

The Representative of the State, The Governor of the North-West Region,  
Most Respected Members of Government,  
Erudite Pro-chancellor, Lady Vice Chancellors,  
The Senior Divisional officers of Mezam, Boyo, Bui, Donga-Mantung, Menchum, Momo and Ngoketunjia  
Distinguished Senators and Parliamentarians,  
Esteemed Members of the Legal and Judiciary Department,  
The City Mayor BAMENDA CITY Council  
Respected General Managers, Chief executives,  
The Regional Delegate of MINDDEVEL and other Regional Delegates  
Honored Leaders and Representatives of Political Parties  
HRM, Vice President of the Regional Assembly, President of the House of Chiefs,  
Members of the Regional Executive Council,  
Members of the North-West House of Chiefs,  
Our Royal Majesties, Traditional leaders of the North-West,  
Honorable Representatives, Divisional Delegates,  
The Secretary General of the Region,  
The Divisional Officer of Bamenda I,  
My Lords temporal and spiritual, Religious leaders,  
Constituted bodies of Law and Order,  
Sitting and Former Mayors,  
Distinguished Elders and members of Royal Courts of Fondoms & Lamidas,  
Opinion Leaders, Heads of Njangi Houses and Civil Society Organizations,  
Business Leaders and Representatives of Professional bodies,  
Trade Unions, urban and rural transporters,  
Herbalists and Clinical Health Care Dispensers,  
Proprietors and Heads of Educational Institutions,  
Dynamic Representatives of Student Organizations, Vibrant Youth,  
Sons and Daughters of Mezam, Boyo, Bui, Donga-Mantung, Menchum, Momo and Ngoketunjia,  
Friends, families, witnesses of the Installation of the Premier North-West Regional Executive Council and Assembly,  
Members of the Press and sundry organs, all protocol duly respected,

Honorable Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For this day, we thank the Most High and continue to ask for divine protection for our nation Cameroon, for our Region, the North-West and for our people.

We beseech the Imams, Pastors, Priests, Saints and Forebears to intercede for harmony and peace to reign in the North-West Region and Cameroon.  
In honor and remembrance of the departed victims of the atrocious strife plaguing our communities, let us rise for a minute of silence.

The departed are members of our families. They are ours; of both sexes, and of all ages. There is none of our social, historical, linguistic, anthropological, archeological, spiritual or ethnic sensitivities that has not been scorched, touched or affected! There are too many mothers who

do not know the whereabouts of their sons and daughters. This situation gives each and every one of us fearful days and sleepless nights. Together we have to see to it that these youths find the way morally and or physically back to their homes. “No bi dem say pikin na wi waka stick tam weh wi don old, taya”. Ifi dam pikin dem chakara how wi go do eh?

The oneness of man long recounted in such stories as the Tower of Babel has gained scientific credence through genetic studies of our polymorphism. Let us therefore in a civic and fraternal spirit and as one-man commit to Suring up our nurturing, our formal and informal education, at home, in schools and in the community, so we groom our young men and women to meet the challenge of building a more inclusive and prosperous society in an extremely competitive world.

Honorable Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We thank the President of the Republic, Head of State, H. E Paul BIYA, who in response to the wishes of our people made history with the creation of this Regional Assembly.

Let us recall his words on December 31st, 2019, *viz* «Concerning the North-West and South-West Regions in particular, the special status granted them takes into account the specificities of the Anglophone education sub-system, Common Law and traditional authorities. As you can see, a new Cameroon is taking shape; a Cameroon that is adapted to present times and looks to the future"

We acknowledge all the municipal councilors and our traditional rulers who made history on the December 6th, 2020 by voting in the maiden Divisional delegates and members of the House of Chiefs respectively.

Our gratitude goes to the Government, State institutions, civil society and independent observers who in their respective roles once more showcased our ever deepening democracy.

Today marks the installation of the Regional Executive Council of the Regional Assembly of the North-West Region. We have begun in earnest the business of the people. We pray not for easy tasks, rather we pray for the strength equal to the tasks.

We stand here to acknowledge and answer the call to serve, to serve the best interests of our people. It is the Assembly of the people; we are ready to listen to them. It is their right. It is our duty. « Non Sibi Sed Aliis » In the spirit of the African ethos, we say “U na Mi, Mi na U, Wi bi Wi”

Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen,

For our region to regain her shine as the citadel of culture and learning, we need to muster our energy not on fighting the past but on building the future. Let us be animated by positive minds that find opportunity in everything and not be entrapped by negative minds that find fault in everything.

It is more honorable to light a little lamp than to curse the darkness that seems limitless. All works of man no matter how well executed are imperfect but to strive for perfection is the hallmark of the master spirit.

Our primordial and permanent quest for development requires peace and a positive mindset; and all of us must take ownership of our exceptional special status which fulfils our desire for more input and action at the local and regional levels. Exceptional because it is only in the North-West and South-West that we have three commissioners, a parliamentary type governance and a Regional Vice-President who must be a traditional ruler, and a public independent conciliator.

Further, the House of Chiefs will be deliberating on chieftaincy, its cultural facets, precepts and tenets adapted to our changing times. I appeal to all the members of the Regional Assembly to join hands in the construction of the new North-West Region. The rebirth of the region, Ladies and gentlemen, demands discipline, patience, commitment and requires serious introspection on three scores;

Firstly, The moral imperative of love, compassion and empathy (Moral Rearmament Pact)

Stricken by the loss of ours in the Mediterranean, the Amazon and the Middle East, and the throes of our displaced youth, especially our girls, in the squalor of big cities; wanton murder, arson, kidnapping and torture; and emboldened by our moral heritage, we must as a matter of Urgency redeem ourselves now!

That moral imperative of love, compassion and empathy, a humanity heritage of time immemorial, from the African foundations of civilization, is as relevant today as ever. This African ethos embellished over centuries by the Greco-Romans and coded in the Judeo-Christian ethic of today's world, is the basis of the UN human rights charter. We must continue to work to ensure that our country Cameroon remains a respected member in this regard in the concert of nations.

Honorable Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thoughts precede deeds and words are often precursors of action. Pictures and words matter. Social media is a double edge sword that we must handle with maturity and care. The power of life and death can be in the tongue. Our common humanity requires that we be our brother's best keeper mindful of our rights and also our responsibilities and jealously guarding them without recourse to unbecoming speech, hate or violence. In the memory of our forebears and like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. let us forge the character of civility and nobility. We must therefore nurture love, compassion and empathy.

Secondly, Youth Empowerment and Employment (YEE)

Mothers want their children back home. Fathers bring them back! Pikin di cry, mami di cry, papa di cry how nor? Papa lookot di palaba!

Youth Empowerment and Employment (YEE) indeed should be the fountain of our endeavors in the rebirth of our region, as in the fountain of youth! No business or community can thrive let alone survive without investing in its future. The development focus of the Executive Council through the three commissioners for Health and social affairs; Education, Culture, Youth and

Sports; and finally Economic Development speak to the legislator's preoccupation. History shall appraise how this maiden Regional Assembly takes ownership of the National concern that has rightly been transferred to the REGION. We yearned to manage our affairs, the challenge is here and now. The ten-region race is on. Where do we want to be in this race of the regions? We can and should be the best! But to forge on we must agree on the collective will to build peace, a North West community Peace Pact (NWCPP)!

Finally- the North West community Peace Pact (NWCPP); My dear people if we can dream of a Bamenda dry port, what forestalls the dream of the North West, an ocean of peace?

Youth empowerment and employment, key aspects of human development are a prerequisite to physical development. Both depend largely on how successful our moral pact has molded the mindset. The quest for both human and physical development is our most pressing preoccupation. To forge on we need to share the same objectives, values and principles of peace? We must arrest the slide of our region into ruin from benign neglect and the mindset of negativity. Peace is right, strife is wrong! On this question there is no room for neutrality because in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all directly or indirectly."

We should all as a matter of priority be crusaders for peace and harmony. History has shown time and again that those who think they are well off in a war economy are short-sighted. It is a matter of survival. We must stop the collective fratricide, it is the one action that will determine, indeed condition our survival as a people!

Not a single life or livelihood should be wasted anymore!

Ladies and Gentlemen, all three pacts must necessarily operate at all times, concomitantly and not in succession. We must act now!

A minute gone is a minute lost.

We should refrain from becoming captives of the past. One should not live in the past for it past, gone! But we are endowed with ability and resource to start here and now to invent a brand new present and build a brighter future. The right time is now! We aspire to leave no stone unturned and to leave no one behind.

"U na Mi, Mi na U, Wi bi Wi"

Wouldn't it be great if we all commit to love our region, promote our region, grow our region even more and in all we do, for evermore? Yester year we were icons of community development and the cooperative movement. Let's rekindle the luster of yesteryears. As one loving community we will rise to the top. We call on all sons and daughters of the North West to join in the reconstruction of our region.

Long live the North-West Region, its people and its Regional Assembly.  
Long live Cameroon and her Cherished Leader President Paul BIYA

Peace and a happy new year to all.  
God bless our North-West Region! God bless our country Cameroon!