



Judge Duncan Urges Respect for Judicial Independence

The Assigned Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court in Grand Cape Mount, Victoria W. Duncan, has called on judges, lawyers, the media, party litigants, and the public to respect and protect the independence of the judiciary.

Judge Duncan spoke on Monday, August 10, 2026, at the opening of the August term of Court in Grand Cape Mount County. The Judge warned that interference, political pressure, and public speculation could undermine the rule of law and public confidence in the court.

The Judge further stressed that protecting judicial independence is not the sole responsibility of judges, but a collective duty shared by lawyers, journalists, litigants, and other stakeholders in the justice system.

She emphasized that justice must remain continuous from one term to another and must be guided by law, conscience, and evidence rather than public opinion or external influence.

Judge Duncan cautioned the media to practice responsible journalism by disseminating information to the public without prejudicing cases, avoiding sensationalism, and respecting the judicial process. The Judge said the press should remain a partner in democracy rather than becoming a participant in attempts to influence judicial proceedings.

“With authority vested by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, His Honor Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay Sr., I formally declared the August Term of Court for the Fifth Judicial Circuit in Grand Cape Mount County open for the transaction of judicial business.” She concluded.