

DISTRICT MULTI STAKEHOLDERS PLATFORM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON MALOA PETITION AGAINST SOCFIN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY RSPO CERTIFICATION

WEDNESDAY 11TH MAY 2022.



Engagement with Community Stakeholders in Malen Community



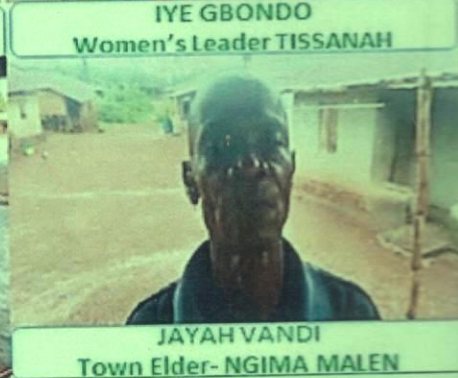
JAMES BLANGO
Health Member BAMBA



MOHAMED MUSTAPHA
Town Elder- SEHEHUN



IYE GBONDO
Women's Leader TISSANAH



JAYAH VANDI
Town Elder- NGIMA MALEN

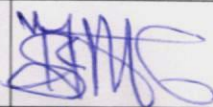
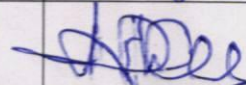
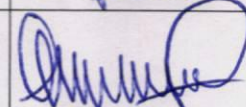
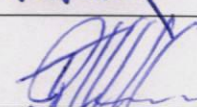
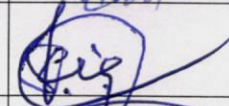
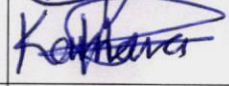
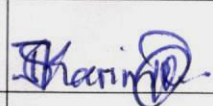
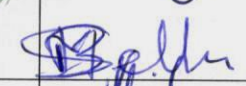

DISTRICT MULTI STAKEHOLDERS' PLATFORM- DMSP- PUJEHUN

UPDATE ON THE INVESTIGATION OF MALOA PETITION AGAINST SOCFIN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY RSPO CERTIFICATION.

DATE: Wednesday 11th May, 2022. **Summarized by: Membership of D.M.S.P- PUJEHUN DISTRICT**

ISSUES	Plans/Action
Introduction/ Background of DMSP.	<p>The district multi-stakeholder platform is a body established to settle land governance issues, sensitize communities on land policies, regulations and monitor the implementation of large-scale investments and communal land acquisitions. The platform also advocates for human right based issues, and lobby with government and partners for best practices on land issues. The committee comprises of District officer, Chief administrator Pujehun District Council, District coordinator ONS, chairman of civil society forum, women's leader, media rep, Agro investment representatives, chairman council of paramount chiefs, Pujehun district ministerial council, Lands and Housing officer, District youth council, Landholding families and Persons with Disabilities. DMSP was collectively established by Civil Society Organizations, PICOT, and a member organization of the land for life consortium which provides funds for most of the activities and other engagements.</p> <p>Since its establishment, the DMSP has resolved series of land disputes in some chiefdoms/communities: (Peri chiefdom -land conflict between BOMI and Gbanahun over Kansas; kpaka and Sorogbeima over a piece of land at Liya village, compensation to the people at Vaama Kortu in Makpele chiefdom for their quarry), etc.</p> <p>The Pujehun District Multi-Stakeholders Platform (DMSP) organized a five-day community engagement in 22 communities in Malen Chiefdom from the 3rd to the 8th of May 2022. *</p>
Our activities.	<p>In line with mandate District Multi –stakeholders to promote good land governance culture in Sierra Leone through inclusivity partnership and dialogue and our function to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hold regular meetings to look into all land- related matters occurring within the district; Support chiefdom and local council in community land administration to prevent any potential conflict between individual, communities or between investment companies and landowners. Conduct regular field visits or special assessment visits in area where land- related conflict is reported. Identify early warning signs of conflict and engage the appropriate authorities immediately Listen to land related complaints that have not been addressed by the appropriate authorities, look into such complaints and support the designated authorities address all grievances without fear and favour.
The topic of investigation.	<p><i>“Information on Malen Affected Landowners Association- (MALOA) Petition Against Socfin Agricultural Company RSPO Certification Using Names of Children and Signing on Behalf of People”.</i></p> <p>During our last DMSP meeting, while giving an update from Chiefdoms, an issue was raised in regards to a petition written against Socfin RSPO certification, and that the said approach by MALOA left people doubtful with some security threats which the DMSP deemed necessary to carry out an investigation and have first-hand information. According to the news, the approach from MALOA was to do registration for food supply but later turned out to be a petition written in their names.</p> <p>Considering the exigency of the issue and its security implications, the District Multi-stakeholders platform (DMSP) went on a spot assessment visit in 22 villages in Lower and Upper Sahn Malen to ascertain the veracity of the report and sound the opinion of the people.</p> <p>From the villages visited, about 80% of the people denied knowledge of the aforesaid document. They further informed the team that, it was surprising to see their names on the document without any prior knowledge.</p>

	The DMSP is concerned about promoting a peaceful atmosphere in every part of the District, hence took the independent lead to investigate the matter.
Expected result/ General objective of the visit.	<p>DMSP as a platform established to settle land governance issues, sensitize communities on land policies and regulations and monitor the implementation of large-scale investments and communal land acquisitions, the purpose of the engagement was based on the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To address the potential security threats upon the release of the Petition of SAC RSPO Certification which was said to be signed on behalf of the people. • To engage communities about their understanding of the SAC RSPO certification and the Petitioning of the Certification. • Publication of key fact finding and community perception about the petition and share within interested parties' necessary social media platforms. • A case and success stories capturing photos of landowners and others whose names are on the petition. • Capture people's perceptions about the petition. • Produce a field monitoring report and share it with the parties involved to guide community engagement actions for sustainable peace in the chiefdom.
Summary Observation during the Investigation.	<p style="text-align: center;">(What did the team find out at the end of the day?)</p> <p>From different engagements with targeted communities, the undermentioned were key findings on the Signing of the Petition;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Most of the people who signed the petition were not aware of signing a petition. ➤ Some people only became aware to have signed a petition during the investigation meeting by DMSP. ➤ We learned that some people signed the petition on the pretext that they will receive supplies for the vulnerable people, some for employment, and others signed because they are aggrieved with SAC operations. ➤ We also learned that in some communities the list was compiled by an individual and signed without the knowledge of those whose names were on it. ➤ Meetings during the investigation mission revealed there was no prior community engagement for the petition written against SAC RSPO Certification. ➤ Also, some names written on the petition were under the ages of seven and below. (Like in the case of Kpanguma community HAWA MUNDA and ADAMA MAGBA 4 (four) years old each). ➤ Names of school-going pupils were also included on the list without knowing the context of the petition. ➤ We observed that members of MALOA were involved in putting the documents together on behalf of the people. ➤ Some members engaged from MALOA (SIMA MATTIA, SIDIE SWARAY, and MOIWA FULLEI) agreed to have signed the documents. Also, MOHAMED ROGERS, JAMES BLANGO and MUSTAPHA VANDI were among those who went clandestinely at night to register people on the pretext of relief items.
Conflicts identified and resolved during the engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The people in Banaleh challenged the focal person for writing their names without a clear explanation. This caused tension in the community that led to an attack on him, but the situation was put under control by ONS and team members. ➤ A similar incident took place in Kortumahun where the people attacked the focal person to the extent of beating him up. This was also controlled by the team. ➤ Some members in Kassay also challenged the focal person for the petition, that he did not inform them of the purpose as they trust the work of SAC and are willing to work with them. ➤ There was also a confrontation in Gandorhun between some people whose names were on the list without their knowledge.

	<p>➤ In Tissana, the town chief's wife was included in the list without her notice which created almost separation. The town chief vowed to divorce the wife for undermining his status, which was however handled by the Team and put the situation under control</p>			
The method used for investigation.	<p>➤ Organize Town Hall meetings in 22 communities mention in the petition.</p> <p>➤ Focus Group Discussion with Key Informants.</p> <p>➤ DMSP's engagement with communities started with an engagement on air to raise awareness with two radio stations in the district (Radio Wanjama 101.1 in Pujehun town and Radio Malen 98.5 in Sahn town before and after the investigation.</p> <p>➤ In the communities, two different meetings were held; one general meeting with community members to explain the overview of the visit, and a focus group discussion with key informants in an open dialogue. At the end of the investigation, a general meeting was held at the chieftdom headquarters (Sahn Town) to present findings report from the investigation.</p>			
END	<p>This investigative summary report is supported by the following The committee comprises of District officer, Chief administrator Pujehun District Council, District coordinator ONS, chairman of civil society forum, women's leader, media rep, Agro investment representatives, chairman council of paramount chiefs, Pujehun district ministerial council, Lands and housing officer, district youth council, Land holding families and Persons with Disabilities. DMSP was collectively established by Civil Society Organizations, PICOT, and a member organization of the land for life consortium.</p>			
Members Present during the investigation;	NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION	SIGNATURE
1.	YANKUBA JOEBAI	ASSISTANCE DISTRICT OFFICER (ADO) DMSP CHAIRMAN	DISTRICT OFFICE PUJEHUN	
2.	FESTUS GBANIE	DISTRICT SECURITY COORDINATOR PUJEHUN DISTRICT DMSP MEMBER	OFFICE OF NATIONAL SECURITY	
3.	IBRAHIM BORGIWA SWARAY	CHAIRMAN CIVIL SOCIETY PUJEHUN DISTRICT D.M.S.P- SECRETARY	NETWORK PLATFORM FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY (NEPAD)	
4.	JOSEPH KOBIE JR.	DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER PUJEHUN DMSP MEMBER	MINISTRY OF LANDS PUJEHUN DISTRICT	
5.	SUNNY LEIGH	PROJECT MANAGER DMSP MEMBER	Action For Community Task	
6.	ABRAHAM FATHER KAMARA	PASTOR DMSP MEMBER	INTER RELIGIOUS COUNCIL PUJEHUN	
7.	SYLVANOUS JOESPH KARIM	REPORTER DMSP MEMBER	RADIO WANJEI PUJEHUN	
8.	MARY B. SELLU	WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE DMSP MEMBER	WOMEN OF WANJAMA (WOW)	
9.	SAIDU KALLON	YOUTH DMSP MEMBER	YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE	

END.