



Green Concern for Development (GREENCODE)

(formerly Abgrems for Development)

(a grassroots group for environment and social justice)

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PRESS RELEASE

ENVIRONMENTAL NGO AND COMMUNITIES CALL FOR IMMEDIATE STOP TO SUPER-HIGHWAY - BULLDOZER DESTRUCTIONS IN AKPABUYO AND BAKASSI LGA IN CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA.

Communities in Akpabuyo and Bakassi cry out over the wanton destruction of their ancestral properties and economic trees estate for 'SUPER HIGHWAY' by Cross River State Government.

Over 20 communities in Akpabuyo and Bakassi LGA of Cross River are already counting their loses over what they termed as gross violation of their fundamental human rights.

The mobilisation of the bulldozers by the Ben Ayade-led Government of Cross River state into the hinterlands of Akpabuyo and Bakassi LGA has left untold hardship on the community people. The affected communities are on the Esighi, Atimbo-East/West and Edem Odo flank of the local government area. The bulldozers have destroyed over 20,000 stands of healthy palm trees including other economic trees, grave yards and community forests and sources of water.

The untold hardship and gross violation is coming at the time the country and its citizens are experiencing some economic hard times.

The people demand as follows:

1. That Cross River State Government halts the destruction immediately in line with the Stop Work Order issued by the Federal Ministry of Environment on 11 March 2016.
2. Immediately STOP the BULLDOZERS from destroying our heritage, grave yards and artefacts in the name of SUPER-HIGHWAY project.
3. That the CRSG conducts a transparent and participatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the Super Highway Project
4. That the Super Highway project should not traverse our forests and farmlands with consultations and prior informed consent as required by law and by convention.
5. That all destroyed properties of the people and communities should be valued and paid for in line with international acceptable standards and laws.

Sign: 

Comrade Edem Edem
Founder/Board Member
GREENCODE