

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



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GENERAL  
T/PET.4/98  
20 March 1953  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM THE BWINGA NATIVE COMMUNITY CONCERNING  
THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 85 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council and to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, a communication dated 19 November 1952 from the Bwinga Native Community 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

From

Bwinga Native Community,  
c/o F.M.N. Ikome,  
c/o Post Office, Tiko.  
19th November, 1952.

The Visiting Mission,  
The United Nations Organisation,  
B u e a.

The Petition of the Bwinga Native Community  
on the Bwinga Pamol Estate Limited - Victoria

We have the honour most respectfully to thank your Council for their recent reply to our previous petition of January 1952.<sup>1/</sup> We have noted with satisfaction the trend by which your honourable Council has been able to follow up the course of our complaint, but with complete dissatisfaction at the conclusions or rather findings of the Administering Authorities in the following ways.

2. It has been proved and agreed by all beyond all reasonable doubts that the Representatives of the present Pamol Estate (U.A.C.) cunningly occupied this land about 1886. It was not taken away from us by a German High Decree but by stealthful means. The special representative for the Administering Authorities agreed that this Firm had no authority to occupy this land without any bargain; that is they possessed no certificate of occupancy until the period of our complaint. It is therefore a clear indication that the said Firm being an English Firm erred in Law. We cannot understand then why the Nigerian Government decided to make us lose 45 years rent and only instructed that 21 years arrears should be deposited into the Victoria Native Authority. We humbly request that your council intervenes into this matter and endeavours to see that the correct amount of arrears are paid.

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1/ Note by the Secretariat: See T/PET.4/81 - Resolution 619(XI).

3. Now, taking for granted that the money has been deposited into the public revenue of the Native Authority in which we are represented, we shall be very grateful to know through your council what the Administering Authorities have been able to do for the inhabitants of Bwinga people on whose behalf and efforts this money has been found - nothing; since 1949 and the population of this village is decreasing daily, even with our own profits from our soil.

4. While assuming that the Authority's policy in the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship does not allow this money to be paid into the hands of the rightful owners, it will be interesting to note that the Bwinga Group known as Mutengene today is still under the Bakweri Native Administration. We have since applied to return to the Victoria Native Authority in which we were originally connected to, but the Administrative Officers in charge seems to be over-looking this request of the people by listening to a few minorities who are only interested in sharing with us what they have not laboured for. Again it was just recently that a District Officer was sent to interview the people of Bwinga and to record their suggestions as to how they wished this funds to be expended, but who knows whether this is not a "white-washing" for the Visiting Mission. We shall therefore be more than grateful if you can bring the Trusteeship Council to bear upon the Administering Authorities to materialize their promises.

5. Your humble petitioners therefore humbly wish you to call upon the Administering Authorities to be faithful in their promises, carry out the wishes of the people and create an atmosphere of good will between them and the people.

We have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most humble Petitioners,

1. ISAC NGEKA

2. MBONYA MOFA

3. ARON EWISE

4. MUAMBO NAFONDE

5. ....(Illegible)

For and on behalf of  
the Bwinga Community

Received at U.N. Hdqts.:  
10 March 1953

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