

WANEP Says Adieu to a Lawyer cum Peacebuilder

It exploded like a bomb. It was shocking and devastating. It was not the kind of news that is always expected... A project is approved; victory is announced; an award is conferred, etc. Oh no! It was real bad news!!! Felix is dead!!!



Who...??? What...??? When...??? These were the sorts of questions that filled the air when the death of our colleague, brother, boss and friend, Felix Na'ah Sabie was announced at WANEP's 8th Annual General meeting.

Just a couple of days before the over 40 delegates (including board and staff members of the regional and national Secretariats) who had gathered for the august meeting had observed a moment of prayer for his rapid recovery.

So, everyone was perplexed. It was unbelievable. Some could not help weeping and wailing. The atmosphere was suddenly beclouded. Indeed, the cold hands of death had done it again. It had snatched away a peacebuilder West Africa was about to announce.

The man Felix was kind-hearted, easy-going but courageous and firm. With a legal mind and human rights background, he was meticulous, yet always attaching a human-face to his work. While he worked for peace, he did it with passion.

We remember when once he was addressing a gathering on one of the conflicts in Northern Ghana, Felix was brave, assertive and quite passionate in his pronouncement. He said, *"We as civil society feel we have a role to play in this conflict and it is our duty to play that role.... The current crisis touches the soul and honour of Dagbon and no matter how much outsiders mourn and grief, they cannot feel the pain and shame more deeply than the people of Dagbon. Under these circumstances leadership in this crisis must have the ultimate aim of redeeming the images and honour of Dagbon. This is a responsibility to the dead, the living and the unborn people of the Dagbon state... In our view we are collectively responsible for Dagbon."*

We will all miss him.

Felix joined WANEP in June 2003, as National Network Coordinator for the WANEP National Network in Ghana, otherwise known as GHANEP. He made the decision to shift from legal practice to peacebuilding during a WANEP organized workshop. To him he would rather have two conflicting parties arrive at a win-win solution and relationships are sustained, than have a won-lose and relationships are broken.

Before joining WANEP he worked for the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Ghana as Upper West Regional Director. He has extensive experience in investigating, mediating and adjudication over Human Rights complaints and public education on Human Rights issues. He is a member of the National Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Church of Ghana

Felix is a Barrister-at-Law and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Ghana. He holds an LLB and a certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution from the University of Ghana, as well as a Postgraduate in the Human Rights of Women from the World University Service of Austria.

Adieu Felix, we will all miss you!!!

WANEP



Building Relationships for Peace