

THE SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER
NDIAN DIVISION, SOUTH WEST
REGION.

Subject: AN APPEAL FOR YOUR ADMINISTRATIVE INTERVENTION

- » As a senior elite of the area, former secretary general of Batanga Traditional Organization (BOBOMBI) and as Deputy Mayor of Mundemba council, I am compelled to forward the following comments to you, in reference to the two meetings that have been held for the establishment of the Global sustainable Oils Cameroon Ltd.
- » While the first official meeting was personally presided by the Prefect of Ndian on the 09/11/09, the other was an informal meeting which was convened and presided by Hon Chief Mbile Junior on 09/12/09 who claimed to be representing the Global Oils Cameroon Ltd.
- » Mr Prefect you must have received a copy of the so called "Resolutions" of this informal meeting chaired by Hon. Chief Mbile and coordinated by his brother the Environmentalist Mr. Ngmbeni Mbile based in Yaounde. Firstly, it is irregular and totally out of practice and procedure for the former parliamentarian to have convened a meeting on crucial and sensitive matters concerning the native population of the villages whose forest have been marked for this company without any representative of the Ndian Administration.
- » During the official meeting of 9/11/09 presided by the prefect most of the chiefs, Elites and the Divisional services who were in attendance, were quite impressed with Hon Chief Mbile's reaction. While in the meeting, He presented and handed to the Prefect a memo denouncing the establishment of the Global Oils Cameroon Ltd and there – after, he was unanimously applauded by his kith and kin of the Batanga for his belief and firm support for conservation.
- » But within a time limit of barely four weeks, from the date of the first official meeting (9/11/09), Hon Chief Mbile convened an informal meeting on 9/12/09 which he chaired. In the course of this informal forum we were shocked and embarrassed to hear him speak differently. His language changed from conservation stand point to developmental stand point. Here, he made clear his new intentions and decision as a representative of the company in question. Amidst doubts, Messrs. Joseph Moki and

Chief Ebune Emmanuel who were regarded as the first messenger (envoy) of Sithe Global Company were obviously avoided and could not attend this informal meeting

» Mr. Prefect, it is quite disappointing to note that those on whom the population builds their trust are usually inconsistent and conservative because of the quest for their personal aggrandizement. However I wish to advocate here that those who are advocating and acting as intermediary on behalf of Sithe Global Company **have no consistent village forest** to offer to this company. The relevant divisional technical service concerned can testify this truth.

» I must also reiterate here – Mr. Prefect that even those who allege to have **Paramount status have no legal justification** to speak on behalf and in the absence of the **Real Native Population** who ought to be consulted on the matter. Worst still, and despite the two meetings that have taken place we are sad to note that none of the official representative of Sithe Global Oils Cameroon Ltd has ever attended any meeting. Yet those who are “**go between**” proclaim this meeting of a selected few around Mundemba town as public consultation.

» Obviously, the people of Ndiain earnestly want development to alleviate poverty and disenclavement etc. We want sustainable development which would take care of the economic, social and cultural interest of the people. And which should protect “**The Natural Resource Base**”. We do not need the kind of development which we know will not be sustainable.

» Mr. Prefect let the Ndiain administration have the “**Secret Duty**” in assisting the people to choose what is best for the population, living and unborn. It will be unfair to mortgage the limited forest we are left with after having given much to the Korup National Park, The Rumpi Hills Reserve Forest, Pamol Plantation Ltd and the Council Forest.

» Posterity will hold us responsible in our present decision to accept in giving out 38.8.000 hectares of plantation land to Sithe Global Oils Cameroon Ltd. If we do, it will lead to a vast devastating effect on our land because the environmental implications are quite outstanding and a few of which are:

- i) There will be population explosion which in reality would be difficult to control and managed. Consequently indigenous environment will be highly threatened.
- ii) The bulk of those to be recruited to work in this plantation, constitute those with low salary earnings. This group will certainly force a global increase in

population and their future quest and scramble for **"Farming Land"** will be controversial.

- iii) This demographic influx of plantation population will have numerous implications on the already protected areas particularly on our **"Traditional Lands"**.

In conclusion, it will be better to avoid the sad experiences and memories of what we know of plantation companies. In other areas, which in their initial stage, parade as a blessing to the people but in the course of their establishment and operation their activities are usually turned into a **"White Elephant"**



Okpo Wa Namolongo Peter
Deputy Mayor Mundemba Council
National Officer of **Order of Merit**
With the Rank of Knight

Cc:

- HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE PROTECTION
YAOUNDE
- THE HON MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT NDIAN I AND II (C.P.D.M)
- HIS EXCELENCY THE GOVERNOR OF THE SOUTH WEST REGION
- REGIONAL DELEGATE OF ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTION OF
NATURE
- DIVISIONAL OFFICER MUNDEMBA CENTRAL SUB- DIVISION AND
TOKO
- THE MAYOR TOKO AND MUNDEMBA MUNICIPALITY
- THE DIVISIONAL DELEGATE OF ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTION OF
NATURE
- THE DIVISIONAL DELEGATE OF FORESTRY AND WILD LIFE NDIAN
- HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS OF VILLAGES CONCRENED TOKO AND
MUNDEMBA
- THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SECURITY
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