Lost Values, Peddling Against Justice Decried

Justice Minister Christiana Tah has repeated concerns over frequent interventions from the top to thwart justice, while lamenting lost values in the country's youths.

The Minister has repeatedly decried what she calls frequent pleadings from top figures in the country where cases that affect them, family or friends are concerned.

"...Our young people were not socialized properly, they lost a sense of value, our social institutions broke down. Who's teaching our children, who's telling them rights from wrong? Our children are just going listlessly because they have parents who themselves don't know any better," she said Wednesday.

Addressing a conference at the Capitol Building on the implementation of the Rome statute on the International Criminal Court (ICC), Minister Tah said instead of investing in the "psycho-social values," more concentration is paid to the development of infrastructure here.

"We spend so much time on infrastructure developments, we're so busy building schools. We need to restore a sense of self-respect to our people and our children again," Minister Tah emphasized.

Minister Tah said this has contributed to the low moral value in the country stressing: "We need to be realistic. Because the international community will not be here and carry us forever."

"We need to strengthen the justice system so that our people will feel safe. Too many times I have cases before me, and I'm harassed by officials and non-officials who obstruct justice.

"If we don't take this seriously, two years down the road, we will be begging UNMIL and the people to come back," she warned.

She added that investing in the "psycho-social" development here will enhance "strong positive values [in the people] and understanding of what their rights are. They will have the ability and desire to pursue their rights."