

A Word From The Mayors of Kumba III, Konye, Nguti and Tinto councils delivered on their behalf by Chief Bate Epey Robert Oben, Lord mayor of Tinto Council on the occasion of the official launching of the Decent Work Technical Support Component of the Kumba-Mamfe Road Construction Project by the International Labor Office Country Representative for Cameroon, Angola and Sao Tome and Principe-Yaounde in Kumba, 3rd October 2014.

The Senior Divisional Officer for Meme, and his distinguished entourage

The representative of the Minister of Public Works

The representative of the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development,

The Director of ILO Country Office for Cameroon, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe,

The National Coordinators of the African Development Bank/World Bank Units of MINTP-Yaounde

The Government Delegate to the Kumba City Council,

The Divisional Officer of Kumba I,

The Lord Mayor of Kumba I Council,

Dear participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I find myself very humbled to have been designated by my peers to deliver this short word of appreciation on our behalf, to express our thanks to the government of the Republic of Cameroon, piloted under the able leadership of our illustrious and visionary Head of State, President Paul Biya for taking the bold and decisive step and political commitment to execute the long awaited construction of the Kumba-Mamfe Road Project.

Mr. Senior Divisional Officer, Ladies and Gentlemen, I shall be speaking with some measured emotions because this project means so many things to so many people, I mean all the people of Meme, Manyu, Kupe-Manenguba, Lebialem and by extension to Dschang in Menoua Division of the Western Region. This project is the live wire of these resourceful and dynamic citizens living in these parts of our beloved country.

We are equally thanking other stake holders in this project, especially the International Labor Office and the Director of the Country Office for Angola, Cameroon and Sao Tome and Principe based in Yaounde, for their Advocacy role and the provision of Technical Expertise on the Decent Work Component of the Project. We had in the past

seen huge projects like the one in question without due consideration for socio-economic-cultural fallouts. The African Development Bank and the World Bank are commended for their new approach to funding structural and development projects, and their readiness to provide additional funding for such meaningful components.

Mr. Senior Divisional Officer, Ladies and Gentlemen, the targeted beneficiary of this initiative is our youths, this vibrant and dynamic sector of our population. Concerns about their well being are ours, because we are nearer them as Mayors, we live in the same houses and share the same rooms with them. We are therefore appealing that Mayors be closely associated with the selection of trainees for this project.

We also solicit that councils and especially councils affected by this project be empowered through effective devolution of powers and means to sustain the initiative by creating joint council equipment polls to facilitate the deployment of trained youths.

We shall also like to salute the administration of Meme for creating an enabling environment during our stay in Kumba.

The participants on their part showed a lot of commitment and seriousness of purpose during this workshop and we will like to congratulate them, and the organizers and facilitators for a job well done.

We pray the Almighty God to conduct you safely to your respective homes and remember that we still have some unfinished business that is just commencing today.

Thank you all for your kind attention.

Humbly submitted,

Chief Bate Epey Robert Oben,

Lord Mayor of Tinto Council.