## Announcement of the Bangkok South Civil Court

## Regarding Request to withdraw the plaint

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The 1<sup>st</sup> plaintiff, Mrs. Hoy Mai, lives in Taman village, Kon Kreal Commune, Samrong district, Oddar Meanchey province, the Kingdom of Cambodia. The 2<sup>nd</sup> plaintiff, Mr. Smin Tet, lives in Taman village, Kon Kreal Commune, Samrong district, Oddar Meanchey province, the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The defendant, Mitr Phol Sugar Co., Ltd., is located at House no.2 Ploenchit Center Building, Sukhumvit Road, Klongtoey Sub-district, Klongtoey District, Bangkok.

The plaintiffs have 6 attorneys as: Ms. Sor.Rattanamanee Polkla, Mr. Teerapan Pankeeree, and Mr. Tittasat Sudsaen – who work for Community Resource Centre Foundation located at House no. 1865 Soi Charansanitwong 75, Bang Plad Sub-district, Bang Plad District, Bangkok, Tel. numbers 081 7725843, 086 7686226, and 089 8496838. Acting Sub Lt. Somchai Ameen, Mr. Thanu Akechote, and Mr. Wiroj Changsan – who work at the same office located at House no. 445 Soi Lad Phrao 112, Phlabphla Sub-district, Wang Thong Lang District, Bangkok, Tel. numbers 081 4071061, 086 3435569, and 081 1710375.

## **Summary of plaint and group characteristics**

In this case, both plaintiffs have filed a lawsuit against the defendant on the grounds that both plaintiffs and class members who share common characteristics as:

- 1) are residents of communities in Bos village, O'Bat Moan village, Taman village, Trapain Veng village, Ktum village of Kon Kreal Commune, Samrong District, Oddar Meanchey Province, Cambodia, and had farmland or residences in the area of Economic Land Concession (ELCs) held by Angkor Sugar Co., Ltd. before 2008; and
- 2) are individuals or families whose human and environmental rights, life, body, and properties have been violated, as a result of operations in Economic Land Concession (ELC) areas by Angkor Sugar Co., Ltd., a representative of Mitr Phol Sugar Co., Ltd. the defendant, which operated in Cambodia in 2008 2015, causing damage to the individuals and families, including loss of houses, loss of farmland, damage to properties, loss of opportunity to make use of community forests, and being assaulted causing physical and mental harms.

Both plaintiffs and class members are a group of individuals who have the same rights, as they are directly affected by the violations against their human and environmental rights as a result of offenses against the domestic laws of Cambodia and Thailand, both criminal law and civil law, involving a civil liability in connection with criminal cases. This is the liability of Mitr Phol Sugar Company Limited (Defendant) as the principal which must be held responsible for the actions of Angkor Sugar Co., Ltd., the defendant's agent operating in Cambodia.

Both plaintiffs demand the defendant to pay compensation to the 1<sup>st</sup> plaintiff in an amount of 4,042,604 baht, and to the 2<sup>nd</sup> plaintiff in an amount of 1,802,600 baht, with 7.5 percent interest per year from the date of filing the lawsuit. And the defendant shall pay compensation to the class members based on the following criteria and method of calculation, with 7.5 percent interest per year of the amount to which each person is entitled, from the date of filing the lawsuit onwards until the defendant has completed the payment:

1. Medical expenses and related expenses

Class members who were injured and hospitalized during 2008 - 2015 shall receive travel expenses to the hospital, medication cost and medical expenses in an amount of 100,000 baht per person

2. Health deterioration caused by physical and mental sufferings

Class members whose health has deteriorated, having to recuperate, feeling anxious and distressed from the loss of rights to land during 2008 – 2015, shall receive compensation in an amount of 500,000 baht per person

- 3. Damage to property (for the head of family)
- 3.1 Loss of rice fields (paddy fields)

Class members, who are heads of family, in Bos village, O'Bat Moan village, Taman village, Trapain Veng village, and Ktum village, and who lost their family farmland during 2008–2015, shall receive compensation based on the size of the lost land at the rate of 930 baht per *rai* for 8 years, totaling 7,440 baht per *rai* 

3.2 Loss of rice yield and lack of income from selling rice

Class members, who are heads of family in Bos village, O'Bat Moan village, Taman village, Trapain Veng village, and Ktum village, and who lost their rice yield and income from selling rice during 2008–2015, shall receive compensation for the lack of income at the rate of 1,500 baht per *rai* for 8 years, totaling 12,000 baht per *rai* 

3.3 Loss of land, houses and other buildings

Class members, who are heads of family in Bos village, Ktum village, Taman village, Trapain Veng village, and O'Bat Moan village, and who lost land, houses and fences during 2008–2015, shall receive compensation for the loss of land and houses in an amount of 200,000 baht per family, and for the loss of fences at the rate of 44 baht per post

3.4 Loss of materials, equipment, utensils in the house and tools in the field

Class members, who are heads of family in Bos village, Ktum village, Taman village, Trapain Veng village, and O'Bat Moan village, and who lost other assets during 2008–2015, shall receive compensation in an amount of 8,500 baht per family

## 3.5 Loss of livestock:

Class members, who are heads of family in Bos village, Ktum village, Taman village, Trapain Veng village, and O'Bat Moan village, and who lost their livestock during 2008–2015, shall receive compensation in an amount of 10,000 baht per family

- 4. Damages for other rights
- 4.1 Loss of children's rights to education

Class members, who are heads of family in Bos village, Ktum village, Taman village, Trapain Veng village, and O'Bat Moan village, and whose children lost the opportunity to receive education as normal during 2008–2015, shall receive compensation in an amount of 50,000 baht per child per family

4.2 Loss of access to forest and water resources

Class members, who are heads of family in Bos village, O'Bat Moan village, Taman village, Trapain Veng village, and Ktum village, and who lost income from gathering wild products during 2008–2015, shall receive compensation for the lost income in an amount of 18,500 baht per family for 8 years, totaling 148,000 baht, and also for the lack of benefit from using natural water sources in an amount of 17,000 baht for 8 years, totalling 136,000 baht

- 4.3 Violations of human rights and environmental rights
- 4.3.1 Class members, who are heads of family in Bos village, Ktum village, Taman village, Trapain Veng village, and O'Bat Moan village, and whose houses were burned down, deprived of the opportunity to live up to their own will and to live in their house and land during 2008-2015,

shall receive compensation for the violation of human rights in an amount of 1,000,000 baht per family and also for the violation of their rights to live in a good environment for another 100,000 baht per family

- 4.3.2 Class members, who are heads of family in Bos village, Taman village, Trapain Veng village, and Ktum village, and who were forced to leave their farmland during 2008–2015, shall receive compensation for the violation of human rights in an amount of 500,000 baht per family and also for the violation of their rights to live in a good environment for another 100,000 baht per family
- 5. The defendant shall pay the (court) fees and expenses for both plaintiffs, and court shall set the reward at the highest rate for the class lawyers

The court scheduled a hearing for the class action petition and issued an order not to allow the class action on 4 July 2019, and both plaintiffs appealed the order. The Court of Appeal later ordered the permission for class action lawsuit on 16 March 2020, and the Bangkok South Civil Court read the order on 31 July 2020.

The defendant filed a defense and objection to the class action. The court scheduled a meeting with the parties for mediation, examination of evidence, determination of issues of dispute and duty to present evidence, and determination of the steps and time frame for the class action. The court scheduled a meeting for mediation or settlement on 27 January 2025 at 1:30 p.m. Later on 28 February 2025, the court mediated and the parties were able to reach an agreement, both plaintiffs filed a petition to withdraw the lawsuit, citing that from the court's mediation process, both parties were afforded the opportunity to present their perspectives, thereby enhancing mutual understanding and facilitating a more comprehensive recognition of each other's viewpoints, after which the Parties came to an Agreement and are satisfied with the resolution of the proceedings.

Therefore, it is announced to give the group members an opportunity to object to the request to withdraw the lawsuit in writing by 9 May 2025. If there is no objection, it is considered that there is no objection to the request to withdraw the lawsuit of both plaintiffs.

The appointment to hear the objection of the group members or the inquiry or the

hearing of the order of the request to withdraw the lawsuit is on 14 May 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Announced on 5 March 2025

(Signature)

(Mr. Saharat Siriwat)

Deputy Chief Judge in the Bangkok South Civil Court