

MINUTES ON PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE (PRCC) SITTING

HELD ON 2ND SEPTEMBER 2022

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

1. Hon. Ohemeng Prempeh Isaac -Chairman
2. Hon. Osei Kwaku Michael - Member
3. Hon. Yaw Sarfo Kantanka - Member
4. Hon. Stephen Appiah - Member
5. Hon. Ernestina Ampofowaa - Member
6. Hon. Nana Ama Boatemaa - Member

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

1. Mr. Augustine Agyei - Secretary
2. Mr. Emmanuel Appiah - NCCE, Member
3. Mr. J.T. Kwamong - Civil, Member
4. Miss Ofeibea Tetteh Patience - NCCE, Member
5. Prince Boakye-Yiadom - BYC, Member
6. Nana Ama Boatemaa - Civil, Member

IN ATTENDANCE

1. Ahmed Oduro - Asuofua
2. Yaw Amoh - Asuofua
3. Adu Stephen - Asuofua
4. Ahmed Kwarteng - Asuofua
5. Francis Berchie - Asuofua
6. Richard Opoku Ware - Asuofua
7. Prosper Pandam - Asuofua
8. Rose Kumoro - Asuofua
9. Ataa Anima - Asuofua
10. Monica Anin - Asuofua
11. John Appiah - Asuofua
12. Bermah Kotum - Asoufua
13. Memunah Boakyewaah - Asuofua
14. Patience Authur - Asoufua
15. Florence Boateng - Asoufua
16. Yaw Baah - Asoufua
17. Stephen Agyapong - Asuofua
18. Thomas Yaw Acheampong - Asuofua

19. Nana Ampofowaa Tiwaah	- Asoufua
20. Asamoah Simon	- Asoufua
21. Ahmed Kwateng	- Asuofua
22. Osei Akwasi	- Asuofua
23. Abudu Rahmani Boakye	- Asuofua
24. Nana Kwabena Mensah	- Asoufua
25. John Tuffour	- Asuofua
26. Oduro Kwateng Edmond	- Asuofua
27. Antwi Boasiako	- Asofua
28. Ama Gyapomaah	- Asuofua
29. Yaa Anane	- Asoufua
30. Abena Nyarko	- Asoufua
31. Kwaku Atta	- Asuofua
32. Jonathan Mensah	- Asoufua
33. Vida Kokonu	- Asuofua
34. Salami Bukare	- Asuofua
35. Musah Osman	- Asuofua
36. Issah Agoma	- Asoufua
37. Abanga Bashiru	- Asoufua
38. Ayamba Enusah	- Asoufua
39. William Akomoh	- Asoufua
40. Samson Woyetey	- Asoufua
41. Salifu Mohammed	- Asoufua
42. Matthew Biygre	- Asuofua
43. Richard Awuni	- Asuofua
44. Bernard Daniel Kumoro	- Asuofua
45. OII John	- Barekese
46. Evans Yeboah	- Pinten
47. Akwasi Kankam	- Asuofua
48. Musah Ayaba	- Pinten
49. Salifu Ampreten	- Asuofua
50. Donsil Moses	- Asuofua
51. Naah Dari	- Asuofua
52. Sogaltey Paul	- Asuofua
53. Elnad Bangan	- Asuofua
54. Abu Kanyarah	- Asuofua

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| 55. Antorah Abraham | - Asuofua |
| 56. Grace Amo | - Asuofua |
| 57. Moro Abdul Majeed | - Asuofua |
| 58. Frank Ebo Yartel | - Barekese |
| 59. Daniel Donyinah | - Barekese |

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was said by Hon. Yaw Sarfo Kantanka at 10:42 am.

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Isaac Ohemeng Prempeh introduced Committee members stating on their functionality in the Assembly and welcomed all. He stressed on the core functions of the Committee as part of educating, investigate complaints or allegations against entity and other functions reasonably related to its core functions. Parties involved in the case before the Committee were asked to summarize their complaints.

DELIBERATIONS ON ISSUES BEFORE THE HOUSE

(CASE NO. 1) FARMING AT DAMSITE (ADJOURNED CASE (FRIDAY, 26TH AUGUST 2022))

COMPLAINANT

In reference to the last sitting on Friday, 26th August 2022 at the District Assembly involving farmers at Dam site and their owners which was adjourned to Friday, 2nd September 2022. Mr. Osei Akwasi, Asuofua, among the Complainants said they (Owners of the land at Dam site) gave their land to some farmers to work on. They had a written agreement on the percentage to be shared when the farming business mature. Contrary to this, for the past ten (10) years such division has not ensued between the farmers and them. Anytime they called on them to consider the agreement, they were told the land currently belonged to the Assembly and that they can not give any percentage to them (Landowners, Complainants). The breach of the initial agreement has triggered summoning them before the Committee so that it will be solved.

Interjection

Chairman thanked the complainants. He further, asked the Complainants, if there was any other statement to be added that have been left behind, but they said no. They sided to what Mr. Osei Akwasi has said.

DEFENDANT

Mr. Daniel Bernard Kumoro, Head of the farmers at the Dam site, seconded to the complainants (Mr. Osei Akwasi) complains as factual and true. He added that it was they (Complainants) who initiated them into the farming business particularly at the Dam site. He also indicated that they were to farm and after harvest share the percentage but when they commenced farming, the Military and other security agents started visiting the place to cut down the farm produce

(Cocoa and others). He continued that it was from 2016 then at Atwima Nwabiagya South District (Nkawie) that the matter began. The sensitive nature of the matter resulted in the defendant to report the matter to the then DCE Hon. Obama. He referred as to the Presiding member then in the person of Hon. Isaac Ohemeng Prempeh. After deliberations with the presiding member, he directed us to bring all defendants at the Dam site within a week. The defendants told the organizers of the meeting that they had paid compensation to the complainants and that if the complainants had evidence to prove otherwise, they should provide it. The defendants stated that their agitation began when it became clear that there was going to be a new District out of the existing one which will be Atwima Nwabiagya North District Assembly and for the fear of losing their farm products. This was the main reason why they told the complainants to share the products from the farm hence the agreement to share in a certain percentage. The defendant said he had earlier warned his people to make sure they adhere to that agreement and anyone who went contrary to that would be penalized but had no reason why they had been summoned once again. He currently had some cases sitting on whilst others he had managed to get it addressed.

Chairman: Elder what happened last year (2021) that made you (farmers) renegotiated with the landowners?

Mr. Daniel Bernard Kumoro (affectionately called Elder, herein Defendants)?

Chairman: If there be any explanation, they (Complainants) would be in the best position to answer, permit to cite you, Elder for how many years have you farmed on the land?

Defendant: Five (5) years onwards

The Committee asked the Defendant supposedly the land belonged to the Government, they would be paying dividends to the Government and for the past five (5) years the government have not received a pesewa from you farming and vice versa. And they have gone behind the government to renegotiate with the landowners of which they admitted they were wrong. But they did that based on establishing peace among their landowners. And since they had their activities on the land, they have never given a percentage to the landowners. Chairman put it to the Defendants of cheating the landowners for the past five (5) years of which nothing had been given to them. Elder said it was some of them who have not gone by the agreement.

They (Complainants) came to them to informed that they should give them some of the farm produced of which they agreed to. They were split the farm produce to three (3) and give 1/3 to the landowner. Evans Yeboah (Defendants) said it was he who asked his landowner to type an agreement letter to secure his operations on the land coupled with peace. The Committee realized that there was an error in date with the agreement letter. But he explained that the oral agreement went before the typed document. Defendant said their agreement letter was made on just last year, but the Complainants said it has been since, but her illiteracy is making not

remembering the exact date. I have agreed with my owner to share the farm produce by half but since I (Evans Yeboah, Defendant) have not had a full farm produce, I have not been able to do so but I sometimes give her something (like 400, 200, etc.), which according to Chairman did not sum up to a bag of cocoa. Chairman made him aware of his action as a cheat to the owner. The Committee made the farmers aware that the planting of trees are National agenda, and they (Defendants) were to see to it that those trees have been planted. Based on that, Hon. Stephen Appiah, member of the Committee pledged to take the seedlings to the farmers for use. After hearing both parties (Complainants and Defendants) the Committee realized that the farmers at Dam site were in a way cheating the government and landowners to their advantage, so these recommendations were made:

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Committee recommended that the farmers sit with the landowners and renegotiate on sharing percentage. Which must be backed by a written and signed document by both parties with a copy submitted to the Committee.
2. The Committee recommended that the farmers go back and plant the trees which were agreed on by the sector minister for Lands and Natural Resources.
3. The Committee recommended to management to consider a proposal of a Cocoa buying district to house the beans produced in our District to attract revenue within and around.
4. The Committee recommended a collaboration between the farmers and landowners to fix the deplorable state of the Subin bridge.
5. The Committee recommended that in submission of the agreed negotiation between both parties on the shared farm produced there must be an attached bond signed to plant the trees.
6. The Committee recommended that some periods be set to visit the Dam site and ascertain the state of what have been arrived at.

(CASE NO. 3) WITHDRAWAL (REVOCATION) OF BUILDING PERMIT

Mr. Franz Ebo Yartel, (Head of the Physical Planning) was explained to the reason he and Mr. Daniel Donyinah were being summoned before the Committee. A woman referred as Christiana Adobaw (Complainant) seeking for the revocation of a building Permit of a developer on their family land in Asuofua. He (Technocrat) said the Assembly based its activities on the law and the legal backing to the issuance of the building permit is Land Use and Spatial Planning Act 925 and the National Building Regulations permits them to consider certain documents before they issue permit. He quoted that “granting of permit does not confirm ownership.” if one has a permit, it does mean the person owes the land, according to him it was for the project being developed on the land and that is the clause the Assembly uses.

The technocrat said that the Defendants (Bernard Opoku) came for a permit, (it is true he has used a permit to erect that building) of which the land did not belong to him. Ebo said his outfit asked him to tender in the allocation paper that meant he had been given the land to develop and added an agreement he had with the person who gave him the land because the permit was not in the land owners name it was on the Defendants name, so we asked to prove with the agreement that he had the privilege to develop, of which he submitted. Based on it that the (Atwima Nwabiagya North District Assembly) herein Assembly issued him (Defendant) a permit, and so if someone claimed that land belonged to him or her and the Assembly have issued a permit to that effect then the Assembly has nothing to add on, the Assembly does not discuss land matters. More importantly the case was before Court. Whoever wins the court case is not our problem and currently they have started operating the stores and the Assembly can go for their revenue. He asked if the Complainant had issue, she should have stopped the person right from scratch. If we withdrew the permit, he may decide to come for his (Defendant) permit fee and how can the Assembly refund such money, so he proposed the court conclude with the case and the Assembly cannot have anything to do with the case. Chairman complained of a missing agreement of which the Defendant did not tender that in. He (technocrat) said he should have produced that and he not doing so would be for the Committee to seek for that document. Chairman said not until he (Defendants) has provided the Agreement document the case would be pending. He (Technocrat) said he would provide a copy of the Agreement document, or he would contact the Defendant to submit the document. After hearing parties involved in the case backed by the technocrat's version recommended.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The District Physical Planning Officer was asked to submit a copy of the Agreed document he claimed he had from the Defendant (Bernard Opoku) to the Committee the very day or in the coming weeks and as at now the Committee had not received that document.
2. The Committee recommended to management that the issue be taken to the General Assembly Meeting for onward discussion and action. Until then the case is still before the Committee.
3. The Committee recommended that Complainants would be written to after Assembly's decision.

CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

Hon. Isaac Ohemeng Premph thanked members for their participation and was followed with a closing prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER

A prayer was said by Hon. Yaw Sarfo Kantanka at 12:01pm.

Hon. Isaac Ohemeng Prempeh
Chairman, PRCC

Augustine Agyei
Secretary, PRCC