

**Speech by H.E. Mr Nkwelle EKANEY, High Commissioner for the Republic of Cameroon to the U.K. on the occasion of the presentation of New Year Wishes by the Staff of the High Commission
London, 25 February 2010**

Mr Deputy High Commissioner,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

First of all, let me begin by thanking the Deputy High Commissioner for the warm wishes just extended to my family and I on your behalf. In return, please accept my very best wishes for good health, happiness and every success for you and your beloved ones in the New Year.

2010 was a very busy and to a large extent a very successful one for the Mission. Some of the major events for us that marked the year were: the launching of the processing of applications for machine readable passports; organising the celebrations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of our Independence; welcoming

the visit of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the management of State Buildings and Property Abroad; coordinating the visit of the team of officials from the Presidency in Yaoundé which came to dialogue with the Diaspora in the UK and most especially the visit of H.E. Philemon YANG, Prime Minister and Head of Government on the occasion of the Africa Business Forum in June. In addition, the High Commission made several contacts with officials of the British government, International Organisations and the private sector.

These visits and events served as a platform on which the High Commission reinforced and consolidated bilateral, political and Economic ties with the United Kingdom.

In this process, the welfare, security and protection of our nationals in the UK have been and will continue to remain a major priority of the High Commission. It also provided an opportunity for more engagement and cooperation with our Cameroonian community.

Mr Deputy High Commissioner,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Dear Colleagues,

May I also seize this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the entire staff of the High Commission for the spirit of hard work, unity and cooperation that has characterised the working relationship within the Mission. I am aware of the difficulties you have gone through as a result of the reduction in last year's budgetary allocation. The situation in 2011 will not be different. I urge you to continue to be patient, steadfast and optimistic in the future as these concerns have been addressed to Hierarchy. We will continue to refurbish and equip some offices in the Chancery to permit the delivery of better and faster services to the public.

To the distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen present here today, I would also like you to convey to the rest of the Cameroonian Community my sincere gratitude, for the high sense of maturity, discipline and respect which they have always shown to state institutions. These have clearly been demonstrated by the massive attendance at the events marking the 50th Anniversary of Our Independence as well as the reception offered by the Prime Minister while in London for the Africa Business forum.

We are proud of the role played by the UK delegation at the Economic and Commercial Forum organised for the Diaspora in Yaoundé in August 2010 by Government. At this Forum, the delegates made valuable recommendations for a better involvement of the Diaspora in the development of Cameroon. These important recommendations are being examined by Government.

We equally thank the women and those NGOs who have been very instrumental in mobilising support for some of the vulnerable members of our Cameroonian society.

The High Commission will, within the limits of its means continue to assist them to attain their noble objectives. You can rest assured that our engagement, communion and cooperation with the Cameroonian community will be further developed in the New Year.

Mr Deputy High Commissioner,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Head of State, President Paul BIYA, in his New Year message to the Nation described 2011 as a crucial year for our democracy. As you are aware, Presidential elections will take place this year in Cameroon.

Even though the process to permit the participation in the vote by the Cameroonian Diaspora is not yet regularised, your material and financial support to Cameroonians at home to mobilise and influence massive turn out for the elections, will continue to be highly appreciated. It will be important for this democratic process to succeed peacefully. All of us have a stake in the bright future of Cameroon.

I will like to assure you that the Head of State recognises the important role the Cameroonian Community plays in the economic and social progress of our Country.

Indeed, in his New Year Message mentioned above, he paid tribute to the work accomplished by our representatives abroad and our Diaspora who portray our country as serious and dynamic.

Ladies and gentlemen, Cameroon is a peace loving and stable nation which has always advocated for peaceful resolution of conflicts. Foreign dogmas which lead to confrontation and bloody outcome do not produce a winner nor do they resolve differences.

We need all hands on deck to preserve the peace and stability our country enjoys and which has been the envy of the international community.

Mr Deputy High Commissioner,

I have taken note of the special greetings you have sent through me to Hierarchy. I will do well to convey them to the Head of State, to the Prime Minister, Head of government and to the Minister of External Relations.

Long Live the Cameroon High Commission in London,

Long Live President Paul BIYA,

Long Live Cameroon.