

PETITION

By the attendance of a meeting held on Sunday, 24th July, 2016 at Lauto Beach front in Malakur area of Central Inland Pomio LLG, and another meeting held on Tuesday, 26th July, 2016 at Irena ward in West Pomio Mamusi LLG, Pomio District, ENBP all people from Parol-Pigapuna, Ngavale, Malakur, Rurai, Kerkerena and Baina, Irena wards have overwhelmingly agreed to petition the Government of PNG through Pomio District Administration/District Development Authority to immediately take heed of their grievous concerns and ensure that corrective measures are taken to safe guard and sustain their livelihood into the future.

Background

Under the National Government's Export Driven Economic Strategy with ENB Provincial Government's Economic Empowerment / Growing Local Economy policies that supported two agro-forestry projects to be established in Pomio District. The two (2) agro-forestry projects are; Illi - Wawas Integrated Development Project to the East and Sigite - Mukus Integrated Rural Development Project to the West.

The Sigite - Mukus Integrated Rural Development Project was established in 2008 immediately after a track of customary land was acquired by State by Lease under Section 10 and 11 of Land Act 1996. The land was later leased back by the State to Memalo Holdings Ltd, a company representing the four Land owner companies under Section 102 of the Land Act 1996.

Memalo Holdings Ltd using Section 102 of the Land Act 1996 than sub-leased the Lease Title to RimbunanHijau's subsidiary company called Gilford Ltd using the Special Agricultural and Business Lease (SABL) of the land. As we speak, Rimbunan Hijau & Gilford Ltd is the Lease Title holder for 99 – years over 42,400 hectares of land acquired in very strange circumstances.

After the above deals were made, it paved the way for large scale forestry and agricultural development activities to take place now in these following areas;-

1. Portion 196 C (15,000 hectares) Pomata Concession area – LOC: Pomata Investments Ltd
2. Portion 197 C (11,300 hectares) Kangilona Concession area – LOC: Ralopa Investments Ltd
3. Portion 198 C (16,100 hectares) Rano Concession area - LOC: Nakiura Investments Ltd

Today, a lot of customary landowners affected in the three (3) concession areas still contend with the development that has robbed them off their birth right, LAND and caused so much environmental damages.

Recent Event

Just recently on Wednesday 20th July, 2016, a delegation consisting of representatives from RimbunanHijau's subsidiary Gilford Ltd, Sinar Tiasa Company, Pomata Investments, Memalo Holdings Ltd and Unung Sigite Ltd with a high profile consultant namely, Mr KanawiPouru, former Managing Director of National Forest Authority presented a power-point presentation at Malakur area to a small group of people.

The aim of the delegation was to forcefully pressure the people of Malakur area to give consent for the large scale forestry and agricultural activities to immediately take effect in Portion 15 -27C (13,000 hectares) Unung Sigite Concession area.

Unfortunately, the delegation was bombarded with many questions relating to issues like;-the outstanding court cases pending in court, economic viability of oil palm project, compensation for environmental damages caused, and non-compliance with legislations& underlying laws, Roundtable Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certification, and the incomplete Commission of Inquiry report and importantly the acquisition (transfer) of customary lands to the State under Sections: 10 & 11 of Land Act 1996, and the validity of ILG certificates issued in 2008 and many others. All these issues in questions are related to the on-going operations in the three (3) concession areas in West Pomio Mamosi LLG/ Melkoi LLG.

In fact, no satisfactory answers were given in response to the many questions raised, but the delegation strongly demanded for the clans in Unung Sigite Concession area to demarcate the land quickly for the sake of allowing large scale forestry and agricultural activities into Portion 15 - 27C.

In response to their demand, all people of Malakur area (Parol-Pigapuna, Ngavale, Malakur- Rurai, Kerkerena and Baina wards) held a meeting on Sunday, 24th July, 2016 at Lauto Beach front, Malakur area, Central Inland Pomio LLG. And people of Irena ward in West Pomio Mamosi LLG, who also living within Unung Sigite concession area had their meeting on Tuesday, 26th July, 1996.

A grievous issue that all people have raised is **"The sudden and secretly acquisition of their customary land by the State under Section; 10 & 11 of the Land Act 1996 under the pretence that all customary landowners have given their consent to few individuals to do so."**

The people are now asking questions like: -

1. Did the higher authorities like; National Lands Dep't, ENB Provincial Lands Office and Pomio District Administration carry out extensive and thorough public awareness to fairly inform us process of State acquiring all their customary land?"
2. Did all customary landowner agreed for their customary land to be acquired by State?"
3. Why this underlying law that is widely accepted and practiced in ENB/Pomio customs " Matrilineal system" that vested the right or authority to a woman to make decision on her customary land rights was being overlooked?"
4. Therefore, did the women sign any lease agreements to surrender their customary land rights to State in 2008 Lease-Leaseback signing ceremony done here at Palmalmal?"

Absolutely, all people in Malakur area and Irena ward have reached a decision that there will be NO DEMARCATION exercise done to their land by any person, clans, village or community, corporate entity and agents of RH for the purpose of large scale forestry and agricultural activities. Their land will remain "as is where is" until the State rectifies the wrongful Land Acquisition (fraud).

Points in the Petition

Therefore, we the people of Malakur/Irena area are now petitioning the Government of PNG through Pomio District Administration/District Development Authority to immediately take heed of our grievous concerns and ensure that corrective measures are taken to safe guard our customary land that will sustain our livelihood into the future;-

1. Understand and accept our ultimate Decision that NO Demarcation exercises to divide up Unung Sigite Concession area for the purpose of large scale forestry and agricultural activities as demanded by Gilford (RH) Ltd, Sinar Tiasa Company, Memalo Holdings Ltd and Unung Sigite Ltd.

All people in Malakur/Irena areas have agreed that they will continue to use their land for gardening and small cash crop activities as their means of sustaining their daily living.

WE SAY NO TO DEMARCATION OF OUR LAND/NO LOGGING/NO OIL PALM PLANTING / RH and GILFORD and SINAR TIASA GET OUT

2. Pomio District Administration/District Development Authority must immediately communicate in writing to the four companies namely; Gilford (RH) Ltd, Sinar Tiasa Company, Memalo Holdings Ltd and Unung Sigite Ltd

our collective decision is NO TO DEMARCATION OF UNUNG SIGITE CONCESSION LAND AREA now.

In fact, they have cheated the customary landowners to allow State acquire their land and then gave it away to Rimbunan Hijau that has the worst track record of doing business in PNG.

We have raised serious questions to the proponents of FCA mentioned above and they miserably failed to give us acceptable answers.

Please advise them in strongest terms not to apply demand tactics that are deceitful and forceful to satisfy their craving to enhance and sustain their wealthy living standard, whilst we become poorer and losers in our own customary land.

WE SAY NO TO DEMARCATION OF OUR LAND and LEAVE US ALONE/GET OUT RH.

3. Pomio District Administration/District Development Authority must also communicate in writing to higher authorities our ultimate DECISION NOT TO DEMARCATe UNUNG SIGITE CONCESSION LAND AREA due to an administrative oversight that is being deliberately over-looked and now becomes a grievous issue "The sudden Acquisition of our customary land rights by State under Section: 10 & 11 of Land Act 1996 will become a catastrophic genocide when life becomes difficult for landowners in future, because their land is now sub-leased for 99 years to Rimbunan Hijau, timber thief.

The authorities that need informing are;

- (i). ENB Provincial Government/Provincial Administration
- (ii). ENB Provincial Forest Management Committee
- (iii). National Forest Authority
- (iv). National/Regional/Provincial Lands Offices
- (v). Dep't of Agriculture & Livestock
- (vi). Dep't of Environment & Conservation
- (vii). Roundtable Sustainable Palm Oil Secretariat

The SIGITE MUKUS INTERGRADED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT was sanctioned by many agencies of government as stated above; therefore it is a must that these authorities know our decision.

4. We take this golden opportunity to inform Pomio District Administration/District Development Authority that we all have decided that

Unung Sigite Concession area is conserve for TOURISM DEVELOPMENTS only to take place as most other areas in Pomio District are succumbing to dirty and short-lived developments that destroys the environment. Upon this decision, we strongly urge Pomio District Administration/District Development Authority to seriously consider it based on its merits and process all necessary processes to declare Unung Sigite Concession area as Wild Management and Conservation area.

The area contains some of the best sites for tourism development like: Iowa Wara waterfalls, Pelaumatana caves, Deep Sink holes (caves) above Malakur villages, Steep gorges at Sigite, jungles for trekking, white long beaches and our colour traditional culture.

Already, ENB Province has been declared as Tourism Hub in the country and Pomio District needs to tap into that Tourism Industry. We declare Malakur area, CIPLLG in Pomio District to be the tourism hub, and PDA/DDA must intervene now to process approvals and give appropriate funding to develop it.

WE DO NOT WANT DESTRUCTIVE ENTITY LIKE RH TO SAY IT CAN DEVELOP THE AREA IN TOURISM/ GET OUT RH.

5. Pomio District Administration/District Development Authority must fully understand us the people of Malakur area that we are not blind to see the large scale damages caused to the customary land and environment, social problems and the loss of birth rights that is affecting the innocent people in three (3) Concession areas namely; Pomata, Kangelona and Rano that will have lasting effect on their lives later.

Geographically, we the inhabitants of Unung Sigite area now live on land that is mountainous with deep drains and contain volumes of under earth waters. Frankly speaking, it is very evident the water emanating into rivers like Malope, Ririna, WaraKalap, Susi and Liton, Kulaulau and many small rivulets that are all located in Unung Sigite area flows out underground.

We rightly dwell on a danger zone that all care must be given to protecting the environment as it is the only buffer to any catastrophic disaster ready to happen. We the Malakur/Irena people do not want our lives to be destroyed by greed for money by few individuals.

Therefore, please advise the timber thieves and environmental atheist to stay out of Unung Sigite concession area as they are greatest pretenders in caring for human lives.

6. We call on the Pomio District Administration/District Development Authority to immediately intervene and advise the government agencies namely; ENB

PFMC and National Forest Authority to stop granting the Sub-lease to Gilford Ltd. The sub-lease is given based on the Land Investigation Report (LIR).

However, the Land Investigation Report (LIR) compiled for Unung Sigite area is a falsely frame-up document that contained omissions and errors.

As concerned landowners of Unung Sigite area, we have perused the LIR document dated 26/06/09 found it to be full of omissions and errors.

Administrator, in year 2008 eighteen (18) ILGs/clans from Unung Sigite area signed the Lease-Leaseback agreements with the State to surrender their customary land to the State. In the LIR, only seven (7) ILGs/clans are claimed ascustomary landowners in Unung Sigite area.

The definition of eighteen (18) ILGs/clans signing the Lease-leaseback arrangement in 2008 to allow the State to acquire customary lands is over what customary land area; is it Unung Sigite Concession area of 12,660 hectares or Unung Sigite area that has more hectares, it is now a contentious issue here and it needs addressing by courts.

7. Finally, we take liberty to petition Pomio District Administration/District Development Authority that always put GOD first in whatever decision or action you make. By that saying, we inform you that GOD created the land, forest resources and waters in Unung Sigite Concession area for us to live and feed on and become stewards over them. God has never told us to destroy or destruct his creation at any time. It is only man's lust and greed for money and fame that is driving the managements of four companies namely; Gilford (RH) Ltd, Sinar Tiasa Company, Memalo Holdings Ltd and Unung Sigite Ltd to destroy and destruct our livelihood.

Already the Catholic Church Bishop and Lawyer have seen the plight of people in living in the three concession areas and are taking up their concerns to higher authorities, therefore, what we are telling you is no longer lies as claimed by few selfish individuals.

Please stop the escalating problems like land grabbing, false representation by greedy selfish persons to give consent to RH/Gilford and use of heavy police presence RH/Gilford Ltd to rob people off their customary land, resources and heritage.

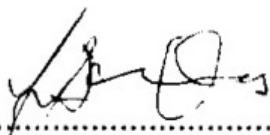
Therefore, this Petition has the support and approval of over 500 people writing their real names, villages, clans and signing signatures genuinely.

We give PDA/DDA one month of August 2016 to act on points raised in this petition.

Copies of your correspondences to higher authorities and concerned companies must be forwarded to this address; Clans in Malakur Area, C/- Central Inland Pomio LLG, POMIO DISTRICT, ENBP, ATTENTION: William Koiatuna.

Thank you for your time taken to receive this Petition and we all trust that your District Administration/District Development Authority will take our concerns into deep consideration and act on them as early as possible.

By Leaders and People of Malakur area in CIPLLG and Irena ward in West Pomio Mamusi LLG



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Hon. Bruce Lalurea Ngalungkena
Ward Member
Parole-Pigapuna Ward/CIPLLG



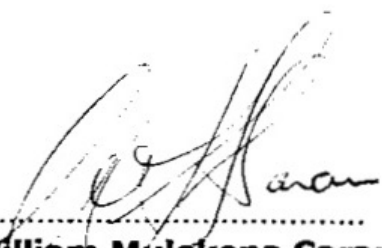
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Hon. John Kamanpune Kote
Ward Member
Ngavale Ward/CIPLLG




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Hon. Patrick Turekai
Ward Member
Malakur – Rurai Ward/CIPLLG



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Hon. John Raloga
Ward Member
Kerkerena Ward/CIPLLG



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Hon. William Mulekena Sarar
Ward Member
Baina Ward/CIPLLG



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Hon. Sylvester Boala Pamara
Ward Member
Irena Ward / WPMLLG