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UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



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GENERAL

T/OBS.4/2  
25 September 1952  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MR. SAMA NDI CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS  
UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION (T/PEP.4/86)

Observations of the United Kingdom Government,  
as Administering Authority

1. This petition arises from a decision to establish near Kom, in the Bamenda Province, a leper settlement to be managed, with Government assistance, by the Cameroons Baptist Mission. This project will satisfy what the Council already knows has been a long-felt want in the Bamenda Province.
2. The site in question was selected as being the most suitable by the resident, the Field Superintendent of the Mission and Agricultural and Veterinary Officers. It is in land in the occupation of the Kom Clan. The Resident then put the proposal to the Fon of Bikom and the Kom Council, explaining in detail the objects and nature of the scheme, and they agreed that the land should be made available to the Mission for the purpose of establishing a leper settlement. A copy of a letter on the subject written for the Fon by the official scribe and bearing his thumb print is appended.
3. The petitioner did not take part in these discussions. He now alleges that the Kom Council was deceived as to the nature of the project, that the site is unsatisfactory and that it differs from that shown to the Government officers and missionary by the Fon's messengers. Among the papers submitted by the petitioner is a copy of a letter purporting to be written by himself on the Fon's behalf protesting to the Mission about the position of the site.
4. The Resident has since referred these objections in person to the Fon and Council who have repudiated them.
5. The allegation that the people of Kom were hostile to the scheme was examined by the Executive Council of the Eastern Region, a body with a large

majority of elected African members, who rejected it and advised the Lieutenant-Governor to proceed with the grant of the Certificate of Occupancy to the Mission, and the payment of compensation to the few occupants thus disturbed in accordance with the law.

6. The Administering Authority considers that the petitioner's protest is unfounded and contrary to the public interest. However, if he wishes to maintain it, recourse to the Courts is open to him, since section 21(1) of the Land and Native Rights Ordinance in force reads as follows:

"If the right of the Governor to grant any right of occupancy over any land should be disputed, proceedings may be taken in the Supreme Court."

7. The Administering Authority therefore suggests that the Council should inform the petitioner that it has received and considered his representations, but that in view of the fact that the proposal to establish a much-needed leper settlement near Kom has received the approval of the Fon of Bikom and the Kom Council, and of the competent regional authority, it sees no cause to intervene.

/Fon's Palace,

Copy

Fon's Palace,  
Laikom-Kom,  
Wum District,  
Bamenda Province

12th April, 1952.

The Chief Commissioner,  
Thro' Commissioner Cameroons,  
Thro' Resident, Bamenda,  
Thro' District Officer, Wum.

LAND ALIENATION

Sir,

1. I have to bring to your information and guidance that I have given land to the Baptist Mission at Mbingo-Kom area, for a leper colony which is to be established in my land.

2. I have to let you understand and record this fact that I have not sold the land to the Mission as is the allegation going on now. It is a free gift and the Mission may not claim title to that particular plot of land.

3. I do not want any citizen of Kom or Government officers to give humbug to the Mission about that land unless I desire at any time to remove them from that land, - subject to future misunderstandings.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

FON NDI H. R. Tp.

(THUMB MARK)

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