

REPUBLIC DU CAMEROUN  
PAIX - TRAVAIL - PATRIE  
MINISTERE DE L'ELEVAGE, DES PECHEES  
ET DES INDUSTRIES ANIMALES  
DELEGATION PROVINCIALE DU NORD-OUEST  
BAMENDA

Your Ref: \_\_\_\_\_

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REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON  
PEACE - WORK - FATHERLAND  
MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES  
AND ANIMAL INDUSTRIES  
THE NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL DELEGATION  
FAX/TEL (237) 3361121  
Ref: No.MINEPIA/DPEPIA.NW/25/270  
Bamenda, the 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2002  
The Provincial Delegate  
*Le Délégué Provincial*

A/TO:

The Honourable Minister,  
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries  
And Animal Industries  
- YAOUNDE -

Subject:  
Objet

**ENCROACHMENT INTO CHABAL - SABGA GRAZING  
LAND BY NDAWARA RANCH**

Your Excellency,

Ndawara Ranch owned by Alhadji Baba Ahmadu was implanted 18 years ago under the name ELBA Ranch. It is located on the plateau overlooking Boyo and Ngoketunja plains but falls in Boyo Division. After 18 years of existence, the Ranch now has antennae in Esu and Waindou in Menchum Division.

During its initial implantation and subsequent expansions, 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 MINEPIA Services at all levels in the Province unable to have facts and figures on activities that go on there.

In early April, 2002 a new encroachment was made west of the plateau acquiring new grazing land and deploying two herds of cattle (about 200 animals) in the new areas.

On Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2002 after verbal information on the encroachment, the Provincial Delegate held a concertation meeting with the Sub Delegate for MINEPIA Bamenda and resolved that more information be gathered on the matter. A copy of a formal complaint made to the Sub Divisional Officer for Tubah (SABGA jurisdiction) on April 10, 2002 finally circulated to the Provincial Delegation.

Finally on May 07, 2002, the Provincial Delegation was officially informed of the matter by the Lamido of Sabga (Photocopy attached). Another letter (not dated) on the same matter was sent to the Sub Divisional Delegate for MINEPIA Bamenda by the Chief of Zootechnical and Veterinary Centre, Sabga (see copy attached).

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On May 15, 2002, the Provincial Delegate, accompanied by the Provincial Chief of Animal Production and the Sub Divisional Delegate for MINEPIA Bamenda embarked on a visit to the troubled area. The visit began with a courtesy call on the Lamido of Sabga who explained the encroachment, his helplessness under the circumstances, the reaction of the Fulani youth who burnt down encroached structures and the continued arrests that have now extended to Douala. He expressed his disappointment with the fact that his earlier complaints to the administration were never looked into.

We later embarked on a three hour round trip on horseback to inspect the area. On arrival at the site, we were received, by the Chief of Gendarmerie Post, a uniformed officer with two armed colleagues. After identification we were authorized to inspect what we wanted to.

**Findings:-**

- (1). A barbed wire fence stretched across the water-shed to keep away neighbouring cattle from the newly acquired grazing area, now annexed to the ranch.
- (2). Two standing wooden roofed houses for herdsmen and one burnt-down house.
- (3). A bulldozer track terminal made recently from the headquarters of Ndawara Ranch, about 13 kilometers away, to the new site.
- (4). A fleet of labourers and herdsmen around.
- (5). An inner barbed wire fence pulled down.

**From the above evidence, it was established as follows:-**

- (i) An encroachment was made 2 to 3 kilometers outside of Ndawara Ranch in Boyo Division into the communal grazing land of Sabga in Tubah Sub Division, Mezam Division.
- (ii) That angry youths, due to the challenge, pulled down some fences and destroyed a wooden herdsman's house in an attempt to chase away the intruders.
- (iii) That there are allegations that one youth was arrested and seriously tortured detained and is receiving treatment in the military hospital Bamenda.
- (iv) That more arrests (atleast three) have been made in Douala.
- (v) That the Ndawara Ranch initially completely located in Boyo Division has been recently extended into Sabga, Mezam Division.
- (vi) That this expansion has been undertaken in total disregard of all formal regulations and procedures regarding the acquisition of new grazing lands and movement of cattle.
- (vii) That this encroachment has generated new tensions, caused the movement of some graziers, is causing a lot of anxiety, tension and uneasiness in the heither-to peaceful Sabga Fulani community of Mezam Division.

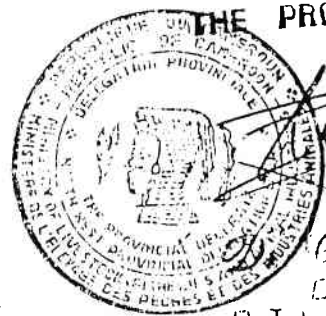
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SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

1. That cattle which have been brought in from Ndawara cattle Ranch should return to their former limit in Boyo Division and liberate the annexed land back to the former Sabga graziers.
2. That Ndawara requirements (if any) in terms of more grazing land should be made to the competent authorities for necessary action.
3. That former graziers could compensate Ndawara Ranch for the two houses that were destroyed; meanwhile the fences should be removed.
4. That Ndawara Ranch should forward to the Provincial Delegation of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries North West Province, information and documents related to the implantation and limits of the enterprise so that further conflicts and differences would be rapidly resolved. Till date, the Provincial Delegation of MINERIA North West Province is completely blank as to what is going in Ndawara Ranch.
5. Ndawara Ranch should as much as possible regularize the situation of this enterprise in respect of the Laws in force related to the establishment of Livestock Farms, movement of Livestock, acquisition of grazing lands etc.
6. A mix Provincial Commission should be set up to critically study the problems between Ndawara Cattle Ranch on the one hand and the graziers of Sabga in Mezam Division and those of Boyo Division in order to find a lasting solution and ensure peaceful co-existence amongst all graziers and the peasant population.

BAMENDA, the 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2002 16 MAY 2002

THE PROVINCIAL DELEGATE



*[Handwritten signature]*

*Chimanga J. Nji Lou*  
 D. V. M. M. V. Sc. (16).  
 D. T. V. M (ANVERS); A. E. S. S. L. I. I.  
 PROF. AGREGÉ EN MÉDECIN VÉT

- c.c.
- H. E. Governor, North West Province.
  - Senior Divisional Officer, Mezam ✓  
(For necessary assistance, please.)