

April 16, 2026

Chief Justice, Yammie Quiqui Gbeisay Sr., speech for the Document Validating the creation of a Family Court

My erudite colleagues,

The Chairman and members of the Law Reform Commission,

President and members of the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA),

Distinguished members of the civil society

Members of the legal community

Members of the international community,

Members of the Press,

Fellow Liberians

This is a defining moment in the history of the Judiciary; one that we have all worked exceedingly hard to achieve: the validation of the document of the Family Court. As you may be aware, establishing a family court to provide greater access to justice for our mothers, our wives, our sisters, our children, our uncles, our siblings, etc., was one of our commitments to the Liberian people during our confirmation hearing before the Liberian Senate.

True to our words, a committee comprising the Ministry of Gender, the LNBA, the Female Lawyers Association, and a civil society organization, headed by Her Honor Lucia Anderson, Judge of the Juvenile Court, was constituted, which jump-started the establishment of Liberia's first Family Court. The committee performed brilliantly and submitted a well-meaning draft. Cognizant of our limitations as a judiciary, we forwarded the committee draft and recommendations to the Law Reform Commission, the appropriate statutory body responsible for reforming our laws.

This project, being the brain-child of the Gbeisay's bench, we stand ready to critique, analyse, and endorse the Family Court's validation process, which formed part of our significant reform agenda intended to reduce the heavy

burden of a clogged docket, and grant aggrieved families access to justice and a speedy redress.

This significant milestone of transformation gives rise to access to justice, speedy trials, and free, fair, and timely judgments for women and men in family disputes, including those involving divorce, paternity, and custody determinations. We, the judiciary, as the end users of the law, have the honor and duty to support the draft document of the Family Court because we are cognizant that a family is the vital unit of any society. No society can develop better than its family unit. Any successful society is the outshoot of its organized family.

Having said that, we thank the Anderson's committee, the Ministry of Gender, the LNBA, and members of the Law Reform Commission for the insightful job well done.

I thank you.