



**OFFICE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
WAR AND ECONOMIC CRIMES COURT
FOR LIBERIA (OWECC-L)**



**COMPREHENSIVE
SIXTY DAYS REPORT ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER #164

PRESENTED TO
HIS EXCELLENCY JOSEPH NYUMA BOAKAI, SR.
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

JUNE 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is in fulfillment of the first part of the mandate of the Office of the War and Economic Crimes Court laid out in Executive Order #164. The Order, issued by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. authorizes OWECC-L to continue to lead the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court (**WECC**) and the National Anti-Corruption Court for Liberia (**NACC**), in furtherance of the country's transitional justice process.

The Office is also authorized by the Order to consult both national and international prospective donors and funding partners to mobilize resources for the courts. The reports indicate that the resource mobilization process has commenced with the office seeking assistance for human resource capacity building, addressing logistical needs, and funding.

OWECC-L first made a critical analysis of the Order, developing a restatement of the Order and then gradually rolling out the activities outlined for the first sixty days.

The activities outlined for the first sixty days include the development of resource mobilization plan, stakeholder engagement plan, and identification of potential partners and mechanisms for engaging them.

The launch of the Legislative Engagement Initiative is gaining the desired results – Legislators are more receptive to the instruments and are giving access to representatives of the OWECC-L and stakeholders to engage with them.

The engagements with the Legislators culminated into the holding of a two-day robust high-level technical dialogue to review the two drafts. That engagement was quite productive. The Representatives now clearly have an appreciable attraction to the bills and are discussion them with both the technical team of the OWECC-L and other experts.

Similarly, the Senate is now undertaking an exercise of consultations with various actors. These processes are intended to give the Judiciary Committee firsthand information of the stance of various actors on the law. The process is also on course and promises to yield useful results.

While these consultations at the Senate are ongoing, the OWECC-L and collaborating partner institutions and individuals continue to engage with various stakeholders throughout the Country. That process is also quite instructive, in addition to a continuous review of the Bills.

Several other developments have taken place over the period. The main report presents them in detail. This Executive Summary, however, closes on the same note as the main report; that is, it is more probable now than in the past that the National Anti-Corruption Court and the War and Economic Crimes Court have no question of acceptability by the Liberian people and their leaders; thus, the proposed laws need only be strengthened and then considered by the Legislature.

The annexes to this report and the accompanying UNDP report on the feasibility studies it undertook through its consultant on behalf of the OWECC-L form an integral part of this sixty-day report.

PART I: Background/Introduction

A. Rationale for establishing the OWECC-L

The Office for the Establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia (**OWECC-L**) was established by the Government of Liberia to lead the country's transitional justice aspect on criminal accountability for atrocities committed during the Liberian civil war and at least ten years prior to the war. By this, the temporal jurisdiction of the judicial mechanism for trying alleged perpetrators of the war runs from 1979 to 2003. Its subject matter jurisdiction encapsulates war crimes and war-related economic crimes, and violations of human rights/abuses as defined under international law and customary international law.

The second aspect that the Office is responsible for leading under criminal accountability in the country's transitional justice process is the fight against corruption through the establishment of a National Anti-Corruption Court (**NACC**). Its temporal jurisdiction runs from 1979 to current. In essence, while the NACC will not have any foreseeable end date in its operations, the **WECC** will not handle matters that do not fall within the period of 1979 and 2003. This is because Liberia's civil war formally ended on August 18, 2003, when various warring groups signed the Accra Comprehensive Agreement.

B. Historicity of OWECC-L's establishment

i. Issuance of Executive Order #131

On May 2, 2024, His Excellency President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. issued Executive Order #131 captioned "Establishing the Office of a War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia". The Order did not only establish the Office it also stipulated the mandate of the Office. That Executive Order grew out of an extensive process subsequent to the **ACPA**.

ii. Renewal of Executive Order #131

At the expiration of Executive Order #131, His Excellency President Boakai renewed it by issuing Executive Order #148 with the same caption as Executive Order #131. The mandate of OWECC-L in both Orders was the same.

iii. The Basis for Executive Order #131 and 148

These two Orders resulted from a Legislative decision passing Joint Resolution #001/'24 captioned "Joint Resolution #001/'24 of the Liberian Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liber on the mechanisms for the Establishment of an Extraordinary Criminal Court and Domestic Corruption Court for War and Economic Crimes respectively" on April 8, 2024. The President approved the Joint Resolution signed by twenty eight out of the twenty-nine Senators at the time and fifty-five Representatives out of the seventy-three members of the House of Representatives. Senator Nya D. Twayen of Nimba County, who was certificated on May 6 by the NEC, was then not a member of the Senate therefore he was not listed; as the record shows, only one member of the Senate did not sign while eighteen members of the House of Representatives did not sign.

iv. The Basis for JR 001/'24

The Joint Resolution is rooted in the Legislature's acknowledgement of Liberia's obligation under international law by virtue of its membership to several international treaties and conventions which it ratified and made a part of its domestic law. Thus, the Legislature's action to pass JR 001/'24 is foundational in determining the legality for the establishment or the creation of both the WECC and the NACC. This is because the Legislature itself established a Truth and Reconciliation Commission which was a component of the ACPA and consistent with its statutory authority the TRC recommended in its final report submitted to the Legislature on December 19, 2009, the establishment of the War Crimes Court as an international domestic court.

This historical analysis is relevant for the process of creating the WECC, and international domestic or a hybrid court that will operate under both national and international law and thus attract international support. On the strength of this observation, EO #164 mandates the Office to continue to consult with international partners and to mobilize resources and support from these partners, funding institutions and stakeholders. This obligation extends to the National Anti-Corruption Court. The rest of this report therefore focuses on *Section 5 "Duration and Implementation Timelines"* and specifically paragraph 2a *"Resource Mobilization and Stakeholder Engagement (Section 3(a))"*. In this regard, OWECC-L presents this comprehensive resource mobilization and stakeholder engagement plan including identified funding partners and engagement strategies. The plan and strategies are being rolled out gradually hence, the report also presents updates on the roll out. As requested by the Executive Order, the quarterly report shall present greater details on activities undertaken.

PART II: Implementation of Section 5 paragraph 2a of Executive Order #164

A. Comprehensive Resource Mobilization Plan

1. Introduction:

This resource mobilization plan covers both the WECC and the NACC. While it presents an overall plan for the two courts, where necessary, the plan separates specific aspects on mobilization for each court. The plan considers various studies conducted by experts but most especially a detailed feasibility study conducted under the sponsorship of the **UNDP**. The report from that study is available with OWECC-L, the owner of the project. A copy accompanies this report as an integral part.

Other similar research work was undertaken by National Partners Institutions alongside OWECC-L. These were mostly in the form of consultations that informed the preparation of the two bills for the **WECC** and the **NACC** respectively. At this stage, a tentative estimate for the establishment, operationalization and effective functioning of the OWECC-L for the first five years is between seventy to eighty million United States Dollars. Unlike the OWECC-L, the NACC, a purely domestic court holistically within Liberia's judicial system is estimated to cost far less especially since the expected cost will be limited to improving existing infrastructure within the Liberian Judiciary furnishing and equipping the court, providing basic training for prosecutors, judges and court officers, and meeting general logistical needs. Admittedly, a detailed feasibility study has not been conducted but preliminary studies suggest an initial outlay of three million United States Dollars. It is believed that the court will have the capacity to sustain itself substantially within a year after it begins to function. The goal is to allow the court

a portion of proceeds that it will collect for trial through a mechanism that will ensure adequate disclosure, transparency and accountability.

2. The plan

a. The Courts:

This plan is for five years beginning 2026 and ending 2031 as already indicated, it covers infrastructure, scaled personnel, investigative capacity, witness protection, technology, security, administration and management and public engagement education.

- i. Infrastructure:** The first step for the WECC is to identify a suitably secure location for the safety of the court, judges' prosecutors and defense lawyers, accused persons, court officers, and the facilities. This requires engagement with relevant internal security institutions and securing international assistance.
- ii. Roll Out:** The OWECC-L is working with the Ministry of Justice and has identified ten well trained investigators who will work alongside officers of the Liberian National Police and retired officers of the National Veteran Bureau to conduct this study. Preliminary discussion between the Executive Director and team of the OWECC-L and the Inspector General of the Liberian National Police. Additionally, the OWECC-L and the National Veteran Bureau have entered a final Memorandum of Understanding that includes resource sharing. They lived experiences of these Liberian veterans an expert buttress by international expertise is expected to provide the desire result.

To attract international expertise the plan envisages a strong representation of the Ministry of Foreign and the Ministry of Justice to the international community.

- iii. Facility buildup:** On the structure of the facility, OWECC-L has visited several existing government facilities in different parts of the Country including the Security Hub in Gbarnga, Bong County and a facility in Kakata, Margibi County. Investigation reveals so far that those facilities are not adequate for the court. However, the plan still emphasizes the need to await the critical investigative report by national security institutions for a decision to be made.
- iv. Human Resource Capacity:** This is key for both courts. Their specialized nature demands the provision of specialized technical training. OWECC-L has engaged potential capacity building international institutions including the UN and Dignity, an independent human rights organizations working with governmental and nongovernmental institutions in Denmark and abroad. The latter institution and OWECC-L have entered a formal Memorandum of Understanding on this subject. Clearly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice need to play active roles in engaging international donors.

b. Witness Protection:

The plan is to develop a specialized Independent Investigative Unit for Liberia (IIU-L). This will fast track gathering of evidence on the one hand and on the other satisfy the legal admissibility requirement. It will also be guided by the principle of Witness Protection.

Roll Out: OWECC-L has engaged the Witness Protection Agency, and both offices are collaborating in reinforcing the Agency’s statutory mandate for consideration by the Legislature and, also developing a special engagement program that will ensure the protection identities of witnesses at each level of engagement.

Notwithstanding this collaboration, there remains the dire need to attract international assistance in terms of both funding and skills development. A few institutions have indicated their willingness to assist in this regard. Both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice are expected to lead the international partners engagement processes.

c. Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan:

A standing policy in this process is the equality of all stakeholders-there is no major, key or minor stakeholder. However, stakeholders are divided into two major categories as follows:

i. National/Local Stakeholders:

Comprising Government Ministries and Agencies, Victim Advocacy Groups, Civil Society Organizations, Professional Institution, and others. These are spread around the country. The strategies that have been developed and implemented include the National Public Outreach launched in July 2025, the development of Regional Offices, hosting of various townhall meetings, holding of a regular monthly National Transitional Justice Coordinating Committee, operating national telephone hotlines, installing suggestions boxes around the country, and the development of a functional website. These have contributed significantly to public information and education on the establishment of the courts.

ii. International Stakeholders:

Includes Liberians in the diaspora, international organizations operating in Liberia including ECOWAS, the UN, the Diplomatic Missions and International NGOs as well as others outside of Liberia.

Roll Out: OWECC-L has made substantial inroads in establishing relationship with these institutions. Additionally, OWECC-L has undertaken a few diaspora outreaches through its stakeholders’ representatives in a few countries including Sierra Leone, the Gambia, the United States of America, Ethiopia, and South Africa. A diaspora engagement is currently ongoing in the United Kingdom where a member of OWECC-L is currently visiting. These foreign engagements are costly and therefore the plan is to convince non-local partners to cover such visits.

The Minister of Foreign, the Minister of Justice and a few public corporations head can contribute significantly to achieving this aspect.

d. Funding Partners:

The extensive engagements with support from a few members of the international community have provided guidance on this subject. The most salient question for consideration is the identification of potential funding partners after engaging and consulting extensively OWECC-L has developed a close-to-certain donor listing. The donors so listed are international therefore there is no argument that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a leader in this engagement. The detailed listing and possible contribution in terms of probability (not dollar value is presented below).

This plan is a suggestion outlining donors and technical partners whose history shows that the lean towards supporting transitional justice and fighting corruption respectively. It places more

emphasis on the probability of supporting the WECC even though some will provide minimum logistical and capacity building support to the NACC. The Government may be the biggest funder for the NACC.

The most likely donors and technical partners for the War and Economic Crimes Court (WECC) in Liberia are those that have historically supported international and hybrid criminal tribunals, transitional justice processes, rule-of-law institutions, and victim-centered accountability mechanisms. The funding model for the WECC will likely require a combination of Government of Liberia contributions, voluntary donor contributions, and technical assistance from international organizations.

| PARENT INSTITUTION | UNIT | LIKELY ROLE | FUNDING POTENTIAL | COMPARABLE SUPPORT TO OTHER SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS |
|-----------------------|----------|---|-------------------------|--|
| UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM | UNDP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional development • Court administration • Capacity building • Procurement and financial management • Victims and witness protection programs | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Court for Sierra Leone • Transitional justice initiatives in Liberia and The Gambia |
| | OHCHR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights expertise • Training for judges and prosecutors • Documentation standards • Victims' rights | Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) • Human rights monitoring missions in Colombia and South Sudan |
| | UN WOMEN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual and gender-based crimes • Women survivors programs • Gender-sensitive investigations • Reparations design | Moderate to High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-justice programming at the ICC • Conflict-related sexual violence initiatives in the DRC and Bosnia |
| | UNICEF | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child victims and witnesses • Former child soldiers • Child protection procedures | Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child reintegration programs following Liberia's and Sierra Leone's civil wars • Child-sensitive procedures at the Special Court for Sierra Leone |

| PARENT INSTITUTION | UNIT | LIKELY ROLE | FUNDING POTENTIAL | COMPARABLE SUPPORT TO OTHER SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---|-------------------|---|
| | IOM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witness relocation • Missing persons • Psychosocial support | Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witness protection and relocation support for the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the ICC |
| EUROPEAN UNION | EUROPEAN UNION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major financial contributor • Rule-of-law programs • Court infrastructure • Training | Very High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kosovo Specialist Chambers • Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic |
| INDIVIDUAL BILATERAL DONORS | UNITED STATES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigative support- Department of State • Prosecutorial training • Digital evidence management • Witness protection | Very High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major funder of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the ICTR • Ongoing rule-of-law support to Liberia's judiciary |
| | SWEDEN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional justice (via SIDA) • Gender equality • Victims' rights | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained funding to ICTJ and the ICC Trust Fund for Victims • Transitional justice programs in the Balkans |
| | SWITZERLAND | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International justice • Mediation and peacebuilding | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to the ICC and the Kosovo Specialist Chambers • Peace mediation processes in West Africa |
| | NETHERLAND | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International criminal law • Rule of law • Hybrid tribunals | Very High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host state and key funder of the ICC • Special Tribunal for Lebanon and the Kosovo Specialist Chambers |
| | GERMANY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional development (via GIZ) • Judicial reform | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judicial reform and rule-of-law programs in West Africa and the Western Balkans |

| PARENT INSTITUTION | UNIT | LIKELY ROLE | FUNDING POTENTIAL | COMPARABLE SUPPORT TO OTHER SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|--|
| | UNITED KINGDOM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigations (via FCDO) • Rule of law • Anti-corruption | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for war crimes investigative units and anti-corruption commissions in West Africa |
| | CANADA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender justice • Victims programs • Human rights | Moderate to High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for gender-based violence accountability mechanisms in the DRC • Contributions to the ICC's victim programs |
| | NORWAY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peacebuilding • Transitional justice | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-standing donor to peace and transitional justice processes in Colombia, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines |
| | IRELAND | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights • Rule of law | | |
| AFRICAN INSTITUTIONS | AFRICAN UNION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political support • Technical expertise • Regional legitimacy | Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extraordinary African Chambers (Senegal/Chad) • AU mediation in regional conflicts |
| | ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional cooperation • Extradition • Judicial assistance | Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional judicial cooperation frameworks • ECOWAS Court of Justice precedents |
| | AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure support • ICT systems | Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public infrastructure and governance financing across West African member states |

| PARENT INSTITUTION | UNIT | LIKELY ROLE | FUNDING POTENTIAL | COMPARABLE SUPPORT TO OTHER SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS | WORLD BANK | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional capacity • Public sector reform • Financial management systems • Unlikely to finance prosecutions directly, but may support infrastructure, procurement systems, and victim support programs | Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice-sector and public financial management reform projects in Liberia and Sierra Leone |
| INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS | INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecutorial training • Witness protection • Digital evidence systems • Best practices | Low (technical assistance rather than direct funding) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complementarity and capacity-building support to national jurisdictions, including Uganda and the DRC |
| | INTERNATIONAL RESIDUAL MECHANISM FOR CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legacy expertise • Archives • Investigative methodologies | Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of ICTY/ICTR archival and witness-protection functions |
| | SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE RESIDUAL SPECIAL COURT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hybrid tribunal experience • Staffing • Training | Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct institutional precedent for a Liberia-based hybrid court, given shared regional history |
| PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATIONS | OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional justice • Civil society engagement • Victims' rights | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core funder of ICTJ • Civil society monitoring of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the ICC |
| | FORD FOUNDATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights • Gender justice | Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants to human rights and transitional justice organizations across West Africa |
| | MACARTHUR FOUNDATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice reform • Governance | Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice and governance reform grants in Nigeria and other African states |

| PARENT INSTITUTION | UNIT | LIKELY ROLE | FUNDING POTENTIAL | COMPARABLE SUPPORT TO OTHER SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| | ROCKEFELLAR FOUNDATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutional strengthening | Low to Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutional capacity-building initiatives in post-conflict states |
| NGO AND TECHNICAL PARTNERS | INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Probably the most important technical partner Legislation Victim participation Reparations Outreach Capacity building | High (as lead technical partner) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead technical advisor to truth and reconciliation and hybrid court processes in Sierra Leone, Colombia, and Tunisia |
| | CIVITAS MAXIMA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> War crimes investigations Evidence gathering | Low to Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigations supporting Liberian war crimes prosecutions in the United States, Switzerland, and Finland |
| | GLOBAL JUSTICE AND RESEARCH PROJECT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liberia-specific investigations Witness support | Low to Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field investigations underpinning Liberian war crimes cases tried abroad |
| | INSTITUTION FOR JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconciliation Transitional justice | Low to Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconciliation and transitional justice programming in South Africa and the broader continent |

i. Interventions:

As stated earlier, the strategy is for the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice to lead efforts in engaging these potential donors. OWECC-L through its Executive Director will make the case at opportune times, especially during formal occasions. A necessary strategy for the OWECC-L to engage successfully is for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to assist by submitting to international institutions such as the AU and ECOWAS, diplomatic supporting letters.

For a swift but attractive mechanism to attract interest, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs may lead the effort to organize a separate “**Friends of the WECC**” and “**Friends of the NACC**” group. The latter may not be as emphatic as the former, leaving the Government as the highest funder of the NACC.

ii. Categorizing Friends of the WECC

Friends of the WECC may be placed in categories in terms of most probable donor, as follows:

| TIER # | NAME OF DONOR/ ORGANIZATION |
|---|---|
| I - Principal Founders | EU, USA, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, UNDP |
| II – Moderate Founders | Switzerland, Canada, Norway, UK, Ireland |
| III – Logistical, Human Resource, Logistics | AU, ECOWAS, AfDB, World Bank |
| a. Technical Partners | ICC, ICTJ, OHCHR, RSCSL, Civitas Maxima, GJRP |
| b. Specialized Partners | UN Women, UNICEF, IOM |
| c. Foundations | Open Society Foundations, Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation |

iii. Recommended Methodologies:

A practical model could resemble the financing arrangements used for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Extraordinary African Chambers, and the Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic. This would likely provide the most politically and financially sustainable path, especially for the WECC. A step-by-step approach is:

- a. **Donor Conference:** The Government can host a special donor conference in collaboration with the UN; that is, provided the UN itself has agreed to lend its support and there is either formal agreement or strong commit to do so. Tuus, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the President are the lead on this.
- b. **Financing Model:** The Government can provide assurance to the potential donors by first investing or committing a sum of money to the WECC in particular, and the NACC. In this regard, a **Multi-Partner Trust Fund** administered by the UNDP. The fund will comprise contributions by the:
 - i. Government of Liberia (especially this being a home-grown initiative)
 - ii. Voluntary donor contributions (mainly from the donor conference and other means)
 - iii. Recovered assets from economic crimes (war-related or corruption cases)
 - iv. Support from foundations or civil societies partners.
 - v. Technical secondments from international courts and institutions.

PART III: Activities undertaken in furtherance of the sixty-days deliverables:

OWECC-L undertook several activities in line with the sixty-days deliverables but also to address general concerns up to and including the closure of its activities in April 2027. The table below highlights major ones.

| ACTIVITY | RATIONALE | COMMENT |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Restatement of EO #164 | To ensure that the EO# Mandate is understood | Please see Annex “A” to this report |
| Establishment of Thematic Groups | To delegate thematic area to each stakeholder group for | The groups have been frantically working on their |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | robust and full implementation | assigned thematic areas and are producing results |
| Targeted public outreach to various stakeholders | To do direct engagements and consultations with stakeholders whose interventions require special attraction | Visited the Liberian community in parts of Sierra Leone to provide greater explanation on the process; A team subsequently visited Liberia and signed a formal MoU on collaboration as OWECC-L's representative. |
| Held a full day's training on EO #164 | To provide in-depth explanation to stakeholders conducting public outreach on the significance and details of the Order | The training was successful; it enriched the understanding of public outreach members, and they are fully proceeding with the outreach |
| Planning and hosting of a legislative engagement with Legislature in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County | This was a cutting-edge engagement that brought together 42 members of the House of representatives, their chiefs of office staff and other staffers. | The training went well and provided an extraordinary opportunity for enhanced understanding and frank interaction between the Representatives and OWECC-L and its collaborating institutions. |
| Regular visitations to members and staffers of the House of Representatives and the Senate | This keeps the engagements alive and active and provides opportunities for frequent questions and answers and discussions | The visitations have resulted in increased understanding and appreciation of the process by different groups at the Legislature |
| | | |

ANNEXES

Annex 1:

RESTATEMENT AND ANALYSIS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 164 ISSUED BY HIS EXCELLENCY JOSEPH NYUMA BOAKAI, SR. ON MAY 1, 2026

I. THEMATIC PARTS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 164 FOR OWECC-L

Executive Order No.164, “Renewing The Mandate Of The Office Of The War and Economic Crimes Court For Liberia” is structured around four main thematic parts:

- a. Accountability for past atrocities
- b. Anti-corruption Mechanisms
- c. Transitional Justice (TJ) Implementation
- d. Institutional Framework for the Courts.

These themes reflect Liberia’s effort to address:

- a. War crimes
- b. Economic crimes complementing the civil war
- c. Systemic corruption while strengthening rule of law and reconciliation.

Thematic Parts of Executive Order No. 164

A. Accountability for War Crimes and War-Related Economic Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity

1. Establishes mechanisms to prosecute individuals and organizations responsible for **atrocities committed during Liberia’s civil wars (1979–2003)**.
2. Aligns with recommendations from the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)** report, which documented widespread human rights violations.
3. Focuses on **justice for victims** and ending impunity for wartime actors.

B. Acts of Corruption and Anti-Corruption Measures

1. Creates a framework for a **Domestic Corruption Court** to address acts of corruption (1979 to present).
2. Targets **embezzlement, mismanagement of public funds, and economic crimes** that undermine Liberia’s governance.
3. Seeks to restore public trust in institutions by holding perpetrators accountable.

C. Transitional Justice and TRC Implementation

1. Responds to the **2009 TRC recommendations** for an Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal.
2. Reinforces Liberia’s commitment to **truth-telling, reconciliation, and healing** after decades of conflict.
3. Marks a shift from political reluctance to **active implementation of TJ mechanisms**.

D. Institutional and Administrative Framework

1. Establishes the **Office for the Establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court (OWECC-L)** as the coordinating body.
2. Mandates OWECC-L to design the **machinery, processes, and legal framework** for the court.
3. Provides for staffing, leadership (Executive Director), and collaboration with international partners to ensure credibility and effectiveness.

II. Why the Executive Orders and this Renewal Matter? A Step-By-Step Analysis

Since the TRC Final Report in 2009, successive governments have not exhibited the requisite political will to implement the recommendations therein, especially the criminal accountability issues. This has led to a culture of impunity and has deepened into acts of corruption and lack of accountability which has eroded the Country's economy and development. With this new initiative and the fact that time has lone elapsed since it should have been underway, Liberia cannot afford to delay any longer, as explicated below.

- a. **Historic milestone:** This development constitutes the first serious step toward prosecuting war crimes in Liberia since the end of the civil war, and addressing entrenched corruption.
- b. **Rule of law:** It strengthens Liberia's judiciary by creating specialized courts for war and economic crimes and corruption, removing the clogged dockets especially for the latter.
- c. **Reconciliation:** The process offers victims recognition and justice, while addressing corruption that continues to affect governance.
- d. **International credibility:** This national decision aligns Liberia with global standards on accountability and human rights.

Overall implication: Executive Order No. 164 is thematically built on **justice for war crimes, anti-corruption accountability, transitional justice implementation, and institutional setup through OWECC-L.**

A. Implications: A Step-By-Step Discussion

Executive Order No.164 does two things simultaneously: first, it reinforces and in great details expands the mandate and independence of the OWECC-L; and second, it shows that its implementation is unfolding in phases: fast tracking the establishment of the two courts by enacting them into law, establishing legal frameworks, and ensuring structural, personnel and logistical fittings in 2026, thereby enabling the launch of the courts and to the extent feasible, the drawing up of indictments, holding of pretrial proceedings and the conduction of the first trials.

At the same time, because of the broad responsibilities and mandate of the OWECC-L, its work will also filter into the integration of victim participation through memorials, outreach, and inclusion programs.

1. Transitional Justice Implementation

- a. **TRC Recommendations:** The courts directly implement the 2009 Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s call for an Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal.
- b. **Historical Accountability:** Trials will establish a comprehensive record of abuses, addressing both war crimes and corruption.
- c. **Reconciliation Goal:** Beyond punishment, the process aims to heal divisions and restore trust in Liberia’s institutions.

2. Court Structure

- a. **OWECC-L:** Functions as the coordinating body, led by an **Executive Director** and specialized staff.
- b. **Dual Court System:**
 - ii. Special War Crimes Court for crimes against humanity and war crimes (**Hybrid – Domestic and International Law/Outlook**).
 - iii. Domestic Anti-Corruption Court for economic crimes and systemic corruption.
- c. **Funding & Support:** Requires sustained government financing and political will, as emphasized by OWECC-L leadership.

3. Prosecution Process

- a. **Setting up of various bodies: The IIU and the PAP**
- b. **Anti-Corruption Court:** Expected to be enacted and operational by **November 2026**, adjudicating corruption cases from 1979 to the present.
 - **Legal Framework:** Guided by Liberia’s domestic jurisprudence but designed to meet international standards of accountability.
- c. **War Crimes Court:** Expected to be enacted and operational by **November 2026**. Scheduled to commence trials in early **2027**, focusing on atrocities committed between 1979–2003.
 - **Legal Framework:** Guided by established international standards of war crimes courts, particularly of a hybrid nature pursuant to both Liberia’s domestic jurisprudence and international law and standards of criminal accountability.
 - **Victims’ participation (in collaboration with victims support advocacy groups)**
 - ✓ **Gender & Youth Inclusion:** Programs led by OWECC-L’s Gender and Youth division promote participation of women and young people in transitional justice.
 - ✓ **Community Engagement:** Rural workshops and ambassadorial programs foster grassroots involvement, ensuring victims are not sidelined.
 - ✓ **Memorials & Outreach (Led by statutory and other legally authorized bodies):** OWECC-L participates in memorials (e.g., Samay massacre remembrance) and collaborates with UNICEF, UN Women, and other NGOs and CSOs to ensure victims’ voices are heard.
- d. **Independence:** The Courts will be Liberian-owned and led but supported by international partners for credibility and technical expertise.

4. Key Risks and Challenges; Mitigating Actions

- a. **Political Will:** Success depends on consistent government support and funding. This is a critical issue as first, there is clear conflict of laws between the funding provision of Executive Order No. 164 which mandates an annual support of USD2 million, payable quarterly in advance and the national Budget which appropriates USD1.313 million annually. Additionally, the payment process has is a serious challenge due to piece-meal rather than quarterly payments by the Ministries of Justice, and Finance and Development Planning.
- b. **Security & Stability:** With the new and appreciably expanded mandate to the OWECC-L and by that, the necessity for a more robust pursuit of the mandate, the risks to the implementers, especially the Executive Director has soared. Meanwhile, state security and general protection is slim as first, there is only two state security officers assigned to the ED and none to the OWECC-L or residence of the ED, nor to any of the directors. The mitigating action though acutely inadequate, is the hiring of regular private individuals to provide these services.
- c. **Threat to the Courts:** While the above situation is already concerning, one cannot overemphasize the extremity of the risks the courts will face. As is already being sensed, trials may most likely provoke resistance from powerful figures implicated in war or corruption.
- d. **International Collaboration:** External expertise is crucial, but this should not deface Liberia resolve for a **domestically led process** to maintain sovereignty.

The Reality: Executive Order 164 is being implemented through phased court establishment, structured prosecution mechanisms, and inclusive victim-centered outreach. Timelines therefore are critical to provide clarity in the implementation of the rollout phases.

Annex 2

TIMELINES BASED ON PHASED ROLLOUT PER EO NO. 164 AND CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

EO No. 164 controls this phase/rollout implementation schedule. It is buttressed by previous implementation plans. However, where there is a conflict between the two, recourse is taken to EO No. 164, with a cautious approach to ensure feasibility. This plan encapsulates both the NACC and WECC. It is pointed mainly to the period between May and December 2026 but as a reality, runs to the first quarter of 2027 or a little beyond.

Entire Initial Duration: May to December 2026 (Stratified into sub-periods)

i. May – June:

- a. **Technical Review Committee** established to finalize/harmonize the Bills for both courts.
- b. **Legislative Groundwork:** Legislative Engagement Group (**LEG**) set up to commence substantive legislative engagements and develop preliminary lobbying strategies.
- c. **Reorientation and retooling** of staff, offices and logistics. Needs assessment and resource mobilization plans fully developed and shared with Government of Liberia and local and international partners. This shall include rebranding of each thematic area, inclusive of psychosocial issues.
- d. Provision of **adequate national security** to the OWECC-L.
- e. **Reinforcement of public Outreach:** National Outreach Committee and Regional Offices step up public awareness, education and engagement. Ensure victim-centered approach.
- f. **Identification of training needs and Studies on Training Programs:** The Independent Investigative Unit (**IIU**), Witness Protection (**WP**), Special Prosecutor Office (**SPO**), and Judges.
- g. **Infrastructure planning:** Identification of facilities for the two courts and logistical needs. This includes detailed investigation of the security situation to assure maximum protection.
- h. Review of all research reports including on budget, security, infrastructure, personnel, international agreements, etc. for a final decision on form and substance.
- i. **International collaboration:** Engagements and negotiation on agreements with governmental and world bodies (**UN, AU, ECOWAS**) for political, financial and technical support, and witness protection commence.

ii. July – August:

- a. **Judicial appointments:** Vetting and final selection of Independent Investigators, prosecutors, judges, and, if necessary, public defense counsel.
- b. **Training programs:** Capacity-building workshops with international partners on war crimes and corruption case handling.
- c. **Public outreach continuation:** Awareness campaigns including the construction of billboards and hosting of diverse media programs to explain the purposes of each of the court and encourage victim participation without taking any kind of evidence or engaging in direct evidentiary matters.

- d. **International collaboration:** Agreements with governmental and world bodies (UN, AU, ECOWAS) for political, financial and technical support, and witness protection finalized.

iii. September – October

- a. **Court infrastructure setup:** Renovation or construction of courtrooms, offices, and secure archives.
- b. **Case preparation:** The IIU and the Witness Protection Program under the direction of the Registrar, will lead the process of gathering evidence, firming witness protection arrangements, and initial case filings.
- c. **Victim inclusion:** Establishment of victim liaison offices and appointment of victim counsel to ensure community voices are integrated and victims are independently represented as an integral part of the prosecutorial team.

iv. November

- a. **National Anti-Corruption Court (NACC) launch:** Official opening and commencement of corruption trials.
- b. **First hearings:** Early cases focused on systemic corruption and misuse of public funds.
- c. **Monitoring mechanisms:** Independent oversight bodies begin tracking court operations.

v. December

- a. **Operational review:** Assessment of NACC's first month of activity, identifying gaps and improvements.
- b. **War Crimes Court (WCC) readiness assessed:** Final preparations for its official launch in **February 2027**.
- c. Corrections and **gaps** removed to ensure smooth operations of the courts.
- d. **War and Economic Crimes Court launch:** Official opening and operationalization of the WECC to commence trial in the first half of 2027.

Key Takeaways:

- a. The **NACC** will be active by **November 2026**, handling corruption cases immediately.
- b. The **WECC** remains in preparation phase throughout 2026 but sets out to commence substantive trials by early 2027.
- c. **Victim participation and outreach** are woven into every stage, ensuring inclusivity and legitimacy

To ensure that the targets are met in time, a minute detailing of the regular activities of the OWECC-L is compelling; hence, the below.

A Typical Daily Routine at the OWECC-L as of May, 2026:

The responsibilities of all staff and affiliates of OWECC-L are intertwined. While each staff has her/his job description, everyone is expected to multitask, and everyone is responsible to meet the daily targets. This is why supervisors **MUST** be liberal, flexible and yet focused on the results of their stay I the premises. This daily routine is in consonance with the expectations of EO No.164. It therefore is binding on everyone; supervisors being primarily required to account and ensure adherence as enshrined hereinbelow.

1. **Morning:** Staff briefings and planning meetings.
2. **Midday:** Field visits, drafting sessions, or community outreach.
3. **Afternoon:** Coordination with ministries, partners, and media.
4. **End of day:** Reports compiled and sent to the Executive Director.

A Visual Timeline Chart showing the WECC and the NACC running in parallel from May–December 2026:



LEGEND:

- a. **Orange track (left): WCC** → focuses on war crimes accountability, with legislation, training, infrastructure, and finally its launch in December 2026.
- b. **Green track (right): NACC** → focuses on corruption cases, with recruitment, forensic support, hearings, and trials beginning in November 2026.
- c. **Blue headers** → mark each two-month phase (May–June, July–August, September–October, November–December).
- d. **Bottom banners** → highlight the key outcomes: commencing NACC trials and launch of the WECC.

This side-by-side view shows both courts advancing in parallel; but NACC begins trials immediately in December 2026; WECC launches with indictments and memorials, preparing for full trials in early 2027.

Done this 3rd Day of May, A.D. 2026

Annex 3

Pictorials of various activities under EO #164



Formal Presentation of the WECC and NACC Bills at the Executive Mansion – 05/06/2026



High Level Technical Working Session with Committees of the Honorable Legislature – 06/11 – 13, 2026







14th National Transitional Justice Coordinating Committee Meeting



Salala District Citizens Endorse Establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court and National Anti-Corruption Court – 06/19/2026

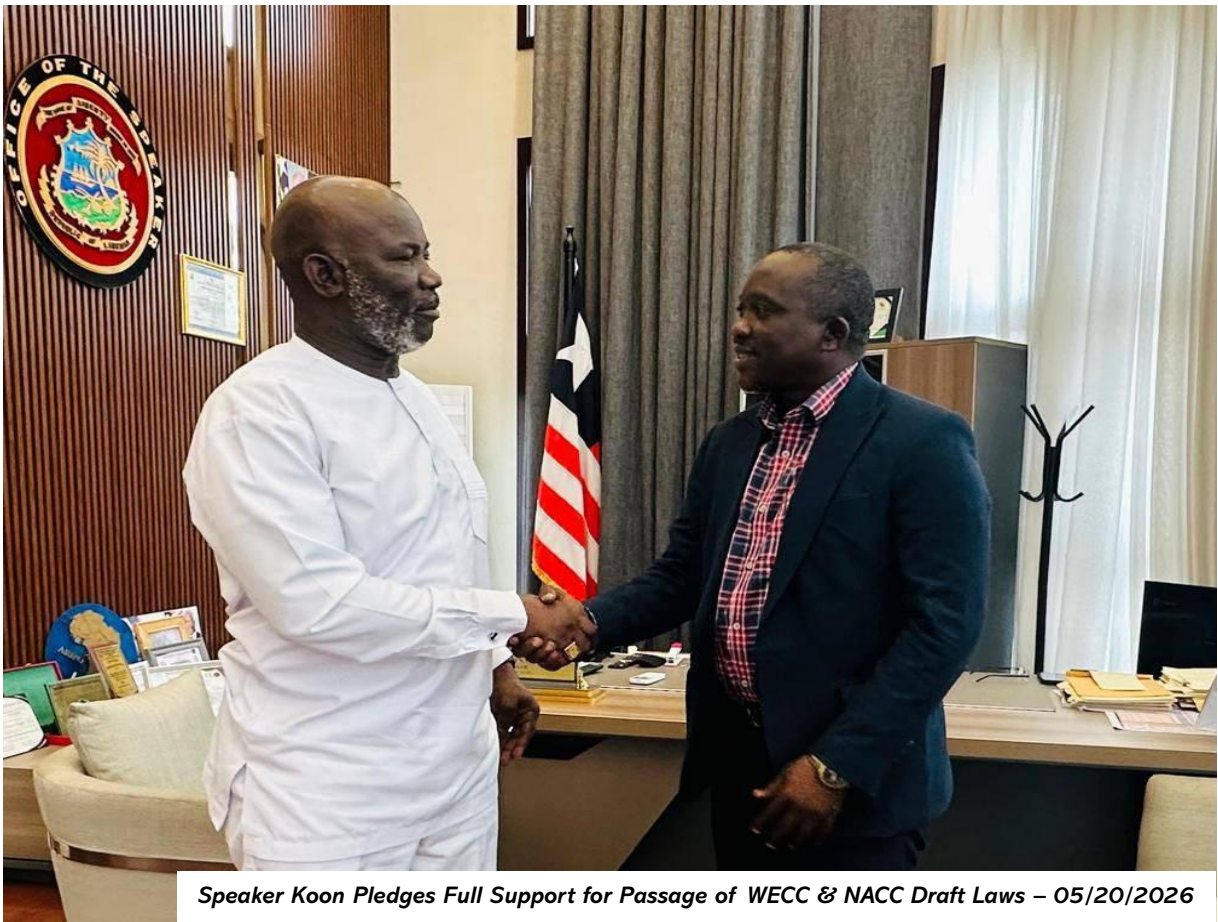


Ireland Reaffirms Support for Peace and Justice in Liberia – 06/23/2026



Dr. Barbu Underscores Women as Strong Pillar of Justice and Accountability in Liberia – 06/23/2026

OWECC-L BOMI REGIONAL OFFICE COMMEMORATES 2026 DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD, EMPHASIZES PEACE, JUSTICE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS – 06/16/2026



Speaker Koon Pledges Full Support for Passage of WECC & NACC Draft Laws – 05/20/2026



**OFFICE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
WAR AND ECONOMIC CRIMES COURT FOR LIBERIA (OWECC-L)**

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Mamba Point – Monrovia, Liberia

Cell #: (+231) 888-000-221/779-000-221 | Email: info@oweccliberia.org

Website: oweccliberia.org



Office of the Executive

Date

Ref:

Addressee

Dear _____;

REQUEST TO (ENTITY) TO SERVE ON THEMATIC GROUPS – EO #164

Kindly accept compliments and our appreciation for your invaluable contributions to the drafting of the Bills for the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court and the National Anti-Corruption Court for Liberia as the technical representatives of your institution, the _____. Your contributions certainly propelled the successes we have made thus far, as we look forward to engaging again. In the spirit of continuity and our assumption that since you were never withdrawn by the _____, you remain its designated representatives, we have reasoned to write you directly, with copy to _____'s Title and name of institution head. We also respectfully avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank the leadership of the _____ for designating you as the focal persons and for their continuous support.

In furtherance of the implementation of Executive Order (EO) #164 issued by His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., renewing the mandate of the OWECC-L, and considering the role your institution has played in the establishment of both the War and Economic Crimes Court and the National Anti-Corruption Court for Liberia as well as its expertise, I write to invite you, as the known representatives of _____ to this process, to serve as **First Co-Chair** of the **“Drafting & Enactment: National Anti-Corruption Court Public Hearing”** Thematic Group the **Second Co-Chair** of the **“Development of Special Anti-Corruption Measures”** Thematic Group, respectively, detailed as follow:

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for these two Thematic Groups are respectively as follows:

- (a) **“Drafting & Enactment: National Anti-Corruption Court Public Hearing”**

As First Co-Chair, you will preside, alongside the Chair, OWECCC-L, overall activities of the Group, and will serve as the Acting Chair in the absence of the Chair. This Thematic Group is responsible for:

- (i) Providing technical assistance and guidance to the Honorable Liberian Legislature in its review of the NACC Bill, and as shall be necessary, undertake redrafting of parts for feasibility purposes.
- (ii) Developing notes on flash cards to assist in the simplification of complex areas to enhance easy understanding and by that, acceptability of the Bill.
- (iii) Coordinating with the Public Awareness and Education Thematic Group to facilitate information systematic dissemination of information on progress and other developments to the stakeholders.
- (iv) Submitting a daily progress report to the Executive Director (**ED**) of OWECC-L
- (v) Performing other tasks incidental to a similarly situated thematic group.

(b) “Development of Special Anti-Corruption Measures”

As the First Co-Chair, you are:

- (i) Requested to assist the Chair, OWECC-L, to lead the provision of technical focus and service on effecting the Anti-Corruption Act after it is passed by the Legislature, and to, in that vein, devise diverse mechanisms for speedy completion of administrative measures that will allow administrative agencies to handle such issues at their levels efficiently.
- (ii) This includes undertaking a detailed study of the current _____ Act and proposed Amendment, the overlaps in the jurisdictions of related agencies of government, for harmonization, and as best as possible, support to the Office of the Prosecutor and sustaining the court.
- (iii) To coordinate with the Public Awareness and Education Thematic Group to facilitate information systematic dissemination of information on progress and other developments to the stakeholders.
- (iv) To submit a daily progress report to the Executive Director (**ED**) of OWECC-L
- (v) To perform other tasks incidental to a similarly situated thematic group.

As EO#164 reflects, the activities are timebound; besides, most is contingent on the completion of the other and therefore every activity MUST be completed in time. In fact, we have proposed that the completion date is not our target; rather, a week prior thereto is the final date for submission of any report to the ED for review and thereafter, vetting and submission to the

principals. In view of this inflexibility, I plead with you to be directly involved and in addition, designate persons who will work full-time with your Group to avoid any delays and distractions.

The maiden technical meeting will be on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in the OWECC-L conference room at 9:00 a.m. Please attend.

Kindly accept our sincere thanks in advance for your kind and invaluable assistance to the achievement of our mandate and the provision of relief to the people of Liberia.

YOURS IN THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE AND SUPPORT FOR THE RULE OF LAW

Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu (Prof.)

EXECUIVE DIRECTOR

