

# **35<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DSCHANG ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

## *INTRODUCTORY SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT*

*The Vice –Chancellor,  
Distinguished Administrators of the University of Dschang  
Ladies and gentlemen;*

As far as I can remember, in my capacity as Vice-Chancellor or President of the Administrative Council of the University of Dschang, this is the first time that our ordinary session is holding in December to vote the next budget. In fact, despite the regulations in force, circumstances never permitted us to be in step with the government's will. This is to make us see, dear Administrators, that we owe this success to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Roger Tsafack Nanfosso, who succeeded in getting the administrative chain, at various levels, to prepare and effectively hold the Council meeting today. Mr. Vice-Chancellor, you are appreciated for that.

Distinguished Administrators,  
Permit me at this juncture to welcome each and every one of you, especially those coming from afar. I am thinking notably of the representatives of the highest sphere of authority, of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister's office, of the different Ministries, GICAM, and all other guests coming from without. My greetings to all the local members, brave and sympathetic collaborators of the Vice-Chancellor who, within the framework of the collective drive, which he has fostered in an able manner, stand with him everyday and enabling the University of Dschang to be maintained and carried to higher heights at the national and international levels.

Before anything else, I wish us to show our solidarity and compassion to our fellow countrymen who passed away during the sad train accident of ESEKA and during the strike actions of the North and South West Regions of Cameroon. These two Regions of our Country are still paralysed at the moment by the radicalism of some citizens, bringing suffering to the population who are essentially for peace and dialogue

We all know that presently our sister Universities of Bamenda and Buea remain closed despite initiatives taken at the highest level of authority for peace to return. This situation is affecting the whole country and none of us can remain indifferent as members of the University community. At this juncture, I would like us to observe a minute silence in memory of the departed souls (....)

Thank you very much

Despite the gloom of these sad events in our country, we have right motives to rejoice over the situation of the University of Dschang whose nine campuses have enjoyed peace and serenity, coupled with a remarkable growth in Ebolowa, Bafia and Dschang. Of course, the final reception on 26<sup>th</sup> Octobre 2016 of the first pedagogic block on the new site of the University of Dschang Antenna in Ebolowa, based in Metyikpwale, enabled us to densify to a large extent our infrastructure and the intake capacity of the school of Wood, Water and Environment. Currently, the campus can follow up with greater ease the various professional Master's programmes. We also take note with satisfaction, of the effective classes going on there, though it is not very easy to shuttle between the town and the new site. I am sure that the Vice-Chancellor and his team will know how to find a solution to this problem faced by students

Our young Bafia Campus was in the limelight on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, as effective classes started to the benefit of the first batch of students. The installation of the first managing staff and the effective begin of classes gave life to this annex Campus which has broadened the territory covered by the University of Dschang, thus consolidating its recognition as the most bilingual and the most widespread of the State Universities of Cameroon

As headquarter of the institution, the Dschang Campus has since the last meeting of August 2016, witnessed important events of the University life notably, the hosting of the international colloquium entitled "Dschang as a Century old Town", from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> Octobre 2016, the holding from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016 of the student's forum of the Cameroonian Universities and the organization of the

official re-opening which took place on November 11, 2016, and which was marked by the signing of a convention between the University of Dschang and "Credit Foncier du Cameroun" to facilitate the financing of the housing project of the academic and non-academic staff. Mr Vice-Chancellor, one of the points that was envisaged during this official re-opening was the issuing not of attestations, but of real certificates to graduates of more than ten batches in various establishments of the University of Dschang. This challenge which could not be taken up, should seriously sound an alarm because one does not always understand how a student can be trained without being offered a certificate to make official the knowledge and competence acquired. This concern is becoming more and more of a social and political issue and deserves to be paid particular and sustained attention.

However, all the events afore-mentioned could only take place within the convenient environment being enjoyed here, characterized by mutual respect, cordiality and conviviality. Permit me to cease this opportunity to underscore the idea of the Vice-Chancellor, of preserving and developing this social climate with the creation of a scientific and cultural week of the University of Dschang whose first edition took place on October 27, 2016. A few weeks ago was the launching of inter-faculty games as well as the launching of an inter-faculty championship, which are boosters of togetherness and participate in the construction of a sense of solidarity among all the members of the University community. These initiatives can only be encouraged, especially at this moment when our natural cohesion is undergoing a serious threat due to tendencies of division based on unfounded linguistic considerations that attempt to bring to secondary position our historical heritage dating from the german colonization, our profound cultural community and our common destiny constructed patiently are carefully for more than five decades.

To this respect, the bilingual character of the University of Dschang gives it a political responsibility which is particular, in the sense that it has to constantly endeavour to attract students from all origins, despite the competition of his neighbours of anglo-saxon nature, to produce citizens who are fully integrated and void of back-ward reflexes of identity.

I would like, of course to appreciate the reinforcement of the capacity of the University of Dschang in managing personal additional resources, with the putting in place of a University enterprise known as "GIE-SA" on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 and the great step forward in the process of creating a University Foundation in charge of collecting and investing with the contributions of sponsors at the national and international levels. We cannot ignore the effective deployment and support of the Ministry of Mines, Innovation and Technological Development, of the Technological Support and Innovation Center (CATI) and the setting up of business incubators supported by the Ministry of Small and Medium size Enterprises, of Social Economy and Craftmanship.

These projects reinforce the need of professionalizing teaching and contribute in placing on markets, student-products who, if not already having concrete projects for enterprises, are at least well equipped to apply the theoretical and practical training received during their stay in the University. It is an opportunity to laud these partnerships being established between the Universities and private partners, with the wish to see them multiply and densify within their sphere of competence.

Permit me also to congratulate personally professor Roger Tsafack Nanfosso, for his admission on the 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 within the Cameroonian Academy of Science, and the College of Social Sciences. He was being made part of the six eminent intellectuals of the country to be newly admitted in this very tight circle of men of science of remarkable impact in their sphere of competence. It should also be mentioned that professor TSAFACK NANFOSSO, in his capacity as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dschang, was elected Secretary General of "Reseau des Establishments d' Enseignement Superieur et des Institutions de Recherche d'Afrique Centrale" (REESIRAC) following a constitutive Assembly of this network which held in Yaounde on December 8, 2016. The Vice-Chancellor TSAFACK NANFOSSO is occupying for Cameroon the only post offered to each member country within the executive bureau of this important organization. He really deserves all our congratulations.

**Mr. Vice-Chancellor**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

After recalling the main features of the life of the University of Dschang, it is important to come back to the main subject bringing us together today. According to the agenda proposed by the Vice –Chancellor, we shall focus our session on examining and adopting the performance project and the budget of the institution for fiscal year 2017. Our learning process of the principles governing the exercise has certainly reached a level of maturity. Expertise acquired session after session by our competent technical services, make us expect an improved document thanks to each one's contribution. I also hope that the draft budget has incorporated the products expected from the rechange reform for which we gave our approval during the last session. I hope that our work will be carried out in an atmosphere of serenity and conviviality as in the past, yet, with the same rigor and objectivity which have always characterized us, so that we may constantly strive at sound and blameless practices. At this juncture, I declare open, the thirty fifth ordinary session of the Administrative Council of the University of Dschang

**THANK YOU.**