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UNMIL and Liberian Government conduct training for Magistrates and Justices of the Peace

(Monrovia, Liberia) – A five-day training programme for 45 Magistrates and 50 Justices of the Peace started on Monday at the Supreme Court of Liberia. The training was organized by the Judicial Branch of Government and the Ministry of Justice in collaboration with the UNMIL Legal and Judicial System Support Division, and brings together lower court judges from Montserrado, Grand Bassa and Rivercess Counties.



Participants at the workshop

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Director of UNMIL Legal and Judicial System Support Division, Dr. Alfred Fofie, who deputized for the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Operations, Mr. Luiz Carlos da Costa, said UNMIL was proud to be a part of training programmes intended to build the capacity of Magistrates and Justices of the Peace and described the training as a “landmark achievement representing the first formal training for Magistrates and Justices of the Peace since 2000.”

Dr. Fofie reminded the participants of the integral and essential role Magistrates and Justices of the Peace have to play in upholding and promoting the rule of law in their communities. “You must take up the challenge with dignity and professionalism for the benefit of the people you serve and for the betterment of the Liberian society as a whole,” he emphasized. He then assured participants of UNMIL’s commitment to support the strengthening of the judicial system in Liberia.

Acting Justice Minister, Counselor Ceaineh D. Clinton-Johnson, commended the collaboration between her ministry and UNMIL and expressed hope that Ministry of Justice personnel in other parts of Liberia will also benefit from much-needed training.

The training programme will focus on the key elements of the relevant substantive and procedural laws. It will also include other areas such as administrative functions, court room procedure and management, ethical conduct and human rights.

The comprehensive training and capacity building programme consists of a series of four and five-day training workshops which will take place at various locations around Liberia. The workshops are intended to have a significant impact upon the operation and functioning of the judicial system in Liberia through the improvement in the knowledge, skills and abilities of judicial officials, which will in turn strengthen the capacity of the Judiciary and instill greater public trust and confidence in the justice system.
