

Editorial Article

# Cameroon: Neglecting One of the Three-dimensional Cornerstones of a Country (Retrospection, Introspection and Prospec-tion)

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## Abstract

This article is an attempt to show that in Cameroon, the government does not take past, present and future issues seriously. It does not take a critical look at the past so as to know its stumbling blocks in order to pave the way for a bright future. There is need to invest a lot of resources (financial, human, material, etc) in this task for the betterment of Cameroon.

**Keywords:** Government Past Present Future Bright Stumbling Blocks Financial Human Material Resources Betterment.

## 1. Introduction

Every country worth its salt is just like a serious human being in terms of retrospection, introspection and propection [1]. In other words, it always takes a critical look at its past in order to build a great future. Precisely speaking, it examines all sectors of its life (health, education, sports, transport, family welfare, communication, labour, religion, justice, democracy, administration, banking and finance, culture, etc) so as to move confidently and successfully into its future. Unfortunately, this has not been the case in Cameroon.

In the domain of education, Cameroon has not had a smooth ride in terms of its school syllabuses, the welfare of teachers and students, the construction of school infrastructure, the use of school graduates in the society, the welfare of private education, etc [2]. Regrettably, the government and other educational stakeholders have not set up an appropriate framework or an enabling environment to meticulously reflect on these issues so as to ensure that Cameroon's educational system takes this country into the realm of emergence and modernity [3].

In terms of health, Cameroon has not been up to expectations. Despite the presence of some laudable efforts as well as some qualified and serious health workers, the general health picture in Cameroon leaves much to be desired in terms of health care, training, infrastructure, etc [4]. Worse still, the Cameroon Government does not bother to carry out an analysis of Cameroon's health milieu; it does not deem it necessary to take measures aimed at protecting the health of Cameroonians in the long run.

As concerns sports, Cameroon still has a long journey to success in the domain of all types of sporting activities (football, handball, volleyball, basketball, athletics, karate, judo, wrestling, swimming, cycling, boxing, etc). The government does not see the need to analyse sporting failures in and out of Cameroon so as to prepare a better and great future for Cameroon in the world of sports. It depends on irrational phenomena such as luck, patriotism, mystical powers, the presence of some sports stars, etc.

As regards the contracting and payment of public debts, government officials in Cameroon are very irresponsible [5]. They do not seriously examine the use of the said debts in the various sectors for which they are meant. They continuously borrow money from foreign countries, institutions, etc without any credible or reliable results from this money, thereby sacrificing, to some extent, the welfare of Cameroon's future generations. The case concerning the loan which led to the purchase of laptops for university students is quite illustrative.

The policies, projects, programmers, etc of Cameroon's Government have many shortcomings. In this vein, some of them are not designed and brought to existence on the basis of objective and meticulous retrospective and introspective work, thereby leading to poor results from them. This situation is discernible in the case of projects and programmers which are designed and brought into existence so as to please areas which voted for or are close to some politicians of the ruling party [6].

Most of Cameroon's roads are eyesores [7]. They are poorly maintained. A good number of them are narrow and replete with potholes. The government does not see the need to have a thorough reflection on this deplorable situation. Cameroonians have been left to their own devices as far as road issues are concerned. There is no concrete or serious work (in offices and in the field) aimed at securing the future of roads in Cameroon. In fact, road issues are not given their due attention in Cameroon.

National unity is permanently threatened in Cameroon. It is endangered by ills such as nepotism, tribalism, favouritism, regionalism, corruption, dictatorship, poor governance, etc. The government believes that it can handle this situation through cosmetic means such as the Tripartite Talks of the 1990s. In terms of national unity, it does not work in a prospective manner. In other words, it does not deem it necessary to provide a sustainable environment for national unity, an environment to be consolidated on a yearly basis.

The Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon glaringly portrays the absence of the government's goodwill in terms of handling this crisis in a retrospective, introspective and prospective manner [9]. It is in this light that it is avoiding any frank discussions on the fundamental cause of this crisis (this cause is the Fouban Agreement Farce and its dishonest implementation). Furthermore, it has been providing cosmetic responses to the effects of the ongoing war, with little or no prospects of having concrete and sustainable solutions in a near or distant future.

Family life is not one of the priorities of the Cameroonian Government. This government does not bother to take a responsible or fatherly look at the crisis which has been rocking families in Cameroon for several decades. It does not meticulously, methodically and rationally look at this crisis in order to provide long-term solutions to its multiple problems. Consequently, the future of families in Cameroon is bleak. It is a future that is mainly in the hands of members of these families.

Just like in many African countries, the employment situation in Cameroon is catastrophic. Many Cameroonians graduate from private and public schools without convincing prospects of decent self-employment or of employment in private and public bodies. The Cameroonian Government has not analysed this situation so as to set up an enabling employment environment which could absorb the said graduates. On this score, it could be said that the future of employment in Cameroon is gloomy, very gloomy indeed.

Cameroon's media houses are experiencing a lot of problems (unnecessary censorship, intimidation from government officials, poor working conditions, the presence of unqualified persons, etc). Cameroon has never taken any concrete measures aimed at addressing these problems. There is no dependable forum in which the said problems are constantly discussed. Cameroonians, especially media practitioners, do not see a future in Cameroon which comprises media houses and activities worth the salt of standard fourth estate insti-

tutions.

A spirit of colonialism and neo-colonialism is part of the characteristics of Cameroon. It is present in families, churches, schools, hospitals, markets, media houses, political circles, the public service, etc. Cameroonians and their government are taking this unfortunate situation lightly. There is no national policy aimed at fighting the said spirit (no serious attempt to produce a national language, no serious effort to decolonize dressing and eating habits, no serious move to decolonize education, etc). Cameroon shall live with this spirit for many more years.

The corruption rate in Cameroon is frightful. Despite the existence of institutions and activities aimed at combating it, it increases geometrically. Efforts to fight it are not dissuasive enough. In some cases, the prosecution of State authorities regrettably depends on the authorization of the Head of State. Currently, there are no prospects aimed at changing positively and concretely the presented anti-corruption picture of Cameroon since the ruling party thrives on corrupt practices.

In Cameroon, religious practices are not well monitored. In some prayer houses (mosques, synagogues, temples, etc), there are many financial, moral, social and other excesses, excesses which target religious leaders and those who worship with them, excesses which encroach on the freedoms of those living close to worship places (for instance, excessive noise), etc. The State institution in charge of monitoring and regulating this situation (the Ministry of Territorial Administration) does not sufficiently care about it. It does not care about the huge damage it could cause to Cameroon in the near future [7].

Cameroon's research activities are not given due attention by especially the Government. Though there are institutions in charge of these activities [the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI), the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD), etc], there is no judicious or commendable work dealing with an assessment of the failures and successes of research activities in Cameroon so as to pave the way for a bright future in these activities. Such work has to take into account the limited available human, material and financial resources.

The legal sector in Cameroon is bedeviled by a series of problems. Some of these problems are corruption, lack of enough staff, lack of good buildings, lack of respect for court judgments, delays in the implementation of verdicts, the dependence of the judiciary on the executive for its activities, etc. Despite the fact that the said sector is encountering all these problems, the government does not deem it necessary to address them in a rational and sustainable manner, a manner that will enable Cameroon to have an efficient and just legal machinery in the near and distant future.

Just like in many African countries, Cameroon's electoral process is turbulent or problematic. It is replete with disturbing outcomes. Almost all the elections that have been organized

in the said country have been fraudulent in all aspects (registration of voters, campaign activities, voting, counting of votes, proclamation of results, etc). The government has stubbornly refused to sit down with opposition parties and other stakeholders to tackle this worrisome situation in an objective way, a way that would provide lasting solutions to Cameroon's electoral crisis in all its dimensions.

Cameroon's relationship with international non-governmental organizations (Amnesty International, the International Crisis Group, etc) and international financial institutions (the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, etc) is a mess. The government unfortunately spends much time insulting these non-governmental organizations and exchanging bitter words with them instead of examining what they present on Cameroon's human rights situation. This examination could enable Cameroon to better this situation. Furthermore, Cameroon is not willing to learn from the mistakes of its relationship with the said financial institutions [5].

In a nutshell, the foregoing presentation suggests that Cameroon has a lot of work to do in terms of retrospection, introspection and prospection. This work has to be done in all the domains discussed above and other domains (statistics, the welfare of vulnerable groups, agriculture, tribalism, nepotism, tourism, penitentiary administration, decentralization, etc). In all the domains concerned, it should lead to what Jean-Marie Denquin refers to as significant progress [6, 7].

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