



# THE NORTH-WESTERNER

5<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

N° 005


A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH-WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

SEPTEMBER 2023



## PDI: NEW PARADIGM FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE



 **Back-to-School 2023/2024: NWRA assists students with Scholarships, didactic materials**

 **NOWEDIF: A Social, Economic Development Instrument of hope**

 **SACRED FORESTS: Over 25,000 trees planted in all 7 Divisions**



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## EDITORIAL



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

The people-centered, community-driven Peace and Development Initiative (PDI) of the North-West Region, finds its anchor on the culture of the land. Some variously infer to “Ubuntu,” common ground, the African Ethos, etc. It seeks comfort and protection from Sections 40, 41, 266 of Law No. 2019/024 of December 24 2019, instituting the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities. As we move on, it is important to take a critical look at the PDI two years on, to record its strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities. The Law cited above encourages collective, group ownership and discourages funding for individual concerns in Section 406. This is, indeed, a bolster to sustaining human development effort in the long haul. It may be necessary to revisit formative and even summative evaluations as presented

today. Is the quest to be the first, the best and the only one in class, in industry, in society, really serving collective spirit, social cohesion, group dynamic and harmonious development? It may be true that the frontiers between copying, emulating and sharing may be hazy in group work, but the gains from collective effort outweigh and outlive individual endeavour. As we trod the fine trail between individual excellence or accomplishments and the growth of our communities, the game-changer is in integrating, sometimes reconciling, personal and group or common interest.

With the re-opening of schools for the 2023/2024 academic year, performance is a gauge, an indicator of how far our communities have gone in the march towards peace and development in our seven Divisions.

It measures the will and zeal of one and sundry to belong to a human community of a shared-humanity, where decency, the common good, overrides evil and illegality. The community spirit can only find fertile ground to flourish when couched in legality, nay normalcy. Any attempt to beguile the world with the appellation Community School, in disrespect of regulations and laws of the land, must be avoided. Further, our drive to build secure, safer and healthier communities applies to the education community in clean schools void of drugs and arms.

As you read on, remember to send your inputs to us through [info@nwra.cm](mailto:info@nwra.cm). This is a sure way to count and be counted, notwithstanding potential divisions and distances that separate us. “U na Mi, Mi na U, Wi bi Wi”. Happy connection, happy reading!



# THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE LAW

## Budget Execution: Mechanisms for Internal Control and Audit

By Hon. Jude Nsom Waindim,  
Questor, NWRA



As such, the Code of Transparency and Good Governance devotes its Chapter VII to Auditing, precisely in Section 40 that all transactions relating to Public Budgets must be subject to an audit, amongst which we have Political and Administrative Audits that concern the North-West Regional Assembly.

The Fiscal Regime of the State on its Part VI, devoted to Control, reiterates same in Article 83, that all operations relating to the execution of Finance Laws must be subjected to a triple control, of which the Political and Administrative Controls remain integral components. Under this section of the provisions, Article 84, which stipulates in some detail, the aspects of Administrative Control, of which Internal Control and Audits are a part, stipulates that Internal Control is constituted of all the procedures and methods that offer decision-makers and managers assurance, bearing on the good functioning of the services under their command, especially as concerns the good mastery of risks.

### I. Context and Justification

Since the advent of reforms bearing on the appropriation and practice of performance-based budgeting in Cameroon in 2007, more Public Finance reforms have been put in place to accompany this landmark paradigm shift in the management of the country's Public Finances. These major changes have been based on the two critical pillars: the attainment of transparency and performance in the management of Public Finances. It is, therefore, in this light and in a bid to comply with the CEMAC exigencies, enshrined in CEMAC Directive No. 01 on the Financial Laws, and CEMAC Directive No. 06 on Transparency and Good Governance on the Management of Public Finances, that Cameroon drafted and voted its own corresponding 11 July 2018 laws on Fiscal Regime of the State and Public Entities as well as the Code of Transparency and Good Governance in Public Finance Management.

The two preceding cornerstone laws in the management of Public Finances in our country all consistently emphasize the necessity of controls and audits to ensure the optimization of transparency and performance.

The same Article articulates that Finance Controllers and Accountants, in their classic roles, assist in ensuring Internal Controls and Audits. This exercise, aimed at providing an objective and independent appraisal of the Financial and Budgetary Management of the North West Regional Assembly's internal budgetary operations and management, is therefore justified not only by an exigency dictated by the laws in force, but it also arises from an internal vision, anchored on a culture of efficiency and transparency, through the mitigation of managerial risks, providing as such the requisite assurance on all the said operations and management.

It is in line with the above vision of Transparency and Good Governance that the **Budget Head 670 129 of the 2021 Budget of the North-West Regional Assembly**, which empowers the Questor of the House to put in place provisions for (Internal) Audit and Control, in consonance with Law N°74/18 of 5<sup>th</sup> December 1974, relating to the Control of Authorizing Officers and Vote Holders of the State, of Local Authorities and of State Enterprises; Law



N° 2019/024 of 24<sup>th</sup> December 2019, to institute the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities; and Decree N° 2013/159 of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013, fixing the particular regime of Administrative Control of Cameroon's Public Finances.

## 1. Objectives

### Main Objective:

To instill a culture of transparency and performance in the Regional Assembly's budgetary and financial management.

### Secondary Objectives:

- To ensure systematic regularity of budgetary and financial files and, hence, their accrued compliance to the laws and regulations in force;
- To ensure an increased mastery in the scrutiny and treatment of budgetary and financial files, in order to mitigate rejection and return rates at the level of Specialized Finance Control and Accounting Officer;
- To identify and strengthen the weak links in the budget and financial management process that can negatively expose the management to sanctions of external audits;
- To provide a manual that can guide the stakeholders to better treat documents and manage resources.

## 2. Scope

This focus of the Guide shall be on Internal Audit and Control, with a bias for Budgetary and Financial Operations, because of the sensitive nature of these operations, as well as the temporary and financial limits imposed by the prevailing circumstances.

## 3. Internal Control

Internal control is a key factor in ensuring that the North-West Regional Assembly, NWRA, is effectively and efficiently managed and that its resources are not misused or misappropriated. These controls are integral to the effective risk management of activities and to ensure there are appropriate policies and procedures that promote the achievement of goals and objectives.

Internal control is not limited to financial matters. An effective internal control environment will provide the means by which NWRA can successfully address and mitigate many risks. The internal control system should be defined in respect to the financial, information and technological, human resource, and legislative activities of NWRA.

In establishing and assessing internal control practices, it is necessary to recognize that in practical terms, a certain level of risk will exist. The purpose of internal control is to provide assurance that the internal risks faced by NWRA are minimized or contained to acceptable levels.

## 4. Purpose

Consistent with the objectives and requirements of the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities, RLAs, the Regional Assembly, RA, has a responsibility to ensure that its activities are conducted in an efficient, risk-effective and transparent manner, which is compliant with its policies and procedures.

Internal controls, therefore, provide a framework to assist in the development of policies, practices and procedures to collectively ensure that the financial and non-financial activities of NWRA are conducted in a proper manner.

This Guide, thus, sets out to provide clear direction to all NWRA members, management and staff and external contractors, to ensure that NWRA is effectively managed and that its resources are not misused or misappropriated.

## 5. Definitions

Internal Control is broadly defined as a process supported by the Organization's policies, procedures and practices, which collectively provide a reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of objectives in the following categories:

- Effectiveness and efficiency of operations;
- Reliability and accuracy of financial data; and
- Compliance with policies, procedures, legislation and regulations.

It recognizes that a 'system' of internal control extends far beyond those matters, which relate solely to the financial matters of the organization.

## 6. Key Focus Areas

A comprehensive and appropriate system of internal control will include policies and procedures that provide a framework that ensures:

- Strategic Plan Objectives are monitored and reported in an efficient and orderly manner.
- Reporting information is accurate and re-



liable to facilitate sound decision-making.

- Policies and procedures are followed.
- Compliance with the relevant legislation and regulations applicable to Regional and Local Authorities.
- Assets are secured and protected from unauthorized use.
- Records are complete, accurate, secure and reliable; and
- Risks are identified, assessed and mitigated where possible.

Controls can be divided into 3 categories:

#### **Preventative**

Processes put in place to avoid undesirable events from occurring i.e.: Training programs, Contract conditions, Policies and Procedures and Security measures.

#### **Detective**

Processes put in place to detect and subsequently correct undesirable events that have already occurred i.e.: Audits, Reviews, Reconciliation.

#### **Directive**

Processes put in place to encourage a desirable event to occur i.e.: Business Continuity Plans, Disaster Recovery Plans, Insurance, Education and disciplinary actions.

This internal control framework is based on a pro-active risk management approach, which includes regular review and identification of the risks that exist within NWRA activities. The RA shall be able to maintain an effective Risk Management Framework with internal controls included as an integral part of that framework. An appropriate internal control measure is applied to each key risk activity in order to reduce the inherent risk of that activity to an acceptable level.

An effective internal control environment focuses on the following key areas to provide an adequate level of assurance over NWRA activities:

#### **Organizational Culture**

It is the responsibility of each employee to comply with the Internal Control Policy, practices and procedures.

Elected Members and Employees will value and be aware of the importance of internal control practices and organizational structure through:

The existence and compliance with the Codes

of Conduct and Ethics:

- Adherence to the Values documented in NWRA Strategic Plans;
- Employees being appropriately trained to effectively perform their role;
- Defined use of information technology: the Internet, Email and Computer Use Policy; and
- Striving for best practices in Human Resource management procedures.

#### **Control Activities**

Policies and procedures that address business risks and provide detailed guidelines for carrying out activities include:

- Document controls;
- Reconciliations and verifications;
- Physical asset controls and regular revaluation;
- Financial accounting procedures including segregation of duties;
- Information technology controls;
- Budgeting and reporting procedures;
- Record and data security; and
- Risk assessments.

#### **Monitoring Activities**

Management systems and internal activities need to be monitored to assess the quality of their performance over time. This will include:

- Office of the Questor, performing a review and monitoring role;
- An internal audit program that reviews and monitors NWRA activities;
- A Risk Register that is monitored with risks having a rating of Catastrophic or Major, being reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that relevant treatment plans are implemented and work effectively;
- Reviewing the adequacy and implementation of NWRA Strategic Management Plans, including the medium-term and long-term revenue and expenditure frameworks;
- Regular monitoring of the Strategic Plan objectives and activities to ensure desired outcomes are being achieved;
- Reviewing documents that are provided to the Community for accuracy and completeness, including NWRA policies, budget reviews, Annual Financial Statements, Annual Reports, registers, journals and Procedure Manuals.





## 7. Outcomes

The following measures can be used as indicators to determine if the operating internal control environment is functioning successfully:

- Equitable, efficient and effective use of resources (people, equipment and funds);
- Minimize discrepancies, anomalies and irregularities, or prompt detection and correction if they occur;
- Assets are used only for authorized purposes and are not subject to improper removal or sale;
- All financial and non-financial data, records, databases and other material are complete and accurate, protected from loss or damage and capable of being readily accessed to continue the smooth operation of NWRA business; and
- The nature and impact of inherent and residual risks have been identified, assessed and contained to an acceptable level.

## IX. Roles and Responsibilities

- The **Elected Member** Body is responsible for the Internal Control Policy.

### Office of the Querstor:

- Provides independent review and advice to NWRA in relation to the organization's approach to corporate governance matters including internal controls.

### Vote Holder

- Accountable to NWRA for the development and implementation of appropriate systems to achieve accountability and integrity, to provide support for the development and implementation of appropriate systems and to report to the RA on internal control effectiveness.
- Also responsible for the development of adequate internal controls and their imple-

mentation, evaluation and revision on an on-going basis in respect to all of the functions of NWRA under their control to ensure as far as practicable that:

- -Financial records and other relevant databases completely and accurately reflect the actual operational activities and the timely preparation of reports;
- Assets are safeguarded from unauthorized use or disposal; and
- Irregularities are prevented or detected and corrected if they occur.
- Expected to promote a best practice approach in support of effective business practices and properly functioning controls.

### Staff and Employees

- NWRA staff and employees are responsible for conducting their duties in accordance with internal control policies, procedures and practices of the RA. They are also responsible for reporting to Management, instances where they consider that internal control procedures are inadequate or are not being met.

## X. Internal Control Procedures

These procedures are anchored mainly on: The principle of separation of functions; for example:

- Double signatures on accounts;
- Incompatibility and non-concordance of accounts;
- Separation of functions of IT programmers and system users;
- Control of software applications and their modifications and access to data;
- Strict follow up of regulations on preparation and presentation of various accounts: Administrative, Management and Stock;
- Appropriation and control of justification documents to avoid double accounting and to make sure required documents are not missing or serial numbers simulated;
- Comparison of internal data with sources of external information;
- Physical inventory of movable and immovable stock in relation to accounting data;
- Restriction of physical access to stock and document, especially by installing passwords or access permits to information folders; comparison and analysis of execution in relation to budgetary data.



# INSIDE THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS

Sacred Forests, Water Catchments: Over 25,000 Trees Planted in all Divisions

## Team for tree planting, Badji



**Traditional rulers, who are members of the House of Chiefs in the North-West Region, are devoted to conserving culture and traditions while making sure that water flows everywhere in the Region.**

**By Buba Laura CHIFON**

Some Fondoms across the seven Divisions of the North-West Region have witnessed a transformation following the planting of trees around their various sacred forests and water catchments to salvage them from the growing effects of environmental degradation and to hold tight to the traditional rituals associated with such forests. Those who grew up in villages, especially around palaces will bear witness to the importance of trees in or around Fondoms. Their importance cannot be neglected as it is known to be the point where most traditional rites and rituals are performed in North-West Fondoms. Bearing in mind the importance of such for-

ests and water catchments to the communities, the North- West Regional Assembly through the House of Chiefs has embarked on a rehabilitation tree- planting project in the various forests and water catchment areas. The exercise, which started in July through August 2023, saw over 25,000 trees planted. They ranged from Mahogany, Pronus Africana and Misopsis, a choice motivated by their environmental-friendly nature and their high medicinal, traditional and economic value. The said project was successfully carried out by the North-West Regional Assembly together with partner organizations, Fons and notables in concerned communities.

### **Beneficiary Communities**

This exercise saw the rehabilitation of the Nso Sacred Forest in Bui; the rehabilitation of the Bambalang Sacred Forest, specifically in Mbankuong, Mbanteh, Pa'ah Nguong in Ngoketunjia; the rehabilitation of the Mendakwe Sacred Forest in Mezam; the rehabilitation



of the Mbessa Sacred Forest in Boyo; the rehabilitation of the Furu-Awa Sacred Forest in Menchum; and the rehabilitation of the Bam-bili Sacred Forest in Mezam. The exercise did not only focus on Sacred Forests as trees were equally planted around water catchments in the Njinibi Fondom in Momo and the Sabga water catchment in Mezam Division.

Before realizing this milestone project, partners visited selected sites and did feasibility studies. They supervised and approved mature plants through the Regional Delegate of Environment. The team embarked on a training of care-takers and management committee members. Working materials were distributed to some youths employed and trained purposely for the project. They went further to clear and demarcate boundaries and transported the trees to the various Fondoms,

which were received by the various traditional rulers and committee members. This gave way to lining, packing, and planting in all the Sacred Forests and around water catchments. The success of the peace-building tree-planting project was as a result of the joint effort between partner organizations, communities directly concerned, technical services and donors.

On a positive note, Fon Galadima Andrew Nyangju of Bandja, like other beneficiary Fons, remarked that he was ready to allocate more space in his Fondom for the exercise as the project will not only solve some environmental problems but will more importantly create space for traditional rites. The trees will equally go a long way to provide more roofing planks, furniture material, which will indirectly create employment to those willing to venture into the wood exploitation domain.



*GRACARO team planting trees in BADJI*



# BACK-TO-SCHOOL 2023 / 2024

## Back-To-School: Regional Assembly Awards 100 Best Students



*Laureates pose with dignitaries*

During the prize-award ceremony on September 22, 2023, NWRA also donated didactic materials to 2,000 needy students, supported inclusive education and literacy centres.

### *By Mboh Promise*

Some meritorious students from all 07 Divisions of the North-West Region have been awarded scholarships and didactic materials to help them in the 2023/2024 school year.

The students, carefully selected by the North-West Regional Delegation of Secondary Education, were noted to be outstanding in the 2023 end-of-course examinations.

The award-ceremony took place Friday, September 22, 2023 in Bamenda, chaired by the representative of the North-West Governor, Mr. Bassilekin Georges Magloire Emmanuel, who doubles as the Secretary General at the Governor's Office.

Also present was the North-West Regional Assembly President, Prof. Fru Fobuzshi Angwafo III and the North-West Regional Delegate of Secondary Education, Mr. Ngwang Roland.

During the award-ceremony, some of the ben-

eficiaries expressed satisfaction, congratulated the North-West Regional Assembly and promised to be hard-working in order to remain in the limelight.

Scholarship grants ranging from 30,000frs to 40,000frs were given to the best 100 students who excelled in the 2023 session of national end-of-course examinations.

The ceremony also witnessed the donation of 2,000 school bags and 20,000 exercise books to students. The Regional Assembly also donated didactic materials to 30 literacy centres and subsidies to Inclusive Secondary Education Resource Centres in the Region.

The best of the best in the Region were inducted into the North-West Regional Assembly's Honours Roll, as attestations of excellence were given to students from various end-of-course examinations, namely, the GCE Advanced and Ordinary Levels, CAP, BEPC, CAPIEMP, TVEE, ITVEE and others

Mbah Rahham, a beneficiary who is now heading to University, after her brilliant performance in the Technical and Vocational Education Examination, TVEE, said the scholarship and school didactic materials were a clear sign





*President, NWRA handing over Certificate to Laureate*

holders in the Region not to listen to calls of frustration from separatist fighters. He also challenged the students to take their education seriously in order to continue shining the light of the Region.

On his part, the President of the North-West Regional Assembly, Prof. Fru F. Angwafo III, called on the population of the Region not to let their children get old at home without obtaining the education they deserve. "Every single individual in our Region has a role to play, to create an enabling environment for learning, for growth

that the authorities have them in mind. "I'm very grateful for this scholarship awarded by North-West Regional Assembly. It motivates me to keep putting in more efforts as the new school year is about to begin. This also shows that the authorities are seeing the efforts we the students are putting in, despite the challenging situation," Mbah Rahham said.

According to Taniform Blaise, another student from Government Bilingual High School, GBHS Bamendankwe, the donations were a great relief and source of much encouragement. "I'm grateful because I have received books and a school bag. Being in lower sixth, I couldn't afford all the items, now I will study in peace. I know learning without these items would have been difficult for me.

I am promising to use the items well to pass the GCE Advanced Level with good grades," Taniform Blaise said. Speaking during the event, the Governor's representative, Mr. Bassilekin Georges, called on parents and education stake-

and for development. That's why we are here today. We are trying to catch up on lost time, lost opportunities. We have had 7 years of low performance in the education sector. It pains me to see children who have not been to school for 7 years. It is in this light that the Regional Assembly took upon itself, in one of its Deliberations, to see how we can help these children in the communities," Prof. Fru F. Angwafo III observed.

On his part, Mr. Ngwang Roland said it was just another moment to celebrate excellence in the entire Region. The Regional Delegate also revealed that about 60,000 students have already answered present for the new school year as at end of September 22, 2023. He added that the number is expected to increase in the days ahead.



*Regional Delegate Secondary Education, handing over school kits to students*



## BACK-TO-SCHOOL 2023/2024: REACTIONS

By Victory Marshal Ayafor Basang

*The North-West Regional Assembly since its creation has spared no effort in re-branding the Region, especially in the Education sector. During her most recent back-to-school campaign, the Regional Assembly offered scholarships, didactic materials to 30 literacy centres and school kits to some 2,000 needy students across the Region. The North-Westerner Magazine caught up with some stakeholders and beneficiaries for their reactions.*

*(Excerpts below):*



### **“Let Love Lead”**

“Every single individual in our Region has a role to play to create an enabling environment for learning, growth and development. That is why the Regional Assembly is committed to promote academic excellence and assist in their own way, such that all our children go to school and none is left behind. With this gesture, we are trying to catch up on lost time and lost opportunities. We have had seven years of lackluster performance in the Education sector. It pains me to see 14 and 15-year-old children who are illiterates because they have not been to school for the last seven years. It is against this backdrop that the Regional Assembly resolved to see how it can help all the different sectors of the community. For those teenagers who have not been to school at all, we have offered pedagogic aids and tools for 30 literacy centres in the Region. For the disadvantaged and physically challenged, we have given subsidies to Inclusive Secondary Educa-

tion Resource Centres in the Region and we’ve also given school bags consisting of exercise books and other school kits to 2,000 needy students across the Region to assist them in their learning process. We have also started to encourage not only financially and materially, but also morally, by recognizing academic excellence. This year, 100 of the best students in all the secondary education national end-of-course examinations have not only been given some cash bonuses, but more importantly, they have officially been inducted into the North-West Regional Assembly’s Honours Roll with a certificate to show they are the best of the best. That alone goes a long way to enrich their CVs and enhance future career paths. So, that is what we could do this year and we are looking forward to doing more.

We also use this opportunity to call on everyone to come on board to develop our Region. Everyone can find something to do, no matter how little, to make our Region an enabling environment for learning. Let’s discuss our everyday challenges and differences at home, in our Peace and Development Committees, in the family, in schools, Churches, village de-

velopment associations, youth and women groups, etc. and let this be done without hurting or killing one another. Let love lead.”

*Prof. FRU F. ANGWAFO III  
President, North-West Regional Assembly*

### **“Gesture Comes as an Icing on the Cake”**

“I wish to first of all express gratitude to the President of the North-West Regional Assembly, Prof. Fru ANGWAFO III, who has been constant and consistent in his policy of supporting the Secondary Education sector; and recently, the Head of State’s Decree transferring competences in education to the Region, has come to reinforce the Regional Assembly’s responsibilities in this sector. Looking at the items given, for instance, the financial assistance that has been given to students who registered exceptional performance at end-of-course certificate examinations, comes in time. This is the moment the beneficiaries





need the monies most, given that those going to University need it to register and those going to High school, need also to enroll. So, the financial assistance is very much appreciated because it comes so timely. For the didactic materials, they are also very timely, given that they come at a time when parents are grappling with buying the basics. So, the items come at a moment to give the children encouragement and assistance to parents to lessen their burden. I am also very happy that as we speak, the indicators for school enrollment this year are so positive. Schools have effectively resumed in the Region. So, such a gesture from the North-West Regional Assembly just comes as an icing on the cake."

**NGWANG Roland YUVEN**  
*Regional Delegate, Secondary Education, NW*

**"Didactic Materials Received are so Timely"**  
"Within the framework of the donation of didactic materials to the Regional Delegation of Basic Education by the North-West Regional Assembly, I seize this opportunity to thank the President of the Regional Assembly and his team for coming to the assistance of 30 literacy centres in Basic Education. I can say for sure that these didactic materials received are so timely; we are in the beginning of the school year and in dire need of such assistance. The Regional Delegation of Basic Education just had a new creation of literacy centres and following that, every Sub-Division now has a Literacy Centre. So the donations of didactic materials from the Regional Assembly to 30 of these Literacy Centres is so timely and very much appreciated. We hope, in the course of the academic year, these ma-

terials will be instrumental to enhance the teaching and learning process in these centres across the Region. They will facilitate the education and transformation of adults who have not had the opportunity to go to regular schools to be able to read and write, thereby, reducing illiteracy rates and improving on the literacy situation in the North-West Region."



**Wilfred WAMBENG NDONG KIMBUNG**  
*Regional Delegate, Basic Education NW*

**"I pray God keeps providing for NWRA to help more and more needy children..."**

"My heartfelt appreciation to the Regional Assembly for such a kind gesture. When you do well in school and you are rewarded for hard work, it gives you that push to always aim for excellence. I will use this money as my enrollment due into The University of Bamenda in the Communication and Development Studies Department. I will never forget what the Regional Assembly has done for me and other students here today. I pray God keeps providing for the Regional Assembly to help more and more needy children in the Region to go to school and become great people in future."

**Amashi Joy Osere Engoh**  
*Ex Student, GBHS Bayelle-Nkwen*





**"I promise to study very hard and make the Region proud of me.."**

"I wish to thank the Regional Assembly for the school supplies provided to us. I had not yet had a school bag and exercise books because my parents were still planning to buy them by the end of September when they have money. But thanks to the Regional Assembly for coming to our aid just at the right time and giving us hope for the academic year. With this gift, I promise to study very hard and make the Region proud of me. God willing, I desire to come back next year in this same occasion to be inducted into the Regional Honours Roll like my other mates."

*Taniform Blaise,  
Form Five Student, GBHS Bamenda*

"I am so happy for the scholarship grant..."  
"I am so happy for this scholarship grant from the North-West Regional Assembly. The cash bonus will help me pay for my registration into Lower Sixth. Most importantly, the certificate I received for academic excellence, inducting me into the Regional Honours Roll means a lot to me, because I know in the future, it will help enrich my CV and give me better opportunities in my career path. God bless the North-West Regional Assembly."



**WABO SOUOP Anderson Freddy  
Beneficiary, GBHS Mendankwe**





## NORTH-WEST REGIONAL PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (PDI)

### Peace, Development Initiative: First Palpable Salutary Projects

By Emmanuel KENDEMEH

The North-West Regional Assembly, through the Peace and Development Initiative, PDI, has positively impacted the lives of some communities in all the 34 Sub-Divisions, with projects and financial fallouts.

Members of the public who thought the North-West Regional Assembly which is part of the structures within the decentralization process was just an additional institution in the cumbersome government machinery, are beginning to agree that the Regional Assembly had to be created. Besides boosting the decentralization process within devolved powers intended to bring development and governance closer to the local population, the North-West Regional Assembly has taken further steps to contribute to the return of peace, stability, normalcy and development to the crisis-affected Region.

Now comes the Peace and Development Initiative (PDI), a flagship programme of the North-West Regional Assembly, which is a people-centered and community-driven peace initiative. Costing a global sum of CFA 475 million, the PDI has been on for two years. Indeed, the effective implementation of its ambitions on the field has made the initiative a household name in the 34 Sub-Divisions of the seven Divisions of the Region. Through the PDI, the North-West Regional Assembly has been using a bottom-top and participatory approach in development as the projects in the different

localities are identified by the communities that are also involved in the elaboration of the projects. Furthermore, community members are recruited to carry out the projects for payment.

On the field, the Peace and Development Initiative has touched all Sub-Divisions with already completed and ongoing projects. The local populations are effectively involved in carrying out projects such as rehabilitation and extension of potable water supply schemes, road maintenance, bridges, culverts, filling potholes and clearing roadsides. They have equally been carrying out the cleaning and rehabilitation of markets, renovation of Fons' Palaces and hospitals. In Momo Division specifically, the PDI has contributed to boosting the production of quality oil palm seedlings through oil palm nursery management techniques.

As any human endeavor, the Peace and Development Initiative has strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities. It equally has perspectives that hinge on the anxiety expressed by the different communities to benefit from the projects. The active participation of the local populations augurs well for achieving the main goals of return to peace and normalcy in the North-West Region.

This Peace and Development Initiative Focus sets out to present the implementation of the initiative in all the Divisions of the North-West Region, viz., Boyo, Bui, Donga Mantung, Momo, Mezam, Menchum and Ngoketungia.



*Distribution of work materials in Nkum Sub-Division, Bui*



As far as the North-West Regional PDI is concerned, all the seven Divisions of the Region have effectively executed the first phase of the project, which entails Divisional launch, capacity-building, training, sensitization seminars, cultural and sporting festivals. For the second phase, which is the HILA realization proper, all the Divisions are progressing steadily at their respective paces, with Boyo, and Donga Mantung at 100% execution rate, as at September 2023. Each Sub-Divisions of the Region has a PDI project or more.

## BOYO DIVISION

*Hon. Waindim Jude Nsom,  
Divisional Coordinator PDI Boyo*

In line with the practical modalities on the execution of the Peace-Building Projects through HILA, Ref N0 001394/L/NWRA/SG/DGA/SS of 21 February 2023, the sum of CFA 54,173,600 (fifty-four million, one hundred and seventy-three thousand, six hundred) was allocated to BOYO Division. Of this amount, CFA 10,834,720 (ten million, eight hundred and thirty-four thousand, seven hundred and twenty) was further allocated for Divisional stakeholders seminars and social actions, and CFA 43,338,880 (forty-three million,

three hundred and thirty-eight thousand, eight hundred and eighty) for HILA executions across the 4 Sub Divisions that make up Boyo, viz., CFA 10,834,720 (ten million, eight hundred and thirty-four thousand, seven hundred and twenty) per Sub Division as follows: 30% for Durables (3,250,416); 40% for Beneficiaries (4,333,888); 20% for Social Actions (2,166,944) and 10% for Coordination (1,083,472). So far, four PDI projects have been executed by 707 youth beneficiaries in the four Sub Divisions of Boyo, and these projects were largely in the area of rural and semi-urban road rehabilitation works.

### Belo Sub-Division

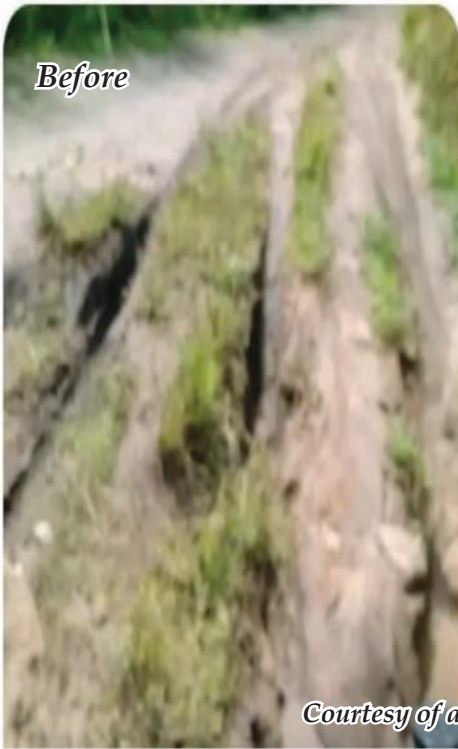


*Rehabilitation of 6km rural road and adapting of bridge*





### Bum Sub-Division



*Courtesy of amateur photographs*





## Fundong Sub-Division



*Back-filling of potholes on 2.5km of a semi urban road*





## Njinikom Sub-Division



*Rehabilitation of 7km road, back-filling and grubbing of gutters*









## BUI DIVISION

By Dr. Yaa Fondufe Sakah Lydia,  
Divisional Coordinator, PDI Bui

Four out of the six key projects have so far been executed 100% as at October 2023 with two ongoing. These projects are carried out by 624 youths in the six Sub-Divisions of Bui for a global sum of 82,173,100 (eighty-two million, one hundred and seventy-three thousand, one hundred) CFA. The first phase of the project involved a capacity training seminar at 20% of the total sum to the tune of 16,434,620 FCFA and the project realisation proper at 80% of the global sum, to the tune of 65,738,480 CFA. The cost of each project sums up the amount used for the purchase of durable materials and payment for beneficiary labour. The PDI HILA projects were in the domain of road rehabilitation, water, and

rehabilitation of market etc. These projects, all executed within a two-month timeframe, were identified based on priority need, by the population themselves and finally retained by the Peace and Development Committee in a well-monitored and transparent bottom-top approach as prescribed by PDI Guidelines.

The Project identification and selection phase was preceded by a capacity building seminar with Peace and Development committees involving traditional rulers, Religious authorities, village cultural and Development associations, Youth Associations and other stakeholders to keep them abreast of PDI project identification, execution and evaluation rules and regulations.

### Kumbo Sub-Division

**Project Title:** The Rehabilitation of Tobin-Njavnyuy Road, Bridge, Culverts, filling Potholes and Clearing 9km Road Sides.

**N° of beneficiaries:** 146 (worked for two Months)

**Cost:** CFA 16,434,620 for labour and materials



*Road before*





*During work*



*After work*









*Gutter before*



*Gutter during*



*Gutter after*

*Courtesy of amateur photographs*



## Nkum Sub-Division

**Project Title:** The Rehabilitation and maintenance of 7km road from Tatum-Nseh

**N° of beneficiaries:** 146 (worked for two Months)

**Cost:** CFA 8,217,310 for labour and materials





## Mbiame Sub-Division

**Project Title:** The Rehabilitation of the Mbiame main market

**N° of beneficiaries:** 73 (worked for two Months)

**Cost:** CFA 8,217,310 for labour and materials



*Courtesy of amateur photographs*



## Oku Sub-Division

**Project Title:** The Rehabilitation of 900m stretch of Road linking Government High School (G.H.S) Elak and corner-water

**N° of beneficiaries:** 60 (worked for one Months)

**Cost:** CFA 12,325,965 for labour and materials



*Courtesy of amateur photographs*



## FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITIES

### **"I extend appreciation to Regional Assembly"**

"On behalf of the people of Tobin (Kumbo) I would like to extend our appreciation through Yaa Dr. Lydia Fondufe, H.E Kibuh Henry and Hon. Tata Benedick to the North-West Regional Assembly, for the amazing work done on the road drainage from Tobin Roundabout to Njavnyuy Bus Station. The endless hours the population has spent working on the road, channeling running water, widening, cleaning gutters and building culverts; the rehabilitation of Njavnyuy bridge; clearing of roads sides and filling of potholes have been well complemented by our substantial material assistance. In fact, your collaboration, encouragement and support have been a source of motivation towards communal work, development and peace-building. Once again, thank you so much for your generous efforts. While this project continues, we count on you for similar support in subsequent community projects and initiatives. May God bless you abundantly."

*Rev. Marcel Gham (Tobin Parish)*

### **"We promise to join hands to restore peace"**

I am one of the beneficiaries of the project that the Regional Assembly has executed in Kumbo. We, the people of Kumbo, are thanking the President of the Regional Assembly through his collaborators like Dr Yaa Fondufe, Hon. Tata Benedict, H.E Kibuh Henry Tume and not forgetting HRH Fon of Nso. They have stood as the collaborators for us to release this project. So, we appreciate very much the roads, culverts and bridges that link to Meluf, Tobin-Njavnyuy and the culvert along the road. We are very happy with the money that they gave us for the work and we promise that we will join hands with the Regional Assembly to restore the peace that we really need in Kumbo.

*Mr. Nyuyshiyi Elvis*

"Greetings, Honorable Ndigham (Hon. Bungo) and all the members in here present. This is absolutely our great appreciation to the North-West Regional Assembly. Through this initiative, we hope and pray for the total return of peace and normalcy in our Sub-Division and Region in general."

*HRH Fon NGUM IV of Oku*

"It is a project worth supporting"

"I visited them at work, and I can testify that it is a good piece of work done and worth appreciating."

*Fr. Denis Martins, Parish Priest of Elak.*

### **"We are behind you"**

"On behalf of the people of MBIAME I wish to extend our sincere thanks through Hon. Fanka Erasmus and Hon. Saodatu Sale, to the North-West

Regional Assembly for amazing work done on the inner/outer court yards as well as the rehabilitation of the Mbiame Market sheds, which for the past 7 years have not opened but now open every week. We are behind you."

*(By elder kindzeka Daniel), Chairman of the Peace and Development Committee (Mbiame)*

### **"I wish to thank the Regional Assembly"**

"Considering the state of the market since 2017, which as a results of the crisis was unable to hold; considering the supply of durable materials and the motivation given the selected beneficiaries from nearly all the quarters; considering the nature at which the market has been cleaned and the sheds rehabilitated and the fact that economic activities of the Sub-Division have started booming, I wish to thank the Regional Assembly very immensely for the job well done and like Oliver Twist, we can only ask for more."

*Mr. YOSOKA Godlove*

"On behalf of the beneficiaries and the entire population of Mbiame, I wish to appreciate the effort of the North-West Regional Assembly through, Hon. FANKA Erasmus K. and Hon SAODATU Sale for the wonderful initiative and work done for our market as we can now buy and sell farm produce at our market and in a clean environment. We can improve on our health situations, educate our children and acquire our National Identity Cards thanks to the market, which is now open every week. Like Oliver twist, we need more of such projects in our Sub-Division."

*By MBUHWIR Derick (Nkum)*

"On behalf of the people of Nkum, I wish to extend our sincere thanks through Hon. Fai Sabastain Maimo and Hon. Manjo Florence K., to the North-West Regional Assembly for amazing work done on the Tatum Nseh road. We are behind you."

*By Ndi Shey Ernest*

"I wish to appreciate the efforts of the Regional Assembly"

"On behalf of the beneficiaries and the entire population of Nkum, I wish to appreciate the effort of the North-West Regional Assembly through Hon. Fai Sabastain Maimo and Hon. Manjo Florence K. for the wonderful initiative and work done on our road as vehicles and bikes can now use the road with ease, transport our farm to market produce thereby, improving on our living standards."

*By Lawong Hassan*



## DONGA MANTUNG DIVISION

*By Hon. Kalak Flavius Boteh*

*Divisional Coordinator, PDI Donga Mantung*

For Donga Mantung, five projects have so far been carried out at an execution rate of 100% by 595 youths drawn across the 5 Sub-Divisions of the Division, at a lump sum of 68,173,350 (Sixty-Eight Million, One Hundred and Seventy-Three Thousand, Three hundred and fifty) CFA. The projects were executed within a four-week timeframe. The first phase of the project involved a capacity training seminar for peace

and Development/cultural sporting festival at 20% of the total sum to the tune of 10,226,002 (Ten million, two hundred and twenty-six thousand, two francs), followed by the second phase of the project at 80% of the total sum (57,947,348) Fifty Seven Million Nine Hundred And Forty Seven Thousand Three Hundred And Fourty Eight CFA.

### Ako Sub-Division

**Project Title:** The Manual Maintenance of the Communal road, Ako - Dumbo Berabe through Human Intensive Labour Approach (HILA)

**N° of beneficiaries:** 94

**Cost:** CFA 8,914,990 for labour and materials





## Misaje Sub-Division

**Project Title:** The Manual Maintenance of the Communal road, MOH - TCHINA and the leveling of the Courtyard of the youth empowerment center.

**N° of beneficiaries:** 125

**Cost:** CFA 13,370,456 for labour and purchase of durable materials



*Before*



*During*



*After*





Before



During



After



## Ndu Sub-Division

**Project Title:** The planting of 2,000 trees in Mbiyeh, Mutong and Mbakfu water catchment areas

**N° of beneficiaries:** 94

**Cost:** CFA 13,370,456 for labour and purchase of durable materials



Durable equipments to be used



Nursed trees to be planted



Transportation of trees to be planted



## Nkambe Sub-Division

**Project Title:** The Manual Maintenance of the communal roads, New Market Junction - GBHS Nkambe - Binju - Grand Stand Junction - St RITA's College.

**N° of beneficiaries:** 141

**Cost:** CFA 13,372,456 for labour and purchase of durable materials





## Nwa Sub-Division

**Project Title:** The manual maintenance of the NWA - NTONG communal road

**N° of beneficiaries:** 141

**Cost:** CFA 13,370,456 for labour and purchase of durable materials



Before



During



After



## FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITIES

### “We thank the Regional Assembly for Peace Initiative”

“The re-opening of the Ntong Market means a lot to us. We are tired of staying out of our homes. We are excited because of this road re-opened and we have regained our homes. That’s why we are dancing. Even though we were not selected as beneficiaries to do the work, we decided to join the work for so many reasons. We thank the Regional Assembly for this peace initiative. We are calling on the rest of the population to come back for the community is now peaceful.”

*Miss Elizabeth (Ntong)*

### “The whole Nkambe is Neat”

“I wish to thank the North-West Regional Assembly for what they have done to us in



Nkambe, today we are doing cash for work in Moh and KONCHEP, and we had first done some work in Binju G.B.H.S Nkambe. I can assure you that with this PDI project from the Region-

al Assembly, the whole Nkambe is neat. Our farm to market roads we could no longer access, this project chosen by us, and realized by us can now enable bikes to transport our farm products. This year, we are going to harvest and transport our corn from the farms without stress as before. Nkambe now looks like a city because we have dust bins at every junction that when you dirt, you dispose there in. The way the Regional Assembly has made Nkambe clean with the dust bins they donated; our community is fast becoming like an urban city sanitation wise. For the money you paid us, never you think it is small, because it will help us pay our children’s fees, buy their exercise books. We will buy palm oil and other food supplies and even start up petty business in selling corn beer (Sha) and God willing the business will accrue interest by next year. May

God bless the Regional Assembly and give them more resources to sponsor such community projects that benefit us.”

*Ma Ngo Delphine (Moh-Nkambe)*



I appreciate the North-West Regional Assembly for the initiation and the opportunity given to us to renovate Moh road. Before, it was not easy for us to live Moh to Nkambe town on this road but now we can go to Nkambe without any

problem. At first, we thought we were abandoned by the government. We did not know they were thinking about us. We appreciate this and we still hope for more to come.

*Mr. Sago Charles (Moh-Nkambe)*

“We were glad to be served”



“We were glad to be selected as beneficiaries and what we received as remuneration in this HILA project will help me to buy fowls, goats to rear and invest in our farming. I believe this will go a long way to improve the livelihood of my family and I.”

*Mr. Bongsum (Nwa)*



“The money I have received as pay after working for this PDI, I will use it to establish my National ID Card and pay my children’s school fees.”

*Mr. TAFI Thaddeus (Nwa)*



“ I thank the Regional Assembly North-West for the money I have received today as payment of working with the PDI, I will use the money to pay my children’s school fees and



buy some of their school needs. We, the people of Kwach-Nwa are happy working together for peace and development.”

*Mr. Sadou Abubakar (Kwach-Nwa)*

Special thanks to the Regional Assembly North-West. I am very happy with what they have done to us on this project to keep Moh-Nkambe clean and this will help us the workers to pay our children school fees this year with no stress. Since I was born I have never seen this kind of goodness in this our village before so am so very happy with the Regional Assembly.

*Mr. Christian Musa (Moh-Nkambe)*



**“We lack words to express our thanks”**  
“What the Regional Assembly has done to us regarding the Moh-Tchina road through HILA cannot be expressed enough by words. Before now, we

were unable to access this area. I can remember carrying an Inspector of Basic Education on my back to Tchina when he came for inspection and did not want to get to Tchina due to the enclave nature of the road. The population of Tchina for the first time saw a bike in June 2023 after HILA execution.”

*Mr. Tata Oliver (Misaje)*



“Indeed, the community was blessed by this project. The project helped many youths to start up businesses. Others who were school dropouts are now able to go back to school. Some

have gone into animal rearing and so on. Even though not all, but some have used the money judiciously and we thank God for it.”

*Pst. Dr. Wepngong David (President PDC, Ndu)*



“We can say with certainty that the NWRA, barely few years of existence, is proving its worth. The Regional Assembly is sensitive and caring in

putting the wellbeing of the masses top on its agenda. We of Nkambe Sub Division testify that peace is good and remains a prerequisite for all developmental efforts. The impact of decentralization and the fruits are visible. Our high gratitude and appreciation go to the Honourable House of the North-West Regional Assembly and its capable President, Hon. Prof. ANGWAFO III.”

*Mr. Yembe Chrysanthus Nsah (Secretary PDC, Nkambe)*

**“Special thanks to the Regional Assembly”**

“This project was the first of its kind in the Municipality. The enthusiasm it generated amongst the youths, the commitment from these youths towards the assigned task and excitement after the prompt payment was quite enticing. Special thanks to our Regional



Assembly through our Divisional Representatives for impacting the community this much”.

*Mr. Ibrahim Jiberu Ndzi (Ndu)*



## MENCHUM DIVISION

*By HRH Fon Bahmbi III Mathias Njuh,  
Divisional Coordinator, PDI Menchum*

In Menchum Division, a total of 8 projects were identified by the population and going by priority need, 4 were retained, one for each of the 4 Sub-Divisions that make up the Division. With 290 youth beneficiaries to benefit cash for work, the project is ongoing with all the Sub-Divisions at 80% project execution rate, as at time of publication. The projects selected were in the area of road rehabilitation, construction of gutters and portable water supply scheme.

Before this project realization phase, the sum of (10,834,720 CFA, 20% of the total sum) of

54,173,600 (Fifty-four million, one hundred and seventy-three thousand, six hundred) CFA allocated for Menchum was used for the Divisional training/sensitization seminar involving all stakeholders and Sub-Divisional Peace and Development Committees (PDCs), while the rest 80% (43,338,880 - forty-three million, three hundred and thirty eight thousand, eight hundred and eighty CFA) is dedicated for the second phase of the project execution proper.

### Fungom Sub-Division

**Project Title:** The Rehabilitation of 12km road from Mmen Cooperative to Ise market road Bafmeng

**N° of beneficiaries:** 75

**Cost:** CFA 13,001,664 for labour and durable equipment





## Furu-awa Sub-Division

**Project Title:** Construction of gutters on two streets in Furu-awa town

**N° of beneficiaries:** 75

**Cost:** CFA 8,667,776 for labour and durable equipment



Work ongoing as at october 7, 2023





## Menchum Valley Sub-Division

**Project Title:** The opening of 18km Benakuma-Vikuru-Benakuhu-Benefumu road

**N° of beneficiaries:** 70

**Cost:** CFA 8,667,776 for labour and durable equipment



Work ongoing as at october 7, 2023





## Wum Central Sub-Division

**Project Title:** Construction and extension of TSAKENDZE Gravity Portable Water Supply Scheme

**N° of beneficiaries:** 70

**Cost:** CFA 13,001,664 for labour and durable equipment



Work ongoing as at october 7, 2023





## FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITIES

"I am very thankful to the North-West Regional Assembly for thinking of our community and bringing such a wonderful project to us. Not only have I learned a lot from being part of this project, the money I have gained from working on this project, I will use part to prepare my children for school, then I will use the rest to buy pigs and rear. It really felt good to be part of a good community cause, to have that sense of belonging and being a part of building our own community with our own very hands. God continue to bless the big man of the Region Assembly and all those he works with. May God give them much more funds, so that they can always think of us back in the communities with such projects."

*Madam Mua Celestina  
PDI beneficiary, Wum Central  
Menchum Division*

**"The money I got from the project helped start a fowl rearing business"**

"I wish to thank the initiators of this wonderful project. As a matter of fact, this project has helped me raise money to buy school needs for my children and to start a fowl rearing business. I bought 25 one day old chicks to rear and sell during the festive season in December. Thank the Regional Assembly for all they do for the communities and for always having the welfare of the population at heart. We couldn't have survived preparations for back to school 2023/2024 without this project."

*Kum Concilia Agha  
PDI beneficiary,  
Fungom Sub-Division*

**"The PDI projects has helped us strengthen bonds"**

"Words cannot express how grateful we are for having been selected to work for

this community project from the North-West Regional Assembly. I can say this project has helped us strengthen bonds as a people and broken down the walls of distrust amongst us. At first, we live in suspicion of one another, but for the time being we have worked and interacted together, you get to know, understand and love one another more. More so, the project makes us to have that sense of belonging and social responsibility in taking ownership of our community up keep and development. We have also gotten cash for work that has helped us as parents to buy school supplies for our children and take care of our families. Let God continue to bless the North-West Regional Assembly and their every effort."

*Abbas Umaru  
PDI beneficiary,  
Wum Central*

**"Thank the Regional Assembly for their commitment to community Development"**

"Your dedication to community development should serve as an inspiration to others. We are humbled by this laudable initiative the Regional Assembly has brought to our community. It has been long anyone brought a paid community project to us. At first, we were reluctant to embrace the project, but eventually, we saw the need to get in community development project for pay. From this initiative, we can truly confirm that the North-West Regional Assembly's commitment to developing the Region is evident."

*Achoh Godwin  
PDI beneficiary,  
Menchum valley*



## MEZAM DIVISION

By Hon. Ghejung Awunti  
Divisional Coordinator, PDI Mezam

Mezam PDI projects are in the area of cleaning of gutters, palaces and hospitals, road rehabilitation and maintenance, construction of bridges, VIP toilets, culverts etc. From the seven Sub-Divisions of Bamenda I, II, and III, Bafut, Santa and Tubah, Mezam has a total of 25 allocated projects with 19 approved.

So far, within a 3-week time frame, Bamenda II has been the front runner with the execution of its six projects 100%; the construction of a 6M bridge at Jui quarter in Old Town (below Sonac Street and the manual maintenance of roads in Ntambang, Alamandum, Nsongwa and Nzumambeuh, coordinated by Hon. Gladys Wamучо. In Tubah Sub-Division, the manual maintenance of the local (sub-Divisional) council road from Buh Fengum to Ntehlloh passing through Fetang in Kedjom Ketin-

guh has been realized. On Friday September 29, 2023, Bamenda III officially launched the project for the maintenance of a 4.5km Local (Sub Divisional) council road in Ndzah, while Bamenda I launched its own project for the construction of 2 toilets at the Mendankwe Fon's palace and cleaning of roads and gutters. The 3 other Sub-Divisions of Bafut, Bali and Santa have projects ongoing or pending execution.

As concerns Mezam PDI cost, the Division was allocated a global sum of 108,458,450 (One Hundred and eight Million, Four Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty) CFA and 20% of this sum was further allocated for Divisional stakeholders seminars and social actions, while the rest 80% (86,766,760 CFA) for HILA executions.

### Bamenda I Sub-Division

**Project Title:** Cleaning of roads and gutters and the construction of two toilets at the Mendankwe's Fon's Palace.

**N° of beneficiaries:** Project to be executed by 74 youths

**Cost:** CFA 4,500,000

**Project Launch Friday September 29, 2023**



Handing over of work materials to PDC leaders





Work material to be distributed



Beneficiaries glad to receive copies of THE NORTH-WESTERNER MAGAZINE

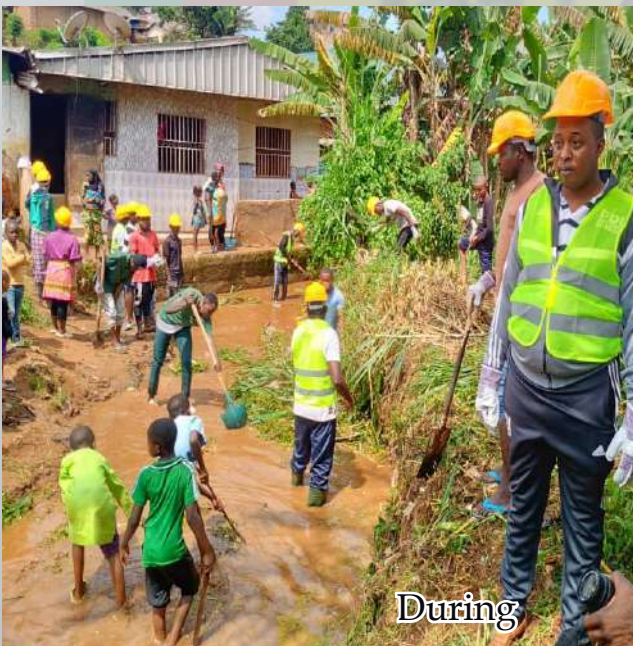


## Bamenda II Sub-Division

**Project Title:** The construction of a 6M bridge at Jui quarter in Old Town (below Sonac Street and the manual maintenance of roads in Ntambang, Natamulung, Nitop, Azire, Musang.

**N° of beneficiaries:** 90

**Cost:** CFA 4,500,000





## Bamenda II Sub-Division

**Project Title: Cleaning of gutters, filling and concreting of potholes at Ntambeng, Atuazire, Ngomgham, Ntarinkon and parts of Ntamulung**

**N° of beneficiaries: 53**

**Cost: CFA 4,500,000**



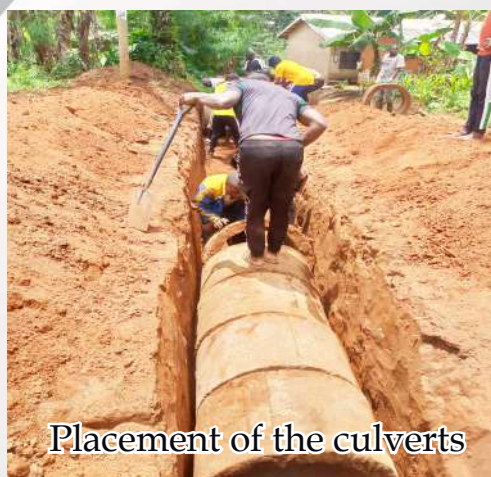


## Bamenda II Sub-Division

**Project Title:** Maintenance of a 2.2km road, building of 5 culverts in Ndzumambeah

**N° of beneficiaries:** 182 (work for two weeks)

**Cost:** CFA 5,400,000 for labour and materials





## Bamenda II Sub-Division

**Project Title:** Maintenance of a 4.6km road and construction of 3 culverts in Alamandum and cleaning of Health Center and GS Alamandum

**N° of beneficiaries:** 134

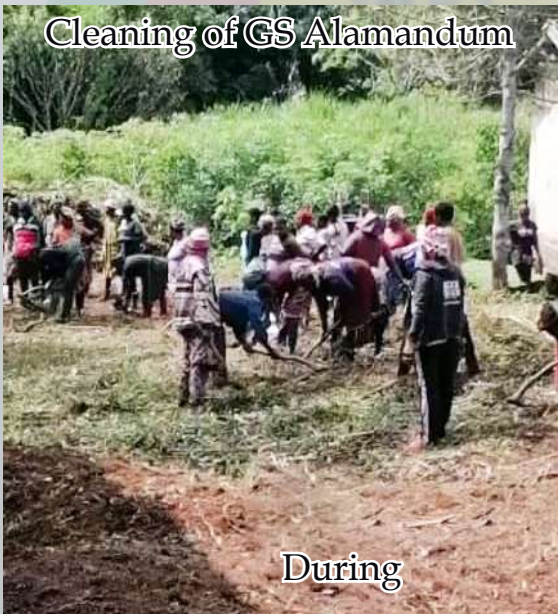
**Cost:** CFA 4,200,000



During



After



Cleaning of GS Alamandum

During



After



Cleaning of Alamandum Health Center (After)

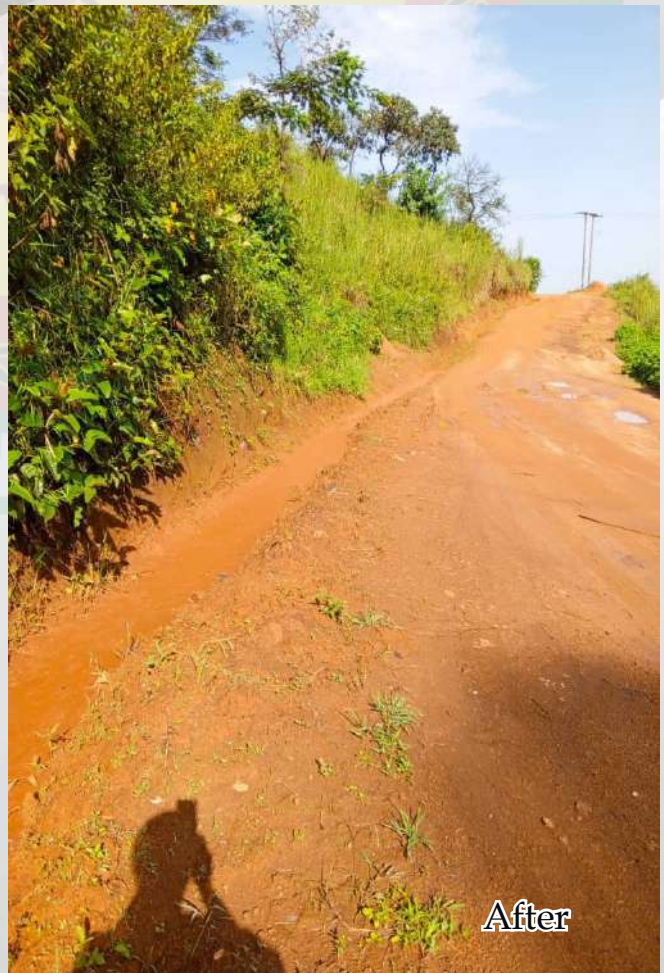


## Bamenda II Sub-Division

**Project Title:** Maintenance of a 3km road and construction of 3 culverts in Nsongwa

**N° of beneficiaries:** 130 (worked for two weeks)

**Cost:** CFA 3,900,000 for labour and materials





## Bamenda II Sub-Division

**Project Title:** Maintenance of a 3km road and construction of 3 culverts in Ntamulung

**N° of beneficiaries:** 120

**Cost:** CFA 4,200,000



During



Production of culvert rings



After



## Bamenda III Sub-Division

**Project Title:** Maintenance of a 4.5km Local (Sub Divisional) Council road in Ndzah

**N° of beneficiaries:** 100

**Cost:** CFA 4,500,000

**Project Launch - Friday September 29, 2023**







Beneficiaries glad to receive copies of THE NORTH -WESTERNER MAGAZINE during project launch



*Before*



*After*



## Tubah Sub-Division

**Project Title:** Maintenance of local council roads leading to Catholic Church, Health Centre and Palace

**N° of beneficiaries:** 73

**Cost:** CFA 4,500,000



*Before*



*During*



*During*



*After*



## FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITIES

### “Work has fetched us resources to buy school needs”

“I am very grateful for the Peace and Development Initiative coming from the North-West Regional Assembly. It has helped me and many other youths in our community to gain employment. Not only that, in the course of working, we get to know and bond with each other better than before. This work has fetched us resources to buy school needs for our children, pay their fees and even set-up petty businesses. So, I really thank the Regional Assembly for its PDI project and pray they come again with more and more of such projects in our communities. It feels so good to be paid to do your own work that normally you didn't have to be paid for it, because it is our duty to build and develop our immediate communities in the first place. So, thank you so much, Regional Assembly.”

*Afumbom George  
PDI beneficiary, Tubah,  
Mezam Division*

### “We are very much ready to work”

“I wish to say a big thank you to the North-West Regional Assembly for the opportunity of employing us. Though for a short while, the pay will go a long way to help us buy school supplies for our children and pay their school fees. We can't wait for more of such opportunities again in our communities. We pray next year, the Regional Assembly comes up with such projects again. We are very much ready to work and develop our communities, while receiving pay for that. May God continue to bless all those who work in the Regional Assembly.”

*Ibrahim Bashiru  
PDI beneficiary, Bamenda II,  
Mezam Division*

I am very impressed with the PDI Project in Ndzah, Bamenda III because it is occupying the youths and promoting them to have small money to develop themselves the generation of small business.

*Godlove Fonjejang  
Feedback From Tubah On Pdi*

The Project which witnessed the maintenance of 4km of road from Buh Fengam to the Fon's Palace and from Ntehmbui/Fetang down to Ntekezon has improved the economic social and political life of the people of kedjom ketinguh.

71 people took part in the maintenance project. They did the job with pleasure and enthusiasm. 21 of them were students and the proceeds help them and their parents to better prepare for back to school. School bags, uniforms, books etc were easily acquired.

Economically citizens of Kedjom Ketinguh can easily carry their items to the market and visit the Palace without going through the stress of the bad roads that existed. “Benskin” price rates have also reduce. Bike riders and taxi drivers plying the roads can attest to this significant innovation.

The political life of the Fondom has also witnessed a significant change because the community has realised that they will be the one enhancing their own development. Peaceful coexist fence has also been demonstrated before, during and after the work.

The Social Climate of the village has also been effected positively. People can easily have access to hospital.

*Mbom Grace, Akumbom Bernice, Ndong  
Confidence, Nayoh Virginia  
PDI beneficiaries Tubah*



## MOMO DIVISION

*By Prof. Anjoh Frie Manyi Rose*  
*Divisional Coordinator, PDI Momo*

The project execution or realization phase of the PDI for Momo Division was budgeted at 47,694,200 CFA. Constituting 80% of total funds allocated for the Peace and Development Initiative which amounted to 59,617,750 CFA. The other 20% was for the execution of the first phase titled Social Action.

The 47,694,200 was for the purchase of materials, payment of labour and follow up of the project identification, planning, execu-

tion and monitoring. On the whole, 11 projects were earmarked to be executed in the 5 sub divisions covering 24 villages and employing 430 beneficiaries. In all, the projects range from portable water supply, communal road maintenance and the palm nursery to produce quality nuts seedlings. Project identification was done by the communities

### Batibo Sub-Division

#### Project Titles:

1. The maintenance of communal roads from GUVU-AMBO-ENYOH-BESSOM villages (3,683,481 CFA for labour and materials), **N° of beneficiaries: 169**
2. The rehabilitation and extension of the ANONG Portable water surpply scheme (4,945,480 CFA for labour and materials) **N° of beneficiaries: 21** and
3. The production of good quality oil palm seedlings through palm nursery Management Technique in ENYOH village (3,911,233 CFA for labour and materials).  
**N° of beneficiaries: 40**



Before



During

Anong water scheme



After



After



*Treating palm seedlings for planting*



Palm seedlings



Filling of ground in polythene bags to nurse palm seedlings





## Mbengwi Sub-Division

### Project Titles:

1. The maintenance of communal roads from 3 corners Mbemi Palace Road - BESSI - BARAKWE - MILE 19 Villages (4,335,781 CFA for labour and materials).  
**N° of beneficiaries: 142**
2. The rehabilitation of the NJINIBI Portable water supply scheme (4,333,333 CFA for labour and materials). **N° of beneficiaries: 14**



During



Before



After

### NJINIBI water project



### During road maintenance work



## Njikwa Sub-Division

**Project Title:** The maintenance of communal roads from OSHIE,NGWHO,NJIKWA Town, KONDA, BANYA and EKWERI

**N° of beneficiaries:** 31

**Cost:** 4,995,307 CFA for labour and materials



Before



During work

*N.B Courtesy amateur photographs*



## Widikum Sub-Division

### Project Titles:

1. The maintenance of communal road from ABEGUM, BOFFE, TIKOM, BIFANG, EBENDI, NGALLA , AMBOBO, EKA (Small Leaf) (4,335,836 CFA for labour and material). **N° of beneficiaries: 15**
2. Maintenance of communal road from ISHIA, ACHAMA, KWAFONG, LAR-RINJI, MPENG, ECHIBIT, EFANG, TANKA and AKANUNKU Villages (4,335,836 CFA for labour and material). **N° of beneficiaries: 15**



During work





During work



During work



After work



## FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITIES

**“We are happy with the palm nut seedlings”**

“I want to say a big thank you to the Regional House of Assembly for thinking about us in the red zone with such a project. With the crisis having a toll on us here at the grassroots, we have nothing doing to sustain livelihood. We are so happy with the palm nut seedlings provided by the Regional Assembly. We will put in our all to plant and nurse them such that when they grow and mature, we will harvest and produce palm oil and other palm nut products. So, we really want to thank the Regional Assembly and pray they keep coming to our aid with such community projects.”

*Mbah Thomas, Enyoh Village  
PDI beneficiary, Momo Division*

**“May God bless the Regional Assembly”**

“We want to thank the Regional Assembly for providing our community with such a Palm Nut Nursery. As the trainers explained to us that they are treated Tenera seeds and finest breed with smaller nuts and much oil skin, we are happy because when they grow, they will produce more oil than our local palm nuts now. As we have assisted our husbands and sons to fill the polythene bags to nurse the palm nuts, we believe when they grow and mature, they will harvest and produce oil and sell to take care of us and our children and give us the better life we deserve. This, all thanks to the Regional Assembly. May God bless them and continue to give them the power to help our communities.”

*Mbanwi Cynthia Ijang, Enyoh Village  
PDI beneficiary, Momo Division*

**“Money I got from PDI will help me open a business”**

“I will like to appreciate the North-West Regional Assembly for the wonderful efforts in bringing lasting peace and sustainable development to the North-West Region and especially Widikum Sub Division through the PDI project. I am more grateful as a direct beneficiary of the project and the money I got will help me open a business to sustain my family.”

*Daba Gilbert*

*PDI beneficiary, Widikum,  
Momo Division*

**“We thank the Regional Assembly for such an initiative”**

The community would like to express her thanks to the Regional Assembly through the Commissioner of Education, Sports and Cultural Development for funding the PDI project in Njinibi community, and especially for her patience, guidance and support as she was with us often in the field during the execution of the project.

*Sonuy Fominyam  
President, Njinibi Development  
Association Mbengwi,  
Momo Division*

“The people of Njikwa are very grateful with the work done by the Regional Assembly to improve the nature of roads in Njikwa and also assist the population.”

*Akaragwe Cyprian  
Elite, Njikwa Sub Division*



## NGOKETUNJIA DIVISION

By HRH Fon Yakum Kevin Teuvih,  
Divisional Coordinator, PDI Ngoketunjia

For the North-West Regional Peace Building Project through HILA, Ngoketunjia Division had a total allocation sum of 47,729,350 (Forty-seven million, seven hundred and twenty nine thousand, three hundred and fifty) CFA. Of this amount, 9,545,870 (nine million five hundred and forty-five thousand, eight hundred and seventy CFA), constituting 20% of total sum was used for the Divisional peace and development capacity training sem-

inar involving the PDC committees and stakeholders. The rest 80% to the tune of 38,183,480 (thirty-eight million, one hundred and eighty-three thousand, four hundred and eighty) CFA dedicated for the HILA project realization. With work effectively ongoing and execution rates at about 70% as at October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023, 116 youth beneficiaries stand to benefit cash for work from this project across the 4 Sub-Divisions that make up Ngoketunjia.

### Babessi Sub-Division

**Project Title:** Cleaning of schools, road sides, palaces, gutters, marketes, medical infrastructure public offices and surroundings, repair of bridges with temporal materials, filling of potholes along roads within the villages

**N° of beneficiaries:** 212

**Cost:** CFA 11, 136, 848 for materials and labour





## Balikumbat Sub-Division

**Project Title:** Cleaning of Schools, road sides, palaces, gutters, markets, medical infrastructure public offices and surroundings, repair of bridges with temporary materials, filling of potholes along roads within the villages

**N° of beneficiaries:** 225

**Cost:** CFA 7, 424, 566 for materials and labour





## Ndop Central Sub-Division

**Project Title:** Cleaning of Schools, road sides, palaces, gutters, marktes, medical infra-structure public offices and surroundings, repair of bridges with temporary materials, filling of potholes along roads within the villages

**N° of beneficiaries:** 316

**Cost:** CFA 14,849,131 for materials and labour



During work



During work

*N.B Courtesy Amateur photographs*





Before work



During work



After work



## FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITIES

**“The work has had great impact on our lives”**

“On behalf of my colleagues, I wish to say a big thank you to the initiators of this project. It has really kept our youths busy. The project has made us gain income from activities that we normally volunteer to do for our communities. It has also helped us to keep our town, hospitals and schools clean. The work has had great impact on our lives, because we will be paid and we will use this money to improve our lives. I will be very much happy if the Regional Assembly comes with the next phase of this project to give our lovely Ndop a facelift.”

*Menai Donatus  
Field Coordinator, Ndop Central PDI  
Ngoketuntia Division*

I wish to say a very big thank you to the Regional Assembly for the Ngoketunjia Peace and Development Initiative. We are indeed grateful, because we have hardly had such initiatives in our communities. With the money they will pay us, we will use it to send our children to school and carry out other income-generating activities. The project has had a great impact on our community in that, we have repaired our roads and that will minimize any threat of accidents. Like Oliver twist, we ask for more. If such initiatives come up, the Regional House should not forget us. On the other hand, we are available anytime the Regional House needs our services for anything that will push our Region ahead.

*Feukheu Donatus  
PDI beneficiary, Ndop Central  
Ngoketunjia Division*

“We have repaired the road, opened and cleaned the gutters from the market to the palace. Vehicles now can easily ply the road from the market to the palace. We are very happy and thank the Regional Assembly for giving us the opportunity to do such work in our community. It feels so fulfilling to be part of the community work that directly benefits us. Baba is now very clean and peace reigns amongst us. May God bless the Regional Assembly and grant them more resources to fund such projects in our communities.

*Fuangambi Alice  
PDI beneficiary, Baba I,  
Babessi Sub Division  
Ngoketunjia Division*

**“The money I earned from this project will help expand my business”**

“We thank the initiators of this PDI project and we are very grateful for your dedication to improve the livelihood of the grassroots populations through this project. I am so impressed with this PDI project in Balikumbat Sub Division. The money earned from this project has helped me increase capital for my palm wine business. We beg on the Regional Assembly to bring more of such projects to our communities for we are ready to join them to work and develop our communities.”

*Ma Malungwi Monica  
PDI beneficiary,  
Balikumbat Sub Division*



## SWOT ANALYSIS OF NORTH-WEST REGIONAL PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Compiled by: *Njike Celestine, Charles Tembei, Kendemeh Emmanuel, Victory Marshal Ayafor*

Like every worthwhile project, it is crucial to access it's impacts and setbacks by factoring in on it's strengths, weaknesses, opportunitis and threats so as to devise a a more successful strategy for the future. Based on their peculiarities, the SWOT analysis of each Division was specific to their given realities. However, some general Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunitis and Threats cuts across the Region as follows:

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assurance of availability of Funds at CamCCUL.</li> <li>2. The participation of the communities in the identification, selection and execution of the projects.</li> <li>3. Besides creating wealth and boosting the local economy, the projects have greatly contributed to social cohesion and integration, peace-building, bonded and strengthened communities.</li> <li>4. Communication with the local communities with the use of local languages was easier thereby prompting community bonding.</li> <li>5. The population took ownership of the development aspect of their communities; reason why All labourers, both skilled and unskilled were provided by the communities</li> <li>6. The organization of peace-building seminars before the PDI project realization, where in participants of various communities were well schooled on peace-crusing.</li> <li>7. The idea of bring everyone on board, irrespective of gender, religious, political or ethnic inclination was laudable.</li> <li>8. Support from Regional, Divisional and Sub-Divisional administrators was a strength worth praising.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Accessibility to some of the areas where projects were to be carried out was very difficult, given the enclaved nature of some of these localities, as well as road blocks sometimes mounted by separatist fighters.</li> <li>2. PDI is an innovative endeavour, so in some communities, it took long for the population to understand and embrace the vision of the Assembly to build and preserve peace through community decentralized activities.</li> <li>3. It is taking longer than expected for the population to adapt to the innovation of bottom-top approach, since they have been for so long used to the top-down approach</li> <li>4. Given the context of the socio-political crisis in the Region, and fear among communities to overtly receive Regional Assembly projects, and because of that, some communities were afraid to take pictures to show prove of the execution of their projects.</li> <li>5. The Peace and Development initiative (PDI) guide was not explicit on tax calculation. For instance, bills were made on market price, but taxes were deducted based on mercurial prices; thereby reducing the amount on execution.</li> <li>6. Some Regional Delegates delayed the validation of documents leading to the late submission of projects (administrative bottle necks).</li> </ol>



OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Poverty alleviation through job creation and employment opportunities to idle and destitute youths in the communities.</li> <li>2. The PDI project has given much visibility to the North-West Regional Assembly.</li> <li>3. PDI has helped re-ignite hope as well as strengthen community bonds</li> <li>4. Local population involvement or citizen-participation in the PDI projects enables them have a clear understanding on key issues that build peace, promote return of normalcy, grow the local economy and improve livelihoods.</li> <li>5. The PDI project has made use of vigilantes by transforming most of them into ambassadors/advocates of peace and development in their local communities.</li> <li>6. Through the project, communities are given the opportunity to take ownership of local developmental issues that directly concern them and actively engage in executing these projects for them, by them.</li> <li>7. The PDI to an extent is a technical tool for getting youth attention away from deviant activities, thereby promoting peace, development and return to normalcy.</li> <li>8. Our communities, especially Development associations have embraced the HILA bottom - top approach for sustainability, transparency and accountability.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Late dissemination of vital information.</li> <li>2. PDI is a key project of the pioneer NWRA, so the putting in place of beneficiary selection criteria is complex, given that demand (number of applicants) outweighs supply (Job opportunities) The selection criteria is cloudy!.</li> <li>3. Bias and collusion in the selection of projects.</li> <li>4. Insecurity sustained by intimidation from perpetrators of the crisis: Ghost towns, Lockdowns, tortures and kidnappings social media propaganda are key threats to effectively implementing PDI.</li> <li>5. Difficulty to get documents from suppliers to justify expenditure.</li> <li>6. Bottleneck in the maturation of identified projects by the local Peace and Development Committees caused loss of general interest incurring demotivation and difficulty associated with pre-financing.</li> <li>7. Other initiatives from CSOs that might overlap rather than compliment the mission and complicate the competition.</li> <li>8. Hijack of message clarity with the projects (media and social media disinformation). Some stakeholders still believe only in Council and not Regional Assembly Projects. So they continue to say PDI projects are council projects.</li> <li>9. Some Administrative authorities and Divisional Delegates and state engineers in some communities made the task too difficult, as it took much negotiation for them to validate projects without incentives.</li> <li>10. The personality culture and self-glorification posed a threat when some individuals refused to admit that the projects were community projects not individual projects</li> <li>11. The non-performance desire to share money without effective work done created unnecessary tension during the HILA execution.</li> <li>12. The absence of a clear allocation of incentives to members of the Peace and Development Committee demotivated some of them who initially thought the PDC was not volunteerism.</li> <li>13. Heavy rains may degrade the rehabilitated roads.</li> </ol>



## NOWEDIF

### North-West Development Investment Fund: A Social, Economic, Development Instrument of Hope

By Dr. Tilarious ATIA



The objectives of the North-West Development Investment Fund (NOWEDIF) are varied and encompass several key aspects. Firstly, it aims to preserve wealth for future generations, ensuring that the Region's resources are managed effectively and sustainably over time under the auspices of the North-West Regional Water and Land Resources Development Agency.

Secondly, it seeks to mitigate the impact of volatile commodity prices, which can greatly affect the Region's economy. This will be guaranteed by the eventual setting up of the North-West Regional Marketing and Standard Board. By diversifying their investments across different sectors and asset classes, NOWEDIF aims to reduce their vulnerability to fluctuations in commodity markets.

Another crucial objective of NOWEDIF is to foster economic

Over the years, sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) have established themselves as important participants in the global investment scene, with their influence in much of the developing world standing out. The North-West Development Investment Fund (NOWEDIF) is an investment entity akin to SWFs, championed by the North-West Regional Assembly as a substantial provider of capital, driver of economic progress and variety in the Region.

This article explores the role and significance of NOWEDIF to the North-West Region, revealing insights into its goals, approaches to investment, noteworthy ventures, and its expected contribution to the Region's economic growth and the global investment landscape.

diversification. While Cameroon, like most developing countries, heavily rely on revenue generated from the export of commodities such as oil and gas, cocoa and coffee, the North-West Regional Assembly seeks to use NOWEDIF to promote industrialisation, drive innovation in the agricultural and crafts sectors. However, recognizing the importance of diversifying the economy, NOWEDIF will actively invest in various industries and sectors, both Divisionally and Regionally. This strategic approach aims to promote economic growth beyond the traditional commodity-based sectors and create a more balanced and sustainable economy.

Additionally, NOWEDIF will support strategic investments that align with the North-





Technical team on site to allocate land for NWRA dry-port project on the MAGZI industrial zone

West Region's development plans. This fund prioritizes investments that contribute to the long-term development and prosperity of the North-West Region. By aligning investment strategies with broader Regional objectives, NOWEDIF aims to ensure sustainable growth, promote technological advancements, and enhance the overall competitiveness of the economy of Cameroon's breadbasket.

Professor Fru Fobuzshi Angwafo III, President of the North-West Regional Assembly, holds that NOWEDIF will preserve intergenerational wealth, mitigate commodity price volatility, foster economic diversification, and support strategic investments. By pursuing these objectives, NOWEDIF will strive to ensure long-term economic stability, sustainable growth, and a diversified and resilient North-West economy. NOWEDIF will surely employ various investment strategies to achieve its objectives.

These strategies can be summarized as follows:

**a. Diversification:** NOWEDIF prioritizes diversifying investment portfolios across different asset classes, geographical areas of the Region, and sectors. By spreading its investments, NOWEDIF aims to reduce risk and enhance returns. This approach is particularly important for reducing dependence on revenue from the central government in this era of decentralisation and promoting economic

resilience. Diversification helps protect against the volatility of specific markets or industries and allows for a more balanced and robust investment portfolio.

**b. Long-term investment horizon:** Unlike many other types of investors that focus on short-term gains, NOWEDIF will take a patient and long-term approach to its investments. It will certainly not easily be swayed by short-term market fluctuations and instead focus on capturing opportunities that can yield sustainable returns over extended periods. This long-term perspective will allow NOWEDIF to take advantage of investments with a slower growth trajectory but significant potential for value appreciation over time.

Upgrades will be seen in the areas of plant production value chain, showing innovations at the production, processing and commercialization stages. Livestock and animal production will also witness a boost with the modernization of production systems, processing in modern slaughter houses for beef and chicken and scaled up commercialisation hinged on the need to move from subsistence to market economy livestock farming.

The upgrading strategies have been designed to reduce risk, capture long-term value, and maximize returns while aligning with the objectives of NOWEDIF and the economic development plan rolled out by the North West



Regional Assembly.

**c. Active and passive management:** NOWEDIF will have the flexibility to engage in both active and passive management approaches. In active management, NOWEDIF will actively participate in the decision-making and governance processes of the structures or assets they invest in. They may have a seat on the board of directors or influence key strategic decisions. On the other hand, NOWEDIF will also allocate funds to external managers for passive management, where the investment decisions will be made by professional fund managers. This blend of active and passive management will surely allow NOWEDIF to optimize its investment strategies and leverage the expertise of external professionals when necessary.

The North-West Regional Assembly and its expert consultants are of the opinion that NOWEDIF's management structure will have a powerful investment committee, technical assistance, and development agencies. It is envisaged that NOWEDIF will run on a collective 'Investment Fund' model, in which investors from various sectors pull money into the fund with each investor allocating money for Research and Development. A blended finance approach mechanism is also critical, as the fund can integrate grants, subsidies and other soft financing before hard lending.

NOWEDIF seeks to make notable investments across various sectors in the North-West Region. To ensure the smooth performance of NOWEDIF, experts suggest six supportive units.

1. The North-West Regional Marketing and Standard Board (commodity stock market, market research, etc.,)
2. The North-West Regional Industrial Promotion Agency (new local industrialization, energy, factories, local invention drives)
3. The North-West Regional Water and Land Resources Development Agency (water conservation, local dams, irrigation, mini-hydropower of 5-15MW) to spur local processing and value addition.
4. The North-West Regional Infrastructure, Machinery, and Engineering Pool (tractors, bulldozers, cranes, etc., have specific

funding mechanisms, etc.,)

5. The North-West Regional Environmental, Ecology, Biodiversity Observatory Agency (climate change, service innovations, renewable energy, research etc.,)
6. The North-West Regional Social and Cultural Promotion Agency (promotion of cultural values, arts and crafts, renovations of traditional architecture, etc.,)

With the support of the good people of the North-West Region, NOWEDIF will make investments including:

**Infrastructure:** It goes without saying that NOWEDIF will allocate significant funds to infrastructure projects, such as roads, dry ports, and transportation networks. By investing in infrastructure, the fund will aim to support economic growth and improve connectivity within the Region. These projects will contribute to the development of critical transportation and logistics systems, enhancing trade and fostering economic integration.

**Technology and Innovation:** Through the North-West Regional Industrial Promotion Agency, NOWEDIF will drive new local industrialization, energy, factories, and local invention, among others. It will also give a place to the digital economy and will actively invest in technology-focused companies, start-ups, and venture capital funds. These investments will no doubt foster innovation, promote technological advancements, and position the region as a hub for technology and entrepreneurship. By supporting the growth of the technology sector, NOWEDIF will diversify its investments and participate in the global digital transformation.

**Energy and Natural Resources:** Given the abundant reserves of energy and natural resources in the North-West Region, NOWEDIF will strategically invest in harnessing the energy and natural resource potential of the North-West Region. These investments will ensure access to key resources, secure long-term revenue streams, and provide opportunities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing in the energy sector. By investing in the energy and natural resources sector, NOWEDIF will capitalize on their expertise in the industry and maintain a strong presence in its environment.

To conclude, it is important to highlight that



NOWEDIF will play a crucial role in driving economic development in the Region. Its contributions can be projected as follows:

**Capital injection:** NOWEDIF will provide significant capital injections that will fund various initiatives, including infrastructure projects, domestic industries, and strategic investments. These injections of capital will stimulate economic growth, create business opportunities, and facilitate the development of critical infrastructure. By injecting funds into key sectors, NOWEDIF will support job creation, income-generation, and overall economic expansion.

**Job creation and skills development:** The investments that will be made by NOWEDIF in the long-term will lead to the creation of employment opportunities. The many envisaged investments will not only generate jobs directly within the various units of action but also contribute to job creation in associated industries. Additionally, NOWEDIF will promote skills development and knowledge transfer through training programs, partnerships, and collaboration with local institutions. By investing in human capital, NOWEDIF will help develop a skilled workforce and enhance the overall competitiveness of the Region's economy.

**Economic diversification:** By investing in industries such as technology, infrastructure, real estate, and other sectors, NOWEDIF will help reduce the Region's dependency on revenues from the central government. This diver-

sification will contribute to a more resilient and sustainable economy, less susceptible to fluctuations in commodity prices. NOWEDIF will therefore play a vital role in encouraging the growth of varied sectors, driving innovation, and fostering economic stability.

**Stabilizing fiscal position:** NOWEDIF will serve as a stabilizing mechanism for the finances of the North-West Regional Assembly. It will help mitigate the impact of commodity price volatility, such as fluctuations in produce prices, by accumulating and managing funds that act as buffers during periods of economic uncertainty. These funds can be drawn upon to support the budget of the Regional Assembly, provide necessary resources during challenging times, and ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Region. By stabilizing the fiscal position, NOWEDIF will contribute to economic stability, financial resilience, and the welfare of future generations.

NOWEDIF will have a profound impact on the global investment landscape of the North-West Region. Its substantial capital allocations, long-term investment horizons, and strategic investments will surely contribute to market stability, attract foreign investment, foster the Region's economic growth, and promote economic collaboration between different Regions. There is every reason for the people of the Region to hope for better days.





## INTERVIEW

**Bamboo Craft Industry: Innovations from the North-West***Interviewed by Victory Marshal Ayafor Basang**Rafia Bamboo Chair designs done by Ambembi Albert*

**"I see my company being a household exporter"**

*Ambembi Albert is a local craftsman from Mezam Division (Bafut) in the North-West Region of Cameroon. He transforms Raphia bamboos and its raw materials into modern furniture and interior decorations. The 42-year-old Albert, who has been in this trade for over 20 years, is giving an innovative touch to the bamboo craft industry. The ensuing interview speaks to how this young Cameroonian has carved out a niche for himself in the sector.*

**1. Mr Ambembi Albert, thanks for accepting this interview with the North-Westerner Magazine.**

The pleasure is all mine. I am privileged to be given this unique opportunity to be on the spotlight and share my modest journey with millions of readers of this noble magazine. I am humbled.

**2. How did you find yourself in this craft and why did you choose using bamboos instead of the normal common wood?**

I can say it is passion that motivated me to find myself in this profession. At the age of seven, I wanted to become an engineer; a mechanical engineer to be precise. At that tender age, I loved to copy and make things like toy cars, aeroplanes and anything around me that concerns crafts. Though a

trained carpenter in woodworks, I decided to rather special in bamboo and build an industry where we can transform local products to modern furniture. So, I was actually passionate about anything that had to do with crafts and creative innovation. That led me to this choice of trade. From there on, I started doing all these things using bamboos and people were coming around to appreciate my works. Some even bought my works and that actually motivated me to do more in this domain. That's how I grew in having passion for the trade till date.

Just to add that, apart from chairs, we also produce beds, cupboards, wall decorations and even things like flower jars and vases, bed side lampstands, etc. We have a variety of things that we are actually producing and further, we are actually thinking of creating more innovative designs though this depends on how fast we can take to bring out these designs and reach our target and properly find our place in the market.

**3. How long does it take to produce a single chair and how many can you produce in a month?**

It depends on the design and the quantity of material needed for the particular design requested. However, all things being equal, I can take one day to produce a chair; meaning "I can produce an average of 28 -30 chairs a month."



**4. What advantage do these bamboo chairs have over the plastic chairs in the market? What guarantee do people have that these chairs are durable?**

These chairs have a lot of advantages over the plastic chairs in the market. First and foremost, they are all natural, bio-degradable, eco-friendly and very comfortable as well as affordable. Felled and untreated bamboo poles are not particularly durable, but when transformed to furniture and properly pre-treated, it can last up to 50 years and even after it has outlived its lifespan, you can dispose as firewood and compost manure for the farms, unlike plastic chairs that can last at most 20 years and difficult to recycle or dispose after lifespan. So, in spite of its seemingly mild and delicate nature, the quality of the bamboo chairs is surprisingly sturdy, long lasting and gives a natural vibe of craftsmanship and distinctive style to every atmosphere where they are used, as well as healthy home environment. Our bamboo furniture and products, when well processed, varnished and conserved, become resistant to dampness and insects. More so, they are easily repairable or restored, when fractured. These chairs are also less prone to health challenges and we produce variety of shapes that cater for the demands of all age groups. Talking about guarantee, the only one I can confidently give is to try our products and you will testify for yourself. I have always done all to provide my customers with products that are made of the best material and of high-quality. Don't use our products in rain or humidity.



*Worker producing chair*

**5. From your point of view, how has the bamboo craft industry changed over the years in the North-West Region?**

Like I mentioned earlier, our products are receiving an increasingly steady demand. That alone is an indicator that the bamboo craft industry is receiving renewed attention which is increasingly making many communities, stakeholders and actors involved in the bamboo value chain to seek ways and strategies of developing the sector given its economic potential. However, more needs to be done to exploit this sector maximally. There should be amongst other things, intensification of raising awareness - more training programs for farmers on bamboo production techniques, more support from Government for smallholder farmers by providing them bamboo seedlings in quality and quantity, more awareness, grants and training campaigns for young craftsmen in the Region on the advantages of the bamboo craft sector and modern bamboo processing techniques. This will help support the establishment of a well-developed and sustainable bamboo-based craft sector.

**6. As you grew up in this craft, what additional skills have you really acquired, that needed to be refined to make you the best at your craft?**







Yes, I have acquired additional skills in engineering technology that have enabled me to be accurate on measurements when producing these chairs and other products. I have also invested in training seminars and networking platforms that enable us to exchange knowledge with other colleagues in the sector from all around the world.

**7. Do you work with other craftspeople in the production of these chairs? If yes, tell us more.**

As a matter of fact, I have a workforce of 15 people; 4 of whom are on an average salary of CFA 50,000 per month, and come to work daily, and the other 11 come when we have a contract of mass production. We also have other associate workers from the villages in the chain who supply us with quality bamboos, produce fibre and those who bring out the raw material from the bushes, etc. On the other hand, I have trained people over the years, but I have realised that most of our



youths today are so money-minded and impatient. They don't have the commitment, consistency and determination to follow through the process to finish. However, there are yet a few who have been patient enough to follow the training process till the end and we are working together.

**8. Apart from these chairs, what other things do you produce using bamboos as raw material?**

Like earlier mentioned, we produce bamboo stools, local ceilings, household decorations, lampstands and bulb holders, and anything imaginable that bamboos can produce.

**9. Where do you see yourself five years, ten years with this business?**

In five to ten years, I have a vision to make the bamboo craft industry an enviable one by mechanising the system to have ultra-modern industry with over 500 workers and heavy duty equipment that will facilitate mass production of a variety of our designs. I see my company being a household foreign exporter and an international name to reckon with.

**10. So what have been your challenges so far in the bamboo craft industry?**

My main challenge for a very long time now has been that of capital to expand the business. If I had the adequate resources I would have gone quite far in this business. For instance, set up a well-equipped workshop with heavy-duty machinery that will facilitate mass production within the shortest time possible. More so, it's a budding sector in the North-West Region



and the nation at large. So, we need a lot of exposure and a ready market to showcase our products.

**11. What advise can you give most youths? To switch from seeking white collar employment, into more creatively-fulfilling crafts or work like yours?**

What I will love to tell youths is that craftsmanship can never go wrong. Making it in life is not only in picking up a white collar job, but being fulfilled and contributing your own quota to life in what you do, be it in the formal or informal sector. The works of your hands will never fail you and craftsmanship in itself creates satisfying employment, while giving you the opportunity to create employment for others too. Note that, once you've acquired the skills or learned a particular artisan trade, they become part and parcel of you and no one can take that from you. Wherever life throws you, you can use your skills to make a living. So, never underestimate the place of craftsmanship in building a successful life and contributing your own quota to nation-building.

**12. What message of self-reliance and enterprise would you like to share with everyone who is reading this interview? What can other youths do to emulate your example?**

To the youths, I will say, do not ask what your nation has done for you; rather ask what you have done for your Region and nation. Dare to be industrious, enterprising and venture into craftsmanship as your passion dictates. Don't waste your youthful years waiting for employment; Government cannot absorb everybody. So create employment for yourself and others through craftsmanship.

And to everyone reading this interview, try adding bamboo chairs to your modern furniture-filled-homes for this gives unique trend towards simplicity and naturalness. You will love it.

Thank you so much for your time with the North-Westerner Magazine, Mr Ambembi. I should rather be the one thanking the North-Westerner Magazine for giving me this rare opportunity to talk about and showcase my craft. It is an honour for me. God bless you all.





# PROJECT UPDATES

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## SIMPLIFIED FOLLOW-UP MATRIX OF THE EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2023

### NORTH WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

N <sup>o</sup>	Project name and location	Type of services	Funding resource	Contract / Jobbing Order Amount	CONTRACTOR	Duration of Execution (Months)	Notification Date of S.O to Start Work	Extension of Contract Duration	Rate of Physical Execution (%)	Consumption of Duration	Rate of Financial Execution	Amount of Unpaid Bills	Observation
1	Construction of the North West Regional Assembly Administrative Building in Bamenda.	BCFW	PIB	7,123,185,078	KINGSLEY INTERNATIONAL TRADING CAMEROON LIMITE	30 months	7-Jul-23		1.80%	7.3%			On Going
2	Control and supervision of the Construction of the North West Regional Assembly Administrative building in	BCFW	PIB	600,000,000	TRINITY CONSULT	33 months	7-Jul-23		1.80%	7%			On Going
3	Rehabilitation of Lakabum Palace	BCFW	PIB	14,996,206	CHEY AKUM	4 months	7-Jul-23		10.00%	75%			On Going
4	Rehabilitation of Mbiame Palace	BCFW	PIB	24,997,347	ACONCEP CO. LTD	4 months	10-May-23		100.00%	100%	80.0%		Provisionally Received
5	Rehabilitation of Niem palace	BCFW	PIB	17,999,999	CORNERSTONE INTERNATIONAL ETS	4 months	10-May-23		100.00%	100%	80.0%		Provisionally Received
6	Rehabilitation of Zongekwo Aghem Palace and Rehabilitation of Waïdo Palace	BCFW	PIB	31,999,000	TRAILMAN LIMITED	4 months	10-May-23	1 month	37.00%	120%			On Going
7	Rehabilitation of Kwen Palace Hall	BCFW	PIB	14,935,824	FAST FAST CONSTRUCTION	4 months	10-May-23	1 month	95.00%	120%			Technical Reception (upliftment of reserves)
8	Rehabilitation of Sarki Old Town Palace	BCFW	PIB	14,999,799	SHEIK TRAVEL CONSULTANCY	4 months	10-May-23	1 month	93.00%	120%			Technical Reception (upliftment of reserves)
9	Construction of A Borehole in Mbatu Palace	BCFW	PIB	16,974,045	ETS. NJANKA CONSTRUCTION	4 months	10-May-23		90.00%	120%			On Going
10	Rehabilitation of Anong Palace	BCFW	PIB	14,966,352	MUNDO ENGINEERING COMPANY	4 months	10-May-23	1 month	75.00%	120%			Technical Reception (Upliftment of Reserves)
11	Rehabilitation of Batibo Palace	BCFW	PIB	15,000,000									
12	Rehabilitation of Bangolan Palace Hall	BCFW	PIB	17,997,067	MEGA ENGINEERING CO. LTD	4 months	10-May-23		0.00%	120%			On Hold
13	Construction of a security Fence round Bamunkumbit Fons Palace	BCFW	PIB	14,998,387									
14	Construction of an auto mechanic workshop at GTHS Fundong in Fundong Sub Division, Boyo Division.	BCFW	PIB	82,89,7103	ETS STREETWISE CO LTD	4 months	10-May-23	1 month	95.00%	120%	44.0%		Technical Reception (upliftment of reserves)
15	Rehabilitation of GBHS Fundong	BCFW	PIB	41 363 327	RENEWCAM	4 months	2-May-23		90.00%	125%			Technical Reception
16	Rehabilitation of SAR/SM Mbengwi in Momo Division	BCFW	PIB	50,505,751	SHILOH PRINTERS	4 months	2-May-23	1 month	80.00%	125%			On Going
17	Construction of an electrical workshop at GTHS Mbengwi in Momo Division	BCFW	PIB	63 271 463	T-BRIGHT SERVICES	4 months	2-May-23	1 month	95.00%	125%			Technical Reception (upliftment of reserves)
18	Rehabilitation of SAR/SM Wum in Menchum Division	BCFW	PIB	47,273,178	ETS BACHE LTD	4 months	2-May-23		90.00%	125%			Technical Reception (upliftment of reserves)
19	Construction of a Plumbing workshop at GTHS Wum in Menchum Division	BCFW	PIB	47,273,085	PYRAMIDO ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY LTD	4 months	2-May-23		95.00%	125%			Technical Reception
20	Rehabilitatoin of SAR/SM Santa in Mezam Division.	BCFW	PIB	59,389,839	ELOHM INVESTMENT LTD	4 months	2-May-23		85.00%	125%	57.0%		Technical Reception
21	Phase 1 Construction of a multipurpose laboratory at GBHS Bamendakwe, Mezam Division.	BCFW	PIB	56,000,000	ESSOKA GROUP	4 months	2-May-23	1 month	85.00%	125%			On Going
22	Phase 1 Construction of a multipurpose laboratory at GBHS Ndog in Ngoketunja Division	BCFW	PIB	58,000,000	ASHIMIYI ENTERPRISE	4 months	2-May-23	1 month	89.00%	125%			On Going
23	Rehabilitation of SAR/SM Babessi in Ngoketunja Division	BCFW	PIB	38,357,955	PURPOSE ENGINEERING COMPANY LTD	4 months	2-May-23		90.00%	125%	78.0%		Technical Reception
24	Rehabilitation of SAR/SM Jakiri in Bui Division	BCFW	PIB	34,487,219	ETS RHEMA & CO	4 months	2-May-23	1 month	80.00%	125%			Technical Reception
25	Rehabilitation and extension of a Mortuary in Oku District Hospital	BCFW	PIB	43,723,000	CHII AND SONS ENTERPRISE	4 months	2-May-23	1 month	84.22%	125%			On Going
26	Phase 1 Construction of a multipurpose laboratory at GBHS Kumbo in Bui Division	BCFW	PIB	59,950, 000	NYMBA ASSOCIATES LTD	4 months	10-May-23	1 month	60.00%	120%			On Going
27	Rehabilitation of SAR/SM Nkambe in Donga Mantung Division	BCFW	PIB	26,150,631	HAMZAH ENTERPRISE	4 months	2-May-23		95.00%	125%	80.0%		Provisional Accepted
28	Phase 1 construction of a Mortuary in Nwa District Hospital	BCFW	PIB	57,000,000	BWENWI SARL	4 months	2-May-23	1 month	75.00%	125%			On Going
29	Acquisition of service vehicles for the Administration	GS	PIB	110,000,000									
30	Purchase of charts and manuals for reading, writing mathematics and general knowledge	GS	PIB	19,179,049	BABA & BROTHERS	2 MONTHS	7-Jul-23		100.00%	100%	100.0%		completed and Received
31	Construction of a North West Regional Assembly Guest house in Bamenda.	BCFW	PIB	930,250,000	BETTERMAN SARL & ESSOKA GROUP JOINT VENTURE	20 Months	17-Oct-23						Installation
32	Control and supervision of the Construction of a North West Regional Assembly Guest house in Bamenda.	BCFW	PIB	46,650,600	SOCIÉTÉ OGIVE	21 months	17-Oct-23						Installation
33	Maintenance of the earth road: Misaje-Sabongida-Nigerial borders (phase 1)	ROADS	RF	499, 998,782	AFUHCAM ENGINEERING	13 months	21-Jun-23		5%	30%	20.0%		on Hold
34	Maintenance of the earth road: Nsop-Nwa-Yang-Nigerial borders (phase 1)	ROADS	RF	399,998,421	TANDI AND SONS ENTERPRISE	13 months	21-Jun-23		5%	30%	20.0%		on Hold
35	Maintenance of the Fundong -Weh Rod (phase 1)	ROADS	RF	600,000,000	ETS WALLANG RICHARD	13 months	21-Jun-23		5%	30%	20.0%		on Hold
36	Control and supervision of Maintenance of the earth road: Misaje-Sabongida-Nigerial borders (phase 1), Maintenance of the earth road: Nsop-Nwa-Yang-Nigerial borders (phase 1) and Maintenance of the Fundong - Weh Rod (phase 1)	ROADS	RF	119, 995,313	Joint Venture Integrated Engineering ASSOCIATES (I.E.A) Timi Engineering & Consultancy (TECS).	15 months	21-Jun-23		5%	26%			on Hold
37	Provision of car insurance coverage to 11 vehicles in the North West Regional Assembly		PIB	9,991,237	ACTIVA ASSURANCES	12months							EFFECTIVE
38	Realization of a summary Environmental Impact	BCFW	PIB	20,000,000									
39	Realization of a summary Environmental Impact	BCFW	PIB	20,000,000									
40	Construction of an Emergency center in Bamenda	BCFW	PIB	401,770,751									
41	Control and Supervision for the Construction of an	BCFW	PIB	20,088,538									

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## Construction of NWRA Head Quarters



*Excavation work ongoing*

## Construction of NWRA Lodge (Guest House)







*GBHS Fundong burnt down by separatist fighters in 2018*



*Rehabilitated by NWRA in 2023*



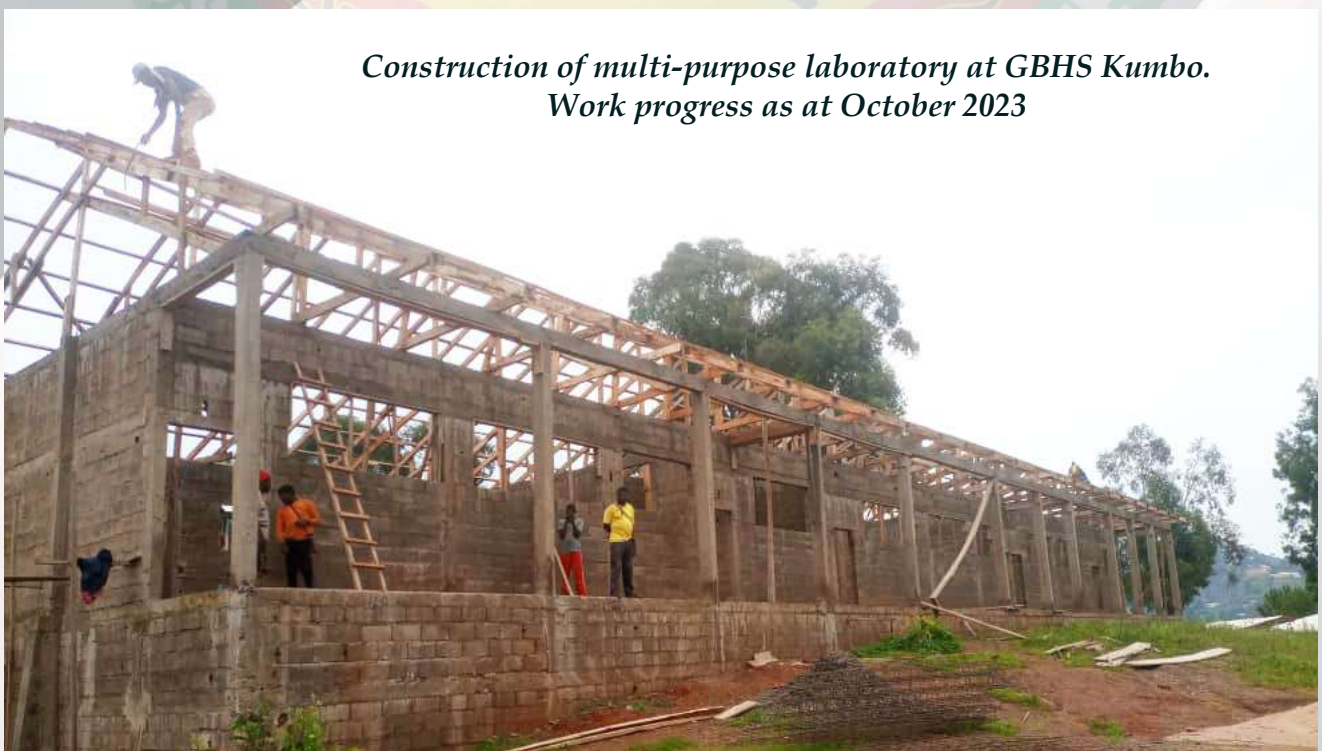
*Students regain campus after 5 years, this academic year 2023/2024*





*Before*

*Construction of multi-purpose laboratory at GBHS Kumbo.  
Work progress as at October 2023*







*Rehabilitation and extension of Oku District Hospital, front view*



*Side view*



Maintenance of Earth Road: Sop-Nwa-Yang-Nigeria borders,  
Donga Mantung Division (Phase 1)





Rehabilitation of SAR-SM Wum, Menchum Division



*Completed building*





## Construction of a Plumbing Workshop in GTHS Wum, Menchum Division



*During work*



*After work*

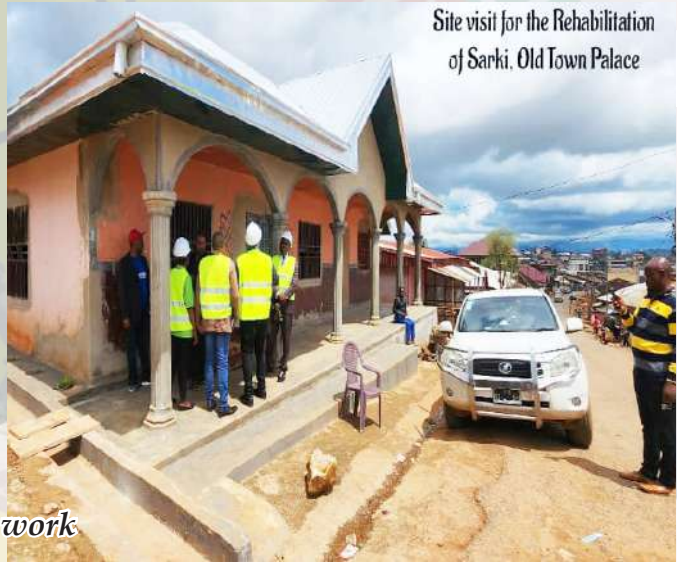


Rehabilitation of Sarki Palace, Old Town, Bamenda II Mezam

Before



During work



Site visit for the Rehabilitation of Sarki, Old Town Palace



After work



### Construction of water borehole in Mbatu Palace, Mezam Division





Construction of Electrical Workshop at GTHS Mbengwi



*Completed building*





Rehabilitation of SAR-SM Mbengwi , Momo Division





Rehabilitation of Anong Palace Hall, Momo Division



*Front view*



*Back view*



Rehabilitation of Batibo Palace, Momo Division





Construction of a security fence round Bamukumbit Fon's Palace,  
Ngoketunjia Division





**FEATURES**

**Strengthening Social Cohesion:  
Women, Youth Empowerment in Progress**



*Dr. Yaa Fondufe Sakah Lydia  
Commissioner for Health and Social  
Development, NWRA*

**For over 30 months now, the North-West Regional Assembly has embraced on socio-cultural, educational, health, economic and professional programmes/projects that among others set out to empower youth and women**

Social cohesion is a set of values, identities, attitudes, and behaviours that help hold society together. According to UNDP (2020), it is the strength of relationships and the sense of solidarity among members of a community. Social cohesion can therefore be strengthened through socio-cultural activities, peace-building programs, health, and educational actions.

In Cameroon, youth and women represent more than 60% of the population, with 50.12% female and 48.7% below 18 years. The government has demonstrated a surface-level

commitment to improving women’s rights across the country and has made it a priority, ensuring to promote gender equality and creating a more inclusive society. On paper, the country’s political, economic, and social environment is conducive to gender equality and women’s empowerment, seen clearly as Cameroon signed and ratified most international and regional conventions and treaties on the protection and promotion of women’s rights. Efforts are visible for a better consideration of gender issues in the recently adopted Agenda 2020-2030. Its policy is therefore gender-sensitive.

In respect to Bill N0 2019/024 of 24 December 2019 to institute the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities including the “Special Status,” Decentralization is well-elaborated and put into practice through the creation of Regional Assemblies / Councils in 2021. In the said Bill, in Chapter Three, Sections 266 -273, some powers are devolved to Regions in the domains of Economic Development, Health and Social Development, Education, Sports and Cultural Development.

The priority of the North-West Regional Assembly is to strengthen community spirit and improve livelihoods, empowering and engaging youth and women. The RA has carried out actions for the past 30 months and counting in the field of health and social development, education, literacy, and vocational training, youth affairs, sports and leisure, culture and the promotion of national languages. This ties with empowering youth and women as we partner with key community-based institutions, especially of the environment domain, planting trees and regenerating sacred forests, with the slogan: “Leave No One Behind.”

**i. Health and Social Actions**



The Regional Assembly has for the past 30 months carried out a series of actions in the health and social domain, which include:

- Rehabilitation of some district hospitals.
- Financial support to cover 3,400 persons to establish Birth Certificates.
- Distribution of medical supplies and hospital equipment to all district hospitals within the Region.
- Support to the Regional Hospital during World Hepatitis Day and World Blood Donor Day.
- Quick response to natural disasters like floods in Widikum, landslides along the Bambui-Fundong road, Fundong market disaster, wind destruction in Noni and Nwa, etc.
- Assistance to Babanki women victimized by non-state fighters; support to internally displaced persons in need, the orphaned, sick and the aged.

Through these health and social actions, the Regional Assembly creates a good relationship with the population, thus strengthening social cohesion opportunity and inclusion, especially for women and youths.

**ii. Education, Literacy, and Vocational Training**

- The Regional Assembly embarked on improving the educational level of women and youth through the rehabilitation and construction of schools across the Region. SAR/SMs are being rehabilitated in all the seven Divisions of the North-West Region, as well as back-to-school subventions, cash envelopes.
- Donation of didactic materials to 2,000

internally displaced persons (IDPs) for 2022/2023 academic year in some literacy centers of the Region and training workshop for 30 instructors of F.S.L.C in the Region.

- Registration of some 805 students (youths) mostly girls for 2023 GCE Exams.
- Granting pedagogic support to 100 students in dire need in the Region.
- Production and distribution of 400 benches to functional Secondary and High Schools in the 7 Divisions of the Region.
- Granting of scholarships to 92 distinguished laureates in national end-of-course examinations for the 2022/2023 academic year.
- Donation of back-to-school kits to 2,000 needy students for the 2023/2024 academic year; scholarship grants to 100 Laureates of 2022/2023 certificate examination; donation of didactic materials to 30 literacy centres; and subsidies to Inclusive Secondary Education Resource Centres in the Region.
- Scholarships to the Regional College of Agriculture Bambili; and
- Price awards to students of the National Veterinary School in Jakiri.

*This assistance has improved the overall performance in 2023 Technical/Vocational and General Certificate exams results, which are as follows:*

ITVEE(O/L)	70.97%	Ranked 2nd
ATVEE	82.28%	Ranked 1 <sup>st</sup>
GCE O/L	68.8%	Ranked 4 <sup>th</sup>
GCE A/L	75.94%	Ranked 1 <sup>st</sup>

**iii. Youth Affairs, Sports, and Leisure**





- Youths are an important component of the population of the Region since they constitute the active part of the population. Most of the terrorist groups around the Region are made up of young people. Deliberations were taken to encourage sports, which brings hope and new opportunities to talented youth of the Region.
- Financial support has been given to sports associations like ABAKWA FC, Bafut Rangers, PWD Social club of Bamenda, Hill Top Strikers and youth athletes who participated at the 2023 Mount Cameroon Race of Hope.

The Regional Assembly has equally engaged some youth and women to promote craft and culture such as Toghu, bamboo chairs, weaving, clay products and beads.

#### iv. Peace and Development Initiative

The Regional Assembly has engaged our communities in a participatory approach in the execution of a Peace and Development Initiative, bringing all stakeholders together, fostering dialogue and strengthening harmonious development. Community-driven cash-for-work schemes and projects recruit vulnerable and disadvantaged youth, at least, 500 per Division, which makes about 5,000 recruited. Social and economic inclusiveness is achieved through the High Intensive Labour Approach (HILA), whose community-designed projects foster cohesion. These projects are ongoing in all the 34 Council areas of the Region; and especially we have University interns and pupils being sensi-

tized on the Decentralization process and its opportunities.

The Regional Assembly has engaged in long-term partnerships with Medshare-USA, Smile Train-USA, eBase Africa, FEICOM, Cameroon Customs, The University of Bamenda, UBa, Rural Electrification Agency, REA, and UNDP. UNDP is a key technical partner to drive development and socio-economic growth in the Region, which fosters social cohesion opportunities and inclusion for women and youth. It is also responsible for operations of the 10-year Presidential Plan for Reconstruction and Development of the North-West and South-West Regions.

#### Recommendations:

1. Promote Youth and women in entrepreneurship to foster development.
2. Grow the formal economy and re-brand the informal economy.
3. Promote youth formal Education, especially girl-child education.

In conclusion, the Regional Assembly of the North-West Region of Cameroon has for 30 months running, greatly contributed to social cohesion and building communities and people for a better Cameroon.

\*From Paper presented at the Commonwealth Local Government Forum Seminar in Yaounde, July 2023.



*Visiting youths at the NWRA on the occasion of back-to-school 2023/2024*



## DECENTRALISATION ON THE MOVE: THE CITIZEN'S AFFAIR

By Mbahmbole Pius  
(RD MINDDEVEL, NW)

Since the promulgation into Law of the Bill to institute the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities (GCRLA) on December 24, 2019, the political and administrative landscape of the nation is experiencing new and diversified challenges. Politicians, administrative authorities and especially the citizens are therefore expected to get used to this new dispensation.

Decentralization, simply put, entails the devolution by the State of some competences and commensurate resources to Regional and Local Authorities (RLAs) under the supervisory authority of the Representatives of State. These Regional and Local Authorities are Regions and Councils.

Whereas the Council has a general mission of local development and the improvement of the living environment and conditions of its inhabitants, the Regions have a general duty to promote economic and social progress. It contributes to the harmonious, balanced, supportive and sustainable territorial development.

In conformity with the precepts governing decentralization as a whole, the citizens find themselves at the centre of all these endeavors. A citizen is seen within this context, since Decentralization is geared towards the sustainable development of the territory and the involvement of the grassroots population in the management of their affairs. This is captured in the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities as "**citizen participation.**" Citing **De Tocqueville** in his book, *Communal Liberalism*, His Excellency **President Paul Biya** is of the opinion that *local institutions are to freedom what primary schools are to science*. Local institutions bring freedom closer to the people. Without local institutions, a nation may have a free government, but such a nation would lack the spirit of freedom.

In this light, a close reading of the GCRLA demonstrates that preponderant powers have been given the grassroots civil society associations and organizations as well as neighborhood and village communi-



Mbahmbole Pius  
(Regional Delegate MINDDEVEL, NW)

ties in its Sections 40 and 41. This involvement of the citizens is further enhanced by **Section 266(2)** of the same code.

**Sections 381 and 386 of the GCRLA** also gives a leeway to citizen involvement in the management of local affairs. In fact, **Section 381(1)** states that "**the population shall be informed of the main stages of the budget procedure and their economic, social and financial issues.**" Who then can better lead the population in playing this role other than their elected representatives?

It therefore stands out clearly from the reading that the elected officials and the citizens have the responsibility to carry out social control, while the State functionaries carry out technical control. This will mark the epitome and blossoming of the bottom-top approach.

**Section 4(1) or Order No. 00000147/A/MIND-DEVEL of 19 July 2023 on the establishment, organization and functioning of neighborhood or village committees as part of citizen participation in Council action states that** "*neighborhood or village committees shall sensitize, supervise, support, relay, monitor and alert municipal authorities and local populations on activities and Council projects carried out on the field*".





*Members of House of Chiefs during committee meeting*

It is on the strength of these legal provisions that the populations of the North-West Region, a Region with a Special Status, have readily embraced the **Peace and Development Initiative (PDI)** of the North-West Regional Assembly. The PDI, a non-traditional scheme, which according to **Prof. Fru F. ANGWAFO III**, President of the North-West Regional Assembly, *“intends to transform our communities, to curb divisions among religious denominations, traditional rulers, the literate and non-literate populations; thereby bringing the voices of all stakeholders to broadcast.”* The **Peace and Development Committees (PDC)**, which are derivatives of the PDIs, are positively animating socio/economic life at grassroots level of the various communities of the Region.

The enthusiasm with which the populations have embraced the PDCs, however, needs to be complemented with an equal mastery of existing regulatory instruments in the domain by all the actors; otherwise the excitement may be dampened by over-zealous actors as well as other individuals. Training, therefore, becomes an

imperative; reason why the government created the **National School for Local Administration (NASLA)**.

Conscious of this possibility, the State has been taking all the necessary measures to forestall deviances and enhance proper management of Regional and Local Authorities through regulatory instruments intended to

clarify the rules and responsibility of each and everyone as well as their limits. Since **2021**, some Decrees and Orders have been published, laying down conditions governing the exercise of some powers devolved to Regions. So far, some of these devolved powers are in the following sectors: Tourism and Leisure, Town Planning and Housing, Secondary Education, Health, Inter Urban Transport, the Collection, Centralization, Distribution and Transfer of Proceeds of the Special Excise Duties Reserved for the Financing of Refuse Removal and Treatment within Regional and Local Authorities, etc. The most recent of these instruments is **Decree N<sup>o</sup>. 2023/422 of 19 September 2023, defining the attributions of Secretaries General of Regional and Local Authorities.**



*President, REC and SG NWRA interacting with committee members during session*



## SPORTS

## Cameroon Cup Finals 2023: NWRA Mobilizes Fans, Supports PWD with CFA 2 Million

By Njike Celestine Atadebe (RD MINCOM, NW)



*PWD Social Club of Bamenda*

The 2023 edition of the prestigious event took place in Yaounde on September 24, 2023 presided at by Prime Minister Joseph Dion Ngute on behalf of the Head of State, President Paul Biya.

The North-West Regional Assembly (NWRA) in its usual sportsmanship, hinging on sports as a catalyst for peace-building, social cohesion and unification, mobilized over 200 fans and injected a global sum of CFA 2 million in support of PWD Bamenda during the just-ended Cameroon Cup Finals, played at the Yaounde Omnisport Stadium on September 24, 2023.

On the esteemed instructions of Prof. Fru Fobuzshi Angwafo III, President of the North-West Regional Assembly (The People's House), and in line with a prior Deliberation of the House, the above-mentioned amount was duly disbursed on September 21, 2023. Similarly, in 2021 when PWD Bamenda qualified for the same Cameroon Cup Finals, the NWRA, under the aegis of the same Prof. Angwafo III, supported the team with CFA 1 million as well as mobilized fans for the football jamboree.

Though gunning for the Trophy for the second time within 03 years, the Abakwa Boys, fondly called "P ton-ton" ended up winning the Second Prize after bowing to FOVU of Baham Football Club 0:2.

The general mobilization under the auspices of H.E. Adolph Lele Lafrique, North-West Governor and father of the Region, was superb. In all, over CFA

50 million was raised and over 1,000 supporters mobilized from the North-West. This sum of money came from the Bamenda City Council, Councils within North-West Region, North-West Regional Assembly, NW elite, economic operators, financial institutions, fans, friends of PWD and other well-wishers. Furthermore, 09 buses: seven 70-seater buses and 02 Coasters were made available, free of charge, to ferry fans and supporters to and from Yaounde.

In all, 16 media organs were accredited, through the Regional Delegation of Communication for the North-West to cover the match. While in Yaounde, the Gymnasium adjacent the Yaounde Omnisport Stadium was secured for accommodation of PWD fans for the two-day sojourn. 5,000 entry tickets cutting across all categories were distributed, free of charge, to fans and a large section of the stadium reserved for "P ton-ton" fans, who outshone the entire stadium, giving it a beautiful coloration with PWD paraphernalia: T-shirts, caps, badges, mufflers, caps, tracksuits.

PWD's lacklustre performance was largely attributed to the sale of some of its best players and the inability of the newly bought players to integrate the team prior to the finals.



# NWRA NEWS AND UPDATES

Get to know what is happening inside the North-West Regional Assembly

## VISITS



*United Youth Organisation (UYO) pays a courtesy visit to the President, NWRA (05/10/2023)*



*Christine Young-Lashkari (Roving Ambassador to Cameroon, State of the African Diaspora (SOAD) visits NWRA 07/10/2023*





## EVENTS



*SMILE TRAIN /NWRA train community health workers on Cleft care (28-29/09/2023)*



*NWRA and COMINSUD organize an open space reflection on International Day of Peace 27/09/2023*



*NWRA signs MoU with United Cities and Councils of Cameroon (UCCC) North-West*









*President and Prof. Anyabod Emmanuel during meeting to foster cooperation between EU and Regions at EU office in Yaounde (August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023)*



*President and Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family in Yaounde (August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023)*



*Minister Delegate Commonwealth/MINREX receiving the Chair and SG of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (July 27, 2023)*





## BIRTH



With immense joy, the Director of General Affairs at the North-West Regional Assembly, Mr Alombah Anderson Akondi and wife, are pleased to welcome a baby-girl into their family on the 18th of August 2023.



## DEATH



The North-West Regional Assembly condoles with Timah Peter Acha, who lost his father, Pa Timah Philip Acha, on May 10 2023. May Pa's soul rest in peace.



*“La Douane, une Administration Innovante et performante dédiée à l’Accompagnement de l’Economie Nationale et de la Protection de la Société”*



*“Customs, an Innovative and Efficient Administration dedicated to Accompanying the National Economy and Protecting Society”*

**DIRECTION GENERALE DES DOUANES**

Bastos, face Ambassade de Chine

Cellule de l’information et de la communication

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