

September 2022 Session Speech.

The Representative of State,

The Vice Chancellor, University of Bamenda,

Lordships, the President of the Appeal Court, Attorney General and
Administrative Courts of the North West Region,

Members of Parliament,

Members of the House of Chiefs and the House of Divisional Representatives, of
the Regional assembly,

The Senior Divisional Officer, Mezam

The Vice National President, Union of Cities and Councils of Cameroon,

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

The City Mayor and Council Mayors,

The Divisional Officer, Bamenda 1

Special Invites,

Ladies and gentlemen of the Press and Communication organs,

The population of concerned Citizens,

You are all welcome. Here we are at the September session of the NW RA today
September 13th 2021. We thank God Almighty, our creator for making it possible.
May we rise for a minute of silence in prayerful memory of the faithfully departed
from the civil strife in our region. We deplore the continuing retention of
Honorable Royal Majesty YAKUM Kevin TEVIUH, President House of Chiefs and
Vice President of this Assembly in captivity for nine months, six days.

We are here to evaluate progress in the peace and development initiative notably
school reopening. There can be no development without youth engagement and
education as I quote Franklin Delano Roosevelt: "We cannot always build the
future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future". We have noted
with much delight the growing enthusiasm in the population as a whole for

actions toward school resumption across the region like the Momo academic awards at the region here in the confines of the Assembly last Saturday. There were town hall meetings with distribution of school materials and awards to learners who excelled in sundry examinations and programs for displaced youth in other cities of the country. This momentum must be encouraged and sustained by all. Statistics from the Regional Delegation of Secondary Education inform us of a positive trend by a population yearning to school their children. On the fifth day of school resumption last year the enrollment was 35587 students and has improved to 41660 this year. Our resolve is to reach the 80,000 mark and soon the pre-crisis level of over 220,000. In this regard, the assembly Has subsidized inclusive education again this year, given scholarships to a hundred needy students, awarded prizes to the best performing students of the region, school books and bags to 2000 internally displaced students in the region in respect of spatial territorial and sociological distribution. To respond to the increasing crowding of students in functional schools some which were destroyed, the Assembly has embarked upon furnishing schools with desks, the first two hundred will be distributed at the close of our session. The Education committees of the House, the Commissioner for Education are also urged to evaluate with the competent authorities the most efficient actions to boost vocational education which is in dire need of sustained support!

Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen,

The region has been victim of natural disasters from wind that destroyed many public buildings in Nkor, land slide on the regional road to Fundong, floods in Widikum with loss of life and property. The indiscriminate afforestation and occupation of land, and non- respect of land slide prevention norms and standards in road construction are human attempts to tempt nature with its nefarious climate change consequences! The region has therefore undertaken relief measures to help the bereaved and homeless, renovate destroyed secondary schools, and construction works on the Fundong regional road. Since the region did not foresee or forecast these disasters in its budget, we have stretched out to the Council Fund for Local Development (FEICOM). We are therefore seeking from you the adoption of a deliberation for extra funding of projects by FEICOM. In the main, the Environment Committees of the Assembly are urged to address the issues of land use, climate change and preventive

measures in respect of Presidential decree.... There also needs to be more than casual attention to the bubbling lakes in Fungom and across the region indeed.

Our organization and capacity to respond promptly to disasters and emergencies is a key indicator of human development, we therefore urge everyone in the Finance and planning Committees as well as the Commissioner for economy and competent authorities to concert to draw up a disaster relief plan and budgetary provisions to relieve affected populations in record time. It is indeed in time of need that our core value of solidarity and the UBUNTU community spirit “U na Mi, Mi na U, Wi bi Wi” are tested. As 2023 approaches, we urge the committees of the house to review the budgets of the previous years and propose next year’s budget in respect of the prime ministerial decree During the intersession, we received a distress call from one of ours in the Eseka boondocks, an internally displaced family from Menchum. I urge the Administrative, Legal Affairs and Standing Orders Committees to look for an institutional response to this problem that is likely to be recurrent for some time.

During this session, we shall also evaluate the Peace and Development initiative as funds have been committed for community decentralized activities. Following the peace building capacity training seminars of the last session each division was urged to create their divisional and sub-divisional Peace and development committees. We were urged to organize town hall consultations in respect of the bottom up approach to source community needs and projects likely to be funded through the high intensity labor cash economy approach. During this session we will evaluate progress in this regard and divisions that are ready will benefit from funds that are already committed. At stake is not only the peace so dearly sought after but also the paradigm shifts to local solutions to local problems by the local population. The redistribution of resources and growth of a more inclusive local economy will in no small measure strengthen sustained peace. On Wednesday 15th September the divisional teams will meet with technical partners to plan and program activities: training seminars for peace makers/ ambassadors, drawing up projects likely to be carried out through the high intensity labor approach etc.

Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Regional Assembly presented the Peace Building Initiative and the 2021 performance balance sheet at the 4th Major National Dialogue Follow Up

Committee in Yaounde on August 4th chaired by its Chair, Chief Dr. Joseph DION NGUTE Prime Minister, Head of Government. It was an occasion for us to present our project to involve all citizens of the region in the dialogue and following the intra-personal, interpersonal, intra-family, interfamily and community overtures for peace in the home, school, market work and other social enterprises. This followed by a premier video zoom conference organized by government between members of the diaspora, the two English speaking regions, the Presidential Reconstruction program and the Follow Up Committee of the Major National Dialogue on Saturday September 10th. During this occasion we once presented our performance. We were urged to beef up our communication. We happy to announce the maiden issue of the North-westerner magazine. We intend to improve upon our social media presence on our web site, Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Talking about performance, we would like to remind ourselves of the major projects whose tenders have been launched for execution this year: the headquarters of the Regional Assembly, the Regional Assembly Guest House, Rehabilitation of Schools, Palaces, health facilities, Repair of the Regional road, and the many studies for creation of Emergency centers, Vocational training Centers, Mental and Physical Rehabilitation centers, NOWEDIF etc These tenders follow regulatory procedures and are publicized on our notice boards, radio etc. we hope you spread the word so we can create a competitive environment which comes with quality performance!

Ladies and Gentlemen, the North West Development and Investment Fund (NOWEDIF) is certainly the development game changer. We shared the terms of reference of NOWEDIF, the creation of a local finance and economy based on modernized njangi thrift and loan schemes. The next three steps are development of value chain approaches and structures that will respond to the needs of the primary and secondary economic sectors. Only one expert has bought the tender and we were obliged to extend advertisement time to source more contractors. As we carry out this restructuring, we encourage collaboration and intra-regional council agreements to solve water insecurity and initiating circular economy for production of bio-gaz, compost manure, plastic sheets and roofing sheets from household wastes. These environmentally friendly projects fit into our “waste for money” schemes that will absorb school drop-outs, and raise local capital to

sustain local economies. Further, we are partnering with the CBC, COMINSUD and SHUMAS whose successful experience in local community development in the region each span decades

As we revisit our projects, we ought to keep in mind that our performance in the next three months will influence budgetary allocations for the next year 2023. With courage, determination and collaboration we shall overcome all existential issues of sickness, peace, poverty and strife. Once more I believe and hail your leadership, commitment, team work and the impetus to forge ahead for more peace and development! Our special status gives us hope but also challenges which I am certain we will not only overcome but prevail indeed. This year once more our revenue is essentially from the state although we have received donations from cooperation ventures notably MEDSHARE and Smile Train. We thank the Honorable representatives that conveyed medical supplies to sundry district hospitals, giving hope and encouragement to medical personnel and our populations.

Esteemed Majesties, Honorable ladies and Gentlemen,

May we revisit the inaugural vision of our regional executive on the 22nd of January. We stand to affirm our quest for peace through the peace pact and moral rearmament, our economic growth through social and financial mobilization for investment and solidarity funds, rebirth and rebrand of our region through innovative, youth empowerment and education. These lofty plans are programmed in a forthcoming regional development plan 2023 to 2027 and project to elaborate a medium term expenditure and revenue framework for our region. This planning instrument is critical for advocacy, fund raising and drawing up annual work plans/ programs for the coming years.

I want to thank all of you who have come notwithstanding the challenges of the day. With such commitment, we are certain the North West shall overcome. And the sooner the better!

Long life the commitment of development stakeholders of the region,

Long life the people of North West as they work to bring peace,

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

Thank you for your indulgence.