Dear Teresa,

Greetings, I hope all is well. Let me first introduce myself. I am currently the elected Chairman of the village of Barranco, and currently SATIIM's Board Chair.

I had assisted the Barranco Fisherfolks in submitting their first report to you. I had been assisting the group prior to then and up to a short time after.

I parted ways with the group because it became obvious that they were being fraudulent. I was made to understand that they had bought seine/gill net instead of fish traps and had only borrowed someone's to take pictures.

I was no longer involved with the group, but a member confided in me that they've been falsifying the receipts because they weren't buying according to the approved spending.

As a board member at SATIIM, and fully aware that it was SATIIM's ED who had introduced the group to your organization, I made mention to her about these allegations. I encouraged her to investigate these matters. From what I have observed, she knowingly assisted them in submitting the false information.

As a leader of this community, I find it necessary to bring this matter to your attention so that you can carry out your own investigations.

Most of the receipts are generic and not official.

The vessel is used for personal travel even to nearby Livingston Guatemala. Some of the stuffs are bought from there including the vessel. I don't know who assists them in making up the receipts.

Some group members are not invited to meetings as before and are not kept informed of the latest. The group is also not a registered cooperative and therefore has no Articles of Association.

I can go on, but this should be enough for your organization to carry out its own investigations.

Like I've said Ms Tzalam is fully aware of these things.

Thanks.

Yours truly,

Dale Gutierrez

Chairman, Barranco Village