

OPENING SPEECH

BY

**The PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL
ASSEMBLY, PROF. FRU FOBUSHZI ANGWAFO III**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE 11TH ORDINARY SESSSION OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL
ASSEMBLY**

Bamenda, 10 July 2023

PROTOCOL

The Representative of State, Governor of the North-West Region,

Our esteemed Senators

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Consultants-advisors to the Assembly,

Distinguished Mayors of the North-West Region,

Your Royal Highnesses, Members of the North-West Regional Assembly
House of Chiefs,

Honoured Members of the House of Divisional Representatives,

The President of the North-West Regional Chapter of the Union of Cities
and Councils of Cameroon,

The City Mayor of Bamenda City Council

Special Invitees,

Members of the press and Communication organs,

Every other protocol duly observed

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You are all welcome to this Auditorium, on the occasion of the plenary sitting which marks the beginning of deliberations of the Jene 2023 session, the 11th of the Regional Assembly, today July 10, 2023. We are grateful to God Almighty, our Creator for traveling mercies and making it possible for us all to be here.

Before we continue, I am first and foremost obligated to perform the sorrowful duty of inviting you to turn your thoughts to our departed colleague HRM Fon Fuekemshi II of Baba I (member of House of Chiefs) who went ‘missing’ on May 2, 2023. On behalf of the Regional Assembly, I extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved family and to the Baba I Community. May his soul find perfect rest with his ancestors! I now call on us all to please rise to pay homage, by holding a minute’s silence, in memory of the departed.

MINUTE OF SILENCE

We are also very happy, our long standing and consistent prayers have been answered and we have in our midst, HRM YAKUM Kevin TEUVIH, Vice President of the Regional Executive Council and President of the House of Chiefs. We are also grateful to God for the safe release of Hon. Ujambeng Stephen, Divisional Representative for Ngie, Momo Division. Today, we can boast of a complete house and we don’t take that for granted.

This particular June session is a very pertinent one, given that it is a special session dedicated for the budget orientation and debate session, devoted to prioritizing and projecting the Region's real developmental needs and improvement of livelihoods for the population in the 2024 budgetary year. The purpose of this plenary sitting is to permit all stakeholders especially our parliamentarians to fully participate in this all important conversation on priority areas to be included in the budget of next year for a much better 2024 budgetary year for the Region. The session will run from Monday 10th July to Thursday 13th July and will take the form of interactive sitting with presentations from expert trainers on the NOWEDIF. The delivery and discussions with stakeholders especially our parliamentarians and Mayors on the main theme of the session will lay the groundwork on a better budgetary year and community projects across the entire region for 2024.

It should also be recalled that we formulated a three prong agenda for the Regional Assembly which articulated the imperative for a peace pact, youth engagement and empowerment and Economic Development and given that we are at our Mid-Term Mandate, We are also going to be scoring the Regional Assembly 30 months on, and assess how much we have stayed true to the vision we casted in our inaugural speech of January 22, 2021, during the installation of the Regional Executive Council.

During this session, we will also be delighted to have a presentation from Dr. Simeon TCHATCHOUA NUMBEM and collaegues on NOWEDIF terms of reference and chronogram and also a presentation on the Organizational chart of the NWRA.

Honourable Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since we separated in April, our Assembly, as you are certainly aware has been as usual, very active in various spheres. On the international scene, our Assembly continued to win new victories and explore new horizons. On behalf of the Assembly, my humble self-participated in the China-Africa Cities Cooperation Forum in Changsa, in China. The aim of the event was to promote the implementation of the “Nine Projects” of China-Africa cooperation with full strength and to achieve a high quality development of China-Africa economic and trade fair cooperation.

At the National Level, the following activities (but not limited to) animated the season; the Region taking part in the 8th Edition of the French-speaking economic meetings trade fair/exhibitions organized by the International Association of French-speaking Regions in Yaounde from June 13 – 17, 2023, National workshop for the Presentation of 7 prevalidations of the draft summary report of the National Territorial planning and Sustainable Development Plan in Bastos, Yaounde, the 5th session of the committee to follow up the implementation of the recommendations of the Major National Dialogue in Buea, a training workshop at NASLA Buea etc.

Honourable Ladies and Gentlemen,

The construction projects of the Regional Headquarters and Guest House, two emergency medical centers, a handicap (rehabilitation) centre, two mortuaries in Nwa and Oku, and a vocational training center as well rehabilitation and renovation works on palaces, destroyed health and school buildings and many other ongoing project works of the Regional Assembly have transformed the Region into a great construction site (“Grand Chantier”). Following our core value of equity and Region wide perspective of spatial distribution of resources, every

Division is benefitting from ongoing or completed works as you will see in our compendium of Achievements.

I cannot end my speech without talking about the state of affairs in some parts of the Region. We need total peace for development to follow. Sure peace and Normalcy is steadily returning to the Region, but it is obvious that there is need for unanimity in order for the entire Region to gain its full serenity. That is to say, at a time like this when the bells of pacification are increasingly chiming, the Regional Assembly can only urge everybody to remain within the confines of Peace and Development. **The North West Region is our Region. No one else will build it for us except us. Let us all in the spirit of our proverbial Slogan U Na Mi, Mi Na U, Wi bi Wi, work together for the peace, social cohesion and unity of our beloved Region.**

Thus, I hereby commend and greatly appreciate the efforts the Peace and Development Committees are putting in, out there through the Community decentralized activities of the PDI. Our PDI- Human intensive manual labour activities identified by the communities themselves are steadily picking steam in the Divisions and Sub Divisions. The Divisional Coordinators will also have the opportunity during this session to present updates in their respective constituencies on how this scheme is not only occupying the unemployed and un-sholarised youth of our communities but also contributing in strengthening our local economy.

I want to thank all of you on behalf of the Assembly who have come notwithstanding the challenges of the day. With such commitment, we are certain the North West shall not only overcome but shall prevail. And the sooner the better!

Long live the commitment of development stakeholders of the region,

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

Long live Cameroon and its illustrious Head of State, President Paul BIYA,

Thank you for your keen attention.