THE MEFANE DECLARATION BY THE BAGYELI INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF AKOM II SUBDIVISION FOR RECOGNITION OF THEIR RIGHTS

On the occasion of the 30th edition of the International Day of the Indigenous Peoples commemorated under the theme **"the protection of the rights of the indigenous peoples in situation of voluntary isolation or initial contact",** we Bagyeli of the localities of Mefane, Awomo, Nyabitande, Fenda, Akom Akoué gathered on August 09, 2024, to learn and share experiences around our struggles to improve the respect of our rights. As a result, we note:

- The non-existence of a national legal framework recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples, despite Cameroon's international commitments requiring it to respect the rights of indigenous peoples[1];
- The precarious citizenship of Bagyeli people due to the low number of births registered in hospitals, and the lack of financial resources to issue birth certificates and national identity cards;
- The persistence of conflicts between the Bantus and the Bagyeli, particularly over lands;
- The poor access to benefits of natural resource exploitation, particularly forestry by the Bagyeli people;
- The persistent under-schooling of Bagyeli children, as schools in Bagyeli communities do not function. Bagyeli parents also lack the financial means to enrol their children in school;
- The marginalization and non-implication of Bagyeli in management and decision-making, and in the implementation of development projects;
- The weak recognition of Bagyeli traditional chieftaincies. In most cases, indirect rule is the order of the day, decisions concerning us are administered by/from Bantu traditional chiefs;
- The existence of several initiatives to improve respect and recognition of Bagyeli rights.

In view of the above, we recommend:

1. **Bagyeli communities to:**

- Register births regularly in hospitals;

[1] The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the African Charter on Human Rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, etc.

- Send children to school and follow up regularly;
- Regularly denounce abuses against the Bagyeli to the authorities;
- Implement income-generating activities and assume leadership roles.

2. Civil society organizations to:

- Continue to support indigenous peoples in improving their citizenship;
- Continue to support the process of legal recognition of Bagyeli lands and chiefdoms;
- Support the Bagyeli in leadership and in implementing income-generating activities.

3. To the State

- Adopt a text that frames and protects the rights of indigenous peoples;
- Ensure that the Bagyeli have access to the benefits arising from the exploitation of forest resources;
- Resolve Bagyeli land conflicts with the Bantus;
- Strengthen Bagyeli participation and representation in the management of public affairs and in local decision-making bodies;
- Create and operate schools in Bagyeli communities that respect their culture;
- Facilitate Bagyeli and Bantu dialogue with a view to securing and recognizing traditional Bagyeli land areas;
- Continue to produce citizenship documents for the Bagyeli (birth certificate, national identity cards, etc.);
- Ensure appropriate and timely compensation and resettlement measures for Bagyeli people where project impacts cannot be avoided.

Done in Mefane

Annex

- Attendance list

LA CELEBRATION DE LA 30E EDITION DE LA JOURNEE INTERNATIONALE DES PEUPLES AUTOCHTONES (JIPA) 2024

Lieu : MEFANE - AKOM II

Date : 09 - 08 - 2024

Liste de présence

N°	Nom et prénoms	Village/organisation	Signature
1.	AYENA Clarisse	AWOMO	
2.	NDOM Thérèse	MFOMO	
3.	MEBONGO Natalie	MFOMO	
4.	MBA Elise	MFOMO	
5.	BIKADA Eline	NYABITANDE	
6.	EKOMO Jeannette	MEFANE	
7.	NSOM AFOMSE	MEFANE	
8.	NGON Marie	MEFANE	
9.	OBAM Jonas	AWOMO	
10.	Ekom Corent	NYABITANDE	

13.	MIGON Sitorée	MEFANE	
14.	NYABIE WELE VALERIE	MEFANE	
15.	BIKADA FERDINAND	NYABITANDE	
16.	ZEH HARMAN	NYABITANDE	
17.	NGOMBAYO Poulin	NYABITANDE	
18.	I	NYABITANDE	
19.	NSAGONE ANEVE	MEFANE	
20.	NGUEMA NSOM MARSELIN	AWOMO	
21.	MEGUE DELFINE	MEFANE	
22.	OBAM BERINE	MEFANE	
23.	MEDOULA KIOBINE	MEFANE	
24.	ENGON PASCAL AWOMO	AWOMO	
25.	Mvelle Samuel Patrice	TAEB AKOM II	
26.	KÉ ISÉPO	MEFANE	
27.	ONANA BIDJI JOSEPHE	MEFANE	
28.	AFAN ARNO	MEFANE	

29.	EMANE MERIME	MEFANE	
30.	EVINA ERMANE	MEFANE	
31.	NANGA SUZI	BILOBE	
32.	MVONISO Solonge	BILOBE	
33.	NGOISA MARGUERITTE	AKOM2 V.	
34.	NYAGONE MASELINE	AKOM2 .V.	
35.	MEBA'AH Victoire	AKOM2 .V.	
36.	Jolie OWANE	NKOEVOMBA	
37.	Patricia OBONG	OWOMO	
38.	[illegible] ATHOMANE	MEFANE	
39.	NKom EISOIR	MEFANE	
40.	OBOM KABSi. JOIEL	ME FANE	
41.	MENGUE Mois	FEUDA	
42.	NYA ZEH MATINE	MEFANE	
43.	OYANE ISIANE	MEFANE	
44.	NLEM Joseph Camille	AKOM2	

45.	NYAISANS Gaistelle	NYAMSITENISE	
46.	ISOUBA MSom Moise	MEFANE	
47.	OBAM JANT	MEFAMO	
48.	AJELINE YANCA	ME FANE	
49.	ISJEBA ISOUBA JANT	NYAMSITENISE	
50.	BIKOW FRANSOJRE	MEFANE	
51.	MEYE DAVID	MEFANE	
52.	MFOUM SANDRA	MEFANE	
53.	KEEISIC EMILien	MEFANE	
54.	MTHAME Rosalie	MEFANE	
55.	KABESE NE Magalie	MEFANE	
56.	SIOW frida	MEFANE	
57.	NYAGONE Darlene	MEFANE	
58.	Tchakodiki IVANT	MEFANE	
59.	Tchakadet Samuel	MEFANE	
60.	MBANG YOLANDE	mefane	

61.	OYANE, Catiana	MEFANE	
62.	MEDJA Brenda	MEFANE	
63.	MEISSA Marie	MEFANE	
64.	NGONE Madeleine	MEFANE	
65.	OBAME Fani	MEFAN	
66.	ABOUNA Wadi	MEFANE	
67.	EYEGUA Finette	BENISA	
68.	NTOLO ISSENIE	NYABILENDO	
69.	MBIDA MAXIME	Commissariat Sécurité Publique	
70.	ESSAME DJOMO ALBERT X	SASO/AKOM II	
71.	MEDOU ENGO EDOUARD	Dep CASER	
72.	EBANE NKWELLE	G.D.A	
73.	MEDE ARMEL FRANÇOIS	ADEBAKO	
74.			
75.			
76.			