

Paramount Chief of Buea

MOLATAKO – EYOLE - EJKKE NA MORZANGO (UNITY – PEACE – TRUTH AND JUSTICE)

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UNITY IN FAKO

The President of BECDA – America

The Vice President and executive members

Members and Friends of BECDA

It is my joy, honor, and a great opportunity to be back at a BECDA convention. I had made a commitment to be here today and the six thousand miles of distance separating us just a few days ago were surmounted by my commitment to this association. You see, as a great leader, your word is your bond. What you say must match what you do, it's in that respect that you build your character. Character means to sacrifice for principles. A person of character will sacrifice his friendship to protect his principle. My principle is that my words must match my actions. This must be valid in every aspect of my life. The BECDANs have stood up for me in thin times in my life and as I have often said, my morality does not allow me to desert my friends; this is unity. Unity does not mean we all join the same organization; unity does not mean we all agree on everything without divergent opinions; unity means, standing for each other, unity means wanting the best for each other; unity means empowering the younger ones; unity means not fighting each other; unity means sharing a common vision for our collective destiny.

The Mopke man can be great, in fact, the Mokpe man must be great. But we must begin to do something about it. Most of my people feel helpless. The question one must ask is what I can do to energize the political process to effect the needed change in my homeland. Dear BECDANs, allow me to be morbid, 100 years from now none of us will be here. If your imagination is powerful enough, imagine how Ngeme in Limbe will be 100 years from now, imagine how Holtforth or Motombolombo in Tiko will be 100 years



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from now, and imagine how Bonakanda or Efolofo will be 100 years from now. The truth is that if we don't invest in this change today, it will not be different 100 years from now. We must use this convention as the platform for our commitment to changing Fako. Our vision is to kick off our own Fako cultural event similar, but better in all aspects than the Ngondo of the Dualas and the Nguon of the Bamouns; this is possible because we have a richer culture that is intrinsically linked to the Njoku – the elephant, the largest animal in the forest. Yes, we are big and strong. If today I were to write a letter to our founding fathers who died several years ago, this is how the letter would read: I would not name all of them, but I would name the following. I would say:

Dear Chief Kuwa Likenye la Lionge, Dear Mola Eya Njie Tama Lihvanje, Dear Dr. Emmanuel Mbella Lihvahva Endeley, Dear Mola Paul Monyongo mo Kale, Dear Mola Peter Motomby Woleta, Dear Chief Gervasius Mbella Endeley, Dear Chiefs Bile & Johannes Manga Williams,

We are gathered here today in Tampa, Florida, on this 24th day of June 2022 and we are pretending to be discussing a new subject, but we are not. In fact, my dear fathers, we are discussing something that you discussed over 100 years ago, and we are now recognizing that you warned us that if we do not unite as a tribe, we will be conquered by strangers and divided to fight each other. I am sadly reporting to you that we are being conquered again. We are being conquered again in a manner that is more subtle but very pervasive. Dear Mola Tama Lihvanje, we now have something called a cellphone that you did not have, but we are hardly using it as a tribe to create unity. Mbamba kuwa Likenya La Lionge, you had rallied Mokpe men behind you in ways we have never seen thereafter and fought the German heavy-handed army with just rudimentary tools; we now have technologies such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and WhatsApp but we haven't learned to use it similar to the manner in which you used your tools to unite the tribe, but Mbamba Kuwa, we are trying. Mola Paul Monyongo mo Kale, I am glad to inform you



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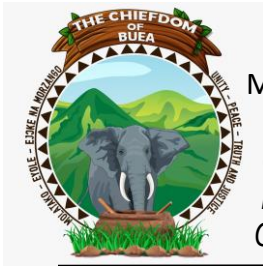
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that the road from Buea Town, through Warzingi, to Wonakanda, down to Wokowa is now tarred, but we are the only tribe in the SWR that cannot boast of a Multipurpose Center, that contains a Museum, Library, and Language Center with literature of your speeches and writings to teach our children.

Mbamba Chief Gervacius Mbella, the Mbando that you started with a rallying call to unite all Mokpes in 1946 is back on track today. It has taken us more than seventy (70) years to bring it back, but Mbamba chief, your children across the American continent are all ready and lined up to give this our annual celebration a new birth. Your children here in BECDA have asked me to transmit their commitment towards this event to you. They have also asked me to inform you that in the same spirit that you led unity amongst the Mokpe people until your death in 1982, thunderous death that led to the eruption of Mt. Hvako, they have rubbed the ashes of that eruption on their foreheads as an oath of their permanent commitment to unity in this tribe; brotherly and sisterly love, and to be in Washington DC next month where we are having the general reception in the US of my accession to the throne. The same throne you sat on in 1925, in Buea.

Papa EML Endeley, you had warned us not to join the East but we did not listen, you would be surprised by what you would see if you came back today. I also want to inform you that the Bakweri Corporative Union of Farmers (BCUF) that you founded in 1952, fully capitalized and creating wealth for the Mokpe man is now staggering to stay alive. But Papa we are working hard, extremely hard to return the Mokpe person to his glory days again. There are new initiatives that the Mokpe people are putting up to retain wealth within our tribe such as the Phako Credit Utility Bank, The Fako Land Trust (FLAT), and FakoShip by Mola Charles Nammeh Menyoli, just to name a few.



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HRMs Bile & Johannes Manga Williams, I am glad to inform you that Victoria now has an oil refinery, SONARA, and the tallest building in Fako; the Gilgal hotel in Liengu Mboke - New Town; it is tall and beaming with the beauty of its scintillating glass-stained windows. But, I am sad to tell you that the oil refinery suffered a major disaster 3 years ago and is limping today in functionality. I am also not comfortable telling you that the Gilgal is not owned by a Mokpe man.

Mola Peter N. Motomby Woleta, as one of the architects of the Unification of Cameroon, you had also sought to ask our chiefs at the time how long it will take to unite the Mokpe man. We are now telling you that it will not be long. It is not going to be long because these young men and women of BECDA are now telling us that we unite, or we perish. Dear fathers, I would have written a longer letter, but I can now see that my audience is eager to dance, permit me therefore to stop here, with the knowledge that our unity begins today. The Mokpe man is alive and strong, and we will build a Fako Multipurpose Cultural Center even if it takes a hundred years, for excellent people will conquer what average people complain about.

God bless you all.

Chief Dr. Robert Esuka Mbella Endeley - Naliomo

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