BENEFIT SHARING MACHANISM - Jingle

Liberia is naturally rich with huge forest but over the years, the central government in collaboration with local and international companies signed concession agreements for logging, mining and other forest activities. But do the host communities around these forests benefit from revenue coming out of forest concession? A woman in this skit meets the chief and wants to know how she and her children can benefit from such forest resources too...

CHARACTERS

- MA YATTA (A CONCERNED MOTHER)
- PA BOLO (COMMUNITY LEADER)

SETTING: A LOCAL COMMUNITY. DAY

(AMBIANCE OF VILLAGE LIFE)

MA YATTA: BOLO, I meet you.

BOLO: Thank you YATTA, sit and tell me why you came to my house soon this morning with sweat running down your face like that?

YATTA: BOLO, da something catch my heart and I want for you to make it clear to me because as you know, me and you almost now live our lives but our children; they are the ones I concern about.
BOLO: What’s that?

YATTA: Since you and me been small children in this town here, da this forest we been living by. But the main people da making living from this forest da the government and companies them. They will bring their machines and cut the logs down and carry it, but at the end of the day, just how our own pa and ma them never show us anything good from this forest as benefit, das how we ourselves will not have anything good to show our own of children and grandchildren too. And da the thing worrying me.

BOLO: You right YATTA because I learn that they got one *NGO organization* in other many countries called REDD plus. And this REDD plus together with the World Bank making sure that people in other countries that have forest really benefit from their forest.

YATTA: Hum, tell me more about this REDD plus people.

BOLO: REDD plus is here to make sure that we protect our forest so that the forest too can protect us from bad air or gas.

YATTA: That one good, because if the forest die we will suffer from bad air or gas, and dry season right?

BOLO: Yes.
YATTA: Yes, because according to book people, da the forest helping us to live well. It helps us to breath clean air, it helps with rain, it helps with clean water, it helps keep our animal them safe and it even help to make sure that big breeze don’t come root up our houses them. YATTA: So tell me how really the REDD plus people can work?

BOLO: First of all, our REDD plus friends will come and look around the community and the forest, to get idea from we the people. Book people call this one “Baseline Survey”. They do this one to make sure to see whether our forest got anything good inside for benefit sharing support. After that, they want know who all using the forest resources, and how they using them. At the same time, they want know who doing things to the forest that not really good for us. _And they will teach us about the benefit of the forest when it comes to benefit sharing opportunities to help us get some REDD plus money if we manage our forest well._

YATTA: Yes, that one good because some people can just get up and be cutting the forest down left and right for farming, logging and even char coal burning.

BOLO: That’s true.

YATTA: But then what the REDD plus people will do to save the forest? They will take it from us?
BOLO: No, they will not even throw all the old plans we had to save the forest, but will look into them and see where we can make improvement on those old plans to save our forest.

YATTA: And how they will do this one?

They will call we the community people and other partners like the government and private company them to meeting to put idea together on how all of us can protect the forest.

YATTA: But then why we the community people da living around the forest not really benefiting from our forest? What really your the community leaders and our government doing about this?

BOLO: Well YATTA, I got good news for you.

YATTA: What’s that?

BOLO: The REDD plus NGO, the Work Bank and one other small Liberian NGO called Community Development Initiative or CDI really looking into what all you saying and reason with the Liberian government that it not good to just bring company in a community and cut their forest down without giving them anything.

YATTA (INTERJECTS): It not correct!
BOLO: So for this reason, they sit down with government through the Forestry Development Authority or FDA and agreed that anytime they sign contract with company—whether for logging or mining or whatsoever, they should take up certain portion for we the community people too. They call that one “benefit sharing mechanism” or BSM for short.

YATTA: “Benefit Sharing Mechanism”, that’s good. B-S-M!

BOLO: They even went on to say that so long the government helping to protect our forest, making sure that too much of activities that will destroy the forest not going on, they will turn around and give the government some money and the government in turn should give some of the money to we the community people as our benefit. Even when somebody working hard to save the forest, that person gets some benefit too.

YATTA: And we could use some of that money to send our children to school so they can know book and help us.

BOLO: And part of that money will be used to carry on development in Gbarpolu, Bomi and Cape Mount counties where we having the Gola forest and Lake Piso.

YATTA: And when your sharing the benefit, your must make sure that we the women them get our share so we can help ourselves too.
BOLO: Don’t worry, YATTA, women da special people so for this reason CDI and its partners making sure that the benefit that will come to us the community people get in the right hands and be used properly, so that women, and the young people can benefit too.

YATTA: Women should even be part of the group da will be taking care of the benefit.

BOLO: O yes. Not only women but young people too. And that is because; the forest for every one of us, and everybody should be part of the benefit sharing mechanism.

YATTA: I want to thank CDI and partners for this wonderful benefit sharing thing education they bringing to us the people of Latia, Felie, Camp Israel and other communities that host the Liberia’s forest.

BOLO: And let’s thank our government too for looking back to care for we the community people who around the forest.

ATTRIBUTION:

THE END.