judicial Institute Professional Magistrate Training Program Cycle V 2025/2026 said the mandate of the Institute is to provide continuous judicial education and training to judicial officers and other justice sector actors.

She said this vision was firmly articulated by His Honor, the late Chief Justice Jonnie N. Lewis, whose memorandum of March 19, 2008, who emphasized that the Judiciary could not make meaningful progress without adequately addressing the systemic challenges facing its human resource capacity. In that light, the Institute was tasked with coordinating all judicial training programs throughout the Republic.

She averred that in furtherance of that mandate, the Professional

Magistrate Training Program (PMTP) was launched in 2009 by the James A. A. Pierre Judicial Institute, in partnership with the American Bar Association (ABA). The PMTP was specially designed to train qualified college graduates for deployment as Associate Magistrates, particularly in rural areas. The aim was and remains to enhance access to justice and improve the quality of service at the first tier of the judicial system: the magisterial courts.

She added that since its inception, four cycles of the PMTP have been successfully implemented with generous support from several international partners, including the Government of Germany, Government of Sweden through the UN Joint Trust Fund and the United States Government under the Legal Professional Development and Anti-Corruption (LAPAC) program.

“Today, we mark a significant milestone with the commencement of PMTP Cycle Five, which for the first time is being fully funded by the Government of Liberia through the Judiciary, under the exemplary leadership of Her Honor Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh. This cycle anticipates the enrollment of sixty (60) candidates,” the Associate Justice Her Honor Jamesetta H. Wolokolie maintained.

The Political, Promotion and Communication Officer of the Embassy of Sweden, Madam Felecia Ubbesen, in remarks on behalf of the Swedish Ambassador Karl Backeus said the opening of Cycle V of the Professional Magistrate Training Program represents an investment in the future of Liberia’s justice system, and that the Sweden Embassy was proud to have been a partner in its development.

Madam Ubbesen recalled since 2009, the PMTP has played an important role in strengthening the rule of law in Liberia. Magistrates are often the first point of contact between citizens and the justice system. Madam Ubbesen believed the training and professionalism of magistrates are critical to ensuring that justice is not only done but is seen to be done – fairly, impartially, and in accordance with the law. The PMTP continues to be a cornerstone in building a judiciary that is trusted by the people it serves.

“I would like to express my best wishes to all participants in this cycle of the program. As members of the magistracy, your participation in this training reflects a strong commitment to continuous learning and professional excellence. I hope that this training will equip you with additional tools to strengthen the delivery of justice in your communities,” Madam Ubbesen stated.

The Communication Officer of the Swedish Embassy conveyed delight to see that Cycle V is now being funded by the Government of Liberia through the Judiciary, with limited support from the UNDP. She added that this marks a significant milestone. She is of the opinion that national ownership is essential for the sustainability and long term success of judicial reform, and commended the Government of Liberia for taking this important step.

Sweden has a broad commitment to promoting human rights and access to justice in Liberia. Through development cooperation, support is provided with a focus on legal aid and justice sector reform, prevention and response to gender-based violence, human rights education and advocacy, and strengthening civil society organizations working on justice and accountability.

Mr. Stanley M. Kamara, team leader and deputy for program at the

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in remarks described PMTP as a cornerstone in Liberia’s pursuit of accessible, fair, and effective justice, especially for the many Liberians whose first and only contact with the Judiciary is at the magisterial level.

Mr. Kamara said Liberia ranks 109 out of 142 countries on the 2023 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index, with a score of 0.44. In Africa, it ranks 17 out of 34.

Mr. Kamara noted, “these rankings tell us not just about institutional performance, but also about the everyday experience of Liberians, whether they feel justice is accessible, whether they trust their courts, and whether they believe their rights will be upheld. These scores reflect both the gains made, and the road still ahead. It reminds us that while Liberia has taken meaningful steps forward, it will require continued commitment to maintain and build on these achievements.”

He asserted that globally, people are living through a time of uncertainty. The world faces persistent and flagrant violations of human rights, increasingly complex conflicts, and the crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

At the same time, he stated, the erosion of the rule of law is becoming more visible in many countries, through rising inequality, political polarization, weakened institutions, corruption, and shrinking civic space. Approximately 6 billion people live in countries where the rule of law has declined in the past year.

He acknowledged that while challenges still remain, there is hope. Liberia’s Agenda for inclusive development and the Judiciary Strategic Plan demonstrate strong commitment to addressing access to justice and rule of law. He maintained that Magistrates play a critical role in safeguarding justice, through their dedication; they protect individual rights and uphold legal integrity. Institution like the Judiciary Training Institute is key to building the skills and knowledge needed to advance a justice system that truly serves the people.

According to him, the United Nations sees the rule of law as a people-centered vision of governance. It is about creating fair, inclusive systems in which all individuals, regardless of status, gender, or background, can access justice, trust their institutions and participate in shaping their society. Mr. Kamara averred that when investments are made in magistrates, public defenders, legal aid, and community outreach, these investments are for the dignity of the Liberian people.

“In this context, Liberia’s continued investments in the rule of law are essential. The launch of this new training cycle is an encouraging reminder that progress is possible with vision, leadership, and collective effort,” the UNDP director for program divulged.



# PROTOTYPE OF NEW SUPREME COURT BUILDING



# PROTOTYPE OF NEW JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT COMPLEX



**PUBLISHED BY PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF THE LIBERIAN JUDICIARY AT THE TEMPLE OF JUSTICE, ON CAPITOL HILL, MONROVIA, LIBERIA**

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