

# COMMUNIQUÉ

## **CAMEROON HISTORY SOCIETY BOOST SECOND CONGRESS (THE UNIVERSITY OF YAOUNDÉ 1 NOVEMBER 25 – 27, 2015)**

The Chairman of the Cameroon History Society informs (CHS) informs the Cameroonian public of the organization of its Boost Second Congress at The University of Yaoundé 1 as from November 25 – 27, 2015.

### **CALL TO PAPERS**

#### ***RETHINKING HISTORY IN CAMEROON : CHALLENGES AND WORKING TOOLS***

##### **ARGUMENTS**

Although no statistical analysis to date is giving clear evidence, a careful observation of the Cameroon society reveals a failing community with dilution of morals and sublimation of individuals whereby ill-gotten wealth is celebrated, corruption and embezzlement, wrongful deeds and serious civic deficit are set as standards.

In sum, the declining social markers in the Cameroon society is causing the decrease of national awareness which has become proverbial. However, lessons learnt from experiences elsewhere are informative enough. People's historical awareness is the perfect foundation of a genuine civic consciousness.

In order to thing on the above problems, the second congress of the Cameroon History Society, to be held from November 25 to 27, 2015, at the University of Yaounde 1, calls for experts to discuss, without passions, on history teaching in the public school system in Cameroon. Without being National forum of the postcolonial historical didactics, this symposium does not claim the contrary. Because it aims to deeply examine the issue in order to discover the pitfalls and find practical solutions for the future. In the medium term, the ultimate objective is the writing of a *new history* whose purpose would be the building of a triumphant national conscience. This scientific meeting also proposed to discuss on the Cameroon historiographical production which is used in education at all levels to be taught to learners. In short, it's all history as a science in Cameroon which is questioned. The Congress sees this discipline as a re-implementation of a teleological perspective of Cameroon historical continuum.

What would be the theoretical anchors and methodological assumptions of the new history whose blueprints would be drawing up during the meeting? What would be its issues and tools? Around what would be built the minimum consensus of what should be taught after all the interpretation debates on the recent history of Cameroon? Should this new story be a mytho-history according to Ernest Lavisse national novel which critics in France created another interpretation conflict? How can be checked those foreseeable scientific mistakes? For which manifest destiny? To discuss these issues, the panels are organized around five major lines.

### **1. Workshop 1: History textbook and curriculum in Cameroon primary and secondary Education**

This panel examines the content of the teaching of history that is given to public school since the independence of Cameroon.

### **2. Workshop 2: History education programs in state universities: opportunities for harmonization?**

This panel discusses how lessons are given to learners. Provided that the acuteness of the learners' historical consciousness depends not only on content taught but also the way the teacher transmits it. Furthermore, can the current programs allow harmonization for good student mobility?

### **3. Workshop 3: What is the place of History at university in non- history departments in Cameroon?**

Historical consciousness is a necessity for any Cameroonian decision maker. However in training schools the teaching of History is not a permanent necessity. One can become a good engineer, medical doctor, administrator, without historical consciousness. What can be done to fix this problem?

### **4. Workshop 4: What history of Cameroon should be taught? What will be the future Cameroon national history? Should it be written according to Lavisse model?**

History builds the national consciousness. To do this, it is crucial to define a suitable educational content. What should be the content of the new history, if the first panel agrees that content, since independence, were insufficient to build a strong national consciousness? To achieve this, should we turn to a "National novel" History? And so transform "You must love France, because Nature has made beautiful, and because history has made great" into "You must love [Cameroon], because nature has made wonderful and because history has done great"? In short, can we make Lavisse in the tropics?

Communication proposals and duly completed registration forms must be sent no later than October 30, 2015 at the following addresses:

- 1- abwa\_daniel@yahoo.fr
- 2- alvinehenry@yahoo.fr

Practical arrangements for participation in the Second Congress of the CHS

In accordance with the resolutions of the meeting of the Expanded Bureau of the CHS of June 20, 2015, the registration fees at the CHS Congress are as follows:

- Ten thousand francs (10,000) CFA for members of the CHS;
- Twenty thousand francs (20, 000) CFA for non-members.

Participants must pay their registration fees (against receipts) to:

- The CHS General Treasurer, Prof. Christian Tsala Tsala Célestin (Tel: 699 834 644), or via money transfer at Express Union or Express Exchange;
- Pr Albert Pascal Temgoua and Dr André Tassou (University of Yaounde 1 branch)
- Prof. David Mokam (University of Ngaoundere branch)
- Pr Richard Tantoh Talla (University of Buea SCH branch)
- Dr Patrice Pahimi (University of Maroua branch) ;

- Dr Jean-Baptiste Nzogue (University of Douala branch) ;
- Dr Zacharie Saha (University of Dschang branch) ;
- Mrs Léa Simo spouse of Moussongo (University of Bamenda branch)
- Mrs Leah Simo spouse of Moussongo (University of Bamenda branch)

Deadline for registration: October 30, 2015.

**Prof. Daniel ABWA**

**Chairman of the Cameroon History society**