## CONCERNED BULLOMITES KAFFU BULLOM CHIEFDOM – LUNGI

## TO: HIS EXCELLENCY RTD. BRIGADIER DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

## Your Excellency Sir,

It is with grief and great displeasure that we as concerned indigenes of Kaffu Bullom Chiefdom are writing this letter. Your Excellency Sir, you will recall that a 65 MWP Battery-Backed Solar Power Project was approved by both Cabinet and Parliament to be implemented by the Lungi Power Development Company. The news of this development was received with joy and euphoria by the people of Kaffu Bullom with the belief that the perennial problem of inadequate electricity supply in this part of the country was finally coming to an end. Chiefdom stakeholders, including the honorable PCMP and other members of Parliament, Civil Society Organizations and other well-meaning "Bullomites" all made frantic effort to ensure the success of the LPD Solar project.

Over a year after the approval of this project by the government of Sierra Leone, the people of Kaffu Bullom were shocked to know that nothing had happened with specific reference to the commencement of operations by the lungi power development company. Consequently, a meeting of stakeholders of Kaffu Bullom, including the management of LPD was held to address issues relating to and investigates the circumstances surrounding the delay in the commencement of LPD company operations.

After thorough deliberations, it was established in that meeting that there had been a possible misappropriation of company funds by one Mr. Hassana Conteh, a Guinean national, who happened to be the local partner of the Lungi Power Development Company. In that meeting also, it was established that the other partners resident in Europe, had been sending money to Mr. Hassana Conteh, the local partner for the settlement of Land owners in respect of lands that were to utilized for company operations. It was established however that no land owner had received a dime from Mr. Hassana Conteh. It was also established that for a period of five (5) years that the International partners of the Lungi Power Development Company had been sending money to Mr. Hassana Conteh to be disbursed to community stakeholders as part of the company's cooperate social responsibilities. These monies were sent during Christmas/Ramadan periods to the tune of about forty thousand United States dollars (\$ 40,000) annually. It was also established in that meeting that no stakeholder received a dime. It was also established in that meeting, that Mr. Hassana Conteh illegally employed indigenes of Kaffu Bullom without appointment letter stating their condition of service and worse of all, without paying them salaries.

Because of the aforementioned and other related issues, the stakeholders of the Lungi Power Development Company called for an immediate audit into the administration of LPD of which Mr. Hassana Conteh was at the center. Eventually a competent audit firm was contracted to carry out the task. After completion of the exercise (Audit) the auditors wrote their findings and presented them to the stakeholders. In response the honorable PCMP of Kaffu Bullom, Bai Shebora Sheba Gberreh

III and other stakeholders summoned Mr. Hassana Conteh for the audit report to be presented to him, an invitation he refused to honour.

After Mr. Hassana Conteh's refusal to honour the call of the stakeholders of Kaffu Bullom, the latter were left with no other choice than to officially inform the Chairman of the Parliamentary committee on Energy. In a definitive statement during a stakeholder's engagement, the Parliamentary Committee Chairman on Energy stated that:

- a) The Lungi Power Development Company was multi-national and did not belong to any one person.
- b) That no new investors would be entertained, rather he would in the immediate future summoned all concerned (The three shareholders of the LPD Company and Kaffu Bullom Stakeholders) to addressed the matter.

Your excellency sir, after a thorough examination of all what has transpired, and the fact that the Lungi Power Development Company has not started operations as at the time of writing this letter, we the concerned Bullomomites have come to the conclusion that it appears as if Mr. Hassana Conteh a Guinean national is above Sierra Leonean laws, above the aspirations of the people of Kaffu Bullom and the country atlarge. We are also of the strong conviction that Mr. Hassana Conteh is thwarting the development of Kaffu Bullom in collaboration with some Kaffu Bullom stakeholders, some of them government functionaries who we shall name and shame in our next letter if urgent action is not taken.

Your Excellency sir, we sufficiently convinced that:

- a) Mr. Hassana Conteh does not have the financial resources to fund the project.
- b) That if he (Mr. Hassana Conteh) is removed from the project, within a period of one (1) month the other partners will provide the funds needed for the commencement of LPD company operations in Kaffu Bullom.

In this regard Mr. President, your swift intervention is urgently needed by the people of Kaffu Bullom on this matter.

On an ending note, we wish to thank those stakeholders who have positively made their contribution to the LPD matter, members of Parliament including the PCMP in Kaffu Bullom and other stakeholders including the Resident Minister of the North-West Region of the Republic of Sierra Leone, representatives of the two LPD partners based in Europe, Mr. Ricardo and Mr. Sultan and Civil society organizations, etc.

Thanks in advanced for your prompt action.

Yours truly,

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