

Nguti Subdivision, 25th October 2016.

HIS EXCELLENCY,
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON,
THE PRESIDENCY
YAOUNDE

***SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF SOME VILLAGES OF NGUTI SUBDIVISION FROM THE SG.
SUSTAINABLE OILS CAMEROON LTD OIL PALM PROJECT***

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned chiefs of some communities of Nguti subdivision affected by the SG.SOC Oil Palm project have the honour to write you this letter and humbly present to you our sincere greetings.

In addition to our several previous complaints, petitions, observations and proposals on the issue of the development of an oil palm plantation in our subdivision by SG Sustainable Oils Cameroon, Ltd, we hereby further emphasize that not only has the company failed to comply with the conditions laid down in the Presidential decree of 2013 (the presidential decree No 2013/416 of 25th November 2013) for the company to start operations in Nguti Subdivision. The company equally failed to respect its commitments to our communities and government as contained in the "Cahier des Charges" and common commitments she signed with the government and some affected communities respectively.

Given that the government bureau setup to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the clauses of this agreement has failed to do so, we wish to highlight some salient issues such as the non-respect of the land acquisition. For example the company has not paid the stipulated annual surface rents for three years. The company has already destroyed several farmlands even in communities not included in the decree and have already earmarked more farms to be destroyed in other communities. In addition, the company has failed to respect the provisions for environmental protection such as the destruction of water catchments in Ebanga, absence of soil erosion control measures and destruction of buffers along rivers, small streams and water sources. Moreover there has been no communication with the communities to discuss and resolve existing and potential problems and impacts of the company's activities on communities. The communities feel they have been marginalized and are dealing with an institution with extreme bad faith towards communities.

So far, the development of this oil palm plantation has become very controversial in not respecting the best practices and rules for development of a new oil palm plantation. Furthermore, the company has encroached into the lands of some villages such as Babensi II and Babensi I which from the onset rejected the project, were not involved in the 'enlarged land consultative board meeting of 2013 and which are not expressly mentioned in the presidential decree mentioned above. Even the communities that embraced the project from the beginning have had a very nasty experience with the company. This is demonstrated by the company's acts of indiscriminately entering into farmlands already occupied by many people of the communities; hence this has ignited many land disputes and inter-village boundary conflicts in the subdivision which never existed before it came.

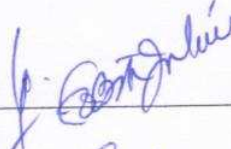



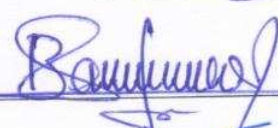

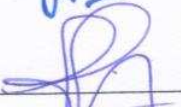
The bottom of the page features several handwritten signatures in blue ink. On the left, there are four distinct, smaller signatures. In the center, there is a large, prominent signature that appears to be 'Dammunung'. To its right is another large signature. In the bottom right corner, there is a signature that looks like 'YS'.

Worst of all endeavours by several communities to invite the company for dialogue and a peaceful resolution of the problems facing the communities and to define a mutual way forward has consistently been ignored by officials of the company. Obviously this company is relying on the cosmic Association of Project Affected Villages (PAV) that we must state here is not a true representative of the people as no community sat to elect their individual villages' representatives. It must therefore be stated here that this PAV has legality but no legitimacy.

In principle, when the project was first introduced to the communities, many villages embraced the idea as we are generally a people who love development and who are eager to join the Head of State in achieving his vision of making Cameroon, our country an emerging country by 2035. As such, we initially accepted the company to go ahead to make preparations pending our entry into a binding legal relationship. Disappointingly the company's method of land acquisition and approach to the ceaseless complaints of the communities since it came on our land has left a very bad taste in our mouths.

We are aware that by November this year, the government will be considering whether or not to extend the provisional lease which was granted to the company in 2013. We wish to seize this opportunity to relay to the government that we are withdrawing our support or consent to the establishment of an oil palm plantation by SG. SUSTAINABLE OILS LTD in our respective communities in Nguti Subdivision. However, we shall continually remain available to work with the government and other stakeholders for the development of our subdivision, and the country as a whole.

While looking forward to your kind consideration of our problem, we the communities of Nguti sub division avail ourselves of this opportunity to renew the assurance of their highest consideration.

1. HRM Chief FOBIA JULIUS of NGUTI TOWN  Date 25-10-16
2. HRM Chief ABEL EKWE N of BADUN Village  Date 25/10/16
3. HRM Chief ASEK LORDSON of AYONG Village:  Date 25/10/2016
4. HRM Chief EWANE JOSEPH EJUBA of BABENSI II Village  Date 25/10/16
5. HRM Chief AKUM BASUA B. of SIKAM Village  Date 25/10/2016
6. HRM Chief TAMBE JOHN BITA of EBANGA Village  Date 25/10/2016
7. HRM Chief NHUASOH ABIA BONIFACE of BABENSI I  Date 25/10/16

CC/

- The prime Minister
- Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development
- Minister of State property and Land Tenure
- Minister of Forestry and wildlife
- Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
- SDO Kupe Muanenguba
- DO, Nguti Sub-Division
- Nguti sub division chiefs conference
- Elatibebum
- MbuomNsuase
- Balong cultural and development association

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