



Conakry, 11th of September 2018

**Att.: Jim Wormington
Researcher, Africa Division
Human Rights Watch**

Dear Jim,

It is my pleasure to have received and gone through your letter dated 27th July 2018. On behalf of the SMB-Winning Consortium, I would like to thank you for your continuous care and attention towards our project's effort on human rights.

The Consortium holds Respect, Mutual-Communication, Collaboration, and Development as our core value and vision. We address business development and social development equally in our practice. Not only do we create local employment and fulfill our legal duties, we also engage ourselves in the local community for their need to strive for a better living standard. Therefore, the respect of human rights forms the pillar of our value: Land Rights (in particular to improve the women's standard of living), Access to Water, Air Quality and Health, and Environmental and Social Management Practices have always been in the focus of our community management and are fundamental to our sustainable development strategy.

The Republic of Guinea is THE home of the Consortium. Our Mission is to have our Consortium's sustainable bauxite mining deeply rooted in a Guinea of high living quality, for decades to come. Safeguarding the human rights of the Guinea people and community is a must and has been our emphasis. We know that when we grow our business, we need to continuously recompense Guineans, our countrymen and countrywomen. To accomplish this mission, we adhere strictly to our sustainable mining principles (we have the honour of contributing our ideas to the International Aluminium Institute – IAI – for the institutionalisation of their Sustainable Bauxite Mining Guidelines). We believe that we shall not ONLY focus on legal and social obligations, we shall also do more to initiate positive social and economic development through the following strategic directions:

- **Mutual Communication:** since 2014, our community management teams have been frequently and regularly visiting the villages and people, to exchange ideas with them for drafting and fine-tuning our community development plan. The dialogue platform also serves the function of enhancing our countrymen's understanding of the outside world.
- **Infrastructure Connectivity and Accessibility:** on top of country roads and bridges, our Consortium has also constructed a 16km high standard paved the domestic road for all seasons passengers and goods traffic in between the Boke town and various villages. Our Asia-Guinea Maritime Corridor provides a reliable and economical dual trade for the flow of goods in between the two regions. We believe that



these facilities will support the advancing from subsistence farming to higher value economic activities like industrialised agriculture, fish farming, and elementary industries.

- **Upgrading and Transformation:** A 135Km heavy duty rail connecting Boffa to our port in Dapilon, and an alumina refinery are in the blueprint, the projects will significantly improve the bauxite production and transformation chain in Guinea. On top of this, the rail can supplement the infrastructure connectivity of the Boke-Boffa region, and act as a catalyst for the agriculture development in Boffa.
- **Full and sustainable earning skill:** we fully agree that we shall not JUST disburse compensation to the communities. We shall give them the tool, equip them with the skill to use the tool, management knowledge to achieve high productivity, and marketing knowledge to get the most benefit from their production or harvest. So we have been cooperating with various NGOs in skill and management training in the area of agriculture, handicraft, and elementary industries so that the trained candidates can create more job opportunities for the youths and women.
- **Improve Public Administrative Capability:** To drive, organise and facilitate the people's effort in the right direction using the wealth unlocked from mining activities, a whole generation of capable civil servants with human rights deep in their mind are required. The Consortium's leader thus established a Sun Scholarship to train up qualified civil servants, every year there will be two batches of each 10-15 civil servants trained overseas, with a mentoring follow-up system to coach them in implementing in Guinea what they have learned.


The sustainable development of the Consortium in Guinea is inseparable from the support of the local people. At the same time, we also hope to cooperate with more enterprises and organizations to strive together for the better local human rights protection and social development.

Your research report on human rights issues of the Consortium will serve as the key direction and reference for our community project and strategies formulation.

Please allow me to express my appreciation again to your efforts. I hope that Human Rights Watch will understand the Consortium's human rights enhancement philosophy better through this letter and the meeting with us on July 30, 2018.

Best Regards,

Yours Sincerely,



Fredéric BOUZIGUES

SMB General Manager

On behalf the SMB-Winning Consortium