GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

REF: BSCRG/002/HOG/2009

Fellow Compatriots,

The African Union (AU) just concluded its 12th Ordinary Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 4 February 2009. Although most of our people were unaware of what was going on behind the scenes, this was no ordinary Summit for the people of the Southern Cameroons.

La République du Cameroun, in yet another futile political manoeuvre against the inexorable restoration of the sovereign statehood of the Southern Cameroons, had proposed a calculated agenda item on what it falsely called the “Peaceful settlement of the Bakassi conflict” to be discussed by the organs of the Union. In the proposal, la République du Cameroun invited African leaders to do a number of things, which
if done, would have seriously undermined the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (an organ of the AU) before which is a complaint from the people of the Southern Cameroons on the violation of their eastern frontier by la République du Cameroun.

La République du Cameroun’s proposals were also framed in such a way as to make it appear as though the African Union was endorsing that country’s annexation and continuing armed colonial occupation of the Southern Cameroons.

What la République du Cameroun was asking the AU to do in effect was for the AU to undercut the work of its own organ.

Thanks to the vigilance of the Southern Cameroons Restoration Government (RG), the Southern Cameroons People’s Organization (SCAPO) and the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC), and thanks to the guidance of Divine Providence, and the wisdom of African leaders, this misconceived and duplicitous agenda item never managed to get into the final agenda for the Summit.

As soon as the proposed agenda bearing this mischievous item was published, the RG, SCAPO and SCNC, working as one, got into full gear to alert AU organs and member states about the danger and error into which la République du Cameroun was dishonestly trying to push them.

The Restoration Government therefore notes with satisfaction and informs the people of the Southern Cameroons that wisdom prevailed at the end of the day. As we all know for a fact, Bakassi belongs neither to Nigeria nor to the la République du Cameroun. Bakassi is irrefutably part and parcel of the territory of the Southern Cameroons.

La République du Cameroun’s so-called “Peaceful settlement of the Bakassi conflict” is mere wishful thinking. In his 2008 end of year address to his country Mr. Biya himself acknowledged the rising conflicts and insecurity in the Bakassi peninsula and the gulf of Guinea in general. The real and root cause of the insecurity and instability which Mr. Biya complains about is no doubt the illegal occupation and annexation of the Southern Cameroons by la République du Cameroun, a country Mr. Biya has been ruling for almost thirty years. We reiterate that the insecurity and instability will not end until la République du Cameroun for once complies with international law by ending, as it inevitably must, its colonial occupation of the Southern Cameroons and criminal loot and plunder of the territory’s resources.
The fact that the deceitful agenda item never saw the light of day means that the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights will, in all tranquility, proceed with its examination of the Southern Cameroons’ complaint in Communication 337/2007 without the calculated interference by la République du Cameroun, a Respondent State in the matter. I therefore call on all citizens of the Southern Cameroons to remain calm while the AU and its competent organ study the facts of the dispute in order to reach their conclusion and verdict. At the same time, we must remain vigilant within our Homeland and abroad against more future schemes of the Yaoundé colonial oligarchy.

I wish to place on record the fact that over and over again, we have called on la République du Cameroun to accept dialogue and arbitration regarding the Southern Cameroons Sovereignty Question. If la République du Cameroun is a credible proponent of the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Africa it should not agonize over accepting dialogue and arbitration. Indeed seven years ago in 2002, Mr. Kofi Annan, the then Secretary General of the UN, made the same proposal during his visit to Yaoundé, but la République du Cameroun rebuffed the UN Secretary General’s call for dialogue.

Fellow compatriots,

My key purpose today is to announce this commendable outcome of our collective vigilance and intervention as well as the wisdom that led to the mischievous agenda item being withdrawn.

However, I seize this opportunity to announce that we have finished work on the Constitution of the Restored State of the Southern Cameroons. When the Constitution Committee was set up to propose a draft Constitution for the emerging Southern Cameroons nation, I gave clear directives for an INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION to be created from the word “GO” in the Southern Cameroons to manage all public elections. The draft proposed Southern Cameroon Restoration Constitution is ready and will be in circulation throughout the Southern Cameroons and on the Internet in the months ahead for an informed and vibrant general national debate.

The Southern Cameroons INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION will take charge of all election processes: compilation and revision of voters’ lists, announcement of election dates, registration of voters, handling at first instance of all election-related complaints, vote counting and announcement of results at each
polling station, aggregation of overall results and conclusive announcement of winners at each and every election. Its members will not come from a ruling party. They will be carefully chosen men and women of proven integrity entrusted with a sacred mission. They will be drawn from all counties of the Southern Cameroons. This body will be independent of any form of Executive control and will operate an autonomous budget charged on the National Consolidated Fund.

As you study the draft proposed Southern Cameroons Constitution in the coming months, you will no doubt take special note that from its key provision, there will be no way for a citizen to hang on to power indefinitely against the wishes of the good people of the Southern Cameroons.

We have no business commenting on the total chaos, disgrace and institutionalized confusion to the east of our frontier in the neighboring country of la République du Cameroun with regard to elections and politics in general, except to say that even the last hopes of those of our compatriots who have been in the mistaken belief that colonization can be cured by a possible election reform measure adopted by the colonizer, have been dashed.

We reaffirm the universal truth that colonization is a crime against humanity and its cure is not even good governance but the termination of it. The people of the Southern Cameroons can demand no less from the enlightened world and the international community than that the fundamental principles of the African Union and the United Nations be upheld with respect to the Southern Cameroons, and therefore accordingly, forthwith bring to an end the territory’s colonial occupation by la République du Cameroun.

Thank you.

May the Good Lord bless our collective efforts to be a free people!
May His Guiding Spirit speedily bring us to Freedom Land!

*Carlson Anyangwe*

*Head of Government*
RESOLUTION 014/2008 of the National Executive Committees of the Southern Cameroons People’s Organisation (SCAPO), the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC) and representatives of the Southern Cameroons Restoration Government calling for the deferment of an Agenda Item proposed by the Republic of Cameroon for discussion at the coming AU Summit titled: “PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN AFRICA: A MODEL OF THE BAKASSI CRISIS”.

The National Executive Committee of the Southern Cameroon People’s Organisation (SCAPO), of the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC), and Representatives of the Southern Cameroons Restoration Government, meeting in Buea, Southern Cameroons, on Saturday 6 December 2008:

- Considering that both French Cameroon and British Cameroon were separate mandated Territories of the League of Nations from 1922 until they each became United Nations Trust Territories in 1946, and that all along, each territory had its distinct territorial boundaries defined by International Treaties;

- Considering that French Cameroon became independent on 1 January 1960 as la République du Cameroun with its distinct international boundaries which became frozen on that date under the principle of the respect of frontiers inherited at independence, (Article 4(b) of the African Union Constitutive Act);

- Considering that at its independence on 1 January 1960 the boundaries of la République du Cameroun could not include the territory of the Southern Cameroons because at that date the Southern Cameroons was still a UN Trust territory and the Trust was not terminated until 1 October 1961;

- Noting that in February 1961 Southern Cameroons voted in a UN plebiscite to “achieve independence by joining” la République du Cameroun, in conformity with UNGA Res. 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960, in a Federal Union of 2 States both equal in status, but a valid legal union never took place due to the non-respect of UN Charter Art. 102, the non-implementation of UNGA Resolution 1608(XV), and la République du Cameroun’s open vote AGAINST Resolution 1608(XV) that called for union of the two states;
• Considering that the said Plebiscite was simply a mechanism by which to know the intention of the People of Southern Cameroons and not in any way the implementation of that intention or a treaty of union with Former French Cameroon, or some mechanism by which the People of Southern Cameroons made a free gift of themselves, their country and posterity to Former French Cameroon;

• Noting further that having voted against union with the Southern Cameroons and without UNGA Resolution 1608(XV) (paragraph 5 in particular) having been implemented, la République du Cameroun nevertheless went ahead with her colonial ambitions over the Southern Cameroons by amending her constitution in September 1961 to make the Southern Cameroons a part of her territory and crossing her boundaries to occupy the Southern Cameroons even while the latter was still a United Nations Trust Territory;

• Noting that the so-called Federal Constitution which was in essence the domestic law of la République du Cameroun because it was unilaterally drafted and enacted by the Assembly of that country and imposed on the People of Southern Cameroons was also subsequently abolished in the premeditated expansionist agenda to absorb the Southern Cameroons;

• Noting further that there is no shred of legal document of any kind whatsoever linking the Southern Cameroons to la République du Cameroun and that all her pretended claims over the territory of the Southern Cameroons are null and void ab initio, and in any case no one can claim a greater right to the territory of the Southern Cameroons than the people of Southern Cameroons themselves;

• Noting further that la République du Cameroun is currently one of the State Respondents in Communication 337/2007 pending before the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR), which Commission should be allowed to carry out its duties in all serenity and objectivity;

• Considering that territorial annexation is an International crime and no legal rights are established by injuring another since this would lead to the conclusion that an international crime can be used as title to territory because its perpetration was attended with success;
• Recalling that in resolution 497 (1981) of the UN Security Council, it is noted that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible, and that Declaration 663 (1990) of the same Council dated 9 August 1990, states that “The annexation of Kuwait by Iraq cannot under any form or under any pretext have legal validity and is considered null and void”.

• While appreciating the need for peaceful conflict resolution in Africa, as captured in the rallying motto of the struggle of the People of Southern Cameroons; “THE FORCE OF ARGUMENT, NOT THE ARGUMENT OF FORCE”. And recalling that in 1994, the People of Southern Cameroon filed a PETITION AGAINST ANNEXATION at the UN and during his visit to Yaoundé in 2002 the UN Secretary General, His Excellency Kofi Annan, in good faith, called for a peaceful resolution of the Southern Cameroon question and proposed “genuine dialogue” between the two former UN Trust Territories, la République du Cameroun, promptly placed Mamfe Town where the Kofi Annan dialogue was to hold under military siege;

• Affirming that in harmony with the UN General Assembly Resolution 2625 (xxv) of 24 October 1970, the Territory of a State cannot be subject to acquisition by another State as a consequence of resort to the threat or use of force and no territorial acquisition obtained by the use of force shall be recognized as legal;

• Noting that in her application of 28 March 1994 to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) la République du Cameroun stated in paragraph 6 that Bakassi is a portion of Southern Cameroons territory;

• Aware that in the same application of 28th March 1994 to the ICJ la République du Cameroun stated in paragraph 7 that both she (LRC) and Nigeria had undertaken to abide by the principle of the respect of boundaries as stipulated by item 2 of resolution AGM/Res. 16(I) of the Organization of African Unity adopted in Cairo on 21 July 1964 which “declare solemnly that all member states undertake to respect the existing boundaries at the time of independence” and noting that this OAU Resolution was later formalized in Article 4b of the Constitutive Act of the AU;

• Recalling that the International boundary between Southern Cameroons and la République du Cameroun was established by International Treaty and not determined by a domestic decree of la République du Cameroun and further
that this boundary has been the flash point of the dispute between the two states throughout the annexation of the former UN Trust Territory of the Southern Cameroons;

- Equally recalling the stand and determination of the UN and the AU to eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa and the world at large;

- Believing that the process of self-determination is a continuing right and in essence means self-preservation, not self-destruction and therefore a people cannot self-preserve by extinguishing themselves and further that no African country is known to have undergone self extinction in the process of self-determination;

- Deeply concerned that as an organ of the AU, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights ought to be given adequate time and allowed a free hand to determine on behalf of the AU the key question raised in Communication No 337/2007 now before that Commission, and convinced that in requesting the AU to discuss a matter which is embodied in a complaint pending before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights la République du Cameroun is in effect tricking the AU into undercutting the work of its own organ;

RESOLVE:

1. To submit to the AU that the Agenda Item proposed by the Republic of Cameroon (la République du Cameroun), which seeks to involve the AU in discussing a part of the Southern Cameroons’ Territory simultaneously with the African Commission on Communication 337/2007 is unnecessary, ill-timed and a calculated distraction. The proposal should therefore be deferred and adequate time given to the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights to freely reach its conclusion on Communication 337/2007.

2. That should there be urgency to discuss Bakassi or any portion of the Territory of the Southern Cameroons at the next AU Summit, in the higher interest of truth and peace, the voice of the People of Southern Cameroons should be heard through an appropriate mechanism whereby they can be represented. Any discussion of Bakassi will usefully be on WHY THE HANDING OVER OF THE BAKASSI PENINSULA TO CAMEROON HAS NOT BROUGHT ABOUT THE DESIRED PEACE IN THE AREA.
3. That in the higher interest of the peaceful resolution of African conflicts, the present resolutions by the above Southern Cameroons organisations should, as a matter of urgency be circulated to all Embassies in Addis Ababa with copies to the AU and UN to enable Member States of the AU to appreciate the need to urgently initiate an all-party arbitration/dialogue on the matter or allow the process of peaceful resolution of a current African conflict to proceed normally through the AU organ already working on the issue.

4. CALLS ON LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN TO GRACEFULLY ACCEPT DIALOGUE AND ARBITRATION ON THE SOUTHERN CAMEROONS ISSUE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE AFRICAN UNION. IN DOING THIS THERE IS NO SHAME BUT HONOUR, WHICH IS GREATER WHEN THE TRUTH IS ACCEPTED VOLUNTARILY IN DIGNITY.

5. CALLS ON THE AFRICAN UNION AND ITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES, IN THE HIGHER INTEREST OF PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN AFRICA, TO DO ALL IN THEIR POWER TO BRING THE TWO DISPUTING PARTIES TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE SO THAT IN AFRICAN FRATERNITY, THE FACTS OF THE MATTER MAY BE OBJECTIVELY EXAMINED

6. PROMISES THE FULL COOPERATION OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN CAMEROONS WITH ANY PANEL OR BODY THAT SHALL BE CREATED BY THE AU TO ADDRESS THE SOUTHERN CAMEROONS DISPUTE WITH LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN.

7. COMMENDS THE AU AND ITS ORGANS FOR THEIR LAUDABLE ENDEAVOUR TO BRING PEACE TO AFRICA THROUGH JUSTICE AND PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION.

Done in Buea, this Sixth Day of December, in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Eight

Signatures on filed copy:

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Dr. Simon Ngakfumbe
Chairman, Resolutions Committee

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Caroline Anyangwe
Rapporteur
Chief Ayamba Ette Ottum  
Southern Cameroons National Council  
( SCNC )

Alex Mouchuo  
Southern Cameroons People’s Organisation (SCAPO)

Mola Njoh Litumbe  
Representative of the SC Restoration Government

A.F. Ndangam  
Representative of the SC Restoration Government

CC: The Secretary General UN.

- The Current Chair, African Union
- The Chairperson of the AU Commission
- The Current Chair, AU PRC
- The Chairperson, ACHPR, Banjul
- Archives