



**PRESS BRIEFING OF SPOKESPERSON DR GEORGE N.  
EWANE ON THE LAST DAY OF THE MAJOR  
NATIONAL DIALOGUE**

*Yaounde, 04 October 2019 / Yaoundé, 04 octobre 2019*



### **Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press,**

We have now come to the end of the Major National Dialogue convened by the Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA, in his address to the Nation on 10 September 2019, and chaired by the Prime Minister, Head of Government, Chief Dr Joseph DION NGUTE.

To enable us to fully appreciate the importance of this meeting that was held from 30 September to 04 October 2019 at the Yaoundé Conference Centre, I would like, with your permission, to recall the background of this event.

As a matter of fact, for the past three years, the North-West and South-West Regions have been affected by a crisis which, on the one hand, has jeopardized the security and well-being of the populations living in those regions and, on the other hand, has shakened the foundations of our Nation, namely peace, unity, national integration, living together and progress.

This is why the Major National Dialogue consistently aimed to bring together in one place all the major and constructive forces of our country, both within and outside, so that together and within the framework of our Constitution, they can provide relevant responses to the concerns of the populations of the North-West and South-West, as well as those of the other regions of our country.

This great moment of exchange and sharing brought together former candidates for the 2018 presidential election, opinion leaders, parliamentarians, administrative, religious and traditional authorities, scholars with diverse scientific backgrounds, economic and cultural operators, representatives of the diaspora, representatives of the defence and security forces, representatives of youths and victims.

On behalf of the President of the Major National Dialogue, I would like to commend the patriotism of all these participants, who were wholeheartedly committed to finding ways and means to put an end to suffering and to build a stronger, more united and more prosperous Nation.

It is worth noting that the overwhelming majority of these Patriots of the Major National Dialogue were from the North-West and South-West regions: two out of three participants, to be more precise, while six of the eight presidents were English-speaking.

I would also like to stress that ex-combatants attended the official opening ceremony of the Major National Dialogue and brought their contributions in the various commissions. They were later on joined by leaders of secessionist armed groups, who clearly expressed to the press their commitment to work towards a return to peace in the North-West and South-West regions.



**Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press,**

**As you may have noticed, the Dialogue between the sons and daughters of Cameroon did take place here at the Yaounde Conference Centre.**

Those who called for another Dialogue through mediators with hidden agendas must face the facts: they have missed the historic opportunity to engrave their names in the stone of nation building.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As I said earlier, the Major National Dialogue was convened to create enabling conditions for a return to normalcy in the North-West and South-West regions.

Children need to go back to school, refugees and internally displaced persons need to return to their villages, and populations need to resume their social and economic activities in total safety.

The mission of the Government of the Republic, through the Defence and Security Forces, is therefore to protect the civilian population, like this young female compatriot who was brutally slaughtered by armed groups who fear neither god nor man, and whose only purpose is to spread terror and chaos.

Since the beginning of this crisis armed groups have kept perpetrating unspeakable atrocities against our compatriots.

**Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press,**

You had the opportunity to see for yourselves, on the sidelines of the work of the Major National Dialogue, these unbearable images of unspeakable barbarity and cruelty.

Curiously, the sermonizers in the field of human rights are dying in a silence which makes us apprehensive, but immediately come to their senses when they decide to denounce our Defence and Security Forces, in order to bring them into disrepute in the face of the world.

Moreover, the Cameroonian Government has always promptly considered any cases of blunder, and when this is proven, the powers that be immediately sanction the accused.

But these single cases do not in any way undermine the professionalism, the sense of sacrifice and self-denial of these valiant elements of our Defence and Security Forces, whose only focus is the to preserve the territorial integrity of our country and protect people and goods.

On behalf of the Chairperson of the Major National Dialogue, I would also like to reiterate my warm congratulations to the press for allowing the Cameroonian populations at home and in the diaspora to experience this great moment in our history in a constant and inspiring way.



### **Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press,**

You have just followed the reading of the Final Report of the Major National Dialogue, and most especially the resolutions and recommendations formulated on a consensual basis by all participants.

I have no doubt that these resolutions and recommendations are likely to meet the concerns of the populations of the North-West and South-West regions, as well as those of the other regions of Cameroon.

It is therefore time for a synergy of efforts to work towards the return of peace in a sustainable manner throughout our territory.

Every Cameroonian citizen, wherever they may be, must feel privileged to contribute to the building of a united and indivisible Cameroon as it moves towards its emergence.

On his part, the President of the Republic, His Excellency Paul BIYA, convener of the Major National Dialogue and recipient of its Final Report, will take full cognizance of the letter and spirit of the resolutions, in order to take the appropriate decisions, within the framework of our Constitution.

Thank you.