



THE NORTH-WESTERNER

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March 2023

SOCIAL ACTIONS FOR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AND BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

- NWRA-SMILE TRAIN Committed to safe clefts care and treatment
- Nukwi Ne Abubte: Fostering peace and social cohesion through traditional diplomatic ties
- Climate Change: Mitigation and adaptation measures



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EDITORIAL TEAM

PUBLISHER

- Prof. Fru Fobushzi Angwafo III
- President, North West Regional Assembly

MANAGING EDITOR

- Hon. Waindim Nsom Jude

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

- Victory Marshal Ayafor Basang

EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS

- Njike Celestine Atadebe
- Kendemeh Emmanuel
- Choves Loh
- Charles Tembei

CONTRIBUTORS

- Hon. Dr Yaa Sakah Fondufe Lydia
- Hon. Fuchi Emmanuel Diangha
- Ndefru Melanie
- Moma Sandrine L.
- Ngene Sandra
- Loh Seraphine
- Bakah Derick
- Ndang Sandra
- Tedji Beh
- Ngwingchi Jenifer Brat
- Sylvia N. Waindim

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT

- Varela Graphics

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Akombah Anderson Akondi
- Victory Marshal Ayafor Basang

PRINTING

- Dignity prints

DISTRIBUTION

- Victory Marshal Ayafor
- Fru Vernasius Konje
- Immaculate Azue Epse Awazi
- Azaah Marie Chantal

CONTACT INFOS

Up station, opposite court of Appeal

Call us; 23723363100

Send us email; info@nwra.cm

P.O. Box 5127 Bamenda, North West Region, Cameroon. Our website: www.nwra.cm

Our facebook page:

The North West Regional Assembly

Our twitter: North West Regional Assembly

Our instagram: @north-west-regional-assembly

Our youtube: North West Regional Assembly

Our tik tok: @nwregionallassembly

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Prof. Fru Fobushzi Angwafo III
President North West Regional Assembly

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN ACTION

The third edition of our regional journal comes at the first quarter of the third year of existence of the Regional Assembly. The socio-economic and political development of the region is the overriding mission of the Regional executive council, the implementation organ of the Regional Assembly. The current crisis invited innovative crafts and schemes for social cohesion to assuage the suffering of the highly vulnerable. This

explains actions mainly in the social sectors of health, education and culture in our first two years. Partnering with Smile Train, UNDP and many community based organizations, the Regional assembly has fostered social cohesion, dialogue and employment of many unskilled workers. As peace gradually returns to the region, we must fast track human development through innovative community infrastructures and services such as multimedia, arts and culture

youth centers, startups and sports facilities to engage youth and foster their growth.

However, while awaiting transfer of power and skills in key sectors of physical development notably communication, roads, water and energy, it is imperative that studies and mature projects within the sphere of the Regional development plan be undertaken.

While waiting for the 100 billion dollar contribution of the world's greatest polluters to compensate the least polluter African countries, it is incumbent on us to craft local policies to mitigate effects of climate change. There are actions that can decrease the green house gas effect such as regenerating original forest reserves with friendly indigenous plants and trees. Replanting raffia palm will drive the fiber, bamboo, wine, food, furniture and building raffia value chain. It will also prevent drought and loss of shallow water tables, erosion, loss of arable land and floods. Prevention of bush fires will preserve original grass and shrubs, soil fertility and increased crop yields. Original tree cover will limit the depletion of the ozone layer. The engagement of stakeholders, especially the youth through community peace and development committees within the Peace and Development Initiative framework will strengthen social, cultural, economic and political growth of our communities.

In this edition, we highlight actions from our regional develop-

ment plan in the five areas where competences have been devolved; that is environment, town planning and housing, tourism and leisure, transport and health.

In our people - centered, citizen participatory policy, we urge readers and the community to contribute to this Quarterly written conversation. This ensures ownership by all stakeholders and the bottom-up approach in the development log framework from joint planning, budgeting, programming, implementation, follow up and evaluation. Only then can "U na Mi, Mi na U, Wi bi Wi" and our community spirit express our regional solidarity, a guarantee of sustained peace and development. Non Sebi Sed Omnibus!



THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE LAW

The People's Assembly



By Hon. Jude Nsom Waindim
Questor NWRA

In this edition of The North-Westerner Magazine, we introduce the slot, The Regional Assembly and the Law. Of course, our goal is to inform our readers, and especially our various local populations, on what the Law says about diverse issues concerning the lives of our people (cf. Law No. 2019/024 of 24 December 2019: Bill to Institute the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities). Thus, this paper shall be informed by Sections 259, 266, 276, 280 and 333 of instrument cited supra, which, henceforth, shall simply be referred to as the Code.

What is a Region?

We are edified by Section 259 (1&2) of the Code that the Region is the authority made up of all its Divisions, covering the same boundaries of the Region as the Administrative Unit. This means, therefore, that when referring to the jurisdiction of operation of the Regional Assembly in Regional governance, placed under the authority of the President of the Regional Executive Council (cf. Section 274 (1), we are referring to the same jurisdiction of operation of the Region-

al Administration, placed under the Governor, who, by dint of the Code, is the Representation of State (cf. Section 280 [2]).

How is Regional Governance different from the administration of the Region as an Administrative Unit?

Section 259 (2) informs us that the primary duty of the Region as a Regional Authority, is to promote economic development and social progress; thereby, contributing to harmonious, balanced, supportive and sustainable territorial development. When we examine the details of these duties, as spelled out in Part II, Section 267 of the Code: Powers Devolved Upon Regions, it becomes clear in our minds that the role of the Region is specifically distinct from that of the Region as an Administrative Unit under the Representative of State, who has jurisdiction over the local administrations of the Divisions and Sub Divisions, in terms of the day-to-day management of civil, military and paramilitary functions of the State of Cameroon [emphasis mine].

What makes the Regional Assembly the People's Assembly?

Here, we are guided by Section 266 (1) of the Code that, in line with regulations in force, the Region can carry out actions that are supplementary to those carried out by the State. Therefore, under its jurisdiction measures of promoting local development and investment, the Region can propose certain decentralized community activities to be carried out in local Council areas. Furthermore, Divisional Representatives have to participate, AS OF RIGHT, in the proceedings of the local Councils of their origin, IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY.

It was on the strength of this particular Section of the Code that the Regional Assembly adopted a Deliberation to this effect (full Del. to be cited), which is the main instrument on which its current Peace and Development Initiative (PDI) is anchored. In this regard, Guidelines for the effective implementation of this PDI were duly prepared and published in the last edition of The

North-Westerner, for fieldwork in our various communities to go operational, notably, through the Peace and Development Committees (PDCs) that have been duly put in place, endorsed by local administrations, which represent the State in our Divisions and Sub Divisions.

The composition of these PDCs speaks to the role our local communities, through their elected representatives, traditional leaders, religious authorities, women and youth representatives, local development associations, internal and external elite, youth mentors for transgenerational cohesion, are all expected to play, to achieve the following:

- a) Enhancing the return to normalcy in our communities through peace-building talks, the training of peace crusaders/ambassadors, and social actions.
- b) Building a local cash economy in each Sub Division of the entire Region, using the High Intensity Labour Approach, point of reference being Prime Ministerial Decree No. 2014/0611/PM of 24 March 2014.

Conclusion

From this backdrop, it seems evident that the sociological composition of the PDCs reflect the sociological coloration of the Regional Assembly, as captured in Section 276 (1) of the Code, viz., “The Regional Council shall reflect the various sociological components of the Region. It shall, inter alia, ensure representation of the Region’s indigenous people, minorities and gender.” Idem for the House of Divisional Representatives (cf. Section 333 [2]); and especially, Section 354 (1): “The distribution of positions in the Regional Executive Council shall, as far as possible, reflect the configuration of the Regional Assembly.”

As such, in whatever we do as Regional Authorities, we must endeavour to remember that we are out to serve the people, our people; that is, we are not for self, but for all: non sibi, sed omnibus.

THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY IN ACTION

Senatorial Election: NW Regional Councillors Vote with Enthusiasm By Kendemeh Emmanuel



Hon. Ghejung Awunti casting his vote

The senatorial election of March 12, 2023 was a historic event for Regional Councillors to vote Senators who will represent the Regional and Local Authorities in the Upper House of Parliament.

Members of the North West Regional Assembly, made up of Divisional representatives and traditional rulers of the house of

chiefs, on March 12, 2023 voted Senators of the third legislative period of the Upper House of Parliament, the Senate. Indeed in the 19 Polling stations where voting took place in the seven Divisional headquarters of the North West Region, both Municipal and Regional Councillors who numbered 1,127 cast their votes to decide whether the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM) or the opposition Social Democratic Front (SDF) will represent them in the Senate.

The anxiety and enthusiasm of Regional Councillors to perform their civic duties in their first-ever time to participate in senatorial election was demonstrated by the President of

the North West Regional Assembly, Professor Fru Angwafo III. He was among the first people to cast his votes in one of the polling stations located at the former PWD building in Up-Station Bamenda. After casting his vote, Professor Fru Angwafo III, declared to the anxiously waiting press that, "I am super pleased to cast my vote to a team I believe



Commissioner for Health and social development exercising her civic duty

will bring development to the Region.” He further said, “The Senate is a very important institution for the region.” He justified this by stating that, “The Regional Assembly works with Senators from our region such that development projects from our region are not only funded but take priority in the strategic development plan.”

Another Pioneer Regional councillor from the North West Region, Lilindof Che told the press that he was delighted to have exercised his civic responsibility to vote the list of Senators to represent the Region . Without disclosing the name of his party in respect of the provisions of the Electoral Code that calls for the secrecy of the ballot, he declared, “I am equally extremely happy because on our list we have men and women of repute, integrity, development-oriented that can actually foster the development of our nation as a whole.”

The Electoral Code equally gives the opportunity to traditional rulers to participate in voting Senators. In the North West and

South West Regions each endowed with a special status, traditional rulers are grouped under the House of Chiefs. As such, members of the House of Chiefs that is part of the Regional Assembly effectively cast their votes.

His Royal Majesty, Fon Azefor of Nkwen who is a member of the North West House of Chiefs expressed his delight to the press when he said, “ I feel very comfortable exercising my franchise because after the Major National Dialogue, the North West and South West Regions were granted Special Status and a House of Chiefs was created under the Regional Assemblies.” Taking this into consideration, he said, “So, we as traditional rulers are part of the system and it involves all of us so that we come on board and encourage our communities to grow.”

After voting, North West Regional Assembly as a powerful institution in the decentralization and local development chain expects much from the Senate. Senators from



President of NWRA facing the Press after casting his vote

the North West Region will be expected to liaise on a permanent basis with Regional and Local Authorities, so as to master the

pressing development needs in order to present, defend them in the Upper House of Parliament and contribute to accelerating local development.



Fon Azehfor III of nkwen exercising his civic duty

HEALTH COOPERATION**NWRA, SMILE TRAIN committed to kick out cleft lip and palate***By Victory Marshal Ayafor Basang*

President, NWRA and Director of SMILE TRAIN for west and Central Africa Dr. Nicole Bouba, cementing the partnership with a handshake.

The NWRA and Smile Train on Thursday January 26, 2023, signed a health cooperation agreement that provides free treatment of cleft lip and cleft palate for the population of the Region. The landmark ceremony, which brought together stakeholders from the government, civil society, media, grassroots leaders and the population was presided at, by the Representative of the State, Governor Adolphe Lele LAFRIQUE.

The signed MoU, officially establishes a strategic health cooperation agreement between both the North West Regional Assembly and Smile Train. It was signed by Prof. Fru Fobuzshi ANGWAFO III, President, North West Regional Assembly and Dr. Nicole BOUBA, Director of Smile

Train for West and Central Africa.

In his keynote address, the President of the North West Regional Assembly underscored government's commitment towards enhancing public health. He further welcomed the partnership with Smile Train and described it as a means to support awareness and safe cleft treatment within the region. "By signing this memorandum of understanding, we have literally opened the doors to assist families in need of cleft care in the Region. The MoU provides platform to create awareness in the North West Region on Cleft care while enhancing identification and referral of patients for free treatment at the Mbingo Baptist Hospital. "This is a truly humanitarian agreement that meets the needs of the community of people with clefts. It restores their

integrity, their dignity and their speech, and procures smiles, cheers, happiness and sustained human development”. The Regional Assembly boss added.

Speaking to the North-Westerner magazine, the Smile Train Program Director for West and Central Africa, Dr Nicole BOUBA revealed that the partnership will enhance the availability and quality of cleft treatment in the North West Region of Cameroon. She also intimated that, Smile Train has supported more than 3000 cleft surgeries since 2012 through its network of 10 local partner hospitals in 07 regions across Cameroon. Dr Boubou further called on the population of North West Region to refer or take their children born with cleft lip or palate to their partner hospital Mbingo Baptist Hospital, here in the Region, where the patients are treated absolutely cost free.

“Cleft is a birth defect in which a child

tistics hold that in Cameroon, 700 children are born each year with clefts. Therefore, this Partnership between Smile Train and the North West Regional Assembly will provide the necessary support to families who are most in need of cleft- care”. Dr. Boubou added.

Smile Train is the largest cleft-focused Organization with active cleft care programs in over 70 countries across the world (22 in Africa), 245 partners and over 255 partner hospitals across Africa. Through strategic partnerships at the local, regional, national and international levels, Smile Train dedicates itself towards providing funding to quality healthcare. Through capacity building and advocacy, it increases access to safer surgeries and cleft care in low- and middle-income countries. The organization strengthens health systems development as it empowers local medical professionals in



Signing of the MoU, by NWRA and SMILE TRAIN

experiences difficulty in breathing, eating and speaking. And children who grow up with untreated clefts are often isolated and bullied, tagged as witches or wizards and unable to socialize and make friends. Sta-

training, funding and provision of resources for free cleft surgery and comprehensive cleft care to children.

Cleft lip and cleft palate are thought to be caused by a combination of genes

and epi-genetic factors, such as substances (foods, drinks, drugs, medications) the mother comes in contact with during pregnancy. They most commonly occur as isolated birth defects but can also be associated with inherited genetic conditions or syndromes linked consanguinity (children

cleft malformations a high prevalence of consanguinity. Smile Train will through the strategic cooperation partnership signed with the North West Regional Assembly, also train multidisciplinary teams of oral, dental, pediatric surgeons, anesthetists, or technicians, orthodontists, nutritionists,



Dr. Nicole Bouba handing over the MoU to the representative of the state

borne of close relatives). In the region there are many cases of cleft defects considering the spectrum of deficiencies secondary to

community health practitioners, and educationists to care for cleft disease.



Family Photo after the signing of the MoU

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

NWRA , NEF seek measures to solve unemployment in the Region.

Youths trained on skills and techniques for start-ups, self-employment and entrepreneurship.

capacity building workshop seriously, grab useful information and consult the National Employment Fund for clarification of doubts



Youths registering for the open door day

By Ndefru Melanie

As part of commemorative activities that marked the 57th edition of the National Youth Week celebrated under the theme; “Youth, Moral, Civic and entrepreneurship rearmament, a guarantee for discipline in building a united and prosperous Cameroon”, some 700 youths of the North West Region have been drilled on skills and techniques for startups, auto employment and youth entrepreneurship.

This was during a 2-day career open door day organized by the North West Regional Assembly and animated by the National Employment Fund from Thursday 9 – Friday 10, 2023, at the court yard of the North West Regional Assembly.

In her opening address, the Commissioner for Education, Sports and Cultural Development, Prof. Anjoh Fri-Manyi Rose, representing the President of the Regional Assembly urged the youths to take the

whenever necessary. She also encouraged the youths present, to acquire skills for start-up businesses that will enable them to be job creators, not job seekers. Participants were drilled through diverse talks and workshops on topics that affect the job market and enlightened on the importance of Information and Communication Technologies, while being encouraged to pursue careers in the field. They were also drilled on the activities of Non-Governmental Organizations, how they function and how to write projects that can attract financing from international bodies. Officials present stressed the importance of entrepreneurship in strengthening the economy of every country while reiterating the need for youths to embrace job and wealth creating initiatives.

As potential entrepreneurs and job creators, participants were taught on the development and sustainability of small and medium size enterprises. They were encouraged to do

things differently, be observant, learn the conception of business plans/ideas and most importantly, to be patient and be consistent. They were also enlightened on the various careers in agriculture and how to go about exploring those openings.

According to Mr. Chifor Moma, the Regional Director for the National Employment Fund, the institution is set aside by the government to help Cameroonian youths find employment

and improve livelihoods through career coaching and employment. The government is especially committed to assisting youth of the North West Region in creating opportunities for themselves that make them self-sufficient and not continually dependent. Participants left the training with a new mindset, invigorated and determined to implement the lessons learned.

Speaking to the over 700 young people at the closing of the 2-day career open door

day, the representative of the State, Governor Adolphe Lele LAFRIQUE, while re-assuring them of government's support in all their endeavors, encouraged them to work hard and be responsible young citizens who uphold republican values.

Upon closing the event, the Governor alongside other officials of the region, proceeded to visit the exhibition stands where "Made in the North West Region" products were showcased. The event was also crowned by a musical jamboree that brought together seasoned

musical artists from the 07 Divisions of the Region, who graced hearts and advocated for peace and development in the Region through their songs.

The twin event (career open door day and musical jamboree) that brought together both solarized and non-solarized youths, students and pupils provided the young with skills, attitudes and knowledge needed to make informed careers choices in life.



Youths having exchanges with facilitators



Youths during interactive session of the seminar

North West Regional Development Plan: The 2022-2027 Plan awaits Validation

By Njike Celestine Atadebe, DELCOM North West.



Prof Fru Fobushzi Angwafo III , President NWRA

The draft plan was adopted by the Regional Assembly and other local development stakeholders in February 2023.

The North West Regional Assembly (NWRA), mayors and regional councillors endorsed a draft development plan for the region for the years 2022 to 2027 that is awaiting validation in the upcoming session of the Regional As-

sembly. Speaking during the meeting that assembled all the 34 mayors of the North West, Regional Councillors and other stakeholders to deliberate and adopt the RDP, Prof Fru Angwofo III lauded Infrastructure Development Consultancy (IDC), the institution that developed the plan for their technical expertise.

The 300-slide power-point presentation, compiled in a booklet, contained general information on North West Region, regional development priorities and strategies, reviewed policy implementation, implementation monitoring framework and evaluation amongst others. It further dissected some key sectors in the region like Education, Tourism and Leisure, Environment, inter-urban Transport, Town Planning, highlighting on problems diagnosed per sector, challenges, potentials, needs and strategies.

The IDC presentation equally portrayed a holistic document with futuristic perspectives in other sectors like MINEE, MINADER, MINEPDEP, MONTOUL etc while laying emphasis on the Regional Assembly's concentration on its devolved services

The heated debate that ensued from the question and answer session that followed the summary

presentation, was an opportunity for participants to better understand the roles of the Regional Assembly and the various councils within the region vis-à-vis the Regional Development Plan.

After deliberation and adoption, the President of the Regional Assembly stated clearly in his closing remarks that

the just-afooted Regional Development Plan was still subject to a final validation by the Regional Assembly during its session.



Participants at the meeting

sembly. This was during a one-day meeting held in the Auditorium of the North West Regional Assembly on February 08, 2023 under the aegis of Prof Fru Angwofo III, President of the NWRA.

Decentralisation: Proximity Radios partner with Regional Assembly

By Loh Seraphen

The radios will inform, sensitize and educate the population on the mission and actions of the Regional Assembly



REC members during the workshop

Media practitioners of some 20 selected proximity (community) radios from the 07 Divisions of the Region have committed to inform, sensitize and educate the entire population of the Region on the role of the North West Regional Assembly in driving the local development and its mission as a community-focused institution. The workshop held on Friday January 13 2023 at the Auditorium of the North West Regional Assembly.

These proximity media actors took the commitment during a one-day capacity building workshop organized by the Assembly to drill media practitioners on the role and mission of the Regional Assembly, that is out to improve livelihoods, drive sustainable spatial development and promote peace and living together amongst the population. The media professionals were also drilled on the part they play as key partners by working in synergy with the Regional Assembly by giving visibility to the agenda of peace building and local development in the entire Region and all its 34 Sub-divisions.

Chaired by the President of the North West Regional Assembly, Prof. Fru Fobushzi AN-

GWAFO III, the workshop saw participants engage in various exchanges on the best strategies to get information about the North West Regional Assembly to the masses and also source information from the communities to the Assembly (the bottom-top approach of communication). After fruitful deliberations, the media professionals launched into a working session, of recording and producing spots, micro-programs and customized media content under the title “The North West Regional Assembly and you” that will better convey the sensitization and awareness campaign about daily happenings in the communities and NWRA projects and realizations in our respective localities. In essence, during this working session, 6 micro programs were recorded. The first was an overview of the NWRA with Prof. Anjoh Frii-Manyi Rose, Commissioner for Education, Sports and Cultural Development at the North West Regional Assembly. Recorded both in English and Pidgin Languages.

The second and third on Peace and Development Initiatives (PDIs) and Community Decentralized Activities (CDAs) were recorded with the Questor of the Regional Assembly, Hon. Waindim Jude who expatiated on what the PDI is all about. The micro-programs were recorded in



Journalists being drilled on citizen participatory reporting

both the English and Pidgin languages as well. After the produced spots and micro-programs, were appraised and approved by the President of NWRA and members of the REC, the proximity radios aired them for one month. It was agreed upon that, to ensure sustainability, there should always be spots and micro-programs in the media bank.

To ensure that distorted information whether on or from the Assembly or community is minimised, the workshop participants unanimously agreed that the micro-programs will be sequential with specific topics that chronologically present further details about the North West Regional Assembly, its missions and accomplishments vis-a-vis the population and communities.

An online network has been born to this effect and so far, all the Partner Radios are commit-

ted to this course and do take part in recording and producing these micro-programs and media content for the Assembly. With the use of media broadcast plans, these Partner Radios regularly air the produced spots and micro-programs in strict compliance with professional standards to



Babungo community Radio reaching the people with produced spots and micro programs



DMCR Nkamebe on air with produced spots and micro programs

avoid distorted flow of information about the communities or the Assembly.

With the Partnership Agreement, these proximity radios now function as key partners in accompanying the North West Regional Assembly and communities to accomplish their visions, missions and objectives. These 20 community radios have not only committed to work relentlessly for peace and spatial development in their respective communities, but have also set up a “Regional Media Forum for Peace and development.”

SOCIAL ACTION

CIVIL PROTECTION: NWRA facilitates the establishment of Free Birth Certificates



“Birth registration is a vital first step in every child’s right to an identity”

By Victory Marshal Ayafor Basang

The North West Regional Assembly in one of its Social Action Projects is facilitating the production of birth certificates to 3400 beneficiaries selected from some the 34 sub-divisions of the Region. The execution of this said project is done in 3 phases, with the exercise preceded by the identification of 100 needy children of school going age, (8 to 14 years) from each Sub Division of the 34 that make up the North West Region, who have no birth certificates.

“There are many children in our communities who because they do not have a birth certificate, there is nothing within official Cameroonian state records to show that such children exist, since they have no birth certificates to recognise or identify them. Many children are missing out on their first right, often with detrimental consequences. For example, primary aged school children without birth certificates

are not allowed to sit examinations for secondary school level education in Cameroon.”

This process of facilitating the birth registration process for children born outside of a medical jurisdiction is giving a fair chance to communities that do not have access to medical services, or who simply cannot afford them. For one of the beneficiary’s father, Mr. Eric, “birth registration is a vital first step in a child’s right to an identity: “I am so glad the North West Regional Assembly will be facilitating the process of each of my children to have a birth certificate because it is the first document in life; things can be very difficult for a child who doesn’t have one. I did not have the means to establish these birth certificates, but thanks to the Regional Assembly, my children will be having this very first important certificate of life.” he says. He equally emphasized that, parents should not leave any child at home because he/she doesn’t have a birth certificate. He added that every child has the right to be

educated and the right to identity through their birth certificates.

Tebo Agnes, who is a mother of four beneficiaries in Njikwa Sub Division shares her joy on such a gesture from the North West Regional Assembly. “I am so happy my 2 children are selected to benefit from this birth certificate scheme of the Regional Assembly, because I will be able to send my children to school next academic year, especially my first daughter who is going to class 6 and will be registering for the Government Common Entrance and First School Living Certificate examinations. Now I will do everything in my power to send her to school.”

In Cameroon, 30% of births are not registered, according to the collection of statistical data of the civil status carried out in 2019 by the National Bureau of Civil Status . This is due to the ignorance of parents, the negligence of

households, illiteracy and the remoteness of the civil status centre. To remedy this, many initiatives are being carried out by the government, municipalities, associations and elites to give these children a legal existence. Birth registration certificates in Cameroon is a big challenge. Current estimates point to 400,000 children in the country who do not have a birth certificate. And year upon year, that number increases.

It is worth noting that, in April 2022, the government allocated more than 88 million CFA francs to some 6 municipal councils to issue birth certificates to 11,000 children. Cameroon’s efforts to remedy the situation of ghost children are in line with the national and international commitments made by the authorities to enable them to obtain citizenship, a right recognised by the Constitution and the many legal instruments ratified by the country.



“Every child has the right to have a birth certificate”

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

NWRA Commits to Education for all

Population appreciates assistance to candidates of National end-of-course certificate examinations

By Victory Marshal Ayafor Basang / Moma Sandrine

On Friday January 20, 2023, some 805 students drawn from the 07 Divisions of the Region received financial assistance to the tune of nineteen million, two hundred and ninety thousand, one hundred francs (19, 290,100FCFA) from the North West Regional Assembly . This was to enable them register and sit for the National end of course exams (GCE O' and A' Levels). Based on equity, territorial perspective and need assessment, the envelope received by the Regional Delegate of Secondary Education, Mr. Ngwang Roland on behalf of needy beneficiaries was shared to the following number of students per Divisions as follows: 75 students from Ngokentungia, 32 from Momo Division, 120 from Menchum Division, 112 from Donga Man-

ary education officials.

Reacting to such a gesture from the Regional Assembly, the Regional Delegate for Secondary Education, some of the beneficiary students, their parents, school authorities and the educational family of the North West Region had the following to say:

“Regional Assembly has proven that Education cannot wait”

“After the Registration of National end of year course Exams was launched by the Minister of Secondary Education this academic year 2023, I did an assessment and realized that a good number of students in the Region have not registered for these exams and it was evident that they were not going to meet up with the official registration deadlines; not because they don't want to register, but rather because these candidates don't have the means to register and sit for these exams. So, we met the President of the North West Regional Assembly, Prof. Fru Fobuzshi ANGWAFO III. He listened to us carefully and requested that we systematically identify these needy students who are not able to register their national

end of course exams for lack of means. The exercise was launched immediately and at the end of it, we identified 805 students from the 07 Divisions of the Region who had not yet registered and who already stood the high risk of not registering, because the official deadline given was fast closing in. We further did an assessment and realized that these 805 students needed a colossal sum of 19.290.100FCFA to have them registered to sit in for their end-of-course exams. And surprisingly, the President of the North West Regional Assembly, opted to register these students and that he did immediately by making available the money. To that effect, I invited all my Divisional Delegates to Bamenda who came and collected the money and went back to immediately do disbursements to the

schools concerned in their respective Divisions and on behalf of these students.



tung, 48 from Bui, 119 from Boyo and 300 students from Mezam Division identified by second-

So we wish to express profound gratitude to the North West Regional Assembly through its able President, Prof. Fru Fobuzshi ANGWAFO III, for giving us a listening ear and acting promptly to see that the destinies of these students were not perturbed. The Regional Assembly has truly proven that, education cannot wait. We truly appreciate such a timely intervention, which is the first ever of its kind in magnitude and latitude. We have been having little support from here and there, but not a case where close to a 1000 students life's have been rescued at a time they were going to be despondent and not able to register and sit their end of course exams.

I wish to on behalf of these students, their parents and guardians and the entire education family of the North West Region, express profound gratitude to the North West Regional Assembly for this timely support and assistance."

Mr Ngwang Roland

Regional Delegate Secondary Education, North West

"We are full of joy"

"My name is Mbanwei Emmanuel, a form Five Student of GBHS Mendankwe. I wish to appreci-



ate the Regional Assembly for the GCE O Level, 2023 session. My mother was not able to raise the registration fees and the deadline for registration was fast approaching and we didn't know what to do. But thank God the Regional Assembly rescued me and my other school mates and registered us. We are so full of joy. On behalf of my other school

mates who benefitted too, I wish to say a big thank you to the Regional Assembly for making us smile and we promise to make them proud by passing the exams in flying colours."

Mbanwei Emmanuel

Form Five B Student, GBHS Mendankwe

"God gave the Regional Assembly the good heart to come to our rescue"

"My name is Pa Joe and I live at Mendankwe. Ac-



tually, what the Regional Assembly has done to my children in GBHS Mendankwe, is so heart melting. Many of our children had dropped out of school because we had no means to pay fees, talk less of registering them for the National end of course Exams. But God made it possible through the Regional Assembly for my two children to register for GCE O and A levels respectively. We were not expecting, but God gave the Regional Assembly the Good heart to come to our rescue and we pray God continues to bless them. I am speaking on behalf of many parents here present whose children also benefitted from the Generosity of the Regional Assembly. We all are very grateful and pray God continues to bless each and every member of the Regional Assembly."

Pa Joe (A parent of 2 Beneficiary Students)

From GBHS Mendankwe

"We are very grateful to the Regional

Assembly”

“I am Leng Felicitas Bei, a form 5 student of



GBHS Wum and one of the beneficiaries of the financial assistance from the North West Regional Assembly. On behalf of my school mates and I who benefitted, we wish to whole heartedly thank the Regional Assembly for their timely financial assistance that enabled us to register for our end of course Exams (GCE O’ and A’ levels, 2023 session). If they did not assist us, we wouldn’t have been able to register the GCE, because our parents were financially hard up. We are very grateful and pray God continues to give them the means to assist other needy students in the Region.”

*Leng Felicitas Bei
Form 5 student of GBHS Wum*

“Regional Assembly should institute Annual Scholarship Scheme”



“I am Kum Didymus Ndze, PTA Chairperson of GBHS Wum. I wish to, on behalf of the parents of the beneficiary students of GBHS Wum, heartily thank the North West Regional Assembly for having come to the timely aid of needy students in GBHS Wum to enable them register and sit the GCE O’ and A’ levels for the 2022/2023 Academic year. It’s quite a laudable effort which I must underscore. And this has gone a long way to bring relief and alleviate what the parents of these students are going through financially. I wish to go further, to humbly plead and suggest that, the Regional Assembly should go an extra mile to institute an annual scholarship scheme for the best students in the Region. This will motivate our students to always be the best and aim for the highest heights in life. We thank the Regional Assembly for cutting across sectors in order to drive sustainable development in the Region in its entirety; and particularly touching on the education sector this time. I wish you more power to your elbows, especially to the dynamic leadership of the Assembly, under Prof. Fru Fobuzshi ANGWAFO III. Thank you very much.”

*Mr. Kum Didymus Ndze
PTA Chairperson, GBHS Wum*

“I will forever remain grateful to the Regional Assembly”



“I am KIMBI Lizette Sah, an Upper Sixth Arts student (A2) in GHS Bafmeng. I am one of the beneficiaries of the timely financial assistance from the North West Regional Assembly, which enabled me to register the 2023 GCE Advanced level Examina-

tion at the nick of time. I was in dire need of this registration money and without it, I wouldn't have been able to register the GCE this year. I will forever remain grateful to the Regional Assembly for thinking about us when we were in desperate need and we pray God keeps on giving them the means to assist as many needy students in the entire Region as possible."

Kimbi Lizette Sah
Upper Sixth Arts student (A2), GHS Bafmeng

"The joy in our hearts is indescribable"

"My name is Kidzeu Sandra Mbom, from GTHS Wum. I am a F37 Student. I want to heartily thank



the North West Regional Assembly for the huge financial assistance they gave to us. Without this assistance, it wouldn't have been possible for me and many of my school mates to register the GCE Advanced level this year. Due to the hardship brought about by the socio-political crisis, our parents could not raise our registration fees and time was fast running out. We were already losing hope of writing this year. But thanks to the Regional Assembly, we have been able to register. The joy in our hearts is indescribable. We pray God fills their pockets with much more resources to keep doing more for the needy in our communities."

Kidzeu Sonita Mbom
Upper Sixth Student, GTHS Wum

"I pray that God replenishes your sources"



"My name is Kwese Simon Laah, an Upper sixth student of GHS Elak – Oku. I am extremely happy and grateful to North West Regional Assembly for the financial assistance given me at a very difficult moment when I needed it the most. This financial assistance went a long way to enable me register for my GCE A levels 2023 session. I pray that God replenishes your sources and grants you the ability to do more and more for the Region."

Kwese Simon Laah
Upper Sixth student, GHS Elak-Oku

"The financial assistance came at the perfect time"



"My name is Ngangwa Felix, father to Carine Kifeum, of Upper Sixth Science, GHS Elak Oku. I wish to hugely appreciate the North West Regional Assembly for the gesture they made towards my daughter in assisting her financially to register the GCE A level,

2023 session. I must say the assistance was so timely and it went a long way to lift a burden off my shoulder as a parent; because, I was very hard up and finding difficulties registering her. But this financial support came at the perfect time. I truly appreciate the Regional Assembly and pray you keep putting smiles on the faces of the people of the North West Region."

Ngangwa Felix
Father of one of the Beneficiaries in GHS Elak- Oku

SIMPLIFIED FOLLOW-UP MATRIX OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTRACTS AWARD AND EXECUTION PLANS AS OF MARCH 2023

NORTH WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

N°	Project name and location	Type of services	Funding source	Estimated amount (FCFA)	Actual Amount	Contracting Authority/ Relevant Tender's Bodies(s)	Method of consultation on	Procedure (Normal/ Urgent)	Date of submit to Tenders Bases	Date of Tender File review	Date of launching the tender	Date of contract award proposal	Date of contract award
1	Construction of the North West Regional Assembly Administrative Building in Bamenda.	SISC	PIB	1,000,000,000		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	1-Feb-23	9-Feb-23	14-Mar-23		
2	Control and supervision of the Construction of the North West Regional Assembly Administrative building in Bamenda	SISC	PIB	100,000,000		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	25-Jan-23	2-Feb-23	14-Mar-23		
3	Rehabilitation of Lakabum Palace	BC		15 000 000		T NO 0020/ONIT/NWRA/ITB/202	ONIT						
	Rehabilitation of Mbiame Palace	BC		25 000 000		T NO 0020/ONIT/NWRA/ITB/202	ONIT						
	Rehabilitation of Niem Palace	BC		18 000 000		T NO 0020/ONIT/NWRA/ITB/202	ONIT						
	Rehabilitation of Zongekwo Aghem Palace	BC		16 000 000		T NO 0020/ONIT/NWRA/ITB/202	ONIT						
	Rehabilitation of Waïdo Palace	BC		16 000 000		T NO 0020/ONIT/NWRA/ITB/202	ONIT						
	Rehabilitation of Sarki Old Town Palace	BC		15 000 000		T NO 0020/ONIT/NWRA/ITB/2023	OF 29 MARCH 2023						
	Construction of A Borehole in Mbatu Palace	BC		17 000 000		T NO 0020/ONIT/NWRA/ITB/2023	OF 29 MARCH 2023						
	Rehabilitation of Anong Palace	BC		15 000 000		T NO 0020/ONIT/NWRA/ITB/2023	OF 29 MARCH 2023						
	Rehabilitation of Batibo Palace	BC		15 000 000		T NO 0020/ONIT/NWRA/ITB/2023	OF 29 MARCH 2023						
	Rehabilitation of Bangolan Palace Hall	BC		18 000 000		T NO 0020/ONIT/NWRA/ITB/2023	OF 29 MARCH 2023						
Rehabilitation of Nkwen Palace Hall	BC		15 000 000		T NO 0020/ONIT/NWRA/ITB/2023	OF 29 MARCH 2023							
Construction of a Security Fence round Bamunkumbit Fon's Palace	BC		15 000 000		T NO 0020/ONIT/NWRA/ITB/2023	OF 29 MARCH 2023							
4	Construction of an auto mechanic workshop at GTHS Fundong in Fundong Sub Division, Boyo Division.	SISC	PIB	200,000,000		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	18-Jan-23	23-Mar-23	29-Mar-23		
		SISC	PIB	82,902,224		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	15-Dec-22	23-Mar-22	29-Mar-23		
5	Rehabilitation of GBHS Fundong	SISC	PIB	41,368,900		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	25-Jan-23	9-Feb-23	24-Feb-23		
6	Rehabilitation of SAR/SM Mbengwi in Momo Division	BCFW	PIB	61,508,815		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	25-Jan-23	13-Feb-23	1-Mar-23		
7	Construction of an electrical workshop at GTHS Mbengwi in Momo Division	BCFW	PIB	63,277,248		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	25-Jan-23	8-Feb-23	22-Feb-23		
8	Rehabilitation of SAR/SM Wum in Menchum Division	BCFW	PIB	48,394,847		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	25-Jan-23	11-Feb-23	1-Mar-23		
9	Construction of a Plumbing workshop at GTHS Wum in Menchum Division	BCFW	PIB	47,273,178		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	25-Jan-23	8-Feb-23	24-Feb-23		
10	Rehabilitation of SAR/SM Santa in Mezam Division.	BCFW	PIB	61,394,848		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	25-Jan-23	13-Feb-23	1-Mar-23		
11	Phase 1 Construction of a multipurpose laboratory at GBHS Bamendaakwe, Mezam Division.	SISC	PIB	56,000,000		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	25-Jan-23	9-Feb-23	24-Feb-23		
12	Phase 1 Construction of a multipurpose laboratory at GBHS Ndong in Ngoketunja Division	GS	PIB	58,000,000		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	25-Jan-23	7-Feb-23	22-Feb-23		

SIMPLIFIED FOLLOW-UP MATRIX OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTRACTS AWARD AND EXECUTION PLANS AS OF MARCH 2023

NORTH WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

N°	Project name and location	Type of services	Funding source	Estimated amount (FCFA)	Actual Amount	Contracting Authority / Rakatsi/Tenders Board(s)	Method of consultati on	Procedure (Normal/ Urgent)	Date of referral to Tenders Board	Date of Tender File review	Date of launching the tenders	Date of contract award proposal	Date of contract award
13	Rehabilitation of SAR/SM Babessi in Ngoketunja Division	GS	PIB	40,389,556		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	25-Jan-23	11-Feb-23	27-Feb-23		
14	Rehabilitation of SAR/SM Jakiri in Bui Division	GS	PIB	34,510,912		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	25-Jan-23	10-Feb-23	27-Feb-23		
15	Rehabilitation and extension of a Mortuary in Oku District Hospital	BCFW	PIB	43,773,628		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	25-Jan-23	6-Feb-23	22-Feb-23		
16	Phase 1 Construction of a multipurpose laboratory at GBHS Kumbo in Bui Division	SISC	PIB	60,000,000		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	25-Jan-23	7-Feb-23	29-Mar-23		
17	Rehabilitation of SAR/SM Nkambe in Donga Mantung Division	SISC	PIB	28,150,631		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	25-Jan-23	10-Feb-23	27-Feb-23		
18	Phase 1 construction of a Mortuary in Nwa District Hospital	BCFW	PIB	57,000,000		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	25-Jan-23	6-Feb-23	22-Feb-23		
19	Feasibility studies and design of a waste management plan for Bamenda City and Kumbo Town.	BCFW	PIB	40,000,000		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	13-Feb-23	20-Feb-23			
20	Acquisition of service vehicles for the Administration	BCFW	PIB	90,000,000		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	17-Feb-23	24-Feb-23			
21	Purchase of charts and manuals for reading, writing mathematics and general knowledge	BCFW	PIB	19,185,000		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	16-Feb-23	23-Feb-23			
22	Construction of a North West Regional Assembly Guest house in Bamenda.	BCFW	PIB	933,333,333		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	20-Feb-23	14-Mar-23	14-Mar-23		
23	Control and supervision of the Construction of a North West Regional Assembly Guest house in Bamenda.	BCFW	PIB	46,666,667		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent	20-Feb-23	14-Mar-23	14-Mar-23		
	Maintenance of the earth road: Misaje-Sabongida-Nigerian borders (phase 1)	BCFW	PIB	200,000,000		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent		27-Mar-23			
	Maintenance of the earth road: Nsop-Nwa-Yang-Nigerian borders (phase 1)	BCFW	PIB	200,000,000		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent		27-Mar-23			
	Maintenance of the Fundong-Weh Rod (phase 1)	BCFW	PIB	300,000,000		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent		30-Mar-23			
	Control and supervision of Maintenance of the earth road: Misaje-Sabongida-Nigerian borders (phase 1), Maintenance of the earth road: Nsop-Nwa-Yang-Nigerian borders (phase 1) and Maintenance of the Fundong - Weh Rod (phase 1)	BCFW	PIB	50,000,000		ITB/NWRA	ONIT	Urgent		30-Mar-23			

PDI UPDATES FROM THE DIVISIONS

BOYO DIVISION

The Boyo stakeholders seminar on peace-building held in **Fundong on Thursday, 09 March 2023 at 10:00 AM**, in the Auditorium of the Finance Building, under the aegis of the Senior Divisional Officer for Boyo, Senior Civil Administrator, Mr. Fidel Tegni, within the framework of the Boyo Conclave to Consolidate Peace and Sustainable Development.

This was a unique opportunity for all the ‘Live Forces’ of Boyo to converge with the ultimate aim of charting a way forward for the return to normalcy, within the context of the on-going socio-political imbroglio. With all the local civil and military authorities of the Division in conclave, accompanied by Municipal authorities of the entire Division, the North-West Regional Assembly peace caravan, code-named “The Boyo Canopy,” had occasion to hold a frank conversation with various stakeholders, notably, Traditional Rulers, Religious Authorities, Development Associations, Community-Based Organizations, as well as a cross-section of political actors on campaign in Fundong ahead of the 2023 Senatorial Polls.

The Boyo Peace and Development Initiative Coordinator, Jude Nsom Waindim, Questor at the North-West Regional Executive Council, elucidated the Peace and Development Mission of the North-West Regional Assembly in much detail, going further afield to explain the spatial territorial development missions and vision of the People’s Assembly at large, as well as its dashboard of achievements for Boyo so far, not leaving out prospects for further achievements within the framework of powers being devolved unto the Region.

PDCs in Action

Need was seen to revisit the constitution of PDCs, so as to bring in veritable actors of change for the effective implementation of HILA and community decentralized activities. This was also an opportune moment for the various PDCs to brainstorm on possible peace-building HILA projects, an exercise that went a long way to facilitate the selection of beneficiaries in relation to the specific nature of HILA activity envisaged.

Common ground was equally found on how to select and assist Peace Ambassadors, as well as organize annual cultural and sporting activities across the Division. The experience of Boyo Mayors was invaluable in proposed procurement and management of HILA inputs, as well as following not only the letter but also the spirit of the law in handling payments for such activities.

As we speak, all four PDCs of Belo, Njinikom, Fundong

and Fonfuka have selected and identified the beneficiaries of their various HILA projects, which list is being duly formatted for endorsement by Employment as well as Labour Deconcentrated State Services. Meanwhile, the procurement of durable equipment for the execution of these, and future community activities, is underway, in very strict compliance with statutory regulations in force. The coding of the durables is equally being prepared for endorsement and/or receipt in the services of the Stores Accountant of the Regional Assembly, as these items shall be duly checked out and ceded to various Councils at the end of the first phase of the Boyo HILA project execution for safe-keep, in anticipation of future use.

*Boyo PDI Coordinator
Hon. Jude Nsom Waindim*

BUI DIVISION

The Peace Building Project in Bui was organized in two phases that consist; Phase I, the seminar and Phase II, cultural and sporting activities. During the first phase, the capacity building seminar, participants consisting, key stakeholders, traditional rulers, religious authorities, village cultural and development associations, civil society and others of the 06 sub-divisions that make up Bui were equipped to take full responsibility as “peace ambassadors” and wealth creators through High Intensity Labour Approach (HILA) that will bring peace and development to Bui through community projects. The HILA approach seeks to increase the circulation of currency among the rural and urban poor, which will help foster the redistribution of resources and wealth for social, political and economic development.

All in all, the following recommendations were formulated:

All participants were called upon to be the example for others to emulate. They should be veritable ambassadors of the peace crusade ; the importance of sensitization and education as a tool to bring our derailed sons, out of the bushes and to create an enabling environment for peace and development; avoid all forms of injustice which is the root cause of conflict; respect and uphold traditional authorities and institutions; need for an ecumenical crusade for peace was also highlighted;

For the second phase of the project, the Bui PDC also organized cultural and sporting activities as part of the peace-building project for the Division. We also profited from this occasion to pass our message of peace, reconciliation and development to the population of Bui in Kumbo and some dance groups. For Sporting activities, we organized a football tournament in Bui division styled

“Sports and culture for peace football competition” from the 15th of January to the 9th of February 2023. In an interesting final, played at the Kumbo Municipal Stadium on the 9th of February 2023 between the Jakiri Peace building Football Club and the Kumbo Peace Ambassadors Football Club, the euphoria was remarkable. It was garnished with cultural displays from the Nchi Noni dance group, Oku juju, Yaa Yov and Nso women’s dance group.

To conclude, our activities for the Peace building project registered resounding success especially given the ongoing socio-political crises in the North West and south West Regions of Cameroon. The final day that was characterised by two landmark events, the seminar and final of the football competition was characterised by the presence of an impressive population which participated actively in all activities and went back determined more than ever before to be ambassadors of peace and development.

*By Dr. Mrs SAKAH Fondufe Lydia
Divisional Coordinator, PDI Bui*

NGOKETUNJIA DIVISION

Ngoketunjia Population on an irreversible offensive for the Peace Building Initiative of the NW Regional Assembly

The Peace Building Initiative of the North West Regional Assembly got renewed impetus on 1st April, 2023 in Ngoketunjia Division with the organization of a capacity building seminar for the Divisional Representatives on peace development. Participants at the seminar were members of the Divisional and sub divisional peace building committees appointed by an Order of the SDO for Ngoketunjia in October 2022. The seminar which took place at the premises of UNVDA carried out a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the stumbling blocks to the progress in the pacification of the Division. This diagnosis permitted the peace building crusaders of Ngoketunjia to know that beyond the military and armed boys in the bushes, all of them have to individually and collectively join the band wagon in the pacification of their Division.

This they have been told in very unequivocal terms is one of the necessary conditions for the acceleration of the development of their Division. It’s time to operate with all cylinders to work for the fortification of the pacification of our Division.

*By Hon. Nchechuma Banla
Divisional Coordinator, PDI Ngoketunjia*

MENCHUM DIVISION

The Wum Sub- Divisional Peace Building Committee had a capacity building seminar at the Fon’s palace on the 7th of March 2023. The seminar was attended by traditional rulers, Divisional delegates, quarter heads, presidents and secretaries of village cultural development

associations. A peace walk was also and, a plan to organize sporting activities was envisaged too.

15th of March 2023 saw the unity conference, organised by Regional Councilors in Wum headed by their REC member - Fon of Aghem, Bahmbi III Mathias Njuh. During this conference, Fon of Bahmbi III, emphasized on the importance of peaceful co-existence. Honorable Ewi Clementina Mbe, highlighted that meaningful development can only come through peace building. She further added that the N.W.R House of Assembly emphasizes for people to live together so as to achieve the much needed decentralization. According to Councilor Adamu Ali, unity between farmers and graziers is crucial. He called on both parties to live together and respect the boundaries between farmers and graziers. Other participants in the meeting spoke on; Insecurity like killing, burning of houses and destruction ; Farmers/graziers conflicts like abandonment of farms, destruction of crops by cattle, loss of lives and properties, abandonment of grazing lands etc ; Socio political crisis like extortion, kidnappings, threat of lives, targeted killings, seizure of properties etc.

At the end of the exercise, the take home recommendations were: a committee be put in place to follow up the effective implementation of the KOUMPA ISSA COMMISSION; Aghem people should have a change in mind set, act in unity and embrace living togetherness ; that emphasis be placed on the educational and vocational training of our children (the youths)

For the farmer/grazer problem plaguing the Division, it was recommended that, both farmers and graziers should be called to order and brought to book in subsequent situations that challenge the peace of the Division; And both farmers and graziers be adequately sensitized on their rights and obligations. And for settling land disputes, it was recommended the population be sensitized on land law and Land owners should own authentic documents. Also, various village councils or the Fons should be contacted when in need of a piece of land. For the challenge of insecurity, it was recommended that Non State Armed Groups be encouraged to drop their weapons, denounce hate speech, prejudice that can promote violence and disunity.

To follow up the effective implementation of resolutions agreed upon, a follow up committee was set in place to meet monthly and whenever need be.

*By Fon Bahmbi III Mathia Njuh
Divisional Coordinator, PDI Ngoketunjia*

DONGA MANTUNG

The Peace Development Initiative in Donga Mantung unfolded in 2 phases; Capacity building seminar and Social action.

The project took place under the theme, capacity training seminar for Peace and Development. The event which

took place on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th February 2023 in the Nkambe Council Multipurpose Community Hall, recorded 102 invited Participants (statutory PDC members). This seminar also brought together stakeholders of all works of life:- Administrators, Religious authorities, Traditional rulers and quarter heads, Youth and women representatives, representatives of local radio stations, youth mentors, CAMCull, representatives, Heads of Security Forces of law and order, Junior regional councilors, civil society activists and others. Peace building training was facilitated by Expert/Consultant (Mrs. MAKOUDEM TENE MARIENNE) who spoke on communication during crisis, active and creative peace building, exhaustive declaration of civil status etc. this first phase was crowned by discussions/questions and group works. The five Sub Divisional PDC members worked in groups and presented their respective criteria of selection of beneficiaries to carry out the HILA Projects. The training seminar ended with a seminar evaluation, handing of Certificates of participation, cultural sporting festival. A Peace football gala match pitted Peace Ambassadors of Ndu Sub Division against Peace Ambassadors of Misaje Sub Division. The Meeting ended with suggestions and recommendations.

*By Hon. Kalak Flavius Boteh
Divisional Coordinator, Donga Mantung*

MOMO DIVISION

The North West Regional Assembly Peace Building Initiative for Momo Division had two phases: Social Action and Project Implementation. The Social Action Phase was a 2 days Program. The Capacity Building Seminar took place on March 9, and the social action (Sports and Cultural Festival) day two on March 10, 2023. The Capacity Building Seminar took place in the Conference hall of the Divisional Delegation of Labor and Social Security, Mbengwi with Prof Anjoh Frii-Manyi Rose, the Momo Divisional Coordinator of the Peace and Development Initiative, other Divisional Representatives and Community Development Stakeholders all actively present.

In her opening address, the Divisional coordinator, expounded on what the Peace Building Initiative of the North West Regional Assembly is all about, the functioning of the Regional Assembly and its relationship with the people of the entire North West Region. After the key note address, the Senior Divisional Officer for Momo gave a welcome address and launched the North West Regional Assembly Peace Building Initiatives (PDI) for Momo.

The first presentation was on Peace Building and Community Decentralized Activities, done by the Rev. Ngonnga of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon and Presbyterian Secretary for Meta. other presentations on the terms

and conditions of employment and contract, presentation from CamCULL on payment modalities were . A question and answer session on Peace Building, Community Decentralized Activities, recruitment process, work and payment modalities followed. After the question and answer session the closing remark was made by the Divisional Officer for Mbengwi Central on the behalf of the Senior Divisional Officer who thanked participants for their participation and collaboration and wished all a fruitful day two of the activities. A meeting with SDO on Support to Vigilante Groups was also an item on the agenda.

Day two activities of the Peace Building Initiative was the Cultural and Sports Festival. There were also competitions in following discipline; Football Boys, Football Girls, Traditional Dance, Culinary Arts, Weaving, Traditional Dresses. The first finals, Football Girls was played between the girls of GHS Tudig in Mbengwi and youths of Ngie. Mbengwi carried the day. The project was graced with an exhibition, there was a stand for Culinary, Weaving and embroidery.

The high and unique point of the festival was the cutting of the Peace Cake made of Egusi in traditional Momo Spices, The Divisional Coordinator for Momo had the singular honour to personally feed the Momo population. The Annual Cultural and Festival ended with the award of cash prizes and a reception in the Conference Hall of the Divisional Delegation of Labor and Social Security. This phase of Social Action laid the foundation to strengthen capacities of Sub Divisional Peace Building Communities who are now working seriously to finalize the projects.

The following Recommendations were arrived at: Taxes should be deducted at source and only actual budget provided for the Peace Building Activities, the deliberation for internal tours should be used to cover expenses on the field; Transportation should be provided in the future during such events. Based on the successes recorded, the Peace Building Initiative should remain an annual event.

The Momo Divisional Peace Building Committee, wishes to appreciate the Honourable President of the North West Regional Assembly and the other Members of the Regional Executive Council for this initiative.

*By Prof. Anjoh Frii-Manyi Rose
Divisional Coordinator, Momo*

To conclude, the Peace Development initiative (PDI) of the Regional Assembly has picked steam with Mezam Division wrapping up in the days ahead.

PHOTO GALLERY

UPDATES OF 2022 PROJECTS EXECUTED
By Alombah Anderson Akondi



NWRA constructs a block of 2 classrooms for CCAST Bambili



Donation of 100 benches to CCAST Bambili



NWRA donates a 4 compartment pit toilet to CCAST Bambili



Rehabilitation of Ako District Hospital



Rehabilitation of Batibo District Hospital



**Rehabilitation of Regional road
in Fundong**



**Rehabilitation of
GTTTC Mbengwi**



**Front and back view of 2 classrooms block
rehabilitated in GHS Sabongari**



NWRA donates 60 benches to GHS Sabongari

Front view of the 2 classrooms block rehabilitated in GTHS Fundong



Back view of the same building



G.B.H.S Mendankwe students all smiles, as a show of gratitude to NWRA for registering them for end of course Exams



**GBHS BAMENDANKWE
Happy Recipients of the
Regional Assembly's
Scholarship for GCE
Registration**



Student receiving her registration fee from the Principal who handed it on behalf of NWRA

CORPORATIONS / PARTNERSHIPS



One smile at a time with NWRA -Smile Train health partnership



Representative of State, President NWRA and Director of NEF during youth open door day



Visit of exhibition stands during youth open door day activities



Customs Boss, Edwin Fongod visits NWRA



Meeting with french based management company on feasibility studies and design of a waste management plan for Bamenda and Kumbo



Proximity Radios partner with NWRA to fast track decentralisation

SOCIAL ACTIONS



NWRA donates 3.9million FCFA to victims of Fundong fire incident



NWRA supports Hill Top FC and PWD Bamenda with 1million FCFA each



NWRA joins BIPHA to donate farm inputs to rural women

CAMEROON ATHLETIC FEDERATION
 NORTH WEST REGIONAL LEAGUE
 BAMBENDA MARCH 1, 2023

THE PRESEIDENT
 NW REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
 NORTH WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
 BAMBENDA- CAMEROON

SUBJECT: A LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPRECIATION FOR THE SUPPORT OF TWO MILLION (2,000,000) FRANCS CFA TO ATHLETES OF THE NORTH WEST REGION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MOUNT CAMEROON RACE OF HOPE 2023 EDITION.

In compliance with section 272 (2) and (5) of Law No. 2019/24 of December 2019 stipulating that the North West Regional Assembly shall provide assistance to Regional Sports Associations, promote and manage physical and sports activities of the region.

We the Executive members on behalf of all the stakeholders of the North West Athletic League have the honour most respectfully to acknowledge the receipt of the sum of two million francs (2000000) cfa signed by Prof FRU Fobuzshi ANGWAFU III President of the North West Regional Executive Council being assistance to Athletes of the NWR to motivate them participate and excel in the mount Cameroon race of hope 25 February 2023. We really appreciate your support. We don't know what we would have done without your help. Your support enabled us to stand extra tall nationally and internationally by directly grabbing 6/6 trophies of the senior category male and female; 4/ 6 junior category trophies and 1/6 relay trophies, giving a total of 11/18 trophies. Worthy of note is the fact that even though the other trophies for relay went to FAP/ Yaounde, the force in the background was still from the North West Region. On the whole, NWR came out with 2/6 goal medals, 5/6 silver medals and 4/6 bronze.

Our hearts and souls are forever indebted to you Prof FRU ANGWAFU III President of the Regional Executive Council and the entire Regional Assembly members for enabling us, our flag bearers to stand out conspicuously on the rostrum in Buea thereby distinguishing our beloved North West Region at the international competition that saw the participation of over 600 competitors from 14 different countries. We really appreciate your help that inspired and blessed us with this wonderful results.

VICE PRESIDENT

NFOR Marcel S.
 NFOR Marcel S.

PRESIDENT

 Prof FRU Fobuzshi ANGWAFU III
 PRESIDENT
 FOUKOU NGAMBA ENANGH
 SENIOR YOUTH AND ACTIVITIES OFFICER



Athlets of the NWR appreciate NWRA for supporting them with 2 million to go for the mount Cameroon race of hope, 2023 editions FCFA



PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT



NWRA purchases a brand new wheel front head loader



NWRA acquires a brand new heavy duty tipper dump truck

OTHER EVENTS / ACTIVITIES



Dignitaries of the opening ceremony of “Nukwi ne Abubte” of Fo’o Angwafo III of Mankon



Fons of the NWR at the opening ceremony of the “Nukwi ne Abubte”

Workshop for Divisional representatives and members of the house of chiefs by safety net



PPRD workshop with NWRA and other development stakeholders



NWRA joins the rest of the Region to celebrate youth day 2023



NWRA joins the rest of the region to celebrate women's day 2023



Visiting of PRRD steering committee president to assess work execution rates carried out under PRRD



Meeting with French based waste management company



DISCOVERY**CULTURE*****“Nukwi Ne Abubte”*: Fostering peace and social cohesion through traditional diplomacy****The gathering of Fons at the Mankon Palace**

The cultural celebration was a melting point for grassfield traditional exchanges

By Bakah Derick

In royal dance steps, the Fons danced to the traditional beats of our local traditional dances that emanated from the drums during the one month long Nukwi Ne Abubte of Fo’o ANGWAFO III SAN of Mankon. The ‘Nukwi Ne Abubte’ was a one month long cultural celebration from December 15, 2022 to January 15, 2023, wherein villages from the Northwest and beyond took turns to converge at the ‘ntaw’ Mankon to pay homage to and celebrate the life and legacy of Fo’o ANGWAFO III SAN who disappeared on May 21st 2022.

Elites, sons and daughters of villages of the North West Region and well wishers left different parts of the country and massively turned out at the Mankon

Palace led by their Fons for this once in a lifetime event. “We dedicate to keep using our traditional diplomatic ties to promote togetherness, peace and social solidarity and harmony. We must put our cultural values at the forefront of our Cultural Diplomacy.” Fon Ngum IV of Oku stated during the event. Typical of the Widikums, Tikars and Bamilekes of the Grassfield of Cameroon, the celebration of the life and reign of the Fon (monarch) is a moment to solidify honest, truthful, fair and friendly relationships with other Fondoms (monarchies). These are values considered essential for all diplomats in modern day societies.

Throughout this period, protocol was firm and only relationships that met the basics of existing relationships and shared same interests with the people of Mankon had access to the Mankon royal courtyard. At Ntaw Mankon, they came with gifts, goodwill messages, traditional dances all adorn with their respective traditional attires.



Fo'o Angwafo IV of Mankon

On arrival, the delegation led mostly by Fons, were received by the reigning Monarch His Royal Highness Fru Asaah ANGWAFO IV for a closed session that lasted about an hour. Private as the meeting was, classified detail had it that they were sacred moments when the visiting villages reaffirmed their commitment to keep close ties with Mankon. During this period, the host offered food and drink, pleasantries, even commitments following which the celebrations proceeded.

Like in modern day diplomacy focus was towards engaging the Fon and accompanying notables in a process that will for as long as it lasted, defended and protected the relationship between the two Fondoms. This was one of the strongest points of Fo S.A.N ANGWAFO III fondly known as the King Solomon of Cameroon. To represent the Fons of Bamenda in the then house of Chiefs required that he built good relationships with them.

“Representing the Fons of Bamenda in the West Cameroon house of Assembly meant that he was carrying the views of the Fons and the local leaders into the political spheres of the West Cameroon House of Chiefs and then successively the West Cameroon House of Assembly, the Nation-

al House of Assembly and finally the North-West House of Assembly. Representing the traditional rulers of the region at the 1961, Fouban conference, that was diplomacy. “He went there to represent the Fons, to be their Ambassador in the West Cameroon house Assembly and even in Fouban.” Dr Nkwenti Ignatius Ndefru retired Diplomat said while paying glowing tributes to the fallen King.

While the dances from the different villages performed, the Fon of Mankon stepped down from the imposing stage raised on the palace courtyard for the special event accompanied by his visitor to dance and appreciate them for coming to celebrate the life of their departed father.

Despite the official closure of the “Nukwi Ne Abubte”, villages that missed the 30 days period continued to demonstrate their interest to pay homage to the fallen King in an effort to maintain existing or create new “diplomatic relations” with the Mankon Fon and Fondom.

The Fons and their respective communities used the occasion to continue the crusade for peace, inclusive Development and the promotion of living togetherness in the region and above all, echoed a firm



Governor Adolphe Lele Lafrique at Ntaw Mankon

message that it was time meaningful peace and normalcy returned to the entire Region. Judging from the massive turnout from the respective communities, one can heartily conclude that the “Nukwi Ne Abubte” of late Fo’o ANGWA-FOR III, has proven without doubt that almost all villages of the grassfield regions continue to live

in peace, solidarity and keep solidified traditional diplomatic ties amongst themselves. “Nukwi Ne Abubte” of Fo’o ANGWAFO III SAN, was really a celebration that showcased the zenith of traditional diplomacy in recent times.



“When Fons magestically dance, the people prosper”

LOCAL COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**North West Mayors and Regional Executive Council Strengthen ties to foster Development**

The need was stressed during a two-day workshop in Bamenda

By Ndang Sandra



**Mayor Denis Awoh Ndang
President UCCC, NW Chapter**

The North-West Regional President of the United Council and Cities of Cameroon (UCCC) Denis Awoh NDANG has called for more working collaboration between the local councils and the Regional Assembly for the interest of the population. This was during a 2-day workshop from Thursday 2 to Friday 3, March 2023, that brought together mayors from the 34 municipalities of the Region. The workshop organized by the United Council and Cities of Cameroon, UCCC North West, took place at the Auditorium of the North West Regional Assembly. The meeting was also an opportunity for the mayors to strengthen working ties with the North West Regional Assembly.

In his address to the Mayors, the President of the North West Regional Assembly, Prof. Fru Fobuzshi ANGWAFO III, called on the mayors to be actively involved in the activities of the Regional Assembly, so as to collectively build a great region. "I also urge you all as mayors to be actively engaged in the activities and life of the Regional Assembly as the Law defines in section 347 of the code. Mayors and the Regional Executive Council are key stakeholders in driving local development; therefore, working in synergy to building a more self-reliant, forward-looking North-West Region is crucial".

He commended their efforts as pioneer actors in the implementation of Law N0 2019/024 Of 24 December 2019 instituting the General code of Regional and Local Authorities through the Special Status granted to the North West and South West Regions, President Fru AN-GWAFO III, applauded the input of Mayors in driving local development and improving livelihoods in their respective municipalities despite the obvious challenges.

“It is in the public interest of the Region that Regional and Local councils ensure and maintain close working collaboration, through legitimate, legal and regulatory frameworks”. He added.

Prof. Fru Angwafo further urged them to uphold citizen participation in their activities. “I therefore enjoin you all to uphold citizen participation and community engagement through village and quarter peace and development committees and town hall public hearings”.

The President of UCCC, North West Region, Denis Awoh Ndang, in his keynote address saluted the efforts of the mayors in executing developmental projects in their municipality while urging them not to relent their efforts. “the execution level of our projects is generally, very encouraging! Mayors are therefore en-

couraged to continue to make progress in this direction.”

To this effect, he exhorted the mayors to engage in activities that can generate funds for their councils and enable them carry out more projects. “...As I have reiterated in the past, our actions as mayors must be geared towards local economic development. This is the only way by which we can gradually help move our councils forward amidst both the local and international crisis that are directly affecting us all. Total dependence of councils on funds from outside can never solve all our problems”. He averred.

On the 2nd day of the workshop, the mayors were schooled on how to raise funds for local initiatives and how to write winning project proposals. The Pan-African Association for Research & Protection against Violence on Women & Children led by Dr, Ndonwie Peter championed the reinforcing of capacities of North West mayors on Fund Raising for local initiatives.

The UCCC meeting that was held during the celebration of the International week of the deaf gave the mayors the opportunity to have their ears screened as well as, take their vital signs, in order to better enhance their health

and general welfare.

At the end of the two-day workshop, mayors were confident of having strengthened collaboration with the Regional Assembly, likewise gathered knowledge on how to raise funds and engage in more inclusive development initiatives.



Auditory Screening for Mayors

FEATURES

Raffia in North West: Economic, Socio-cultural and Environmental impact

By *Hon. Dr Yaa Sakah Fondufe*

Commission for Health and Social Development

the palm family (Arecaceae) ranks third in the world (after Poaceae and Fabaceae), and its role is even more striking when looking at the Tropics alone. Raffia palm plays a very significant role in many developing countries due to the greater population concentration relying direct-



Bed made out of Bamboo

As sons and daughters of the North-West Region, we all know how important raffia is to us. Since ancient times, palm trees offer an impressive assortment of products for food or construction of homes, but also for fiber and fuel to mankind. In terms of value by-products,

ly or indirectly on it. The contribution of Raffia, therefore, to the forestry sector in particular and rural households in general in most countries is significant. Though it had been undervalued in the past, there is now a growing awareness of



Raffia products

the contributions of Raffia products to household economies, food security, national economies, and conservation of biodiversity. Raffia palm as a forest product provides food, medicines, fibres, and cash income for rural households. Raffia palm has social, economic, cultural, and environmental importance to society. Raffia palms, for centuries, have provided most of the necessities of life for humans in the Tropics. Within rainforests and along their borders, whole communities have depended on palms for their livelihood. Raffia is extremely soft and can be dyed easily. It can be woven like straw to create mats, hats and baskets. It is most often used in place of ribbon, twine or string.

- **Textile:** A huge textile industry can be based on fibre drawn from the Raffia palm. In the yesteryears, the quality of the finished product, which sometimes had a velvet-like pile and a rich range of natural colours, was much admired by many, including tourists. Textile weaving or the weaving of Raffia cloth can be a huge source of employment if taken from the hands of the elderly and put in the hands of the youth through training and valorization.
- **Crafts:** Also, natural raffia is very soft and beautiful to touch and wear. It is pliable,

strong and extremely durable, and it can be dyed easily. Therefore, Raffia fibre is a very popular material in crafts and in high fashion. It is 100% natural and, therefore, biodegradable. Light shoes can be made from raffia. The flexibility and durability of the Raffia fibre make it an excellent basis. Also, mats, baskets, hats and handbags can be made from Raffia palm leaves.

- **Décor:** Raffia can be found in woven form as part of interior decorations: baskets, table skirts, ropes, ribbons around boxes, bottles or candles, etc. Natural Raffia is also very popular as gift embellishment or as filler of packages.

- **Roofing and Furniture:** It is not just the Raffia fibre that is gained from the Raffia palm when leaves are processed and used – when a Raffia palm tree branch is harvested, it is used as a whole, That is, the leafstalks are used to build furniture, similar to the use of the bamboo it produces. The leaf blades are used for roofing.



Palm wine with Raffia seed (Akop)

- The income resulting from the use of Raffia wine marketing has a considerable impact on the budget and savings of households for both rural farmers and urban resellers. From this income, the latter are able to meet not just their basic needs but are also able to cope with the same concerns as regularly paid civil servants.

Socio-cultural Value of Palm wine

Palm wine is especially valued for its cultural, social, and ritualistic properties (Janice, 2007). For instance, *Raphia* palm wine plays vital roles in many ceremonies in Cameroon, especially in the Grassfields areas. Guests at weddings, birth celebrations and funerals are served with generous quantities of *Raphia* palm wine. As a token of regard and respect to ancestors, drinking sessions in cultural and traditional ceremonies in Cameroon begin with a small amount of palm wine spilled on the ground as a libation to appease both the gods and ancestors.

- Again, the *Raphia* palm contributes to the maintenance of social cohesion as a whole. For example, during an exceptional event such as bereavement, marriage and other celebrations, palm wine is consumed in large quantities. Indeed, palm wine soothes and brightens the afflicted and facilitates the resolution of disputes.
- Culturally, *Raffia* wine seals various contracts between human and supernatural beings. During traditional ceremonies, before swallowing a sip of wine, elders or family heads have to spray out a few drops from their mouth to the ground, with the intention of invoking the spirits of the ancestors in their manifestation

Raffia palm wine exhibits a wide range of biological and pharmacological characteristics such as being anti-inflammatory, diuretic, laxative, antispasmodics, anti-hypertensive and antimicrobial. It equally functions as a social lubricant and is a crucial aspect of men's social relations.

Environmental importance

- **Fishing:** This activity employs over 33.82% of the population of most localities. Fresh water fish species are commonly caught in marshy *Raffia* bushes because of the impart of their cool micro-climate, which is favorable for the growth and development of such species, especially *Tilapia*.
- **Hunting and gathering:** Several animals like



Raffia roofing

the otter shrew, bush baby, water bugs, crocodiles, hippopotamus, partridge, doves, etc., are usually hunted in this ecosystem.

Raffia palm activities encourage people to visit specific locales to see what can be produced, since *Raffia* products reflect society and culture and communicate to various audiences: in the fabrication of dresses, roofing material and furniture.

Several *Raffia* products have been reported to have prospects in contributing to livelihood sustainability, income generation, food security and primary health care in most sub-Saharan Central and West African communities. *Raffia* exploitation and related activities such as wine obtained from the sap of *Raffia* hookier, baskets, mats, *Raffia* chairs, ladders and drums, tables, beds and *Raffia* twine, are important activities resulting from *Raffia* exploitation in Cameroon. *Raffia* wine provides employment for producers and marketers, yielding substantial income to support peasant families in the rural and urban centers.



Raffia footwear



Bulb holders made out of Raffia bamboo

for inclusive globalization.

- Microfinance institutions can even be an important vehicle for promoting informal work: for example, by encouraging their micro-enterprise borrowers to adopt appropriate occupational safety and health measures, or by discouraging their clients from using child labour. They can even help to formalize the informal economy by creating incentives for informal businesses to incrementally formalize.

Tourism

- Raffia palm activities encourage people to visit specific locales to see what has been produced.
- Through Raffia palm wine consumption brings people from different cultures to have a deeper understanding of each other in the course of drinking, thus encouraging tourism in most areas that are prone to Raffia activities.

- Portability of skills enhances the employability of workers and facilitates their access to more productive jobs in the formal economy. Skills are portable if the skills acquired are transferable and can be used productively in different jobs enterprises in the informal economy. This highlights the importance of training apprentices and workers in general technical skills, such as operating and maintaining machines or using IT.

Contribution of the informal sector

- Supporting country-level actions: the informal economy is emerging as a clear priority in national programme agendas, including the Decent Work Country Programmes. Inclusion of the informal economy is key to national development and to economic growth strategy. It has also strong connections with the poverty reduction agenda, with rights-based approaches to development and with the enabling environment



Fresh Raffia Palm wine



Raffia seeds, used as food

Climate Change: Need for mitigation and adaptation measures

*By Hon. Divisional Representative
Fuchi Emmanuel Diangha*

Climate change is increasingly becoming a thing of concern; and the Government of Cameroon as represented by the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature & Sus-

tainable Development (MINEPDED), its execution Agency on climate change, ONACC (National Observatory on Climate Change), and sectorial Ministries, have been doing a lot to combat climate change. The North-West Regional Assembly, represented by its Executive President, Prof. Fru Fobuzshi Angwafo III, has not been indifferent and has gone ahead to establish a partnership with ONACC in the drive to combat climate change in the North-West Region. According to him, mainstreaming actions aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change is central in the Regional Assembly Investment Budget for 2023. Mass awareness cam-



Bafut-Ngamba Reserve turned to potato farm



Poor waste Management-Bamenda

paings aimed at mobilizing the population of the Region towards a concerted response to climate change are underway, and strategies to benefit from the opportunities of climate financing provided by the climate challenges are being carefully screened for timely execution. The time for action is now and every-

one must get on board!

Climate change is an existential problem, which threatens the survival of humans, other species of living things and the environment on which they depend. While the West is at the center of industrial pollution, we on our own are not helping matters with actions as depicted in the pictures below being a daily occurrence.

In Cameroon, and particularly in our Region, we have witnessed a general increase in average temperatures exhibited by the decreased-need for blankets by the population at night. Many elderly people are reported sleeping today without blankets because of increasing temperatures, unlike in the past

where places were generally very cold and everyone compelled to sleep under a thick blanket. Most species that hitherto thrived only in certain areas, like groundnuts in some parts of Boyo Division, are now reported to be doing exceedingly well in many other areas. Other effects of increasing temperatures are loss of surface water and this has been witnessed in Santa and many parts

istered in the Region are invasion of grazing areas by unpalatable species for cattle, especially the bracken fern. This has been registered in Jakiri, Tadu and around Ijim and is responsible for a wide range of conflicts that emanate from resource use. Climate change is a ticking time bomb, which must be confronted and restrained.



Landslides along Bamenda-Fundong & Bamenda-Mamfe roads cut off circulation

of Donga Mantung. Species extinction is not uncommon, and since 2009, our famous caulocacia (Ibo coco) used in preparing achu is almost at the brink of extinction. Rainfall has been unusual, causing a disruption of seasonal rhythms or variation in seasons affecting the agricultural calendar. There is no gainsaying the consequences of this uncertainty on our agriculture. In some cases, the downpours have been unprecedented and heavy, sometimes causing landslides like recently along Fundong, Batibo and Widikum roads, leading to road blockages; and in other cases causing floods like in Bambalang, Mulang and some parts of Bamenda. Thunderstorms and wind disasters have not been uncommon either, with heavy losses in cattle and property registered in Wum, Fundong, Nwa, Nkor and other parts of the Region. Other effects reg-

Worst devastation by wind was in Nkor-Noni where the District hospital, the Palace, GHS Noni and several homes were destroyed by wind disaster.

Climate change has been described as the greatest threat to global health in the 21st century. The time is now and we must take commensurate action. No single individual should afford to stay aloof for no positive action can be minimized.

Mitigation and adaptation measures

In the domain of agriculture, we have to encourage conservation agriculture, which will help in capturing atmospheric carbon with the help of the mycorrhizae found in hyphae on soil organic matter. Inter-cropping with trees will provide a diverse platform for absorption of greenhouse gases, as well as the planting of resilience and high yielding species. Thus, the phenomenon of “An-

kara” and bushfires must be stopped. We must introduce new and adapted varieties of drought-tolerant crops (such as millet, instead of corn) and early maturing varieties. We must equally indulge in fruit cul-

lighting and heating, and energy saving devices used to reduce excessive consumption of fuel wood. We can resort to improved fire-sides, stoves, solar ovens to reduce the level of greenhouse emission.



Lightening kills several cattle in Boyo and in the North-West every year

tivation; introduce more resilient and high yielding species; diversify crops; and grow off-season and short season crops.

For forest management, deforestation has to be curbed, with more trees planted, conservation of natural forests encouraged, green spaces created in urban environments, green walls kept and green belts planted around settlements.

For Energy, renewable energy sources like solar has to be used, as well as wind energy and biomass (biogas), which are less polluting and therefore good for the environment. Houses have to be built in ways to minimize excessive use of energy for

For the manufacturing industry, eco-conception and design of products have to be encouraged, as well as the reduction of greenhouse emissions from our industries. The increase use of renewable energy sources must be encouraged. For the proper management of waste, the sorting of waste at source advised, so as to make use of the organic matter for agriculture and hence minimize emissions of greenhouse gases.

With all these, if we must fight climate change, we have to leverage on adaptation measures designed to enable us better cope with climate change. Some of these measures are:



Wind devastates GHS Nwa in Donga Mantung & IPS Kikaikelaiki in Bui.

We must dare to improve crop management, enhance crop rotation practices, change cropping patterns, improve seed storage, integrate trees and bushes to reduce water runoff and erosion and to provide flood protection. Most importantly, we must apply soil and water conservation measures like contour cropping and terracing.

We can also minimize crop damage/failure by adjusting timing of farm operations to reduce risks of crop failure. By increasing soil water retention, applying compost and mulch to increase soil organic matter, soil water retention capacity shall be enhanced. Further, we must adopt conservation agriculture, which will help conserve soil moisture, increase infiltration, minimize soil erosion and increase soil fertility.

We can also minimize the effects of climate change on us through forest management. In other words, we must halt deforestation and encourage afforestation as a good technique to keep the environment free of greenhouse gases. It is a welcome idea as well to encourage settlement around forests for poor people, as this will provide alter-

native food in case of crop failure as a result of climate change. The planting of trees in highly windy areas to prevent strong winds from destroying property, and above all, conserving natural forest ecosystems is also an option.

Another way to fight climate change is to minimize waste production by sorting to remove organic waste for further use on farms and to collect metal and other waste for recycling and re-use; that is, Reduce, Recycle and Re-use. The construction of water dykes or embankments to control and prevent water from flowing into unwanted areas is commendable.

And as concerns human settlement, we should avoid building on slopes, marshy areas, fragile landscapes so as to eliminate the possibility of houses being destroyed by landslides; and above all, we must respect Town Planning standards and norms.

For health & medical adaptation, vaccination should be upped, as the treatment of malaria, health education and hygiene/sanitation will help minimize the problem of spread of diseases.



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