



CAMYOSFOP

The Voice of Peace

First Published, July 16, 2001

N° 025

Promoting a Culture of Peace

March, 2018

Publisher: CAMYOSFOP P.O. Box 3873, Warda, Yaounde
Tel: (+237) 677-329-361/676-259-402/242-670-911

Email: camyosfop_p@yahoo.com / camyosfop@camyosfop.org
Website www.camyosfop.org

Editorial

**Distributed Freely: Contact the management team
for any suggestion or publicity: Pg:6**

Youth Development in Cameroon: 52nd Edition of the National Youth Day

Recent discussions around the world have been focused on youth and development. Statistics reveal that Africa constitutes the world youngest population with about 200million people between the ages of 15-24. Gatherings such as the African EU Summit held in Abijan 2017 demonstrate the interest development partner around the world have in carrying the youth along in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In Cameroon where youth below the age of 25 constitute about 60% of the population, there is need to put the youth at the center of every development process.

INSIDE ...

Editorial.....1

Article: La Dangers Du
Nouveau Monde.....2

Quote of the day.....2

Reflection: My Lfe, My
Responsibility.....3

Youth Village: Promoting Youth
Creativity, Socio-Economic
integration.....4

Patriotic Internet Users to
NationBuilding.....4

Youth Multiculturalism and
Peacebuilding as a
Gateway to National
Unity.....5

CAMYOSFOP Leadeur De
L'éducation Des Droits
De L'homme En Milieu
Scolaire.....5

Youth Migration.....6

Concerned about this youthful population, the 11th of February is set aside each year to reflect on the challenges youth face and reflect on how to provide sustainable solutions to these challenges. It starts with the launch of the youth week which is often marked by a series of activities such as, capacity building workshops, musical performances, sport competition, community services, planting of trees and many other activities that are mostly organized by the youth themselves, the Ministry of youth affairs and civic education and the civil society.

The youth parliament, during this period meets in the capital city Yaounde to hold discussions on youth related topics such as violent extremism, social injustice, youth unemployment, and climate change and propose ideas on how to address these challenges.

Each Youth Day is often celebrated under a specific theme designed by targeted stakeholders in collaboration with the Ministry of youth Affaires and Civic Education (MINJEC). Activities and speeches during this event are tailored to match with the theme selected.

This year 2018, the 52nd Edition of the Youth Day was celebrated under the theme: Youth Multiculturalism Peace and National Unity. This theme came at a time when Cameroon is faced with the security threat posed by the current crises in the North West and the South West Regions of Cameroon stemming from cultural differences, which has posed a serious threat to national Unity.

During the various activities organized to mark the celebration in different regions, youths were advised to embrace multiculturalism as a tool for development, be advocates for peace, avoid violent extremism, and work with the

government to preserve national unity.

President Paul Biya also addressed the youth during his traditional speech delivered every eve of the Youth Day. The content of his speech, clearly spelled out governments' efforts in engaging the youth in development processes in Cameroon. In his speech, he called on youth not to yield to the tempting delusion of illegal emigration but to play an active role towards the nation's development agenda of emergence by 2035:

"Today, I renew this call for effort which I made to you barely a year ago on the same occasion. Rather than yielding to the tempting mirage of illegal emigration and undertaking a hazardous and often doomed trip, I invite you to play an active part in our great vision to achieve emergence by 2035."

The President said

He also highlighted some of the steps taken by the government to ensure that youths inherit a better future such as: the creation of three ministries to cater for the needs of

the youth operating on about 15% of the public budget, the creation of schools and universities such as the Faculty of Medicine in Garoua and a Higher Teachers Training College in Bertoua and the distribution of computers to students to facilitate access to information and resources.

He equally promised that universities will be connected to the global university cyberspace. Also Inline with the operationalization of the Special Youth Triennial Program announced in February 2016, he assured the youth that the implementation of the program which focuses on youth access to agriculture, industry, handicrafts, digital economy and innovation will be accelerated in 2018.

Lastly, he urged the youth to massively exercise their civic rights by voting massively during the 2018 elections

**Suwun Rita Beri
Research and Policy Development Officer**

Article:

Le Chef De l'Etat Paul Biya Met En Garde La Jeunesse Face Aux Dangers Du Nouveau Monde

La 52ème fête de la jeunesse a été l'occasion du traditionnel message du chef de l'Etat à la jeunesse, un message à trois tons. Tout d'abord il a été question de faire un bilan sécuritaire que traverse le Cameroun depuis quelques années déjà dont les capacités de nuisance ont considérablement diminuées selon lui, de la plus récente crise Anglophone dont le gouvernement ne lésine sur aucun moyen pour calmer la situation ce qui permettra la Commission pour la Promotion du Bilinguisme et du Multiculturalisme de s'attaquer au problème de fond. Le bilan économique également n'était reluisant, il s'est caractérisé par la chute des cours du pétrole et des matières premières tout ceci a constitué des défis majeurs aux quels le gouvernement a fait face.

Le second ton quant à lui a été une interpellation en ce qui concerne la conduite de l'Etat dans les décennies à venir. Comme par le passé le chef de l'Etat est revenu sur la responsabilité de la jeunesse dans le devenir de la nation dont elle doit être à la hauteur à travers des compétences et une expérience avérées dans divers domaines car les enjeux seront de plus en plus cruciaux.

Le rappel a été fait à la jeunesse Camerounaise sur les défis du « Nouveau Monde » qui se profile à l'horizon ou les règles qui géraient celui-ci auront disparus. Ce « Nouveau Monde » sera plus dur et plus instable que celui-ci. Dans un monde de plus en plus rigoureux et où les pays en développement devraient s'armer des stratégies efficaces capable de faire face aux nouveaux défis et garantir leur intérêts dans ce combat. Les jeunes constituent la fondation

sur et solide qui leur permettra de surmonter ces épreuves.

Dans le troisième ton le chef de l'Etat met en garde contre les méfaits des mirages de l'émigration clandestine, l'interpellation de la jeunesse à s'engager dans les programmes mis à leur disposition. Qu'il s'agisse de la budgétisation des trois départements Ministériels en charge de l'enseignement qui représente 15% de la dépense publique, des infrastructures, des équipements scolaires, de l'offre en enseignants des grands progrès ont été faits. L'enseignement supérieur a été plus accessible ; toutes les 10 régions sont dotées d'une université publique, le programme de Don des Ordinateurs aux étudiants se poursuit, de plus cette année nos universités seront connectées au Cyberspace Universitaire mondial. L'option gouvernementale, orientée vers l'enseignement des métiers et les formations techniques a permis de recenser plus de 473.303 emplois jeunes aux 31 décembre 2017.

Le chef de l'Etat pour finir attire l'attention de la jeunesse sur les dangers de la navigation internet car si internet est une plateforme d'échange sur la vie publique la jeunesse ne doit pas ignorer ses obligations patriotiques et même civiques, qu'au lieu d'être des followers passifs les jeunes devraient capitaliser sur cet instrument moderne pour d'avantage contribuer au rayonnement du Cameroun. C'est par cette note que Monsieur Paul Biya Président de la République clôture son discours.

Serge Nguimba
P.R.O CAMYOSFOP

Quote of the Day

"The working youth is critical to our future. The economy depends on you. With your hard work and efforts at improving your skills, you can make ours one of the most prosperous nations in the world"

Nelson Rolihlabla Mandela

#YouthDay

Reflection

My Life, My Responsibility



Take just a minute and walk to your mirror. Take a good look at yourself and asked if it's worth the struggle and hard times or if you deserve it before you act. You will find the answer in you. When that is done aim high, be patient and value every second by making it up to your deadlines. **You begin to fail in life when you try to be someone else. Be yourself.**

My name is Catalina and this is my story. I was tricked by my son's father into slavery with the hope of getting a better life. One fateful evening the father of my son return home and requested to have a word with me. I walk into the sitting room and as I approached him, he took up his head with a weird look and asked me, Catalina are you not discourage or tied of this kind of dilapidated lifestyle? I did not immediately respond to his answer but I rather asked him questions as I go down on my knees, my husband what is the problem? what do you want us to do? He tells me he is tired of taking care of us single-handedly and has been thinking. I asked, what have you been thinking about?

"Catalina my wife, I have seen an opening for eligible women to travel out of the country and work on a good wage. As a submissive and caring wife, I bought the idea but then asked him, who will take care of our son? HMM! It was like he had everything planned as he responded immediately my parents, his grandparents have accepted to take care of him. Arrangements were already made for my journey to Saudi Arabia and the aim was to get the promised job and better the living standards of my family as I support my husband.

My journey was set for a week as my

husband makes efforts to finalise negotiations with the said smuggler since we did not have enough money to be paying people here and there. I was having sleepless nights concerning the journey but I had to do it at least for my family. Then comes that moment I am supposed to be living I could not stop crying, I was living my family behind. When I got to the roundabout where I was asked to stop, I realise they were other girls with their children there about 27 of us. We were divided into groups and taken to different directions. I thought the journey to Saudi Arabia would be smooth as the person to facilitate my journey indicated but when I got to Libya the visa process took another level.

After some hours the first smuggler said he had called his colleague who is good at handling and facilitating travellers' documents. The second smuggler comes and the two exchanged words and all I could see was the second smuggler giving money to the first smuggler. He collected the money and left. There and then I started feeling we have been sold as I tried to ask what was to happen next, a gang of men surrounded us and demanded we stay quiet and do as there say. I could not even count the men because they were too many. It is at this point that I saw pain and torture as we were all taken to a room where other young girls and children were kept. Many were in pain and some had given up the ghost. No one was spared from this torture. I started crying.

We were told to contact our families and request for money to bail ourselves, I immediately called my husband in tears and pain but he told me to bear the pains, find my way out and continue the journey because he had no such money. I was imprisoned for more than a month undergoing torture and almost lost hope of ever returning home. One fateful night two of the captives escaped, so I said to myself, Catalina! You have to do this not for your husband but for your son and to save others who are deceived and lied to about good jobs in other countries. That evening I started observing and planning my escape God so kind I made it out though stranded on the streets I was so determined and believed I will find a way out.

I spent almost three days in the forest trying to locate the immigration centre in Kuwait, which I finally did. Thinking of what I went through and what

others are facing there, I told the centre they were still others strap in the hold. I described the area and they promised to get everyone out.

I was in three days repatriated to my hometown, as I got home my husband was shocked and wondering if I was the one given that I was looking like a ghost. I had countless sleepless nights as I could still see the picture the pain inflicted on us. During nightfall I would be wandering up and down waiting for a new day but how long would I have continued that way?

One night, I told my husband I wanted us to talk; I did not give him a chance to interrupt my speech. I told him I need his assistance to help me bring the women in our community together in the evening, I want to talk with them on women and girls financial empowerment to help curb the illegal migration of our women and girls. He accepted and told me it will be good to empower the women. We brought the women together and after deliberations, we all agreed each and every woman should learn a trade and be financially independent to add to what our spouses are making to sustain their families

My story is to motivate you to be **"thankful for what you have, where you are and explore the opportunities you have around you."** It is true that life is a risk, but take a risk that is worth it, a risk to win and to learn from, it will help you to lead and guide others.



Lukong Brenda Berriliy
Communications Officer CAMYOSFOP

Youth Village: Promoting Youth Creativity, Socio-Economic Integration



The first edition of the Youth Village unwrapped on the 1st of February 2018 at the National Museum in Yaounde; Centre Region, initiated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education in Cameroon. This inventiveness aimed at bringing the Cameroonian youths together to exchange ideas, share experiences, discover their potentials and learn new things.

It was a festive, communal and participative event. The Ministry of Public Health during the event, held educative talks calling for a behavioural change in relation to certain dangerous practices common amongst youths. According to local realities, the aforementioned was a good place to develop a maximum of awareness-raising, exchange, information and training for all segments of young people.

The Youth village, during the youth week housed activities in the area of entrepreneurship open for youths and social-cultural activities.

The best projects carried by youths amongst other activities were to be selected for possible

funding. Worthy of note, MINJEC has equally been funding projects under the supervision of a 3 year Special Plan which has financed over 3800 youth projects in Cameroon aside from those during the Youth village. This encouraged youths to be creative and self-employed.



Young People were informed on the different components of the PTS-JEUNES, socio-economic integration opportunities offered by governmental and non-governmental structures.

Government towards encouraging youth development should be greatly applauded as it was a forum for youths to expressed their creative potentials and to showcase talents in various domains. The calendar of activities contained in the National Harmonized Program of the 52nd edition of the Youth Day celebrations included, the gala of excellence, isports amongst others.

It is a pity that such event for youth development was organized just for a short time frame. None the less, the occasion equally gave room for Youth sensitization and capacity building in view of contributing to the attainment of sustainable development goals.

Francisca Amaa Tamako
Data Analyst CAMYOSFOP

This initiative by

Patriotic Internet Users to Nation Building

Be patriotic Internet users working for Cameroon's development and influence, and not passive followers or naive relays for staunch critics of the Republic" The head of state President Paul Biya addressed youths to warrant responsible citizenship even in the social media.

President Paul Biya called the generation now the "android generation" which simply means, youth should use the internet for self-development and for the development of Cameroon. In his 2018 speech, the president warned that the "new world" which is unfolding before our very own eyes could be tougher and more unstable than the old one.

As the world is gradually being reduced to a global village, the use of social media and IT, especially among youths, has taken a new dimension. He called on the youth to be responsible internet users:

"In this regard, your favorite platform of expression is the social media. Whenever at a click, you access these communication highways that give you global visibility, you must bear in mind that you are not exempted from fulfilling civic and moral obligations, such as respect for others and your country's institutions. Be patriotic Internet users working for Cameroon's development and influence, and not passive followers or naive relays for staunch critics of the Republic" The President



advised.

According to the government of Cameroon, youths were assured that from this year on, the universities will be connected to the global university cyberspace.

Focusing on the social media and youth involvement in communication through such platforms, President Paul Biya advised and directed youth to several vital links to focus their attention on the entire nation and how useful such online communication could be both to the youth and Cameroon.

The social media platforms is use by many people to raise awareness on social ills in the society, drug use, violence and discrimination amongst others. Nowadays, the internet plays a major role promoting peace; Human Rights, and education.

Today, the social media and online communication have adverse effects on social skills and communication among youth. Youth are becoming addicted to the internet despite the desire to stop.

However, balancing risks with opportunities is the key to minimizing the potential hazards that accompany further exploitation of the Internet.

Fonbanla Gaelle Dufe
Research Assistant CAMYOSFOP

Youth Multiculturalism and Peacebuilding as a Gateway to National Unity

« Youth, Multiculturalism,
Peace and National Unity »

In the Central African Nation of Cameroon, the youth day is commemorated to encourage young people to take positive and realistic actions for sustainable development.

is not certain as to whether the impact of this year's theme of the Youth Day is felt on the ground by youths.

While addressing youths on the occasion of the National Youth Day 2018, the Head of state, stated that the situation in the South-West and North-West Regions is stabilizing, and the Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism should hence forth be able to look into the crux of the problem.

If the country has to develop; it's in the hands of the youth depending on their creativity and productivity, given that they are the engine of growth. If peace is absent, there will be no meaningful development.

Adding to the concept of multiculturalism, the creation and promotion of bilingualism and multiculturalism according to the Prime Minister Philemon Yang, during his speech in April 2017, it is considered a memorable day in Cameroon's history of Nation Building as more is expected from the commission.

Lukong Brenda Berriliy
Communications Officer CAMYOSFOP

CAMYOSFOP Leadeur De L'éducation Des Droits De L'homme En Milieu Scolaire



L'organisation d'un tel événement a nécessité la tenue de plusieurs réunions préparatoires quatre au total ou il a été questions de discuter sur les critères de sélections, de la méthodologie, du budget et du programme de la cérémonie officielle proprement dite.

La célébration de la 69ème édition de la journée des Droits de l'homme initialement

prévu le 10 décembre 2017 s'est vu repoussé le 11 du même mois pour cause de weekend. Les festivités marquant cette célébration se sont étendues sur trois jours, du 7 au 10 avec pour pic final le 11 décembre 2017. À cet effet des journées portes ouvertes des organisations de promotion des Droits de l'homme et une foire Nationale de l'emploi des personnes Handicapées au Cameroun ont été organisés à l'esplanade du musée National, journées portes ouvertes aux quelles CAMYOSFOP a pris une part active tantôt comme exposant et comme consultant grâce à son expertise dans l'éducation des droits de l'homme en milieu scolaire.

La cérémonie solennelle quant à elle était ponctuée par les discours de circonstances à l'ouverture dans un premier temps de la

représentante du Président de la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés qui a tout en remerciant les invités a rappeler combien de fois la CNDHL est attaché à l'atteinte de ses objectifs et ses mission qui sont de veiller au respect scrupuleux des Droits de l'homme sur toute l'étendue du territoire National. Ensuite a été le tour du représentants du centre sous régional des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie en Afrique centrale d'ouvrir la cérémonie par la lecture du discours du secrétaire des nations Unies.

La seconde étape de la cérémonie était véritablement le clou de la manifestation, car elle était consacrée à la remise des prix aux gagnants du « PRIX DE L'EXCELLENCE 2017 », trois au total. Le premier prix a été décerné à l'élève BESONG ESUA SUZZY KELLY de Holly Infant School, le deuxième à SEKE BIDIAS du collège de LA Retraite, le troisième à NZUFFO SOGANG VICKY PERELLE du Lycée de la Cité Verte toutes des filles il faut le préciser, les prix étaient constitués d'un trophée et d'une enveloppe comme encouragement.

Nous avons ensuite assisté à la lecture des deux premières rédactions en Anglais et en français. C'est par cette phase que prendront fin les célébrations de la 69ème édition de la journée internationale des Droits de l'Homme 2017.

Serge Nguimba
P.R.O CAMYOSFOP

En date du 02 novembre de l'An 2017 s'est décider de commun accord entre la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme et des libertés (CNDHL) et la Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP), l'organisation d'une compétition scolaire intitulée le Prix de l'Excellence qui est fait un concours de rédaction qui met aux prises des élèves des établissements scolaires de la ville de Yaoundé la 4ème du genre. 158 candidats concouraient au tour de trois thèmes:

- * **Quelle est l'importance de l'école?**
- * **Comment rendre plus accessible les soins de santé au Cameroun?**
- * **Peut-on s'organiser et se rassembler sans mettre en péril la paix ?**

Youth Migration: Moving Towards Improving Living Conditions



According to statistics provided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Cameroonian migrants in European countries numbered 57,050 in 2005. There is a need to raise awareness about the situation of these young people as well as the role of youth-led organizations in addressing migration issues.

This movement has great repercussion on the country's economy and on the labour market in Cameroon, even though the transfer of funds by Cameroonian emigrants helps fight poverty.

Nevertheless, the government of Cameroon in collaboration with the country's embassies, justice and peace commission have facilitated the return of many youths from countries like Libya, Lebanon and Kuwait. The youth are called to be wary of opportunities advertised by strangers or un-registered agencies.

It is worth noting, however, that Cameroon has an inter-ministerial working group on migration and development issues. Since the migration issue is cross-cutting, this committee brings together various Cameroonian ministries. Each ministry is responsible for identifying themes relating to migration and sending its contribution to the Ministry of External Relations, which is responsible for formulating the new Cameroonian migration policy framework.



However, the Cameroonian system suffers from the fact that ministerial meetings and inter-ministerial sessions are rarely convened.

Lukong Brenda Berriliy
Communications Officer CAMYOSFOP

Management Team

Coordinator:
Ngalim Eugene NYUYDINE

Editor-in-chief:
Lukong Brenda BERRILIY

Editors:
Serge Nguimba, Suwun Rita Beri, Christian Shofola,
Jato Jennett Kopceip, Fonbanla Gaelle Dufe, Amaa Francisca

Contactst:

Publisher: CAMYOSFOP P.O. Box 3873, Warda, Yaounde
Email: camyosfop_p@yahoo.com / camyosfop@camyosfop.org
Tel: (+237) 677-329-361/ 676-259-402/242-670-911
Website: www.camyosfop.org