



OFFICE OF PARLIAMENT

Parliament House - Accra (Ghana)

Telephone No. 664181 (4 lines)

Fax No. 665957

In case of reply the number
and date of this letter should
be quoted.

My Ref No. OP/CLF/021

Your Ref No.

23-11-2011

THE COORDINATOR
FOREST WATCH
GHANA

RE: FOREST WATCH GHANA'S POSITION ON ISSUANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PERMITS FOR TIMBER HARVESTING

The Parliamentary Select Committee on Lands and Forestry expresses gratitude to the Forest Watch Ghana for drawing its attention to issues relating to the issuance of permits for timber harvesting in the Sue and Tonton Forest Reserves.

The Forest Watch Ghana is kindly being informed that the Committee held separate discussions with the Officials from the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Forestry Commission and some timber companies granted with permits to harvest timber in the Sue and Tonton Forest Reserves. Further, the Committee embarked on a working tour to the Sui Forest Reserve during which interactions were held with some members of the admitted communities.

During the discussions/interactions, the Committee made the following observations:

- i. The timber companies granted with permits to harvest timber in the Sue and Tonton Forest Reserves were distressed and therefore the allocations were necessitated by court orders/settlements.
- ii. Legal timber operations in the Sue and Tonton Forest Reserves had not yet begun as at the time of the working tour.
- iii. Some illegal timber operations especially in the night were reported to have taken place in the Sue and Tonton Forest Reserves.

- iv. The Forestry Commission in partnership with the National Security had been carrying out joint operations to save our forests from illegal timber activities.

The Committee is grateful once again to the Forest Watch Ghana for its concern and is committed to its partnership in effective forest governance.

The Committee would therefore ensure that measures are put in place so that there would be no arbitrariness in the granting of timber harvesting permits.

Thank you.



HON. ALBERT ABONGO
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON LANDS
AND FORESTRY