“Amend Laws Delaying Trial”

Judge Kizeku Urges Lawmakers



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The Resident Circuit Judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit Court in Gbarpolu County, His Honor Zuballah A. Kizeku, has called on members of the Legislature to review and amend laws that prolong court proceedings, stressing that effective legal reforms are essential to ensuring speedy trials.

Speaking Monday, November 9, 2026, during the formal opening of the November Term of Court in Gbarpolu County, Judge Kizeku said delays in the justice system often stem from procedural laws that allow cases to remain unresolved for extended periods.

According to him, revisiting and strengthening such laws would help reduce case backlogs, improve access to justice, and enhance public confidence in the judiciary.

"The law is the key to speedy trial," Judge Kizeku stated, noting that the courts are often constrained by statutory provisions that impede the timely disposition of cases.

The judge specifically called on lawmakers to revisit laws governing the jury system, preliminary examinations, and procedures involving juvenile offenders.

Regarding the jury system, Judge Kizeku expressed support for its abolition, arguing that jurors, who are not legally trained, ultimately determine issues presented and argued by lawyers before the court.

He also questioned the usefulness of preliminary examinations conducted by magisterial courts in serious criminal cases such as rape, noting that such courts do not have jurisdiction to try those offenses. According to him, the process often serves only to delay the commencement of trials in courts with proper jurisdiction.

Judge Kizeku further identified provisions relating to minors in conflict with the law as another source of delay. He explained that under existing legal procedures, certain juvenile offenders may not be tried until they attain a specified age, resulting in long delays before cases can proceed to prosecution.

"The Legislature is clothed with the authority to make laws; the courts do not make laws," Judge Kizeku emphasized. "For each of these elements responsible for delays in the determination of cases, the courts can do little because the law binds them. The Legislature has the power to change them."

He added that while the judiciary is committed to dispensing justice efficiently, it remains constrained by laws that require reform if Liberia is to achieve a more effective and timely justice system.