



The President of the Republic of Cameroon

H.E. PAUL BIYA

SPEECHES AND INTERVIEWS

3rd Volume

2013

Speeches and Interviews by the President in 2013



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Presentation of 2013 New Year Wishes by the Diplomatic Corps Address by the Head of State

Yaoundé, 3rd january 2013

- **The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps,**
- **Ambassadors and High Commissioners,**
- **Representatives of International Organizations,**

If one looks back at the events of the year that has just ended, two facts stand out in one's mind:

- On the one hand, the effects of the crisis that disrupted the global economy and finance from 2007/2008 are still being felt,

- On the other hand, the international community has virtually been unable to resolve problems that have been pending for decades as well as new crises arising within or between States.

How did we get there?

In recent years, the financial crisis has abated and markets are relatively calm, despite intermittent turbulence. Governments have mobilized, but the global economy continues to experience a slowdown.

This slowdown took different forms according to categories of States. Industrialized countries were more severely affected than others to the extent that some teetered on the brink of bankruptcy. In all cases, it was

necessary to curb the rising debt burden, combat budget deficits, halt the decline in growth and growing unemployment.

Some countries opted for strong recovery and others for austerity measures. The long-standing debate

between pro- and anti-keynesians resurfaced, producing varying results: a slight increase for some and virtual stagnation for others. However, a general collapse was avoided.

Emerging markets were more resilient. For a while, they continued to record enviable growth rates. Subsequently, deceleration occurred due to the downturn experienced by their trading partners. They boosted domestic consumption to maintain the industrial production capacity.

Developing countries for their part were least affected due to their minimal involvement in the global economy. However, they deferred some investments as foreign donors became hesitant due to the crisis. Nonetheless, in anticipation of the revival of the global economy, investors rapidly positioned themselves in countries endowed with raw materials.

In my opinion, this is roughly where we are today. The international community has certainly avoided the worst, that is, a widespread return to protectionism that would probably have caused global recession, like in the past. Does this mean that we will soon return to the pre-crisis situation where economic progress seemed limitless? Nothing is less certain. In this respect, IMF and World Bank growth forecasts remain cautious.

These institutions may be right because the problems that caused the crisis have not been resolved. The last UNCTAD conference that was held in Doha addressed the failings of

globalization. It was noted that despite significantly increasing trade, its main objective of ensuring the smooth functioning of the global economy and finance, which takes into account the interests of all stakeholders, has not been attained.

This relative failure highlights the urgent need for regulation, which is universally recognized. Major consultations during G20 or WTO forums have repeatedly considered this issue and proposed solutions likely to guide globalization so as to retain its positive aspects and eliminate its excesses. However, it must be said that, at the moment, it is not clear how and when these good intentions will be put into practice.

This is why rebuilding trust, which is at the heart of economic progress, is difficult. Giving globalization another chance will definitely require getting to the bottom of the problem and establishing a system that strikes a balance between fair remuneration and solidarity in line with Millennium Development Goals.

Without delay, Cameroon opted for recovery. Like I explained to my compatriots a few days ago, if, as I believe, we win the energy battle, we would be better positioned to develop an industry capable of processing our raw materials. Similarly, we are laying the groundwork for a modern infrastructure network that will ease the movement of people and goods within the country and to and from neighbouring countries, and will boost our economy. We will also continue to implement our "agrarian revolution" to

make this sector one of the pillars of our development. At

the rate things are going, the targeted 6.1% growth rate is reasonable. If this forecast is confirmed, we can look to the future with confidence and attain our objectives much faster.

- **The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps,**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps,**

Besides economic uncertainty, the international situation is marked politically by a number of persisting stalemates and the outbreak of open conflicts which the laudable efforts of the UN Secretary-General and the influence of major powers have failed to resolve or appease. However, things are clear with respect to principles and method. The high-level meeting on the rule of law that was held in New York on the sidelines of the last UN General Assembly, and which Cameroon attended, dwelled on the primacy of international law in conflict resolution as well as the key role of the International Court of Justice and the Security Council.

The prevailing tension in the Middle East between Israel and Palestinians is a good example of a long-standing stalemate, interspersed with bloody clashes, which has defied all settlement attempts. Yet, both protagonists, each claiming to be acting within its rights, need to find the road to peace someday. It is the duty of the international community, particularly the major powers, to help them. To that effect, the latter will have to shove aside their strategic interests and consider only the merits of the case.

The civil war that has been tearing Syria apart for months now, recording tens of thousands of casualties, has

also proven too difficult for successive mediation efforts. How many more deaths will it take to move the international community? Here too, one would be tempted to say it has shown total indifference. Compared to these fratricidal conflicts, the turmoil that the "Arab Spring" countries are going through seems of lesser importance. Yet, the people involved continue to pay dearly for the transition from authoritarian regimes to democracy.

South of the Sahara, examples abound of situations that have continued in violation of international law. Such is the case of Mali where part of the national territory is illegally occupied by armed factions. The same applies to DRC which has been temporarily invaded by forces with outside support and is consequently not under the authority of the central power.

Another hotbed of tension has appeared over the past few weeks in CAR, one of our closest neighbours. Faced with the risk of a civil war, we are appealing for a cessation of hostilities and the start of dialogue without delay

between the government of this brotherly and friendly country and the opposition, in a bid to reach a compromise acceptable to the two parties.

These different examples – and the list is not exhaustive –, which show that international law is violated with impunity, raise a fundamental question:

- Does the United Nations Organization, which is supposed to

ensure compliance with the provisions of the Charter, have the means to accomplish its mission, when such provisions are openly transgressed?

- Or is it limited only to making resolutions and recommendations, sending observer missions or peacekeepers, often in insufficient numbers?

Of course, I am aware that the issues I have raised have been discussed in the Security Council where disagreement between the permanent members made it impossible to consider any decisive action.

But such helplessness in the face of acute crisis situations severely affects the image of the United Nations. It only emphasizes the urgent need for reform of the composition and functioning of the Security Council.

If the provisions of the Charter do not necessarily inspire Security Council decisions, and if the relationship of permanent members with international law is based on unequal expression of power, then one cannot help being worried about the future of international democracy.

Take my word for it, I am not addressing you as an opponent of the United Nations. A former United Nations trust territory, Cameroon knows what it owes that organization. The UN showed its understanding to Cameroon not so long ago during the settlement of the Bakassi conflict. International law was the real winner in the dispute. That is why I believe it can serve as an example.

Within the quite disappointing context that I have described above, we continued to observe or take part in international life.

We attended or were represented at the Summits of ECCAS in Ndjamena, the African Diaspora in Johannesburg; the Rio de Janeiro Conference on Sustainable Development, the Summits of CEMAC in Brazzaville, the African Union in Addis Ababa, the Francophonie in Kinshasa, and of course the United Nations General Assembly. These meetings were an opportunity for us to talk with the leaders of countries with which we have cooperation and friendly ties.

We also received in Yaounde, special envoys of foreign governments wishing to establish partnership ties with Cameroon; but also representatives of major groups willing to invest in certain sectors of our economy. With many of these visitors, we have signed agreements and consider launching joint projects.

So, I may say that Cameroon's diplomacy has not ceased to be at the forefront to make known our positions and defend our interests.

May I avail myself of this opportunity to thank our external partners: governments, international organizations, private groups, who have come forward to participate in our major development projects.

- **The Dean,**
- **Distinguished Members of the Diplomatic Corps,**

Earlier on, I spoke of an uncertain world, because I think it really is. But in concluding, I would like to qualify my remarks somewhat: I also think that the idea of progress is inherent in human nature. Indeed, history shows us that mankind has seen alternating periods of darkness and "light". Undoubtedly, the crisis of the late 2000s, which has been compared to that of the 1930s, will be among the leading ones. But history also teaches us that human affairs are unique in that they often generate their own "rebirth".

This vision, which is perhaps idealistic - some would say utopian - seems well-founded to me. This is why I still believe that, through reason and humanity, world leaders will, sooner or later, find the path of hope and progress.

- **Distinguished Members of the Diplomatic Corps,**

The time has now come for me to thank your Dean heartily for the kind wishes extended to me on your behalf and for his encouragement which I do appreciate.

In return, I would be much obliged if you would extend my best wishes to the high authorities that you represent.

To you, your families and your loved ones, I extend my most sincere wishes for happiness, health and success.

Thank you for your kind attention



Exchanges between the President of the Republic and the International Press as he left the Elysée Palace

Paris, 30th January 2013

On the talk with François Hollande

"I would first like to thank President Hollande for his invitation. We had indeed seen each other in Kinshasa as you mentioned before.

What we should retain is that the Franco-Cameroonian relations are good, I would even say excellent.

But we have to face a number of problems.

Problems with regard to maritime security.

The situation in CAR; a bit of the situation in the CAR.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention that I renewed my support and appreciation to President Hollande for the effective measures he has ordered to stop the jihadists from invading the capital of Mali.

It is a threat against all those who love freedom.

This has saved the sovereignty and territorial integrity of this country.

We also cooperate with countries of CEMAC and ECCAS, as well as with the French troops to stabilise the situation in the Central African Republic.

We talked about all these issues.

Especially as Cameroon is currently conducting a modernization programme, including the construction of roads, motorways, ports, airports, the establishment of agro-industries, etc.

We came to ask French businessmen to come and participate in this great development programme we have launched."

On his longevity as President

"Do I look that tired?

The problem ultimately is elsewhere.

I did not come to power by force.

The Cameroonian people elected me over 20 or 30 other candidates.

So obviously, no one is eternal.

But my concern right now is to accomplish my mandate and fulfil the commitment I made."

On Human Rights in Cameroon

"We talked about all these issues.

We do not have any problems as regards Human Rights.

We live in a country where everyone can express his opinion.

Cameroonians are some of the freest Africans.

How many newspapers do we have?

Twenty, thirty, television channels, radio stations, there is no censorship.

As regards Human Rights, there is no torture, there is no disappearance.

I know some people commit crimes and claim to be political prisoners to make a good impression.

When you have misappropriated funds and the courts condemn you.

What do you want us to do?

We are a country where there are no political prisoners, where there is no torture, people are free.

We have more than 20 political parties and unions that are free."

On the Thierry Michel ATANGANA Case

"I became acquainted with Michel Thierry ATANGANA case in case files, I do not know him personally.

Hence, he can not be a political enemy. He is a man who was sentenced by the courts for misappropriating funds.

And his case is pending.

He appealed and also took the case to the Supreme Court.

We await the decision of the Supreme Court to see what has to be done.

We make sure that the maximum of people are free, but I do not want to go against court decisions."

On Dual Nationality

"We think about it.

I made a double promise: consider dual nationality and grant voting rights to Cameroonians in the Diaspora.

I kept the first promise and I would like to thank my countrymen and women who elected me to almost 80%.

It encourages me to go ahead to the other issue."

On Sub-regional Integration

"Integration can only be collective.

We meet.

We have a common issuing bank.

We are working to ensure free movement of persons and goods.

We build trunk roads.

We are currently building one linking our country to Congo, there is already one connecting us to Gabon.

Chad and the CAR are connected.

We will soon launch an airline.

The sub-regional integration is progressing and we act in harmony as regards the situation in the CAR."

On Homosexuality

"We have not addressed this issue.

Before I became President, the Cameroon's Penal Code, I think its Article 347, already punished this offence.

What I can say now, is that discussions are held, minds can change in one direction or another.

But it remains an offence for the time being.

We have just learned that the people detained and sentenced for homosexuality have been released.

There is a change of mind.

One should not despair."

On the Development of the Banana Industry and the use of Pesticides

"The Government has to face many problems.

I came with the Minister of Economy for more details.

We have not neglected this problem.

It is one of the issues we are trying to solve.

Banana companies increase economic activity, create jobs.

We support all these companies."



Closing Speech at the Cameroon-France Forum

Paris, 31st January 2013

I would like to start by thanking my friend, Minister Michel ROUSSIN for the kind words of welcome and for outlining the agenda of your proceedings here. I would also like to thank the various speakers who have given testimonies of their current or planned activities in Cameroon. I am delighted and convinced that many other companies will follow them.

- **Mr. Michel ROUSSIN, Vice-President of MEDEF International,**
- **Representatives of French and Cameroonian Employers,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**

First of all, I would like to thank MEDEF for contributing to the organization of this meeting and for inviting leading figures from the business world. I am acquainted with some of them because their companies either did business in Cameroon at various times, or continue to do so. I thank you all for coming.

Meetings like this one are important for various reasons. They help to renew some old contacts. They are also an opportunity for those investors who do not know about Cameroon to discover business opportunities and, perhaps for everybody to understand that my country has changed significantly.

A few years ago, I came and met you. I told you that my country, Cameroon, had just attained the Completion Point of the HIPC Initiative after more than a decade of efforts and sacrifices and that there were new prospects for our economy. I also informed you that my country would embark on an extensive investment programme in energy generation, road, port and airport infrastructure.

Lastly, I expressed the wish that the French private sector

would participate in this drive and join my country to contribute to attaining our major economic objectives.

What has happened since then?

I hope that the papers on Cameroon's economic policy presented by the ministers accompanying me, and the discussions they had with you or your representatives, enabled you to assess the progress made by Cameroon. They must have assured you that despite a challenging global context marked by the crisis, Cameroon's economic growth prospects have never been better. Thus, they must have convinced you to come and study possibilities of your participation in our major projects which are charting our course towards becoming an emerging country by 2035.

We have now come to the end of our meeting. From the discussions and debates held, it seems that various French companies are willing to support our efforts to achieve our goals. I am very pleased about that.

I recall that this issue had already been raised in 2010 during the 25th Africa/France Summit. It was then acknowledged that without the involvement of external and notably French partners, it would be difficult for us to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. On the other hand, it was recognized that we need to put in place a more business-friendly environment.

With regard to Cameroon, I must tell you that this environment has improved considerably thanks to the reforms undertaken to promote good governance and combat corruption. We intend to go even further.

Considering repeated requests from investors, Cameroon's

Government and private sector are reflecting on a new and more attractive system of incentives.

The new system will be discussed in February 2013 at the Cameroon Business Forum where the Government and private sector exchange ideas. After the said discussions, the new system will be transformed into a bill, which will be tabled before the National Assembly.

I seize this opportunity to express our appreciation for the French Government's efforts to support our development projects in various domains.

• **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The main themes jointly examined by representatives of French and Cameroonian companies and the ministers in my delegation show that there is no shortage of investment opportunities in many sectors of our economy. Our Growth and Employment Strategy Paper has identified five priority investment areas, namely infrastructure, manufacturing, education, health and governance.

Similarly, our new agricultural policy, which seeks to make Cameroon "Central Africa's breadbasket" requires us to modernize our agriculture, livestock and fisheries.

There are so many sectors where joint ventures can be established between French and Cameroonian SMEs.

I am pleased to note that during your discussions,

you identified possible partnerships between French business people and their Cameroonian counterparts. The Government of my country is ready to support such partnerships at all costs. French investors have a role to play in strengthening our private sector to become the engine of our country's economic growth as Cameroonian authorities desire.

Obviously, the conclusions of your discussions should not remain a dead letter. They should be put into practice. This is what our people expect.

I believe that conditions are favourable. In September 2011, I told my compatriots that the following year, Cameroon would be a "vast construction site". I was not wrong. Dams, roads, ports, and various infrastructures have sprouted up. Obviously, this has been possible thanks to the political stability we enjoy. Against all odds, Cameroon is forging ahead. It is aware that to achieve its objectives, it will need its external partners, be they States or private companies. It also understands that everyone must derive benefit, in a win-win partnership, to use a well-known expression.

In this light, I must hail the special partnership that my country maintains with France and French businesses. The results we have achieved so far are due largely to our French partners.

In this regard, the French Development Agency (AFD) occupies a prime place. It has successfully executed the first

Debt Relief and Development Contract (C2D), prompting the preparation of the second C2D as well as its adoption by other countries.

would also like to highlight the contribution of the numerous French groups I mentioned at the beginning of my presentation. Through their technologies, expertise and know-how, they continue to work towards my country's economic take-off.

Let me reassure them that my Government and I remain at their disposal to provide the best conditions to enable them to reach their full potential.

• **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Is Cameroon a good risk? We believe so and say so. Does Cameroon have a future? We equally believe so and say so. That is why I urge you to seize the opportunities that are available today so as to participate in developing the Cameroon of tomorrow.

Before concluding, I would like to express my satisfaction with those who helped to prepare and conduct this important France-Cameroon economic get-together and to thank them for their excellent work.

Thank you for your kind attention.



Speech by H.E. Paul BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon, at the meeting with the Cameroonian community in France

Paris, 1st fébrury 2013

**The Representative of the Cameroonian community
in France,**

- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**
- **My very dear compatriots,**

Let me start by thanking you for extending your good wishes to me and my wife. For my part, I am once more extending mine to you since those of last 31st December were obviously meant for all Cameroonians, including you.

I also wish to say how touched I was by your enthusiastic and warm welcome during this winter season, upon my arrival in France last Monday.

As you are aware, I am visiting France at the invitation of the President of the French Republic, Mr Francois Hollande. You also know that President Hollande and I held talks on 30th January during which we discussed issues of common interest and agreed to strengthen and consolidate our excellent bilateral cooperation.

We also discussed peace and development issues concerning our continent. We underscored the need for concerted actions in that regard.

On 31th January, I met with the French employers' union within the framework of a forum under the theme "Cameroon-France: for a sustainable economic partnership".

The forum was an opportunity to present to French business people Cameroon's current situation, as well as the investment opportunities in our country and invite them to support us in our vast development programme aimed at making Cameroon an emerging country by 2035.

My impression is that the message was well received and the French employers' union is committed to joining us in the implementation of our major projects.

I wish to seize this opportunity to urge you to be part of this momentum and make your own contribution towards realizing them.

• **My very dear compatriots,**

During my official visit to France in July 2009, I urged members of our Diaspora in France – and through them our compatriots abroad – to use their skills to serve our country. You certainly noted that I repeated this appeal in my swearing-in speech before the National Assembly so as to make it more solemn. I know that among our communities abroad, there are highly skilled and devoted “treasures” that remain untapped. Today, I am once again making this appeal. For, your contribution to the implementation of our Major Accomplishments policy is decisive.

Now is the time for action. I remain convinced that you will be able to mobilize accordingly. In the past, you have been able, when called upon, to demonstrate a high sense of responsibility. Proof of this is your outstanding participation at the 2011 presidential election during which you exercised your voting right. In fact, this was an opportunity to satisfy one of your grievances.

I have taken good note of those you have submitted to me through your Representative during this meeting. Rest assured that I will give them my full attention and will not fail to provide solutions to them in due time.

To conclude, I once again urge you to continue to be excellent ambassadors of Cameroon and to respect the laws and regulations of your host country. That is one way of contributing to our country's good image on French soil.

• **My very dear compatriots,**

As you yourselves say, you are a Diaspora of progress. Personally, I have never doubted it.

Long Live Cameroon!
Thank you for your attention.



President Paul BIYA calls on youths to uphold moral standards

Yaoundé, 10th february 2013

My dear young compatriots,

On the occasion of the National Youth Day, I always make an appraisal of what Government has done for you in the areas of education, youth affairs and civic training, and inform you of our plans for the near future.

The theme chosen for this year's celebration: "Youth: Civic Responsibility and Participation in the Development Process" forms the basis of the message of hope I have for you, especially those of you who are in doubt, are disillusioned and have perhaps lost faith in their future.

I will first of all address the youth who are "under mentorship", namely those attending schools, colleges, high schools, universities or higher education institutes. For them, the State and their parents are making huge sacrifices. The budgets of the ministries concerned are among the country's highest. Thanks to such budgetary allocations, which represent more than 15% of the overall State budget, schools have been built, teachers recruited and free primary education provided. The youth in this group should be aware of the efforts being made for them by the national community, and the resulting obligation to succeed.

Of course, obtaining a certificate is not always a guarantee of access to a job. In this regard however, the State is doing everything possible by absorbing many young graduates into the public service and the security services.

I also want to directly address the youth who are not attending

school, those who have dropped out of the school system too soon and graduates who have not yet found a job and who are losing all hope of ever finding one. In the best case scenario, they are engaged in some informal sector activity, often below their capacities. Others are not so lucky and wallow in idleness or vagrancy, and sometimes drift into delinquency. Those who have a job, be they handcart pushers, loaders, jobbers, motorcycle taxi riders, etc., may bear a grudge against society. I can also understand if they are tempted to be rebellious. But that would not be the right course to follow, for experience shows that this worsens problems without providing any solution.

I will now turn to teachers - many of who are youths by the way - to whom we have entrusted our children to be imparted knowledge which is vital for their integration into society and to be prepared for responsible citizenship. Those who are engaged in what, not so long ago, was regarded as a calling rather than a profession are - I am aware - sometimes discouraged. Salary levels, living conditions, particularly in the rural areas, or the debasement of the teaching profession, largely account for this situation.

It is clear that such problems are not peculiar to Cameroon and it is true that modern society has upset the value system we were used to. However, there is no use hiding behind a supposed "crisis of civilization" to find explanations or excuses. We must take responsibility for our weaknesses to be able to find solutions.

To the first group, namely youth attending school and graduates, I would say that the outlook over the next few years

should be more positive. The recovery of our economy, driven by the implementation of our major projects and our agrarian revolution will inevitably generate new job opportunities. For instance, 200,000 formal sector jobs will be created in the year 2013. This should encourage our youth to study hard and be best placed to face the stiff competition that lies ahead.

Concerning those in the second group who, due to circumstances, are marginalized, I want them to know that I appreciate their courage in accepting the often difficult tasks to support their families. Rather than looking down on them, we should acknowledge their unquestionably useful social role. Take, for instance, the case of motorcycle taxi riders.

I know that this profession is not always highly regarded due to some “black sheep” who have joined its ranks. However, most of the youths involved are simply looking for a means of livelihood. Are we not happy that we can reach difficult locations quickly and cheaply? To avoid unbecoming conduct, there is clearly a need to organize the profession and consider providing training courses covering both the Highway Code, especially the wearing of helmets, and two-wheeler riding techniques.

Right off, I believe the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education, in conjunction with the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training, is best suited to organize such training courses, either through existing structures involved in youth socio-economic empowerment or by establishing other bodies. To begin with, I enjoin these ministries to submit to me proposals in this regard.

What I have just said also applies to the other activities of the informal sector. Definitely, the experience of associations and non-governmental organizations in the domain of informal business mentoring and support should be seriously explored and developed.

To teachers, I want once more to say that I have much esteem for them and I understand them. They play a pivotal role in the training of our youth. That is why it is imperative for them to get back that “sacred fire”. This could be achieved in two ways. Firstly, as I said last year on the same occasion, by starting a broad-based reflection on the future of our educational system, one objective of which should be to rehabilitate the teaching profession. Secondly, by pursuing an open-minded dialogue on teachers’ grievances, including their salaries. The education and training sector, you are aware, is one of my priorities. Things will improve gradually in a genuine partnership between teachers and their supervisory authorities.

It would be paradoxical that in Cameroon, teachers are not given their rightful place whereas the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences is planning to establish a Centre of Excellence in our country to build the capacity of our scientific community. This mark of trust by a prestigious knowledge institution should not only consolidate our own trust in ourselves, but also spur our youth to choose studies in the scientific and technical fields in which they are naturally gifted.

Lastly, I would like to address an issue that is dear to me and to which I have often drawn your attention. Moral standards are falling among our youth. It suffices to read the newspaper titbits to realize this. Well, may be the behaviour of some

youths is to some extent only a reflection of our society. But that is not a good excuse. In fact, even if we succeed in improving the living standards of our population, ensuring the proper functioning of our democratic institutions, and maintaining peace and stability in our country, the peaceful and prosperous society we want to build will be undermined from within if such achievements are not backed by improved public morality.

That is why I urge you, the youth, to adopt morally upright and responsible behaviours. I equally call on your parents to assume their responsibility and to guide you on this path. It cannot be overemphasized that good citizenship is the foundation of every society. Our churches, our temples and our mosques should once more become true schools of good citizenship, rigour and morality.

Before concluding, I would like us to spare a thought for Kouokam Géraldine, a pupil of the Mbanga Evangelical School, who died a few days ago during the launching of the Youth Week.

Dear young compatriots,

You are the future of our Nation. All our hopes are pinned on you. Be worthy of the ambitions we place in you.

Happy Youth Day to you all!
Long Live the Cameroonian youth!
Long Live Cameroon!



Opening Statement by the Head of State at the Joint Press Conference in Ankara

Ankara, March 2013

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first like to express my sincere thanks to President Abdullah GÜL for his invitation and the warm welcome and hospitality the Turkish authorities and the Turkish people reserved me and the delegation accompanying me.

I would also like to emphasize, as the President mentioned earlier, that three years ago, on 16 and 17 March 2010, the President visited me as a demonstration of great friendship.

Finally, I would like to point out that my visit to Turkey today, just as the visit of President GÜL to Cameroon, gives our relationship the strong impulse we wish each other.

After these three years, I can confirm the excellent relations that bind Yaoundé to Ankara.

As you can imagine, these relations have been the focus of the extensive discussions we had and which culminated in the signing of several agreements, as you just saw.

These agreements cover a variety of areas: defence, tourism, audiovisual, diplomatic academies, mining, energy, oils and natural gases.

This means that our cooperation has a promising future. We also examined the international political situation in detail. In this regard, we reaffirmed that a lasting solution to the current problems implies peaceful settlement and negotiation.

In addition, I recognised the action undertaken by Turkey to strengthen its cooperation with Africa, based on the win-win principle.

I also hailed the involvement of Turkey in the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC members.

That being said, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank the Turkish Government and the Turkish people for their assistance to my country during the floods that affected the North and Far North last year.

In my opinion, the bilateral visits at high level, the signing of agreements, as you just witnessed, constitute a basis on which the President of the Republic and I intend to build a strong and lasting relationship between Turkey and Cameroon.

Thank you.



Toast by H.E. Paul BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon, in response to that President Abdullah Güll in Ankara

Ankara, 26th March 2013

- **Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Turkey and Madam,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am very pleased and highly privileged to be in Turkey, this big and beautiful country of yours.

Permit me, Mr President, to extend to you my sincere gratitude for the warm welcome and solicitude accorded my wife, myself and the delegation accompanying me since our arrival in this beautiful city of Ankara

My visit to Turkey comes three years after yours to Yaounde on 16 and 17 March 2010, which was the first ever by a Turkish Head of State to Cameroon. Since then and thanks to our shared determination, relations between our two countries have continued to grow and diversify for the benefit of our two peoples. Proof of this is the exchange of visits, such as those to Turkey by the President of the National Assembly of Cameroon and several members of the Government of Cameroon and, in return, that of Professor Mehmet Gormez, President of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, to Yaounde in December 2012.

Beyond its symbolism, my visit to your country, which is also the first to Turkey by a Cameroonian President, testifies to our mutual commitment to strengthening our friendly and cooperation ties within the framework of a win-win strategic partnership.

• **Mr President of the Republic,**

Turkey, which was already a major power under the Ottoman Empire, has continued to marvel the world. Built with steadfast determination by Mustafa Kemal known as Atatürk, after the abolition of the Sultanate in 1922 and the Caliphate in 1924, the State of Turkey is today a politically stable, economically prosperous and socially peaceful nation. I honour the memory of Atatürk, the eminent patriot who, at the beginning of the last century, courageously laid the groundwork for a secular and modern Turkey. This remarkable work has been consolidated over the years.

In fact, thanks to the ambitious reforms and programmes resolutely undertaken by its leaders since 2002, your country, which ranks as the world's 15th largest economy, is currently one of the major actors of global growth. Such performance is all the more remarkable as it comes at a time when efforts are being made to get the global economy out of crisis. Permit me, therefore, to seize this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations and to say how happy my country is to be counted among the friends and partners of such a great nation.

Cameroon, for its part, is currently pursuing a "Major Accomplishments" Programme, which consists in implementing major projects in the areas of energy, infrastructure, mining, agriculture, etc., and is geared towards making Cameroon an emerging country by 2035.

To that end, my country has substantial advantages and potentials, namely its strategic position in Africa, huge

natural and human resources, political stability, sustainable economic growth, investment-friendly environment and central position in the Central African Sub-region.

To carry through its lofty national plans which has the support of Cameroonians of all social strata, both at home and abroad, Cameroon knows it can count on the commitment of its external partners, notably Turkey whose competence and know-how are commensurate with its needs.

Right away, I would like to seize this opportunity to express the gratitude of the Cameroonian people for the support provided by the Government and people of Turkey to Cameroon's development process.

- **Mr President,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Cameroon and Turkey share common values and principles within international bodies, notably the United Nations Organization and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to which both countries belong.

This common belonging has enabled us to appreciate the vital moderating role played by Turkey, notably in the Syrian crisis, in the tension-ridden near and Middle East region. Your actions at the helm of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation between OIC members has also caught our attention.

Lastly, I would like to underscore the importance of your initiative aimed at institutionalizing a consultation platform between your country and the African continent. This Summit of Partnership and Turkey-Africa Cooperation based on the principle of equality and win-win cooperation is proof of your interest in the African continent. That accounts for Cameroon's active participation since its inception in 2008.

- **Mr President of the Republic,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

While extending my best wishes for the future of Cameroon-Turkey relations, I invite you, Ladies and Gentlemen, to raise your glasses in honour of His Excellency Dr. Abdullah GÜL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Madam, his Wife.

Long live Turkey-Cameroon friendship and cooperation!

Thank you for your kind attention.



Cameroon – Turkey Forum Closing speech of H.E. Paul BIYA, President of the republic of Cameroon

Istanbul, 27th March 2013

- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would, first of all, like to thank those who spoke before me for the kind and friendly words they said about my country.

Today, I am in Turkey, accompanied by a large delegation, at the invitation of the President of the Republic of this great country. We enjoy friendly and cooperation ties with Turkey which have been growing from strength to strength in recent years and my stay in Turkey is very pleasant.

At all levels, I held in-depth discussions with the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister. One of the decisions taken during the discussions was to meet with the Turkish business community.

- **Mr President of the Confederation of Businesspeople and Industrialists of the Republic of Turkey,**
- **Presidents of the Consular Chambers of the Republic of Turkey,**
- **Business Leaders,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure for me to take the floor today, in this magnificent setting, at the end of the Cameroon-Turkey Economic Forum, in which you participated. Allow me to heartily thank you for the interest you have shown in Cameroon, which was obvious throughout your discussions with Members of the Government and the business leaders accompanying me.

• **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you must have noticed during your discussions, Cameroon's economy has in recent years recorded remarkable performance, the complete opposite of the bleakness engendered by the international financial crisis that has been raging since 2008.

The growth rate estimated at 6 per cent this year has been constantly progressing. Compared to the 5.1 per cent growth rate in 2012, it is already almost better by one point. By the way, our objective is that this trend of a higher growth rate should continue in the coming years.

The prospecting and tapping of our oil and natural gas reserves, our emerging mining sector (iron, bauxite, cobalt and nickel), and a rise in domestic demand due to the start up of our major infrastructure projects (roads, bridges, dams, power stations, ports, airports, railways, etc.) will all contribute to the growth rate.

There are genuine opportunities on offer to support the supply of goods and services to various sub-sectors : agriculture, food industries, building and public works, telecommunications, energy, water, transport, to mention only a few.

There has also been improvement in public finance management, due to the combined effect of increasing internal revenue and recurrent public expenditure control, resulting in a budget tradeoff favourable to increased capital expenditure.

I would also like to reiterate the focus on governance, particularly in the economic sphere. This requires that we should sanitize the business environment by fighting corruption and abolishing bottlenecks and constraints which undermine doing business in Cameroon.

Since 2009, the Cameroon Business Forum has effectively been a government venue for dialogue between the public and private sectors. It is an appropriate framework for identifying and monitoring the implementation of reforms aimed at continuously improving the business environment. The reforms undertaken within this context have eased the creation of enterprises, settlement of invoices, tax exemptions, implementation of business contracts, promotion and protection of investments, and the development of cross-border trade.

There is room for Turkish investors in various sectors of Cameroon's economy. Our agro-pastoral and fisheries potential is very rich and varied, on account of the climatic and soil diversity. Arable land, which is about 85 per cent of the country's total surface area, is considerably underused, barely 20 per cent so far.

The full diversity of our agricultural production comprises subsistence and cash crop farming, including banana, cotton, cocoa, coffee, tea, sugarcane, natural rubber, cereals, fruits and vegetables, tubers, etc.

There are surely growth opportunities to develop, in like manner as the comparative advantage the Northern part and North-West of the Country have for cattle rearing in particular.

With its central position between the vast Nigerian market and that of the Central African and Monetary Community (CEMAC), Cameroon is located along a market potential of about 300 million consumers, if we include the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan.

The technical know-how of Turkish investors is also welcome to take full advantage of the 360 km of our maritime border, and the 17 million hectares of exploitable forests which make Cameroon the second forest area in Africa, home to close to 300 exploitable species, of which only about sixty are now exploited.

• **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To develop that potential, Cameroon needs modern farms and food industries. We are sparing no effort so that all those who want to assist us should find investment and export incentives

Similarly, Cameroon which is “Africa in miniature”, has understood that it must develop its enormous tourist potentials.

Interested entrepreneurs will find, in our Growth Sectors Competitiveness Programme, the necessary incentives to invest in sea-side tourism, photo safaris, cultural tourism, mountain hiking, ecotourism and business tourism.

As I said on other occasions, notably during the banquet offered in our honour by my counterpart and friend, the President of the Republic of Turkey, our “Major Accomplishments”

Programme, which revolves around a number of major projects in the energy, infrastructure, mining, and agricultural sectors aim to make Cameroon an emerging country by 2035.

The economic strengths and priorities I have just said we have are enhanced by social peace, political stability and solid institutions that Cameroon and its people strive to preserve.

Thus, Cameroon has always trusted its external partners, including Turkey, which has pride of place in many respects, and has the capacity and competence to meet our needs.

During discussions with the Prime Minister of your great country, I was pleased to note that we both think our trade must reach a floor value of 500 million dollars. I think we will achieve that target.

I would thus like to conclude by saying, Ladies and Gentlemen, that you are welcome to Cameroon, where you will find the hospitality, assistance and security necessary for your business to thrive.

Thank you for your kind attention.



Statement by the Head of State On the occasion of the Release of French Hostages

Yaoundé, 19th April 2013



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Permit me, first of all, to wish you a warm and cordial welcome to Unity Palace.

Of course, I extend my wishes first and foremost to the MOULIN-FOURNIER family which has just gone through very difficult detention conditions.

The Cameroonian people and I feel greatly relieved and very happy that you are free. I hail the presence of Mr. Fabius, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Special Envoy of the President of the French Republic with whom we worked closely to secure the happy outcome which we are celebrating today. I am pleased to recognize the Chief Executive Officer of GDF-Suez whose presence among us guarantees the sustainable continuity of its industrial activity in Cameroon. He has been with us throughout this crisis.

The happy ending to this incident is definitely the result of exemplary cooperation between the French, Nigerian and Cameroonian Governments. Their services showed remarkable efficiency and great discretion.

The main lesson I learn from this incident, as I speak to you, is that the security problems facing our continent will be resolved only through close international cooperation. Obviously, there is an urgent need to strengthen such cooperation.

For my part, I wish to reaffirm my determination to spare no effort to ensure that Cameroon remains a land

of hospitality, tolerance, stability, peace and progress.
To conclude, I would like to congratulate you, members of the MOULIN-FOURNIER family.

You have shown great courage and composure.
You trusted us ... You believed in us ... right to the end... You have been well and truly free for a couple of hours now.

I have been informed that tonight, you are leaving for France. I wish you a safe journey I hope your stay in France will be brief and that in no time you will be returning to Cameroon, our home, your home, to carry on your activities.

Thank you.



Address by the Head of State during the audience granted to Francophone Parliamentarians

Yaoundé, 10th May 2013

**Presidents of Chambers,
Distinguished Heads of Parliamentary Delegations,**

Let me first welcome you to the Unity Palace on the occasion of the 21st Francophone Parliamentary Assembly for the African Region.

I also want to say how pleased and honoured I am to welcome you today.

You represent the Chambers of countries with which Camroon maintains excellent relations, both of friendship and cooperation, as well as harmonious exchanges of all kinds.

Your meeting, according to what the Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon conveyed to me, takes on a double importance.

The African context, prey to all kinds of crises, challenges you in the first place. Cameroon, well aware of the price of peace, of unity and of fraternity, wishes that the crises plaguing some of our countries come to an end.

Cameroon wants the women, men and children ordeal to cease in those countries.

This is not only our hope, but it also reflects our continuous efforts both at bilateral, regional level and at international level. Your closeness to the people of your different countries makes you the perfect interlocutors to act alongside your governments to end the wars and the attendant suffering.

Your meetings are held on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Organisation of African Unity. We wish that your work contributes to this commemoration by sending the Heads of State, who will soon meet in Addis Ababa, the message of the African peoples who aspire to the unity of the continent, who ardently wish that the voice of Africa will be more widely heard in the concert of Nations.

This unity, experience proves it, necessarily implies the strengthening of sub-regional organisations.

Finally, it is your responsibility to prepare the many meetings ahead.

I notably think of the Francophone Parliamentary Assembly, of the Francophone Youth Parliament which is already planned to take place in the coming months in Abidjan.

Presidents of Chambers,
Distinguished Heads of Parliamentary Delegations,

I wish you all the best and success in your work, as well as a pleasant stay in Yaoundé.

Thank you for your attention.



President BIYA opens Summit on maritime security

Yaoundé, 24th june 2013

**Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegation,
The Representative of the United Nations Secretary
General,
The Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union
Commission,
Special Envoys from governments of countries friendly
to the Gulf of Guinea,
The President of the Cameroon Senate,
The President of the Cameroon National Assembly,
Mr Prime Minister,
The President of the Supreme Court of Cameroon,
Your Excellencies, Heads of Diplomatic Mission,
Representatives of International Organizations,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to start by wishing each and every one of you, on my personal behalf and on behalf of the Cameroonian people, a warm welcome and a pleasant stay on Cameroonian soil, on the occasion of the summit on maritime security and safety in the Gulf of Guinea.

It is an honour and a great pleasure for me to welcome so many eminent personalities to Yaounde on this occasion. Let me take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Secretariat General of the United Nations, the African Union Commission, the Secretariat General of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, and the Executive Secretariat of the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC), for their invaluable support in organizing this summit.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Maritime piracy poses a serious threat to the peace and stability of our States. It undermines the people's development and wellbeing.

How can our countries progress if somehow our waters became too dangerous for the free movement of people and goods? How would our towns be safe if pirates flood them with drugs and weapons?

How can we navigate the Gulf of Guinea waters in constant fear of being killed or taken hostage?

That is unacceptable, for the Gulf of Guinea would then cease being a safe bosom on Africa's shapely and curvy body, to become a hellhole.

Our response must be firm if we must avert a decline in the volume of goods that transit through our maritime space, and if we do not want to jeopardize our development and global balance.

Indeed, the ocean is not merely a vast expanse of water; it is also an energy source.

The ocean is not merely a maritime route for goods transit, but also a reservoir of mineral, plant and animal resources. Seas and oceans are wonders for humanity. From time immemorial, they have enabled people to travel, to trade and to generate wealth.

They have enabled people to share, learn about one another and fraternize.

For all these reasons, our maritime space cannot be left in the hands of unscrupulous individuals or organizations whose agenda is to transform it into a predators' haven.

We will not allow these pirates to wreak havoc in our waters or turn them into a lawless place where seafarers would be in danger.

Failing to respond would be tantamount to accepting that at some point, there would be no more maritime travel.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We must assume our responsibilities to stop Africa as a whole and the Gulf of Guinea in particular from falling prey to pirates, once and for all.

We must respond unfailingly and unflaggingly, to restore peace and quiet of yesteryear in our waters.

For my part, I am convinced that there can be no development without peace and security. That is all the more so for a region like ours where national economies still depend largely on the people's capacity to generate wealth; generating wealth also means having full control over our maritime space. Such is the spirit of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2039 of 29 February 2012, which urges our States to convene this joint summit.

Cameroon is all the more elated as the United Nations shares this concern with it.

The Security Council has prepared the roadmap for this summit, which is as follows: devise a regional anti-piracy strategy in cooperation with the African Union and with the support of regional offices of the United Nations Organization's Secretariat General in West and Central Africa.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased to welcome you here, in Yaounde, so that together we can brainstorm and find appropriate solutions to this thorny issue.

I am also very pleased to announce that, in the face of the recurrent and destabilizing nature of maritime piracy, the Gulf of Guinea States have not folded their arms, but rather, have taken several initiatives.

In ECCAS, a sub-regional maritime security body has been set up. This is the "Central Africa Regional Maritime Security Centre". A maritime security funding mechanism has also been established.

In ECOWAS, a maritime strategy is being prepared. There is also a programme aptly christened, "Operation Prosperity", under which Nigerian and Beninese security forces conduct joint patrols on the coasts of Benin.

I seize this opportunity to pay tribute to the action taken by my brother, President BONI YAYI, and hail the remarkable work accomplished by the Cotonou Preparatory Ministerial

Conference, whose conclusions laid the groundwork for the draft regional strategy tabled before us today.

I should also commend various international partners for their capacity building support provided us in the area of maritime security. I am referring in particular to the United States, the People's Republic of China, France, the European Union and Interpol.

In the same vein, I would like to express my satisfaction with Japan's announcement, at TICAD V, that it will support efforts to combat insecurity in Africa.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Gulf of Guinea countries are witnessing a boom, with a strong economic growth, a well-educated élite, a young population aware of the stakes. But our determination, our national and regional capacities, as well as our efforts to eradicate piracy seem inadequate to prevent or effectively stamp out the threat. Therefore, collective effort is a must, for us to avoid a situation where, once eliminated in one country or area of the Gulf of Guinea, this scourge would rear its head in another.

While commending the achievements of various maritime military operations conducted here and there, I must underscore the need for a holistic approach to piracy. This would help us come up with innovative solutions, commensurate with the context and scale of this scourge for States of the region and for the international community.

It is thus crucial that the response developed should be security, governance and development oriented. Failure is not an option to us.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In no distant future, the sea will be the new site for industrialization, when land would have been occupied.

The sea will possibly be the Eldorado where future generations will go and develop new intelligence for humanity.

Definitely, we face a huge challenge, but we cannot and do not want to shy away from it. Together, we decided to meet here to assert our firm determination to muster all our energy against this scourge. In so doing, we would forge, among Gulf of Guinea neighbours, an area of security and prosperity.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Lastly, I would like to say how important it will be for the decisions and recommendations adopted during this summit to be effectively implemented. Our sacrifices will not go in vain. Our efforts will bring peace, stability and prosperity to our countries and serve the interests of our peoples and those of our partners worldwide.

It is with this conviction that I now declare open the summit on maritime security and safety in the Gulf of Guinea. Thank you.



Speech by HE Paul Biya during the Closing of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS, ECOWAS and CGG

Yaoundé, 24th june 2013

- **Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,**
- **Your Excellency, The Representative of the United Nations Secretary**
- **The Representative of the African Union Commission,**
- **Representatives of friendly countries,**
- **Your Excellencies, Heads of Diplomatic Mission and International Organizations,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As host of this Summit, it behoves me to take the floor once more as we conclude our deliberations. I am all the more comfortable with this privilege as it affords me the opportunity to hail the constructive spirit that has prevailed throughout the Yaounde Summit that is drawing to an end. I wish to wholeheartedly commend the different inputs that have helped to clarify our security outlook, thereby ushering in prospects for a greater control over the ocean.

Over the past few hours, a unified, dynamic and innovative Africa has provided concrete evidence of its resolve to make every effort to ensure maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea.

I welcome the spirit of dialogue and the atmosphere of trust that prevailed, as well as the foresightedness that guided our discussions. It could not have been otherwise considering the stake, namely making our ocean a safe and secure place for the movement of people and goods.

In fact, given the rigour and determination we have displayed in formulating the strategies to be adopted, I am fully convinced that our meeting has significantly advanced our efforts to combat piracy.

Given the vigour and resolve manifested by participants, I am confident that this Summit marks the beginning of a solution to our safety and security concerns in our common maritime area.

• **Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Maritime piracy, armed robbery, hostage-taking and illicit acts committed on the high seas, on our shores or mainland, pose a serious threat to our development as well as to peace and stability in the Gulf of Guinea.

It was therefore crucial to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 2039 of 29 February 2012, which recommends the holding of this Summit.

In this regard, I welcome the efforts of the neighbouring States of the Gulf of Guinea and the support provided by our international partners in safeguarding free and safe navigation in our ocean.

I also hail the adoption of a common regional strategy on maritime safety as well as its implementing instruments.

Of course, I am referring to the Declarations of Heads of State and Government of Central and West African States on safety and security in our common maritime area.

This is a decisive step towards fulfilling the expectations of our peoples who aspire to peace and prosperity.

I am also thinking of the Memorandum of Understanding among the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC). In many respects, it is a source of hope for maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea.

Finally, I am referring to the Code of Conduct on the prevention and suppression of acts of piracy, armed robbery against ships and illicit maritime activities in West and Central Africa.

To attain this objective, all stakeholders will be required to fully play their role in the effective implementation of the said instruments. This will be achieved by maintaining solid relations of trust between States and establishing effective mechanisms for operational coordination within the context of Resolution 2039.

This remarkable breakthrough achieved in Yaounde, will contribute to the regionalization of collective security on the Atlantic shores of our countries.

This is all the more necessary as acts of maritime piracy and armed robbery perpetrated in the Gulf of Guinea are gross violations of International Law.

• **Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We should commend ourselves for having made maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea an issue of grave concern for the international community, as evidenced by the presence of many representatives of friendly countries and international organizations.

There is every reason to laud the progress this Summit will help us to achieve in the crusade against such infringements of international law. We must bear in mind that it is our future that is at stake and that our future also depends on the Gulf of Guinea as an ecosystem, a resource and a trade area.

This offers me an opportunity to gladly welcome the establishment of the Interregional Coordination Centre for the pooling of our resources. Our hope is for the said Centre to be capable of designing new concepts, innovative concepts so that we would no longer be taken unawares by the ingenuity of pirates or hostage takers.

In this regard, I would like to express my country's gratitude for its being chosen to host the seat of the Centre.

I would also like to commend the African Union's Initiative to draw up an integrated African maritime strategy by 2050. It is proof that maritime safety and security issues occupy a prime place in the development of our continent.

Support from friendly countries and international organisations will also be essential to that end.

- **Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To conclude, I would like, once again, to express our sincere gratitude to the United Nations Organisation, African Union, ECOWAS, ECCAS, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, delegations and international partners that have graced this Yaounde Summit. I urge them to always stand by us especially as concerns the implementation of the decisions of this Summit.

Lastly, I avail myself of this opportunity to pay tribute to the “people of the sea”, this community, imbued with legendary courage, whose International Day is celebrated precisely on 25 June, which is coincidentally the day of closure of our Summit. I thank you for your kind attention and wish you a safe return to your respective countries.



Interview given by the Head of State to the Press after the vote

Monday, 30th September 2013



Mr President, may we have your first impression of these legislative and municipal elections you postponed several times to allow the introduction of biometry?

It would be a bit premature to express my impression.

As you know, elections are a highpoint in the democratic process, as the sovereign people take this opportunity to choose the people who will represent them within the National Assembly and town councils.

Right now, I have a quite good impression.

The election campaign was conducted quite calmly and with a commitment that I praise.

I just hope this spirit will continue throughout these elections; I wish a great number of Cameroonians will go cast their votes; I finally wish that everyone accepts the verdict of the polls once the results will be known.

Thus, after the senatorial elections, legislative and municipal elections will constitute an important step towards the democratic process.

Mr President, biometry has actually been introduced, just like the Senate.

We can see that ELECAM is effectively doing its job, just as the regulators.

Does this progress reflect the many steps showing that Cameroonian democracy is maturing, in your opinion?

Of course, our democracy is maturing.

The last senatorial elections were organised in a flawless manner.

I deplore that the media did not linger on this topic.

We are making tremendous progress, and after the legislative and the municipal elections, we will establish the Constitutional Council, thus completing the democratic edification of Cameroon.

I invite all Cameroonians to take part in this process.

As you turn over the page of these elections, you can already consider another engagement you announced yourself, namely the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Reunification?

Oh yes, I look forward to this festival.

We are still waiting for the completion of technical adjustments, but I think we will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of our Reunification before the end of the year.

Mr President, a last word on a country with which we maintain friendly relations, the CAR, which is sinking into chaos. We heard your Minister of Foreign Affairs state Cameroon's position at the United Nations. What else can you say that could save the CAR?

What I can say is that Cameroon has contributed to the recovery of the CAR within CEMAC.

On the military side, our soldiers are ready to get down to the job in this country.

We also contacted ECCAS and the UN. We believe the ECCAS, the UN and other countries with which we maintain friendly relations, such as France, can help us improve the situation.

Thank you.



Speech by H.E. Paul BIYA, President of the Republic, on the occasion of the foundation stone laying ceremony of the second bridge over the Wouri river, in Douala,

Douala, 14th November 2013

- **The President of the Senate,**
- **The President of the National Assembly,**
- **H.E. The Ambassador of France to Cameroon,**
- **Distinguished Members of the Diplomatic Corps,**
- **The Governor of the Littoral Region,**
- **The Senior Divisional Officer for Wouri,**
- **The Government Delegate to the Douala City Council,**
- **Honourable Members of Parliament,**
- **Political, traditional and religious authorities,**
- **The elite and population of the Littoral Region,**
- **Distinguished guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are here today in Douala to lay the foundation stone of the second bridge over the Wouri River.

First, let me say that I am very pleased to meet you once more in your city, so industrious, the heartbeat of our country's economy, the meeting place and melting pot of our populations. Permit me to thank the Government Delegate to the Douala City Council for his words of welcome and the kind words he has spoken to me and my wife. I cannot forget to thank the Minister of State, Eso, who found the right words to describe the moments I shared a few decades ago with the notables of this region. I thank him sincerely as well as the traditional leaders of Littoral for the ritual which may appear insignificant, but which is initiatory, and for their gifts.

Naturally, I also thank the dynamic people of the Littoral Region, particularly those of Douala and its environs, for their exceptional warm welcome, for their commitment and loyalty.

I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the people of Douala and, through them, all the people of Cameroon for maintaining calm, serenity and maturity during the recent elections. I cannot forget to thank the personalities that have honoured us with their presence at this ceremony.

• **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The construction of a bridge is always an important task. Indeed, a bridge is a symbol. It helps to link two banks of a river or an arm of the sea, to span a valley or a cliff. In short, it helps to surmount an obstacle to the movement of people and goods. It is a means devised by man to control nature.

But a bridge is also a landmark on a map that identifies with a particular city, like the Tower Bridge in London or the Pont Neuf in Paris. Nowadays, bridges are engineering structures that reflect technological progress like the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco or the Tancarville Bridge over the Seine.

The case in point involves all these aspects, although the immediate objective is to facilitate road and rail traffic between the two banks of the Wouri River. Since the existing bridge can no longer bear the ever-increasing volume of traffic, under the best conditions, it became necessary to build a second bridge. It will help to ease trade between the economic capital and the regions situated in the west of the Wouri River.

Given that 80% of food products intended for Douala cross the Wouri River from West to East, as well as trade in other goods in both directions, of course, it is necessary to develop this passage.

The utilitarian aspect of the construction of this second bridge does not stop us from hoping that it will, like the famous structures I have just mentioned, be an engineering structure whose attractiveness will win it global fame. In this regard, let us put our trust in the architects and the builder, and in the Minister of Public Works. The construction of the second bridge over the Wouri River is part of major infrastructure to facilitate transportation across our country. When supplemented by the upgrading of the east and west entry roads to Douala, crossing our economic metropolis will be easier and faster, thus saving time and enhancing the competitiveness of our companies. In more general terms, this bridge will strengthen Douala's position as the main economic platform of our country and sub-region. Permit me to outline the main, albeit not too technical features as those presented by the Minister of Public Works, of the structure whose foundation stone will be laid today, to give you an idea of its magnitude. The bridge will be more than 800 metres long, with five traffic lanes and two railway lines, representing a right-of-way of about 25 metres. Two kilometres of access roads will link it to the Douala arterial system.

The existing bridge, which is at the end of its life-span will, it must be pointed out, be reserved for pedestrians and two-wheeled vehicles, thereby facilitating their movement. It will therefore be renovated to guarantee the safety of users.

For a long time, the state of our road network has been an impediment to our economy. In recent years, it has been significantly improved. I would like to take this opportunity to confirm that other major road works will soon be launched. These include the first phase of the new Yaounde - Douala

highway, the Kumba–Mamfe road, the continuation of work on the Ring Road, the rehabilitation of two sections of the Garoua-Kousseri road and the second section of the Foumban–Manki road as well as the completion of the Meiganga–Ngaoundere road section. Thus, our cities and main production zones will, in the short and medium term, be linked to the Douala, Limbe and Kribi ports by a modern road network. It is easy to imagine the resultant benefits this will have for our agriculture and industry and, of course, our economy in general. This is only a part of our infrastructure development programme which is vital to our country's modernization. Without going into detail, I will recall the facilities whose construction is in progress or planned in the area of energy, the development of our coastline in Kribi or Limbe, the construction of school and university, health and social housing facilities. Yes, with every passing day, Cameroon is becoming the "vast construction site" I told you about some time ago. Before I conclude, I want to express my gratitude to France, one of our traditional partners whose assistance over the past decades has remained constant and significant.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the French Development Agency which has supported our efforts to build a second bridge over the Wouri River and continues to assist us in various domains within the framework of the Debt Reduction and Development Contract (C2D).

• **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Each bridge, each road, each hospital, each school, each low-cost house is a further step towards modernity and,

ultimately, towards an emerging nation. This goal that we have set ourselves does not concern the Government alone. It is everybody's business. Everybody, in his/her position in our society, can and should contribute to achieving this goal. Together, let us build a bridge towards a better future for our country,
no matter the odds.

Thank you for your kind attention.



**Speech by H.E. Paul BIYA,
President of the Republic on
the occasion of the inauguration
ceremony of the natural gas
processing unit of Ndogpassi–
Douala,**

Douala, 15th November 2013



- The President of the Senate,**
- The President of the National Assembly,**
- The High Commissioner of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,**
- The Prime Minister, Head of Government,**
- Members of Government,**
- Heads of Diplomatic Missions,**
- Representatives of International Organizations,**
- The Governor of the Littoral Region,**
- The Senior Divisional Officer for Wouri,**
- The Government Delegate to the Douala City Council,**
- Honourable Members of Parliament,**
- The General Manager of RODEO Development Limited,**
- Political, traditional and religious authorities,**
- The Elite and population of the Littoral Region,**
- Distinguished guests,**
- Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me begin by thanking the Bassa chiefs, the traditional rulers, for the wonderful gifts they have offered me and my wife. These gifts certainly symbolize their attachment to us and to the Republic.

Here we are in Douala, more precisely in Ndogpassi, to inaugurate the natural gas processing unit constructed by RODEO Development Limited.

Permit me first, to thank the Government Delegate to the Douala City Council for his words of welcome and his kind words addressed to me and my wife yesterday and today.

I would also like to reiterate my appreciation to the people of Douala, our economic capital, for their warm welcome, very warm welcome.

Lastly, I want the General Manager of RODEO Development Limited and his entire team to know that Cameroon fully appreciates the huge investments that have been made under the NDOGPASSI gas field concession, in Douala III Subdivision, which investments I am pleased to salute and discover today.

What our partners have accomplished is designed to maximize the value of the NDOGPASSI natural gas field particularly for the State of Cameroon, represented here by the National Hydrocarbons Corporation (SNH). The putting into production by RODEO of proven natural gas reserves confirmed by drilling additional wells in the NDOGPASSI gas field and the drilling of development wells to boost proven, probable and possible natural gas reserves is fully in line with our policy of exploring and exploiting hydrocarbon deposits.

Valued at more than 100 million US dollars, that is, about 50 billion CFA francs, there is no gainsaying that these investments will produce many positive economic, technological and social effects, to mention just these few, for the benefit of the population and enterprises in the city of Douala.

**•Ladies and Gentlemen,
•Distinguished Guests,**

As I have often said, energy is at the core of any development process. Without it, there can neither be industry nor processing

of raw materials, and hence, there can be no modern economy.

That is why I have put the issue of energy at the centre of our "Major Accomplishments" policy. In this light, the Government has adopted an energy sector development plan, which seeks to significantly boost our energy production, expand the distribution networks and develop renewable energies. The construction of the Lom Pangar, Memve'ele and Mekin dams is proof that this programme is in progress. The development of a hydro-electricity project on the Sanaga River will complement this system. Concerning the development of our gas potential, this is still under way in the Kribi area. The activity of RODEO Development Ltd NDOGPASSI is part and parcel of this process.

At this juncture, I would like to hail the participation of our British partner, Victoria Oil and Gas PLC, which, through its Cameroon subsidiary Rodeo Development Limited, has partnered with us to develop our energy sector. I count on the latter to ensure, in conjunction with the authorities and local residents, an appropriate socio-environmental impact and a reasonable number of job opportunities.

•Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you can see, we are forging ahead. Cautiously but resolutely, in the field of energy, as in other areas, roads, the mining sector but also education and health.

At one time, the infantry was hailed as the queen of battle. Today, the same saying could be paraphrased that energy is

the queen of the battle for development and progress.
Together, we will win this battle.

I now solemnly declare open the NDOGPASSI gas processing unit, in Douala III Subdivision, Wouri Division, Littoral Region.

Thank you for your attention.-





Round table on the fight against trafficking in and Poaching of endangered species Speech by the President of the Republic

Paris, 5th December 2013

Excellencies Heads of State, Government and Delegation,

On behalf of the delegation accompanying me and on my personal behalf, I would like to hail the positive initiative taken by France to organize a special meeting on endangered species, particularly elephants, on the sidelines of the Summit. The threat posed to elephants by heavily armed and well-trained poachers also jeopardizes peace and security in the regions where they operate. To effectively combat them, it is necessary to adopt concerted action. Such are the expectations of this meeting.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, my country suffered repeated assaults by poachers recently. We have not forgotten the sad display of elephants slaughtered at Bouba Ndjidda by these heavily armed and well trained lawless men, as I have said, attracted by ivory. To address this situation which reached its climax in early 2012, I took a number of measures at national level, and others in consultation with neighbouring countries which also suffer from this scourge.

At national level, we have taken vigorous actions in favour of national parks and protected areas in general. Accordingly, we have decided to:

- deploy specialized defence forces in the Bouba Ndjidda area;
- increase the number of eco-guards;
- purchase ultra-light aircraft for aerial surveillance of protected areas;

These measures have helped to curb the phenomenon, sending poachers far away from our borders.

I have also prescribed the implementation of stringent measures, including a five-year contingency plan to secure protected areas, with special emphasis on the protection of elephants, on the one hand, and to equip and manage conservation areas, on the other.

To combat cross-border poaching, we signed the following agreements with neighbouring countries:

- The Sangha Tri-National Cooperation Agreement, for protected areas between Cameroon, CAR and Congo;
- The so-called Tridom Cooperation Agreement, for protected areas between Cameroon, Congo and Gabon, and;
- The Tri-National Anti-Poaching Agreement between Cameroon, CAR and Chad.

Recently, Yaoundé hosted a meeting of the Ministers in charge of Wildlife of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community. It should be noted that this meeting was convened to adopt an Extreme Emergency Anti-poaching Plan (PEXULAB) in the sub-region.

Besides this meeting, we embarked on other cross-border biodiversity conservation activities with Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea. Given the seriousness and importance of this issue, we deem it urgent to include a specific anti-poaching item on the agenda of the next ECCAS meeting.

Excellences Heads of State, Government and Delegation,

To be effective and sustainable, these actions must be backed by the international community. Such support may take several forms, three of which are a priority:

- Building the capacities of anti-poaching frontline States (training, equipment and development of protected areas). The cost of such a programme, for Cameroon, is estimated at EUR 7 000 000;

- Financing Cameroon's National Protected Areas Emergency Securement Plan, estimated at EUR 192 000 000 for the period 2012-2017;

- Closing markets where ivory and its by-products are sold. We hope that today's meeting marks the dawn of collective awareness in Europe and Africa. To this end, it must put forward proposals for concerted action to mobilize international public opinion to support this crusade in the interest of mankind.



Elysée Summit on Peace and Security in Africa

Speech by H.E. Paul BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon, at the Second In Camera Working Session.

Paris, 7th December 2013

I would like to add my voice to all those that have paid tribute to President Mandela here.

Nelson Mandela's death is a great loss to Africa and the world. His life and work will forever be a source of inspiration for future generations.

On behalf of the Cameroonian People and on my personal behalf, I extend my heart-felt condolences to the family of the deceased, to President Zuma and to the entire People of South Africa.

**The President of the French Republic,
Excellencies Heads of State, Government and Delegation,
The Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization,
The current Chair of the African Union,
The President of the European Council,
The President of the European Commission,
The Chair of the African Union Commission,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Taking the floor at this stage of our proceedings, I feel that my speech is coming too late, when all has been said and very well said. And so, my address will basically be to express gratitude and satisfaction.

Let me congratulate and thank you Mr President of the French Republic for the laudable initiative of this Summit on Peace and Security in Africa.

You were right to complement the general theme with a

reflection on Economic Partnership and Development. In fact, since 1967, when Pope Paul VI published the Encyclical “Populorum Progressio”, “Peoples’ Development”, it is accepted that Development is the new name for Peace.

The theme of our discussions is “Peace, Security and Development in Africa”. It is an important theme because it forms an entire agenda by itself. An agenda which is of interest to us all, urging us to act in a joint and concerted manner in the mutual interest of Africa and Europe within the framework of a win-win partnership.

I would also like to express my gratitude and satisfaction for this new opportunity given us the possibility to highlight the threats to Peace posed by poaching, all forms of trafficking, hostage-taking, piracy and climate change. Poverty is another threat to Peace. And the UN Security Council was right to make the fight against poverty a crucial element of Peace building.

To overcome these threats and ensure Peace itself, we need to pool our efforts, energies and resources in order to act as partners.

Lastly, permit me to express our appreciation of the excellent preparation of our proceedings.

The Final Declaration is a perfect illustration of this. In our opinion, it has the edge of addressing all the threats to Peace in Africa and our key concerns, and proposing actions which together we must take as part of the much desired international partnership. Thus, the idea of an International Forum on Peace,

Security and Development in Africa is of interest to us and has our full backing.

Of great concern to us is the situation in the Central African Republic, a neighbouring country to Cameroon. I wish to commend the International Community's mobilization and determination to work with us.

I am thinking of the United Nations Organization whose Security Council has just adopted Resolution S/2013/717 under Chapter 7 of its Charter.

I am also thinking of the commitment of France, its prompt response to appeals from the authorities of the Central African Republic. We appreciate its decision to send troops to back the ECCAS forces already on the ground. By so doing, we will, together, ensure the protection of civilians and restore security and State authority throughout this brotherly country.

Such contribution by the International Community to Peace Keeping in Africa is, of course, not a waiver of the key responsibility of Africans in the search for peace.

Mister President,

Africa is referred to as the continent of the future. We readily add that Africa is a land of growth for France, the European Union and the World.

I would like to conclude my address where I started by thanking the President of the French Republic, Mr François Hollande.

Mr President, you had the brilliant idea of inviting us to this beautiful city of Paris to jointly seek ways of furthering Africa-France partnership. Such partnership presupposes the establishment of peace without which no development action is possible.

Thank you for the commitment from France, the European Union and the United Nations Organization alongside Africa in its quest for peace, security and development.



Head of State's New Year Message to the Nation

Yaoundé, 31st December 2013



My dear compatriots,

The year 2013 gave Cameroonians genuine reasons to feel satisfied, thus paving the way for excellent prospects for the future.

Let me explain.

The senatorial elections of 14 April and the legislative and municipal elections of 30 September took place in a calm and transparent atmosphere. All observers confirmed this fact and I believe that it reflects the maturity of the Cameroonian people who have understood that achieving social progress requires stable institutions and sound policies. The few failings reported were not enough to challenge the validity of the said elections. In this regard, ELECAM deserves to be commended. The enhanced credibility of the legislative and municipal elections sufficiently justified the time it took to introduce biometrics into our electoral system.

I therefore believe that there is every reason for us to be satisfied with this new milestone in our democratic process. The marked increase in the number of women in Parliament and municipal councils is a further sign of progress.

In any case, having put in place the Senate and local and regional authorities, the establishment of the Constitutional Council within a reasonable timeline will complete the institutional structure enshrined in our Constitution.

Our political horizon is now very clear. It is time for serious and objective discussions on issues that are dear to Cameroonians

which, as you know, are purchasing power, employment and living conditions. In other words, such issues constitute what our people legitimately expect from a prosperous and equitable economy and a just and interdependent society.

Of course, this is no revelation to us. In recent decades, we have spared no effort to improve the living conditions of Cameroonians. This has been achieved despite the often tense political context, the economic crisis and threats to peace. Significant progress - perhaps still unevenly shared – has been made.

Let me mention just two examples, namely health and our major projects.

With the resurgence of malaria in its most severe form which affects infants, we have approached international partners for assistance. With their help, we will be able to secure free treatment of this pandemic for under-five children. Furthermore, I am pleased to announce that our country's health map will soon have three additional referral hospitals, namely the Yaounde National Emergency Centre, the Douala Gynaecological, Obstetric and Paediatric Hospital and the Sangmelima Referral Hospital.

Regarding our major projects, those of the first generation are, as you know, either ongoing or in the start-up phase.

Concerning second-generation projects which will be implemented as from 2015, the related studies and financing are currently under negotiation. These include notably power generation, transportation, water supply, road and highway infrastructure as well as industrial and mining facilities.

As you can see, our economy is picking up and some kind of national consensus on the goal of economic emergence is discernible. I believe that we should muster all our energy to champion this cause and summon all our strength to ensure growth. In fact, it seems that our efforts alone, no matter how laudable, will not suffice to make Cameroon an emerging country in 2035.

International financial institutions have sounded this friendly warning to us; and it is in our interest to heed it. In 2013, our growth rate stands at 4.8%, and thus below our forecast of 6.1%. Of course, there is nothing so dramatic about this, yet it clearly indicates that we need to redouble our efforts.

Our growth is currently sustained by buoyant oil revenues and public appropriations. Private investments remain inadequate. We still need to improve the business climate, but this certainly does not spare us from pursuing ongoing structural reforms and further strengthening fiscal discipline.

Definitely, there is still room for improvement in the effectiveness of our economic policies. We have a growth and employment strategy which guides us towards achieving our goals. But, how come then that in some sectors of our economy, State action often seems to lack consistency and clarity? Why is it that in many cases, decision-making delays still constitute a bottleneck in project implementation? Why can't any region of our country achieve a public investment budget execution rate of over 50%? Lastly, one can rightfully question the usefulness of certain project monitoring committees which are unable to take any decisions.

What we need in the coming years is a real contingency plan. With the GESP, we have a trend chart. Now is the time to act.

Our short-term priorities are well known, namely: to correct our growth curve by creating jobs and maintain a high level of performance over several years in a row. To this end, we need to set timelines on our roadmaps and strictly adhere to them.

It will be absolutely imperative that we address the causes of our weaknesses by removing sticking points, areas of dispersion and duplication.

Would we be unable to do what some other countries comparable to ours have done or are doing? I do not think so. We have talented, resourceful, well-trained and enterprising men, women and youth, who are capable of meeting these challenges. We have abundant and diverse natural resources as well as modern and democratic institutions. Our country is peaceful and stable. What then do we lack?

I think we need to improve in two key areas: prioritizing general interest and coordinating our efforts.

Though attached to our communities of origin - which does not prevent us from being fervent patriots whenever national honour is at stake - we are an individualistic people, more concerned with personal success than general interest. Our administration remains susceptible to private interest, which is most often in conflict with national interest. Such trends must not be tolerated in a modern state.

At one stage of implementation or another, most of our major projects involve the skills of various services. I am not sure that there has been effective coordination between them. Clearly, therefore, there is a need for improvement in this regard.

My dear compatriots,

I would now like to draw your attention to a problem that has reached disturbing proportions in recent months – that of insecurity in our country.

Not long ago, we were striving to overcome “ordinary” insecurity. Simply put, we fought minor and organized crime in urban areas and “highway robbers” in remote rural areas.

For some time now, a new form of crime referred to as cross-border crime has reached a worrying scale, particularly in the northern and eastern parts of the country.

This has been brought about by the presence around our borders of armed bands, driven by extremist ideologies and lured by profit. They do not hesitate to cross over to our territory where they commit various atrocities. This phenomenon is not entirely new. However, it has witnessed a fresh upsurge as not long ago there was an attack in Kette Subdivision in the eastern part of our country. Elite units have been deployed to the area to check such incursions.

Over the months, in the Far North, such criminals have kidnapped foreign nationals for ransom. Memories of the abduction of the French family MOULIN-FOURNIER are still fresh. Thanks to our cooperation with the Nigerian authorities and French services, we were able to secure their release. More recently, a

French priest was manhandled and taken to Nigeria. I strongly condemn such unspeakable acts perpetrated in the quest for gain against defenceless persons, including children.

Of course, we are doing our best to prevent and combat such acts, and we will not relent.

I congratulate the élite units ensuring security in these areas and urge the local population to cooperate with them as necessary.

For some time now, terrorism has also become rife at sea. Its motivations are mainly financial, but the methods have not changed. They consist in inspecting ships to loot the contents and kidnapping crew members for ransom. Cameroon has witnessed this in its maritime space.

The phenomenon has expanded to the entire Gulf of Guinea, such that the maritime trade of countries located in this area is being compromised. There was a first response at the Summit on Maritime Security and Safety in the Gulf of Guinea, held in Yaounde last 25 and 26 June.

It is clear that, whether on land or at sea, security, which is first and foremost a national issue, also has a collective and even international dimension. It should not be underestimated. Where it is not guaranteed, anarchy settles in, abuses become rife, economic and social progress grinds to a halt. Examples of such forms of breakdown in societal values, unfortunately, abound in our continent and even in our immediate external vicinity.

While it is true that the affected areas of our territory are very

limited, we remain on the alert. Our security forces on the ground can intervene at any time. This is an opportunity for me to stress that each one of us must be aware of the benefits of living in a stable country where institutions are functioning normally, where the security of people and property is guaranteed, and where every citizen can nurse hopes of a better life.

The current situation in the Central African Republic demonstrates the possible consequences of instability and disorder. Massacre, looting and displacement have become the order of the day in that brotherly and friendly country. It was the duty of, and an honour for, Cameroonian troops to participate in the operations of the multinational force aimed at restoring security and protecting people within the territory of our immediate neighbour.

My dear compatriots,

We are somewhat at a crossroads. Growth is within our reach; our budget is viable; our public debt is sustainable; in short, our economic and financial situation gives us every reason to hope for prosperity.

- It is either we take the easy road by postponing reforms, in which case in 10 or 20 years time we shall have had such a cumulative delay that we can hardly meet the needs of our people.
- Or we set high goals for ourselves, and adopt strict collective discipline, in which case we will embark resolutely on economic emergence.

I suggest that we adopt the latter option, that of sacrifice and

courage.

At a time when we are beginning to see many concrete signs of our democratic, economic and social progress, I invite you to embrace a new spirit of patriotism. I believe we can do a lot better.

I am not asking for your sweat, or blood, or tears; rather, I am merely urging you to commit yourself wholeheartedly to this new phase of our Grand National plan.

At the dawn of this New Year, I would like, on behalf of you all, to address our Indomitable Lions.

Dear Indomitable Lions,

You have qualified for the final phase of the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. We want you to follow in the footsteps of your illustrious predecessors of the glorious campaigns in Spain in 1982 and Italy in 1990. Give us a thrill once again. The Cameroonian people are with you.

To conclude, I am pleased to announce the release of Father Georges Vandenbeusch.

Thanks to the action of our services, backed by Nigerian and French authorities, this priest, so devoted to his mission, has been freed today.

My dear compatriots,

I would now like to extend to you all, my best wishes for good health and happiness in the New Year.

Happy and Prosperous New Year 2014!

Head of State's Biography

His Excellency Paul BIYA was born on February 13, 1933 in Mvoméka'a, Meyomessala Subdivision, Dja-et-Lobo Division, Southern Region of the late Etienne MVONDO ASSAM and Mrs. MVONDO (born Anastasie EYENGA ELLE). President Paul BIYA is the second President of the State of Cameroon. He assumed office on 6 November 1982 following the resignation of President Ahmadou Ahidjo. President Paul BIYA is married and has three children.

1. - Education

June 1948: First School Leaving Certificat (CEPE) (Catholic School of Nden);

1948/1950: St. Tharcissius Pre-seminary, Edea;

1950/1954: Akono Minor Seminary;

June 1953: BEPC

1954/1956: Lycée Général Leclerc

June 1955 : Baccalauréat 1re partie (equivalent of the Advanced Level)

June 1956 : Baccalauréat 2e partie - Philosophy Stream at the Louis-le-Grand State Secondary School in Paris (equivalent of the Advanced Level)

University education

- Paris-Sorbonne University (Faculty of Law);
- Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris;
- Institut des Hautes Études d'Outre Mer.

Diplomas

1960: Bachelor's Degree in Public Law

1961: Diploma of the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris

1962 : Diploma from the Institut des Hautes Études d'Outre-Mer (IHEOM)

1963: Diplôme d'Études Supérieures in Public law.

2. - Professional Career

- Charge de mission (assistant) in the Presidency of the Republic, October 1962;
- Director of Cabinet, Ministry of National education, January 1964;
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Education, July 1965;
- Director of Civil Cabinet (Chief of Staff), Presidency of the Republic, December 1967;
- Secretary General and Director of Civil Cabinet, January 1968;
- Minister of State, Secretary General in the Presidency of the Republic, June 1970;
- Prime Minister, 30th June 1975;
- As Constitutional successor, he becomes President of the Republic after the resignation of Ahmadou Ahidjo on the 6th November 1982; this according to the constitutional amendment instituted by law n° 79/02 of 29th June 1979. On taking the oath of office, he undertook to democratise political life, to bring about social and economic liberalisation, to introduce rigour in management and moralise attitudes, and to reinforce international co-operation.
- Elected President of the Cameroon National Union (CNU): 14 September 1983.
- Elected President of the Republic on 14th January 1984, reelected on the 24th April, 1988, 11th October 1992 (First election with direct universal suffrage with many candidates) : 12th October 1997 and 11th October 2004.

- Elected President of the CPDM, Cameroon Peoples Democratic Party after the CNU was transformed to the CPDM; 24th March 1985 in Bamenda.
- When on the 19th December 1990, Mr Paul BIYA promulgated the law on associations and Political parties. He was in effect restoring multiparty politics in Cameroon (since September 1966, when Cameroon was under the one party system). As of today, over two hundred parties have been legalised. The CPDM obtained an absolute majority during the March 1997 legislative elections and its candidate won the Presidential election of October, 1997.

The President however chose to form a government that included other political parties. Three parties are represented in government; the CPDM, the NUDP and the UPC. 5 parties are present in the National Assembly: The CPDM, NUDP, SDF, UPC and CDU.

3.- Honorary Distinctions

Mr BIYA is a holder of many decorations and honorary distinctions:

- Grand Master of National Orders (The Republic of Cameroon);
- Grand-Cross of the Legion of Honour (The French Republic);
- Great Commander of the Medal of St- George
(The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- Grand-Cross of exceptional class (Federal Republic of Germany);
- Grand Collier of the Order of Ouissam Mohammadi
(The Kingdom of Morocco);
- Great Commander of the Order of Nigeria (Federal Republic of Nigeria);
- Grand-Cross of the National Order of Merit (Republic of

Senegal);

- Great Commander of the Order of Nigeria (Federal Republic of Nigeria);
- Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Maryland (USA);
- Honorary Professor of the University of Beijing (The Peoples Republic of China);
- Peace laureate of CEPS (1988 edition);

4. - Publications

Mr BIYA is the author of a political essay entitled "***Communal Liberalism***".

This work has been translated into English, German and Hebrew.

In it the Head of State announces the advent of multiparty politics (which became effective in 1990) after the temporary period of the one party State. He explains his choice for economic liberalism and private initiative while at the same time advocating national solidarity, equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth, social justice, the development based on inventiveness and peaceful co-existence of various cultures and peoples who make up the nation.

Finally, he reaffirms the need for modernisation of the State and the desire to maintain close cooperation ties with other countries of the world.

5. - Family

His Excellency Paul BIYA is married to Chantal BIYA. He is a father of three children: Franck BIYA, Paul BIYA Junior and Anastasie Brenda BIYA EYENGA.

