

## NGUTI SUB - DIVISIONAL CULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (NGUSCUDA)



28th June 2010

The Chairman/CEO, SG Sustainable Oils Cameroon PLC, C/° Sithe Global Management INC 245 Park Avenue, 38th Floor, New York, NY 10167 U.S.A. \

Dear Sir.

The Chiefs and Populations of Nguti Sub Division have the honour to bring before you, their decision to abrogate the Memorandum of Understanding reached between them and your Company over the surrender of certain parcels of their land meant to be used for the opening of your Palm Plantations.

Our patience has been stretched beyond limits as your Company took advantage of our enthusiastic welcome given for the Project to go ahead seeking for Government approval to occupy our lands without having met with the most basic of the requirements agreed upon.

We are still very interested in the Project, but our interest can only go along with a clear demonstration by your Company to negotiate with us in good faith and in the interest of both your Company and the indigenous population.

We wish to thank you for the laudable initiative and for having chosen our Sub Division for the Project Area.

Best Regards

**Member of Parliament** 

for Nguti Sub Division

Napoleon Nyake Besong **National President of Nguti Sub Division** 

## Attached

- Original copy of the Renouncing of Memorandum of Understanding.
- Copy of letter addressed to H.E Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon.

## RE. RENOUNCING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF NGUTI SUB DIVISION AND SG SUSTAINABLE OILS CAMEROON (SG SOC) PLC.

On the 31st day of January 2009, the Traditional Rulers and the Population of Nguti Subdivision signed a Memorandum of Understanding (M O U) with an American Agro Industrial Company SITHE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE OILS OF CAMEROON (SG SOC PLC) to establish their consent for the opening of an oil palm plantation on their ancestral land.

The MOU, was meant to lay the framework for a more concrete negotiation to determine amongst other things the delimitation of the land to be surrendered.

To our dismay SG SOC PLC is making strides towards the obtaining of a long term lease from the Government of Cameroon for a blanket portion of our land without having reached agreement with the local stakeholders on the specific surface area to be jointly mapped out.

After a thorough review of the terms of the MOU and considering the inconsistency of our potential partners demonstrated by their informal way of dealing with issues commonly agreed upon, we are inclined to make the following observations:

- SITHE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE OILS CAMEROON PLC, has not shown that they
  will respect the terms of the Memorandum in the sense that:
  - a) To this date, their representative has refused to give us a copy of the Memorandum signed by them.
  - b) We have not met as it is stipulated in the memorandum to demarcate and agree on the parcel of land to be surrendered to SG SOC PLC for the plantation. Yet, they have gone ahead to unilaterally demarcate and planted bacons trespassing into our farmlands
  - c) We have never intended to give SG SOC PLC a blanket authorization to exploit our land, but we are prepared to release portions of such land as we would have jointly demarcated ensuring sufficient farmland and a buffer land for the indigenous populations.
  - d) The Chiefs and populations of Nguti Sub Division on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2009 addressed a list of specific demands (copy attached) to the Management of SG. SOC PLC for them to address and further discuss with the population and Chiefs. SG.SOC PLC has not responded to these demands to this day ignoring the body (Think-Tank) that was set up to play the role of intermediary between SG.SOC PLC and the local stakeholders.
  - e) SG.SOC PLC has systematically demonstrated total disregard to the future of our population.
- Considering the persistent refusal of SG.SOC PLC to come back and dialogue with the local stakeholders as to the specific surface area to be surrendered to the plantation

project,

- 2 Considering the insincerity of the representative of SG,SOC PLC in the handling of negotiations with the population.
- 3 Considering that the signed M.O.U. was a personal mark of confidence to Dr.TIMTI Isidore(their consultant) by the local stakeholders intended to give SG.SOC PLC a document to assist them negotiate with the Government of Cameroon for an authorization to operate a plantation in Cameroon, and then come back to the local stakeholders for a more concrete agreement,

We the Chiefs and population of Nguti Sub Division, find it extremely inappropriate to deal with a potential partner who has systematically demonstrated bad faith and do hereby RENOUNCE the MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (M.O.U) which embodied the NOTICE OF CONSENT signed between the Chiefs and population of Nguti Sub Division and SG. SOC PLC.

We are therefore withdrawing all our support for this project until they will comply with our demands.

Signed

Hon. ASU MBANDA GEORGE

M.P. for Nguti Sub Division

Mayor, Nguti Council

Dr. CHIEF ATEM EBAKO

Think Tank Member

Mr. NAPOLEON NY AKE BESONG

Sab divisional Chiefs Conference

President NGUSCUDA

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