



Supreme Court Clears Labor Minister, Cllr Kruah

... From A Longstanding Allegation of Professional Ethics

The Supreme Court of Liberia has cleared allegations of a Lawyer's misconduct from the current Minister of Labor, Cllr. Cooper W. Kruah Sr., in connection with Rule 15 of the Code of Moral and Professional Ethics of a lawyer, against his former client, Mr. Edgar Sydney.

Cllr. Kruah has faced longstanding allegations of lawyers' misconduct, which have been widely circulated in many media outlets in Liberia by his client, Mr. Edgar Sydney, who later forwarded a complaint to the Grievance and Ethics Committee at the Supreme Court of Liberia.

It can be recalled that on July 25, 2014, the Chief Executive Officer of the Mano River Agricultural Rehabilitation Development Corporation (MARDCO), Mr. Edgar Sydney, alleged professional misconduct to the office of the Chief Justice against Cllr. Kruah, and the matter was referred to the Grievance and Ethics Committee for investigation.

A record from the Civil Law Court shows that in 2009, Mr. Edgar Sydney retained the Henries Law Firm to represent MARDCO in litigation over rubber sales proceeds allegedly converted by Mr. Edmond Trombetta. The court affirmed judgment in favor of MARDCO for USD 601,306.73.

The court recognized Cllr. Kruah's contention that Mr. Sydney was obligated to pay his legal fees of USD 120,000.00, representing 20% of the judgment from the Civil Law Court.

The Grievance and Ethics Committee's investigative report recommended that Cllr. Kruah furnish the court with funds expended, which he did.

The Supreme Court opinion indicated, "As to the duty to report and account, we find that although Cllr. Kruah had an affirmative professional obligation to ensure that his client was promptly informed and provided an accounting of monies collected in connection with the execution proceeding, the financial report subsequently obtained from the Civil Law Court pursuant to the investigation of the Grievance and Ethics committee provides account necessary for this court to bring that aspect of the controversy to a conclusion, subject to the complainant being formally furnished a copy thereof"

The full bench concluded, "That the Civil Law Court, having conducted the audit and reported as to the manner of the expenditure of funds

collected, this court sees no ethical transgression committed by Cllr. Cooper Kruah”

“Wherefore and in view of the foregoing, the complaint is hereby dismissed. The clerk of this court is ordered to inform the parties accordingly. And it is hereby so ordered.”