

AIDE MEMOIRE

KRIO CAUCUS MEETING YWCA NATIONAL (OLD) HALL BROOKFIELDS
4TH AUGUST, 2012

OPENING PRAYERS (1) MUSLIM (2) CHRISTIAN

GENERAL WELCOME COURTESIES OLD AND YOUNG FOR LEAVING VERY BUSY SCHEDULES ESPECIALLY DURING THIS RAMADAN THANKS FOR COMING THANKS ALSO FOR REPOSING SUCH HIGH CONFIDENCE IN SMALL MAN LIKE ME AND I COMMIT MYSELF TO UPHOLD OUR IDEALS TO YOUR SATISFACTION AND TO THE PRAISE AND GLORY OF GO/ALLAH

I WILL TRY AS BEST TO MANAGE TIME AND MAKE EVERY MINUTE VALUABLE

INTRODUCE REPS FROM KDU AND KPA HIGH SEATS

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

- BROAD-BASED, INTER-FAITHS POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND AWARENESS RAISING PLATFORM
- TO EVALUATE POLITICAL RELEVANCE AND GAINS OVER LAST 15 YEARS +
- REPOSITION OUR KRIO MINORITY ETHNIC GROUP FOR BETTER AND IMPROVED RECOGNITION AND REWARDS UNDER ANY POLITICAL DISPENSATION USING OUR MEMBERSHIP WEIGHTINGS
- SUSTAIN KRIO POST ELECTION RELEVANCE WITHIN POLITICAL STRUCTURES AND CHANGING DISPENSATIONS
- ENSURE REGULAR KRIO CONSULTATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS TO KEY POSITIONS AS APPLICABLE TO LARGER ETHNIC GROUPS

ORIGIN OF IDEOLOGY? YOUTHS AND ADOLESCENT CONCERNED ABOUT APPARENT MARGINALIZATION OF OUR MINORITY ETHNIC GROUP AND THE URGENT NEED TO STEM AND REVERSE TRENDS

POSSIBLE CAUSES OF MARGINALIZATION?

- POPULATION EXPLOSION AND MASS URBAN MIGRATION ESPECIALLY POST WAR YEARS
- SCARCITY OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES TRIBAL AND REGIONAL INCLINATIONS, INSTEAD OF HOLISTIC NATIONAL NEEDS PRIORITIZATION AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION
- WE SOON BEGAN SEEING MANIPULATION OF TRIBAL AUTHORITIES AND GROUPS POLITICAL BALKANIZATION OF LARGER ETHNIC GROUPS TO DETRIMENT OF MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS

OVER A PERIOD OF TIME WE BECAME ALMOST CAGED AND SUBDUED INTO UNEASY SILENCE. THIS MISTREATMENT CONTINUED UNCHECKED AND OUR SILENCE AND PEACEFULNESS MISCONSTRUED FOR WEAKNESS

RECENTLY AND WITH UTTER DISREGARD FOR NATIONAL COHESION, EVEN SOME IN AUTHORITY INITIATED BRAZEN ANTI-KRIO UTTERANCES □□□□.HOW BA NA KRIO NOMOR FOR BE MAYOR NA FREETOWN?

DEN TEM DON PASS □□□□..DEN TEM DON DON. HOW CAN TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF ANYONE ALIVE BECOME PAST AND GONE?

FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE WE ARE JUST COMPLACENT AND NOT BEING MARGINALIZED, DRAW ATTENTION TO STATEMENTS MADE BY MEMBERS OF LARGER ETHNIC GROUPS WHEN THEIR PEOPLE ARE SACKED AT EACH CHANGE OF POLITICAL DISPENSATION □□□ NA WE YONE PEOPLE NORMOR DEM DAE SACK PAN WOKE

PERMIT ME NOW TO DRAW ATTENTION TO SOME KEY ISSUES WE MUST CHALLENGE ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE TO REVERSE THESE TRENDS-:

- WHY CANT WE REGISTER OUR BONA-FIDE AND INHERITED LANDS OF OVER ONE (1) ACRE WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT OF THE HON. VICE PRESIDENT? IS THE VICE PRESIDENT BIGGER THAN THE LAWS OF SIERRA LEONE? (READ LETTER)
- COURT LITIGATIONS FOR RESOLUTION OF LAND DISPUTES UNNECESSARILY PROTRACTED TO CREOLE DETRIMENT EVEN UNTO DEATH
- RELEVANCE OF CHIEFS IN THE WESTERN AREAS WITHOUT CHIEFDOMS AND WITHOUT TRIBAL RULING HOUSES. WHAT COMPENSATING OPTIONS IS GOVERNMENT OPENING TO CREOLES?
- NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLICY TO NOMINATE TWO (2) TRIBAL HEADS INTO THE FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL AS COUNCILLORS WITH FULL VOTING RIGHTS. WHAT COMPENSATING OPTIONS IS GOVERNMENT OPENING TO CREOLES? AND WHY IS THIS POLICY ONLY APPLICABLE AND RESTRICTED TO WESTERN AREAS?
- DUPLICATED PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIONS OF PROVINCIALS AT CHIEFTAINCY AND CONSTITUENCY LEVELS? WHAT COMPENSATING OPTIONS IS GOVERNMENT OPENING TO CREOLES?
- IF MAJOR TRIBES CAN CRY OF MARGINALIZATION AT EVERY CHANGE OF POLITICAL DISPENSATION, HOW ADVERSELY DOES THAT IMPACT ON MINORITY GROUPS IN GENERAL AND CREOLES IN PARTICULAR?
- PUBLIC CASTIGATION OF OUR MINORITY ETHNIC GROUP IN THE PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA REF: MAYORAL CHOICE AT CITY COUNCIL (APC HON ALIMAMY KAMARA GAFFS)
- GENERAL PROPENSITY TO AMPLIFY & EXAGGERATE INTER AND INTRA-PARTY CREOLE MISTAKES (POLICE AND ACC CASES OR GOVERNMENT WAHALA)
- HOW DO WE ATTRACT ATTENTION AND INCLUSION FOR SOCIAL BENEFITS FROM THE OPEN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE (OGI), EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN MINERAL-RICH PROVINCIAL OPERATIONAL AREAS AND SOCIAL SECURITY SAFETY NET FOR OUR INDIGENT AGED CREOLES TOO?
- WHAT MUST WE DO TO COMPLETELY AND PERMANENTLY ELIMINATE STREET TRADING AND NOISE POLLUTION FROM THE VICINITIES OF OUR MOSQUES AND CHURCHES?
- DO WE NEED MASKED DEVIL S TO PARADE THE STREETS ON OUR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS?

THIS PLATFORM IS NOT TO STIR UP TRIBAL SENTIMENTS. THATS WHY IN FACT WE INVITED NON-KRIOS TO ATTEND AND LISTEN AND WE ASSURE THEM ALL OF THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY IN OUR USUALLY NON-VIOLENT ENVIRONMENT. THIS PLATFORM IS TO DRAW ATTENTION TO AND CONFRONT ISSUES THAT MUST BE CHANGED USING PEACEFUL AVENUES FOR REDRESS

IN DOING SO, ISSUES MUST BE ADDRESSED IN A HOLISTIC MANNER AS IT AFFECTS KRIOS GENERALLY AND NOT FROM ANY INDIVIDUAL PERSPECTIVE. WE ARE NOT USED TO DISTURBING THE PEACE AND GOOD ORDER OF SOCIETIES AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN ATTRACTING GOVERNMENT ATTENTION THROUGH VIOLENT

MEANS INCLUDING PARADING CORPSES THROUGH THE STREETS. WE ARE TRAINED TO REASON WITH EACH OTHER TO FIND SOLUTIONS OR AT WORST OBEY AND COMPLAIN. WE HAVE BEEN OBEYING ALL ALONG, SO WERE COMPLAINING NOW AND WILL PURSUE REDRESS.

THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US AND STARTED THESE MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES THROUGH FREEDOMS OF EXPRESSIONS, LEFT THEIR MARK FOR US TO FOLLOW. WE OWE IT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS TO DRIVE AWAY COWARDICE AND FEAR SO AS TO LEAVE EVIDENCE OF OUR OWN PASSAGE THROUGH TIME. SPEAK UP NOW OR DIE!!!!

I LIVE AT NO.62 BERWICK STREET AND MY TELEPHONE CONTACT IS 030 218 615. IF I HAVE LEFT ANYTHING OUT THAT YOU WISH TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS CAMPAIGN PLEASE CONTACT ME SO THAT YOUR INPUT CAN BE ADDED.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING AND YOUR ATTENTION. AND I PRAY GOD TAKE US BACK SAFELY FROM WHENCE WE CAME.

WINSTANLEY.R BANKOLE JOHNSON

On Wed, 1 Aug 2012 11:18:53 -0400 "Christopher Williams" wrote:
Dear Mr. Johnson,

First of all I must take the opportunity to thank you for the initiative that you and others are taking to deal with the problem of minorities in our nation, with specific references to the plight of the Krio population in the Western Area. As you know it is a much bigger problem than just those issues. I strongly support the idea of the mass meeting which you are planning to hold on August 4 to address some of these issues. What I and some others have noticed is that most people of Krio background in the nation and in the diaspora have a tendency to freeze when issues like this come up. Most tend to be very timid, and at times cowardly express a sense of frustration, disenchantment and disinterest. But , however, rather than the problem disappearing it continues to develop further into unmanageable crisis. I don't know of any minority in this world that has made it by being complacent and despondent, refusing to stand up for their rights. One gets the impression that many Krios have not been able to recover from the "chacabulas" of the hot tax war of the 1890's, hence the dominant fear that our provincial colleagues are out to commit genocide on the group, and that the only way to deal with it is to remain quiet. Others believe that they would be denied promotion on their jobs , and that our provincial colleagues will take a reprisal on the group. Only very few times in our modern history have we seen a resurgence of Krio political participation in the national stage. Some Krios see Sierra Leone politics as "country man politics" hence see our national politics as a provincial monopoly. Yet with the abundant power that our government has, they end up making policies for us all and at times our provincial colleagues, knowing how cowardly we are, pretend we do not even exist which gives them the leverage to do whatever they like such as the pending issues you have raised which shows a

gross disrespect towards Krios. Some of our provincial brothers unfortunately do not even think we are Sierra Leoneans after over two hundred or more of sojourning in that land. In fact, some of us are the very extended cousins of our provincial colleagues. Our own very choice of exclusion helps them to come up with such a ridiculous and ludicrous conclusion. At times, I cannot understand the rugged individualism of Krios (some call it selfishness) as opposed to provincial communalism thinking of our provincial colleagues. This at times make Krios to feel very overwhelmed to the point of waiving the white flag or cannibalizing ourselves.

Most of the issues that you have raised and will be discussing in the meeting are well taken and are deep rooted in the dual legal system of the Land Tenure system which treats Krios as an alien group only limited to the Western area but opens the entire country up to our provincial colleagues who can fully participate in both systems equitably. I think that as Krios, we need to deal with it, notwithstanding the overwhelming majority of the provincial community. Trying to get this through our rubber stamp legislature is just a waste of time. Let's take the case on to the International community i.e. The United Nations, African Union, major countries such as the US (African Americans), UK (Afro Saxons), France and use these entities to bring pressure to bear upon our national government. We need to be very strategic to come with meaningful tactics. Raising these issues with our President and our National legislature is like asking our government to be a jury in its own trial. It's an exercise in futility. I guess we in the diaspora, if we are true to ourselves, should treat this as a matter of urgency. We can be very helpful especially if are going to bequeath a legacy of equity to our future posterity. This problem will not disappear or correct itself because we do not want to deal with it. Rather it will continue to fester into a crisis if it is not so already.

I will be most willing to work with you on this project to raise funds and to help bring this issue of national inequity to the international community. My only fear is the timidity of the Krio population, domestic and international. We have been beaten up so badly and have also beaten ourselves up so badly that we will need some kind of a "Risorgimento" the resurrection of the Krio spirit to make it happen. How do we think that African Americans with even a smaller population has been able to make it in America, the tiny Jewish population that now governs the world. It takes long term planning, guts and thinking to address and arrest the problem. Fortune favors the bold! Let us stop thinking about me and start thing about us. It can be done and it will be done. Yours is a first step to draw attention and awareness to the problem and for that I salute you! Hopefully in that meeting the next step would be decided - please keep us posted. Let's avoid too much rhetorical flourishes and get into action.

Let me attempt to point out the level of Krio strength that we can muster. We are a very educated group(western style) compared to any group in the continent. We made the maxim "the Athens of West Africa" possible with our ingenuity and assiduity. What and how we think in the Western Area has a significant impact on the rest of the nation. Our provincial colleagues admire us for our organized minds and our sub culture of manifold accomplishments. We have to let it be known that we are not asking for anything extra but our fair share and a just treatment that all of us should expect from one another. We are not asking for a separate country or for a special treatment. We only want to fairness, justice and equity.

Chris Williams, Ph.D.

Former Dean/Currently Professor, Kent State University

Kent , Ohio