

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Paix-Travail-Patrie

ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE

CABINET DU PRESIDENT

9^{EME} LEGISLATURE

ANNEE LEGISLATIVE 2017

2^{EME} SESSION ORDINAIRE

JUIN 2017

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace-Work-Fatherland

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

9TH LEGISLATIVE PERIOD

2017 LEGISLATIVE YEAR

2ND ORDINARY SESSION

JUNE 2017

CLOSING SPEECH

**BY RT HON. CAVAYE YEGUIE DJIBRIL,
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Yaounde, 7 July 2017

- **The President of the Senate;**
- **The Prime Minister, Head of Government;**
- **The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;**
- **The Attorney General of the Supreme Court;**
- **Members of Government;**
- **Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and Representatives of International Organisations;**
- **Honourable Members of the National Assembly;**
- **Distinguished members of the Civil Society;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Our proceedings which started on 8 June are winding up today. In terms of balance sheet and without any exaggeration, we can state that our discussions were very profound, intense and sustained by the highly appreciable insight of the elected representatives. It could not have been otherwise, given the importance of the bills that were tabled before us for scrutiny and equally given the current stakes.

On the whole, nine (9) bills were adopted during the session now ending. Mention can be made, among others, of : the bill to lay down the Code of Military Justice, the bill to amend and supplement the organization and functioning of the Supreme Court, the bill to lay down the powers, organization and

functioning of the Economic and Social Council of Cameroon, as well as those to lay down the general rules and regulations governing public establishments and public corporations.

Pending their enactment by the President of the Republic, we already note in general that the new laws have brought numerous innovations in the sectors concerned as they contribute to the improvement of their functioning as well as align them in various ways. The operationalization of Cameroon's international commitments is equally seen in some of these bills tabled before us for consideration.

With regard especially to the new Code of Military Justice, this instrument should be situated within the dynamics of modernization of the defence forces initiated since 2001 by the Head of State, Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. As noticeable changes were introduced to the Criminal Procedure Code and the Penal Code, it was therefore good that the military justice should also fit itself in the new context. Better still, that it should be rid of the tawdry rags of the colonial period and clad with purely national outfit with regard to certain aspects. In a nutshell, this bill is timely as it unprecedentedly reminds us, just like a contemporary French national, that discipline is and remains the driving force of an army. It equally reminds us that Cameroon is a State of law, and that certain

excesses or offences that we deplored in the past shall henceforth be sanctioned severely.

One cannot hesitate to salute the advent of the Common Law Division at the Supreme Court. Beyond the technical arguments underpinning this innovation with regard to the functioning of our legal system, a notable progress should equally be seen here in our quest to live together in harmony. This innovation is also a factor that consolidates Cameroon's multiculturalism through concrete acts.

Our wish is to see this move continue so that the ongoing process to harmonize Cameroon's laws should be a total success so that all persons liable to trial will identify themselves with the laws irrespective of their allegiance and origins.

I therefore seize this opportunity to commend the actions of the Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism. The least we can say is that the Musonge Commission has taken the bull by the horns. I enjoin all Members of the National Assembly, elected representatives of the 9th Legislative Period and irrespective of their political leaning, to lend their total support to this Commission set up by the Head of State in person.

To conclude this chapter devoted to laws, we appreciate at their true worth the instruments that will henceforth govern public establishments and public corporations. Our wish is that these future structures should become veritable vehicles for the promotion of employment and the generation of wealth. We are glad to note that the said instruments have penal provisions that target managers who embezzle corporate assets. We also wish that these provisions be applied with strictest rigour when necessary. Embezzlement and other ills such as corruption have continued to undermine our development efforts. They are a threat and even an impediment to our will to have Cameroon emerged by 2035.

- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Apart from scrutinizing and voting bills, other activities were carried out within the framework of the session now ending. Parliamentary oversight over government action was exercised via verbal questions in plenary sittings. The Audit Bench of the Supreme Court and the Finance and Budget Committee of the National Assembly held their 16th Exchange Forum on 4 July 2017. The meeting enabled both parties to examine the progress report of the Audit Bench.

On a purely different score, and as it has been the practice each year and for 19 years running, the National Assembly held

a Special Session of Children's Parliament on 16 June 2017. It was equally an occasion marked by the commemoration of the 27th edition of the Day of the African Child, instituted by the Organization of African Unity in remembrance of the massacre of children in SOWETO on 16 June 1976.

The national theme adopted for this event was: **“Culture of the patriotic spirit and mastery of the rush by young people towards Information and Communication Technologies: a permanent challenge and a collective responsibility”**.

We express our satisfaction with the perfect organization of this 19th Special Session of Children's Parliament as well as with the innovations that marked the event. We equally express our satisfaction with the theme I have just mentioned. It is a topical issue at the time when the phenomenon of social networks is gaining momentum, a victim itself of what can be called “cyber deviances”. Let us fully understanding ourselves; we acknowledge the relevance of this modern day tool. Backed by the digital world, social networks constitute an exchange and information sharing platform as well as a knowledge platform. They are now at the centre of human relation. But what we doubt is the use that some people make of these networks. Indeed, besides the cybercrime which is developing dangerously, the drift in the dissemination of information via the

internet has continued to increase. There is manipulation, disinformation, intoxication, defamation. The ravages are therefore legion. The most exposed and fragile target is certainly our youth. This means that as Cameroon fully enters this era of digital economy, the theme of the 19th Special Session of Children's Parliament constitutes a moral and patriotic rearmament for this youth.

But we have to go beyond Children's Parliament to make this rearmament permanent in our families, schools and universities as well as in specialized centres. That is a collective responsibility. In this regard, we wish to commend Government's efforts through the ministry in charge of posts and telecommunications. The strategic plan put in place by this ministry helps not only to popularize the use of ICTs, but also to reinforce digital trust. Our wish is to see this strategy develop with focus on vigilance and innovation.

The last part of our balance sheet is devoted to activities of parliamentary networks.

- REPAR, which is in charge of sustainable management of forest ecosystems of Central Africa, held a special plenary sitting on 4 and 5 July devoted to the economic revitalization of Cameroon's biodiversity;

- REPATIC, which is in charge of telecommunications and ICTs, on its part, organized a seminar on 5 July to reconstitute the audit of the legal and institutional framework of ICTs in Cameroon;
- Oxygen, the anti-tobacco network, organized an advocacy day still on 5 July with the aim of advocating an anti-tobacco legislation in Cameroon;
- the Network for the Promotion of Sports recently received two prominent scientists from the Cornell University of the United States. The good news which filtered at the end of their visit is that the National Assembly of Cameroon will, in the upcoming 18 months, host a fitness centre under the supervision of the Cornell University with the technical expertise of the Yaounde National Institute of Youth and Sports (INJS);
- another good news and not the least on the international scene is the election of our colleague, Hon. Pauline NDOUMOU, Questor at the National Assembly and President of the Parliamentarians' Network on the World Bank and the IMF, to the Board of Governors of the two Washington-based institutions. Another diplomatic victory for Cameroon. **Congratulations Dear Colleague.**

This affords me an opportunity to personally extend my sincere and warm congratulations to my colleague Parliamentarians

who are promoting the various networks. They have, with the passage of time, become veritable support to public authorities, to the radiance of Cameroon on the international scene and to capacity building and force of proposals of parliamentarians. I encourage you, Presidents or Coordinators of the Networks, to go ahead.

Still on the international scene, mention should be made of the mission undertaken to Tokyo (Japan) by Hon. FOTSO CHEBOU KAMDEM Fostine during the 27th Global Summit of Women.

- **Honourable Colleagues,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Permit me to announce with pleasure that your humble servant had the honour to receive a medical team from the MICHAEL AND MAURITIA POTCHA FOUNDATION from 26 to 30 June 2017. The mission was within the framework of the humanitarian campaign that this US-based foundation has been carrying out in the 10 regions of Cameroon. After the South-West, North-West, West, Littoral Regions and part of the southern region, the team visited the northern region.

Composed of 134 medical doctors carrying 12 tons of drugs and medical equipment, all amounting to **one billion 800 million CFA francs**, the mission received and treated 800 patients and successfully operated 200 other patients. The President of the Republic, **His Excellency PAUL BIYA** personally supported the team with transport during its stay in Cameroon. I wish not only to convey the deep gratitude of the 134 medical doctors to him but also to tell him how sensitive the people of the northern region are to this high mark of attention.

The team will undertake similar visits to the South, East and Centre Regions in the days ahead. On behalf of the compatriots we represent here, I wish to express our profound gratitude to MICHAEL AND MAURITIA POTCHA FOUNDATION.

- Honourable Members of the National Assembly,

As we prepare to return to our respective constituencies, I urge you to remain vigilant more than ever. The war against terrorism and insecurity in general is not yet over. On the contrary, the spiral of violence and terror has taken another form that is more insidious. The series of recent suicide attacks in the Far North Region amply substantiate this view. This situation warrants us to continue with the sensitization carried out so far.

We equally have to make ensure that we always collaborate and support the vigilante committees, administrative authorities as well as our defence and security forces.

I wish you all a safe journey back to your respective constituencies and declare closed the proceedings of the second ordinary session of our House for the 2017 legislative year.

- **Long live the National Assembly,**
- **Long Live Cameroon, and its illustrious leader, His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic, Head of State.**

Thank you!