

STATEMENT ON THE EVICTIONS OF BALI / DIKOLO, COHABITATION BETWEEN CAMEROONIAN CITIZENS AND THE FUTURE OF NATIONAL AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN CAMEROON

The Movement for the Renaissance of Cameroon (MRC) is following with great interest the fate of the people who were evicted from their homes in Bali - Dikolo, Douala, on May 14, 2022.

It should be noted that this situation is the result of the usual gluttony of some public officials won by the frenzy of insatiable monopolization of both public and private property. Indeed, they preferred to choose this site inhabited by peaceful citizens with land titles that are said to be inviolable, while the Jos plateau, where the State is supposed to have a land reserve and which seems more appropriate for a project of this nature and scale, is arrogantly shared between usurping cronies of power.

With all due respect, the MRC believes that the method that led to the spectacular demolition of the houses is brutal and characteristic of the CPDM regime that has taken over our country. In such a sensitive matter, why did the government refuse to clarify matters in order to dispel all misunderstandings with all parties, before proceeding with demolitions?

Now that the demolitions have been made and some people feel that their rights have not been respected or fully taken into account, it is urgent for the government in place to explain the entire process that led to this real estate operation, now a source of controversy that could harm social peace and investment in our country.

In a video that can be viewed on social networks, the developer of the hotel project planned on the disputed site claims to have worked closely with local traditional chiefs, local public authorities, the Government and the Presidency of the Republic in order to take into account the

legitimate interests of the people concerned and acquired the land in question for 30 million dollars, or about 18 billion CFA francs, for 2ha, 63 a, 30 ca.

However, a list of 63 people expropriated and compensated by a decree of January 9, 2020 of the Prime Minister, currently circulating on social networks, shows that only 322. 597.019 CFA francs (three hundred and twenty two million five hundred and ninety seven thousand and nine CFA francs) have supposedly been paid to the evicted people.

On the basis of these two pieces of information in circulation, it appears that the State would have paid less than 1.79% of the 18 billion CFA francs that it would have received from the purchaser of the land. On the basis of this sale price of 18 billion CFA francs for 2 ha, 63a, 30 ca, the price per m2 would be approximately 700,000 CFA francs.

In view of the disproportion between the amount that the State would have received and the amount that would have been paid to the people who were evicted, it is urgent that the Government explain how this operation was carried out, which puts people in conflict with an investor who could be in good faith.

This operation suggests that the State, through its representatives, including at a very high level, and the local traditional chiefs have agreed to despoil the people who were evicted from the disputed land. 2

The CRM believes that this affair, which has all the appearance of a scandal, is a serious blow to national and foreign investment in Cameroon. It recalls the urgency of the land reform (which must accompany the reform of the state) presented by its candidate in the presidential election of October 2018.

The CRM denounces the tribal instrumentalization made around this purely land and economic case.

The CRM notes, in this case, the wait-and-see attitude of the local traditional chiefs, the same ones who, in a warlike outing signed in the so-called name of the Sawa communities, substituted themselves for the competent administrative authorities to ban the Peaceful Marches of September 22, 2020, and to publicly and with impunity threaten reprisals against the Peaceful Marchers who demanded, among other things, the respect of the laws of our country by the CPDM regime.

The CRM believes that in order to preserve all the interests of the legitimate owners of the plots of land expropriated by the State, as well as the investment of the promoters of the hotel project, whether they are nationals or foreigners, it is urgent that a joint and independent commission of inquiry composed of magistrates, parliamentarians and civil society personalities be set up to quickly shed light on this matter. This commission will have to be in charge, in particular :

- to establish the regularity of expropriation procedures;
- to verify the authenticity of land titles;
- to identify and authenticate the legitimate owners of the plots of land and to relate them to the 63 names of persons listed on the Prime Minister's decree of January 9, 2020;
- to verify the veracity of the allegations made by the project promoter concerning the 30 million dollars, or nearly 18 billion CFA francs, that he paid to the State to acquire the 2 ha, 63 a, 30 ca;
- to explain, if its payment is proven, why only a tiny part went to the legitimate owners of the disputed plots;
- And in case of malfunction, to propose the measures to be taken to repair without delay the damage suffered by the spoliated persons.

It is only at this price that this important project for the development of our country and the creation of jobs can be preserved, at the same time the legitimate interests of its promoters as well as the Cameroonian populations as a whole, and not of an ethnic community.

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Done in Yaounde on May 21, 2022

The National President

Maurice Kamto