Access To Justice Gains Momentum In Judiciary

…As Chief Justice Gbeisay Presents 23 New Vehicles to Public Defenders In Each County



The Chief Justice of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia, His Honor Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay, Sr., presented twenty-three (23) brand-new Toyota Hilux pickup trucks to public defense lawyers across the country to enhance access to justice, particularly for indigent and vulnerable citizens.

Making the presentation on Wednesday, November 25, 2026, at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia, Chief Justice Gbeisay expressed delight that, for the first time in eighteen years, the Government of Liberia has fully funded the purchase of vehicles for public defenders.

The Chief Justice noted that public defenders have for decades operated under challenging conditions without adequate transportation to carry out their duties effectively. He emphasized that those challenges would no longer persist under his administration.

"For too long, public defenders have been treated unfairly and required to work without the logistical support necessary to serve the Liberian people," Chief Justice Gbeisay said. "Those days are over. Under my leadership, we will ensure that judicial employees are provided decent working and living conditions."

He used the occasion to thank President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr**.**, whose administration fully financed the acquisition of the vehicles.

Chief Justice Gbeisay described the Public Defense Program as the nucleus of the Judiciary, noting that most Liberians cannot afford private legal representation and therefore depend on public defenders to safeguard their constitutional rights in court.

He cautioned the beneficiaries to use the vehicles solely for official purposes and to maintain them responsibly.

The Chief Justice also said laptops have been procured for public defenders. At the same time, bailiffs assigned to courts across Liberia will soon receive brand-new motorbikes to improve the execution of court writs and other judicial processes.

He assured the public that his administration remains committed to extending development initiatives throughout the Judiciary to improve access to justice, attract economic investment, and contribute to national peace and stability.

Receiving the keys with smiles and admiration, Cllr. Bestman D. Juah, the program's National Coordinator, described the occasion as historic.

According to Cllr. Juah, the last significant support for public defenders came in 2009, when the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) provided vehicles for the program. He noted that those vehicles have long outlived their usefulness and have depreciated significantly.

Cllr. Juah described the presentation as a landmark achievement for the Judiciary, noting that it was the first time since the establishment of the Public Defense Program that the Judiciary had independently purchased vehicles specifically for public defenders.

He credited the achievement to Chief Justice Gbeisay's leadership and praised his commitment to addressing longstanding logistical challenges faced by public defense lawyers.

"Public defenders have advocated for vehicles for many years. This milestone demonstrates the Chief Justice's dedication to strengthening the administration of justice and supporting those who provide legal services to the poor," he said.

Cllr. Juah assured the Chief Justice that the Public Defense Program would establish appropriate maintenance measures to ensure the vehicles are properly managed and used for their intended purpose.

Meanwhile, Cllr. William B. Kollie, Court Administrator, stated that the vehicles were procured through the Judiciary's 2026 National Budget allocation provided by the Government of Liberia.

He disclosed that forty-five (45) vehicles were purchased for judges, public defenders, and administrative personnel as part of broader efforts to strengthen the Judiciary.

According to Cllr. Kollie, twenty-three of the vehicles have been allocated to the Public Defense Program, while the remaining vehicles will be distributed to other judiciary personnel and offices in December.

The initiative forms part of ongoing efforts by the Judiciary to improve operational efficiency and expand access to justice across Liberia.

-30-