



Judge Sammy Frowns At Illegal Judgment

The Resident Judge of the of the 10th Judicial Circuit Court of Lofa County has frowned at the illegal practice of black magic commonly known as (Sassywood) for the purpose of passing judgment on elderly people accused of witchcraft.

Judge Sammy explained this to citizens who attended the opening of the 10th Judicial Circuit Court on Monday, August 10, 2026, in Lofa County.

Being a female judge who will one day be old, I see this practice as appalling because this is not “culture.” This is not “justice.” This is a crime. Let us know that old age is not a crime. Grey hair deserves respect, not stones. Our tradition teaches us to respect and honor our elders, but what is happening in our streets and communities betrays that tradition.

The Resident Circuit Judge of Lofa made the statement Monday during the opening of the August Term of the 10th Judicial Circuit Court in Voinjama City. She said allegations of witchcraft

must be addressed through the law and not through Sassywood, mob action, or traditional punishment.

She expressed growing concern about allegations, particularly over the accusation of elderly people being witches and their subsequent subjection to traditional trials or punishment without due process.

Her Honor Nancy Finda Sammy urged the communities, magistrates, lawyers, traditional leaders and other stakeholders to work together to educate the public on the dangers and illegality of trials by ordeal.

She emphasized that no person should be accused, convicted, or punished outside the established legal system, stressing that allegations must be properly investigated and resolved through the courts.