

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



GENERAL

T/PET.6/80  
6 March 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Dual Distribution

PETITION FROM THE TRADITIONAL NATIVE HERBALISTS, RULERS AND SUBJECTS  
OF TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH TRUSTEESHIP CONCERNING TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH  
ADMINISTRATION

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith to the members of the Trusteeship Council a communication dated 25 November 1949 from the Traditional Native Herbalists, Rulers and Subjects of Togoland under British Trusteeship concerning the Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration.

This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa.

RECEIVED

MAY 25 1950

UNITED NATIONS  
ARCHIVES

... PETITION FROM THE TRADITIONAL NATIVE HERBALISTS  
RULERS AND SUBJECTS OF TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH TRUSTEESHIP TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSIONS

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- PREAMBLE -

Honourable Visitors,

1. On behalf of the Traditional Native Herbal Medicine Practitioners, indigenous rulers and subjects of Togoland, we have the honour and respect to present this humble petition of ours to the United Nations through you the Honourable Visitors charged with the commission of probing the affairs relating to the welfare of the people of Togoland.

2. Our delight and pleasure in welcoming you into our midst and land are beyond bounds, for it is the first time in the annals of the history of Togoland since the land was entrusted to the administration of the United Kingdom, that a Commission has arrived to gather first-hand information and to devise means of promoting the welfare of the people.

3. We are very grateful to you the Visiting Commissioners, the United Nations and all under whose auspices the present visit is effected.

4. THE TRADITIONAL HERBALISTS KNOWLEDGE

Before you can understand our present demand quite well, allow us to say this much. That before the white men came to Africa and to Togoland, Our ancestors were healing effectively diseases with herbal Medicine.

5. The herbal Medicine practioners depended entirely on the roots, leaves and barks of trees in controlling successfully such diseases as Epilepsy, Consumption, Leprosy, Fever etc. This knowledge of herbal Medicine and teatment has been handed down to us traditionally. From these leaves, roots and barks of trees as well as the shrubs that grow on our land, we are still able to arrest and resist the attacks of common diseaser effectively. Herbal treatment takes

immediate effect in that it needs no adaption to the climatic conditions of the people.

6. We admit that we require further instruction in purification, preservation and correct dosage of the traditional herbal Medicines.

#### 7. The FETISH PRIESTS OR PRIESTEES

The traditional herbal Medical Practitioners differ from the number of Fetish Priests and Priestesses who conduct the religious Services of the people. These Priest at times, are consulted to tell fortunes etc. Some of them in addition to their Offices do treat diseases with herbal medicine. The traditional Native herbalist does not depend on the consultation of an Oracle to diagnose a disease but on Symptoms.

#### 8. HERBAL MEDICINE DISPENSARIES.

Through out Western Togoland and Ewe-land (as you will see) there are limited facilities for the people to obtain adequate medical treatment.

There are only three small Government dispensaries (at Keta, Ho and Hohoe) at distances of about 60 - 80 miles from each other. There are no other dispensaries whatever. The plight of the people falling victims to accidents and acute illness, not to mention other small ailments requiring immediate attention of Medical Officer in the rural areas for example Adaklu, Afiadenyigba, Papase, Kwamikurom Etc., could be better imagined than described. Here the pressing need for the establishment of traditional Native Herbal Medicine dispensaries to meet emergencies and to render first aid need not to be mentioned; it is over due. But unfortunately it is to the traditional Herbalists that the administering Authority gives less encouragement and help.

#### 9. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, We humbly crave Your indulgence to recommend to the United Nations Organisations and the Administering Authority the following:-

- (1) That the administering Authority allow the establishment of Native Herbal Medicine Dispensaries.

- (2) That Grant-in-aid be granted for the maintenance of the Native Herbal Medicine Dispensers so established.
- (3) That two Scholarships be granted yearly to traditional Native Herbalists for further studies in Europe and America, in the purification, preservation and dosage of Native Herbal Medicine.

We have the honour to be,

Your Most Humble Herbalists,

1. (signed) ..... I.C.K. Y.D.N .....  
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5. ....  
6. ....  
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8. ....  
9. ....  
10. ....

Endorsed.

1. (signed) ..... I.C.K. Y.D.N .....  
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7. ....  
8. ....  
9. ....  
10. ....

Dated at Ho Bankoe this 25 day of November, 1949.

P.R.MOUNT CHIEF / PRESIDENT

ATANDO STATE

(signed) TOGBU G.BUSU IV      his  
   X  
   mark

" W/M.H.... MORNY (Secr).

" ADJ. TEKPO V.

P.R.MOUNT CHIEF / PRESIDENT

AWATIME STATE

P.R.MOUNT CHIEF / PRESIDENT

BUELA STATE

(signed) I.C.K. YAD.H

CHIEF HERBALIST

..SOGLI STATE

" M. K. DZ.

CHIEF HERBALIST

AKPINI STATE

" EMMANUEL A.K. LODONU      his  
   X  
   mark

CHIEF HERBALIST

ATANDO STATE

" B. FRANKWELL

CHIEF HERBALIST

AWATIME STATE

CHIEF HERBALIST

BUELA STATE

Sgd. I.G.K. Yedah  
Chief Herbalist  
Asogli State and on behalf  
of Asogli Herbalists.

Sgd. M. K. Dza  
Chief Herbalist  
Akpini State and on behalf  
of Akpini Herbalists

Sgd. Emmanuel A.K. Lodonu  
Chief Herbalist  
Atando State and on behalf  
of Atando Herbalists.

Sgd. B. Frankwell  
Chief Herbalist  
Awatime State and on behalf  
Awatime Herbalists

Chief Herbalist  
Buem State and on behalf  
Buem Herbalists.

Sgd. Togbui Gabusu, IV his X mark  
President, Atando State,  
W/m ? ? Morny  
Secretary, Atando State.

Sgd. Adjatekpor, V  
Paramount C.O. of  
Awatime State.

A Reply to our Petition be forwarded to the  
Paramount Chief, Awatime State, General  
President for Togoland Herbalists.

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Received at the United Nations Headquarters on December 14, 1949.