

Cameroon: Billionaire Land Owner Defies the Government Every Time, All the Time!

1. «En effet, ces conflits, qui se sont développés depuis 20 ans, dans cette région, ont pour origine unique, des litiges fonciers non réglés équitablement; cette situation génère un sentiment d'injustice, de frustration et d'insécurité des populations qui, en dépit des plaintes déposées, de l'évaluation de certains de leurs droits par les autorités, n'en voient pas la reconnaissance concrétisée. En l'espèce, il semble bien avoir été perçu par toutes les parties que c'est la seule autorité de l'Etat qui va apporter une solution définitive à un conflit dont la pérennité serait potentiellement - sinon un danger - tout au moins une insécurité permanente dans ces zones, en y rétablissant la paix, la sécurité et l'équité.» **H.E. Amadou Ali, Vice Prime Minister & Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals.** The Office of the President of the Republic adopted the Minister's recommendations but Mr. Danpullo feels he is above the law and the state so he has simply ignored this decision of which he is very well informed, taking advantage of the lack of enforcement of decisions by the appropriate authorities.

2. "I will like to know whether Alhadji Baba [Ahmadou Danpullo] has any right to arrest, judge and punish any Cameroonian." **Dr. Peter Abety Minister in Charge of Missions at the Presidency of the Republic.**

4. "During the initial implantation and subsequent expansion of ELBA Ranch, several Fulani families have been displaced and these families moved along with thousands of cattle. The secretive manner of management of this Ranch has left the MINEPA Services at all levels in the Province unable to have facts and figures on activities that go on there. Ndawara Ranch should as much as possible regularise the situation of this enterprise in respect of the laws in force relating to the establishment of livestock farms, movement of livestock, acquisition of grazing lands etc." **Prof. Chimbagha Nji Linus, PhD, Provincial Delegate, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries.** Baba Ahmadou Danpullo and his ELBA Ranch ignored this decision and continue to operate outside the law!

5. «En effet, la communauté Mbororo se plaint des nombreuses frustrations dont elle est l'objet depuis plusieurs années de la part de Elh. Baba, avec la complicité active ou passive de l'Administration (dans le sens le plus large) arrestations arbitraire, condamnations judiciaires, extorsions de biens, (bœufs, terrains de pâturages) etc. La communauté Mbororo mérite respect et considération. A cet effet, tous les agents publics en service dans le Nord-Ouest devraient être rappelés à l'ordre en raison de certaines déviations déplorées dans le passé et tendant à faire une source de revenus, tandis que certaines élites en font un fonds de commerce politique. L'urgence de se pencher sérieusement sur le sort des populations marginales que sont les Mbororo, pygmées et autres, et d'élaborer un programme gouvernemental d'encadrement. Certaines organisations de défense des droits de l'homme et autres ONG se délectant de leur situation actuelle en alarmant la communauté internationale, se fait sérieusement sentir.» **H.E. Koumpa Issa, Principal Civil Administrator, Governor of the North-West Province.** The Office of the President of the Republic agreed with the Governor but Baba Ahmadou Danpullo couldn't be bothered to respect administrative decisions even from the Office of the President.

6. "According to records in this office the Big Babanki people through their Fon lodged a protest to this office in 1989, against Alhadji Baba Amadou [Danpullo] and others for encroaching into Kedjom Keku (Big Babanki) land to which no action was taken. [...] They have all along been expressing their dissatisfaction with the Administration for not protecting their interests in this long standing problem. They consider themselves marginalised and denied justice by the Administration. This is the bone of contention resulting to mounting tension in Big Babaki." **Mr. Ngoh Fabian, Principal Civil Administrator, Sub-Divisional Officer, Tubah.** While his superiors agree with this view, Baba Ahmadou Danpullo simply ignored them!

7. "The Commission members unanimously arrived at the conclusion that it was a very sad and illegal situation [expropriation of lands by Baba Ahmadou Danpullo] ... ELBA Ranch should stop carrying out such massive invasion which is likely to disturb the settled graziers or cause untold hardship to them." **Wum Central Farmer-Grazier Commission, Chaired by Kamdem Maurice, Divisional Officer.** Baba Ahmadou Danpullo ignored this decision

8. Inter-Ministerial Commission (The Jani Commission) on the conflict between the Mbororo Community and Baba Ahmadou Danpullo created on instructions from the Office of the President decided as follows:

- The authorities retrace and where necessary re-demarcate the legal boundaries of ELBA Ranch in accordance with Land Certificate No. 140/Menchum of 1st December 1989, with a surface area of 4,726 hectares.
- The authorities retrace and where necessary re-demarcate the legal boundaries of the Land Grant measuring 1,335 hectares allocated to Baba Ahmadou Danpullo for transhumance.
- Baba Ahmadou Danpullo liberates illegally occupied lands.
- Baba Ahmadou Danpullo pays compensation to those who were displaced by ELBA Ranch.
- The authorities identify the various Mbororo communities in the North-West capable of being led by traditional rulers designated in conformity with the law.
- The authorities take measures with regards to the illegal and irregular functioning of Ndawara Alkali Court.

Baba Ahmadou is well informed of these decisions but instead he intensified his defiance taking advantage of the fact the government has not enforced these decisions taken by the highest authority in the land – Office of President of the Republic!

9. Provincial Commission set up by Provincial Order No. 363/PO/E/GNW.5/S.1/SG/LA of 10th March 1995, in its Report of 27th May 1995, ruled that:

- Trace of Western periphery of ELBA Ranch along Survey Beacons Nos. F.18/86/184 to F.18/86/188 revealed an irregular encroachment into Mezam land of about 2.5km from the Boyo/Mezam Divisional boundary, which consequently needed regularisation.
- No person from Kedjom Keku (also called Big Babanki) was farming on the said Kedjom Keku land irregularly occupied by Baba Ahmadou Danpullo's ELBA Ranch.
- Baba Ahmadou Danpullo has moved his fence a further five (05) kilometres away from the limits of the land covered by his land certificate encroaching further into Kedjom Keku land. He has not complied to this ruling!

10. Provincial Commission to evaluate damages to properties belonging to Kedjom Keku farmers ruled that Baba Ahmadou Danpullo pays the victims the sum of CFAF49, 161,910 (Forty-nine million, one hundred and sixty-one thousand, nine hundred and ten) and Kedjom Keku (Big Babanki) farmers should regain possession of their lands. He has not complied with this decision.

11. Fundong Sub-Divisional Farmer-Grazier Commission of 30th December 1985, forming the basis for the establishment of ELBA Ranch during which Baba Ahmadou Danpullo "assured [everyone] compensation and resettlement within Ndawara to any grazier who shall be displaced from the Ranch area." Mr. Danpullo never adhered to his commitment in front of the Commission and the members of the public.

Sarli Sardou Nana, November 2011

Cited Decisions:

- Ref. No. 1621/SG/PR of 27th February 2003
- Decision No. 164 of 2nd July 2003
- Ref. No. 63C/CF/939.I/IGSJ/MJ of April 2004
- Provincial Order No. 730/PO/E/GNW.15/S.1/LA of 28th June 1995
- Provincial Order No. 363/PO/E/GNW.5/S.1/SG/LA of 10th March 1995
- Ref. No. MINEPIA/DPEPIA.NW/25/270 of 16/05/2002
- Ref. E.29.03/10/S.3/127 of 17/10/2002
- Letter to Attorney General, NWP of 07/01/2002
- Minutes subsequent to Ref: No. 846/L/E20.01/Vol.23/14 of 31/12/97
- Minutes of Fundong Sub-Divisional Farmer-Grazier Commission of 30/12/1985