



**"TEGA SCRIPTING THE FUTURE:
PATHS OF PROMISE
AND VISIONARY BRILLIANCE "**

2nd of June 2023



~~BACKGROUND~~

Nelson Mandela once proclaimed, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” But how can we expect the world to change when the very youths who are its future are being systematically denied their fundamental right to education? This dire reality is heartbreakingly evident in Cameroon, where regions like the Far-North, plagued by Boko Haram, and the crisis-ridden North-West and South-West are witnessing a grave educational crisis. The closure of schools in these regions has led to a drastic reduction in the number of children attending classes, disrupting their educational journey and dimming their bright futures. These conflicts have not only shut down institutions but have also sparked an alarming increase in violence against both students and teachers.

robbed of their futures? The time to act is now, for education remains the beacon of hope in a world shrouded in conflict.

The Government Practical School Molyko was chosen as the focal point for this project in Buea as its demographics poignantly underscore the crisis. From an interview with the headmaster, we discovered that this school is primarily composed of internally displaced pupils due to the Anglophone crisis. These children, originally from villages in the North-West and South-West regions, have witnessed the destruction of their homes and properties, forcing them to flee.

The pupils at this school often lack birth certificates, which are vital for their formal recognition and future opportunities. To survive, many of them are compelled to sell goods in markets, a necessity that disrupts their education and leads to irregular



Classrooms that has been consumed by flame



Numerous schools have been attacked and burned to the ground, transforming places of learning into zones of fear and devastation. The impact extends beyond education, as countless families have been uprooted from their homes, becoming internally displaced persons. In their struggle for survival, many youths are forced into markets to sell goods just to put food on the table, resulting in a heartbreaking number of school dropouts. Tragically, some of these children, disconnected from the safe confines of a classroom, are drawn into militancy, becoming child soldiers and further exacerbating the cycle of violence. In the midst of such turmoil, the light of education grows dim, threatening to extinguish the promise of a better tomorrow for Cameroon’s youth. How long can we stand by and watch as entire generations are

attendance and poor academic performance. In a cruel twist of fate, the school itself has not been spared; the class six classroom was burned and shut down a grim reminder of the violence pervading the region. Adding to their hardships, the class six pupils have never experienced a graduation ceremony, a milestone that marks the beginning of a new chapter in their educational journey.





The objectives for the Government Practical School Molyko Graduation Ceremony are centered around celebrating educational milestones, creating a sense of normalcy, and emphasizing the importance of education. This event aims to recognize the extraordinary achievements of class six pupils who have triumphed over significant challenges, serving as a beacon of hope and motivation for students and their families. It also seeks to highlight the role of education as a fundamental right and a tool for change, encouraging the community to support educational initiatives. By bringing together families, educators, and the community, the ceremony fosters solidarity and strengthens ties, while advocating for necessary resources to support internally displaced pupils. Additionally, it underscores the importance of consistent school attendance and honors the dedication of teachers who inspire their students daily. Importantly, the positive and joyous atmosphere of the ceremony contributes to the psychosocial well-being of the students, helping them heal from the traumas of displacement and conflict. This graduation ceremony stands as a powerful testament to the resilience and determination of Cameroon's youth, reminding everyone that in the face of adversity, hope and education pave the way forward.

II- OUTLINE OF THE GRADUATION CEREMONY:

The graduation was held on the 2nd of June 2023 at the Government Practical School Molyko-Buea. The structure of the ceremony was anchored in nine (9) main sessions;

- Arrival of the students and parents,
- Prayers,
- Welcome Address by the Head Mistress,
- Welcome Address by the Head Teacher,
- A word from Tega Cameroon,
- Appellations of Results,
- Distribution of gifts and certificates,
- Group Photo,
- Refreshment.

The ceremony began with a heartwarming sight as students arrived hand-in-hand with their parents, a testament to the community's support for this special occasion. The event solemnly kicked off with an opening prayer, followed by a rousing rendition of the national anthem that filled everyone with patriotic pride. The Head Master then took the stage to deliver a heartfelt welcome address. With gratitude, he extended a sincere thanks to TEGA for their remarkable initiative and for choosing their school as the beneficiary of this impactful project. His speech took a poignant turn as he shared some of the challenges the students face. He spoke of the difficulties students encounter, such as being sent to the market to sell goods, causing them to miss lectures, situations that often required him to reach out to parents for explanations. He also highlighted the financial hardships, mentioning how some students could not afford school fees or the registration costs for their First School Leaving Certificates (FSLC), necessitating the school's intervention. Furthermore, he brought to light the issue of lack of birth certificates for pupils, many of which were lost in the devastating anglophone crisis, making it difficult for them to register for the Common Entrance Examination. The Head Master concluded his address with a passionate plea to TEGA to continue their noble efforts. He emphasized how crucial such initiatives are in helping children and families recognize the importance of education, thereby paving the way for a brighter future for all.



Furthermore, the ceremony was followed by another welcome address by the Head Mistress of the school, who did not restrain herself from equally thanking Tega for such an awesome initiative and she went ahead on praying for such an initiative to never die. She equally acknowledged the fact that, such ceremony to have never happened within their premises and she was extremely happy for an organization to have had this idea and wanted to share with the vulnerable ones and the less privileged. Barrister Clifford Niba Akonteh, the innovative

TEGA Program Consultant, captivated his audience with an elaborate and intriguing explanation of the TEGA initiative and its inspiring vision. His presentation shone a spotlight on the dynamic executive board that drives TEGA's mission. This remarkable team is spearheaded by Founder Neba A. Wanki, with pivotal roles held by Country Director Fuche Anuyiyeyere, Program and Communication Director Bidias A Zock, Project Consultant Ines Tchakounte, Project Assistants Obassi-Nkongho and Miriam, and the astute Finance Director. In an impassioned address to the gathered parents and educators, Barrister Akonteh shed light on TEGA's noble goal: to champion the right to education and enhance access to quality schooling for vulnerable teenagers, particularly those in conflict-ridden regions. He highlighted the essential scholarships TEGA provides, paving the way for numerous children to secure a brighter future.

Concluding his heartfelt speech, Barrister Akonteh expressed deep admiration for the diligent students he witnesses daily, resilient on their way to school. He extended his best wishes for their First School Leaving Certificate examination and imparted a powerful message to their parents: "Continue sending your children to school, for education is the most formidable weapon to transform the world. It is a treasure that no one can confiscate from you.



The graduation ended with a refreshment, whereby, packs of food and juice were given to the pupils, parents and teachers with other pupils having a dancing competition which ended with class 1 pupil winning the competition.



In conclusion, the youths are the future of a better tomorrow. Depriving them from Education as a result of war or inability to have access to quality education, is killing our world. Peter Jennison ones quoted, **"Children deprived of words, become school dropouts, dropouts deprived of hope behave delinquently, Amateur censors blame delinquency on reading immoral books and magazines, when in fact, the inability of reading anything is the basic trouble."**



After the address given by the Head Master, the Head Mistress and from Tega, the teachers forwarded with the appellation of results and distribution of gifts which Tega offered to the best three and the most improved pupils from class 1 to class 6.