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HIGH COURT
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF JUDICATURE
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ACCRA – AD. 2022

SUIT NO:CR/0676/22

THE REPUBLIC
VRS
EN HUANG

WITNESS STATEMENT OF REUBEN RANSFORD ABORABORA

1. My name is Superintendent Reuben Ransford Aborabora. At the time I did this work, I was an Assistant Superintendent of Immigration (ASI)
2. I work with Ghana Immigration Service (GIS). I am attached to the Enforcement Unit.
3. In 2017 I was stationed at Obuasi.
4. As part of my job roles, I check the validity of permits issued by the Ghana Immigration Service to foreign nationals in Ghana. This I do by the visiting the foreigners in their homes and workplaces.
5. I know the accused person, En Huang who is also known as Aisha Huang
6. On 5th May 2017, I led six (6) junior officers of Ghana Immigration Service attached to the Enforcement Unit of the Obuasi Command to Bepotenten in the Amansie Central District in the Ashanti Region.
7. The 6 officers I led on the mission are Assistant Inspector Ernest Gyan, Immigration Control Officer Francis Narchiah Akainyah, Assistant Immigration Control Officer 2 Francis Obeng, Assistant Immigration Control Officer 2 Emmanuel Dua Addae, Assistant Immigration Control Officer 2 Alexeander Ohene Oduro and Assistant Immigration Control Officer 1 Justice Ato Bondzie.

8. Our aim in going to Bepotenten was to verify information our Office had received that some Chinese nationals and others were engaged in illegal mining at Bepotenten in spite of the government ban on mining activities.
9. We set off from Obuasi in a Service vehicle at around 9:30 a.m and we got to the mining site at Bepotenten at about 11:50 a.m.
10. I was in a camouflage trousers and boot, and black top. The driver of the Service vehicle was in a camouflage top and down, and boot. The other officers were in mufti.
11. A road runs through the site and close to the road was a metal container and there were machine parts in this container, some were also lying close to the metal container. There were barrels containing fuel too. Some of the barrels were empty.
12. The mining activities had generated heaps of sand that gathered, forming a ridge. There were also heaps of sand that had been freshly dug out.
13. There was a cocoa farm close to the site and part of the cocoa farm had been cleared. There were dug-out pits, some had water in them.
14. When we reached the site I heard the sound of excavators in use and the sound of generators. I saw a Chinese National and two other Africans under an umbrella.
15. They were looking on and observing the mining activities going on at the site.
16. I ordered the officers who were with me to close-in on them from different directions. The Chinese National and the two Africans saw my men coming, so they took to their heels and run into a nearby cocoa farm. This alarmed the rest of the expatriates and the Africans who were working on the site and they also took to their heels into the same cocoa farm.
17. When my men pursued them, I got down from the service vehicle with Ernest Gyan, the driver. We walked towards where the Chinese was standing with the Africans. When we got there, I saw two excavators on my right-hand side.

On that same side, there was a sand washing machine and a generator. There was sand on the washing machine and water was coming out of the sand washing machine. The washing machine was powered by the generator. There was another pit which had water in it and a tube was in this pit which was connected to the sand washing machine. This tube pumped water unto the sand washing machine. The dirty water that came from the sand washing machine was also connected unto another sand washing machine with a metal tube. On my left side of the site, there were two excavators.

18. Two other excavators were parked close to the road that passes through the site.

19. In total I saw six excavators.

20. Four of the excavators were in use.

21. When I turned around, I saw a big wooden structure so I went into it with Ernest Gyan.

22. The structure had been divided with wood into many rooms. There were mattresses, green carpets and mosquito nets in some of the rooms. One of the rooms had a fridge and cooking utensils.

23. In one of the rooms in the structure, were two Chinese nationals. One was preparing a meal and the other one was standing beside him. I arrested one of them and Ernest Gyan also arrested the other.

24. Ernest Gyan and I took them to the service vehicle. When we were approaching the service vehicle, I realized one of my men, Justice Ato Bondzie was also walking towards the service vehicle with a Chinese national he had arrested.

25. A man who was riding a commercial motor bike informed me that he had seen a Chinese national running from the other end of the cocoa farm towards the Offin River. So, I sat at the back of his motor bike and he sent me to where he had seen the Chinese national. When we got there, I saw the Chinese national walking hurriedly towards the Offin River, so, I arrested him.

26. I took him to where the service vehicle was parked. When we got there, Ernest Gyan and I climbed the heap of sand at the site. I recorded the activities on the site with my phone. I called back my men who had gone into the cocoa farm.

27. Upon arresting the four Chinese nationals, I interacted with them before we set off to Obuasi. I asked them of their mission at the site and Gao Jin Cheng said that they were there to mine for one Aisha.

28. I spoke to him in broken English.

29. I asked for their passports and Gao Jin Cheng said they were with Madam Aisha. I asked him where Madam Aisha was and he said Kumasi.

30. We took the four Chinese nationals we arrested with us to our Office in Obuasi.

31. I handed them over to my Officer in Charge who was already in the Office. I debriefed him and wrote a report which I handed over to him.

32. The recording I made of the activities at the mining site with my phone comprised of videos and pictures which I copied onto a compact disk when I got to the Office.

33. When the case was transferred to Accra, I handed over the compact disk to my senior colleague DSI Ocansey who was investigating the case.

34. This compact disk had my name, rank, signature and my office stamp.

35. I tendered it in as evidence when I testified in the 2017 trial of the accused herein En Huang and the four others who were tried with her.

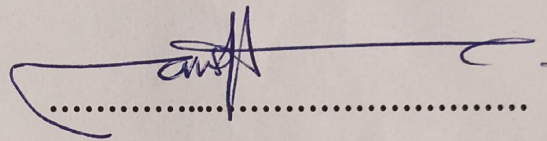
36. That for purposes of this trial, the content of the compact disk has been transferred unto a pen drive in order for the recordings to be easily accessible on any modern computer.

37. I will tender the pen drive at the trial.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I, **REUBEN RANSFORD ABORABORA**, verify that the statements contained in this witness statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DATED IN ACCRA THIS 20th DAY OF OCTOBER 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ransford', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

REUBEN RANSFORD ABORABORA