



## **MESSAGE TO EDUCATION STAFF ON THE OCCASION OF THE 27th EDITION OF WORLD TEACHERS' DAY**

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Teachers,

My dear compatriots,

Since 1994, countries around the world have celebrated World Teachers' Day on 5 October each year to commemorate the signing by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) of the 1966 Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. The aim of this celebration is therefore to make the Nations aware of the importance of the function of teachers in a social structure and to examine the quality of the work of trainers at all levels in the world.

In our country, instead of constructive discussions on the main issues that motivated the institution of this day, which could lead to recommendations for the improvement of your working conditions, the regime in power has instead directed the actors of the education system towards a kind of festive celebration with the sole aim of distracting you from your fundamental demands concerning both your working conditions and the general situation of our education system, which is systematically deteriorating under our disenchanted eyes.

Our education system, as you know, suffers from orientations that are unsuited to the context of a world where intellectual competitiveness has become an instrument for assessing the greatness of nations and the power of states. Also, in the current state of affairs, our country can hardly claim to ensure a better future for the next generations when it has allowed obvious failings in its education system to flourish. Schools and universities are being created all over the place without any effort to build adequate campuses. The ministries tasked with duties in the field of education receive the largest budgetary allocations from the state each year, while on the ground, little is seen of what is achieved with these colossal allocations.

**SIEGE / Headquarters : Près du Dispensaire d'Odza – Yaoundé - B.P. : 8704 Yaoundé/ Cameroun**

Téléphone : (+237) 22.71.82.35 / 22.80.76.53 <http://www.mrc-party.org/> [contact@mrc-party.org](mailto:contact@mrc-party.org)

Comptes: CM21 10005 00001 03458061001-74 (**AFRILAND FIRST BANK**) /

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Our schools, colleges, high schools and universities operate with dilapidated buildings that are unsuitable for quality education.

Moreover, in 39 years of power, the regime in place has made your corporation a discredited fringe of civil servants, by systematically bullying it when it formulates and claims its legitimate rights and by making it a tramp when it was expected to be put in better working conditions, in order to give the best of itself for an education of excellence of the Cameroonian youth. The special status applicable to state personnel in the education sector, which has been the subject of a law adopted by the National Assembly since 2001, has not been fully implemented, even though progress should have been made in the related reforms to give teachers their rightful place in our society.

The physical and moral violence in schools of which some teachers have recently been the targets reminds us of the need to do everything possible to preserve the physical integrity and authority of the teacher. Moreover, the desperate situation of teachers in the North-West and South-West regions, where an unjustified war continues to be waged, is worrying in many ways. The State must remember its regalian role of protecting the population in general and its agents in particular, who are moreover forced to carry out their missions in a context of war, caught between two fires.

Despite all the above and the frustrations that have plunged some of you into misery and despair, you have lost neither courage nor hope, remaining faithful to your noble mission as educators and custodians of public morals. I urge you to remain resilient, to always give the best of yourselves, in the sole name of the Republic, to enable our young compatriots to continue to have hope for a better Cameroon. This is an opportunity to pay special tribute to the temporary teachers for their almost priestly dedication to the great cause of education, the mould of republican citizenship and the key to the future of national prosperity and greatness. As you know, the Cameroon Renaissance Movement (CRM) takes the greatest interest in issues relating to education and training in our country. The modernisation of the education system is the second of five major priority projects of its social project aimed at transforming Cameroon.

It consists essentially in the establishment of an educational system that, from the very beginning, awakens the minds of our children to the knowledge of their history in order to better forge their personality and national and African identity, their curiosity and critical sense, and, subsequently, combines technical knowledge, scientific research, technological innovation, professionalisation and wealth creation. The implementation of such a project undoubtedly requires the involvement of a more motivated and respected teaching staff, who will find a place of choice among the national priorities. This is our ambition, as it is true that this is the foundation without which nothing sustainable can be built. This is why we are counting on the actors of the education system today and tomorrow.

Done in Yaoundé, on 5 October 2021,

The National President

Maurice KAMTO