



Mr. Oswaldo Gratacos
 Vice President
 Compliance Advisor Ombudsman
 International Finance Corporation

Dear VP Gratacos,

We, the undersigned representatives from the affected households and NGOs, have been informed that the office of the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman is set to close the dispute resolution process for the Cambodia Airport II project supported by IFC. We deeply appreciate the role CAO has played throughout the dispute resolution. It has taken us more than 3 years just to get us to where we are now.

We saw a number of our fellow households receiving compensation after delays, fights with our government, and despite the very limited transparency in the process and content of the resettlement action plan. We also witnessed how our fellow households have relocated to the resettlement site. Whether or not they are satisfied with their condition is a matter for them to describe. The reality is, the appropriate mitigation as contained in the resettlement action plan is not fully realized yet. The departure of CAO or its closure of the dispute resolution process, will present the risks of leaving several issues unattended. The closure of the dispute resolution, which only serves as our form of lever to get our government, the Societe Concessionaire de l'Aeroport (SCA) and IFC to be accountable, will only leave the community to demand unfinished justice on their own.

We are writing you to not close the case yet. We know it has been long. But the closure will only leave harm unattended.

Why CAO should not close the dispute resolution process for now?

First, the involvement of the CAO fostered a solution process with due process and provided much needed transparency in available information about stakeholder involvement, Government plans and resettlement and compensation issues. It is of utmost importance that due process and transparency is further ensured for the benefit of the affected households.

Secondly, approximately 50 households are still in dispute with the SCA about their proposed relocation and do not want to relocate; in addition those are in conflict with the Government of Cambodia over receiving land titles for the land plots they are living on. The Inter-Ministerial Resettlement Committee (IRC) of the Cambodian Government has vowed to help solving the dispute; however, no action was taken by now. At this point, SCA and the Government are at odds about their responsibilities towards the affected families, especially the 50 households mentioned above. The SCA claims to be not responsible for negotiation with the 50 households about their resettlement, as in SCAs view they are not affected by the project. The Government claims that those households live illegally on the land.

Should the CAO now withdrew from this case, the 50 households would be further exposed to risks of eviction and arbitrary decisions from the IRC, which could result in deteriorated living conditions and livelihoods.



Moreover, the families fear that closing the case would prompt the SCA to open the irrigation channel system, which is currently blocked due to the sites development. Opening the channels would flood the families' homes and put the lives and livelihoods of the communities further at risk.

We urge you to seriously consider our call. We are more than willing to discuss with you on the specifics of our grounds.

Yours Sincerely,

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