

MOUVEMENT POUR
LA RENAISSANCE
DU CAMEROUN



CAMEROUN
RENAISSANCE
MOVEMENT

AUTORISATION MINATD N°000221 DU 25 JUILLET 2008/ LETTRE MINATD N°0002249/LMINATD/DAP/SDE/STP DU 02 AOÛT 2012

SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE INSTALLATION OF THE ELECTED REGIONAL BUREAU OF THE CRM FOR THE WEST REGION, ON 20 AUGUST 2022, BY THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT.

Ladies and gentlemen,

My dear friends,

First of all, let us observe a minute of silence for the political hostage NDAGUEHO KOUFET Rodrigue, who died on the front lines of the struggle for freedom, and in memory of all our other comrades who died during this year. This minute of silence is also in memory of our compatriots massacred by the Boko Haram sect in the far north and those who died in the fratricidal armed conflict in the North-West and South-West regions.

(Greetings to the divisional federations' delegations)

My presence here, in Bafoussam, today, at this esplanade of the Evangelical Church of Cameroon, for the installation ceremony of the newly elected leaders of the basic organs of our party in the West Region, in particular of the members of the Bureau of the Regional Federation, is significant.

First of all, this presence gives me the opportunity to perform a pleasant duty: that of expressing you my warm congratulations for the final victory that the populations of the Region granted me during the presidential election of 2018, after a historic meeting at the Grand Stand in the city. I perform this duty of deep gratitude almost four years late, and you know why. Between the detention in prison in 2019, the tour abroad, followed by the isolation due to covid-19 in 2020, my de facto house arrest, the same year, the twists and turns of the SCSi initiative in 2021, the terror unleashed against our party following the Peaceful Marches, in particular those of 22 September 2020, it was not possible for me to come and pay tribute to you for your commitment and your determination, which enabled us to win a brilliant electoral victory in 2018, and to lead the national resistance, due to circumstances, despite the bullying, the violence, the hateful

harassment of which the MRC militants have been victims since the end of 2018. I also thank you for the memorable and equally historic welcome you extended to me on my visit to this city following the Gouache tragedy.

My presence here is then the symbol of an unshakeable rooting. To those who, shamelessly, ignoring our deepest traditions, went to the Grand Stand to tell the world that they disavow me, that "the West is definitely turning its back on KAMTO", you show them your commitment and your affection for a man, whose only crime is to have dared to say no to dictatorship, to assumed tribalism, to normalised ethnic hatred, to the unjustified perpetuation of a fratricidal war, to institutionalized electoral fraud, to the looting of public resources with impunity. You have shown to Cameroon and the world that you have faith in our common struggle for peaceful change and through the ballot box in our country. You had already signified this to them by the unprecedented welcome you gave me in this city, during my visit to the site of the Gouache tragedy. You confirm this again today, in a brilliant and unforgettable way, on the occasion of this ceremony. I renew to you, from the bottom of my heart, all my gratitude and my affection. My presence here is finally the opportunity for a fresh start for the CRM in this Region, in serenity and confidence, by doing more than in the past the implantation of our party in all nooks and crannies and in all segments of the population ; by working - in synergy with ELECAM – for the massive registration of people on the electoral lists, because as I have been telling you 2

for the ten years that our party has existed, we will achieve the change that Cameroonians call with all their wishes, in peace and through the ballot box.

You can try to hide the sun, but you can't turn it off. You can steal a victory, but you will not steal THE PROMISE, the one I announced to you during the campaign for the 2018 presidential election, and of which I was only the messenger.

The recent internal elections have created a stir in our ranks in this West Region. Such turmoil appears following the elections in all political parties, without exception. But in our case, some adventurers with ulterior motives tried to build chimeras to sow division in our ranks, on the basis of lies, thus hoping to confuse some of our militants. They did not succeed, but continue to rattle their sabres. This is why I urge you, dear political friends of the West Region, to be more vigilant at all times.

That said, I urge all elected leaders of the basic organs to welcome with open arms political friends whose lists of candidates have not been selected or who have lost the election, and who maintain their commitment and loyalty to the party. These newly elected leaders must be unifiers. A divided family inevitably runs to its loss. The Directorate of our party will closely monitor this unifying work, to which it attaches great importance.

Let the members disappointed at the end of the elections know that the CRM does not belong to those who have won, and who will moreover be evaluated by the results of their work on the ground. Those who, because disappointed, try to set fire to the house, including by seeking support from outside the party, cannot make us believe that it is because they love this house too much that they want to reduce it to ashes. I know that those who truly love the CRM will never work to destroy it. One does not serve one's party only by occupying, by all means and at all costs, such and such a position that one wishes; you serve it effectively wherever duty calls you, wherever you can be useful.

I take this opportunity to recall that occupying such and such a position within a basic organ of the party does not automatically give you the right to be the candidate of the party in such and such state election; bodies designated for this purpose by the party will do the nominations, depending on the ability of each other to bring us victory. Because whoever wins, it is the whole party and each of these members who will have won.

This is the place to say a few words about the boycott of the twin legislative and municipal elections of February 2020, decided, as you know, by the National Council of our party. By abstaining from participating in these elections, we have shown, as a political party, courage and leadership in the national political field. We agreed to pay a high political price to show that in all circumstances we put the interest of the Nation and the Cameroonian people above that of a few personal ambitions, which we understand and respect, but which cannot be the common thread that guides our actions. And the Cameroonian people understood us well, since our boycott slogan was followed massively. 3

By taking this serious decision, which was not lightly, believe me, we have also made a salutary choice for the CRM: we have avoided a serious crisis within our party, a crisis which would have been caused by the way those nominations of our candidates for the said elections were carried out, and which frustrated many militants who had worked hard for the implantation and development of our party.

In addition, we avoided the political trap that had been set for us by the CPDM regime in place, and about which I shall not say more here.

It is because we avoided this trap that the regime, furious, became frankly ferocious against our party. Otherwise, how can a political party that has been left free to win all the seats be the very one that castigates our “little party” every day for boycotting this electoral masquerade? As our good people would say: “Why does the CRM wear its pants and it tightens the CPDM? For more than two years this party has not digested the pill of our boycott, which popular support has shown the extent of the illegitimacy of its elected officials.

This is why they are trying to sponsor a few lawless individuals in our ranks who are agitated in all directions, uttering threats, pouring out torrents of insults.

I can assure you my dear friends: I shall bear all insults, as I have done for the ten years that our party has existed. But I shall never allow anyone to destroy the CRM without doing anything. This party is the heritage of all its militants; but it has become much more than that: it is now a national political heritage. Because many Cameroonians have understood it well: the Renaissance, for which all of accept sacrifices, is the national Renaissance.

This National Renaissance, as we understand it at the CRM, is based on values, in this case truth-reconciliation, justice, probity, republican fraternity and solidarity, which are significant values for the construction of a united, strong and prosperous nation. As I have constantly told you, tribalism is fatal for the construction of a Nation, because it is division, fractioning, exclusion. Each of us comes from somewhere; but we must not be captive to that somewhere; this somewhere must not turn into a prison for us. Cameroon will only be a radiant Nation, progressing in shared prosperity, only if its children learn to know each other, to appreciate each other for what is positive in them; if they rediscover the joy of fraternal hospitality which is a common foundation of our rich cultures. It is not an unrealistic dream of a society of perfect harmony, but the conviction, based on everyday experience, that there is in each ethnic group or tribe what is best and worse among humans. 4

My dear friends, People of change, People of resistance beyond the West Region and Cameroon, Resistance are first and foremost resilience. By your courage and your sense of sacrifice for the general interest, you have shown that you are the best that has happened in Cameroon, politically, for decades.

Those who hate you do so because you expose their misdeeds and the damage they cause to people and to our country. Those who remain silent admire your courage, but are paralysed with fear.

Even as we gather here, nearly a hundred of our members and supporters are political hostages locked up in various prisons across the country, illegally sentenced to prison terms, some of which range up to 7 years. I am thinking in particular of the National Treasurer of our party, Professor Alain FOGUE TEDOM, of my Spokesperson and Advisor, Mr Olivier BIBOU NISSACK, of our National Secretary in charge of the party development, Mr Pascal ZAMBOUE, of many young leaders of the party such as Mr Salomon BEAS and many others whom I cannot cite all here for lack of time. I want them to know that I am thinking of each of them personally, every day, and that together we will continue to support them and fight for justice to be served for them one day.

We were robbed of a victory, they tortured and imprisoned hundreds of our militants and sympathisers, they destroyed lives, destroyed families; but, listen to me, my dear friends, I repeat: NOBODY, I MEAN NOBODY, WILL CHANGE THE PROMISE.

Now, I DECLARE DULY INSTALLED THE BUREAU OF THE REGIONAL FEDERATION OF THE CRM IN THE WEST REGION, under the authority of the Secretary of the Regional Federation, Me TASSA NEGOU André.

Return in PEACE!

I love you.

May God bless Cameroon!

Maurice KAMTO

National President