

CAMEROON ONE

By Sankie MAIMO

1. Sing we of the blessings of Cameroon Unity,
Cameroon! a pleasant land of hope and joy;
Forges a dazzling bed-rock of mutual trust.
Even amid the din of towns and villages
Cameroonians now embrace themselves in love.
The leaders, whose avowed mission is peace,
Seek to make the Fatherland an abode
Blending all sweet sounds and harmonies:
A true Haven for all men true.
Now hear the people cry, "UNITY!" 10
It resounds in the Heavens above,
And re-echoes in the bowels of the Earth.
2. Recall then, those days of yore
When Unification struggle was simply nightmarish;
Flamboyant cocks crowed from their house-tops,
Demagogues and purple rhetoric had full sway.
Simple folks tricked, deceived and destroyed
Like the brave sea-farers on the legendary Isle
Lured by the charming chorus-girls and killed:
Their bones left behind on the ill-fated island. 20
Note the ways of men, so mean and melancholy.
The luxurious Savannah was treacherous
The silent wood-lands no sure sanctuaries.
Who was sure of the Future?
3. Indeed! a timely miracle was wrought
When the world looked on with cold indifference
And Africa, petrified, was simply stunned.
The hazards were too many to contend with.
Recall what gave up the land to rack and carnage.
So the May 20, 1972 Constitution, opportunely gave 30
The fatherland the long awaited National Unity.
That was the magic potent over the sun and stars
Which Ahidjo, with the sleight-of-hammar, produced.
Guided by men of destiny
The heroes of history
The Cameroon National Union.
4. Sing we now of the foremost leader of Unity.
Ahidjo! on this name attend the praise 40
of all time, for with almost super human tact
This remarkable champion accomplished a feat
Like the mythical hero of Greece, a Herculean task.
Ever seeking to give Cameroon its own identity
Thro' consummate State-craft and his individuality,
Brought combatants together for their own good

In fulfilment of a cherished dream.

The children eagerly sing his name
The citizens willingly praise his efforts
Ahidjo is an acceptable name on every lip.

5. Unity brings in its wake blessings of peace;
Living apart, like cast-aways, breeds discords.
So, blest with a leader of Singular appeal
Like the inspired lark above the hill
That sings to the people of good-will;
Convinced in, and committed to the cause of Unity
To build a happy and prosperous Nations.
The promise was made, the deed accomplished.
His untiring efforts were indeed genuine.
The people made a solemn pledge,
Because those who love Unity
Are rewarded with peace and tranquility. 50
6. Now unroll the map of the Country.
The Cameroon tip dips into the waters of Lake Chad,
And the Great Atlantic washes its shores
A thick belt of luxuriant tropical forest
Runs from the coast to the hinterland.
And thins out in to the flourishing Savannah.
Everywhere the pleasant melody of woodland birds
Heard on the hills and valleys the year round.
Yaounde, the capital like Rome, sits on seven silent hills
The farmers grow coffee, cocoa, banana and palm
And timber of the best quality, sound economy!
And mining is now a new boom: a Bonanza! 60
7. When you travel up in the North
In the dry or wet season, early or late,
Among the brave Toupouins or the noble Fulbés
Or you go South to the chivalrous Betis
The gallant Doualas, the industrious Bamiléks.
The Yangis, Nsos, Bakweris or Tikaris not excepted
Like one voice, over 250 tribes clamour for Unity.
In the towns, as well as in the country-side,
You hear the oft repeated out-cry for Love
Confident that in building a Nation
Unification will never be betrayed:
The ultimate fulfilment of their destiny. 80
8. Cameroonians believe in this solemn Unity
For Freedom is not mere pass-time coinage,
But entails sacrifice from each and all.
The Country must demonstrate its maturity
To sink their differences, to give meaning to Unity.
For sure, on the wing of true Love,
That is mightier than the mere show of force,
Unity is being forged, closing their ranks, 90
9. Recall then the Berlin Conference of 1885.
That like a toss of a coin for luck
The Colonial Powers played for raw materials;
Demonstrated the biggest flirtation with Africa. 100
The interests of Africa were never consulted.
Cameroon virtually a simple Geographical expression
Fell to Reich, to submit to its Imperial will.
There was no notion of a Nation
That was the time
Exploitation was rife
And Nationalism non-existent
10. When the German fortunes ran out
After the First World war — a void! 110
The lots were again drawn — Fate!
Britain took the arid Western strip,
France was content with the rest.
Happy like a winner after a game of chance.
For everything conspired to keep Africa
Under the heel of Imperial domination.
It was wishful thinking to talk of Independence
Again Cameroon was sub-divided,
Artificial barriers between them
For systematic exploitation.
11. A few fire-brands, of a sudden, sounded
The clarion call for Unification, a bloody path!
Then hiding behind the Colourful and attractive skirts
Of Independence, visited the country-side with terror.
Ghost-towns sprang up where there was prosperity.
Till cold death made the people numb with fear.
Only the children of the bridegroom were spared.
It was a plague no one could forget 130
For the country was marked with Blood.
Then Unification was a wild ride;
A ride on a wild hyena.
Our fate was in a balance.
12. Apparently, many political parties flourished;
Some based on the main ethnic groupings
Drawing sustenance from the ambitions
Of local chieftains. Like sheep without a shepherd
The Country drifted on, in all weathers.
Then politics were suspect, characters assassinated,
In fact, confusion reigned supreme. 140
It appeared there was no saving grace

For the future of Cameroon was, indeed, bleak.
 Multiparty Politics were a plague,
 Insecurity was rampant
 Man was wolf to man.

13. There was a crying need for quick change
 Doubtful the fortunes of the Land so harassed,
 As the various political factions provided fodder,
 For dissension, and lugubrious criminality.
 Till in good time, Providence intervened
 To stop all in-fighting and useless bickerings.
 And gave birth to the Cameroon National Union
 The one political party for all Cameroonians
 That embarked on self-reliant development,
 Led by confirmed men of lofty minds. 150

This was the rebirth:
 A new lease of freedom,
 And happiness to every home.
 With the people so accommodating,
 Henceforth, it augurs well,
 For the Cameroon of tomorrow. 160

14. Thus to water the tree of Unity
 And bring peace to the whole country,
 Ahidjo, in an epic role, like founding a dynasty,
 Brought about the 20 May peaceful Revolution.
 A new unified Cameroon was born, subtle Persuasion!
 Before long, it proudly moved into new dimensions:
 All round, its progress is simply spectacular:
 The Green Revolution, with fanfare, was launched
 To give the people where-with to fend for themselves,
 And draw the Country out of under-development. 170

Witness its splendid Agro-pastoral shows
 And the budding industries everywhere.
 Thanks to its ambitious programme
 of balanced development confirmed,
 And its policy of planned liberalism.
 Its point final is social Justice.

15. As a result of the timely Unity
 Cameroon has friends all around her.
 Now easily attracts foreign investments.
 Enters into cooperations, cultural or financial,
 To enhance its economy and boost its trade. 180
 Prospecting for minerals on land, sage guarded!
 Or Mining in the deep sea — protected!
 Novelties in towns and villages abound.

All repose their confidence in the leadership,
 Reaping the fruits of patient dialogue.

So wisdom prevailed
 Men couldn't throw away Love
 When it was proffered to them. 190
 Consider the various creeds and faiths
 Think of the various ethnic groupings
 Melting into the formula of Unity!

16. The National Unifying Party — the C.N.U.
 Has brought Cameroon style and class
 Respected in Africa and the world — Africa's Peal!
 There can be no honest Cameroonian so daft
 Whether engaged in digging for gold abroad
 Or in quest of the Golden fleece from the Universities
 That will not look with Pride at the wonder, 200
 And long to contribute his bit to the Nation.
 As things now simply fit in, as if, pre-ordained.
 Now pluck a flower for the champions of Unity
 Now sing we of the expectations of Peace.
 Over night, towns and villages have been transformed.
 Come to Cameroon and see for yourself
 What Nature and man have made of it.
 As we now taste of happiness and joy. 208
 Because Cameroon is indissolubly united.

SANKIE Maimo.

This article is Copyright and Distributed under the following license



**Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike
CC BY-NC-SA**

This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work non-commercially, as long as they credit you and license their new creations under the identical terms.

[View License Deed](#) | [View Legal Code](#)

Cet article est protégé par le droit d'auteur et distribué sous la licence suivante



**Attribution - Pas d'Utilisation
Commerciale - Partage dans les Mêmes
Conditions CC BY-NC-SA**

Cette licence permet aux autres de remix, arranger, et adapter votre œuvre à des fins non commerciales tant qu'on vous crédite en citant votre nom et que les nouvelles œuvres sont diffusées selon les mêmes conditions.

[Voir le Résumé Explicatif](#) | [Voir le Code Juridique](#)

Copyright and Take Down notice

The digitized version of Abbia seeks to honour the original intentions of the paper publication. We continue to publish under the patronage of the Ministry of Arts and Culture: permission for this was given by the minister of Arts and Culture on 9 August 2019 Ref 1752/L/MINAC/SG/DLL/.. It has not proved possible to track down the surviving authors so we are making the material available under a more restrictive noncommercial CC license. We have setup a takedown policy to accommodate this. More details are available from [here](#).

La version numérisée d'Abbia vise à honorer les intentions originales de la publication sur papier. Nous continuons à publier sous le patronage du Ministère des Arts et de la Culture: permission a été donné par le ministre le 9 August 2019 Ref 1752/L/MINAC/SG/DLL/. Il n'a pas été possible de retrouver les auteurs survivants, c'est pourquoi nous rendons le matériel disponible sous une licence CC non commerciale plus restrictive. Nous avons mis en place une politique de démantèlement pour y faire face. Plus de détails sont disponibles [ici](#).