



Loliondo Case: Court Hearing adjourned until the next session, which is in June 2019.

Tuesday, 5 March 2019, At Arusha-Tanzania: The Applicants represented by Mr. Donal Deya and Mr. Nelson Ndeki appeared before the EACJ earlier today during a Court Hearing at the First Instance Division, in Reference No. 10 of 2017: Ololosokwan Village Council & 3 Others vs the Attorney General of the United Republic of Tanzania

After repeated forceful evictions of residents and their livestock from village land adjacent to the Serengeti National Park, a Reference was lodged by the Applicants on the 21st of September 2017 pursuant to Article 6 (c) & (d) and 7(2) of the Treaty establishing the East African Community (EAC Treaty); Article 15(1) of the EAC Common Market Protocol and Rules 1(2) and 24 of the EACJ Rules of Procedure, 2013.

On 20th November 2018, after having determined that the principal issue in contention in the Reference was the determination of the exact demarcations of the areas where the alleged violations occurred, the Court directed both the Applicants and the Respondent to file expert evidence relating to the boundary lines between Serengeti National Park and the villages within Loliondo Division of Ngorongoro District.

Today's Hearing was to assess the experts' testimonies and provide for cross-examination. At the commencement of the proceedings however, Mr. Donald Deya, Counsel for the Applicants and Chief Executive Officer of the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU), sought leave to file an Affidavit mentioning the difficulties met in securing expert witnesses, notwithstanding diligent efforts to secure experts on boundaries from within the Respondent State that may assist the Applicants in the present Reference. He therefore requested for an adjournment.

Court Directions: The Court granted the Applicants a two-month's extension to file their experts' affidavits and present witnesses at the next Ordinary Session of the Court, which is in June 2019.

About the Case: The Applicants are villages located in the Ngorongoro District, on land bordering the Serengeti National Park. The Applicants had also filed Application 15 of 2017 seeking interim orders pending hearing and determination of the Reference No 10 of 2017. The Applicants sought orders to restrain and prohibit the Respondent from evicting residents from the disputed land, confiscating their livestock, burning their homesteads, and subjecting them to severe beatings. In its Ruling of 25 September 2018, the EACJ issued Orders which included explicit directions:

a) That the Respondent and any persons or offices acting on his behalf, cease and desist from evicting the Applicants' residents from the disputed land, being the land comprised in the 1500 sq. Km of land bordering



the Serengeti National Park; destroying their homesteads or confiscating their livestock on that land, until the determination of Reference No. 10 of 2017;

b) That the Office of the Inspector General of Police restrains from harassing or intimidating the Applicants in relation to Reference No. 10 of 2017 pending the determination thereof.

