



Supreme Court Looks Into Over 10-Year-Old Cases On Docket

...In The Spirit Of Delivering Justice Over Abandonment

The Chief Justice, His Honor Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay Sr., announced that this October Term of Court will feature cases deliberately abandoned by lawyers or party litigants.

On October 12, 2026, His Honor Chief Justice Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay Sr. made the pronouncement during the opening of the October Term of Court, calling on members of the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) and party litigants to pursue their cases in the interest of justice and fair play.

“The Supreme Court remains concerned about cases that have remained on its docket for unnecessarily long periods. Our review has revealed matters that have remained pending for more than

ten (10) years, in some instances because lawyers and litigants have failed to take the steps necessary to pursue their cases and, for all practical purposes, appear to have abandoned them.”

“This cannot continue indefinitely,” he stated. he said the judicial docket cannot become a permanent repository for cases that the parties who initiated them have stopped pursuing. Speaking without fear or favor, he pointed out that the Supreme Court is determined to systematically review aged cases on its docket and, consistent with applicable laws, Rules of Court, and due process requirements, take appropriate action on matters that have been abandoned or not diligently pursued”

The Chief Justice further stated that affected parties and their counsels will be afforded such notice and opportunity as the law and Rules of Court require. He said this exercise is not intended to deprive anyone of the right to be heard. Rather, it recognizes that a party who invokes a court's jurisdiction assumes a corresponding responsibility to pursue his or her case diligently.

“I therefore remind members of the Bar that the Bench and Bar share responsibility for the efficient administration of justice. During this October Term, we will continue to reduce case backlog, address aged and abandoned matters, improve case management, and ensure the timely preparation and delivery of opinions. Justice must be deliberate and careful, but also timely,” among other things, he stated.