

Wisdom Corner: "Only A Mad Man Goes To Sleep With His House On Fire"

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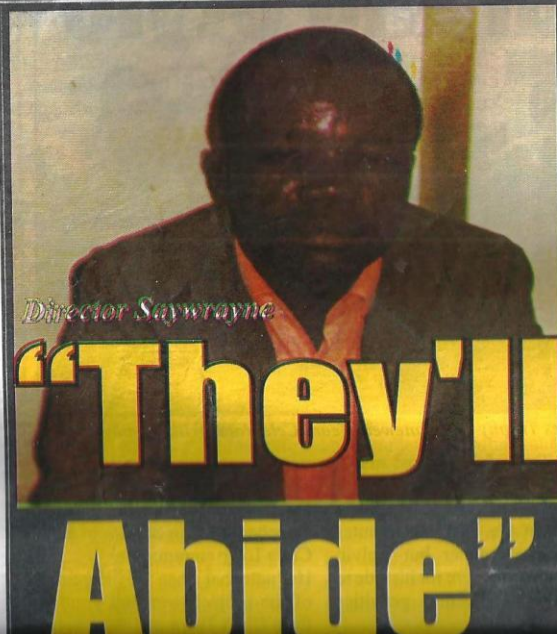
In All That We Do And Write, In All That We Report, Come What May And No Matter What... **Liberia First**

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PA Foresees Increased Eye Problem In Liberia, If..."

By: Lauries M. Page-0886999335 See Story On Page 14



LNP Officer Decries Marginalization

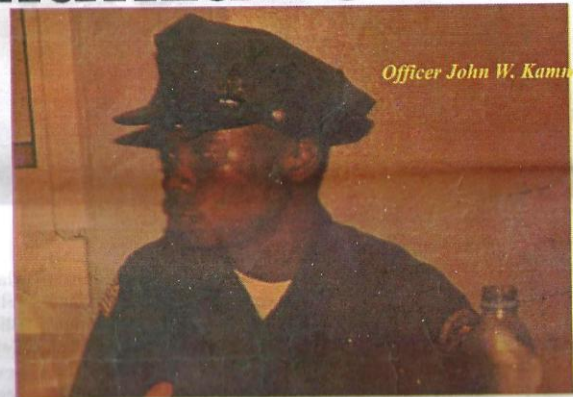
By: Roland Davis

An officer of the Liberia National Police (LNP), John W. Kamma, has accused the leadership of the police of practicing marginalization and discrimination.

Officer Kamma has also claimed that the LNP lacks merit system.

He noted that if the authorities continue to steer the affairs of

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Officer John W. Kamma

VAL Chevron Sign Agreement



LNP Officer Denies

the police in such fashion, the LNP would experience serious setback in its operations when UNMIL shall have left Liberia completely.

Expressing his disenchantment in an interview with the In Profile Daily recently in Monrovia, Officer Kamma also alleged that authorities at LNP are giving high positions to officers on the basis of who knows you regardless of qualifications.

Kamma is also Recruitment Officer of the LNP and Executive Director of Citizens Bureau for Development and Productivity (CIBDAP) at the LNP, claiming that he is a victim of marginalization.

He said when he entered the Liberia Police Training Academy in 2004 as student from the University of Liberia, he and others were told by foreign police trainers that they were going to get higher positions as university students after their graduation from the academy, noting that it is the contrary.

He disclosed that he graduated from the academy in 2005 with 'Distinguished Leadership Award' because he obtained the highest grade point.

"As I speak despite my qualification, there is no position for me, while the unqualified ones are in high positions due to the lack of

Narrating further, he indicated: "I registered my disagreement to the administration, including the Justice Ministry but since then there has been lots of hullabaloo as it relates to my disagreement within the system."

Kamma said for consistently expressing his disagreement, he was detained for two days without any charge in May 2012 at which time his uniform, batch, shoes, belt and handcuff were taken away by the authorities.

He also explained that he was asked in 2011 to join the Early Warning Response Working Group, where he served as Executive Director for (CIBDAP/LNP), a position he said he has tirelessly demonstrated dedication and commitment to, aimed at upholding the rule of law.

"But I was shocked that my March salary and the government's retroactive benefit were withheld by the Finance Department at the LNP without informing me reasons that prompted the decision. At present, the LNP's administration is yet to give me redress," he alleged.

When contacted, the Public Affairs Department of the LNP said it was not aware of Officer Kamma's allegations.

An officer who asked not to be named at the department, said officers were instructed to first channel their grievances through the appropriate

YAI, Chevron Sign Agreement

Country Manager, Karl Cottrel penning the agreement on behalf of their respective institutions.

Speaking on behalf of YAI, Weeks explained that the partnership is intended to modernize and strengthen both the culture and music industries in the country.

He noted that the program will build capacity of young Liberians, especially those involved in singing and practicing other cultural activities.

"It has always been my dream to see Liberia music and culture industries become more improved and I believe with this partnership the dream will come true," Weeks indicated.

The YAI Executive Director also expressed the belief the lack of modern studios with adequate facilities for music recording and movie production had been a serious challenge to the music and movie

and other culture improvement in Liberia, adding that with the absence of these facilities and support the practice of culture in modern period will never be realized in Liberia.

He then spoke of the need for Liberia's culture to be really practiced and have it reserved for younger generations to come.

He said the project is the first of its kind with Chevron.

However, Weeks said the company has been partnering his organization over the years through different programs to build the capacity and other skills programs of young Liberian women.

At the same time, Weeks has promised to continue its partnership with Chevron and also work to bring other partners on board the newly signed agreement.

For his part, Chevron Country Manager, Cottrel, said the signing of the new agreement with YAI is an opportunity for

his company which will also serve as boost for the company operations in Liberia.

He expressed the optimism that such program when enforced through the efforts of every Liberian, will improve arts through culture, music, and movie industries in the country.

Mr. Cottrel made reference to other countries, indicating that the practice of culture especially making music, movie and other cultural activities is highly improved because citizens of these countries have valued their culture over the years.

He believed that Liberia and its people will do the same, because it could make great impact in their lives today and in the future.

Meanwhile, Mr. Cottrel has reaffirmed his company's continued partnership with YAI in improving the capacity of young Liberians through various programs.

Hygiene (WASH) sector and urged them to increase their visibility throughout the country and ensure that Liberians truly benefit from safe water and better sanitation services.

He at the same time praised initiatives by the Liberia WASH Consortium to engage Law Makers on water and sanitation issues.

The provision of social services to the people of Liberia remains the responsibility of

noted that created interest for the WASH sector by successful candidates, especially Law Makers.

"The only way we can move forward is to sit and discuss with Law Makers on key policy issues and the responsibilities of community residents", Timothy asserted.

According to him, a draft Bill is currently at the Lower House of the National Legislature calling for the establishment of a WASH Commission to serve as

people have access to safe water and sanitation.

She named programs undertaken by the Liberia WASH Consortium as Service Delivery, Capacity Building, including Advocacy and Campaign.

"We intent to ensure the creation of a Network of Law Makers in the National Legislature", Miss Rose said, stressing that the Liberia WASH Consortium remains committed to ensuring access