



Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea **Official Communiqué**

REPLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA RELATED TO THE INFORMATION APPEARING IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS ON THE REPORT “KEEPING FOREIGN CORRUPTION OUT OF THE UNITED STATES: FOUR CASE HISTORIES”.

With respect to the news appearing in the international press on the Report “*Keeping Foreign Corruption Out of the United States: Four Case Histories*” prepared by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the United States Senate, which was debated in that Institution, and in which Mr. TEODORO NGUEMA OBIANG MANGUE, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, and son of the President, His Excellency OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO, was cited, the Government of Equatorial Guinea would like to made the following statements:

1. His Excellency Mr. TEODORO NGUEMA OBIANG MANGUE is the primary person interested in collaborating with this investigation to clarify the facts with which it is concerned, and as he and his attorneys have placed themselves at the permanent disposal of the Senate Subcommittee in order to offer all their help, collaboration and information requested by the members of this Subcommittee. In this regard, Mr. NGUEMA OBIANG has made sworn statements concerning different areas, among which are included the origin and sources of his income and his compliance with the applicable local laws.
2. The entire report, which mentions numerous assumed financial transactions, is based on the insubstantial premise of the Senate Subcommittee that the financial movements of Mr. NGUEMA OBIANG MANGUE are “under suspicion”. In fact, the report does not show any specific fact that supports this conclusion, but rather it is limited to citing continuous accusations and insubstantial inconclusive allegations. For this reason, Mr. NGUEMA OBIANG MANGUE is not considered at any time as an “accused party”, since in no case is it recognized that these accusations have been able to be confirmed. The Report itself indicates literally that “*substantial public concerns about the Obiang family in general and Mr. Obiang in particular... suggest that the funds in their possession should be viewed as suspect*”, recognizing, effectively, that neither the facts nor the accusations are demonstrated actions, despite the incredible media campaign in making this presentation, for purposes other than the objectives pursued by North American Laws.
3. The attorneys of Mr. NGUEMA OBIANG MANGUE have also stated that the fact of contracting legal and professional counsel for carrying out any type of activity in the United States –as did Mr. NGUEMA OBIANG MANGUE in his day– should be taken into account by the Subcommittee, as evidence of commitment and respect towards the Laws of the country and not as accusatory evidence of precisely the contrary.

4. The report in itself offers a great number of documentary failures, as it is expected to be shown throughout the investigation, and offers a bibliography based many times on statements coming from unsubstantial press articles, Internet pages and other gratuitous, hardly serious statements, coming from persons of doubtful credibility.

5. According to Equatoguinean legislation, as occurs exactly in the most of the world, the natural and legal persons, as occurs in this case with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, are perfectly authorized to do business and maintain other types of jobs at the margin of their Ministerial obligations.

6. Aside from these statements, and always with the respect that the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea has for the activities of the United States Senate, it also wishes to make with maximum forcefulness, assuredness and full authority that are granted us by the fact of being a sovereign and independent country, the following statements:

- The Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea regrets that the Senate Permanent Subcommittee has based its Report on sources of doubtful reliability, such as organizations, journalists and individual persons inspired by discriminatory political sentiments contrary to the political regime of Equatorial Guinea that do not act with transparency and objectivity that the North American Laws proclaim in regard to the fight against corruption, since their objective is simply to tarnish the reputation and credibility of the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, his family and the members of his Government.
- The Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea also regrets that the Senate Permanent Subcommittee has to reopen a debate on the Reports that were dismissed as a result of the convincing explanations given by the Government on the same supposed fraudulent transactions carried out through RIGGS BANK.
- With this communiqué, the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea states its complete support, confidence and backing of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, His Excellency Mr. TEODORO NGUEMA OBIANG MANGUE, as well as his entire family.
- With full respect of the requirements of the United States Senate, with which, we insist, we are collaborating in every sense, the Government also wants to stress the non-transparent nature that, in its opinion, is underlying in this subject.

The fact that the four persons mentioned in the Report come from Africa sustains, once again, the idea that, WHEN SEARCHING FOR OFFENDERS, THE DARK CONTINENT CONTINUES TO BE AN EXCELLENT TARGET, since we do not doubt that there exists in all parts of the western world thousands more cases of economic transactions susceptible to investigation, of larger and more powerful fortunes than those that are mentioned in the Report.

- A document whose objective is supposedly “to amend” lapses in the United States’ laws and that are solely and exclusively supported by four African cases is clearly a RACIST, XENOPHOBIC, OVERBEARING, SEGREGATIONIST document, and that it unequivocally shows clearly ABSOLUTE DISDAIN TOWARDS THE SO-CALLED “BLACK” CONTINENT. Especially taking into account, we insist, that when looking for cases of economic corruption, of “suspicious” movements in any bank or international institution, etc., surely it is much easier TO FIND THEM IN PERSONS OF THE SO-CALLED RICH WORLD THAN IN AFRICA. HYPOCRISY is the word

that we can best associate with this investigation that EXCLUSIVELY ACCUSES AFRICAN POLITICAL PERSONAGES.

- For a country that recently voted for a president OF AFRICAN ORIGIN AND BLACK RACE, it is a double stain against the AMERICAN SENATE to undertake a supposed crusade that apparently goes in DEFENCE OF JUSTICE AND THE TRUTH, AT THE EXPENSE OF, SOLELY AND EXCLUSIVELY, EXAMPLES EXTRACTED FROM THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.
- In Africa and in Equatorial Guinea we are tired of BEING TREATED FOR CENTURIES LIKE INHUMAN BEASTS, ON WHICH ALL THE BRUTAL AND EVIL BEHAVIOURS POSSIBLE ARE BLAMED. This is again so verifiable in this case that even different media of the United States have written these days, in regards to this case, THAT THE FAMILY OBIANG PRACTICES CANNIBALISM or that THE PRESIDENT IS A DICTATOR AND VIOLATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS, when the country experiences enviable peace, pluralist democracy without complexes, exercises economic freedom, has an extraordinary economic growth and in which foreign capital investments are increasing. At present, and thanks to our natural resources and our efforts, in Equatorial Guinea, WE HAVE THE ECONOMIC POSSIBILITIES, AND ABOVE ALL THE HONOUR, CAPACITY AND COURAGE TO RESPOND TO THE OFFENCES THAT FOR YEARS HAVE FALLEN ON OUR GOVERNMENT, AS THEY FALL ON OUR COUNTRY AND OUR CONTINENT, and we announce that, from now on, not one more will be tolerated.
- We also wish to put on the record that the United States is the country from which comes the highest foreign investment in Equatorial Guinea, which exceeds 12 billion USA dollars, and that no American corporation has complained of fraudulent behaviour of the Government. We also expect the Senate Subcommittee to be consistent with the criteria of the North American companies.
- Finally, from this small country, we insist, with the most absolute willingness to collaborate in this specific case that the United States Senate is studying, that we want to contribute a subject of study, that seems much more interesting to us, as well as necessary to REALLY DO JUSTICE, AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO WHAT THE HISTORICAL MEMORY MEANS BETWEEN TWO CONTINENTS SUCH AS AMERICA AND AFRICA. It deals with dedicating a SUBCOMMITTEE OF INVESTIGATION on the consequences suffered by Africa, for centuries and centuries caused by the kidnapping, extortion and exploitation OF MILLIONS OF AFRICAN PERSONS WHO HELPED TO RAISE THE UNITED STATES AT THE EXPENSE OF PILLAGING AND STEALING THE STRONGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT HUMAN RESOURCES OF AFRICA, MANY OF WHICH LOST THEIR LIVES BECAUSE THE ILL TREATMENT TO WHICH THEY WERE SUBJECTED.

Malabo, 15 February 2010

BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA