

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON  
Peace-Work-Fatherland

.....  
NORTH WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

.....  
REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

.....  
PEACE-JUSTICE-UNITY-HARD WORK- SOLIDARITY



REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN  
Paix-Travail-Patrie

.....  
ASSEMBLEE REGIONALE DU NORD-OUEST

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CONSEIL EXECUTIF REGIONAL

.....  
PAIX-JUSTICE-UNITE-TRAVAIL-SOLIDARITE

Bamenda, the -----

## DECEMBER 2023 BUDGET SESSION OF THE NORTH-WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

### Bamenda, 11th December 2023

- The Representative of State, Governor North-West Region,
- Honorable Senators,
- Honorable Members of the National Assembly,
- Esteemed Professor, Vice Chancellor University of Bamenda,
- The Public Independent Conciliator,
- Their lordships President of the North-West Court of Appeal, Attorney General and President of the Administrative Court,
- The Generals and valiant military and security forces,
- Honorable members of the Regional Executive Council,
- Honorable Royal Highnesses, Members of the North-West Regional Assembly House of Chiefs,
- Honorable Members of the North-West Assembly House of Divisional Representatives,
- The Senior Divisional Officer MEZAM,
- Director Generals and General Managers,
- Regional Delegates and Heads of regional bodies,

- The President, North-West section, Union of Cameroon Cities and Councils
- The Bamenda City Mayor,
- Distinguished Mayors of the North-West Region,
- Consultants to the Assembly,
- Representatives of Civil Society Organizations,
- Respected Members of the press and Communication organs,
- All protocol duly observed
- Distinguished Guests, Invitees,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

You are all heartily welcome to the budget session of the North-West Regional Assembly, today December 11, 2023. We are thankful to God Almighty, for granting us traveling mercies and grace making it possible for us all to gather for this significant moment in the life of our beloved Region. We are grateful that staff from our regional treasury escaped from captivity of the underworld. We pray for his quick recovery and an end to kidnappings and other ills of the current strife!

**Honorable ladies and Gentlemen,**

Your presence here today underscores the shared commitment and responsibility we hold towards steering our community, our commonwealth, towards a future of promise and prosperity.

In this iconic Assembly, we stand as a testament to the strides made in our journey of decentralization—a collective effort envisioned by our nation's leader HE Paul BIYA to devolve certain powers to our communities and foster unity in diversity. This gathering epitomizes the spirit of collaboration, solidarity, fellowship and determination ingrained in the fabric of the community, translating the North-West Region's slogan "U na Mi, Mi na U, Wi

bi Wi" into budgeted actions for wealth creation in the pursuit of happiness and living together in harmony.

**Honorable Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Since we separated last October, our Assembly, as you are certainly aware has been active in various spheres. Some activities worthy of note carried out since the September 2023 session include:

\*The P/REC took part in the training workshop of Mayors and Deputies organized by CONSUPE, which was closed by PM Emeritus Philemon YANG.

\*The Region welcomed the S.G of the CPDM to Bamenda on 3rd November,2023.

\*The Region celebrated the 41st anniversary of President Paul BIYA ascension to power on 6th November 2023, at the Bamenda congress hall.

\* The CED represented the P/REC from the 23rd to 24th November,2023 at the launching of the NW Regional arts and crafts exhibition at the Mezam SDO's esplanade.

\*The P/REC commissioned the CED to the APME (small and medium size promotion agency-NW) meeting where mini packaging machines were distributed to 50 food processing enterprises and certificates awarded to SIYB trainers at the Regional office on 28th November,2023.

\*Representing the P/REC the CESCSD took part at the 31st edition of the annual day honoring people with disabilities at MINEPAT NW on the 1st December, 2023.

\*And out of Region:

\* P/REC in the company of the CESCSD and the Regional Assembly press officer took part in the Regional Universities Forum for capacity building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) in Yaounde from 29th October to 3rd November,2023. Well over 11 enterprises from the region exhibited, marketed and sold their products to participants from 163 universities and visitors from 40 african countries. It was a major outing for these businesses that displayed and sold the trademarks of the region; notably solar panels and paraphernalia made in Bamenda, the

toghu brands, transformed foods and oils from Bamenda etc. We are grateful for the collaboration between the NWRA and the UBa that made this possible.

\* P/REC attended the Commonwealth Local Government Conference (CLGC) in Kigali, Rwanda from 13th to 17th November, 2023

\* The P/REC in the company of the other nine presidents of Cameroon regions (Cameroon Association of regions) went on a benchmarking trip to regions in Paris, Bordeaux and Lyon, France from 18th to 25th November, 2023. They also had working sessions with the French Institute for training public civil servants (INSP) and the French business community MEDEF. Our regional development plan and major projects were presented in search for partners and funding.

\* SG represented the P/REC in Kribi for the Road Fund workshop on financing procedures.

\* P/REC was a C'politik life program panelist on CRTV Yaounde on 5th December, 2023 discussing the output, impact and challenges of regions three years on.

\* P/REC took part in the Diaspora Forum in Yaounde on 6th December, 2023 and the High Council of Cameroonians Abroad (HCCA) diaspora Forum in Douala on 8th December, 2023. He was accompanied by the Questor to the latter. Discussions on humanitarian peace actions, funding of community programs in health and social welfare as well as funding joint ventures laid the foundation for future action.

### **Honourable Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Our agenda for this session encapsulates the vital components necessary for our Region's sustainable growth and progress as may be captured under:

#### **➤ Peace Building Initiatives:**

Our journey towards progress is intricately tied to the preservation of peace and stability. I commend the tireless efforts made by the peace and development committees thus far in maintaining harmony within our Region within the context of the execution of peace building HILA projects. Let us recommit ourselves to sustaining this peace, for it is the bedrock upon which

our future endeavors stand. We shall be opportuned during this session to have updates from the remaining Divisions with phase one ongoing projects.

➤ **At the crossroads of Climate change, Environmental Impact and Development:**

We find ourselves at a critical juncture where environmental consciousness intersects with development opportunities. The presentations on environmental impact and climate change are pivotal, underscoring our responsibility to protect our natural resources while exploring avenues for sustainable development.

➤ **Local Financing and Development:**

With all the deliberations in this Assembly towards NOWEDIF, we understand that empowering our local communities remains central to our vision. It is through concerted efforts in local financing and grassroots development that we can truly unlock our Region's potential for progress. This is evident as the unique source of financing of our twenty-six billion francs per annum regional development plan is the central government with annual subsidies between three and five billion. If we shall bring meaningful development, the region must mobilize resources. This justifies the development forum which has been moved to 2024 since the state made available at the end of November the 2024 budget. The REC has been concerting with experts from MINDDEVEL, MINEPAT, and MINFI over the weekend (Saturday and Sunday 9th and 10th December) to fine tune this budget. The 2024 budget as presented begs for an increase in the running budget to attain at least 30% needed for salaries and benefits for staff to be hired following the recruitment plan. Innovations this year include the transfer of finances (714 million CFA francs) from some ministries. If we must execute our RDP which will cost on the average 26 billion CFA annually, local financial mobilization is an imperative. After all the administrative devolution of powers presupposes that communities will take ownership of their destinies not just in identifying projects but also planning, programming and budgeting and most especially mobilizing funds for implementation.

➤ **Customs Clearance Warehouse /Regional Eco-Industrial Park:**

The potential economic impact of initiatives like the customs clearance warehouse and the Regional Eco-Industrial techno-park cannot be overstated. These ventures promise job creation, economic growth, and a platform for our region to thrive on the national and global stages.

As we deliberate on these crucial matters, let us embrace the spirit of cooperation and collaboration. Our collective wisdom, experience, and perspectives pave the way for informed decisions that will shape the destiny of our Region.

I urge each of us to actively engage, exchange ideas freely, and foster an environment conducive to progressive discourse and intercourse. Let our discussions here today fuel actionable strategies that will define the roadmap for our region's progress.

In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude to all present for their unwavering commitment and dedication to our Region's advancement. Together, let us embark on this journey towards a brighter, more prosperous future for all who call this Region home.

Thank you. I now have the pleasure to declare the 13th session of the North-West Regional Assembly officially opened.

Long live the commitment of development stakeholders of the Region,

Long live the people of the North-West as they unite to work for peace and people-centered development,

Long live Cameroon and its illustrious Head of State, the wise man of Africa, President Paul BIYA,

Thank you for your indulgent, keen and kind attention.

