



3 More Jurors Sent to Prison

...As Judiciary Tightens Screws on Alleged Jury Tampering

Three more jurors have been sent to prison by the 13th Judicial Circuit Court in Margibi County, bringing the total to nine over the weekend, as the Judiciary is becoming increasingly unbending in its approach to alleged jury tampering and misconduct that tarnish its image in the public eye.

The trial began Friday, August 14, 2026, following the disqualification of Juror #017149, who was reportedly caught with a small Nokia phone concealed in his bath towel and placed inside his clothes bag. The phone was discovered by the Judiciary Security Service, with assistance from Liberia National Police officers assigned to the sequestered facility.

A written complaint was subsequently filed by the Office of Jury Management. The jurors were questioned in open court; Juror #017149 admitted the phone belonged to him but claimed his wife had packed his belongings and that he had no knowledge of the device. The judge rejected the explanation and sentenced him to 14 days in prison, warning that the circumstances suggested possible criminal intent and could lead to further investigation and prosecution by the state.

The two other jurors, identified as Juror #017131 and Juror #017132, were also removed from the panel after a bailiff reported that they were romantically involved and residing in the same house. According to the report, although the male and female sections of the

sequestered facility were separate, Juror #017131 allegedly left his designated section to be with his fiancée despite the bailiff's warning that such conduct violated the rules.

He was questioned in open court; the judge asked the two jurors involved in the reported relationship to identify themselves, and both stood up. The judge said the relationship should have been disclosed during the jurors' examination and that violating the court-ordered separation at the sequestered facility constituted misconduct punishable by 14 days in prison. The court also indicated that a criminal investigation would follow to determine the intent behind the violations.

The National Jury Manager, Cllr. Andrew Nimley warned members of the public against actions intended to undermine the integrity of the jury system, stressing that anyone found engaging in jury violations, misconduct or tampering will face the consequences under the law. The latest incidents have renewed concerns about attempts to compromise the integrity of jury proceedings, while the Judiciary and Jury Management Office appear determined to tighten enforcement of sequestration rules and protect the credibility of trials and the judiciary as a means of upholding the vision of His Honor Chief Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay Sr., vision of transforming the Judiciary into an integrity-based institution.