A SPEECH PRESENTED BY MFORMI NDZEREM STEPHEN NJODZEKA, NSODA PRESIDENT GENERAL, ON THE OCCASION OF THE NSODA ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 31 2015 AT THE KUMBO CATHEDRAL PARISH HALL

The Divisional Officer Kumbo

The Paramount Fon of Nso

Fons of Nsoland

NSODA Branch Presidents

Fellow Exco Members of Nso

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Dear Wirfon

On March 22 2014 we were assembled here as one man to shape and direct the destiny of our land, the Nsoland. We were here because of the love for our land and her people. We parted in great spirit and in one train heading towards a common destination. That was the NSODA AGM of 2014.

Today we are again in the same hall, sitting together as one man to examine the journey we embarked on more than one year ago. It is therefore my singular pleasure and that of my Executive to welcome all of you again to this very important Assembly of the noble and patriotic sons and daughters of Nsoland. We are here because you are there and Nso will only be what it will be if our coming together becomes fruitful in terms of the contributions of each and everyone of us.This day gives us the opportunity to wear a common thinking cap that can shape and direct the destiny of our land and her people. WELCOME!

I equally welcome the Kumbo Administration here represented by the Divisional Officer himself. It is a mark of honest collaboration between the administered and the administrators. With such collaboration we will be able to shape our destiny without incurring administrative errors as they will always be there to give us the much needed guidance. Mr Divisional officer you are once more welcome to this great assembly of the Nso people which you duely authorized.We are proud to have you here.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today,October 31 2015 is the day of this great assembly. This followed the resolution arrived at during the enlarged Nsoda Exco Meeting held in Ndop on July 25 2015 under the hospitality of the BONGBATI NDOP.

This means that the machinery we put here on the 22nd March 2014 has been on the move combing all the corners of this beloved Country and assembling Nso sons and daughters to ensure that our dream becomes a reality.Before coming to Ndop we had met in Nkongsamba under Nsobati Nkongsamba, Douala under Bongnavti Douala, Limbe under Kibah ke Fako,Yaounde under Nsobati Yaounde, Bafoussam under Bongkisheri and Bamenda under Nsobati Bamenda. These enlarged Exco assemblies have been able to keep the dream burning and the machinery moving while waiting for the Annual General Assembly, which is here today. Bertoua is our next destination come 2016.

In the course of time we equally ensured the implementation of the envisaged projects that we came up with under our five year Development programme.From Kibam ke wong to Lobbying, Cultural Events and Museums as well as Census and Permanent Secretariat, we endeavoured to make each one of them take off. Remember they constitute a five-year development plan, meaning we have not concluded them. We are on with them and the involvement of each and everyone of us will lead to final realizations. I seize those of us who have shown commitment and have made enormous sacrifices to see us achieve our objectives. It is a collective success when we realize all of this.

We equally engaged in very strong lobby with our sons and daughters in the diaspora which has yielded wonderful results. From BFU-USA through Nso Family Union in Europe and elsewhere we have given them reasons to trust us and the fruits are already visible. NSODA has entered a partnership with the Bui Family Union in the USA which is to be concretized with a Memorandum of Understanding-MOU which will entrust NSODA with the execution of the BFU-USA Projects back home.The Nso Family Union in Europe and its affiliate organs have earmarked projects home which will equally be executed by Nsoda.

Memories are still fresh with the ground-breaking project jointly realized by BFU-USA/MEDSHARE/NSODA on the distribution of medical equipment to Health facilities in Bui. NSODA played a very key role in the final realization of the project as NSODA sought and obtained the 100% tax exoneration from our Government worth tens of millions. The Home Branch mobilized the VDAs and VTCs as well as Health facilities towards the reception event in the Nso Palace.It was a great success.

Some of us might not have left fully satisfied but you should accept the goodwill of our sons and daughters and appreciate them and then pray for more strength and will to be able to seek and obtain many more in other domains for the benefit of our communities. It was the start and many shortcomings could not be avoided.

Already BFU-USA has shown their capability to assist us in different domains. The VIDZEMVIDZEFENYUY SCHOLARSHIP Scheme was launched last year and is ongoing as we discuss. Let us take the information to our different corners so that our children could benefit from this. It falls within our vision of identifying the geniuses our society is producing and pushing them to greater heights.

NSODA has equally built a very strong partnership with SHUMAS-CAMEROON back home and Nso sons and daughters and communities are benefiting so much from this partnership. We only have to give encouragement to more sons and daughters to come up with such initiatives that will help to foster the development needs of our communities and her subjects.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Within a short time we have been able to bring responsible Nso sons and daughters on the train of NSODA new vision. Most of us now talk about NSODA with pride and you now identify yourself with it. This was one of our objectives which we are proud to say we have seen it come to reality.

However, it is not all of us that are proud to see progress and success. Some of us will only appreciate and join its path if we are the ones on board. Others will join it to be the rat in a calabash of groundnut. Just to burst holes in the calabash and cause it not to hold water. Others will join for the sake of joining, to be armchair critics. Others join to see the dreams realized so that together we can feel proud about our land. We have encountered all these categories and all have made us stronger and more committed to the course. If we were cowards we would have surrendered because of the shouting minority. We knew the silent majority has always been behind us and that is what kept our faith burning.

I therefore seize this second opportunity to call on all of us to shun all those who see nothing good in what our leaders do. They will spend their time to build what they destroyed when they finally get to leadership. This would delay the useful projects that society would have benefited from.Let us equally condemn in very strong terms petition writers for they are a serious draw-back to the development of Nso.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

NSODA is very worried about the prevailing social atmosphere in our land. It is not good for development. It is rather helping individuals and their selfish aims and not the Nso people. If we find ourselves where we are today, it is because of pride and self-centeredness. It is because of dishonesty and lack of trust to an extent. If we were humble enough, we would not have reached where we are today. Above all, it is because we have decided to politicize social issues. This is why NSODA in very strong terms calls for the depoliticization of social issues. Politics brings division. NSODA believes that only honest dialogue and humility can bring peace and solutions to the present social crisis.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This gives us the opportunity to reiterate our fervent support for our Fons and call on all Nso sons and daughters to reconcile themselves with our Fons as well as give our Fons the respect and honour they are due. Our Fonship constitutes our cultural pride and the symbol of our Unity. Destroying it means destroying the essence of our cultural existence. Individuals come and go but the throne and Fonship remains. At the same time we call on those of us who tell but lies and slander to our Fons to cease from such activities. The Fons are the Father to the Nso people irrespective of which compound or village one comes from. When we derail our Fons we derail all of Nso and its people. Individuals with overriding personal interests should spare our Fons and let them continue to be a symbol of Unity for their people. History will judge those of us who have taken as a duty to derail our traditional leaders so as to perpetuate our personal interests. NSODA SAY NO AND NO TO SUCH PRACTICE!

We thank all those sons and daughters who have worked with NSODA to ensure that our Fons understand that Nso is one and indivisible. Today what touches Mbiame touches all of us. Same as what touches Kiluun, Nkar, Nseh, Mbokam, Ndzerem, Ndzeen etc.This is what NSODA stands for. No division among us.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We cannot forge ahead as Nso while our Country Cameroon is in chaos. I therefore seize this opportunity to call on all Nso sons and daughters to join our President and the Defence Forces to fight against the barbaric sect BOKO HARAM. We should all be alert and report individuals with suspicious activities around us. At the same time we should always at a moment of our daily chores, stop and say of word of prayer for the protection of our soldiers that are at the war-front as well as our brothers and sisters in the Far-North of the Country. Together we must ensure the eradication of these evil forces. We are therefore promising our Head of State full support and encouragement in this relentless war. Mr President, the Nso People are solidly behind you in this war.

Apart from these human issues we frown at, we cannot let you be ignorant of our situation. We have been able to forge ahead thanks to enormous sacrifices from some of us who understand that patience and sacrifice is needed if we must succeed in our endeavor. I lack words to express my gratitude to such individuals who have aided us in this difficult mission. The slow nature in which we respond financially to our obligations has been a major obstacle to our functioning. I plead that we all should understand that if we must succeed then we all have to ease the work of the EXECUTIVE through our financial obligations.

The financial report we are going to receive today will reveal the truth about what I am presenting to you. It will be left to us to examine ourselves and see where we are going to.

Dear Wirfon, the year is coming to an end and we expect to be informed about our end-of-year socio-cultural activities. Last year we organized the NSODA EXCELLENCE AWARD.It was the first of its kind and it was with an unprecedented success. We sincerely thank the Lord Mayor for Mbiame, Shey Fonyuy Fidelis and Taakifu ke Samba, Douala, Joe Dindze and co who made enormous sacrifices to make the event a resounding success. We intend to continue with the event and make it annual so as to encourage our sons and daughters who have excelled in various disciplines in life by giving them awards. Today we are going to renew our confidence in the team that organized the event of last year. We will call on all of us to send to them names of people and groups you think could be encouraged through these awards. You will equally be called to facilitate their task through financial, material and logistical support.

We equally will be present at the different Fondoms to assist in promoting their different cultural events that fall under our plan of action.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I will end by repeating my appreciation to you all for the readiness to come to us to make us succeed.I thank in a special the Presidents of all the Branches that hosted the NSODA Enlarged EXCO Meetings that held throughout this year.We felt proud being with you in your different towns.

I equally invite all of us to stand up and give a minute of silence for our departed brothers and sisters, especially our Exco members like Mformi Nsahlai Anthanasius, the President of Bongnavti Douala who passed away this yearMAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PERFECT PEACE.

LONG LIVE NSOLAND

LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

MFORMI NDZEREM STEPHEN NJODZEKA

NSODA PRESIDENT GENERAL