

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL STUDIES

The Political Capacity of President Biya as a Guarantor of Peace and Unity in Cameroon: A System Legitimising Perspective on Solutions to the Anglophone Crisis

Dr. Elvis Williams Mbwoye, AMBCS

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Comparative Politics,
University of Buea, Republic of Cameroon

Abstract:

Influence over political affairs is a crucial aspect of a leader because it ensures that he/she can make impactful changes that can transform the nation. Such a leader should be a guarantor of whatever need arises for his/her country. Since October 2016, protests anchored by corporatist demands by teachers and lawyers in Cameroon morphed into civil disobedience acts resulting in what is now known as the anglophone crisis. The English-speaking part of the country has been attempting to secede from its French-speaking majority. In line with the continuous spread of tensions, there have been several suggestions and recommendations on how to resolve the anglophone crisis. There have been no signs of plausible solutions despite the crisis's escalation (Cok, 2019). However, several peaceful solutions have been made through preliminary talks and dialogue involving government agents, centralists, federalists and separatist representatives, yet to be successful due to lack of cooperation by separatist factions. The purpose of this article is to illuminate the numerous efforts and measures taken by President Biya and to reiterate that peace talks alone will not resolve the crisis, primarily when hardline disunited separatist groups are determined not to collaborate with the state and accept solutions. With the employment of a qualitative research method, this article further seeks to bring to light reasons why Cameroon, under the Stewardship of President Biya, should have no hard time finding lasting solutions to the crisis, taking into consideration his political capacity and will. An outline of the President's completed and ongoing measures to resolve the anglophone crisis is thus highlighted herein. Isn't it time for Cameroonians and stakeholders to take advantage of Biya's political capacity to influence as leverage to resolve the anglophone crisis, given he was re-elected on a ticket of 'force of experience' to safeguard Cameroon's unity with a renewed electoral mandate? This article thus analyses why all stakeholders need to collaborate with President Biya's efforts to establish lasting solutions to the anglophone crisis and maintain peace and unity.

Keywords: Anglophone crisis, conflict, a guarantor of peace and unity, northwest, southwest, separatists, terrorists, violence, resolution, solutions, president Biya, government, state of Cameroon

1. Historical Background to Resolving the Anglophone Crisis

Since October 2016, a protest led by a consortium of teachers and lawyers had escalated into armed secessionist conflict resulting in what is now known as the Anglophone Crisis. The Anglophone crisis describes the crisis in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon's North West (NW) and South West (SW) regions. The Anglophone crisis has caused the death of at least 1,850 people and had also spread to the Francophone West and Littoral regions by the end of 2017 (International Crisis Group, 2019). Therefore, the Anglophone crisis has presented various social and humanitarian impacts in Cameroon, such as decline of economy, human rights violation, violence and quality of and access to healthcare and education (Human Rights Watch, 2018; International Crisis Group, 2019).

The crisis started from the release of strikes and demonstrations by teachers and lawyers, which has escalated to a more violent severe crisis today. As a result, security forces also responded heavily to armed secessionists resorting to deaths, violence and civil unrest. According to Lunn and Brooke-Holland (2019), tensions remained high throughout 2017, leaving schools closed within the two anglophone regions of Northwest and Southwest. By 2018 to date, violence continues and debates as to how to resolve this crisis remained debatable.

In line with the continuous spread of tensions and violence orchestrated by armed secessionist groups, several suggestions and recommendations have been made on how to resolve the Anglophone crisis best. However, there have been no signs of plausible solutions being implemented despite the escalation of the crisis (Cok, 2019). Although with a governmental policy of not dialoguing with terrorists, several peaceful solutions have been attempted through dialogues and preliminary talks among involved governments agents, federalists and separatist representatives, which have not been successful (International Crisis Group, 2019). Consequently, peace talks alone will not suffice in accounting for resolving the Cameroon Anglophone Crisis. However, it has been suggested that outside mediation is apparent because there is no more trust left among the concerned parties (United States Institute of Peace, 2018). According to Jude Mutha, cited in the United States Institute of Peace (2018), it encouraged that international support from credible institutions and

leaders for dialogue be included in the peace process. However, suggestions for peace talks, even with outside mediation from international parties, would not be the best solution to resolve the conflict because Cameroon believes in a Cameroonian solution to the crisis and thus has been showing little interest in dialogue with other secular governments (Campbell, 2018).

Despite having a grim outlook for peace talks, there are other suggestions to resolve the Cameroon Anglophone Crisis. Opinions from some civil society members and prominent church officials suggested that a military approach should not be seen as a solution to the crisis (Cruxnow.com, 2019), meaning for most people, a military response was never going to be seen as an effective solution to conflicts. Moreover, Lange (2019) suggested some conflict resolution strategies for resolving the Cameroon Anglophone crisis, such as assuming that the crisis is a contributory witness, revising the colonial operational policies and engaging entrepreneurship, particularly in the primary and agriculture sectors, among others. These suggestions by Lange can be seen as viable. However, suppose there is a lack of collaboration among involved parties, such as the hardline stance of secessionist groups and the governments' reluctance to revise pertinent policies. In that case, these strategies may not apply to resolving the Cameroon Anglophone crisis.

Moreover, some experts in politics suggest that the Anglophone crisis must be addressed using constitutional approaches. Moncrieff (2017) suggested that decentralisation can be viewed as one of the most promising and sustainable solutions to resolve the Anglophone crisis. Moncrieff explained that starting to acknowledge the grievances of the Anglophone regions by Governments can contribute to rebuilding trust and maintaining actions towards implementing sustainable solutions. The recommended solution of decentralisation can potentially become a practical approach in remedying the crisis through rebuilding and maintaining trust, especially if the crisis is viewed from the constitutional perspective. Menendez (2015) highlighted that standard norms in decentralised structures can be produced through mutual recognition of legal standards as suggested by the constitutional theory. This has been supported in the study of Keil and Anderson (2018), where it was found that decentralisation has become a prominent tool for conflict resolution. Therefore, constitutional change can be recommended as one of the best ways to resolve the Cameroon Anglophone crisis. However, that is not the case as the Anglophone crisis remains widespread because of Cameroonians' reluctance in political participation, especially being involved in political events such as legislative, regional, municipal and presidential elections that matter (Achankeng, 2018). This lack of involvement of Cameroonians in political matters suggests two things: they have complete confidence in their Government or have lost trust and confidence in their Government. Thus, one of the solutions to resolving the conflict is to encourage participation from the people through institutional and governance reforms instead of prioritising military solutions. As the International Crisis Group (2019) suggested, putting the population in a referendum on self-determination is essential for the Anglophones to select between decentralisation, federalism, and secession. Once this is smoothly implemented, such a political process will restore people's trust.

In the meantime, the Anglophone crisis is an ongoing conflict with no practical solutions. This is evidenced by the continuous denial of all measures advanced to resolve the crisis by separatists from abroad. Moreover, it should be noted that anglophones are by no means represented by these self-proclaimed secessionist groups. However, command within the circle of those calling for armed struggle seems to prevail (Ntchapda, 2017). With all the concessions granted by the state of Cameroon under the stewardship of President Biya, the separatist groups with robust cyber militants abroad have taken much harder lines and continue to negate all the positive measures advanced to address the legitimate Anglophone grievances. However, thousands of kilometres away based abroad, especially in England, Germany, Belgium, Canada, South Africa and the United States of America, aided by hate, and unpatriotic journalism, fake news, via free communication platforms such as Facebook, YouTube and Whatsapp, separatists continue to call for total separation selfishly. Since the crisis began, separatist activists in Europe and North America have consistently used online platforms to urge diaspora to support armed separatists through fundraising campaigns commonly labelled as "adopt a freedom fighter or feed the 'nchang' shoes boys for a minimum of \$75 at the detriment of the people by enriching themselves dubious fundraising schemes (KomeEpule, 2019) in their various diaspora command centres. They continue to instruct direct actions on calls for closure of schools, pre-record videos of groups of torturers and kidnapped civilians marching in the bushes or deserted villages, calling and attempting to enforce lockdowns, constant attacks on state security forces, the military and other state personnel, activities that mostly call for military reactions continue to lead to the failure of their doomed political goals which perniciously succeed in plunging the people of both the southwest and the Northwest regions into further economic and social depravity, illiteracy and suffering caused by their strategy of rendering both regions ungovernable. All these are in the name of aiming to achieve regional self-sufficiency and a solid commitment to both past injustices and perceived structural prejudice.

While critics like Chung (2020) argue that the concessions by the state are minor, they are aimed at ensuring the balance between the needs of the nation and those of the separatist movement. Perhaps the reason crisis is still ongoing conflict that still has no effective solutions in place. There have been several comments, opinions and suggestions as to how the crisis can be resolved. However, there are limited studies found that can justify the effectiveness and appropriateness of those proposed solutions. Based on research, though, many scholars assert that the best way to resolve the Cameroon Anglophone Crisis is to seek outside mediation on peace dialogues. For the Anglophone to commit to any agreements, the Government has to encourage the population to get involved by putting them in a referendum on self-determination, lessening military responses, and adopting effective decentralisation to resolve conflicts. There is no best solution to the Anglophone crisis because its roots run deeper on political interests and conflicts. It means that the best way to resolve the Cameroon Anglophone Crisis is for all parties involved to collaborate with the Head of State, President Biya, with mediation from credible institutions and civil society leaders towards a lasting sustainable solution that is agreeable to all parties involved.

2. Biya's Effort and Political Capacity as Leverage to Resolving the Anglophone Crisis

President Biya's experience and personal knowledge have given the contributing variables to the Anglophone crisis. His understanding of how things work in both national and global politics has enabled him to make appropriate decisions to resolve issues the way he does and has done this far. It will be a disservice if this article fails to look back where Biya began. Born from a Beti/Bulu heritage according to his communal liberalism belief, and a great example of political humility, Biya has always valued and focused on national culture in favour of ethnic culture as he has always insisted, he was born a Cameroonian to govern all Cameroonians, being accepted by the Cameroonians, he pledged the new deal of building a new political society that treats issues such as perfect nationhood, building an authentic democracy and a national charter of freedoms. Corruption being one of the main issues plaguing the state, Biya also promised to restore integrity and eliminate corruption in Cameroon. There is no doubt President Biya is aware of pertinent historical, political and current issues, especially such as the anglophone crisis since this happened while he was in Government as a young politician in 1975 as Prime Minister eventually ascended power in 1982 where he began to take significant steps to improve the economic conditions of Cameroonians coupled with the reason he vowed to democratise the political system by liberalising Cameroon politics through multipartism, liberalised press freedom, freedom of speech, extended elementary and secondary education to rural areas, and another and his passion for seeing Cameroon one and indivisible considered the father of unity with policies that went a long way to resolve most political issues the Cameroon political system was experiencing. The reasons Cameroonians saw Biya as a breath of fresh air given his predecessor President Ahidjo who ruled Cameroon with an iron fist (Richard J, 1978).

Regarding his role as Head of State to all Cameroonians, President Biya can play a better role in settling the recent Anglophone crisis. After numerous attempts in resolving the crisis, the researcher believes Biya's political capacity perspective that recognises his personality attributes being a patriotic, experienced, and loved leader who practices political humility has not been taken seriously. They qualify him as a guarantor of peace and unity. Although issues like; fake news media and non-existent or limited propaganda of the President's achievements may not have been helpful, President Biya's natural humility as a leader who is never boastful with achievements does not hinder Biya's political influence and capacity. This may also explain why these positive attributes of the President have not been too popular with the media and politics researchers. Biya's vast political experience and proven leadership abilities make him the best choice to maintain peace and stability in the country recently shaken by the ongoing Anglophone crisis. For instance, it is fair to give him credits for ending the Bakassi crisis by choosing the road of peace and diplomacy. He moved to the International Court of Justice to sign the Greentree Agreement with the Nigerian Government in 2006. Additionally, his effective tactics to curb violence and terrorism make him the only ray of hope for stability. Therefore, in the context of his political and social standing, popularity and his knowledge as well as his experience as discussed in the previous paragraphs, this article aims to further elaborate on the prospects of Paul Biya's role with particular emphasis on his recent efforts and policies to deal with crises.

Therefore, as earlier stated, President Biya's knowledge and experience with his involvement in Government from the early 70s until recently to the beginning of the crisis put him alone in a much better position than any other Cameroonian to therefore understand the unique issues and their causes and the approach to address to them. The reasons this article submits, any other approach without the directives of Biya would not only be unsuccessful but would be grossly irresponsible by Cameroonians. The most interesting fact to justify Biya's position is that he has made various concessions based on the demands of the disunited separatist movement, which shows his willingness to negotiate beyond to ensure peace and unity in the country. Moreover, his influence over political affairs in Cameroon plays a considerable role in ensuring that all stakeholders respect the terms underpinned by the implementation of all proposals from the national dialogue where all and sundry seek a complete decentralisation of governance. Thus, this is testimony that the President has united the country peacefully using his experience, knowledge, and negotiations during the grand national dialogue.

President Biya's practical efforts to establish peace and stability have been acknowledged even by neutral media. For example, a bilingual magazine has published a special edition titled '100 Actions of President Biya in Favor of Peace,' It lists and commends the peace efforts undertaken by the President. The central point of this 156-page long media report is the President's availability in every instance of the crisis and his all-out and sincere efforts to protect people from its fallouts and facilitate the establishment of peace by creating an amiable atmosphere (Bainkong, 2020). This publication is one of the manifestations that only President Biya can steer Cameroonian society from this quagmire of political and social unrest and violence.

Acknowledgement of President Biya's peace efforts both by international media and the international community is a significant achievement whose due credit goes to the sage and tactful political manoeuvring of President Biya. This position is also crucial for another political fact that no other Cameroonian leader can compete with him in terms of public popularity and political experience. His long-lasting dedication to his motherland, his indelible commitment to restore peace in the country, and his courageous fight against the enemies of the state are the aspects of his personality that have earned him international acclaim and fame as evidenced and released in preparation for the 25th Summit of Heads of State and Government of La Francophonie that held in Dakar, Senegal, 29 November 2014, Issue No. 55 of the French language monthly magazine, 'L'Essentiel des Relations Internationales,' devotes 52 of its 130 pages to a special report on President Paul Biya and his role in Cameroon, the Central African Sub-region and in International Relations in general. A significant example of this recognition accorded to President Biya for peace is the Pan African Lawyers Union prestigious Prize for 'Peaceful resolution of Conflicts' presented by Former South African President Thabo Mbeki at the Unity Palace in 2014

(prc. cm). This scenario automatically entitles him as the sole representative of the people of Cameroon and, for that matter, the defender of the constitution.

The author believes that with proven data Biya's approach and knowledge of political issues in Cameroon has enabled him to address them in a way that is usually satisfactory to all stakeholders. This time around, separatists included, thereby guaranteeing peace and unity in Cameroon to and the future. As a President who understands the problems affecting his citizens and his country in which he is regarded as a guarantor of peace and unity in the country, amongst many other solutions. The much more actions President Biya has exhibited, indicating he is still the number one Cameroonian who has the political influence in the country to make agreements and policy decisions that will help resolve the current conflict. For example, President Biya was involved in two constitutional amendments in 1982, 2008, and 1996; constitutional revisions could all be described by political analysts as probably the most challenging political challenges that were difficult to implement. In both cases, the President employing his extraordinary diplomatic, leadership, skills, and invaluable experience, successfully changed the constitution to change term limits for the presidency with maximum support from the entire nation. The recent amendment in 2008 involved removing presidential term limits in order to continue his rule. Every political scholar would confirm that these changes were not only difficult but next to impossible. However, Biya's influence saw him employ his political influence to advocate for these constitutional amendments smoothly as never seen in the political history of the sub-Saharan African state. President Biya's success in passing the amendments highlights his political prowess and influence; without any doubt, in Cameroon, people believe in him as his vision 2035 for Cameroon. Consequently, this political capacity places him as the sole guarantor of peace and unity in Cameroon. It is in that background that this author concludes beyond a reasonable doubt, Biya has the power to make political agreements that can help end the anglophone crisis.

To prevent more violence as the country enters a delicate phase, President Biya decided to convene a major national dialogue in Yaounde, 10 September 2019, which is the bedrock of resolving the current crisis. President Biya's will to resolve the crisis had to kick start the redress process with all political and diplomatic tools by convening the major national dialogue. He appointed the Prime Minister and Head of Government Chief Dr Joseph Dion Ngute as Chairman to ensure a bias free implementation of major national dialogue resolutions. Moreover, as stated by the committee to follow up the recommendations of the major national dialogue, this historic event was a unique opportunity in the history of Cameroon to leverage the collective efforts of all and sundry in reinforcing the bonds of the nation's common destiny and a major milestone in the very honourable exercise of constructing the nation. It is very important to state, this major national dialogue afforded Cameroonians, in line with the constitution, the opportunity to seek ways and means of meeting the high aspirations of the people of the Northwest and Southwest regions, but also of all the other components of our nation.

These efforts were to seek a lasting solution to the anglophone crisis, which allowed peaceful leaders to discuss solutions to the anglophone crisis under eight relevant commissions to address the following core issues; bilingualism, cultural diversity and social cohesion, justice, decentralisation and local development, education, disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration, and the diaspora. This national dialogue resulted in many proposals that go a long way in addressing the anglophone concerns today; among these included adopting a special status for the two anglophone regions, and many other redresses and policies will be outlined in the next paragraph, such as the implementing the regional councils, restoring the house of traditional chiefs and integrating ex-combatants. The implementation of these proposals is now evidenced in these local governments structures going operational and seen civil society leaders working and providing the pathway for sustainable peace upon this opportunity of effective decentralisation and governance. President Biya has therefore made various concessions to address the issue of the anglophone crisis, which in a nutshell highlights his deepest desire for the return of peace in the NW and SW regions and cementing the unity of Cameroon. For example, outlined below are Government actions following corporate grievances under the stewardship of President Biya, who, according to the constitution, instructs the Government to implement policies of the nation as defined by the President of the republic.

Most if not all actions are significant concessions, achieved and pending solutions made on crucial topics such as language policy, legal, education and legislative reforms, and the representation of English speakers in Government. As per the office of the secretary the committee to follow-up the implementation of the recommendations of the implementations of the major national dialogue, the following is a compendium of actions, policies and concessions already taken and being undertaken under the stewardship of President Biya to resolve anglophone corporate concerns and for the restoration of peace and stability in the English speaking regions:

3. Measures on Anglophone Lawyers

- The President of the Republic ordered the census of anglophone magistrates, in view of increasing their number and the redeployment of magistrates, following the linguistic criterion. It is in this regard that by a decree appointing anglophone magistrates to the posts of state counsel in the court of first instance and high court of Bamenda.
- The President of the Republic ordered the creation of a faculty of law and political sciences at the University of Buea; the creation of departments of English law in the Universities of Douala, Dschang, Ngaoundere, and Maroua; the teaching of public law in the Universities of Buea and Bamenda. These followed the harmonisation of the criminal procedure code, among others.
- After adoption by Parliament, the President of the Republic promulgated law no. 2017/014 modifying the organisation and functioning of the Supreme Court, with the introduction of a common-law section.

- As instructed by the President of the Republic, the minister of state, minister of justice and keeper of seals handed to the bar association the English version of the treaty and other OHADA texts published in the official gazette of OHADA. The OHADA Treaty and other OHADA instruments have been published in English.
- The President of the Republic ordered a census of judicial and legal officers of English expression to increase the number of English-speaking judicial and legal officers at this highest court.
- The President of the Republic has instructed a reorganisation of the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM) and ordered for creation of a common-law section.
- The President of the Republic ordered the redeployment of magistrates, court registrars and judicial police officers of French-speaking in the anglophoneregions based on their mastery of the English language.
- Following the higher judicial council, many French-speaking magistrates in the NW and SW regions, with poor mastery of the English language and the common law, were transferred to French-speaking regions. Moreso, some judicial and legal officers have been transferred on the same on a linguistic basis.
- The President of the Republic ordered the setting up of a working group to specify, on the one hand, the contents of curricula in universities, legal courses for the judicial careers and, on the other hand, the content of curricula for the training of student magistrates and registrars.
- The President of the Republic ordered the recruitment of many anglophone teachers at the magistracy and registry division of ENAM. The recruitment of interpreters specialised in courts, pending the results of the special recruitment of anglophone magistrates and registrars.
- The President of the Republic ordered the training of Anglophone magistrates in administrative and accounts litigation; increased recruitment of English-speaking magistrates and court registers; during the training of judicial auditors at ENAM.
- The President of the Republic ordered the special recruitment of English-speaking pupil judicial and legal officers and court registrars over four years based on quotas.
- The President of the Republic ordered the programming of the teaching of Public Law in the Universities of Buea and Bamenda.
- The President of the Republic ordered the recruitment of interpreters specialised in courts immediately after the special recruitment of anglophone magistrates and registrars.
- With the special authorisation of the Head of State came the integration of the first crop of 250 common law magistrates following deliberations of the supreme magistracy council by decree n° 2020/430.-150. Court registers were recruited, and other judicial staff; training of third batch 2019-2021, fourth batch 2020-2022 and the result of the fifth batch, 2021-2023, have been published.
- The President of the Republic ordered, on a transitional basis, the continuation of the duties of lawyers and notaries cumulatively in the North West and South-West regions. He also authorised lawyers to visit their clients detained in police stations or gendarmerie brigades according to article 118 of the criminal procedure code, providing rights to all detainees to be visited by their lawyers or members of their families.
- The President of the Republic ordered the setting-up of an institute of judicial studies/ law school to train advocates, notaries public and bailiffs.
- The President of the Republic appointed, for the first time ever, an anglophone magistrate at the head of the judicial bench of the Supreme Court.
- The President of the Republic ordered the liberation of all Anglophone Lawyers and Magistrates who were detained; Prosecution of officers involved in the brutalisation of lawyers.
- On matters of the smooth functioning of the bar association, the President of the Republic instructed that consultations that began with members of the bar association on the amendment of the law on the organisation of the legal profession should continue.
- The President of the Republic also gave instructions on the preparation of the national forum on justice, during which all the problems raised by lawyers, and many others, will be taken into account; the continuation, on a transitional basis, of the exercise of duties of lawyers and notaries, cumulatively in the NW and SW regions.
- The President of the Republic ordered the reconstruction of judicial structures destroyed in the NW and SW regions; some reconstruction works have begun in the Bali court House in the NW and Tombel courthouse in the SW region; these actions will help the administration to fight against slowness in judicial procedures, it was decided that: number of questionings should be reduced; increase of the number of audiences; drafting of judgments before their pronouncements; diligent signing of decisions rendered; compliance with the legal time limits for the procedure; regular control of penitentiary establishments and police custody in the units; the transfer of prisoners from overpopulated prisons to others; increase in the number of penitentiary staff by 600 thanks to the construction of new prisons.

4. Security and Humanitarian Assistance Measures

- On the recommendation of the release of arrested persons, the President of the Republic ordered the release of 7018 detainees and the discontinuance of proceedings against 333+ persons arrested.
- The President of the Republic offered amnesty to repentant combatants, that is, a Presidential offer of amnesty to combatants in the NW and SW willing to drop their arms and join the peace process.

- On the recommendation of management of refugees and internally displaced persons(IDP), the President of the Republic ordered the setting up of the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Plan for the NW and SW (EHAP-NW/SW). This is seeing into; issuing of identification cards and other lost or destroyed documents to IDPs; Free school enrolment for IDPs; distribution of presidential relief supplies to over 3,000 IDPs and 600 ex-refugees in the SW; financed 106 IDP youth projects in the NW Region (94, 716 389) CFA, and 61 for SW Region for (94,991 053) CFA; equipped 3 Multi-media Centres. This plan, also known as FCFA 12,716, 5000, 000 Plan, involves efforts undertaken by both civil and military personnel to address the necessities of the people of these regions, including the provision of potable water, basic health facilities, school equipment, and distribution of other necessities of life (Baikong, 2020).
- The President of the Republic ordered the beefing up of security of inhabitants of crisis-affected cities operation 'Keep BamendaClean'; maintenance of law and order civil-military operations in schools, hospitals and markets and Buea.
- Creation and implementation of a Presidential Plan for the Reconstruction and Development of the NW and SW regions. Creation of a follow-up committee by presidential decree No. 2020/136.
- Creation of National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of ex-combatants(DDR) and Creation of an inter-ministerial Committee for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.
- Reintegration of ex-combatants. Adoption of an operational communication strategy which includes: website, presence on social media, broadcasting programmes on television and on radio and through videoconferencing, producing flyers, making documentaries, among others.
- Offering psycho-social, spiritual and physical help to repentant fighters through de-intoxication programmes at the three centres in Bamenda, Buea and Mora. Contacting of families of terrorists to persuade them to drop arms;

5. Measures on Social Fabric Repair and the Empowerment of Youths and Women

- On the recommendation promoting bilingualism, and community social cohesion, the President of the Republic, decreed for the creation of the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism (NCPBM).
- The announcement of draws for the African Cup of Nation 2021 is to be hosted by Cameroon to establish an atmosphere of peace and harmony in the country.
- The continuous encouragement of multiparty politics by the President and the birth of many opposition parties, including the Social Democratic Front.
- Mandating of the National Agency for Information and Commission to fight against cybercrimes and hate speeches.
- Establishing the National Communication Council for the mitigation of hate speeches.
- Consultations with the Minister of Territorial Administration. House of chiefs was put in place so as to get the collaboration of traditional rulers for return to normalcy.
- Strengthen bilingualism-Order for the Special Recruitment of 500 translators and interpreters into the Public Service.
- Bilingual Broadcast of Prime-Time Radio Newscast (5 pm-6 pm).
- Mandatory use of English and French languages by cabinet members in all public events, translation of documents from English to French and vice versa, and the speaking of English and French by the staff of the police during public security operations.
- Significant increase in the number of students going back to school during the opening of the school year, despite the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Setting up of a Special Fund of CFA 2 billion to private secular and denominational schools in the NorthWest and South-West Regions.
- Enactment of the bilingualism law; enactment of the law to punish tribal hate speech and the training on the fight against Hate Speech and Xenophobia.
- The institution of 'Bilingual Day' in some ministries.
- Appointments of Police Officers to posts of responsibility taking into account cultural diversity.
- The organisation of educational talks with 30 journalists on the consequences of hate speech on our national peace and security, in collaboration with EU and MINCOM.
- Campaign of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication for the sensitisation of people for the safe and civic use of the Internet to avoid hate speech and other related cybercrimes.
- Universities and out of school to promote civic education and national integration through the programs 'Citizens and Patriotic returns'; Organised a project on the consolidation of peace by the UN; handing of 1,325 installed equipments to youths; handing over of cheques with 3.5 billion CFA to young beneficiaries of PTS-youth; Sensitisation of local communities to welcome IDPs from NW and SW Regions.
- Creation of 4 reception centres training 40 persons in the reception of IDPs (2 for NW and 2 for SW Regions) and providing psycho-social support to women who are victims of gender-based violence in the NW and SW Regions.
- Financing of youth projects on animal breeding in DDR centres in NW (23,000000), SW Regions (21,000000).

- Elaboration of the Moral Rearmament project of ex-combatants, and specific mechanism for socio-economic reintegration of in DDR centres for the promotion of youths in the North West, and 1 in the SW Region, (10,000 000) CFA each.
- The installation of Multi-media Youth Promotion Centres under the program CMPJ-incubator (7, 583953) CFA.
- Installation of 10 youth promoters in pioneer villages (8 in the NWR and 2 in the SWR. Training of 2052 women from NWR in ICT, literacy, project management and the manufacturing of liquid soap.
- Training of 1480 women and girls from the NW and SW Regions on income-generating activities such as sewing, small business, breeding and agriculture.
- Training of 80 needy women in the North West Region on sewing and manufacturing of antiseptic soap and hand sanitisers, and providing them with 40 sewing machines.

6. Economic Measures

- The President determined to support small businessowners in the crisis-affected regions signed Decree N°2019/3179/PM to grant the status of economic disaster areas to the Far-North, North-West and South-West Regions.
- The President gave 90-day tax breaks accorded to businesses to assuage the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Gave a go ahead of the adoption of a refreshed National Development Strategy SDN30. National development strategy 2020-2030(NDS30).

7. Local Governance and Decentralisation Measures

- On the recommendation to accelerate local governance and decentralisation. The President ordered for the promulgation of Law 2019/024 on the general code of decentralised local authorities.
- This ensured the election and setting up of regional assemblies and special status to the SW and NW.
- Creation of the national school of local administration and appointment of officials.
- Creation of the ministry of decentralisation and local development.
- Adoption of budgets of regional councils.
- Appointment and installation of public independent conciliators.
- Drafting of enabling decrees for the transfer of powers to regions;
- Allocation of 30 billion francs CFA for the functioning of Regional Councils, pursuant to instructions of the President of the Republic.
- Ordered the materialisation of 15% of State revenue to regional and local authorities.
- Elaborated, forwarded and defended the signing of the decree on the transfer of power to the regions regarding youth and civic education.
- Finalisation of specifications for the project on the modalities for the transfer of power to the regions concerning youth and civic education.
- Transferred 1 639 191 000 CFA to MINDDEVEL for the realisation of MINJEC competencies transferred to it.

8. Educational Measures

- The President of the Republic also ordered the recruitment of 2000 lecturers in all the State Universities.
- The President ordered the Minister of Higher Education to implement the harmonisation of programmes in the Universities of Buea and Bamenda.
- The President of the Republic also ordered that a department of modern French letters be created in the Higher Teachers' Training College (ENS) of the University of Bamenda.
- The President of the Republic instructed the introduction of new examination instruments in addition to Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) for entrance examinations into professional schools.
- The President of the Republic ordered for the creation of another Higher Technical Teachers' Training College (ENSET) for the Anglophone sub-system of education as well as the creation of a Higher Institute of Engineering and Technology for the English subsystem (Polytechnic at the University of Bamenda).
- Increase in the number of candidates to be admitted into the HTTCs and HTTTCs Admission of candidates into specialisation in HTTC and HTTTC of the Universities of Buea and Bamenda on the basis of their highest certificates.
- Lack of or Shortage of high level qualified Anglophones in some domains of commerce, The President of the Republic ordered for the reinforcement of the admission of HND/HPD certificate holders in particular specialities, into the third year of HTTTCs of the Universities of Bamenda and Buea, to make up for the acute shortage of technical teachers in Anglophone schools.
- The President of the Republic instructed for harmonisation of programs in the Universities of Buea and Bamenda and delay of its approval. Non-respect of section 16(2) of Law No. 98/004 of 14 April 1998 to lay down guidelines for education in Cameroon.
- The draft texts to align the technical education certification system of the English subsystem of education with the guiding principles of the said system are being finalised.

- On the issue of ambiguity on the Higher Education Law of April 2001 regarding entry conditions and qualification for students, the President ordered the Minister of Higher Education to implement the harmonisation of programmes in the Universities of Buea and Bamenda.
- Harmonisation of Master's studies; effective implementation of harmonised BMD programs in all Universities. Awarding of end-of-course diplomas that specify the status of trainees in professional schools.
- The President of the Republic ordered for Universities to have more autonomy in the organisation of competitive entrance exams into professional schools.
- The President of the Republic ordered a special subsidy of CFA F 2 billion to be granted to lay private and denominational schools for the 2017 fiscal year. It is in addition to a previously budgeted amount of CFA F 2.3 billion, taking Government effort in this area to CFA F 4.3 billion.
- The policy on textbooks and teaching materials was reviewed at the National Forum on Education, and the One Text book policy was implemented.
- On the issue of Poor output of learners, non-mastery of the language of instruction and acute shortage of teachers in public basic and secondary schools in rural areas. The President instructed the dispatch of highly qualified teachers, the bulk of whom were sent to the NW and SW Regions.
- Francophone lecturers and administrative staff who are not fluent in English were dispatched from the Universities of Bamenda to Francophone Universities.
- On the issue of acute shortage of Anglophone teachers in the technical/industrial domains, sciences and French and lack of or shortage of high level qualified Anglophone lecturers in some domains. The President instructed the recruitment of 1,000 young bilingual teachers specialising in science and technology. The President also instructed the Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reforms to launch special recruitment of 1,000 young bilingual graduates.

One of the most significant measures as outlined above created under President Biya's stewardship is the creation of a ministry for decentralisation and local development, and that of appointing many anglophones in Government to implement these measures is reassuring. For example, the appointments of Mr. Fai Yengo as head of the disarmament Committee and that of Mr. Paul Tassong as head of the presidential plan for the reconstruction and development of NW and SW manifests President Biya's commitment to addressing the grievances of the English-speaking community of Cameroon. This effort also reflects his political will and judgmental abilities, which help them develop new strategies to deal with political and social unrest.

In 39 years of his rule, apart from these most recent years of the anglophone crisis, Cameroonian society has experienced relatively stable and consistent internal peace and stability. This article has identified the influential political, military, and social tactics and strategies implemented by President Biya and the provision of financial and economic assistance to the affected regions as the key factors behind the stability of Cameroonian society (Babboni, 2018). This acceptance of the role of President Biya in the establishment of peace in a published research article further reinforces the argument that President Biya is the ultimate choice for the Cameroonian society to reach long-lasting peace and satisfaction in all factions, especially the Anglophone community.

This article further mentions different political manoeuvres that President Biya has undertaken to ensure the stability of his Government and peace in his country. These tactics include his alliance with international powers to establish a strong international backing for his efforts and actions against the troubled faction and implementation of multiparty politics to include and hear viewpoints of all the political groups of the society (Babboni, 2018).

In the view of these policy stances of President Biya, it is appropriate to assume that he possesses a tactful, insightful, and intellectual frame of mind, as indicated by his effective foreign policy that garnered international backing for his regime. Similarly, his broad and all-encompassing political strategies further accentuate his ability to handle state crises in a pluralistic way, as expected from a guarantor of peace and unity. Furthermore, since no leader can gain widespread public popularity and support unless he takes every faction of the society on board, President Biya adopts a pluralistic approach coupled with political humility towards solving all the country's social, political, and economic issues.

For one great thing, Biya's vast political experience of over three decades, giving him the title of the longest-ruling non-royal leader on earth and the oldest head of state in Africa, makes him the natural right to be heard and respected. This experience by itself makes him eligible to come up with an all-encompassing solution to the current Anglophone crises, which all stakeholders in Cameroon and the world should take extremely serious. Besides, his leadership skills and his practical and wide range of efforts to establish peace have also proved fruitful to bring out peaceful solutions to the past crisis. However, although Biya's strategy is that of dialogue, diplomacy in resolving conflicts, his firm determination to forcefully deal with the enemies of peace and the state nonetheless also justify him as the ideal choice since peace can not be achieved until the miscreants are given their due punishment. This trait has also shown his courage and bravery against the enemy of peace and stability in Cameroonian society, and this characteristic is an integral part of a true statesman. In his address to the nation in December 2020, he categorically announced that all military operations would be carried out to book the terrorists who are beheading civilians and destroying state properties (Kindzeka, 2021). This strong commitment against these enemies of state reflects his determination to defend the innocent people of his country at all costs. Indeed, besides political and diplomatic manoeuvring, a strong and iron will to tackle terrorists and miscreants is mandatory for an ideal leader, and Biya's commitment in this regard makes him a perfect leader for the Cameroonian people. Therefore, it is not vain to proclaim that President Biya is the perfect and ideal choice for establishing durable peace in the region.

The scientific qualitative research approach employed by the author of this article confirms findings are based on primary and secondary sourced data, reasons why the element of bias was, therefore, ineligible in carrying out this study's analysis interpreted in a narrative report from minor or no pre-existing studies conducted to bring to light President Biya's political capacity with regards to resolving the Anglophone crisis. Therefore, hold credence in the eyes of scholars, especially those of humanities, social and political science. Therefore, President Biya's efforts as evidence of the practical measures he has put in place to address the issues of the anglophone crisis. These actions indicate his pluralistic frame of mind, and his strong will to tackle the enemies of peace are some of the personality traits that make him the best solution to resolve the current crises. The mere fact that no country in the world has recognised the so-called independence of the separatists five years down the road is a testament that the world is entirely behind BehindBiya and also recognised him as the father of the nation and the guarantor of peace and unity whom all stakeholders should give a listening ear. The reason besides his political goodwill and gesture of peace, he is firmly determined to tackle the miscreants with a firm hand as a force on the one hand as well as employing his diplomatic and political prowess of consultation with all stakeholders, on the other hand, is essential in establishing peace. In the wake of this discussion, if President Biya can achieve the redresses he has already put forward in resolving the anglophone crisis, given his political capacity and influence, it is imperative to assume that the international community, especially France, AU, EU, UK USA, the Vatican and The UN, who have all always been in support and believes Biya's broad consultations will pave the way for a peaceful resolution of the crisis should continue to provide strong backing to this committed and capable Cameroonian leader to restore a long-lasting peace in his country Cameroon.

9. References

- i. Achankeng, F. (2018). Conflicts and Crisis in the Cameroon Anglophone Region. Retrieved from <https://www.e-ir.info/2018/11/11/conflicts-and-crisis-in-the-cameroon-anglophone-region/>
- ii. Ambe, G. (2021). The contribution of Women in the British Southern Cameroons (Ambazonia) Genocide. *Scholarly Journal of Science Research and Essay*, 10(1), 15-23.
- iii. Babboni, M. (2018). The revolution conundrum in Cameroon: A study of Relative Peace under President Biya's Rule.
- iv. Bainkong, G. (2020, 23 June). *Magnifying president Biya's peace efforts within*. News in Cameroon, Infos and news | Cameroon-Tribune. <https://www.cameroon-tribune.cm/article.html/33215/fr.html/magnifying-president-biyas-peace-efforts-within>
- v. Chung, S. (2020). The Impact of Armed Conflict on Agro-Industrial Development in Cameroon: The case of the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC) within the context of the Anglophone crisis. *Journal of Agricultural and Crop Research*. 8 (12), 279-288.
- vi. Cok, C. (2019). Cameroon: Escalating Crisis in the Anglophone Regions. Retrieved from <https://globalriskinsights.com/2019/06/cameroon-escalating-crisis-anglophone/>
- vii. Kindzeka, M. E. (2021, 1 January). *Cameroon's president praises return to peace*. Voice of America. <https://www.voanews.com/africa/cameroons-president-praises-return-peace>
- viii. Keil, S. and Anderson, P. (2018). Decentralisation as a Tool for Conflict Resolution. Retrieved from www.researchgate.net/publication/324861560_Decentralization_as_a_Tool_for_Conflict_Resolution
- ix. Kome, E 28 (2019). Media and Conflict in Cameroon. www.waccglobal.org
- x. Lange, D. T. (2019). Conflict Resolution Strategies for the Cameroon Anglophone Crisis: A Community Research Proposal. *International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology*, 4(1), 750-755
- xi. Lunn, J. and Brooke-Holland, L. (2019). The Anglophone Cameroon crisis: April 2019 update. Briefing Paper No. 8331. House of Commons Library
- xii. Menendez, A. J. (2015). United They Diverge? From Conflicts of Law to Constitutional Theory. *Transnational Legal Theory*, 2(2), 167-192
- xiii. National Dialogue Website: www.nationaldialogue.cm
- xiv. Home Office Country Policy and Information Note (2020). Cameroon: North-West/South-West crisis. Version 2
- xv. Human Rights Watch. (2018). 'These Killings Can Be Stopped' Abuses by Government and Separatist Groups in Cameroon's Anglophone Regions. Retrieved from https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/cameroon0718_web2.pdf
- xvi. International Crisis Group. (2019). Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: How to Get to Talks?
- xvii. Africa Report No. 272. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/272-cameroon-anglophone-crisis.pdf>
- xviii. Moncrieff, R. (2017). Cameroon's Anglophone crisis is escalating. Here is how it could be resolved. Retrieved from <https://africanarguments.org/2017/09/27/cameroon-anglophone-crisis-is-escalating-heres-how-it-could-be-resolved/>
- xix. Ntchapda, P, A. (2017). Cameroon - Anglophone crisis: CRTV presents 'young compatriots forcibly recruited by terrorists' Yaounde - 08-Dec-2017
- xx. <http://www.cameroon-info.net/article/cameroun-crise-anglophone-la-crtv-presente-des-jeunes-compatriotes-enroles-de-force-par-les-309972.html#:~:text=Cameroon%20->
- xxi. United States Institute of Peace. (2018). Cameroon's Anglophone Uprising: A Crisis Overlooked. Retrieved from <https://www.usip.org/publications/2018/10/cameroons-anglophone-uprising-crisis-overlooked>

- xxii. Richard J, (April 1978). Gaullist Africa: Cameroon under AhmaduAhidjo. Fourth dimension publishers. Reissue edition.
- xxiii. Song, W. I. (2015). The Clash of the Titans: Augustine NgomJua, Solomon TandengMuna, and the Politics of Transition in Post-Colonial Anglophone Cameroon, 1961-1972 [Doctoral dissertation, Howard University]. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing.
- xxiv. Takougang, J. (1993). THE POST-AHIDJO ERA IN CAMEROON: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE. *Journal of Third World Studies*, 10(2), 268–302. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45193445>