

IN THE HIGH COURT OF LAGOS STATE
IN THE IKORODU JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT IKORODU

1107/51/2013¹²

SUIT NO:

1107/51/2013

BETWEEN:

1. ALHAJI SALAWUDEEN SHOLENU
2. CHIEF BASAKI KASALI
3. OLANIRIN EFUNTADEBO
4. CHIEF ISOLABI OLAYINKA
5. ALHAJI TAIWO ALIMI
6. CHIEF GANYU KOYE

) CLAIMANTS

9.30am

(FOR AND ON BEHALF OF OREFODU AND ELESE FAMILIES
OF AGURA TOWN WITHIN IKORODU LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL, LAGOS STATE)

AND

CHEVRON OIL NIGERIA LIMITED) DEFENDANT

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

1. The Claimants are the Accredited Representatives of the indigenous people of Agura and the Descendants of the Original Settlers of the Agura Town within Ikorodu Local Government Area of Lagos State.
2. The 1st - 3rd Claimants are Descendants of Orefodu and the 4th - 6th Claimants are the Descendants of Ijala Elese, the two (2) people who were the first settlers at Agura.
3. The Defendant is an oil company registered in Nigeria pursuant to the Companies and Allied Matters Decree 1990 and has its office at Chevron Avenue, Lekki Area, Lagos -Epe Expressway, Lagos State.
4. The Claimants and the Defendant are resident and/or carry on business within the territorial jurisdiction of the Honourable Court.
5. The Claimants aver that Agura Town as a lot of villages under it such as Ilaba, Oju-Agemo, Igbalu, Iponmi, Aiyetoro, Oke-Olokun, Ewa-Agbo, Igbose, Alaru-Maku, Papa etc.
6. The Claimants aver that the Claimants ancestors Orefodu and Ijala Elese controlled the entire Agura to the exclusion of any other persons or families during their life time and the Claimants have continued to be in control of all parts of Agura include Ilaba without any hindrance from any quarters.
7. The Claimants aver that nobody can take possession of any part of Agura land including Ilaba unless with the permission, consent and or authority of the Claimants.

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- The Claimants aver that the Defendant without the consent, authority and or permission of the Claimants moved onto the land of the Claimants at Ilaba within Agura Town, Ikorodu Local Government Area of Lagos State.
9. The Claimants aver that the total land size of the Claimants land taken over by the Defendant is 366.674 acres of land at the site referred to in paragraph 8 hereof.
 10. The Claimants aver that all the informal and formal contacts made with the Defendant revealed that the Defendant is bent on appropriating the land referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9 hereof whether or not the Claimants agree.
 11. The Claimants aver that the Defendant has moved in equipments and machineries onto the land referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9 hereof ever before the Claimants became aware of the presence of the Defendant on the land.
 12. The Claimants aver that when the Claimants became aware of presence of the Defendant's on the land site referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9 hereof, the Claimants attempted visiting the land but could not do so, because of the presence of menace looking army personnel put on the land by the Defendant.
 13. The Claimants aver that all formal and informal attempts to dialogue with the Defendant in respect of the subject matter of this suit have been treated with disdain, utter contempt and scorn by the Defendant.
 14. The Claimants aver that the Claimants have not leased, sold or mortgaged the land referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9 hereof to the Defendant.
 15. The Claimants aver that they have not authorized anybody to deal with the Defendant in respect of the land which is the subject matter of this suit, whether by way of sale, lease, assignment or mortgage.
 16. The Claimants further aver that the Defendant's disposition is to violate the property right of the Claimants in respect of the land referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9 hereof which is the subject matter of this suit.
 17. The Claimants aver that the Defendant has more forcefully taken over the land of the Claimants referred to paragraphs 8 and 9 hereof, as the Defendant has stationed army personnel on the land thus denying the Claimants access to their land.
 18. The Claimants aver that the Defendant has no right, justification or legitimate reason to move onto the land referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9 hereof and or to continue to remain on the land without the consent, authority and permission of the Claimants, neither is the Defendant entitled to carry on any development, project or activity on the land without the concurrence, permission and authority of the Claimants.

19. WHEREUPON the Claimants claim as follows:

- i. A Declaration that the Claimants are the undisputed owners of the land lying, being and situate at Ilaba in Agura Town, Ikorodu Local Government Area of Lagos State measuring about 366.674 Acres which the Defendant forcefully took over by the stationing of armed men on same.
- ii. A Declaration that the Defendant has no right whatsoever to move onto the land referred to in claim 1 hereof and or the right to continue to remain on same and or to carry out any project, development and or activity on the land without the consent and or authority of the Claimants and that the presence of the Defendant on the land amounts to trespass.
- iii. An order of permanent Injunction restraining the Defendant either by itself, directly, its contractors, sub-contractors, its agents, sub-agents, its workers, workmen and or whatsoever, from carrying out any project, development and or activity on the land referred to in claim 1 hereof.
- iv. An order granting possession of the land referred to in claim 1 hereof (which land was forcefully taken over by the Defendant from the Claimants) to the Claimants and by so doing an Order mandating the Defendant to vacate possession of the land.
- v. Damages for Trespass and cost of the action as assessed by the Honourable Court.

DATED THIS 5th DAY OF June 2013

PRINCE ABDUL - MUJIB ADETOKUNBO MUMUNI (MCIArb)
LEGAL PRACTITIONER & NOTARY PUBLIC
CLAIMANTS' COUNSELLOR
EKO- AKETE CHAMBERS
3RD FLOOR,
28, JOSEPH STREET,
LAGOS.
TELEPHONE NO: 08023139190, 08038661711

FOR SERVICE ON:
THE DEFENDANT
CHEVRON OIL NIGERIA LIMITED
2, CHEVRON ROAD,
LEKKI-EPE EXPRESSWAY,
LAGOS STATE

