

08 MAI 2002

E.29.03/10/S-5/273

LAND DISPUTE OPPOSING THE LAMIDO
OF SABGA AGAINST ALHADJI BABA OF
ELBA RANCH NDAWARA

The Prefect
Mezam Division.

Further to my Hand Message No. E.29.03/C.2/S.1/274 of 30 April 2002; I submit here-below a full report on the events which had characterised the matter in subject after the Lamido of Sabga's letter of complain dated 10 April, 2002, addressed to me and copied you amongst others.

The Lamido's letter of complain was received in my office on 24 April, 2002 and after our discussion; I instructed my Assistant accompanied by Heads of Forces of Law and Order Tubah to visit the disputed area on Saturday 27 April, 2002 and appraise me of the situation. On their return from the mission, my Assistant reported their observations that the disputed piece of National Land is in Tubah Sub Division, precisely in Kedjom Ketingoh, on which Alhadji Baba has constructed a barb-wire fence, built 03 semi-permanent houses of two rooms each and put some cattle within the enclosure of his fence.

That the Bororos of Sabga appealed for urgent administrative action to quit Alhadji Baba from the disputed area. My Assistant intend, adviced them to remain calm while the matter be examined by the Administration, and verbally prohibited both parties from activity on the disputed area until the matter is examined and resolved by the competent administrative commission.

Surprisingly, at about 10 p.m. next day Sunday 28 April, 2002, Minister Dr. Abety called me by telephone to inform me that he has learnt that the Sabga Bororos were making preparations to go and fight with Alhadji Baba at the disputed area on Monday 29 April, 2002. I told him to inform the Lamido to hold back his men and wait for me early morning to talk to them.

.../2.-

On Monday morning at about 5 a.m. I left with the Brigade Commander for Sabga. We met the Lamido with some other people. Talking to Lamido on the incident, he told us that his boys left very early that morning to the disputed area without his knowledge. I instructed the Lamido to send somebody immediately to call the boys back. While there with the Lamido, Dr. Abety met us. He did not disclose his mission to me, but told me he has advised the Lamido to call back his boys.

That notwithstanding; I despatched my Assistant again with four Gendarmes of Tubah Brigade to rush to the area to prevent any adverses.

Unfortunately, before they arrived the disputed area, the Sabga boys had already destroyed Alhadji Baba's barb-wire fence, burnt down his three newly constructed rugas and taken ambush in the forest with arms ready to fight their adversary, Alhadji Baba's faction. The Ndawara group also came to the area armed but after the Sabga's had already destroyed and taken ambush in the forest. However, a few Sabga Bororos were met looking peacefully face-to-face with their brothers of the Ndawara group. This maybe, because the reinforcement Gendarmes from Bamenda were on hand. My Assistant ordered the Forces to disarm both factions after calling them to order. He condemned their intended action and cautioned them to respect the authorities and laws of the State rather than take the laws into their hands. He blamed the Sabga faction for disrespecting administrative instructions and perpetuating vandalism. My Assistant further informed them that the disputed area is placed under an injunction order prohibiting both parties from carrying out any activity until the matter is examined and resolved by the administration. He called on both parties to retreat to their respective bases in wait of the action of the Administration and warned that any person caught or found in the disputed area shall be arrested and prosecuted for being there with an intent.

After putting the situation under control my Assistant returned, reported his observations and action and we left for Sabga with my Etah-Major to blame the Lamido for the action taken by his boys. I requested him to assist us identify the perpetrators and actors of the vandalic act. The Lamido gave me the impression that the actors were Sabga children who ran out Sabga and promised to look into the matter. I then instructed the

the Brigade Commander Tubah to mount road blocks and intensify control to track down the suspected Bororos, especially those from out of Tubah.

Late that Monday 29 April, 2002 evening, Dr. Abety came to my residence after passing through my Assistant (to find out how it was at the disputed area), to inform me that he is told one Haman was arrested in connection to the matter and conveyed to Ndawara where he is under serious torture. He further disclosed that the Sabgas intend to march up to Ndawara next day in reaction to the arrest of Haman. I appealed to him to inform the Lamido to stop his people from marching to Ndawara. Remarkably, Dr. Abety later warned me never to go to Ndawara else the Sabga Bororos will attack me, and returned to his residence. In the same vain, I was embarrassed when next day, I received a call from Minister Abety in Yaounde ordering me to stop the arrest of suspected Sabga Bororos.

In a meeting held in my office with the delegation of Sabga faction on Tuesday 30 April, 2002; the Sabga delegation promised to identify and hand-over the actors of this unpleasant situation to me. Since then to this time of my writing nothing has been done as promised.

However, the situation is presently calm while investigations are still on to identify the perpetrators and actors of the vandalism on Alhadji Baba's property on the disputed piece of National Land. Meanwhile the matter of Land dispute involving the Lamido of Sabga and Alhadji Baba of Elba Ranch Ndawara pending before me shall soon be examined by the competent commission and the report shall be sent to you./-

DIVISIONAL OFFICER - TUBAH



Ngoh Fabian
NGOH Fabian
Administrateur Civil Principal