

Mile 19 Community Internal Rules Development

September 12, 2008

PREAMBLE:

WE, the people of Mile 19 Community, Peng, Tombel Sub-Division, grateful to ALMIGHTY GOD for our inalienable rights and freedoms, and pursuant of the Constitution of Cameroon, and the 1972 Supreme Court Ruling requiring our rules to exist, be clear and precise, and above all conform to public order and moral, do hereby ordain the following Internal Rules. They are an expression of our common determination and vision to have a better and economically sustainable society, committed to overcoming the challenges of poverty, injustice(s), inequality, oppression, marginalisation and environmental degradation in our community and around the world.

ARTICLE 1: DEFINITIONS

- (a) Name: Mile 19 Community – people, regardless of age, sex, religion, tribe, region, province or country of origin, living in and around Mile 19 under the same internal rules and regulations.
- (b) Location – Mile 19 is along the Tombel-Kumba road in the Tombel sub-Division of the Kupe Muaneguba Division in the South West Province of Cameroon.
- (c) Participation – its meaning shall include making financial contributions, attendance in meetings, and taking part in manual community work.
- (d) Theft – taking another person’s property with the intention of depriving him/her ownership.

ARTICLE 2: GOVERNANCE

- a) The Mile 19 Community herein known also as Mile 19 village or simply as village shall promote respect of the rights and freedoms of persons living within the confines of the village together with their families, visitors or guests.
- b) People in Mile 19 shall be governed by a council headed by a chief. The council shall have officials including a secretary, a treasurer and orderly.
- c) The village shall through community or quarter action committees (CAC/QAC) improve the social and economic wellbeing and living standards of all persons without discrimination.
- d) Names of all village residents and guests shall be recorded in a well kept register, which shall have headings for physical presence, financial contributions, involvement in community work, absences, excuses and permissions.
- e) Community members shall promote the African tradition of giving due respect to the elderly and having regard for age in day to day conduct.

- f) The Mile 19 Community shall uphold and honour all national and state laws which shall take precedence over these rules.

ARTICLE 3: COMMUNITY WORK

- a) Participation in community work shall be compulsory to every adult male or female resident of Mile 19.
- b) Children below twelve (12) years shall be excluded from community work or any other contributions provided that they are currently attending school or learning a trade.
- c) Children between twelve (12) to eighteen (18) years who are no longer attending school shall take part in community work but may not be required to make any financial contributions. However, parents have the obligation to encourage their children to participate in community work.
- d) Absenting from community work will not be tolerated from any adult living in Mile 19 except upon a prior and reasonable excuse obtained from the quarter head or council.
- e) All excuses should be put in writing or made through a reliable representative who shall bring same to the attention of the quarter head or council at least one (1) day before the commencement of any work.

ARTICLE 4: WATER

- a) Water collection from the village water point shall be open to all village residents. Collection of water shall be done on a first come first served basis.
- b) The village shall be divided into two groups to facilitate water collection in turns. Each group shall have a leader who will maintain order at the water collection point.
- c) Elderly people shall be assisted by group leaders to collect water at the water point when necessary.
- d) Individuals carrying water should be considerate to the needs of others by not carrying more than one container of sixty (60) litres at a time.
- e) Until everybody in the queue (line of numbers) has had the opportunity of collecting water no person shall be allowed to carry a second time. The queue shall not be disrupted when water flow is interrupted. Violators will be punished.
- f) Community members are forbidden from destroying the water point (tap stand and head) which shall at all times remain village property.
- g) The water point must be kept clean and properly drained at all times.

ARTICLE 5: HYGIENE AND SANITATION

- a) Houses – All households shall keep the interior of their houses and immediate surroundings clean at all times.
- b) Litter – Community members and visitors shall not litter the village environment, streets, pavements or backyards.
- c) Litter bins shall be placed in strategic locations in the village and clearly marked “Mile 19 Community Council” for non-household generated litter.
- d) Households shall dump their wastes in council approved locations. Any doubts, please contact the council sanitation officer.
- e) All dirt, refuse, litter shall be composted or burnt. Solid waste shall not be dumped in surrounding farms.
- f) Toilets – All houses shall have clean covered and treated toilets.
- g) At no time and under no circumstance should anybody defecate outside of toilets.
- h) Stray Animals – All domestic animals must be kept within confines outside of homes.

ARTICLE 6: SELLING PRODUCE

Farm produce and foodstuffs shall not be sold in absolute secrecy, along bush paths, farm roads or areas not pre-arranged to serve as village markets.

ARTICLE 7: THEFT

Theft in any and all forms is strictly forbidden.

ARTICLE 8: VIOLATIONS, FILING AND PUNISHMENT PROCEDURES AND FINES

- a) Violations of community rules are punishable through the community council sitting as court.
- b) Anybody who observes violation of a community rule can lodge a complaint before the village chief, quarter head or council.
- c) The complaint, which shall be in writing or oral, should be made as soon as the violation is observed.
- d) The council or quarter head, within twenty four (24) hours shall summon both parties to appear before the council and hear the matter within forty eight (48) hours.
- e) The party who wishes to call witnesses shall be encouraged to do so provided that the witnesses of the complainant shall be heard immediately complainant’s case is stated.
- f) Regarding theft, the council shall only entertain theft of minor objects.

- g) Children caught in acts of theft of a simple nature shall be properly cross-examined to determine their independent intention or whether they are working under the influence of an adult. If the latter case prevails, the adult(s) shall be brought into the case and cross-examined by the council as one who did the act.
- h) The council shall be incompetent to entertain all matters of aggravated theft or theft involving break into premises or with the use of weapons or involving a large quantity of property.
- i) Failure to participate in development projects including community work will incur a fine the equivalent of 5,000FCFA.
- j) Anyone found guilty of not participating in development projects and fails to pay the imposed fine shall be brought before the traditional council in Peng and/or reported to the Divisional Officer, Tombel.
- k) Indebtedness incurred from failure to participate in community development projects shall be cumulative even when such cases are referred to higher instances.
- l) Damage to the water point shall incur a fine of 5,000 FCFA, which shall be used to defray cost of repairs of the tap.
- m) Causing disorder at the water point shall incur a fine the equivalent of up to 10,000 FCFA.
- n) Littering the environment, not having a toilet, failing to keep clean toilet, living in untidy premises, shall all incur fines of up to 10,000 FCFA.
- o) Where the council finds a person guilty of theft and the product had been sold, the person shall be fined double the value of the produce in question, and where the produce has not been sold, it should be returned to its owner, while the accused pays a fine that equals the value of the item in question.
- p) All cases of aggravated theft or breach of national laws and serious undermining of public peace and order shall be referred to the competent national or state authorities for investigation.

ARTICLE 9: TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

The Mile 19 population shall have a six (6) months grace period for these rules to come into force from the date of adoption of the present laws.