

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace – Work – Fatherland

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

9TH LEGISLATIVE PERIOD

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(June 2016)

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Paix – Travail – Patrie

ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE

CABINET DU PRESIDENT

9ème LEGISLATURE

ANNEE LEGISLATIVE 2016

2ème SESSION ORDINAIRE
(Juin 2016)

CLOSING SPEECH

BY

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

Yaounde, 1 July 2016

- **Mr President of the Senate ;**
- **Mr Prime Minister, Head of Government;**
- **The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;**
- **The Procureur General of the Supreme Court;**
- **Members of Government;**
- **Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and Representatives of International Organizations;**
- **Honourable Members of the National Assembly and Dear Colleagues;**
- **Distinguished Members of the Civil Society;**
- **Distinguished Guests;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

We can say mission accomplished as we prepare to leave. In actual fact, the proceedings of the second ordinary session of the National Assembly for the 2016 legislative year, which opened on 2 June, are ending today.

In terms of balance sheet, our House received four bills which were all scrutinized and adopted. I am delighted to point out and commend the enthusiasm aroused among the people by the bills for instance, the bill relating to the Penal Code. Such great enthusiasm undoubtedly reflects the continuously growing interest that citizens now attach to parliamentary work. Moreover, it is an indication of the will of compatriots to contribute at their respective levels to the consolidation of the rule of law in Cameroon.

In this connection, and as if to first put its own house in order, the judiciary power has, for some time now, embarked on the modernization of its apparatus, a process already marked by a series of new instruments including the important law relating to the Criminal Procedure Code enacted in 2005. This will for modernization has recorded some progress with the law relating to the Penal Code. Pending enactment by the President of the Republic, I personally wish to hail the innovations in the Code, especially those relating to alternative sentences to imprisonment. In addition to

that, the punishment of behaviours contrary to public order, seems to me a laudable action in favour of moral health.

- **Your Excellencies,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Another bill the scope of which I am delighted to mention here is that authorizing the President of the Republic to ratify the Paris Agreement on Climate Change adopted in 2015 and signed in New York on 22 April 2016. Cameroon, State party under the personal leadership of the President of the Republic, His Excellency PAUL BIYA, has taken commitments in this regard. In actual fact, our country is bent on reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 32% and taking measures to adapt to the negative effects of climate change.

- **Honour Members of the National Assembly,**
- **Dear Colleagues,**

We were stakeholders in the Paris Agreement at various levels and on several scores, especially as parliamentarians. Hence, owing to these commitments, our involvement must be deep and visible on the field. Words will never be sufficient for me to express myself, Representatives of the sovereign people, who are concerned with the welfare of the people, it is time for us to act. While waiting for Cameroon to benefit from the measures envisaged by the Paris Agreement, we have to devise endogenous strategies in our respective constituencies. Plant or ask for trees to be planted is also a suitable measure to combat the negative effects of climate change. Without undermining your multifarious actions in favour of the people, I would not stop urging you to use part of your parliamentary micro-project funds to finance such strategies. Just as I will always remind you of your important role of informing and sensitizing our populations so that they can understand and appropriate the stakes, **all the stakes**, in the threat associated with climate change.

As for the leaders of the various parliamentary networks dealing with environmental issues, their actions should not be limited to organizing meetings, seminars and workshops. Obviously, in so doing, they constitute a think tank. But they should also be pedagogues and actors demonstrating through examples on the field.

On the whole and in order for our presence at the Paris Conference not to be considered by the public as a pleasure trip, we need to multiply treasures of ingenuity to support national governments in the global crusade against the repercussions of climate change.

The last two bills focused on undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities, and the ratification by the President of the Republic of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cameroon and the Government of the Italian Republic relating to reciprocal exemption from the obligation for holders of diplomatic or service passports to obtain short-term visas.

The first law, which has to do with the new organization of the financial market in Cameroon, has come to put an end to the amateurism that had so far characterized this sector. It would lead to a better mobilization of huge savings for households. The People's Representatives request the Minister in charge of finance to ensure strict compliance with the norms now established. The safeguard of this law through an efficient management and safety of subscribers' resources should be paramount. Any contravention of the provisions of this law should be severely sanctioned.

Lastly, the People's Representatives through my voice hail the exemption from the obligation to obtain short-term visas henceforth existing between Italy and Cameroon. This is a further demonstration of the great friendship and solid ties existing between Rome and Yaounde. This act certainly ushers in new prospects for a more fruitful co-operation between the two parties.

- **Your Excellencies,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Still in line with the balance sheet of this session, I wish here to express to Mr Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development how satisfied the People's Representatives are with the presentation you made to the entire House on the stakes and fallouts of the International Conference on Investing in Cameroon held recently in Yaounde.

On behalf of all the Members of the National Assembly, I wish to deferentially praise this initiative of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Paul BIYA. This demonstrates the Head of State's will to resolutely lead Cameroon towards emergence. It means we have to capitalize on the results of the forum. On its part, the National Assembly will, where necessary, ensure the effective implementation of the resolutions of the Conference by the entire Government.

In order to render a comprehensive account, mention should be made here of some extra-parliamentary activities organized during the session now ending,

particularly the "open-door day" organized by the Parliamentary Network for Gender Promotion. The relevant activities took place this morning in this plenary hall.

Earlier on, at the behest of "Espérance Jeunesse" Network, Government and Parliamentarians exchanged views on the Special Plan for Youths which was launched on 10 February 2016 by the President of the Republic. It was a befitting occasion for Parliamentarians to share information and appropriate that important plan to support youths in their quest for a better future.

Lastly, in keep with its tradition, our House was once more present on the international scene, illustrating the dynamism of our parliamentary diplomacy.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude my speech, I would like to dwell on the critical situation in which our compatriots, specifically

poultry farmers and stakeholders in the poultry sector now fine themselves. The bird flu epidemic that broke out some time ago has come to destabilize one of the vibrant sectors of our country's economy.

The effects of the bird flu epidemic have been catastrophic for both producers and consumers of chicken. While looking up to the appropriate authorities for a definite statement on its adverse effects, the Members of the National Assembly all join me to express profound sympathy to all our compatriots who are victims of the epidemic. My Honourable Colleagues and I hereby express our heartfelt sympathy to them and do encourage to press on.

Meanwhile, to enable our fellow citizens to ward off any unhealthy practice during the outbreak of any epidemic in future, I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to remind Government of the need to adopt a communication strategy that is both coherent and realistic and adapted to the circumstances. This is

because the uncertainty that prevails under such circumstances is as precarious as the epidemic itself.

In addition to the above need, it is imperative to increase bio-safety measures and to carry out proper checks to ensure that even the eggs are in no way unfit for consumption. Lastly, it is our ardent wish that adequate assurances would soon be given to poultry farmers on how they are going to cope in the aftermath of the bird flu epidemic. Which attendant measures will be taken by Government? In a nutshell, there is a pressing need to replenish the livestock that had been decimated. We ardently wish to see our food served with chicken again.

Another form of disaster increasingly looming on Cameroonians nowadays is the collapse of buildings under construction. **The People's Representatives are sounding the alarm.** The construction of a story building should never be done haphazardly. It should be done with the expertise of complementary stakeholders such as the real estate developer, the architect, the real

estate company and specialized services in charge of control at governmental and municipal levels.

I am fully convinced that the collapse of buildings in recent times is the result of laxity at all levels as well as corruption that is rife in the sector. It is therefore necessary for those concerned to fully play their role. What stops authorities from carrying out quality controls of the construction work and for banking institutions which in many cases provide the funds used in constructing the buildings from carrying out impromptu inspections?

The conscience of any of the stakeholders concerned would convict him for the lifeless bodies retrieved from the debris of the collapsed buildings. So, all pre-emptive measures should be taken to prevent any other building from collapsing. The appropriate authorities need to take all the necessary measures and to strictly mete out appropriate sanctions for any dereliction of duty.

To conclude, Boko Haram has again launched an attack that has claimed the lives of some twelve persons in the locality of Amichidé at the borders with Nigeria. The suicide attack, which occurred in the night of Wednesday breaking Thursday, has unfortunately reminded us that the enemy is still roaming about. We therefore have to be more vigilant, especially as we prepare to meet in big groups for the feast of Ramadan. Nevertheless, I wish you a happy feast, characterized by peace, security and family cohesion.

I wish you a safe trip back to your respective constituencies for your routine activities.

I declare close deliberations of the second ordinary session of our House Chamber for the 2016 legislative year.

- **Long live the National Assembly!**
- **Long live Cameroon, with its illustrious leader**

**His Excellency Paul BIYA, President of the
Republic Head of State, Commander-in-chief of
the Armed Forces!**

Thank you.