MINUTES OF ASOMBANG NIBA SIBLINGS’ MEETING

JANUARY 2018

**Date:** Monday, 8th – Tuesday 9th January 2018

**Venues** : Asombang Niba Family house,Niweh Mankanikong, Bafut; Bokwaongo family residence

**Time:** Niweh- 12 midnight- 10 am; Bokwaongo

A meeting of the 10 children of Papa Michael and Mami Bibiana Asombang held at the family house at Niweh, Mankanikong, Bafut.. The first ever ten siblings’meeting sort to address some of their burning issues:

1. Papa’s funeral

John thanked all siblings who made the funeral what it was, in terms of their various contributions, esp, those of the 3 siblings from the USA. But he deplored the lukewarmness toward papa’s corpse, ie, delay in informing the mortuary attendants to remove the corpse on time for sufficient defrosting, which resulted to the poor state in casket. Theresia thought it might have been due to inexperience in handling corpse removal, but said it should have been done by those matured with the person who kept the corpse. While blaming Ndonwi for failure to share ideas/info about the removal, Sirri advised that in future responsibility toward corpse removal should be shared by those able to do so, because it is a very important aspect of a funeral. On his part, Bro Emma considered the funeral a success, though not comfortable with the idea imposed by one sibling that ‘everybody must contribute financially’ .He added that on 01/01/18 ,Bro Poly Niba called and inform him that Mr Ndonfong Moses would give the bereaved family his contribution, but on the day of the funeral, Mr Moses handed an envelope to John saying ‘una just manage jam’. Unfortunately, John forgot to look at the amount , as Mr Moss gave it without indicating that it was from Bro Poly. Thanks to sister Eli and Pasky Niba who later reported that Bro Poly sent fifty thousand and thirty thousand frs, respectively. Paul thanked the siblings from the USA for their massive financial contribution.

Still on the irresponsible attitude towards the funeral proper, Sirri blamed Ndonwi for the poor arrangement of food which led to late eating (at 5pm) with some mourners leaving without eating in Buea. She advised that in future, the sibling should cooperate for better success. She went on to inform the siblings that the family still owed Helen Ndifor seven hundred thousand frs for food. As a solution, she promised to give five hundred thousand, while John pledged to complete it with two hundred thousand frs CFA.

John read out the various non-siblings’s financial contribution by Buea mourners.Ndonwi thought the funeral was a success, but disapproved of the information he got that Theresia was not always available at home to receive those who visited the house for condolence. she responded that she received all those who paid condolence visits, except for the cases that she could not be present to do so, as she too had matters out of home that needed her personal attention.

2). Papa’s belongings

This reporter said a few days after papa died, some of his blongings were shared among Bros Emma and Ngwa, who gave some to Daniel and Yannick. Later, she arrived the scene and picked up what could be beneficial to her. Brother Ngwa packed the rest of the dresses into the metallic box for sharing among Asombang family members at Niweh, while unwanted ones were discarded.

3). Papa’s pension

Paul informed the siblings that thirty-three thousand frs was being cashed into Papa’s pension account monthly. He added that the deceased had not been collecting money from the account since his return from the USA, as Paul had been doing so till the former died. Further , that his last visit to the account indicated twenty –three thousand frs left, which had been used for the purchase of diapers.

4). Genera problems that had been affecting the siblings as a whole, and individually:

-a)attitudes, and

b) Interpersonal relationships

Sirri noticed that the death of papa brought reconciliation between her and Mrs Perpetua Asombang plus her sister Rose. Che confessed that the poor relationship that had existed among the three siblings in the USA had not improved since the last meeting held at Paul’s house. Paul believed Bro Emma was still angry with his daughter. On her part, Theresia expressed dissatisfaction at the irregular flow of her monthly compensation, and the reduction of twenty five thousand frs from the agreed amount, causing her to be stressed up. At this juncture John went into the room to start parking for the trip to Buea to catch up with his flight back to the USA. Some sibling proceeded into the said room to continue the meeting while he park, during which time promised to take care of Theresia’s renting a studio, until she found a job, as well as making up for the arrears. John then left the meeting came to a halt.

Most of the siblings disapproved of the disrespectful manner of Che towards others, especially his seniors. They advised him improve on it.

**5). The Family house at Niweh**

The siblings agreed that one bunch of the keys be kept by Fuh Joe and the other by Rose Fondong; one external toilet and the main parlour door be left unlocked.

6). **The Family House/Plot at Bokwaongo Buea**

Paul disclosed that the site plan had already been fabricated and needed to be taken to the chief to acknowledge it and levy the owners. Also that he had seen the documents attesting to siblings’ ownership of the plot as No 22 at the Land and Survey office.

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Scene Two**

**Date:** Tuesday, 16th January 2018

**Venue:** Family residence Bokwaongo junction Buea

**Attendants:** Brother Ngwa, Theresia, Che, Sirri

4). **Poor attitude and interpersonal relationships**

Theresia said she had observed with dissatisfaction that her siblings had not been respecting her since she stopped working at the university, and declared that she would not tolerate any such disrespect it any longer. Brother Ngwa said it was rumoured that she and Theresia refused Mami Scholar from going to Buea ealier than two days to the funeral as they deemed it not necessary. This was frowned at by the others. Brother Ngwa regretted the strained relationship between bro Emma and daughter. The siblings thought that the misunderstanding could be settled if the two express their grievances in front of the siblings for solution to be sought. Brother Ngwa condemned Bro Emma’s criticism of Theresia’s last minutes with papa in front of outsiders – that she was not present to close papa’s eyes; and the fact that he offered the left over medical stuff to the nurse singlehandedly. He also denounced the attitude of Che taking his three children for a swim from Bokwaongo to Limbe without informing their parents and Theresia, the house manager Theresia added that it was a very dangerous gesture, although intended for relaxation. Sirri and Ndonwi expressed their disappointments at the manner Lairssa and the next neighbour(Emmanuel)get had been getting together too intimately(Larissa sitting on Emma’s laps as they eat from same plate on the veranda). Brother Ngwa complained of Akong’s disrespect of siblings due to his close relationship with Che, and pride; as well as his being a nuisance to the Asombang family. In addition, he detested Ndonwi’s monopoly of preparation towards papa’s funreral.

Many siblings condemned the behaviour of the children of some siblings, eg,Biwah wearing torn jean trousers in the name of fashion; Larissa moving about with short on top of her knees like her father does; Azinwi’s children running from upstairs to downstairs naked

Brother Ngwa complained of the disappearance of house utensils( given out but never brought back.), especially by Ndonwi; Ndonwi’s repeated monopoly of funds for family use without accountability, as well as serving his friends better than he did to siblings. He further pointed out with dismay the fact that siblings abroad always expected minutes from Cameroon but never sent theirs to Cameroon.

Che complained that John misused the money he saved in the supposed joint account abroad without accountability and so discouraged he and Sirri to continue the joint savings. Also that John took down minutes but never sent them to Cameroon. It was resolved that, henceforth. meeting minutes from USA be sent to Cameroon .

When Bro Ngwa asked about rents collected from the family house, Paul replied that he had not collected rents since November 2017. It was agreed that, henceforth, 3 siblings would contact the tenants about the rent situation. Further, that a record of rents collected monthly be written in an exercise book before saving, for easy accountability. About papa’s pension, Sirri suggested that it be handled by Paul and another sibling nearest to him in Cameroon.

Many siblings observed that some sibling’s manner of approach to the others had been insultive, especially the case of Che, who sometimes had good intentions ,but poor manner of approach. Paul responded that in some cases these poor manner of approaches has caused barriers to harmonious communication and relationship. It was decided that such poor manners be dropped immediately, and the person concerned be counselled privately, as soon as they acted poorly. A few siblings said they were not satisfied with the way Theresia and Paul attended to papa in his sickness. Most of the siblings regretted that bro Ngwa’s non use of android phone had hindered smooth and easy communication among the siblings. They pleaded that Bro Ngwa did everything to resume the use of android phone(esp whatsap) immediately. In response, Bro Ngwa explained that he had difficulty using whatsap; Ndonwi mishandled his android phone; he needed to be educated more on the uses of it. Further, that Ndonwi claimed to have bought him an android phone( as John asked with the money sent) for 13,500ffrs, but the latter found out that the same phone cost 9,500frs in Limbe. He also detested that fact that John had to send the money but to Ndonwi, not directly to him. Bro Ngwa ended by accepting to learn more about the use of android phone, if one will be bought for him. The rest of the siblings advised him to learn how to use it from his wife and children.

Paul revealed that he had noticed that the relationship between Bro Ngwa, hie wife and children had love, but lacked discipline. He gave an example where his son, Brestly talked negatively anywhere in public about his parents and some Asombang siblings.

5). **Siblings who had not invested in Cameroon** Che disclosed that he has a building plot in Cameroon, but the site was secret. On her part, Sirri opted that if any sibling had decided to start building on the family plot, she would be part of it.

6**). Daniel’s Case**

The siblings were informed that Dan owed one hundred thousand frs, and the amount left wa seventy thousand frs.

**7) Spiritual Engagements**

Paul pointed out that since there is a lot of evil in the world, the siblings should consult Pastors Yong and Mike. Sirri informed the siblings that a man of God in Bamenda revealed to her that late Patricia Manka had affected the former’s life negatively, a lot.

8**). Sharing of family property**. The following was proposed:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Persons | Items |
| Theresia | household utensils of her choice |
| Mami Grace Ngwa and children , Muea | The brown setee/sofa set, all the flowery /yellow curtains, two beds and their matresses, a few bedsheets |
| Mami Scholar | A bed and its matress, a set of curtains |

Brother Ngwa and his wife preferred a set of curtains, the wool carpet, all the armrests , back rests and some bedsheets.

The rest of the property would be stored at the family house at signal hill One.

**NB**

This reporter wishes to inform the siblings that the about delayed for three main reasons:

She had only ¼ of the minute as the rest were with Bro Ngwa; she had forgotten her password to open the machine, until a few days before that somebody helped her out; her USB cables could not transfer the minutes from laptop to her phone