



Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission

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August 30, 2021- Monrovia – The Executive Chairperson Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin has accepted a request by the Vice Chairperson of the LACC for a leave of absence as investigations into allegations of corruption is being carried out.

Briefing journalists in Monrovia on Monday following media reports of conflict of interest involving several individuals including the Vice Chairperson of the Commission, Cllr. Martin informed the Liberian people that Cllr. Kanio Bai Gbala has also pledged his full support to the investigation surrounding the report.

The Head of the Country's lead anti-graft office said the decision by Cllr. Gbala was as a result of Page Africa banner story in the Monday, August 30, 2021 edition alleging conflict of interest involving several individuals including the reported involvement of the Vice Chairperson of the LACC, Cllr. Kanio Bai Gbala.

Cllr. Martin said the LACC as an integrity institution convened an emergency meeting of the Board of Commissioners to discuss the reports and thereafter present the institution's position to the general public.

The Executive Chairperson noted that the BOC also mandated the Investigation and Enforcement Division to move swiftly to investigate the report which he said has the propensity to derail the progress being made at the LACC since he took over the helm of authority.

The LACC Chairperson has assured the public that the NPA investigation is ongoing and all those allegedly involved are cooperating. He assured that all those that have escaped under the cover of darkness will be extradited in keeping with law.

In another development, Cllr. Martin has announced the dropping of several indictments on the head of former government officials and other individuals who are believed to have violated the public trust. He said the indictments are for the August term of court.

The LACC's Chairperson said the indictments are a result of an investigative report from a General Auditing Commission (GAC).

The Chairperson named those indicted as Oblayon B. Nyemoh, former Director General, Liberia Institute of Public Administration (LIPA); Luna M. Harmon, former Comptroller, LIPA and Beford Quie, Accounts Officer LIPA.

They are charged with the crime; Theft of Property; Economic Sabotage; Criminal Facilitation and Criminal Conspiracy.

In second indictment, Cllr. Martin named Dr. Marcus T. Jones, Former Director General, Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI); Paulette Findley, Former Administrator, CARI, David Kermue, then Warehouse Supervisor, CARI and Dr. Walter Wiles, Former Director General, CARI.

The LACC Chief assured the public that the LACC will continue to be engaged with the Liberian people on issues that surround the State and Corruption.

He called on the Press Union of Liberia, Civil Society Organizations as well as the General Public to assist the Commission in driving its mandate through and encouraged them to make use of the hotline numbers to report any acts or signs of corruption.

