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MINUTES OF THE FARMER/GRAZIER COMMISSION TO ASSESS THE SITUATION
OF A MASSIVE INVASION OF GRAZING LANDS OCCUPIED BY SOME GRAZERS
AT WAINDO UP WUM HELD ON THE 2/01/1998

In compliance with the letter of invitation No. 846/L/E28.01, Vol.23/14 of 31/12/97 from the Divisional Officer, Chairman of the Wum Central Farmer/Grazier Commission, the undermentioned members met at the Wum Sub-divisional Office before proceeding to the location in-quo:-

- MM: 1. KAMDEM NGANNOU Maurice - Divisional Officer - Chairman
2. LOUC DETCHOU Alexandre Div. Chief of Lands - Secretary
3. Alhadji ABUBAKARY YARO Chief S/S MINEPIA - Member
4. NTIM Emmanuel Akweya - S.D.D. Agriculture - "
5. Clement ANANS Repr. Chief of Waindo Up - "
6. Ibrahim BOBA Donawa Repr. Ardo of Wum - "

Also present were:-

- Alhadji Momada
- Alhadji Idirisa Nani
- Hadji Nani

(three of the graziers complaining)

- Adnan Tidjani (25 years old)
- Lamu Wakili (22 years old)
- Amadu Aliu (26 years old)
- Abdulkarim Sula (23 years old)

(All of them are Alhadji Baba's herdsmen)

The commission members arrived the site at 11.15 a.m. and met three of the affected graziers on their invaded grazing land. The others are: Shipoma; Yala; Mauko; Rogo; Bami; Tashi; Rege Dicko; Toukou Dicko.

- The Chairman briefed the members about the problem that graziers of Waindo Up verbally complained to him about the massive invasion of their grazing lands by cattle coming from Elba Ranch Esu. He sent to call the nearest herdsman called Adanu Tidjani to ask him who brought him there, how long he stayed at the area, how many cows he is controlling etc...

- Mr. Adamu Tidjani said - that he was sent there by Alhadji Baba's representative, responsible of the Esu Elba Ranch - that he was placed under Alhadji Sule of Wum - that he just came two days ago with 69 cows - that he was born in Nwa.

The commission members moved to a hut where the herdsmen were sleeping on Amouda's grazing land. The three of them were Amadu Alin, Lamu Wakili and Abdulkarim Sule.

- The Chairman posed them some questions:- who brought you people here? who has the cattle? how many are you here? who is responsible for you people here?

- The herdsmen responded - that they came about two weeks ago - that the people bringing them were from the Esu Elba Ranch namely one Jacob; Jerome; Mahoumi; Ila and Sali - that the 56, 72 and 75 cows they were respectively taking care were Alhadji Baba's cattle - that they were told that if somebody creates them a problem, they should abandon the cattle and go back to report to Esu ranch - that they were under the care of Ardo Sule Dicko of Wum - that there are about 20 (twenty) herd of cattle which came from Esu to Waindo Up - that they didn't know if they came for transhumance or definitely - that their salaries come from Esu ranch - that some others herds are still to come - that they were herdsmen since ten years - they were born and breed as cowboys.

- Alhadji Mamuda added to his complaint that the herdsmen used to follow their wives when they want to go and find firewood or drinking water - that the situation can create a serious conflict.

- The cowboys were accusing each other in such a way for that act. They fought in front of the commission, to confirm the fact.

After these questions, Ibrahim Buba Donowo, the Alhadji Sule's representative just came, accompanied by Alhadji Makio, and apologized for his late coming.

- The Chairman asked Buba what he knew about the matter.
- Buba said that Ardo Sule was not consulted when the cattle came to Waindo Up - that one day Ardo Sule was returning from Wum town and met cattle and Alhadji Idirisa Nani discussing with the herdsmen - that the next day Ardo met Jacob, Jerome (the Manager of the ranch) in Wum and he disclosed to him that it was Alhadji Buba's cattle - that Ardo felt that the problem was above him and that was why he didn't complain to the Administration.

- Alhadji Idirisa said that the Esu Chief Hausa told him that Ardo Sule went to Kau and said that he has a vast land where more than 20 (twenty) herd of cows can graze - that he is the one bringing the cattle from Kau - that the day the cows came, he was dividing them in the various grazing lands and showing the herdsmen where to build their huts and where to graze.

The commission members, after visiting the site and hearing all the parties concerned came out with the following:-

OBSERVATIONS:

- There were three herd of cows near Alhadji Mamuda's compound in his grazing land and one near Alhadji Nani's own. There are cow dung near his compound, meaning that some of those cows used to spend their nights there. The grazier even explained that it was risky for his children to go out in the night.
- There was a "ruga" between Mamuda's compound and the cows vaccination place and another one near Hadji Nani's compound.

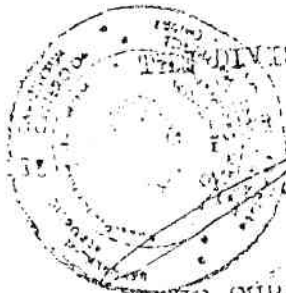
- The cows were grazing alone without any care from the herdsmen who were resting in their huts.
- The invasion was extended to other graziers whose names are listed above but not in Alhadji Sule Dicko's grazing land.

The commission members unanimously arrived at the conclusion that it was a very sad and illegal situation. If something can be done to reverse the actual situation, it could be good.

The WEBA Ranch should stop carrying out such massive invasion which is likely to disturb the settle graziers or cause untold hardship to them.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY



REGIONAL OFFICER, WUM



CHIEF OF LANDS WUM

THE SUB DIV. DEL. OF AGRIC



Cadre Contractuel d'Administration

Le Chef Sous-Secteur
The Chief of Sub-Secteur

ALHAJI ABUBAKAR YA

THE CHIEF OF WAINO UP



THE AIDO OF WUM

