

Bamenda III Council Arise

A quarterly Newsletter of the Bamenda III council sponsored by the National Community Driven Development Program (PNDP)

EDITORIAL



**Fongu Cletus Tanwe Mayor
Bamenda III**

Here we are again! Moving Forward. Yes! I say moving forward very loud because the council news letter has given us this opportunity to amplify our voice. This newsletter shall not only be a partner but more so a walking stick for our development's forward movement.

Before now, we have been heard through the public and the private media. Today we are upbeat by this platform which from now hence will act as one of our official channels for information dissemination particularly at this time when we are building a synergy for community involvement in the development process of the council. This magazine is expected to be our information vehicle to bring to fulfillment this ultimate vision.

We are building a Bamenda III Council with the people at the center of all actions as reflected in the development process in our municipality. A majority of projects are chosen by the people through our development committees and forwarded via their councilors for prioritization and execution. Good quality Drinkable Water, municipal layout, road (tarring, maintenance and rehabilitation), construction of schools, bridges, employment, win-win cooperation and partnerships and many others have emerged from this approach and meeting our people at their point of need. It is a people oriented structure we are moving forward into.

We invite you to join us make our municipality a dream city for all. Be involved! Move forward with us.

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Bamenda III Council Inaugurates Water Purification Plant

The Bamenda III council in partnership with the association for the promotion of drinking water supply in Cameroon have inaugurated a purified water scheme that shall collect, treat and supply clean portable water within the sub division. This was April 1st during a special ceremony chaired by the governor of the northwest region as the representative of the minister of territorial administration and decentralization in the presence of the resident representative of the German ambassador to Cameroon and the German partners of the water project.

Speaking at the event, April 1st, mayor Cletus Fungu Tanwe presented the purified water scheme as a life changing facility within his municipality that shall serve life and keep waterborne diseases at bay. "fresh and clean water is one of the most vital resources and when our water is polluted, it is not only devastating to the environment we live in, but is also deadly. Education suffers when sick children miss school. Economic opportunities are routinely lost to the impacts of rampant illnesses and the time-consuming processes of acquiring water where it is not readily available. Children and women bear the burden most" he said.

On behalf of the entire municipality of Bamenda III, the mayor described the water purification plant as life changing and as the dawn of an era where water born disease shall come to past, the covering of long distances that use to be covered before

accessing portable water. In a municipality with the existence of several water providing schemes, often epileptic with doubtful quality, mayor Fonguh said the council water scheme has come to supplement and not to stand any competition with the existing ones.

The representatives of the German ambassador to Cameroon and the mayor of Tier in Germany said water provision remains a priority area in the German development corporation adding that one of the development millennium goals set by the United Nations remains environmental sustainability. "water is essential to life. The right to water is a human right. When people are ill, they can work and have an opportunity to end poverty. Water scarcity stands on the way

of education and gender equality as millions of women and girls miss school and walk in search of water in distant areas" They said. Governor Lele L'afrique Chuffor Durben who cut the symbolic ribbon, said it was the first time he was inaugurating a giant and life changing project as such, adding that access to water facilitates all activities and walks of life.

The Bamenda III council purified water scheme currently serves some seven quarters within the sub division through private individual subscription, standpipes with over 8000 consumers serves as a source of revenue to the council and shall power the industrial zone in Nkwen. Technological transfer from Germany has been ensured with training of some five technical staff from the council and has created some 100 temporal jobs to the youth of Nkwen.



PNDP IN THE COUNCIL

The 23rd of June 2016 was a great day for the Bamenda III Council as the partnership with the National Community Driven Program (PNDP) came to fruition, with the signing of the Co-Financing Agreement, at the Bamenda II Council hall. This signing thus included Bamenda III Council officially in the 3rd phase of the PNDP program. The Mayor of the Bamenda III Council was personally present in this solemn occasion.

The Bamenda III Council is particularly excited and looks forward to the elaboration of the Council Development Plan as the former is obsolete. Delays as a result of the complexities of being an integral part of the Bamenda City Council are being sorted out, without which Bamenda III Council is ready to fly with the advent of the 3rd Phase of PNDP.

The Mayor of the Bamenda III Council has employed a Council Development Officer CDO (Mme Quinta Neba) and a Council Finance Officer CFO (Miss Azita Ngum). They both have undergone numerous trainings and capacity building seminars organized by the PNDP. The Council is confident of their output as they have so far demonstrated a mastery of the knowledge imparted on them.

SIM_ba in Bamenda III Council...

The SIM-BA accounting software was introduced in the Bamenda III Council in APRIL 2016. It is An accounting soft ware that helps in the keeping of accounts. Makes work easy to submit monthly reports to



municipal treasurers and council report at the audit bench of the Supreme Court. Because it's still in French, it has necessitated quarterly update training of seminars to better equip its users, mayor, municipal treasurers and council finance officers. Updated trainings organized have been fruitful, evident in the last performance bread basket results which showed remarkable improvements in the council accounts and Bamenda III inclusive.

Pro-ADP Software in the Bamenda III Council...

The software for the data collection, programming, monitoring and evaluation of Council activities and projects, has been successfully installed in a computer in the Bamenda III Council. Though the complexities of being part of the Bamenda City Council are still

being resolved, nevertheless data is being collected in other fields, and the capacity of the CDO is being continuously built through various training sessions such as, Project management and Project writing Preparation of Council Budget, Environment and Social sustainability of projects, Citizen participation, just to name a few. Participatory inclusive development is the focus of Bamenda III Council; and PNDP 3rd Phase is equipping Bamenda III Council with the tools to further pursue an enhance community participation. Considering the work done so far, when the third phase effectively kicks off with the elaboration of the CDP, it will be a smooth ride, thanks to the preparatory trainings and the capacity building seminars. With PNDP 3rdPhase; Bamenda III Council is set for excellence.

Building a true City: Namoh! A success story

Many years ago, the population of Bamenda III was far less than what it is today. This means less demand for water supply, roads, houses, electricity and other social amenities like schools, hospitals and so on. Today the situation is different. The demand for the earlier mentioned has witnessed a geometric increase as the population increases.

According to Town planners when people start living in a new place they fail to see the future and just sprawl across the land. Then as the value of the land goes up they have to tear down the old buildings and build new ones. This constant retrofitting costs more than good planning would. This is where the municipality has been this far stemming from a poorly planned town by the defunct Bamenda Urban

these property owners found it difficult understanding the need to give up part of their property for this venture. Involving the population at the initiation face according to the Mayor was to permit them understand the Council advance plan for the area which had to do with the creation of streets and construction of necessary drainage systems which also adds value to the properties within the layout zones. This was understood and streets were effectively opened and bridges constructed.

With water supply, layout transportation, green space, spaces for public use and electricity, today Namoh is the dream of everyone looking for a residential area in the municipality.

Apart from private houses, public facilities like Government Technical School GTC Nkeung, a primary school on the way, The Missionary Sisters of Divine Mercy have chosen Namoh and the layout area as the appropriate destination for settlement.

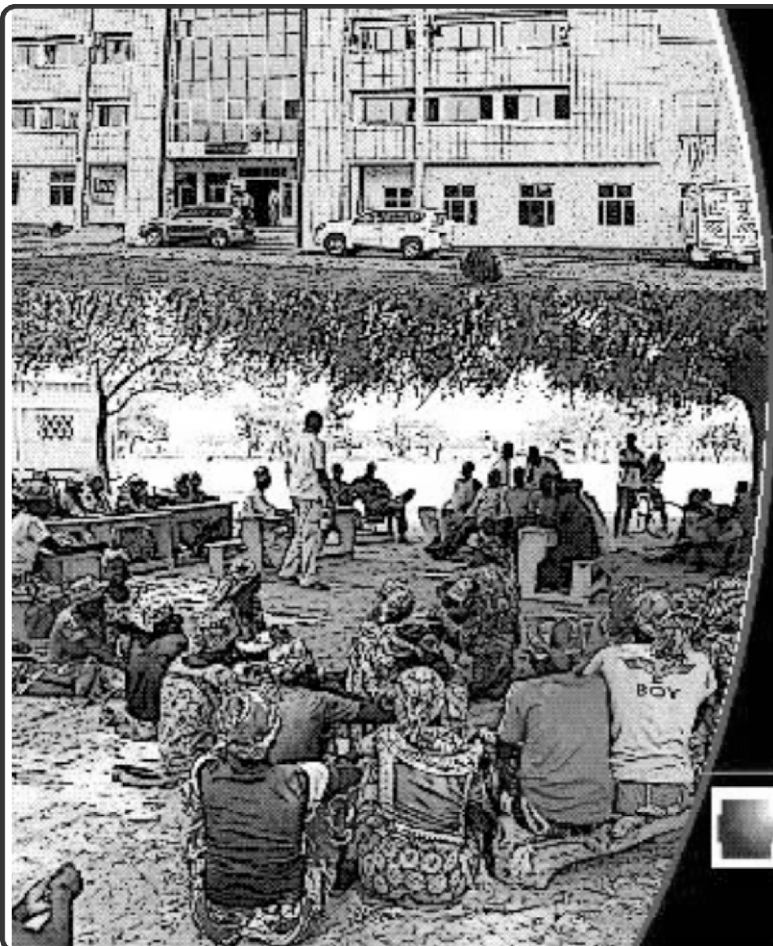
“Building a city that is self-sufficient when it comes to food & energy, a city that is about people leaving happily, a city that has room for everyone and a city with culture everywhere, a beautiful city is our vision.” Mayor Fongu Said.

A replication of this layout will be in Bujong with the same vision where work has started.

Council.

How can we therefore create a new city that solves the problems of existing cities in the North West and Cameroon in General? This is the question that gave authorities of the Bamenda III Council reason to begin reflections on how to lay out a municipality that meets the standard of a city area.

Take off point for this project is Namoh, the area hosting the Council premises. With very little or no resources and results needed the council through the Mayor Fongu Cletus Tanwe had to engage conversations with property owners to make them see reason why it was necessary to create a lay out around their property. It was challenging as some of



I am involved in the development of my municipality

- ✦ By participating in the activities of the council ;
- ✦ By taking part in village development meeting ;
- ✦ By taking part in community work
- ✦ By paying taxes ;
- ✦ By following up the accountability municipal councillors and the Mayor

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