

THE ALL BAKOSSI CONFERENCE

BANGEM, DECEMBER 11-13, 2008

MINUTES OF THE CLOSED DOORS

Following the session of speeches, presentation of the project Document and the cultural manifestations at the ALL BAKOSSI CONFERENCE (ABC), a closed door meeting took place at prestige Hotel Bangem from 9.00PM.

The object of the meeting was to evaluate and to produce resolutions and a communiqué on the All Bakossi Conference. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman of the meeting should be S.N.Ejedepang-Koge. After consultation with some delegates, Esambe Livinus Njume was made the Secretary of the session.

Deliberations started with a prayer by Ms. Enang Rose Dione. She thanked God for traveling mercies, and for the successful holding of the Conference. She invoked God to bless our endeavours as we strive to come out with strategies towards the development of Ekosse.

In his introductory remarks, Chairman, S.N. Ejedepang-Koge thanked every one who participated in the history making event. He invited participants to be brief and to the point. He congratulated BACDA USA especially its president Larry Metuge Ekane who initiated this project in collaboration with Ebume Mwan-Ngoe Yaounde and its president Prof. Ndue Paul Ntungwe. He thanked the Chairman of the Organizing Committee Mr. Thomas Kolle Ekaney. He cited proverbs like “Achun dee ahunte kem” and “Ke nkong me mbe nhog ne medii ebolog”, all emphasizing the importance of unity. He implored every one not to rest on his/her laurel because we have achieved success in holding the Conference.

Rather, our success should be an invitation to work harder. He appealed especially to the younger generation who glory in the achievements of others rather than striving to pose positive acts of their own. He said that the time has come for all of us to make use of our good values for the service of the community. It is not just money or academics that should qualify people to participate in developing our land. We should make use of all the available talents and resources we have.

Making a communiqué to sanction the A B C.

He invited every one to reflect on the speeches made during the deliberations so that from them we should issue a communiqué that would tell the world what the conference was all about. He called upon everyone to pursue the message of unity that was dominant in all the speeches. The chairman urged everyone to be first a servant before becoming a leader. Let there be respect amongst us for every point of view and then sort out the best points so as to come out with the most worthy ideas and solutions to our multiple problems. Since one hand does not tie a bundle, let unity and brotherly consultation enhance our road to development.

Consequently, a five man Committee was set up to draft the ABC communiqué. Its members were: Emmanuel Ntoko, Enang Rose Dione, Nzume Joe Ewang, Ediage Herbert and Esambe Livinus Njume.

Resolutions

1) The scope of ABC operations

From the various speeches delivered it was difficult to pin down the scope of our action. For this reason the chairman invited participants to provide such a definition. Do we concern ourselves with Bakossiland East and West of the Mungo, or all of Kupe Mwanenguba or just Bangem and Tombel Sub Divisions?

Some people suggested that the scope should encompass the whole of Kupe-Mwanenguba. This proposal was discounted because it would leave out our Bakossi kith and kin East of Kupe-Mwanenguba.

Participants stressed that it was imperative for us to celebrate the full legacy and trust that Ngoe has bequeath to us.

It was therefore resolved, that in terms of development the ABC should concern itself with all the Bakossi, East and West of Kupe and Mwanenguba mountains.

It was further resolved that we should be united, with a common determination to harness all available resources for the development of Ekosse, more especially in the development of the road infrastructure, the promotion and preservation of our culture, and the alleviation of poverty.

2) Development Fund.

Because development cannot be achieved without money, the ABC has set up a Bakossi development fund (B.D.F).

A total of **13,552,988 FCFA** was contributed in cash, and pledges worth 3,300,000 FCFA were made, giving a total sum of **16,852,988FCFA**. After spending 6,737,750 FCFA for the organization of the conference, a balance of **10,115,238 F CFA** including pledges is brought forward to constitute the initial development fund.

3) Shun sterile rivalry:

The Bakossi have resolved to shun sterile rivalry and individualism that have so far inhibited solidarity for the service of the community.

4) Culture.

The all Bakossi Conference has committed itself to the enhancement, preservation and promotion of the Bakossi cultural heritage.

5) Roads.

The ABC decries the state of enclavement of Bakossiland due to lack of roads and the inaccessibility to the communication network (TV and Radio).

The ABC wishes to see a road constructed from

- ◆ Tombel to Nyangdong in Western Bakossi,
- ◆ Bangem to Nguti and
- ◆ Bangem to Manjo.

ABC also ardently desires to see the stretch of road from *Tombel through Bangem to Melong tarred.*

The ABC further wishes to see the *CRTV extend its signals to Kupe-Mwaneguba Division rather than leave the people to continue to receive signals only from neighbouring countries.*

6) Exploitation of our natural resources:

ABC decries the present manner of unsustainable forest exploitation that does not leave behind any permanent infrastructure nor ensure forest regeneration for the benefit of riverine communities.

7) Unity and development.

Since Unity for development was the theme of the conference, it was emphasized that parochial tendencies should be avoided. Rather, a wholistic approach should be adopted on the development of Bakossiland. All effort be geared toward creating full awareness amongst the Bakossi on the ideal of united action initiated by the ABC.

8) Standing committee.

The session then proceeded to set up a standing committee that would pilot development efforts in Bakossiland until the next ABC. The standing committee would have to come up with an action plan on/ or before the end of March 2009.

The standing committee is made up of three bodies, namely: a Steering /Coordination Committee, a Fundraising Committee, and a Project Committee.

- A) **The Steering/Coordination Committee** has as President: Mr. Thomas Kolle Ekaney; Secretary , Prof. Ndue Paul Ntungwe, and the following as Advisers : H.E Prof. Elvis Ngolle Ngolle, Hon. Nzuoebontane Andrew, Hon. Albert Ngome Kome, Hon John Ebong Ngole, Hon. Nzenze Ewanoge, Messrs. Ngole Philip Ngwese, Elung Paul, Albert Esem Ndille, S.N. Ejedepang-Koge . Diaspora members of this committee are: Messrs. Larry Ekane Metuge, Ekiti Manga, Susan Eduke Njume for US, Hans Njumbe for UK and Emanuel Ngome Ntoko for Tanzania.

This committee is charged with:

- i. The responsibility of managing the ABC and coordinating the activities of the other sub committees.
 - ii. The writing of the constitution for ABC
 - iii. The registration of the ABC as an Association.
 - iv. The Opening of a bank account for ABC.
- B) **The Fundraising Committee** has as President; Mr. Ediage Herbert with the following Members: Rose Enang Dione and Alfred Sone Metuge.
- i. It should co-opt committed sons and daughters of Ekosse through out the national territory and the Diaspora into the committee.
 - ii. It is charged with the responsibility to use every legitimate means to raise funds that would be used for development.
- C) **The Project Committee** has as President Dr. Andrew Eneme Ngome with the following members: Dr. Andrew Atabe, Esambe Livinus Njume; Felix Sumbele; and Mrs. Felicia Ngome, Linus Etube for UK, Linus Ngede of USA, and Samuel Ngede of Nairobi Kenya. The president of the fundraising committee is also a member of the project committee.
- i. It has the responsibility to come up with meaningful projects that would accelerate development in Bakossiland.

10) Creation of a Lobby Group:

The session decided that a lobby group should be set up eventually. Its responsibility would include the sensitization of Government, Non government organizations, etc, on the problems and aspirations of the Bakossi people.

11) The Standing committee takes over the affairs of ABC from Ebume Mwan Ngoe.

Having set up the standing committee, it was unanimously agreed that Ebume which has so far served as liaison with the Diaspora and coordinated ABC should return to its function in serving the Bakossi Community in Yaounde.

Ebume should therefore transfer to the Standing Committee all duties and left over funds from the ABC.

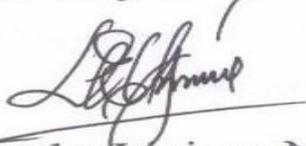
The session congratulated the President Prof Ndue Paul Ntungwe and his Ebume Mwan' Ngoe Yaounde for the diligent and efficient coordination of all activities leading to the holding of the ABC.

It further heartily thanked Mr. Thomas Kolle Ekaney, the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee and all Committee heads and members who worked for the successful holding of this conference.

It was also recommended that branches of Ebume Mwan Ngoe be set up in all the major cities to facilitate the sensitization on and coordination of ABC activities.

AT 1.00 a.m the chairman made closing remarks of thanks and encouragement, pleading with all to put hands on deck.

Secretary of the session



Esambe Livinus Njume

Chairman of the session



S. N. Ejedepang- Koge

Chairman of Coordination Committee



Thomas Kolle Ekaney