

Thank you, also for bringing this blog of Chief Ajele, whom we know very well, to our attention. He has made a number of spurious allegations and aspersions over the years against our Company, the Government and others, all of which have been rebuffed or ignored, for lack of evidence. His latest defamatory diatribe is a case in point.

In response to his June 2020 blog, our Company once again denies it has ever burnt down any houses belonging to any camp, let alone the one Ajele names as Ijaw-Gbene, which is unknown to us, and strange, as we know all of the communities that surround our plantation (see attached satellite photo). Also, if our Company had masterminded "yet another terror attack on local communities", why have these communities not reported these incidents to the Police, both in the past, and again after this latest alleged incident? We are still awaiting any Police docket from Ajele and any community alleging our Company perpetrates terror attacks against them nearly two months after this alleged incident alone. As a law abiding, listed Company, legally situated on the same parcel of land since 1976 (please see our certificates of occupancy and maps on our Company website), we further emphatically deny that we have ever forced anyone off any land, burnt down any buildings and/or deforested any area. In fact, as a member of the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), our Company, in order to obtain their certification, was obliged to undergo an obligatory high conservation value and high carbon stock (HCV/HCS) assessment as well as land use change analyses (LUCA's) using satellite technology in order for RSPO to ensure that over time our Company had never deforested, strayed over our boundary onto Government or communal land or removed any HCV's and burnt down or forcibly evicted anyone over time. These analyses, along with the respective independent environmental and public social and community impact assessments (ESIA's), are also available from RSPO through their ALS website for your perusal. Our RSPO registration number is 1-0269-19-100-00.

Furthermore, I draw your attention to our Company's website (www.okomunigeria.com) on which all of our corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects are posted and where you will see that we have recently even built a borehole at one of the villages Ajele accuses us of burning down, namely that of Agbede camp. Furthermore, Agbede, Lehmon and Oweike camps, which are well known to us (unlike Ijaw-Gbene), can still today be plainly seen on any available satellite photo of the area, again rebuffing his allegations that our Company has burnt these camps down. In this regard, please find attached a copy of a recent satellite photo for your perusal showing our Company's boundary along the Okomu River, along with the the respective camps that had allegedly been "burnt down" by our Company still clearly visible on this photo. The latterly named camps are also not on the Company's property, and in fact reside, albeit illegally, across the Okomu River on the neighbouring Federal Government forest reserve or in the Okomu National Park, as the case may be, and as shown on the attached photo.

Ajele's very own Okomu Community, which is more than 25km downstream of our property along the Okomu River, has, despite his ongoing rhetoric against our Company, also been a recipient of our

Company's ongoing CSR projects, bursaries and youth development schemes in the past, as shown again on our website.

As a matter of interest, apart from our earlier stated RSPO certification, please note that we are also currently ISO9001:2008, ISO14001:2015 and OHSAS 18001:2007 certified and pride ourselves as being champions of human and community rights. In fact, we let our awards speak for themselves, having previously received awards for CSR Company of the year by the NAA in 2014 and 2015 and being a finalist in the 2019 Capital Finance International "Best Community Impact CSR Programme - Nigeria 2019" (see bwi@cfi.co or www.cfi.co).

In conclusion then, if you feel that you are still not satisfied that Ajele's blog lacks any substantive evidence against our Company, please feel free to contact me with any further questions and we can hopefully answer them for you. We also welcome journalists to visit our Company, and despite the ongoing insecurity in our area, due to militancy, hope to show you how we are busy changing lives in our small way, for the better, in the 29 local communities within our footprint. Alternatively, we look forward to you sending us a statement confirming that you are completely satisfied with our explanation pertaining to your query and that the matter is now closed.

Kind regards

Dr Graham Hefer
Managing Director