



Plantations et Huileries du Congo SA

(S.A. pluripersonnelle avec Conseil d'Administration)
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PRESS RELEASE

PHC S.A. Denounces the Dissemination of False Information Against the Company

PHC S.A. wishes to inform the public that certain ill-intentioned individuals, acting at the instigation of others, have been publishing and disseminating unfounded allegations aimed solely at damaging the Company's reputation in relation to the voluntary withdrawal of the Congolese State from its shareholding.

Through these publications, **this self-proclaimed journalist** has targeted the Company, its management, its shareholders, as well as several Congolese public figures.

PHC reiterates that it conducts its operations in strict compliance with the laws of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, under the supervision of the competent authorities and in accordance with the corporate governance rules applicable to its activities.

With regard to the voluntary withdrawal of the Congolese State from its shareholding, PHC recalls that this matter was already brought before the Commercial Court by the Congolese State under case No. **RRC 222**. The Court issued an order confirming the validity and legality of the process relating to the voluntary withdrawal of the Congolese State from the Company's shareholding.

Accordingly, any attempt to challenge this judicial decision through unfounded allegations, disinformation campaigns or defamatory statements cannot call into question the rulings rendered by the competent courts.

PHC reaffirms its commitment to freedom of expression and freedom of the press, which are fundamental principles in a State governed by the rule of law. However, these freedoms cannot justify the dissemination of serious, defamatory or false allegations that undermine the honour, reputation and legitimate interests of the Company, its management, its shareholders or any other person concerned.

Such conduct may constitute criminal offences punishable under the Congolese Penal Code (Book II).

Consequently, PHC S.A. reserves the right to initiate any appropriate legal proceedings against the authors, co-authors, or any person who knowingly republishes or disseminates defamatory statements or manifestly false information, so that each may be held accountable for their actions before the competent courts.

The Company thanks all its employees, partners, neighbouring communities and stakeholders for their continued trust and will continue to conduct its activities with responsibility, integrity and in full compliance with the laws of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Communication Department

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