

**A SPEECH PRESENTED BY BAA GBAN WAA-YEB DR. MUNJAH  
VITALIS FAGHA, THE PRESIDENT GENERAL OF THE BALIKUMBAT  
DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (BADO) DURING THE ANNUAL  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY HOLDING IN BUEA ON THE 27TH AND 28TH OF  
FEBRUARY 2026**

- Our Royal Shepherd, Your Majesty Fon Doh Gahnyamnyin III;
- The Balikumbat Traditional Council Chairman and members of the Council;
- Former Presidents and executive members of BADO;
- Quarter Heads, Zonal and Sub-Zonal Coordinators;
- Youths' and Womens' Coordinators;
- Distinguished elite and guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

I greet you all with immense respect and a strong sense of responsibility. Permit me to seize this singular pleasure to welcome you all to this groundbreaking Annual General Assembly which avails us of an opportunity to commune with kiths and kins, showcase our rich cultural heritage, and above all raise funds to foster development back home in our mother land.

The Annual General Assembly is the supreme organ of our development organization. It is an opportunity for leadership to render accounts, when members reflect honestly on our journey together, and when together we renew our covenant of unity and development. I stand before you not merely to speak, but to report; to clarify directions; and to reaffirm our collective commitment to the progress of our beloved cradle, Balikumbat.

It is important that we begin with honesty. Before 2024, BADO faced significant perception challenges. Though founded as a unifying development platform for all Nebkolubi village sons and daughters, it was sometimes seen as not fully encompassing. Some perceived it as an organization driven mainly by the educated elite, while others felt insufficiently sensitized about its mission and vision. There were also concerns in certain quarters about politicization of its mission, and these perceptions, combined with leadership biases and misunderstandings, contributed to participation and attendance apathy in some Zones. A responsible leadership does not ignore such realities; they learn from them.

Yet even in those days, BADO continued to build. With reverence and humility, we acknowledge the immense contributions of our predecessors. Under past Presidents and Executive Committees, the BADO Hall was constructed, the roof of the Customary Court Building was renovated, the Palace Hall and the Grandstand were erected, and a staff room and classrooms were constructed at GHS Balikumbat, among many others. Earlier, community water schemes were constructed, and our Annual General Meetings once rekindled a vibrant socio-cultural pride among our people. These achievements were not small feats. They laid the foundation upon which we

now stand. We therefore, doff our hats to those who served before us, for leadership is a relay, and not a competition.

A decisive turning point came in 2024 when His Majesty Fon Doh Gahnyamnyin III, in his wisdom and foresight, formed a Revamping Ad hoc Committee. That singular act restored confidence and rekindled inclusiveness within BADO. Through extensive sensitization at home and in the diaspora, the message became clear: BADO belongs to every Nebkolubi son and daughter – educated or not, elite or grassroots, resident within or abroad. The renewed enthusiasm witnessed during the elections and the historic launching in Bafoussam, confirmed that a new chapter had begun.

Since assuming office, our focus in this first year has been to rebuild institutional credibility and operational discipline. We have regularized our bank signatories and strengthened financial controls. We have introduced official revenue receipt booklets to ensure accountability. We have launched the Balikumbat Citizens' Register to properly document our population both at home and abroad. We have approved the BADO Almanac, the Official Fabric, and the BADO Voice Magazine to strengthen identity and communication, and we have initiated groundwork for a digital platform to enhance transparency and diaspora engagement. These reforms were necessary to restore trust and structure.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, development without financial discipline is like a building without pillars. From the onset, we committed ourselves to transparency, measurable mobilization, and responsible expenditure. During the historic Elective General Assembly in Bafoussam, the sons and daughters of Balikumbat demonstrated unreserved commitment by raising 11,668,100 CFA **francs**. That singular act was more than a fundraiser; it was a declaration of renewed ownership. As we speak today, annual levies collected from the five active Zones out of the eleven existing Zones, have surpassed six million CFA francs. This is a clear indication that confidence in BADO is being restored and that our people are ready to invest in their own development.

In terms of expenditure, we have invested over 7 million CFA francs in the Lahmissang–Deulu Water Project alone, and I am pleased to report that the project is now over 90 percent complete. These funds were not spent recklessly; they were deployed strategically towards a life-giving intervention. Water is not a luxury. It is dignity, health, and economic empowerment. Every franc committed to this project is a seed planted in the future of our children. In line with our Universal Water Access Policy, this year we shall begin extending potable water to other sub-quarters beyond Lahmissang and Deulu sub quarters. Our vision is clear: no household in Balikumbat should remain without access to safe drinkable water. We shall proceed progressively and responsibly, ensuring sustainability through functional Water Management Committees so that the painful lessons of past breakdowns are not repeated.

It is important to remind ourselves that our main sources of income are the annual levies paid by members and the donations generously offered by individuals who believe in our development agenda. These are the life wires of our projects. Yet, we

must candidly denounce the growing reticence among some of us in responding to these financial obligations. When levies are delayed or ignored, and when appeals for donations are met with silence, our collective progress slows down. Development requires shared sacrifice.

I therefore make a vibrant appeal to every son and daughter of Balikumbat, as well as well-wishers: let us rise above hesitation and renew our commitment to the common good. Let us give faithfully, not out of compulsion, but out of conviction. If each of us contributes our quotas, however small, together we will complete what we have started and build a community where access to clean water - and every other essential service, is not a privilege, but a right. The future of Balikumbat depends on our unity in action.

The reinstatement of the electricity grid revived economic and social life in the village. We provided institutional support to community-driven initiatives such as the Munanji-Munchu Hall project, the Nsup Road project, the Fat-Fat Bridge, and the Joguru Hall project. These were not abstract promises; they were measurable interventions. However, we must not allow earlier successes to blind us to the remaining challenges. Some quarters still lack reliable potable water. Our roads continue to deteriorate during the rainy season. Youth unemployment is a growing concern. Past projects have taught us painful lessons about a maintenance culture. These realities demand structured, long-term planning rather than sporadic interventions.

Our vision for the next five years is therefore clear and deliberate: a united, self-reliant, culturally grounded, and economically progressive Balikumbat. Our immediate priority remains water. No community can prosper without reliable access to potable water. We shall therefore complete household connections in Lahmissang and Deulu and progressively extend water schemes in the remaining quarters, while establishing functional Water Management Committees to ensure sustainability and avoid the mistakes of the past.

Beyond water, we will gradually tackle road rehabilitation in a prioritized and realistic manner. To reduce long-term dependency and costs, we intend to work towards the acquisition of essential road construction equipment such as a bulldozer, a grader, and an excavator. Development must be sustainable, and sustainability requires capacity.

When our roads shall be made passable, we shall turn our attention to the modernization of the citadel of our tradition: the palace esplanade, in alignment with our cultural identity. The vision includes a curved decked storey structure stretching from Gamnebkard to Tiinebkard, with a modernized grandstand in the centre. We plan to complement this with a museum to preserve our cultural and traditional heritage. We also plan to build a reception hall worthy of hosting our Fon's distinguished guests. This is not merely an architectural ambition; it is a statement that development and tradition must move hand in hand.

Education remains central to our long-term transformation. We intend to institute annual scholarships for deserving Nebkolubi students and explore partnerships that

strengthen educational opportunities both within and beyond our borders. At the same time, we will support local health facilities and encourage medical outreach initiatives, taking cognizance of the fact that a healthy population is the bedrock of development.

Cultural revitalization will equally remain a priority. Development must not erode our identity. We will support the construction and restoration of village shrines, preserve our traditions, and document our history through platforms such as the BADO Voice Magazine. Our Mubako language is a defining aspect of our cultural identity. I want to recognize the effort of Baa Sama Emmanuel Linyong with the team of volunteers from across our Mubako villages, who have been putting in a lot as far as the development of our mother tongue is concerned. I want to pledge BADO's support to the project that is meant to standardize and preserve our Mubako Language from decline and extinction. I urge us parents, to speak Mubako to our children and why not learn how to read and write in Mubako. Environmental restoration, including tree planting along the plateau slopes, will help restore the beautiful scenery that once defined our landscape and reinforced sustainability.

All these ambitions will be pursued within a framework of strict transparency and accountability. Our motto remains: *Transparency, Accountability, One-for-All and All-for-One*. We commit to periodic financial reporting, project-based budgeting, strengthened Zonal revenue systems, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Every franc, mobilized in the name of developing Balikumbat must be traceable and responsibly managed.

BADO remains strictly apolitical. Development cannot thrive in an atmosphere of division, jealousy, or partisan manipulation. Under the moral guidance of His Majesty Fon Doh Gah Nyamnyin III, we reaffirm that no individual is greater than Balikumbat. Leadership is service, not ownership. I personally commit to humility, integrity, consultation, and accountability in the discharge of this mandate.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, this Annual General Assembly is more than a gathering; it is a renewal of trust. We have restored structure. We have begun delivering results. Now we must consolidate and scale responsibly. Let it go into the records that this generation have chosen unity over division, transparency over suspicion, institution over personality, collectivity over individualism and development over ego.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging the successful kickoff of this year's AGM, which commenced here in Buea yesterday. The turnout was remarkable, and the sporting activities proved to be highly engaging and entertaining. In a very special way, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the women of Balikumbat, particularly the National Women Coordinator (**Hon. Yeba Judith Sama épouse Meno**) and the Vice Women National Coordinator (**Nah Galabe Marie Claire épouse Mungeyi**), for conceiving, developing, and successfully implementing the Nebkolubi Kitchen initiative. This innovative concept brought a distinctive energy to our gathering. By preparing and offering the rich traditional dishes of our land at very affordable prices, they not only satisfied the appetites of BADOANS but also strengthened our cultural pride and communal spirit. Through the voice of the President General, the National

Executive Council conveys its profound gratitude to these committed women, whose creativity and dedication added exceptional vibrancy to this Assembly.

We wish to express our profound and collective appreciation to all our distinguished donors and sponsors whose generosity ensured the success of the various activities of this Annual General Assembly. Your contributions - financial, moral, and symbolic, gave meaning, colour, and strength to our gathering. On behalf of the entire Balikumbat community, both those present here and those united with us in spirit across the globe, we say a resounding “Thank You”, for your unwavering commitment to our development agenda. We gratefully acknowledge the following benefactors and their sponsored activities:

- HRM Fon Doh Gah Nyamnyin III (Patron and Fon of Balikumbat People)- Sponsorship of Football;
- Honourable (Jr) Dr. Sama Sylveinus – Co-Sponsorship of the Football Competition;
- Baa Gban Senator Dingha Ignatius (Honorary President, BADO) – Co-Sponsorship of the Football Competition;
- Baa Gban Muhgha Commissioner Dingha Frankline – Sponsorship of Handball Girls’ Competition;
- Dr. Sama Paul Samjeh – Sponsorship of the Handball Girls’ Competition;
- Naa Geyek Bernadette – Co-Sponsorship of the Handball Girls’ Competition;
- An Anonymous Donor – Sponsorship of the Marathon Competition for Men & Women 45 and Above;
- Baa Gban Tumsibeu Dr. Mgt Pefela Gildas Nyugha – Sponsorship of the Zonal Cultural Competition;
- Baa Anthony Njikam (USA) – Sponsorship of the Production of the BADO Almanac;
- Baa Tati Pride – Co-Sponsorship of the Production of the BADO Almanac;
- Hon. Banmi Emmanuel, MP Ngoketunjia South – Co-Sponsorship of the Production of the BADO Almanac; Co-Sponsorship of the Production of the BADO Voice Magazine; Sponsorship of the Arm Wrestling Competition for Men & Women;
- Dr. Galabe Aloysius (USA) – Co-Sponsorship of the Production of the BADO Voice Magazine;
- Baa Gban Shuhfai Lazarus (USA) – Co-Sponsorship of the Production of the BADO Voice Magazine;
- Baa Samjeh Dewah- Co-Sponsorship of the Production of BADO Voice Magazine;
- Dr. Yeba Rita (USA) – Sponsorship of the Nebkolubi Kitchen;
- Hon. Meno Judith (MP for Mfoundi) – Sponsorship of the Nebkolubi Kitchen;
- Naa Kunsay Lizabel – Sponsorship of the Choral Singing Competition;
- Baa Kemih Rigobel Patem – Co-Sponsorship of the Arm Wrestling Competition;
- Baa Gban Bid-nuu Ndiforba Rodrigue (National Treasurer General, BADO) – Sponsorship of the Projection of the Water Project;
- Nii Austin Gideon Patem (Mayor, USA) – Sponsorship of the Wellness Check (Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar & Cervical Cancer Screening);
- Baa Nyugha Denis Lefor (Founder & CEO, Sekakoh Organization) – Sponsorship of the Tug of War Competition (Men) & Egg-in-Spoon Race (Women);
- Baa Duna Leonard – Sponsorship of the Sack Race Competition;
- Baa Musi Elvis B (USA) – Sponsorship of the Fon’s Dialogue with the Youths;
- Nii Pasia Richard – Sponsorship of the Security and Identification project;
- Baa Geyek Rene – Co-Sponsorship of the Security and Identification project;

Your benevolences demonstrate faith in our shared vision and confidence in the future of Balikumbat. May your generousities return to you in greater measures, and may we continue to advance together in unity, solidarity, and disciplined development.

I extend my profound appreciation to the National Organising Committee, ably led by the Chairperson Baa Gban Kongbid Theodore Petnyin, alongside Dr. Lecigah Pius Tanteh, Naa Doh Justin, and Dr. Doh Festus Langmi, for providing the overall coordination, supervision, and strategic direction that ensured the success of this Annual General Assembly. Guided by the Constitution of BADO, the resolutions of the NEC, and the moral authority of our Royal Shepherd, His Majesty Fon Doh Gah Nyamnyin III, the Committee worked with discipline and foresight to align all preparations and activities with our mission and vision of unity and self-reliant development. I equally acknowledge the invaluable counsel of the National Advisory and Orientation Board, whose collective wisdom and guidance reinforced the spirit of reconciliation, responsibility, and cohesion that defined this gathering.

I also sincerely appreciate the leadership of the various sub-committees: Baa Gban Bid-Nuu Ndiforba Rodrigue Yivah (Finance and Fundraising); Baa Bahleh Benny Sama and Baa Galabe Emmanuel (Communication and Social Media Mobilisation); Baa Gban Tumsibeu Dr. Pefela Gildas Nyugha, supported by Baa Sama Wallace Fagha, Dr. Sama Sylveinus, and Baa Dingbogha Franklin (for Youths Mobilisation); CP Dingha Franklin and Captain Ganseh Bertrand (for Security and Identification Sensitisation); Baa Seidou Pascal, (for the Sports competitions); Doh Nengmu David and Doh Mukumbu Henry Billa (for the Cultural aspects); and Baa Sama Jerome Dumaha, (for the Local Organising Committee). Through your commitments, professionalism, and sacrifice, each committee fulfilled its mandate diligently, contributing immensely to the smooth and successful execution of the AGM and advancing our shared aspiration for disciplined, self-reliant development.

May God bless Balikumbat. May unity strengthen us. May disciplined development define our future.

- Long live the Balikumbat Development Organization (BADO);
- Long live Balikumbat, and
- Long live the Republic of Cameroon.

Thank you for your kind and keen attention

**BAA GBAN WAA-YEB DR MUNJAH VITALIS FAGHA**

*(BADO PRESIDENT GENERAL)*