



Green Fuel (Pvt) Limited, 54 Edinburgh Road, Vainona, Harare, Zimbabwe

Tel: +263 4 852077 Fax: +263 883 245 www.greenfuel.co.zw

ATT: Mr Hans Schappi
Solifonds
Quellenstrass 25
8031 Zurich
Switzerland

30 May 2014

By Email: fepa-ch@bluewin.ch
uelihaller@gmx.ch

“Without Prejudice”

Dear Sirs,

RE: RESPONSE TO URGENT REQUEST

We refer to your letter, published in Newsday on 26 May 2014 and received by us through email on 27 May 2014.

We have noted your concerns regarding the community in Chisumbanje and Chinyamukwakwa and it is apparent from your accusations contained therein that your organisation has been gravely misinformed.

We are aware of the individuals who have approached you and the ‘communities’ to which you refer and we have been in dialogue with them for some time now. They in no way represent the wider community in Chisumbanje and appear to be intent on serving their own political interests and undermining the Traditional Leadership that has been in place in the area for decades.

With respect, these same individuals have in the past instigated the outbreaks of violence that have you so concerned.

In any event, we take the allegations contained in your letter extremely seriously and we have deferred same to our lawyers for their opinion on the defamatory nature of its contents.

In the meantime, we respond as follows:

Alleged Destruction of Crops

There have been numerous false reports surrounding the purported bulldozers destroying the community's crops. Nothing of the sort occurred and the reports you have received relate to the building of a road in Mangocokova, an area that is within our project area and **outside of the Chinyamukwakwa area**, on land that had been demarcated for development last year.

The application for the land in question was done in accordance with DEPIC's procedures at the time and in agreement with the Traditional Leadership, which in turn communicated the development to the community.

The community was well aware of the area that was to be developed, however the company allowed them to farm there on the basis that, when the rains were over and their crops were ready for harvest, they would promptly vacate the land in order for work to commence.

As DEPIC has now been dissolved, the intention to build the road was communicated to the Traditional Leaders three weeks prior to commencement and all farmers were notified.

The company was given the go-ahead by the Traditional Leadership and construction of the road was done in their presence. The villagers' livelihoods were in no way threatened and our bulldozers by no means, "[chose] the time of harvesting to destroy their crops". The majority of the crops had already been harvested, however, in the interests of equity, the lands committee assessed the value of any crops that were affected (based on the expected yield against affected area) and all farmers were duly compensated for any losses. This was done regardless of the fact that all farmers were aware of the building of the road one year prior to its commencement and had ample time to harvest their crops.

The Conflict About Land

A Brief History Behind the ARDA/Chisumbanje Estate

In 1953, the Ministry of Agriculture established the Chisumbanje Experiment Station for the purpose of evaluating the agricultural production potential of the soils under intensive irrigation within the Chisumbanje area. In 1964, the Research Station confirmed a potential 40,000 hectares of irrigable soils and, thereafter, the Chisumbanje Development Company (Pvt) Ltd was registered in 1966 to promote the mandate of irrigation and development on the 40,000 hectares.

In 1974 a consultant was appointed to undertake a study for the development of a 15,000 hectare sugarcane estate, however this was proposal was halted by the commencement of the war.

After the liberation war (1981-1982) the Ministry of Agriculture established the Agricultural and Rural Development Authority, (ARDA), with the primary mandate to plan, coordinate, implement, promote and assist agricultural development in Zimbabwe. Keen to exploit the agricultural potential in Zimbabwe, the Government at the time instructed ARDA to commission various studies pertaining to the Greater Chisumbanje Area, not only for agricultural purposes but also for the establishment of an ethanol plant.

The most comprehensive study was carried out by Atkins Consulting Engineers (UK) in 1983, which was accepted, at the time, as the blueprint for future expansion. The Report estimated that an area of approximately 35,700 hectares would be available for agricultural purposes, after making allowances for settlement villages and infrastructure. **This area was surveyed and pegged** and, in light of this, the local community **never** built any permanent structures within the greater Chisumbanje area and merely undertook cropping activities **pending** the implementation of the project.

This land is considered communal land, under the control of the Chipinge Rural District Council, and is currently **under lease to ARDA**. All land that the estate occupies (currently around 9,375 hectares) falls within and under the ambit of a BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) agreement held with ARDA and within the 40,000 hectare

concession that is under a valid lease agreement between ARDA and the Rural District Council.

The area on which the sugarcane estate is situated cannot, therefore, be classified as “the land of [the villagers’] ancestors” but rather is within the 40,000 hectares of land that has been set aside for agricultural purposes since 1964.

The Current Situation

Any farmers whose cropping activities were affected by the implementation of the project have been given 0.5 hectares of land, developed and irrigated at the expense of the company. A total of \$10,600,000.00 has been spent on developing the irrigated land and \$530,000.00 per year is spent on pumping water to each scheme.

As a result of the consistent irrigation, the farmers are now able to produce up to three crops per year as opposed to just one crop on dry land.

Please see below and the attached document for further information.

The Dissolved DEPIC Committee

Kindly note that we have had no role in the dissolution of DEPIC, nor do we have any influence on whether or not it is reconstituted. We are a private company whereas DEPIC was an organisation set up by the Government that existed at the time.

Since the dissolution of DEPIC we endeavour to primarily work with and consult the Traditional Leadership in the area as, in accordance with the local culture, they represent the community. We urge you to engage with them to ascertain the truth behind your unfounded allegations.

Current Community Work

We have been working hard to develop a relationship with the community in the immediate and surrounding villages and have implemented a number of projects that will benefit the people for years to come.

In this regard, please find attached a brief write-up of our Corporate Social Responsibility program, coined "Vimbo – Hope for a better future" (Vimbo means hope in Shona, the local language). This shows a few of our recent projects in the area and also provides a blueprint of our future plans.

Please also visit our Facebook page to see our weekly updates on progress of our projects - <https://www.facebook.com/greenfuelvimbo>

Unfortunately, we cannot adequately convey our work with, and plans for, the community over email and so we would like to invite you to visit the area and assess the impact our company is having on the community first hand.

In the meantime, should you have any further queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the writer personally on +263 777 370 926.

Yours faithfully



NICOLE MOLLET
CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY MANAGER
GREEN FUEL (PVT) LTD

CC: Ms Simone Knapp
KASA
Im Welthaus
Will-Brand-Platz 5
D-69115
Heidelberg
Germany

Mr Ueli Haller
Fepa
Postfach 195
4005 Basel
Switzerland

Mr Christian Cappis
Parish Council of Wohlen
Dorfstr. 9
3032 Hinterkappelen
Switzerland