



Transparency and Accountability Network

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H.E. Joseph Bokai
Vice President
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Excellency

Tackling the Malaria Problem

I am taking the liberty of writing a personal letter and attaching a brief dossier (2 copies) about a proposed integrated mosquito and malaria control (IMMC) program for Liberia. You will perhaps recall my involvement with a World Bank consultancy in the early 1980s dealing with parastatals (LPMC) and agricultural cooperatives. Some little time later I tried to facilitate IFC financing for the rehabilitation of the Mesurado Group of Companies, but was unsuccessful.

I have remained interested in the issues of relief and development and want to do all I can to be helpful. Over the years I have done work in various parts of Africa and South Asia on donor aid coordination, refugee displacement, development planning, parastatal privatization, government financial management, etc. All interesting, but the challenges are huge. Though the world has the technology and the wealth to make a success of relief and development, the donor's have not been willing to give the sort of support that will get the job done, and the global corporate community has had little emphasis beyond near instant profits. Corporate social responsibility is not much beyond a slogan.

About two years ago I was approached by Bill Nesler to help develop a malaria initiative that would suit the situation in Liberia. Dr. Bob Novak, a well known medical entomologist from the University of Illinois, and Dave Malone, with ADAPCO, a US vector control company, were also approached. Subsequently others, including Paul Driessen who has been an advocate for using DDT in mosquito and

malaria control, joined in, and we have put together the IMMC Consortium and a program that builds on the best of all the possible interventions. We believe that an integrated mosquito and malaria control (IMMC) program can be the most cost effective for Liberia, and could be of significant value in the rebuilding process.

Several Liberian friends have brought draft documentation about this program to Monrovia over the past 12 months or so, including Dr. Syrulwa Somah and Mr. Delvin Walker. While we understand from verbal feedback that the program is on target, up to now we have no official letter or other official indication of interest from GOL officials about the proposed IMMC program.

I am acutely aware of budget considerations. Our goal is to help facilitate donor assistance, as well as corporate financing and philanthropic financing for this program and cooperating programs. Paul Driessen is in contact with Admiral Ziemer, who is in charge of the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) at USAID, but as you know the Liberia program is only scheduled for Fiscal 2008 financing. We will do all we can to help get this accelerated if it is something that is priority for Liberia.

The dossier includes a 23 page paper and a 4 page brief, as well as some other background material: (1) A planning paper on vector management prepared by Bob Novak April 2006; (2) Some of the recent dialog between Paul Driessen and USAID; and, (3) A letter from concerned scientists and doctors (largely African) regarding WHO's malaria performance. I am also sending a copy of the Kill Malarial Mosquitoes Now (KMMN) declaration and list of signatories organized by Paul Driessen and colleagues. I hope this will prove useful for you.

This letter and dossier and being hand carried by Julie Evans, who is joining MERLIN in Liberia. I wish her well, recognizing that her work is not likely to be easy, and thank her for carrying the letter and dossier.

Sincerely

Peter Burgess

The Transparency and Accountability Network