

Hundreds of Liberians Attend Jury Orientation

— National Jury Manager Warns Against Abuse of Jury System



Assistant Court Administrator Cllr. Alice K. Sirleaf and National Jury Manager Cllr. Andrew N. Nimely, Jr. addressed the one-day intensive orientation for prospective jurors.

Hundreds of Liberian citizens gathered on Friday, July 31, 2026, at the Central Office of Jury Management in Monrovia for a one-day intensive orientation as prospective jurors.

During the session, National Jury Manager Cllr. Andrew N. Nimely, Jr. cautioned participants against abusing the jury service system established under the Constitution of Liberia.

His warning comes amid recent allegations of jury tampering, some of which have already been investigated by the Judiciary, with punishments handed down to offenders.

Cllr. Nimely emphasized that jurors must render impartial verdicts, reminding them that their decisions directly impact society and strengthen Liberia's democracy. "You must render an impartial verdict in order to make jury service appreciated, because jury service enhances the country's democracy," he said.

He explained that under the law, a petit jury is composed of citizens selected in both the Criminal and Civil Divisions of the courts to serve as judges of fact, weighing evidence and returning verdicts.

According to Chapter 18.2 of the Judiciary Law, any Liberian citizen aged 21 or older, who can read, write, and speak English, and is of sound mind, qualifies to serve. However, individuals under prosecution, convicted but not sentenced, mentally unsound, or physically unable to perform jury duties are disqualified.

The orientation covered topics such as the functions of jurors, qualifications and disqualifications, the jury service process, stages of a trial, standards of proof, jury misconduct, and penalties.

Cllr. Nimely stressed that jurors must not discuss cases with others, including family members, nor read or listen to media reports about the trial. He warned that misconduct could lead to removal from service, contempt proceedings, criminal prosecution, fines, or imprisonment.

Assistant Court Administrator Cllr. Alice K. Sirleaf also addressed the gathering, underscoring that jury service is a national duty with far-reaching consequences. She cautioned that compromised integrity during trials whether for money or sympathy undermines national development, as resources meant for schools, roads, and hospitals are lost.

She noted that while jurors are ordinary citizens, their decisions shape justice across the country. "Most often, when jurors make bad decisions, the public blames the Judiciary," she said, urging participants to uphold integrity in their service.