

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.4/34  
8 March 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Dual Distribution

17 APR 1950

--	--	--	--	--

PETITION FROM MR. V. LOKO

CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith to the members of the Trusteeship Council a communication dated 24 October 1949 from Mr. V. Loko concerning the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration. This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa.

/COPY  
T/PET.4/34

COPY

From V. Loko,  
Bamessing Village,  
Ndop N.A. Area,  
24 October 1949.

To

The Trusteeship Council  
on Tour at Bamenda,  
Thro' The District Officer, Bamenda  
" The Resident i/c Bamenda Province.

Sir,

I have the honour most respectfully beg to submit before you this petition for the grounds that:-

1. I was employed as Court Clerk under the Bamenda Native Administration on 1/9/29. I served the Native Courts of (1) Bum, (2) Fungom, (3) Mogamo, (4) Ndop and (5) Kom. All these Native Courts mentioned above with exception of Kom there were no complaints of any kind against my duty. Unfortunately in the year 1947, while as Court Clerk in Kom Native Court, I was instructed by the Fon of Kom to collect tax money on his behalf as N. A. employee, I carried out his instruction and collected the tax money accordingly.
2. The Fon has a cash tank in his house of which all money collected were kept in. The Tank has two keys - the Fon gave one key to me and duplicate to his servant (Chinda), Mr. Johnny Ngong: after some months Mr. J. Ngong left the Fon's compound and went to his own compound without handed the duplicate key to me nor the Fon himself, but said it was handed over to one Mr. Nkwan (Chinda), who denied of having received it.
3. After collection, a check was made by me and Mr. Menang in presence of the Fon himself. When the money reached Bamenda, a shortage of £60 was found by the Tax Officer; this shortage, I was asked by the Fon to pay it, I at once sold all my properties and paid in the money to satisfy the Fon. I am scrry to say that I was not made a tax collector but a Court Clerk and acted on the

/Fon's instruction,

Fon's instruction, therefore I paid this £60.

4. After paying the money, a criminal action was instituted against me in Magistrate's Court, the case was tried by the Judge and I was convicted to 3 months imprisonment or a fine of £25; I did pay the fine.

5. Later on, I was served with a notice of termination of my appointment with the Bamenda Native Administration.

6. In 1938 all Court Clerks and other N.A. employees were ordered to sign BOND with the N.A. in case of any loss of N.A. funds or property. Your humble petitioner did sign this BOND. On signing the Bonds we were told or interpreted that any loss of N.A. funds or property must be made good by the employees concerned, but in my own case, I was punished severely (1) paid the £60, (2) pay the fine of £25 and (3) dismissed from the service. I have appealed this case to the W.A.C. of Appeal, Lagos - but Appeal was refused for no reason.

7. My colleagues, N.A. employees who left or retired from the service have been granted Annual Allowance or gratuity, but your humble petitioner have nothing - I have a large family to maintain and children in schools. Besides that, 13 adult males under me of which I am the only man paying their tax money yearly.

My reason for forwarding this petition to you is that the Native Administration should award me Annual Allowance and Gratuity. I have served them for 18 years. I see no reason why these benefits were not granted me. I therefore beg to submit my humble petition for your kind consideration in the matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

(signed) V. LOKO

Ex scribe Banessing Ndop Area.

Received at United Nations Headquarters: 13 December 1949.

-----