

A SPEECH PRESENTED BY DR NTAW-AKOH TSI ANGWAFO III VICE PRESIDENT ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF *KAMERUN4AFRIKACLUB (KAC)* DR AKUMA DIVINE SANINGONG ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDING OVER CEREMONY OF THE GTHS ALABUKAM WATER PROJECT THIS DAY 26TH MAY 2011.

THE DIVISIONAL OFFICER BAMENDA II,
THE LORD MAYOR BAMENDA II,
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS FON SAN ANGWAFO III FON OF MANKON,
THE PRINCIPAL GTHS ALABUKAM,
THE PTA CHAIRMAN GTHS ALABUKAM,
THE ACADEMIC AND NON ACADEMIC STAFF GTHS ALABUKAM,
DEAR STUDENTS, ELITES AND POPULATION OF MANKON,

It is my singular honour and pleasure to address you on this memorable moment 14 months ago in March 2010, when the Cameroon Branch Office of KAC in Bamenda received an appeal letter for assistance from the Principal of GTHS Alabukam, Mr Chi Nyamboli on behalf of the school and the local village community, pleading for this renewable natural resource and inevitable commodity, a good portable drinking water for the school population and its environs. Based on the need and necessity of water and the prevention of diseases like diarrhea, dysentery, and other water borne diseases we saw it imperative to come to the aid of the school.

After completing the geophysical studies and drilling of the bore hole on the part of GTHS Alabukam, KAC through a series of meetings, negotiations (with school authorities and village heads) decided to take over this project to completion. KAC is a non-governmental organisation that is not profit making and non-political with its Headquarters in Germany. KAC was created in 2007, an initiative of the President Dr. Akuma Divine Saningong with a group of volunteers who had as vision to ameliorate the living conditions of Africans with special emphasis on Cameroonians. The organisation is being managed by board members both in Cameroon and in Germany who work on an honourable basis without financial remunerations. A Coordinator is in charge of the

day-to-day running of the branch office and in doing fieldwork. Membership is open to all persons irrespective of race, creed, or gender. Membership fees and legibility of a member is determined by the general assembly after filling a membership form. The principal objective of KAC is to serve as a source of academic, vocational, material and emotional support to the poorest of the poor, predominantly children and young adults.

Activities of KAC include amongst others; academic support by the award of yearly renewable stipends that could cover school fees, basic textbooks for that academic year and uniforms. KAC also assists persons of the target group to undergo vocational training and assist people who are critically sick and are in dire need to meet up with the costs of their treatment. Currently, KAC has slightly more than 100 beneficiaries in primary, secondary and high schools as well as in higher institutions of learning such as in the University of Yaoundé I, University of Buea, National Polytechnic Bambui, Islamic Teachers Training College Kumbo and Bamenda Cooperative College.

One of the arguments that guided us to accept the application of the GTHS Alabukam authorities to give them portable drinking water was based on the fact that the majority of our stipendiaries are in this institution. A major setback that is always present after completing a gigantic project of this magnitude is that of maintenance and its sustainability. We challenge the authorities of GTHS Alabukam to come up with a sustainable plan and a care-taker committee to see into the usage and maintenance of the structures of this water project. Paramount to this, they should ensure that the water shouldn't be used for lucrative or selfish reasons but for the immediate benefit of the students of GHTS Alabukam as the primary and main beneficiaries. The inhabitants of Alabukam could benefit from this water supply but it must be overemphasised that their right to use this water is secondary and not a must. After chemical analysis of the water by the microbiology laboratory at the University of Dschang, the water is slightly acidic and it must be treated before drinking. KAC on its part will do the first treatment that will last a few months and the school is obliged to carry on with these regular treatments so as not to endanger the health of its students and all other persons that will drink this water.

For the time being, this project has cost KAC 4.800.000 million FCFA. This amount was raised through generous donations from the well-wishers and sympathisers of the organisation. The money was used for the construction of the concrete water tank, piping, and building of 3 slaps carrying two head taps each and an automatic three horse power (3HP) pump that is electrified from the bore hole to a SONEL meter up to the water tank.

As a reminder, GTHS Alabukam is not the only institution where KAC expresses its humanitarian activities. Through close contact with the school authorities in the years ahead, we will see what we can do if there is means to continue with other projects.

I thank you.

Dr TSI EVARISTUS ANGWAFO