“PETITION TO CANCEL FOUR LAND PORTIONS OF 2466C, 2465C, 2485C AND 2814C, AND REVERT BACK TO CUSTOMARY STATUS”

To: Hon. Justine Tkatchenko, BEM, OL, MP
Minister for Lands & Physical Planning

We, the Papa Delegation Committee sanctioned by the community of Papa village hereby present our DEMAND by way of this “PETITION No.2” to address our Original Petition and have the four land titles (Portions 2466C, 2465C, 2485C and 2814C under Konekaru Holdings Limited (“KHL”), Veadi Holdings Limited (“VHL”) or their associate entities) cancelled and immediately revert them back to their customary status.

1. Original Letter, Appointment Notices & The Petition

Our original letter dated 25th September 2013 and two appointment notices dated 8th October 2014 were submitted by our former delegation led by Pastor Joseph Ata Baeou of Papa village through the office of the former Minister for Lands & Physical Planning, Hon Benny Allen, and former Secretary for Land & Physical Planning, Mr Romilly Kila Pat. Our original petition (titled, ‘A GENERAL PETITION’) attached with the original letter was subsequently presented to the same (former Minister, Hon Benny Allen) in October 2014. However, no progress has been made despite numerous announcements by individuals, groups, relevant state agencies, other stakeholders and the Prime Minister, Hon. Peter O’Neill, through media and other sources on cancellation of controversial land titles obtained through the government sanctioned Special Agriculture Business Lease (“SABL”). We attach copies of the Letter, the Appointment Notices and the Petition (annexed Attachment B) for appropriate attention.

The Petition with two demands and twelve grounds were endorsed by 16 village leaders with support signatures from 184 community members. It is sad to note that 6 of the leaders who have endorsed the Petition have now met their demises during their long wait for the cancellation of the three land titles (Portions 2466C, 2465C and 2485C) to take place since 2013. They are Late Mako Aihii, Late Dikana leviri, Later Dr GG Damena, Late Doriga Berasi, Late Omani Rei and Late Goasa Ita. Hence, it is likely the rest of us who have endorsed the Petition and even including this Petition No.2 will pass on and may lead to no-one left behind to pursue these cases should the process continue to delay and prolong which is unacceptable and a total disgrace.

2. SABL and COI

The government sanctioned SABL program has obviously failed its intended purpose according to the result of the Commission of Inquiry (“COI”) as almost all of the 75 land titles obtained were not related to agriculture businesses including the three land titles by KHL and VHL. The COI report revealed that the three land titles were listed with others to be revoked, cancelled and reviewed. Whilst the formalities to revoke, to cancel and to review the three land titles are in progress, the illegal title holders (KHL and VHL) and their associates continue to conduct business activities on those very land portions which are totally unacceptable.

3. New Land Portion 2814C
During our recent research, we have identified another land title, Portion 2814C, located at the Konekaru seafront next to land Portion 2458C (PNG LNG Jetty area), being obtained by KHL. This is a total disregard to the people of Papa village. We now understand that the level of risk involved in grabbing land within Papa village is extremely high. Hence, we are now calling out to the relevant government authorities including Department of Land & Physical Planning to act now and improve their systems and processes to prevent such adversities and exploitations.

4. Our Position

4.1. No development, construction or business deal to take place on those four particular land portions forthwith;

4.2. Address the original Letter and the Petition satisfactorily;

4.3. Cancellation of the four land portions (Portions 2466C, 2465C, 2485C, and 2814C) to take place within 30 days;

4.4. Perpetrators involved in obtaining the titles through fraudulent means be prosecuted under the laws of Papua New Guinea;

4.5. The particular four Land Portions remain as properties of Papa village and no interested party outside Papa village to be allowed claim for ownership; and

4.6. The Papa Delegation Committee with the help of the relevant government authorities to come up with a way forward mechanism by December 2018 on how to deal with the issue and resolve the matter once and for all.

5. Conclusion

Addressing our demands immediately is utmost importance towards peace and harmony amongst our people and within the community of Papa village.

We, the undersigned urge response to our demands within two weeks upon receipt.

PAPA DELEGATION COMMITTEE

[Signatures]

PAPA DELEGATION COMMITTEE (Initials of Chairperson and Secretary)
Attaches:
(A) Copy of Extract of Papa Community Special Meeting No. 1 of 2018 regarding appointment of Delegation Committee members (1 page); and
(B) Copies of the Original Letter, Appointment Notices and the Petition with supporting signatures.

Cc: (1) Prime Minister; (2) Minister for Justice & Attorney General; (3) Minister for Police; (4) Governor for Central Province; (5) Member for Kairuku Hiri; (6) Chief Secretary to the Government; (7) Secretary for Land & Physical Planning; and (8) other relevant Stakeholders.

(Supporting signatures next pages)