

Appendix 1

**ESU CULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION  
(ECUDA)**

**Head Office  
Esu - Fungom Sub-Division  
Menchum Division**

**Ref. No. 03/20001/ECUDA/OPG**

**Office of the President General,  
P.O Box 495 Bamenda,  
C/o Mr. KANGHA Patrick Meh,  
Tel: 36 : 37 : 95  
Bamenda Urban Council**

**Bamenda the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2001**

**HIS EXCELLENCY  
THE PRIME MINISTER  
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT  
YAOUNDE - CAMEROON**

**SUBJECT: UNJUSTIFIED EVICTION AND DESTRUCTION OF HOMES AND  
CROPS AT EWO QUARTER IN ESU, FUNGOM SUB-DIVISION,  
MECHUM DIVISION, BY MR ALHADJI BABA AHMADOU DAN  
PULLO, OWNER OF ELBA RANCH, ESU.**

**Your Excellency,**

On the occasion of your visit to Menchum Division on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2001, the Esu Cultural and Development Association (ECUDA) was pleased to receive you as the visit coincided with a major difficulty that our village now faces.

During this visit and for reasons of time constraint, we addressed a memorandum to your high office expressing our most pressing pre-occupation (copy attached). Amongst the several issues raised was the one concerning the farmer grazier problems in Esu.

In effect, in the month of March 2001, Mr. Alhadji Baba Ahmadou Dan Pullo, owner of the Elba Ranch unilaterally decided to:

- Destroy crops (maize, babanas, coffee, cassava, palm trees, pineapples, potatoes, cocoyams, raffia bushes) belonging to Esu, as well as the fences enclosing these farms.
- Destroy all their houses-derogatorily referred to as barns-thereby rendering over 500 people homeless causing them to seek refuge in the Fon's palace.

Feeling threatened by the refugees who accused the Fon of Esu for selling the land of their forefathers to the owner of the Elba Ranch, who subsequently evicted them. The Fon sought for protection from the SDO Menchum, who immediately brought in Gendarmes on 27/04/2001. These Gerndarmes molested and violated individual rights (beating some, making others to lie down facing the sun with their eyes wide open, causing others to crawl on their knees, etc).

Esu people having raffia bushes located within the ranch are today forbidden from exploiting their raffia palm bushes, a very important economic activity (palm bushes produce wine, firewood, building materials etc.)

The owner of the ranch has deprived people of valuable farm land for the over 30.000 inhabitants of the Esu Fondom, as the beginning of his ranch is barely a kilometre away from the village.

He has contributed little or nothing to the economic growth of Esu. (No Esu person is employed in the ranch in any capacity, he has decided to construct a new road to his ranch through Wum town in an effort to avoid the Esu polulation from enjoying a good road through him).

In the face of this disturbing situation, the local administration issued prefectorial order No. 69 of 6/06/2001 stating inter allia that;

- The indigenes illegally constructed their living homes within the ranch notwithstanding the fact that almost all of the evicted persons were born and bred at

Ewo and lived there until they were forcefully evicted. In fact the graves of their forefathers and their shrines are still there at Ewo.

Some of the evicted persons were compensated the sums varying from 20.000F to 150.000F. It is hard to tell whether these payments were for houses demolished, crops destroyed or for the people to quit their homes in favour of the ranch.

Your Excellency, far from challenging the orders of the powers that be, the Esu Cultural and Development Association would like to make the following points:

- 1) The Fondom of Esu is over 300 years old.
- 2) Before the arrival of the Germans, the following quarters made up the Fondom, Wemeh; Ukumuyhe, Kejemeh, Utoh, Tegneghe, Wetemeh, Ukpwe, Winighe, Kandongho, Keghe, Wabwo, Gayama, Menkep, Menkah, Ewo.
- 3) The settlement at Ewo (the area where natives have been evicted) was the place where natives extracted iron-ore to produce metallic equipment until the advent of modern farm tools.
- 4) National census carried out in southern Cameroons and the Republic of Cameroon until today show that the Ewo quarter has a steady population that is constantly growing.
- 5) The Ewo quarter has a Sub-Chief and with a population of over 500 inhabitants (see census) Ewo has been a polling station since the one party system and has remained so till date.
- 6) Alhadji Baba implanted a grazing field in Esu with consent from the Fon of Esu only in 1987.
- 7) The portion of land apportioned for his grazing activity which is expected to contribute to the economic development of Esu was initially located at "Kesissi". This area is sufficiently vast to enable him keep as many cattle as he wishes.
- 8) In spite of the goodwill of the Fon and the people of Esu, he has moved towards farmlands in Ewo quarter where he constructed his office without objection from the natives.

- 9) By the terms of the above mentioned prefectorial order and contrary to the land Tenure ordinance of Cameroon, the last settler now becomes the owner of the land while the legitimate owner becomes the outlawed.
- 10) This situation calls to mind the flagrant abuse of human rights as was practiced in apartheid South Africa, a situation that was decried by the Government of Cameroon, and Governments World-Wide.

**Your Excellency,**



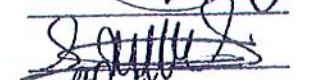




As custodian of the individual and collective rights of its citizens, we call on Government to take appropriate action to properly compensate the over 30 families concerned, to resettle the indigenes around the shrine of their departed ones, to displace the ranch out of the farmland and to take any other measure that would resolve this unfortunate situation so that peace, justice, and human rights can reign in Esu and Cameroon.

On behalf of the Esu Cultural and Development Association, we wish Your Excellency and family the best in your very exalting duties.

**Copy:**

- **MINAT Y'DE**
- **MINJUSTICE Y'DE**
- **MINDEF Y'DE**
- **MINAS Y'DE**
- **Governor North West Province**
- **SDO Menchum**
- **D.O Fungom**
- **The Chairman – Human Rights Commission Y'DE**

Signed by:

NAMES	FUNCTION	ADDRESS	SIGNATORIES
Ebue-Ateh Jonas	President General	Ako	
Mr. Meh Zang Augustine	Secretary General	Yaounde	
Mr. Kangha Patrick Meh	Financial Secretary	Bamenda	
Mr. Meh Chu Thomas	National Projects Co-ordinator	Yaounde	
Mr. Chiy Joseph Fuh	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President General	Wum	
Mr. Nong John	Vice President – South West Region	Ekona	
Mr. Akiy Donatus Buh	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President General	Douala	
Mr. Meh Andrew	President – Bamenda Region	Bamenda	