

BAKWERI REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCED PRIVATISATION OR SALE OF CDC

The elites and notables of Fako division, at the invitation of their traditional rulers, gathered at the Buea Municipal Council Chambers on Saturday the 23rd of July 1994 to discuss the announced proposal to privatize or sell the Cameroon Development Corporation (“CDC”).

The *ad hoc Resolutions Committee* appointed by the assembly comprised of Dr. S. N. Lyonga, Chair; Mr. G.B. Mbua Mofoke, Mr. Mokake Elali, Chief Mbella Sone Dipoko, and Professor Ndiva Kofele-Kale, secretary, submits:

- Considering that the CDC as constituted in 1946 is part of the political evolution of the united Cameroon;
- Considering that the land presently occupied by the CDC was not sold by our ancestors to successive colonial administrations in Cameroon;
- Considering that the Bakweri people had petitioned against the forcible expropriation of their land up to the level of the United Nations;
- Considering that this matter having been looked into by the United Nations on the 13th December 1946 and 1st November 1947 provided per Article 8 that the lands and natural resources in Fako Division, being native property were not transferable other than as between the indigenous natives themselves;
- Considering that Government up to this stage has failed to consult the indigenous natives, as a result therefore the indigenes of Fako gathered of Fako gathered here today at the Buea Municipal Council Chambers under the co-chairmanship of Paramount Chief S.M.L. Endeley of Buea and Paramount Chief F. Bille Manga Williams of Victoria, resolve as follows;
 1. That they vehemently oppose any attempts by Government to privatize or sell the CDC;
 2. That the land and natural resources being exploited by the CDC belong to the indigenes of Fako and cannot therefore be alienated and/or transferred to non-natives;
 3. That the *ad hoc* committee appointed by the assembly should work with the Bakweri Land Claims Committee to pursue relentlessly at all levels this matter of privatization or sale of the CDC;

1. That they shall organize nation-wide peaceful rallies and demonstrations and will welcome any sympathizers of their plight to protest the proposed privatization or sale of the CDC;
2. That all indigenes of Fako should donate generously toward this cause and are encouraged to channel their donations through their traditional rulers (details to be worked out by the accredited committee); and
3. That the CDC workers should remain calm and not panic at the announcement of the proposal to privatise or sell their corporation and are urged to be vigilant and their devotion and service to the corporation, their employer.

**DONE AT BUEA, SATURDAY THIS 23rd DAY OF JULY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-FOUR.**

Signed:

H.R.H. Sam M.L. Endeley of Buea

H.R.H Bille F. Manga Williams of Victoria