

ASSOCIATION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOKO-OH PEOPLES CAMEROON (AFTRADEMOP)

Registration No E30/573/AR/BASC of 19/10/99

1. BRIEF HISTORY:

Association For The Reconstruction And Development of the Moko-oh Peoples Cameroon (AFTRADEMOP); was founded in 1999 by Mrs. Musongong Cecilia. Provoked by the Misery and want that characterize her childhood and the sexual exploitation and abuse, the slavery and servitude to which her mothers and sisters are still being subjected to, in their search for farmland; she embarked on an in-depth research of what really rendered her family so landless and miserable.

Ekwen, Gumbo and Guwu, 3 villages each headed by a chief lived alongside Afong and Dom. These five villages made up the Moko-oh (upper) people of Moghamo a clan in Batibo Sub-division in Momo division of the North - West of Cameroon.

A migrant tribe called the Bali-Nyonga arrived the Moko-ohs' land and was hosted by Fonjengoh Chief of Guwu village. The Germans arrived subsequent to the Balis in 1889, in order to facilitate the collection of a few head tax to run their affairs, the Germans in contravention to International Law issued 1000 rifles to the Bali-Nyonga who then served as a German tool for the invasion of the Moko-oh villages and their subsequent subjugation.

To make matters worst, the Germans crowned the chief of Balis, Suzerain over 31 villages made up of people who were culturally, traditionally and linguistically alien to the Balis. The Chaos was total. This disastrous economic policy was maintained and reinforced by the British, through incessant raids and patrols that cause the Moko-ohs of Ekwen, Gumbo and Guwu villages to flee in diverse directions in 1914 away from their ancestral lands. Afong and Dom endured it all and have till date remained subjects to the alien chief of Bali. Meanwhile the Moko-ohs who fled to neighbouring villages in the 80's and 90's, timidly started to hire their ancestral land from the Bali to do subsistence farming.

With confidential colonial Reports and Maps, Mrs. Musongong gave up her job as a Police Inspector in the Cameroonian Police Force in Buea in the South-West of Cameroon where she was serving as an instructor in the Police College Mutengene and moved to Guzang village in the North-West of Cameroon in December 1998 where a remnant of 2 of the 3 villages, sought refuge and where she was born and bred.

She sensitized and mobilized the Moko-ohs to form the Association For The Reconstruction and Development of the Moko-oh Peoples Cameroon. It obtain a legal status No. E30/201/573/AR/BASC of 19/10/1999. Where she holds the post of Secretary General and Coordinator.

II. OBJECTIVES:

The main objective, of AFTRADEMOP is to RESETTLE the Moko-ohs in the 3 villages of their ANCESTRAL LANDS, there-by recovering their lost identity. By so, doing uniting the family. Also to secure adequate compensation, to the Moko-ohs, by anyone according to his role-played in unleashing forces that disrupted and destroyed the Moko-ohs' society and culture for a whole century. As well as provide meaningful and sustainable development to the Moko-ohs' community.

III. ACHIEVEMENTS:

SOCIO-CULTURAL: The launching of AFTRADEMOP, on November 12th 1999, created awareness in the people of Batibo Sub-division and beyond of a Moko-ohs' Renaissance, and a renewed impetus and hope in the Moko-ohs that, they will one day return home to the land of their birth. As the News spread, the Moko-ohs of the Diaspora, rushed to Ekwen quarter, as Ekwen village has become a quarter in Guzang village to register as members of AFTRADEMOP. Between November 1999 and February 2000, AFTRADEMOP totalled a membership of 550. Since then, till now, Moko-oh people hold General Assembly Meetings once a month, on their traditional Sunday called Kweh.

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION: AFTRADEMOP prosecuted a traditional head in Guzang in several litigations for misleading the Cameroon administration on its activities and for attempting to exile Moko-oh people from Guzang village. This man is the 3rd in an illegitimate Dynasty that was imposed on the Guzang people by the British colonial administration with the influence of the colonial Suzerain Chief of Bali to mislead any administration on the plight of the Moko-ohs.

AFTRADEMOP has 4 court judgments in their favour against this traditional ruler. In one, he was ordered to pay 500.000frs CFA to the Moko-ohs, and because of that, he has absconded from Guzang village living it to the Moko-ohs.

An administrative officer in Batibo was equally prosecuted from January to May 2003 for bribery, assault, and battery on an executive of AFTRADEMOP. On the 22nd of September 2003, he pleaded for forgiveness before the Moko-ohs General Assembly.

Presently, AFTRADEMOP is prosecuting an armed group that attacked and wounded 16 Moko-oh men, women and children, on the 16/7/03 leading to the death of the Biological father of Secretary Musongong Cecilia on the 14/8/03.

ADVOCACY: Having gathered the written history of the Moko-ohs, and living now in the village where she grow up as a child, Mrs. Musongong continued her research among the elders and notables. And on the 8/1/01, AFTRADEMOP petitioned the Presidency of The Republic of Cameroon for the resettlement of the Moko-oh peoples.

The petition was referred to the North West Governor for action. From April 2001 several working sessions were held with the Governor's cabinet, where AFTRADEMOP presented all facts and colonial documents to prove the Moko-ohs case. On the 28/2/02, the Governor gave written instructions to the Suzerain Chief of Bali to allow the Moko-ohs to continue to cultivate the same portions they have been cultivating for subsistence, pending a lasting solution.

On the 23/7/03, a meeting grouping all administrative heads in the North West was chaired by the North West Governor, where it was established that, the Moko-ohs due to circumstance beyond their control left their ancestral land, and have ever since colonial times wanted to go back but have been prevented by the colonial Suzerain, and post independent paramount chief of Bali. Who has always and continues to be favoured by the administration.

The Governor forwarded the minutes of the said meeting to the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation and on the 13/11/03, in letter No E.30.01/C122/2 AFTRADEMOP was summoned to a meeting, where members of a commission to be formed by the Minister, were selected. Madam Musongong the S. G., representing Gumbo village, Richard Tikum, the President, representing Ekwen village, Sama George, the Vice President representing Guwu village, were selected to represent AFTRADEMOP in the Commission for the demarcation of the boundary between the people of Batibo and those of Bali. We are patiently waiting for the Commission.

CONTACTS ABROAD: While waiting for the commission, AFTRADEMOP has forwarded reports on the plight of the Moko-oh people to Cultural Survival in Cambridge U.S. A, International Working group on Indigenous Affairs Iwgia in Denmark and Minority Rights Group MRG in the U. K. The U.N working Group on Indigenous Populations has also been petitioned.

AFFILIATIONS: AFTRADEMOP is a member of the Coalition For The International Criminal Court(CICC); World Organisation Against Torture(OMCT) and The Indigenous Peoples Of Africa Coordination Committee(IPACC)

INTERNATIONAL FORUMS: The Secretary General of AFTRADEMOP Madam Musongong Cecilia was invited to U.N WGIP 22nd session from July 19-23 2004 in Geneva but could not attend for financial reasons.

- AFTRADEMOP took part in a scholarship course on Globalisation. Indigenous Peoples Rights and non-violent struggles organized by the International University of peoples Institutes for Peace. IUIP in Rovereto Italy for 3 weeks.
- She also took part in a 3-day seminar by American Peace Corps on Project Designed and Management in Yaounde Cameroon. From 23-25/8/05.
- AFTRADEMOP attended the African Indigenous Women Forum on Beijing +10 from the 4-5/02/05, in Yaounde Cameroon.
- AFTRADEMOP participated in a 3 days Workshop, organised by the ILO Cameroon Office in Yaounde, and chaired by the Minister of Social Affairs, on Indigenous and Tribal peoples issues in Cameroon, from 15-17/06/05. During which it was recommended that, an Inter-Ministerial Commission, comprising MINATD, MINJUSTICE and MINAS, be created for the Restitution of the Moko-ohs Ancestral Lands and their Rehabilitation in their villages.
- Afrademop attended a weekend reflection on the Perpetration of Torture in Cameroon. Is Cameroon a State of Law?
- AFTRADEMOP is a member of the Coalition of Non-Governmental Organisations for the International Criminal Court (CICC) and Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordination Committee (IPACC).

IV. DEVELOPMENT:

AGRUCULTURE: Landlessness has hindered the development of the Moko-ohs for a whole century. The little portions they managed to acquire have lost their fertility due to intensive agricultural activities and the slash and burn methods.

AFTRADEMOP had established links with the American Peace Corps, in the area of Agro-forestry. A Common Initiative Group has been formed called Moko-oh Dynamic Friends of Nature involved in food crops production, livestock, biodiversity conservation, environmental protection and the sustainable management of Natural Resources.

EDUCATION: One of the main objectives of AFTRADEMOP is the education of the girl child who has been the worst victim of the Moko-ohs' plight. We are happy that presently every Moko-oh girl child of school age is attending school.

Plans are under way to expose the Moko-oh children to information and communication technologies. (ICTS) AFTRADEMOP is presently working towards the creation of an indigenous Resource Centre, where the indigenous children of Cameroon will be trained and exposed to ICTs, and information will be available about and for indigenous peoples.

HEALTH: During General Assembly Meetings. HIV/AIDS is often discussed and debated upon.

V. FINANCES:

AFTRADEMOP is financed by membership contributions. Members of AFTRADEMOP are practicing a saving and loan scheme, which is going on timidly because of abject poverty.

VI. THE FUTURE:

AFTRADEMOP intends to provide a MACRO-FINANCING facility for its members. When the Moko-ohs will be resettled on their ancestral land, the Moko-ohs sacred forest will be developed into an ECO-TORISTIC sight with fishponds and swimming pools, flower gardens and a game reserve. The Moko-ohs will move from subsistence to mechanized agriculture. The Moko-ohs will welcome partnership in the area of Human and Indigenous people, rights, Gender Equality, Girl child education, Environmental protection, agriculture and tourism.

Done this 30/06/2005

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